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Community development and rural poverty in Zimbabwe: A policy perspective.

BY

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ABSTRACT

There is persistence of rural poverty in African countries despite efforts by governments to implement community development projects to curb poverty in impoverished rural communities. Zimbabwe adopted the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan (PAAP) under which community development programme was initiated. Community development projects by NGOs and government did not manage to meet the needs of the impoverished communities in Mvuma rural communities. More so, the incremental approach to policy making adopted by the government of Zimbabwe failed to embrace the principles of community development, for example, participation of community projects beneficiaries on everything that impact to their way of living. Despite all the efforts to alleviate rural poverty in Mvuma rural district there is still persistence of rural poverty, characterized by poor roads and struggling of most families to meeting basic needs. Mvuma rural communities are rich in mineral resources and water sources that can be utilized instead of relying on external resources through NGOs. This therefore, calls on the government and NGOs to collaborate towards capacitating Mvuma rural dwellers in order to help alleviate poverty. This study employed qualitative approach to research as it was aimed at describing and understanding rather than explaining human behaviour. Purposive or judgmental sampling was applied. This technique was used as the researcher wanted to get hold of the people who are directly or indirectly linked to implementation of community development projects. However, quantitative method was used to gather demographic information. The PAAP policy relevance to poverty reduction in Mvuma rural district and in Zimbabwe in general was the heart of this study.

Key words used in the study: community development and rural poverty.

DECLARATION

I, Chatindo Annah declare that, this dissertation is a product of my own work. Wherever I used another person's information or work I did acknowledge his or her work. I further declare that, this work has not been submitted or published to any other institution for academic purposes.

Signature:_____   Date: _____

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Above all, glory and honour be unto the Almighty God for being there for me always even in the most difficult times.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation with love to my parents and family. God bless you.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADF   African Development Fund

AIDS   Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome

BDO   Block Development Officer

CAP   Community Action Programme

CBO   Community Based Organisations

CDO   Community Development Officer

DEAP   District Environmental Action Programme

ESAP   Economic Structural Adjustment Programmes

GOZ   Government of Zimbabwe

GTZ   German Agency for Technical Cooperation

HIV   Human Immune Virus

IFAD   International Fund for Agricultural Development

IMF   International Monetary Fund

ITDG   Intermediate Technology Development Group

MASO   Midlands Aids Service Organisation

MDG   Millennium Development Goal

NGO   Non-Governmental Organisations

NSPS   National Social Protection Strategy

OVC   Orphans and Vulnerable Children

PAAP   Poverty Alleviation Action Plan

PASS   Poverty Assessment Study Survey

PRS   Poverty Reduction Strategy

SADC   Southern Africa Development Communities

SAPS   Structural Adjustments Programmes

SCOPP   Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme

SDAP   Social Dimensions of Adjustment Programme

SDF   Social Development Fund

UN   United Nations

UNDP   United Nations Development Programme

UNICEF   United Nations Childrens' Fund

VLW   Village Level Workers

WB   World Bank

WFP   World Food Programme

ZHDR   Zimbabwe Human Development Report

ZIMSTAT   Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency

ZimVAC   Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

CHAPTER 1: OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This study focuses on the policy responses formulated by the government of Zimbabwe and their implementation to meet the social needs of the people with special emphasis on community development policy outlined in the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan (PAAP). The year 1994 saw the introduction of the PAAP to mitigate harmful effects caused by Economic Structural Adjustment Programmes (ESAP) adopted by the country four years earlier. The implementation of adjustment caused severe reductions in social spending, led to rising unemployment and to increased poverty and hunger, with the rural areas being the hardest hit (Chinake, 1997). The PAAP therefore was identified as a community level strategy in an attempt to address the harsh socioeconomic conditions brought about by the adjustment policies. The PAAP intervention found expression through community development as both government and NGOs mobilised local communities around the programme to meet some of their basic needs. This marked a significant point of departure historically, from community development welfare solely dominated by government to the recognition of the role of civil society in social provisioning (Chinake, 1997).

1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

In Zimbabwe, the process of community development can be categorised into four different phases, namely, the colonial era from 1890-1979; after independence before the advent of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) between 1980-1990; the SAPs period between 1991-1995; and after the advent of SAPs from 1996 to

date. The economic outlook before independence in 1980 was characterized by weak growth in the productive sector. This resulted in the changing of the organisational outlook of the Zimbabwean native families as the families ended up being a source to which white farmers got low-priced workforce. After independence the government inherited a dual economy from its colonial past. According to the Government of Zimbabwe (2004:11), "the economy of Zimbabwe had a relatively well developed modern sector and a largely rural sector that employed about 80% of the labour force. However the newly elected government sought to address some of the inequalities."

By 1991, Zimbabwe was faced with new problems as the government had adopted a free market economy. With the deepening of poverty the government and the civil society sector responded with some strategies to deal with it. Poverty significantly increased during the 1990s. This increase occurred in all sectors of the economy but rural poverty was more serious than urban poverty (Alwang.et.al, 2002). The rural areas were severely hit by poverty because historically, from the colonial era, rural areas were marginalised and characterised by poor soils and low rainfall. More so, rural poverty was intensified by the failure of SAPs and the drought that hit the land in 1992. As a result, the Social Development Fund (SDF) was implemented in 1991 to1993 to respond to the social ills that were resulting from SAPs. The SDF was established with the aim of cushioning the vulnerable and poor communities against negative effects of the reform programmes through specifically targeted interventions (Human Development Report, 1998). With the failure of the SDF, a new intervention, which is the PAAP, was developed with the aim "to attack poverty from a broader conceptual level through targeted social reforms and reorganisation of priorities" (Chinake, 1997: 44).

Despite all interventions mentioned above, an International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) under the Poverty Assessment Study Survey done in 2003 reviewed that there was an increase in poverty levels. The survey indicated that an increase of 25% to 63% was recorded from 1990 to 2003 (IFAD, 2005:1). More so IFAD indicated that, "Most farm incomes and production are inadequate and food shortages are rising. Households are relying increasingly on remittances and emergency aid………… about 40% of the road network is in poor condition, water and sanitation coverage is very poor, and railway freight traffic has declined by more than half since 1990, effectively isolating rural communities from markets"(2005:1). These developments are contrary to the understanding that community development revolves around processes, programmes, methods and movements that are meant for improving life quality of a particular community (Cary, 1983). Head, (1979:101) states that "community development is a process designed to create conditions of economic and social progress for the whole community with its active participation and fullest possible reliance upon the community's initiative". The goal to be achieved by community development is improved living conditions. More so, Armacost, (1999: vii) states that community development " entails building practical capacities physical, social, intellectual financial, and political assets to improve the quality of life among residents of targeted neighborhoods". In the post-colonial era, community development principles were later articulated to developing countries following the decolonization process (Hudson, 2004). In India community development was initiated in 1952. It was a multi project programme with the aim of overall development of rural people. The programme was agricultural and was introduced in places where there was plenty of rainfall or availability of irrigation (Hegde, 2000). Accordingly, the programme was to improve the lives of the rural

people through improved communication, health and literacy by agriculture and cottage industries.

This study therefore, is interested in assessing the PAAP as a policy under which the community development strategy was expected to reduce the widespread rural poverty in Zimbabwe. Using the case study of Mvuma district in Midlands province, the study will make an assessment of the relevance of the incremental nature of policy interventions of the PAAP to rural poverty alleviation in Mvuma rural district. The issue is, that incremental interventions of the state remain complacent and oblivious to the deepening crisis of human development in rural Zimbabwe.The policy interventions of the state do not seem to take cognisance of the crisis and its detrimental effects on rural development. Poverty seems to be seen as a marginal problem that can be fixed with short run welfare handouts.

1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Poverty alleviation as one of the PAAP policy's main goals remains unattained in Zimbabwe and in Mvuma rural district. The intensification of poverty as shown by the IFAD study in Mvuma rural area makes the poverty alleviation strategy of PAAP to be questionable. The failure of the PAAP interventions clearly shows that PAAPs' strategies were inadequate and not well informed of the broader impact of SAPs and the context of the unstable political conditions in the country.

According to a report by UNICEF (2010:8), it has been estimated that, 78% of the Zimbabwean population is absolutely poor, "and 55% live below the food poverty line". The category under the poverty datum mark could not afford meeting even at least basic needs. Based on the report by UNICEF 2010, an estimated number of 6, 6 million people, of which 3, 5 million are children, are mostly poverty stricken. Today: Mvuma is amongst the poorest rural communities in Zimbabwe. Therefore,

the question this study is raising is: Is the PAAP policy relevant to poverty reduction in Mvuma rural district and in Zimbabwe in general?

1.4 THE AIM AND OBJECTIVES GUIDING THE STUDY

AIM OF THE STUDY

This study seeks to assess the PAAP policy as a tool by the Zimbabwean government to address poverty in Mvuma rural district and the extent to which the community development projects by NGOs and government have managed to meet the needs of the impoverished communities.

OBJECTIVES GUIDING THE STUDY

The study will be guided by the following specific objectives to:

➢ examine government's objectives for establishing the PAAP policy and the assumptions informing the policy.

➢ assess the relevance of community development interventions to rural poverty alleviation

➢ evaluate the relevance of the incremental model of decision making adopted by the government of Zimbabwe in community development interventions .

➢ identify measures that can be implemented to strengthen community development projects in this area.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Studies on community development have not paid specific attention to the relationship between community development and the models of policy making that are being used by governments in trying to reduce poverty. The study will look at the relevance of incremental policy towards PAAP as well as rural poverty alleviation in Mvuma rural district. This study will as well shed light on the relevance of community

development towards rural poverty alleviation. Community development practitioners, NGOs, the government as well as Mvuma community dwellers are expected to benefit from this study. This is so because the study will come up with suggestions as well as recommendations which will shed more light on the structural underpinnings of rural poverty as well as strengthening community development strategy in Mvuma rural district.

1.6 DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study will focus only on Mvuma rural district. The study will focus on three (3) NGOs which will be selected from the same district. Therefore not everything can be analysed in a single study due to time, travelling and financial constraints. According to Grinnell (2001:424) as cited in As de Vos et al (2011), there is no study without shortcomings and this should be made explicit and clear. As indicated, the researcher will follow expected protocols before engaging organisations for the study.

1.7 CONCLUSION

The colonial history of Zimbabwe has no doubt affected and shaped its future as a country. Community development has long been assumed to be an answer to community problems like rural poverty. The concept community development was developed outside the African continent. African countries later adopted the concept as they were faced with a couple of challenges in their countries after obtaining independence. SAPs were assumed to be an answer to social and economic challenges of the African continent; however in Zimbabwe the introduction of SAPs had left the Zimbabwean economy languishing hence the implementation and establishment of the PAAP in 1994. Persistence in rural poverty amongst other

social and economic problems faced by rural dwellers was part of the reasons for government to initiate community development as a strategy to alleviate rural poverty.The following chapter will give an in-depth meaning of the key words used in the research, conceptual and theoretical framework as well as giving a broader view about Poverty Alleviation Action Plan (PAAP) and community development.

1.8 ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY

This study is scientific and as such, it is laid out in the form of chapters. Chapter one will be a general overview of the study**.** This will give the background of the study, the main objectives and the significance of the study. Chapter two will be literature review which helps to get an insight on the work that has been carried out by other researchers, which is relevant to the study, and which is used as a guideline towards conducting the study. The chapter also includes theories that are relevant to the study. Chapter three contains the history and context of community development in the African continent in general. Attention will later be given to Zimbabwe, looking at the policy, community development and what is being done by the state, NGOs and the private sector. The chapter also outlines ethical considerations and delimitations of the study. Chapter four will be methodology and findings. The chapter is based on presentation of findings, research instruments used in the study, sampling techniques and methods of data analysis. It also involves discussion and interpretation of the results. Chapter five is the analysis of the findings. Chapter six will be the conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL POVERTY: CONCEPTUAL THEORETICAL OVERVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains the conceptual framework of the study. This consists of a review of community development literature in general and in Zimbabwe. The review brings out the relationship between the community development strategy and poverty alleviation in Mvuma rural community. The study also engages in a discussion on the conservative and transformative views to community development in relation to the PAAP intervention as well as the participatory approach which is underpinning this study. Emphasis will also be given to the incremental approach to policy making followed by the Zimbabwe government at independence.

2.2 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

This section defines key concepts used in this study. These include; community, community development, poverty, poverty alleviation and the incrementalism and participatory theories.

❖ Community

A community is a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common (Oxford dictionaries). According to Maruta (2010:3) ; "In human communities, the identity of the participants and their degree of cohesiveness is influenced by the extent of their collective intent, beliefs, resources, preferences, needs, risks and a number of other conditions". Oxford dictionaries, refers community to the people of a district or country considered collectively, especially in the context of social values and responsibilities. More so, Crow and Allan (1994:6),

stated that, "community plays a crucial symbolic role in generating people's sense of belonging". In support, Cohen (1985:12), argues that community involves two related suggestions that the members of a group have something in common with each other; and the thing held in common distinguishes them in a significant way from the members of other possible groups". This clearly shows that there is a common interest and some degree of relationship within members of a certain category for there to be a community. This research has adopted the definition by Cohen as the study treats a community as unique and has the capacity to handle its needs with resources available to the members.

❖ Community development

Community Development Exchange (2009) defines community development as the process of developing active and sustainable communities based on social justice and mutual respect. It is about influencing power structures to remove the barrier that prevents people from participating in the issues that affect their lives. According to (Craig, 2005) as quoted by Maruta (2010:4-5):

> Community development is a way of strengthening civil society by prioritizing the actions of communities and their perspectives in the development of social, economic and environmental policy. It seeks the empowerment of local communities......., It strengthens the capacity of people as active citizens through their community groups, organisations and networks; and the capacity of institutions and agencies (public, private and non-governmental) to work in dialogue with citizens to shape and determine change in their communities. It plays a crucial role in supporting active democratic life by

promoting the autonomous voice of disadvantaged and vulnerable communities. It has a set of core values/social principles covering human rights, social inclusion, equality and respect for diversity; and a specific skills and knowledge base (Maruta 2010:4-5).

While the various definitions and descriptions seem to emphasise different issues, common threads run through all of them. These include the primacy of community participation at every level of any initiative, the empowerment of the members of the community concerned, the central role of the diverse community formations, underlying change process and the support of external actors where necessary (Maruta 2010:5). Thus community development can be seen as a change process that encompasses both improvement and empowerment; improvement in the situation and life of the beneficiaries in all respects, social, economic, physical and environmental, and empowerment of the beneficiaries to sustain, enhance and extend that improvement. According to Head (1979: 101), community development is a process designed to create conditions of economic and social progress for the whole community with its active participation and fullest reliance upon the community's initiative. It is in this respect that the concept community development will be used in this study and will employ the definition by Head as it saw the launching of the first definition and birth of community development directed towards poverty reduction in the world.

   ❖ Poverty

According to Saifuddin (2006:1); Poverty is hunger, lack of shelter, being sick and not being able to see a doctor, it is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, it is fear of the future, living one day at a time.

Poverty is losing a child to illness brought by unclean water; it is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom. Poverty has many faces; it is changing from place to place and across time, and has been described in many ways. More so, Greenberg (2005:14) defines poverty as lack of material as well as lack of representativeness in politics. Both definitions clearly indicate that poverty means that a certain population cannot afford meeting basic needs regularly. Kates and Dasgupta (2007: 25) argued that,

> "In the world of the poor, people do not enjoy food, security, do not own many asserts, do not live long, cannot read or write, do not have access to easy credit, are unable to save much, aren't empowered, cannot ensure themselves well against crop failure or household calamities, do not have control over their own lives, do not trade with the rest of the world, live in unhealthy surroundings, suffer from in capabilities, are poorly governed...and suffer from a deteriorating natural resource base and have a high birth rate" Kates and Dasgupta (2007: 25).

This definition gives a clear indication that poverty is measured socially, politically and economically as it has to do with the access of citizens to basic needs as well as their participation within a particular region.

The above definition therefore dwells much more on the inaccessibility of basic services like health, education, clean water and unemployment. The same definition also views rural poverty as lack of representation in the formulation of policies. In other words being poor often means being voiceless, powerless and generally having less livelihoods of breaking through the culture of poverty unless one is empowered to do so through effective intervention strategies (Cannon, 1999).

❖ Rural poverty

Rural poverty refers to poverty found in rural areas, including factors of rural society, rural, economy and rural political systems that give rise to the poverty found there (Janvry et al, 1999:2). Rural poverty is often discussed in conjunction with spatial inequality, which in this context refers to the inequality between urban and rural areas (Janvry et al, 1999:2.) More so, both rural poverty and spatial inequality are global phenomena, but like poverty in general, there are higher rates of rural poverty in developing countries than in developed countries (Janvry et al, 1999:2). An urban area according to Anriquez and Stamoulis (2007) is defined by law as all of the state, region, and district capitals (centres), and by exclusion all the rest is defined as rural. Anriquez and Stamoulis (2007) contend that it is not an exaggeration to say that the battle to achieve the global society's stated objectives on hunger and poverty reduction will be lost in the rural areas of the developing countries. Besides that, globally, extreme poverty continues to be a rural phenomenon despite increasing urbanisation. In addition, of the world's 1.2 billion extremely poor people, 75% live in rural areas and for the most part they depend on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and related activities for survival (Anriquez and Stamoulis, 2007).

Even though rural poverty differs from place to place, among different groups of people, there are a few common features of poverty which make the rural poor to be the same. The features include, first, unbalanced power structures: the majority of the rural poor have neither the purchasing power nor the political power to articulate their needs, to gain access to the private and public service system or to succeed in struggle for limited resources and opportunities (IFAD, 2005). In many cases according to the IFAD (2005), the people who are poor are so because policies, laws and regulations (or absence of them) define their opportunities. What is needed is

policy change. The poor often find it very difficult to bear the organisation costs associated with empowerment (Rauch.*et.al,* 2001). Because of unbalanced power structures sometimes the rural poor lack representatives and hence they miss a lot of opportunities.

The second feature is limited opportunities: opportunities to secure a decent livelihood through employment or self-employment and market production are either none-existent, or they are insufficient and unstable (Rauch.*et.al,* 2001). Today poor people remain in a vicious circle of poverty because they are unemployable and they do not possess skills that are needed in the job market, furthermore, they are illiterate because they did not get the opportunity to go to school (Rauch.*et.al,* 2001).

The third feature relates to inappropriate assets and capabilities: despite a diversified range of knowledge and coping strategies among the rural population, the capacities to take advantage of limited new opportunities remain under-utilised (IFAD, 2005). More so, sometimes rural people have many livelihoods and others remain unexploited in order to earn a living, this might be so because of lack of knowledge (Rauch.*et.al,* 2001). Finally, institutional deficiencies: for most people in the rural areas, access to services, information and markets has become a fundamental requirement for securing a decent livelihood. It applies to access like health services, information about markets, and information about agriculture. Due to deficiencies in private and public service systems, such services are not accessible to the majority of the rural people. This affects their capabilities to make effective use of their resources, to manage their natural resources in a sustainable manner and to cope successfully with various changes (Rauchet al*,* 2001). For example, many rural areas in Zimbabwe are not covered by the media and this is another way of having the poor being detached from the whole world. As explained differently by the IFAD

(2005), chronic poverty is also more prevalent in rural than in urban areas, and especially so in remote areas not connected to markets, ports or urban centres.

 ❖ Poverty alleviation

Poverty alleviation is an intervention aimed at a sustainable improvement in the economic status of the poor, by raising incomes and creating new opportunities for employment which in turn bring about increased consumption, savings and investment (Riddel and Robinson 1992:12). In this case community development is a poverty alleviation strategy aimed at reducing the level of poverty amongst rural dwellers hence community development programmes towards rural poverty alleviation need to be reviewed. In Zimbabwe the government's initiated poverty alleviation strategies implemented by NGOs are centralised and conventionally administered hence the need to assess their relevance to poverty reduction to the Mvuma rural community. The deepening of poverty in Mvuma and other rural areas shows that NGOs' strategies are inappropriate and inadequate, hence, the need to be revisited (Manyena et al, 2008).

 ❖ Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is a legally constituted organization created by natural or legal persons with no participation or representation of any government. NGOs can be differentiated by orientation or level of operation. Types of NGOs by orientation include relief, welfare and development (service, participatory, empowering). Fugere (2001) as quoted by Maruta (2010:7) stated that,

"..for most development circles during the 1980s and early 90s, development non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were the darlings. These nonprofit

agencies were able to get close to the poor and engage their participation in ways that Southern government ministries never could. NGOs were innovative and lean. They seemed to share many of the characteristics of the market-place entrepreneurs and yet stay committed to working with the poor. As the 90s wore on, however, the discussion shifted toward civil society as the third sector along with business and government and the foreign aid budgets".

The level of operation includes community-based organisations, national NGOs and international NGOs (Maruta 2010:5). In other words NGOs are an independent entity without government initiation in the formation and day to day operations of the organisations. NGOs are aimed at reaching to people from the grassroots level and enable them to participate in issues pertaining to development through advocacy. Jordan and Tuijl (2000:2065) explain about advocacy that;

"NGOs seek to improve the access of the disadvantaged people to services provided by the state. Ideally, NGO advocacy gives the poor and disadvantaged groups the tools to influence public policies and their implementation practices to challenge the status quo by addressing social injustice issues and structural causes of inequity, to defend human rights and to promote democracy".

NGOs are seen as agents of community development as they always partner with governments in helping disadvantaged groups to fully participate in community development projects as well as policies and issues that affect them.

❖ Empowerment

Empowerment is a widely contested multi-disciplinary field with many scholars viewing it from different angles, depending on the field of study. According to Aslop et.al (2006:1), "it is the process of enhancing an individual's or group's capacity to

make purposive choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes". Empowerment refers to the abilityof people to gain understanding and control over personal, social,economic and political forces in order to take action to improvetheir life situations (Israel et al., 1994). It is the process by which individuals and communities are enabled to take power and act effectively in gaining greater control, efficacy, and social justice in changing their lives and their environment (Israel et al., 1994). Empowerment is multi-dimensional, social, and a process. Empowerment also occurs at various levels, such as individual, group, and community. Empowerment is a social process since it occurs in relationship to others. One important implication of this definition of empowerment is that the individual and community are fundamentally connected (Czuba and Page 1999.) According to Rappaport (1984), empowerment is a construct that links individual strengths and competencies, natural helping systems and proactive behaviors to social policy and social change.

Central to the empowerment process are actions which both build individual and collective assets, and improve the efficiency and fairness of the organizational and institutional context which govern the use of these assets. Czuba and Page (1999) stated that empowerment is a multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives. It is a process that fosters power (that is, the capacity to implement) in people, for use in their own lives, their communities, and in their society, by acting on issues that they define as important. Furthermore, Lukes (1974) stated that power may occur in several levels, which includes individual and organizational, and this clarifies the understanding of the term and also its relationship to community organization. At the level of individual, power refers to the ability to make decisions; at the organization level power involves the shared

leadership and common decision making. The possibility of empowerment depends on two things – empowerment requires that power can change and expand (Czuba, 1999). In support, Bernstein and Wallerstein (1988) stated that the organizational empowerment focuses on collective capacities and community empowerment on 'the social contexts where empowerment takes place. More so, to create change in organizations and communities, individual empowerment endeavors to enable people to become partners in solving the complex issues facing them. In collaborations based on mutual respect, diverse perspectives, and a developing vision, people work towards creative and realistic solutions due to synthesis of individual and collective change (Wilson, 1996). This therefore asserts that in an empowerment process; inclusive individual and collective understanding of empowerment is crucial in programmes and projects to be a success in alleviating rural poverty.

Many interpretations of community empowerment are based on the understanding of this concept as either a process or as an outcome (Laverack and Wallerstein, 2001). As an outcome, community empowerment is interplay between individual and community change with a long time-frame, at least in terms of significant social and political change (Raeburn, 1993). An example of this type of outcome would be a change in government policy or legislation in favor of individuals and groups who have come together around programs and community actions, Laverack and Wallerstein, (2001) have demonstrated that empowerment in community will lead to increase in social capital. Therefore it may be possible to measure the indicators of social cohesion, social trust, reciprocity, networks and community involvement as outcomes. This clearly indicates that empowerment means that communities need to be given chance to share and participate in every aspect of their lives.

Empowerment also calls for a favorable environment in which power sharing and decision making are decentralized; as a result community projects beneficiaries will have the liberty and power towards the initiation and implementation of projects and policies. This therefore means that empowerment puts into consideration full involvement and participation of the community projects beneficiaries to influence the outputs of their decisions throughout the project.

- ❖ Participation

According to Burns et al (2004:2), "Community participation concerns the engagement of individuals and communities in decisions about things that affect their lives. Community participation means that communities are playing an active part and have a significant degree of power and influence". Furthermore, the concept of participation is the main indicator of community development (Christenson, 1989). It becomes clear that participation is a process through which all members of the community are involved in a project and have influence on decisions related to development activities that will affect them. In a community development context community activity focuses on change, initially at local level. Valuable lessons are learned from local activity and ideas emerge which provide new ways of responding to community needs. Groups reach out and develop links with others, form coalitions and lobby or argue for change at national and regional level (Schneider,1999). This implies that development projects will address those community or group needs on which members have chosen to focus, and that all phases of the development process will be characterized by active involvement of community or organization members. According to (Lee 2006:7), "The right of people, including those living in poverty, to participate in the formulation of public policy decisions is now generally uncontested. In fact, this right is supported by law in a number of areas. However,

exercising effective participation in ways that result in tangible, measurable, positive changes is a difficult and complex matter. It is linked, on the one hand to the ability of people to use existing opportunities to participate and to have additional such opportunities created. It is linked, on the other, to a commitment and ability on the part of government to make the required changes in public policy, following such advocacy". More so, Burns et al (2004:2-3) outlined essential elements of community participation as follows:

• Active participation of local residents is essential to improved democratic and service accountability.

• It enhances social cohesion because communities recognise the value of working in partnership with each other and with statutory agencies.

• It enhances effectiveness as communities bring understanding, knowledge and experience essential to the regeneration process. Community definitions of need, problems and solutions are different from those put forward by service planners and providers.

• It enables policy to be relevant to local communities.

• It adds economic value both through the mobilisation of voluntary contributions to deliver regeneration and through skill development, which enhances the opportunities for employment and an increase in community wealth

• It gives residents the opportunity to develop the skills and networks that are needed to address social exclusion.

• It promotes sustainability because community members have ownership of their communities and can develop the confidence and skills to sustain developments once the 'extra' resources have gone.

This clearly indicates that community participation is the backbone of community development to be a success. Involving communities in decision-making will lead to better decisions being made, which are more appropriate and more sustainable because they are owned by the people themselves (Breuer, 1999). Participation can reduce the risk of project failure and the cost of the project. Paul (1987) also refers to participation as the shift and a self-transformational process and learning by practice. Hence it is of vital importance to make sure that project beneficiaries do participate from the beginning to the end of their projects and every process that impacts in their lives.

2.3 THE INCREMENTAL MODEL OF POLICY MAKING

In trying to alleviate rural poverty the government's intervention in resource allocation in Zimbabwe reflects the basic tenets of incrementalism. The continuation of the government activities where only marginal adaptations are needed have been termed incrementalism. The basic assumption is that existing government policy is effective and satisfactory. Lindblom (1959), argued that policy makers do not meet regularly for policy changing as well as assessments on the policies' importance and relevance.   More so, Lindblom argues that restrictions by time and costs make it impossible for policy makers to work on the policies. This explains the situation in Zimbabwe that at independence in 1980, the government made an attempt to narrow the inherited social gap in living standards between blacks and whites. There was an attempt at policy shift from the one which was used in the colonial era whose

interests were for the minority whites to that which covered the marginalized black majority excluded by the colonial regime (Davies and Sanders, 1988). However, according to Davies and Ratsso (1999), these efforts to redress social inequalities have been meant for income transfer instead of structuring capitalism. Therefore, because of the incremental approach taken by the government social policy has not managed to address fundamental issues. It deals with reformation and not transformation, thus it is most likely that problems grow because there is no greater shift from the previous policies.

Critiques of the incremental model argue that the model allows bias to be continued when looking at the incremental adaptation (Dye, 2002). Incrementalism is argued to be conservative as policy makers cling on to old policies which may not be relevant to a particular period of time. Policymakers affect the validity of newly established programmes and quietly decide to continue previous policies (Dye, 2002). Thus incrementalism is seen as a way of combating loss in case of policy failure since few resources in terms of finances and manpower are used. In advocating for incrementalism, Wildavsky (1988), points out that people need to plan for the future based on the previous experience hence the incremental model becomes useful and relevant. Wildavsky claims that broad analysis may not be possible for a diverse social problems hence the need for the incremental approach. Thus incrementalism is seen as helping to protect against some of the worst risks in policy making. Against this background it can be noted that the incremental model is used when the programmes are seen to be relevant to the prevailing situation with scarce resources to make policy changes.

Incrementalism has been faced with a lot of criticisms. The major one being that there are no goals when coming up with policies of this nature. It has been argued

that this approach is not effective as no effort would be made to review the previous policies (Arrow, 1964). According to Forrester (1984), incrementalism is like travelling without knowledge of where one will be heading towards as the refrains are not strong enough to withstand. The study therefore gives a closer look on the relationship between the incremental model to policy making and community development. According to Makumbe(1996:1), "The UN conference on popular participation held in Arusha in Tanzania 1990 observed that the political extent of socio-economic development in Africa has been characterised by an over-centralisation of power as well as by various impediments to meaningful and effective participation of the majority of the people". Ibid:1 further denotes that, 'over-centralisation has resulted in the demotivation of the majority of the African people to the extent that they are not able to contribute to their best to the development process and to the betterment of their own well-being". It has being estimated that in Zimbabwe 70% of the population stays in rural areas and little development has taken place since independence due to the non-involvement and participation of people in their own development and planning process (Malinga,2011:2). The question is, can the failure of community development in Mvuma rural district be attributed to lack of participation by Mvuma community dwellers who are beneficiaries of the community development projects?

Etzioni, (1967:387) argues that, " incrementalism would tend to neglect basic societal innovations". To support this idea Dror (1964:155) adds that, "the model would limit social scientists' ability to serve as a source of social innovation". The model favours a few wealthy people thus neglecting the poor who cannot safeguard themselves as their voices are overridden (Forester, 1984). Moreover, Logsdon, (1986:105) states that, "incrementalism does not take into account crucial factors that are not

powerfully represented in the bargaining process, for example future". This might explain why in Zimbabwe communal areas are mostly poverty stricken (Kinsey, 2010). Communal farming areas are characterised by a large number of the poor inhabitants (GOZ, 1998) cited in Kinsey (2010). Moreover, there is also a serious degree of poverty in the resettlement areas, that is, new areas which were once used for commercial farming but were allocated to subsistence farmers (Kinsey, 2010). It therefore means that there is need for an insight on what was behind the formulation and support of the incremental model of policy making in Zimbabwe. The extent to which the policy has managed to meet its established goals also needs to be examined.

It has been argued that the incremental model can best be suitable to a situation whereby there will not be any political constraints and all the things will be constant hence the continual adoption of the previous policy (Lustick, 1980). It then becomes difficult to ascertain the positivity of the incremental model when the prevailing situation may not be stable. Against this background it can be noted that there is need for one to examine the situation that was in Zimbabwe by the time the incremental approach was adopted. One can argue that after independence the economy of Zimbabwe was stable hence the adoption of the incremental model. However after the advent of SAPS there were economic and social problems which were a direct calling to policy changes which the government can be assumed to have ignored and rather continued with this policy model despite the prevailing problems at hand.

2.4 RATIONALE AND PRINCIPLES OF PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

The rationale behind the emergence of the participatory development approach is that the participation and involvement of beneficiary groups develop and strengthen the capabilities of beneficiary groups in development initiatives. This is empowering, and leads to self-transformation and self-reliance thereby ensuring sustainability (Pendirs, 1996).

The principles of the participatory approach as cited by Dennis (1997) quoted in Mulugeta (2003:9-10) include the following principles:

- **Inclusion** - of all people, or representatives of all groups who will be affected by the results of a decision or a process - for example a development project.

- **Equal partnership** - recognizing that every person has skill, ability and initiative and has an equal right to participate in the process, regardless of their status.

- **Transparency** - all participants must help to create a climate conducive to open communication and building dialogue.

- **Sharing power** - authority and power must be balanced evenly between all stakeholders to avoid the domination of one party.

- **Sharing responsibility** - similarly, all stakeholders have equal responsibility for decisions that are made, and each should have clear responsibilities within each process.

- **Empowerment** - participants with special skills should be encouraged to take responsibility for tasks within their specialty, but should also encourage others to also be involved to promote mutual learning and empowerment.

- **Cooperation** - is very important; sharing everybody's strength reduces everybody's weaknesses.

The rationale behind the emergence of the participatory development approach is that the participation and involvement of beneficiary groups develop and strengthen the capabilities of beneficiary groups in development initiatives. This is empowering, and leads to self-transformation and self-reliance thereby ensuring sustainability (Pendirs, 1996).The main tenet of participatory community development approaches is that all stakeholders collaborate in any development activities from the very beginning of project identification, prioritization, planning, implementing, evaluation and monitoring. It is also geared towards achieving a sense of ownership and sustainability of the projects (GTZ-OSHP, 2002). In contrast to the traditional community development approach, the participatory approach gives greater emphasis on building capacity, empowerment, self-reliance and sustainability of the projects. Participatory approaches can also challenge perceptions leading to a change in attitude and agendas (Farm Africa, 1996).

Basically, public participation is about allowing people to execute their basic human right- the right to participate in decisions affecting their future. In international development, participation has been recognised as an important end and means in development interventions for quite some time. Participation is first of all promoted as an answer to problems of exclusion. Participation and participatory approaches in other words, intend to create and expand possibilities for individuals (Brookling et al, 2007). The debate on community development began to place the question of participation as a critical variable for community development in mid and late 1970s. This is due to the fact that the emerging failures of top-down, expert-designed development projects and programmes for consistency supported the promotion of participation as a central concept in development. Brookling also argues that the

indigenous knowledge and skills of those who are critical participants and central actors in the development process should be central (Chambers, 1982).

Roodt (2001) has noted that the participatory development approach stresses the participation of the majority of the population (especially the previously excluded components such as Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Women, Youth and the illiterate) in the process of development program. This approach views development as a process which focuses on community's involvement in their own development using available resources and guiding the future development of their own community. The wishes of an individual never superimpose on those of a group. This approach emphasises concepts such as capacity building, empowerment, sustainability and self-reliance.

According to Nelson and Wright (2007), participation is a means to accomplish the aims of a project more efficiently, effectively and cheaply. These authors argue that participation involves shifts in power and this occurs within communities between people and policymaking. The principle of participatory approach is that people become agents rather than objects of development projects. Community development is a learning process; for this reason Swanepoel (1992) argues that it is of utmost importance that the people participate fully in any project. A participatory process can lead to a consensual mission statement for which there is wide support and ownership (Chambers, 2005). This theory will be adopted by this study because the researcher needs to look at the relevance and relationship between community development strategy and the model of policy making that is operational in Zimbabwe which is the incremental model. More so, the study will give an insight into whether the implementation of community development is achieving the intended objectives or not. An evaluation of PAAP will also elucidate on whether the

problem of rural impoverishment in Mvuma rural communities is caused by the community development strategy or lack of participation by beneficiaries of the projects. This study will therefore be dominated by the participatory approach to community development.

2.5 PREVALENCE OF RURAL POVERTY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN ZIMBABWE

Concern about poverty in Africa is not new. The World Summit on Social Development, held in March 1995 in Copenhagen, had as its explicit objective poverty eradication in the world through decisive national action and international cooperation (World Bank, 1996). The Southern Africa Development Communities (SADC) are aware of this problem. At its August 2013 summit, its new chair, President Joyce Banda of Malawi, identified poverty alleviation as the region's number one priority as she spoke of the 'deepening poverty' within SADC (Jassi, 2013).

In the same vein, in Zimbabwe, the World Food Programme (WFP), (2013:1) indicated that rural poverty had increased from 63% in 2003 to 76% in 2014. According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Human Development Index (2013: 146), Zimbabwe is a low income, food deficit country that ranks 172 out of 187. Furthermore, the prevalence of poverty in Zimbabwe was estimated at 63% with 16% estimated to be in extreme poverty. Poverty is more widespread in rural households (76%) compared to the 38% in the urban areas. A total of 30% of the rural people are extremely poor compared to 6% in urban areas, Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC, 2014:7). Furthermore,(ZimVAC, 2014:87)stated that, "The 2014/15 consumption year at peak (January to March) is projected to have 6% of rural households food

insecure. This proportion represents about 564,599 people at peak, not being able to meet their annual food requirements."

According to Zimstat (2013:43), spatial patterns of individual and household poverty follow those of mean levels of consumption and poverty is far worse in rural areas in Zimbabwe. 62.6% of all Zimbabwean households have per capita consumption expenditures below the upper poverty line, Total Consumption Poverty Line (TCPL), 76% and 38.2% respectively for rural and urban households are deemed poor; extreme poverty is common in rural areas. The poverty prevalence rate of people residing in rural areas is 84.3% while the prevalence for extremely poor people is 30.4% as illustrated by (Table 2.4.1).

The indication is that rural areas in Zimbabwe are with no doubt most affected bypoverty: this is explained by a number of factors ; amongst them is unemployment and poor soils and unavailability of agricultural equipment which agricultural produce cannot sustain and meets the needs of a growing population in rural areas.

Table 1 : Poverty Indices by place of residence

Residence	Prevalence % of		Poverty Indices	
	Poverty	Extreme poverty	Poverty gap Indices	Poverty severity Indices
Households				
Rural	76.0	22.9	36.1	20.6
Urban	38.2	4.0	12.3	5.6
All Zimbabwe	62.6	16.2	27.7	15.2
People				
Rural	84.3	30.4	42.8	25.4
Urban	46.5	5.6	15.5	7.2
All Zimbabwe	72.3	22.5	34.1	19.6

Source: Poverty Income Consumption and Expenditure Survey (PICES) 2011 as quoted by Zimstat (2013:44). Poverty refers to the prevalence of households or people in households whose consumption expenditures per capita are below the upper poverty line (the TCPL). Extreme poverty represents a shortfall below the low poverty line, Food Poverty Line (FPL). The poverty gap and the severity index are the foster, measurements, respectively. These indices are computed using the upper poverty line.

It can however be noted that in Zimbabwe rural poverty rates differ from place to place and also depending on the climate patterns, ownership by the rural population

and the remoteness of the place. According to (GOZ 1998) as cited by Kinsey (2010:5), rural areas, accommodate a little over two-thirds of the population and contained 77% of the poor and 90% of the very poor. More so, within the rural population, there is a particularly severe concentration of poverty in communal farming areas. These contain half of Zimbabwe's total population and three-quarters of the poor and over 80% of the very poor (GOZ 1998) as cited by Kinsey (2010:5). Furthermore, there is also a serious degree of poverty in the resettlement areas— former commercial farming areas that were purchased for the relocation of peasant farmers from the communal areas (Kinsey, 1999) as cited by (Kinsey 2010:5).In 2006, the life expectancy stood at 35, 5 with half of the population surviving on less than $US 1 a day (UNDP, 2006) as cited by Basilwizi (2010:9).The Mvuma rural district is not an exception when considering the level of poverty in Zimbabwe as it forms part of communal as well as resettlement areas.

According to the Rural Poverty Research Centre (2004), place matters in order to understand the issue of poverty. Rural places have different characteristics than urban areas; they have different access to resources, different economic structures, different institutions, different social norms, and different demographics, which in turn distinguish the causes and consequences of rural poverty from urban poverty. A research by IFAD (2005) in the 18 countries in Africa about rural poverty shows that, not more than four or five countries were on track for achieving Millennium Development Goal 1 which is about eradicating extreme poverty.This therefore means that there is need to examine methods and policies that are being implemented in order to alleviate rural poverty. One of these policies in Zimbabwe is the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan which saw the implementation of community development as a strategy to help alleviate poverty especially in rural areas.

Poverty rates in Zimbabwe also vary among provinces. Matabeleland North province has the highest poverty rate in Zimbabwe with 70% of its people classified as extremely poor (Marten, 2010). Poverty is also concentrated in the South Eastern provinces of Manicaland and Masvingo which are among the driest and less productive areas in the country (IFAD, 2001). Ownership also has influence on poverty rates as further explained by DFID (2009), cited in Marten (2010), that people with small plots to cultivate crops or without irrigation in dry areas or without access to draught power are most vulnerable. Remoteness and inaccessibility of some basic facilities is also a contributing factor to rural poverty in some countries. In support of this statement, the research by Velasquez (2007) on the rural areas of Bolivia found that most of the people who are chronically poor are agricultural peasants or subsistence farmers, lacking access to basic infrastructures. Chronic and persistent poverty is concentrated among the people in the remote rural areas. It is therefore important to find out the specific reasons for rural poverty in Mvuma rural district.

The table that follows shows the difference between rural and urban poverty depending on employment type. Rural areas are categorized by the large proportion of the poor and very poor dwellers. The informal sector as well as the communal farmers are the most hit by poverty as well as extreme poverty. Mvuma rural communities have a large proportion of communal farmers, resettlement farmers and people surviving under the informal sector which records highest percentages of the people who are categorized as poor and extremely poor.

Table 2 : Prevalence of household poverty by sector of employment of the household head

	Rural		Urban	
Employment type	Poor	Extreme poor	Poor	Extreme poor
Communal farmer	81.8	26.4	72.5	14.3
Resettlement farmer	80.3	21.1	-	-
Own account worker other	72.6	21.8	46.8	5.5
Government worker	25.5	2.5	23.8	0.7
Parastatal Worker	53.8	7.5	25.1	3.5
Private sector	56.1	10.2	35.8	2.8
Formal sector	56.0	11.1	32.6	2.3
Informal sector	82.0	26.4	51.2	7.1

Source: PICES 2011 as quoted by Zimstat (2013:58), Government workers include central and local government workers, parastatals include cooperative employees, formal sector includes registered establishments, and informal sector includes unregistered establishments. Few observations were made.

Community development is often seen as an intervention strategy that can be used by residents and organizations to initiate neighbourhood or community change. The underlying basis of community development is social change designed to improve the quality of life for residents and strengthen communities (Drier: 1996). It can therefore be noted that change that alters the quality of life depends on whether community development interventions are conservative or transformative. The fact that poverty increased with PAAP and other interventions becomes evident that

community development under these policies were conservative and not transformative. As such, Shaw (1997) argues: that community development positions itself as essentially a moral activity, concerned with the creation of a better and fairer world. It is thus future focused. Against this background one is compelled to give a closer look on the nature of community development and implementation in disadvantaged and impoverished rural communities. Can rural poverty in Mvuma rural district be therefore attributed to the environment to which community development programme is being implemented?

The table below shows prevalence of poverty by provinces in Zimbabwe. Mvuma rural communities are in Midlands province which records a third position on the poor households amongst the ten provinces. Midlands also has people living in extreme cases of poverty.

Table 3 : Household poverty Indices by Province

Province	Percent poor households	Prevalence of %		Poverty Indices	
		Poverty	Extreme poverty	Poverty gap index	Poverty severity Index
Manicaland	17.4	70.6	18.7	32.2	17.8
Mashonaland East	10.0	67.0	17.3	29.9	16.5
Mashonaland West	13.2	72.4	21.8	33.9	19.4
Mashonaland Central	10.9	75.4	22.0	35.7	20.2
Matebeleland South	5.6	70.8	19.4	32.1	17.8
Matebeleland North	6.0	81.7	36.9	44.8	28.2
Midlands	13.1	67.0	18.5	30.1	16.9
Masvingo	11.5	63.7	13.8	27.6	14.6
Bulawayo	3.3	34.5	3.4	11.4	5.1
Harare	9.0	35.7	3.3	10.6	4.6
All Zimbabwe	100.0	62.6	16.2	27.7	15.2

Source: PICES 2011 as quoted by Zimstat (2013:47), the poverty gap and the severity index are foster, measurements, respectively. Poverty refers to the prevalence of households or people in households whose consumption expenditures per capita are below the upper poverty line (the TCPL). Extreme poverty represents a shortfall below the low poverty line (FPL). These indices are computed using the upper poverty line.

Community development as a process focuses on enhancing capacity of individuals and institutions to make change (Gittell & Vidal, 1998). "Community development entails building practical capacities-physical, social, intellectual, financial, and

political assets-to improve the quality of life among residents of targeted neighbourhoods'" (Armacost as quoted in Ferguson & Dickens, 1999:Vii). Community development serves as a training process by which individuals and organizations are able to strengthen the community. Further, community development, viewed as a framework, seeks to change the social and economic structure of society (Chekki, 1979a). Hudson (2004) is of the view that community development focuses upon collective action for social change. This clearly shows that community development is perceived as a necessity for improved standards of living for every community.

In Bangladesh, the Ganokendras (community-based educational centres) were established to facilitate the process of community development. According to Alam (2006), Ganokendras are people's centres established to address the need for literacy training, continuing and lifelong education, and poverty alleviation in the countryside. The initiative was a response to Bangladesh's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), which saw human development as a crucial ingredient for community development to take place. By 2006, a total of 807 Ganokendras had been established over seven districts of Bangladesh, benefiting 80 700 families (Alam 2006:6). As earlier suggested by Ferguson (1999), Ganokendras in Bangladesh facilitated the building of assets for community development in the form of physical capital, intellectual and human capital, social capital, and financial capital. This facilitated employment creation and credit support, advancement of information and communication technology, a boom in literacy, social awareness and survival skills, general community needs were being addressed and the government also adopted the Ganokendra model (Alam, 2006).To implement such a multi-faceted programme, an extension organisation headed by a Block Development Officer

(BDO) was established at each block or the revenue which with a team of subject specialists and village level workers (VLW). From 1950s till mid-1970s, there was no significant achievement and poverty was on the verge of increasing. By mid-eighties, the government was able to meet the minimum needs of the poor, which included elementary education, health, water supply, roads, electrification, housing and nutrition (Hegde, 2000). Against this background one can argue that the fact that there is success story about community development in Bangladesh, it therefore needs a closer look to possible factors that are making it to be a failure when it comes to rural poverty alleviation in Zimbabwe and in particular Mvuma rural district.

Again, the thrust of community development is not only in building a strong asset base, but also in addressing the question of who owns and controls those assets (Ledwith, 2005). In other words, community development loses its meaning when local people are treated as common subjects, incapable of owning, controlling and managing the available assets. Furthermore, Ferguson (1999) argues that there is a need to increase people's access to the available assets so as to expand their opportunities. Thus, an effective community development mechanism should begin with people and even transcend beyond the symptoms of injustice to its root causes such as the oppressive political structures that perpetuate discrimination (Ledwith, 2005). According to Cary (1983), the direction of the process of community development should be derived from within the community, and not the other way round. Furthermore, Cary contests that people from within the community must occupy the centre stage of community development by getting involved and participating extensively. In support of this, Rose and Lappin (as quoted by Cary, 1983) are of the view that the development of a specific project is less important than

development of the capacity of people to establish that project. Hence involvement and participation of beneficiaries of community development projects is of vital importance. There is therefore need to see if this is the way community development is being viewed by the Mvuma rural community.

Cary (1983) suggests that people need to be trained in cases where they are not prepared to assume roles in the process of community development. Community development also depends on the availability of opportunities both from within and outside the community. A proper analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) within the community and in its neighbourhood would be crucial to establish the kinds of development programmes necessary and attainable. Cary (1983) further emphasises that an effective community development programme would require the community not only to draw on its strength but also to also consider various forms of assistance available from beyond the community boundaries. Community development is often a catalyst around which communities mobilize for change (Kahn, 1991). Therefore, it is clear that inherent in the community development paradigm are issues of social justice, redistribution, and equity as represented by the transformative paradigm (Clavel et al, 1997).

2.6 CONSERVATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE VIEWS TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The conservative view to community development centralises power over communities to local and national government. According to Kaplan, (2009: 231-232), economic conservatives' views are evident on development strategies backed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, and is to some extent anchored by USAID. These agents advocate for free market economy and minimal involvement of government expenditure as the cornerstone for economic

development. Furthermore Kaplan noted that prescriptions by the World Bank and the IMF, "made sense in countries where governments have suffocated the economy, such as India, China and the former communist bloc" (Kaplan 2009:232). Against this background it can therefore be noted that, with adoption of the incremental policy and the calls by community development principles there might be a problem to try and alleviate poverty as the two cannot actually marry: for example community development calls for community participation whereas incremental model entails decision making by responsible authorities, which at times may not be relevant to different community settings.

On the other hand, the transformative view to community development states that planning decisions should be made by communities, rather than by local or national government. Accordingly, this would eliminate clashes with local people and ensure that developments are designed to add value to an area rather than be imposed on communities against their will (Kelly, 2013). Against this background, it can be noted that assistance from other countries and continents cannot impact change on the living conditions of the poor in the world unless attention is paid to the societal needs. Kaplan (2009:232) noted that, "most of the countries that have succeeded economically are characterised by their respect and tolerance of traditional characteristics and views being considered by the majority of the country's citizens, for example countries like Kuwait and the Middle East". Furthermore, (Kennedy, 2011:4) argues that transformative community planning means utilising the skills of community members by allowing them to make their own decisions. Thus, transformation therefore put into consideration adjustments in relation to what the community values most (Kennedy 2011:4). Against this background, it can therefore be noted that, the conservative approach invests in authorities whereas the

transformative view agitates for increasing of political awareness as an investment to successful community development (Kennedy, 2011:4).

2.7 CONCLUSION

It is clear that rural poverty is still at peak despite efforts being made to try and reduce the prevalence of rural poverty in Zimbabwe. A number of interventions have been implemented in an effort to alleviate extreme poverty. The government adopted the incremental model of policy making since independence. Community development under the PAAP was adopted in an effort to alleviate poverty. There was however intensification of rural poverty after independence which left rural dwellers vulnerable to social and economic problems. It is however clear from the literature that community development did not achieve much in trying to alleviate poverty in Zimbabwe. In Bangladesh, community development has however brought about change as it was transformative in nature. In fact community development was a success in Bangladesh. This indicates the difference between the approaches and models of policy making between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. It becomes evident that community involvement in their projects is key to success and improved standards of living. The next chapter is going to be looking at the interventions of community development in Zimbabwe as well as the history of community development.

CHAPTER 3: INTERVENTIONS AND HISTORY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA AND ZIMBABWE

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter looks at the history and context of community development in Africa. The relationship between the implementation of community development as well as its relevance to African rural and impoverished communities will be examined. Emphasis will later be given to Zimbabwe, paying attention to the history of community development since independence. The chapter will further look at the interventions of community development, that is, their successes and failures.

3.2 INTERVENTIONS AND HISTORY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The notion of community development owes a great deal to the efforts of colonial administrators. Mayo (1975: 130) noted that "administrators invented the term out of their attempts to develop basic education and social welfare in the UK colonies. This was a set of concerns similar to those surrounding the interest in rural development and educational extension in North America in the first two decades of the century". In support, Maistry (2011:1) argued that, "early history of community development in Africa and Asia was influenced by colonial policies and practices together with the efforts of missionaries. Education as the main community development intervention and conversion to Christianity were intertwined. Mass education was seen as the beginning of the evolution and the progressive institutionalization of community development as an arm of government policy. These early efforts of western education (included health, home life training, industry, agriculture and recreation) as part of community development may be viewed as conversion of the colonized to

consumers and market sources for the capitalist economy". As such, community development was defined in one United Kingdom government publication as: "active participation, and if possible on the initiative of the community, but if this initiative is not forthcoming spontaneously, by the use of techniques for arousing and stimulating it in order to achieve its active and enthusiastic response to the movement (Colonial Office 1958: 2).

This notion clearly denotes that community development was rooted in the interests of colonial powers to make their subjects work towards their wellbeing instead of the communities looking up to the colonial powers for provision of their needs. This was termed institutional community development. While institutional community development struggled to gain a foothold, the unofficial version of community development implemented by popular movements as part of the liberation struggle was utilized as an effective development mechanism within the black majority communities in the townships and rural areas (Taylor 1998:292). There was a concern with community development as it is believed to have been initiated as a response to the growth of nationalism, and in part an outcome of a desire to increase the rate of industrial and economic development. According to Midgley (1986:18), "Community development began to feature strongly in United Nations documents during the 1950s and these drew extensively on the British literature and experiences in Africa and India". Midgley further states that, three important elements: were identified, namely, a concern with social and economic development, capacity of local co-operation and self-help together and the use of expertise and methods drawn from outside the local communityidentified.

In the late 1960s there was some exploration of different models of participation and their relationship to community development. Since then concern around popular

and community participation in key agencies such as the United Nations has been part of the discourse of community development. "The notion of popular participation and that of community participation were interlinked. The former was concerned with broad issues of social development and the creation of opportunities for the involvement of people in the political, economic and social life of a nation, 'the latter connotes the direct involvement of ordinary people in local affairs' in some countries the notion of community participation has reappeared in discussions around the need to bring some local services and facilities more directly into the control of local people" (Midgley et al 1986: 23).

Reeder (1995) noted that community development in the 1970s was concerned with people's struggles to reclaim ownership and control of their communities from the hegemonic influences of local and central government power and corporate influence. This shows that there was no participation of communities at grassroots level as power was centralized in the government. Emphasizing the lack of community participation in rural development, Matowanyika (1998:11) warns that "… in the history of failed development efforts in Lesotho and the region, a major fault is that programme developments were not rooted in local values, institutions and local people's committed responses". Some of the classic concerns of community development found expression in the early 1990s in the notion of capacity building. There was an interest in developing the ability of local groups and networks to function and to contribute to social and economic development.

Gilchrist and Taylor (2011) suggested that there are three vital aspects of community development namely, informal education- which is learning that takes place predominantly through direct involvement in community activities; collective action which is finding the power of combined voices and determination, the strength of

many people acting for their mutual benefit or to champion the interests of those who cannot stand up for themselves; and organization development which denotes helping groups and bodies to evolve a form that enables the members to achieve their goals, to act legally and to be accountable to the membership and wider community (Gilchrist and Taylor 2011:10-12).

Community development as social transformation is predicated on the philosophy that social change can only be attained through a holistic approach that looks at the overall political, social, economic, cultural, environmental and spiritual context. The political dimension emphasizes that community development cannot be understood simply in the context of individual pathology, but a holistic approach that seeks to address structural inequality, enhance the capacity of individuals, groups and communities to operate in the political arena through conscientisation, organizing and social and political actions(Chile 2006:421).

According to Farm Africa (1996) as quoted by Mulugeta (2003:13-14), the participatory community development approach provides the following advantages to the targets groups at the grassroots level:

- **Sustainability and self-reliance:** participatory development leads to increased self-reliance among the community and to the establishment of a network of self-sustaining organizations. This carries important benefits such as greater efficiency of development services and opportunities for the community to contribute constructively to the development processes.

- **Building of democratic organizations**: the settings and size of a community in a particular location are ideal for the diffusion of collective decision-making

and leadership skills, which can be used in the subsequent development of inter-group federations.

- **Higher productivity:** given access to resources, the communities share fully in the benefits of their efforts. They also become more receptive to new technologies, services, and achieve higher levels of production. This helps to build net cash surpluses that strengthen the group's economic base and contribute to the community capital formation.

- **Reduced costs and increased efficiency:** the contributions of the community in terms of knowledge of local conditions, labour, locally available materials and finance to projects reduce costs. The community also facilitates the diagnosis of environmental, social and institutional constraints, as well as the search for solutions for local problems.

Oakely (1991) emphasized on the issue of participation by saying it involves harnessing of the existing physical, economic and social resources of rural people in order to attain the objectives of community development programs and projects. More so, Maser (1997) as quoted by Mulugeta (2003:4) stated that participation evokes involvement of the community in the decision making process of implementation of development projects. Mulugeta (2003:13) further noted that, "the emerging failures of top-down, expert-designed development projects and programs supported the promotion of participation as a central concept in development". Chambers (1982) also argued that the indigenous knowledge and skills of those who are critical participants and central actors in the development process should be central. This therefore means that community development beneficiaries' decisions are important and should be considered in shaping their lives. For many good

reasons there is much interest in issues of participation and empowerment, and, more recently and more broadly, in participatory governance which includes special attention to structures and relationships that make participation possible (de Wit, 2002).

3.3 UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) ON THE CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A 2013 evaluation of the UNDP's poverty reduction efforts states that the UNDP has effectively supported national efforts to reduce poverty, by helping governments make policy changes that benefit the poor (UNDP's Strategic Plan 2014-2017). However, economic growth does not automatically translate into human development progress, so reports have highlighted the need for pro-poor policies and investments in capacity building with a focus on education, nutrition, health and employment skills. The emphasis on human development has not always been apparent in development theory. The UNDP Human Development Report was developed in the context of the increasing human costs of structural adjustment programmes, the sweeping changes in Eastern Europe, and the increasing demands for democratisation in the l990s. In the past, however, the emphasis on human welfare as the major objective of development was not a central feature of economic strategies (HDR 1998:40). By 1976, with poverty growing in developing countries, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) began to lay emphasis on a "basic needs approach" to development. This, it was argued, would deal more directly with poverty issues. With the advent of structural adjustment programmes in the 1980s and l990s, there has been a renewed emphasis on economic growth and the assumptions of modernisation theory, though tampered by the introduction of compensatory programmes for the poor. Under the harsh environment of economic liberalisation,

the human development paradigm has sought to re-prioritise questions about economic and political power relations at both national and global levels (HDR 1998:40).

Human development theorists have argued that the human development paradigm performs an important service in questioning the presumed automatic link between expanding income and expanding human choices. Such a link depends on the quality and distribution of economic growth, not only the quality of such growth (UG Hag, 1995) as quoted by (ZHDR 1998:38). A link between growth and human lives has to be created consciously through deliberate public policy-such as public spending on social services and fiscal policy to redistribute income and assets. This does not exist in the market place which can further marginalise the poor (UG Hag, 1995) as quoted by ZHDR 1998:38). Furthermore, the UNDP strategic plan (2014-17:4),asserted that, "…poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development" .

Sustainable development is needed in any area where community development projects will be implemented. Sustainable Development (SD) is complemented and reinforced by the concept of human development (HD), which focuses on the process of enlarging people's choices, looking both at the formation of human capabilities and the use people make of their acquired capabilities (Human Development Report, 1990). In 1987, the Brutland Report on sustainable development released by the United Nations (1987:7), defined sustainable development as

"….. development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" .

Sustainable development carries with it two concepts which are; the concept of 'needs', in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organisation on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs (Kates et.al, 2005). With development, there is need to develop the people by focusing on human development like developing the values and goals, increased life expectancy, improved education, equity and opportunity. The development of the economy must involve developing productive structures leading to the creation of employment, desired consumption and wealth. The development of communities by emphasising values of security and well-being of nation states, regions, institutions as well as the social capital of relationships and community ties (Kates et al, 2005).   According to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development today there are three pillars of sustainable development and these are; economic, social and environmental sustainable development (United Nations, 1987). The Johannesburg Declaration created a collective responsibility to advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development that is; economic development, social development and environmental protection at local, national, regional and global levels (Kates et al, 2005). Sustainable development therefore put into consideration the issue of thinking about tomorrow with the utilization of present resources in different communities.

For most people, development means housing, secure jobs, health facilities, schools and other things related to their standard of living and quality of life. The quality and structure of growth are thus critical to determinants of poverty reduction and human development, incorporating issues of the increase in employment and the nature of jobs created and the extent to which cultural and political participation as well as legal rights are enhanced. As its vision the UNDP strategic plan 2014-17 is aimed at helping countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion (UNDP Strategic Plan: 2014–17:11).

In line with its outcomes, UNDP's development activities will place particular emphasis on specific population groups, determined country-by-country. The groups will include, those living in poverty, defined by both relative and absolute measures, using the international US$ 1.25 PPP/day poverty line, the multidimensional poverty index (MPI), and national poverty lines; and those groups that are experiencing the greatest inequalities and exclusion in terms of access to opportunities and achievement of outcomes, as captured in human development indices, especially women, female-headed households and youth (UNDP Strategic Plan: 2014–17:16).

UNDP will assist programme countries to design and implement development pathways that can tackle the connected issues of poverty, inequality and exclusion while transforming productive capacities, avoiding the irreversible depletion of social and natural capital and lowering risks arising from shocks. The aim will be to help improve the resource endowments of the poor and to boost their prospects for employment and livelihoods. Furthermore, UNDP will take a disciplined way, building on the most promising parts of our current portfolio and offering strong connections to issues of environmental sustainability, governance and resilience. This will demand thought leadership, advice on 'big picture' reforms, capacity-building, action

to boost employment and livelihoods and greater attention to effective risk management (UNDP Strategic Plan: 2014–17:20). The UNDP stated that, better measurement and monitoring of development conditions and poverty will be critical to understanding the issues, taking account of differences by gender, income, location and other non-income characteristics. Improved data, disaggregated appropriately, will enable policy analysis — including application of gender analysis, assessment of climate change impacts and, where appropriate, analysis for conflict prevention, focused on the convergence between poverty, social equity, environmental and governance issues (UNDP Strategic Plan: 2014–17:21)

UNDP will also help governance institutions adapt to changing public expectations and deliver clear benefits to citizens, whether in terms of better services, improved access to resources needed for employment and livelihoods or greater security of persons and property. "In designing our work, we will bring together our ability to advocate, advise, promote dialogue, achieve consensus and build institutions. We will also pay attention to the strong connections that exist between democratic governance and progress towards sustainable development pathways and resilience" UNDP Strategic Plan: 2014–17:28). More so the UNDP will engage on the promotion of economic, political, social, civil and cultural rights, will reinforce these efforts by reducing discrimination and violence against women, girls and minorities and encouraging their full participation in governance processes UNDP Strategic Plan: 2014–17:28). This is a clear indication that a lot still needs to be done for community development to be able to become a solution to alleviation of poverty.

3.4 CHALLENGES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA AND PREVALENCE OF RURAL POVERTY

Midgley et al (1986:18) noted that, "many governments, particularly in Africa, failed to provide adequate financial support but nevertheless extolled the virtues of self-help. Community development was soon recognized by the people to amount to little more than a slogan which brought few tangible benefits". This clearly explains that community development has failed in most African countries. The fruits of community development are not being felt by the impoverished and disadvantaged members of communities.

According to Madavo (2005), development in Sub-Saharan Africa is lagging badly behind the other regions of the developing world. In East Asia, per capita GDP has grown by nearly 800% since 1960, and in low income countries as a whole per capita GDP has doubled. Sub-Saharan Africa, however, has seen virtually no per capita GDP growth over this period. The result of this stagnation in economic expansion is increasing poverty on the continent. While Africa is home to only 10% of the world population, roughly 30% of the world's poor are Africans. Since the mid-1980s the number of poor in Africa has doubled to some 300 million and is expected to climb as high as 400 million by 2015. Thus, Africa is the only region of the world where poverty is increasing in stark contrast to the dramatic gains in the fight against poverty that are seen elsewhere, most notably in Asia (Madavo 2005:1-2).

According to income-based measures of poverty, in 104 developing countries, 1.2 billion people live on $1.25 or less a day, and the multidimensional poverty headcount for 91 developing countries shows that an estimated 1.5 billion people are living in poverty with overlapping deprivations in health, education and living

standards. Although poverty is declining overall, almost 800 million people are at risk of falling back into poverty if setbacks occur (UNDP 2014:41). Many people face either structural or life-cycle vulnerabilities.

More than 2.2 billion people are vulnerable to multidimensional poverty, including almost 1.5 billion who are multidimensionally poor. Three-quarters of the world's poor live in rural areas, where agricultural workers suffer the highest incidence of poverty, caught in a cauldron of low productivity, seasonal unemployment and low wages (UNDP HDR 2014:13). Globally, 1.2 billion people (22%) live on less than $1.25 a day. Increasing the income poverty line to $2.50 a day raises the global income poverty rate to about 50%, or 2.7 billion people. Moving the poverty line in this way draws in a large number of people who are potentially vulnerable to poverty (UNDP HDR 2014:13).

In South Asia 44.4 percent of the population, around 730 million people, live on $1.25−$2.50 a day. Many who recently joined the middle class could easily fall back into poverty with a sudden change in circumstances (Cornia and Stewart 1993).The poor are inherently vulnerable because they lack sufficient core capabilities to exercise their full agency. They suffer from many deprivations. They not only lack adequate material assets, they tend to have poor education and health and suffer deficiencies in other areas. Equally, their access to justice systems may be constrained (UNDP HDR 2014:13). Multidimensional poverty has a strong geographical component since it tends to be highest in rural areas. In Somalia it affects 60% of the population in urban households and over 95% of the population in rural households. In Burkina Faso 43% and 94%, in Niger 56% and 96% and in Ethiopia 54% and 96% (UNDP HDR 2014:72).

As part of the lessons that were learnt from the experiences of community development projects on the African continent, Madavo (2005:5) stated that, "the international community should not impose policies on African countries. It must, however, continue to play an important supporting role because Africa's resources are too limited for the continent to pull itself up by its own bootstraps. A real partnership between Africa and the international community is needed if it is to make progress towards meeting the MDGs by the 2015 deadline". Furthermore, there is a need to put growth and poverty reduction at the center of African development efforts. Previously, too much spending had been directed at programs and projects that African countries did not lead and have no ownership over their development strategies (Madavo 2005:5). This therefore means that the fact that community development was a policy that was developed outside the African continent, it has borne its own negative implications when it comes to the response by fellow Africans. In other words, people cannot be developed; they can only develop themselves. According to Nyerere (1973:60), "For while it is possible for an outsider to build a man's house, an outsider cannot give the man pride and self-confidence in himself as a human being. Those things a man has to create in himself by his own actions. He develops himself by what he does ... by making his own decisions, by increasing his understanding of what he is doing, and why; by his own full participation".

Government and non-governmental institutions are increasingly recognising the need to move away from instructions and blueprint solutions, towards more participatory approaches which support communities in their capacity to set and fulfil their own development goals. At the heart of this change is the recognition that rural people themselves are the owners and shapers of their own development (Conolly

1999:1). The Rio Declaration (1992) makes it unequivocally clear that, rural communities, their knowledge and traditions are pivotal in the attainment of sustainable development. Principle 22 0f the declaration states that;

"Indigenous people and their communities have a vital role in environmentalmanagement and development because of their knowledge and traditionalpractices. States should recognize and duly support their identity, culture, interests and enable their effective participation in the achievementof sustainable development" (Journal for social Development 1994:21).

According to Kretzmann and McKnight (1993) as quoted by Maruta (2010:13), "the key to community development in any community, then, is to locate all of the available local assets, to begin connecting them with one another in ways that multiply their power and effectiveness, and to begin harnessing those local institutions, such as schools and churches for local development purposes". As such, the Human development report (HDR) (2014:2) stated that, reducing both poverty and people's vulnerability to falling into poverty must be a central objective of the post-2015 agenda. The report further stated that, "eliminating extreme poverty is not just about 'getting to zero'; it is also about staying there. This can be achieved only with a renewed focus on vulnerability and human development. It requires ensuring that those lifted from extreme deprivation benefit from sustained public support that strengthens their social and economic resilience and greatly reduces the systemic sources of their vulnerability" (HDR) (2014: 2).

3.5 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN KENYA- A SUCCESS

The achievements of community development in Kenya, in terms of self-help projects successfully completed are considerable (Wallis 1976). Kenya's legacy of

community development from the colonial period was more substantial than that bequeathed to most new states in the British Commonwealth. More so, in Kenya the colonial administration regarded community development as a useful tool with which to try to control and channel the sources of anti-colonialism which increasingly dominated the political scene (Rosberg and Nottingham 1966). In most instances, community development work did not encounter severe resistance from the rural communities concerned. In 1951 an organization known as "Maendeleo ya Wanawake" meaning (progress for women) was formed by the department of community development. Community Development Officers (CDOs) were posted to the field in most parts of Kenya in the mid-1950s. Considerable emphasis was placed on community leadership training for men both at rural district level (Wallis 1976). By the late 1950s, Africans were beginning to be recruited as Community Development Officers (CDOs). Also, as a number of Africans were beginning to be recruited as CDOs and some Africans came to acquire experience by working as Community Development Assistants (CDAs). For Kenya, the felt needs approach accompanied by a heavy emphasis upon local rather than national activity produced results. This resulted in the slogan of self-help becoming a familiar theme of Kenya's politics soon after independence (Wallis, 1976).

According to De Beer and Swanepoel (2006), the government is responsible for putting in place structures or mechanisms that regulate the environments and to create circumstances that will enhance or facilitate community development to occur. In other words, environmental aspects such as policy and regulatory frameworks determine the extent to which developmental initiatives are able to positively impact communities. Community development is further characterised by environmental factors such as the prevailing educational system, culture, religion, physical

environment, economic conditions and the organisational and institutional strength (De Beer and Swanepoel, 2006). All these environmental features may either propel or hinder community development. Aliber (2010) assets that the greatest challenge in community development is to turn the high level conceptual frameworks provided into phased programmes that are well resourced and more practical in a given environment. According to Aliber, this challenge is exacerbated by the uncertainties around the ability to stimulate the creation of appropriate economic opportunities in local communities.

3.6 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA

In Rwanda, an assessment of community development policy in the first phase of decentralization shows significant achievements. Community development administrative structures were established from the cell up to the district (Ministry of Local Government, Republic of Rwanda 2008:5).The policy contributed to the establishment of Community Development Communities(CDCs) through democratic elections and the development of District Development Plans(DDPs) that reflected the prioritized needs of the population. The DDPs provided a sound framework for resource mobilization from government and development partners and it meshes with the core national development strategies vision 2020 (Ministry of Local Government, Republic of Rwanda 2008:5). The Community Development Fund (CDF) was created to fund local government development initiatives. In order to stimulate the utilization of local resources to develop public assets, a vast programme of Labour Intensive Public Work (LIPW) was adopted and attached to the CDF. This saw the implementation of Ubudehe approach which was the counterpart strategy to mobilise the people to alleviate their own poverty. Ubudehe was active at cell level and continues to be implemented at village level (Ministry of

Local Government, Republic of Rwanda 2008:5). The way community development was done in Rwanda explains what Kelly (2013) viewed as transformative view to community development, which calls for planning decisions to be made by communities, rather than local or national government, as this would eliminate clashes with local people and ensure developments will add value to an area, rather than being imposed on communities against their will. This therefore means that appreciation of communities and their people as entities who can contribute more to their change has positive results to the projects that were initiated in Rwanda.

However, there are still challenges in Rwanda besides the successes of community development projects. Poverty still prevails, although at a decreasing rate, and Rwanda remains one of Africa's poorest countries. It is estimated that 36, 7% of the population of Rwanda survive in conditions of extreme poverty due to low agricultural productions (Ministry of Local Government, Republic of Rwanda 2008:5). This clearly shows that some of the African countries have clearly defined community development policies. These policies are subject to review as in the case of Rwanda, this would in turn provide room for change and improvement in the way community development projects were previously done.

3.7 HISTORY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN ZIMBABWE

In the 1980s and 1990s, Zimbabwe faced a major challenge in dealing with the problem posed by poverty because it inherited distorted social and economic structures from the previous colonial imbalances (ZIMSTAT: 2013, 5). In fact, the challenge faced by the country was to formulate poverty-sensitive policies. At the same time, it was recognised that long-term poverty reduction is difficult without a strong and growing economy (ZIMSTAT: 2013, 5). Previously, in the years 1923 and

1953 white settler hegemony was extended over the black population through a series of discriminatory political and economic laws. In particular the Land Apportionment Act (1931), and the Land Husbandry Act (1951) consolidated minority control over land and agricultural markets, confining the black majority to increasingly overcrowded areas of poor soils and erratic rainfall (ZHDR 1998:50). This resulted in the creation of native reserves which remain a major source of poverty and inequitable income and wealth distribution.

During the early 1990s the government adopted the programme of economic reform with a formal commitment to protect the poor and the vulnerable groups from the negative impacts of ESAP through the Social Dimensions of Adjustment Programme (SDAP), (ZIMSTATS 2013: 6). The SDAP encompassed direct transfers to support health and school fees payment for target households and employment and training programmes to retrain retrenched workers (ZIMSTATS: 2013,6). However the SDAP was narrow in its approach. A broader concept of poverty alleviation was, therefore developed through the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan (PAAP) that was launched by the MPSLSW in February 1994, in conjunction with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The PAAP includes reform of SDF, and also more systematic efforts to monitor poverty and undertake analysis of causes and consequences of poverty in Zimbabwe. PAAP encourages the integration and participation of vulnerable groups into main stream economic activities (ZIMSTATS: 2013, 6).The focus on poverty alleviation was born out of the realization that economic reforms in the past failed to address the problem of poverty, which had worsened over the years. According to the Poverty Assessment Study Survey (1997), 62% of the population was living below the poverty datum line in 1995. Poverty was more

entrenched in rural areas where 72% of the population is poor compared to 46% in urban areas. (UNDP: 1998, 47)

According to HDR (1998:40), the Zimbabwe Human Development Report was undertaken 18 years after independence, against a backdrop of increasing economic crisis, growing poverty levels, and widespread concern over governance issues. The l990s have witnessed decreased income levels, a contraction in social expenditure, and low levels of economic growth. Thus in the field of health, for example, geographical inequalities continue to persist as a result of inadequate funds, imprecise choice of target areas, or poor mobilisation of resources (HDR 1998:40). Additional investments in rural areas are required to meet the target of a "clinic within eight kilometers for all". Although racial inequity has been attenuated, there is a more pronounced gap between "poor" and "rich", as reflected in mortality and risk of disease indicators (HDR 1998:40). Poverty, which has worsened since the late 1980s, is one of the strongest factors in the prevalence of various infectious and non-infectious diseases. Poverty has a direct bearing on the health status of people and causes an increase in sick people. Health is thus a factor in sound economic development. At the same time, a prosperous society promotes the health status of the population. The two-way relationship between health and economic developments suggests that poverty reduction is a precondition for the success of health reforms (HDR 1998:40).

Zimbabwe Human Development Report (ZHDR), (1998:49) stated that, the availability of basic information on poverty and its incidence is critical if poverty alleviation programmes are to effectively target the poor. In the face of the lack of data on the magnitude of poverty in Zimbabwe, the government took steps to establish its geographical distribution and causes, in addition to the gender, class

and race determinants of poverty. In 1995 the Social Development Fund of the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare conducted the Poverty Assessment Study Survey (PASS). PASS addressed the following: Distribution of poverty, constraints and other causes of poverty, measuring the access of the poor to public services, geographical and sectorial distribution of poverty in Zimbabwe down to the district level, environmental dimensions of poverty such as land degradation, deforestation, agriculture, wildlife, and local perceptions of poverty and what the poor themselves see as solutions to their problems (ZHDR, 1998:49). ZHDR, (2014: 50) further noted that the PASS final report (MOPSLSW-SDF, 1997) found that 61% of Zimbabwean households are "poor", and of these, 45% are "very poor". More so, the survey found that poverty is more prevalent in rural areas with 75% of households in the total poor category compared with 39% of urban households. The highest incidence of poverty is in the communal lands (84% of households), followed by the resettlement areas and small-scale commercial farms (70%), large-scale commercial farms (57%), and urban areas (39%). Households headed by females (31% of the total) have a greater incidence of poverty than those headed by males. About 57% of female-headed households are very poor compared to 40% of male headed households. About 72% of female-headed households fall into the combined poor and very poor category compared to 58% of male- headed households. The PASS findings resulted in the development of a poverty index, which ranks the 20 poorest districts according to the most severe incidence of poverty. The government's Poverty Alleviation Action Plan Programme (PAAP) targets these 20 districts (ZHDR, 2014: 50).

3.8 THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION ACTION PLAN

The PAAP was launched in 1995. It was based on the philosophy of investing in people as a key resource for development, by making them primary agents for change. The major components of PAAP included community development, enhancement of social safety nets for poor and vulnerable groups, micro-enterprise development programme, land reform and the development of the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS). A number of projects have been implemented under the Community Action Programme (CAP) in the poorest districts identified. Community development programme is a component of the PAAP and was meant to provide budgetary resources directly to communities, who would use them to finance their own community development initiatives. This process was expected to engender ownership and make communities accountable for the use of their resources, (Government of Zimbabwe, 1997).The ministries of local government, rural development, public service, labour and social welfare; education, health, and environment and tourism were seen as central to combating poverty.

The Community Action Project (CAP) is a major component of PAAP. It was envisaged that the CAP would finance small grants and technical assistance for investments in social and economic infrastructure, improve natural resource management, and other small scale activities identified by communities. This intervention was designed to strengthen local structures, in the context of the redefined responsibilities between the state and the civil society that had taken place under the structural adjustment programme (ZHDR, 1998:69). More so, the ZHDR, (1998:69) stated that,

"Local leaders, both male and female, are often among the wealthier members of their communities and thus tend to represent vested interest with direct personal concerns about how additional resources enter their community. This situation has often created a barrier or distortionary impact on pro-poor oriented activities. In such cases, participation and involvement of local communities often turns out to mean co-option of local elites and leadership. At the same time, however, traditional leaders and values remain very strong and real influences on the lives of ordinary people" (Government of Zimbabwe, 1997).

The identification of the projects was carried out using the District Environmental Action Programme (DEAP) methodology (Tavaya, 2003:4).The District Environment Action Planning (DEAP) process is a participatory planning process, based on the concept of sustainable development, developed in Zimbabwe to promote community participation and empowerment in the development…..in both urban and rural areas. The DEAP process is also a strategy for community mobilisation, capacity building, local community participation, and for mainstreaming environmental issues into development planning in order to promote sustainable development (Tavaya, 2003:9).

3.9 AGENTS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

In Zimbabwe community development projects are dominated by the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). This is so because of the belief from the past that NGOs are equipped to reach people at grassroots level through their services. As a result, NGOs in most cases partner with the government to assist in rural poverty alleviation through community development projects in identified areas. According to Zimbabwe Council of Churches, as quoted by ZHDR, (1998:76),"the

church believe that the problems of poverty can only be solved if we have a radical shift in the development paradigm. We believe that development must be seen as an enterprise in favour of the poor and that by putting the poor at the centre of development, poverty can at the very least be reduced and at best eliminated. In Zimbabwe, the church has played a vital role, both as a vehicle for community development and as an agent of socio-economic transformation of the entire country" (ZHDR, 1998:76). Through the activities of Christian Care, the quality of life of communities where services of this agency are discharged has improved. Activities have focused on reducing poverty and distress, aiding in the physical needs of adults, children, families, as well as promoting gender sensitivity and environmental awareness programmes. We can only hope that the Church's efforts will be counted among those who are waging a war with and for the poor (ZHDR, 1998:76).

3.10 SUCCESSES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN ZIMBABWE

INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GROUP (ITDG)/GERMAN AGENCY FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION (GTZ) CHIVI FOOD SECURITY PROJECT

The Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG)/German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) Chivi Food Security Project was initiated in response to localized chronic food insecurity in pockets of semi-arid areas of Zimbabwe and the need to ensure that communities are self-sufficient in food supply (Hanyani-Mlambo, 2002:8). The project aimed at understanding the constraints to household food security and addressing these, with the objective of enhancing food security at the grassroots level (Hanyani-Mlambo, 2002:8) To achieve this, in 1991, a pilot

project with an emphasis on soil and water conservation was set up in Wards 21 and 25 of Chivi District(Hanyani-Mlambo, 2002:8).

The project was a success both in Chivi District itself and, in terms of ripple effects, in Chimedza and Mukaro Wards of Gutu District and various areas of Zaka District. The indicators of success include the unusually wide range of technologies that farmers in these areas have tried and adopted people's improved socio-economic conditions, e.g. some originally very poor farmers are now buying their own cattle; local farmers' increased organization and demand for services; the establishment of local farmer institutions as a way of making farmers' demands effective (institutional capacity building); successful capacity building efforts from support institutions (Hanyani-Mlambo, 2002:8). Furthermore, lessons from the pilot project were synthesized to provide guidance for other projects. For example, the Chivi project led to a review of GTZ's work on conservation tillage in Masvingo, and this became known as the Kuturaya Project (Hanyani-Mlambo, 2002:9).

SPREADING OF SOIL AND WATER TECHNOLOGIES IN CHIVI WARD 21,

ZIMBABWE

Participatory approach community development was very successful in the development and spreading of soil and water conservation technologies in Masvingo Province. Some technologies, for example the modified fanja-juu (a soil and water conservation technology) in Zaka District, spread very quickly from farmer to farmer within only a few years. Together with researchers and extensionists, farmers developed more than 20 new technologies in Gutu, Zaka and Chivi Districts and became the main experts in extension. These technologies rapidly spread among farmers. The confidence and pride which developed out of this process encouraged

whole communities to continue and take more control over their destiny (Conolly et al 1999:4). Farming conditions were improved as a result.

3.11 FAILURES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN ZIMBABWE

Despite the efforts of government, international donors and NGOs, recent years have witnessed an increasing number of failed community irrigation schemes. In Mutungagore-Tsamvi in Mount Darwin District, 13 out of 15 cooperatives accumulated huge debts and had to disband (Hanyani-Mlambo, 2002:9). Chivi project presented some constraints, which would need to be solved before it could be used in other projects. The major constraint is the need for extension service providers to reorient their thinking so that they can appreciate their own role as facilitators and not the providers of technical solutions (Hanyani-Mlambo, 2002:9).

The GTZ CARD programme has to some extend been viewed as failed. The reasons for the project's failure include donor pressure and the use of top-down approaches, programme identification and implementation were both based on very top-down approaches: planning was carried out in offices on the assumption that expatriate "experts" understood the local people's problems (Hanyani-Mlambo, 2002:10). This was partly the result of the donor-driven nature of the project. More so, Hanyani-Mlambo (2002; 10) mentioned that, "Owing to the nature and source of funding, there was an urgency to meet deadlines, long-term time frames and expected outputs within specific periods". In other words, community involvement was limited, which could have enabled the community to continue with the project after the withdrawal of the funding which could have facilitated the sustainability of the project. In other words, the programme was affected by donor pressure and failed to involve local communities in project identification, preparation and active participation during

implementation. The programme was also a victim of the "touch and vanish" *modus operandi* of some NGOs, whose projects tend to be characterized by very short life spans, which are not long enough to have a tangible impact on the ground (Hanyani-Mlambo, 2002:10).

In Wedza, the African Development Fund (ADF) initiated a paprika production and marketing project. The project hired individual consultants who were not only very expensive but also rarely seen on the project site. The hired consultants also absorbed most of the paprika product in bulk and at very low prices for resale (Hanyani-Mlambo, 2002:9). Moreover most farmers had stopped producing paprika after failing to establish a market for the crop. A Farmers' Union representative also noted the unethical trading practices whereby farmers were paid only Z$115 of the Z$700 per kilogram realized on export markets (Hanyani-Mlambo, 2002:9).

Given all the information surrounding the concept of community development in Zimbabwe, ZIMSTAT (2013:70) stated that," Of all the poor households in the rural parts of the country, Manicaland has the highest proportion of poor households, (19.7%), followed by Midlands with 14.4% and Masvingo 14.2%. Geographically, these provinces share boundaries". More so, the report stated that Manicaland province shares a boundary with Masvingo, while Masvingo shares its boundary with Midlands province (ZIMSTAT: 2013, 70). Mvuma rural district is in Midlands Province which has a second higher level of rural poverty prevalence. The most vulnerable groups are predominantly found in rural areas and are families with small plots of land or without irrigation in dry areas, or without access to animals for draught power. According to IFAD (2005), the largest segments of the worlds' poor are the 800 million poor women, children and men who live in rural environments. These are

the subsistence farmers and herders, the fishers and migrant workers, the artisans and indigenous people whose daily struggles seldom capture world attention.

The study therefore looks at the stakeholders or agencies of community development (NGOs) and other strategies the government has put in place to try and reduce the further spread of poverty amongst rural inhabitants. Organisations which form part of this study are Midlands Aids Service Organisation (MASO), an indigenous based NGO offering community development projects to rural as well as urban areas infected by hunger and starvation. Heifer project, a national project aimed at poverty alleviation in rural areas and Christian Care, an international organisation rendering community development projects to rural inhabitants in Mvuma amongst other rural communities. Working with NGOs will give the researcher a platform to locate and meet beneficiaries of community development as well as political leaders. This is because NGOs work directly with the political leaders as well as community members. Therefore, this study is an assessment of community development towards rural poverty alleviation in Mvuma rural district, in Zimbabwe.

3.12 CONCLUSION

Midlands province is one of the three provinces in Zimbabwe with a large number of citizens who are poor. In as much as the government, civil society and NGOs were trying to implement community development there is still a gap to be filled. It can be noted that community development is one of the components of the PAAP. There have been a lot of interventions by the government and NGOs directed towards rural poverty alleviation. Community development has been aimed at grassroots level, especially impoverished communities and had a broader perspective towards rural

poverty alleviation. This saw the coming in of international donors as funders to community development projects in selected rural areas. Donors are also associated with a number of problems which hinder full participation and active involvement of the anticipated beneficiaries of the projects. Interventions by the government and the civil societies seem not to be responding to the needs of the rural poor as evidenced by an increase in the level of rural poverty. The following chapter is going to be a presentation of the findings from government officials, projects facilitators as well as beneficiaries   of different projects in Mvuma rural district.

CHAPTER 4: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The main objective of the study is to assess the PAAP policy as a tool by the Zimbabwean government to address poverty in Mvuma rural district and the extent to which the community development projects by NGOs and government have managed to meet the needs of the impoverished communities. This chapter stipulates the research design used. The chapter also looks at the population and sample as well as data collection instruments that were utilized. This chapter further gives a discussion on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population under study. The participants in the study were community development officers, government officials, community leaders and beneficiaries of the community projects. Data collection instruments were administered through a purposive or judgmental sampling. Detailed outline of the research findings are also presented in different categories.

4.2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section of the study will pay particular attention to aspects such as research design, the methods of sampling, population of the study as well as data collection instruments that were used in the study. The section also describes the techniques and methods of data collection and explains why such methods were used in the study.

4.2.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

This study employed a qualitative approach to research. According to Babbie et al (2011:270), "qualitative research method aims at in-depth description and understanding of actions and events. It is also appropriate in studying the attitudes

and behaviours of human beings". Based on the purposes of the study the qualitative approach to research is the best suitable because the study aims at describing and understanding rather than explaining human behaviour. According to Wellman et al (2005), qualitative research is aimed at the establishment of socially constructed nature of reality, stressing the relationship between the researcher and the object of the study as well as an emphasis on the value laden nature of the inquiry. This research is dominated by the qualitative research approach. However, a quantitative method was used to gather demographic information. The study is assessing the PAAP policy as a tool by the Zimbabwean government to address poverty in Mvuma rural district and the extent to which the community development projects by NGOs and government have managed to meet the needs of the impoverished communities. Therefore, the major question the study sought to answer was; Is the PAAP policy relevant to poverty reduction in Mvuma rural district and in Zimbabwe in general?

4.2.2 POPULATION AND SAMPLE

Purposive or judgmental sampling was applied. This technique was used as the researcher wanted to get hold of the people who are directly or indirectly linked to implementation of community development projects. The population of the study comprised of a total of twenty three (23) participants which was categorized as follows: three (3) community development officers (CDOs) which constitutes 13% of the population under study. These CDOs were chosen from three NGOs under study, with one from each NGO; six (6) community leaders, which constitutes 26% of the population ; twelve (12) beneficiaries of community development which constitutes 52% and two (2) government officials which constitutes 9%. On the aspect of gender seventeen (17) participants were male, this represented 74% of the population and six (6) participants were female which represented 26% of the

population. Of the twenty three (23) participants, eleven (11) were aged between thirty (30) and forty (40). Five (5) participants were aged between forty one (41) and fifty (50) and seven (7) participants were aged fifty one (51) and above.

Figure 1 : Age group of participants
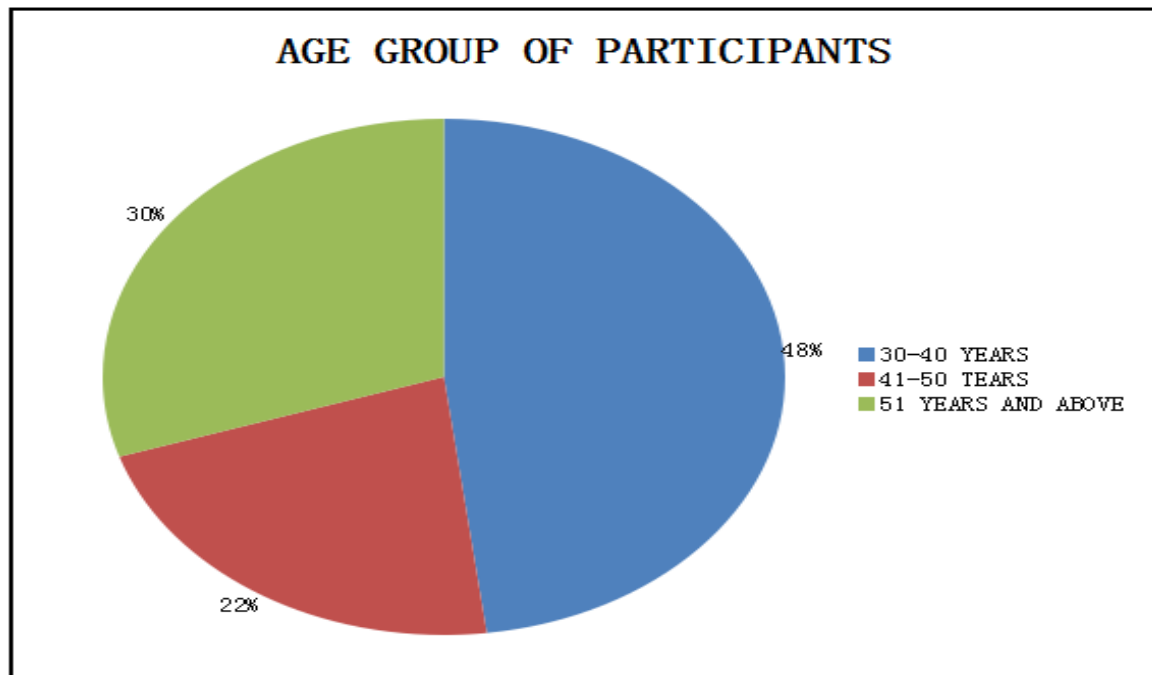
Fifteen (15) participants were married, three (3) were widows and five (5) were single parents. This is illustrated in Fig 4.2.2.2 on the following page.

Figure 2 : Marital status of the participants
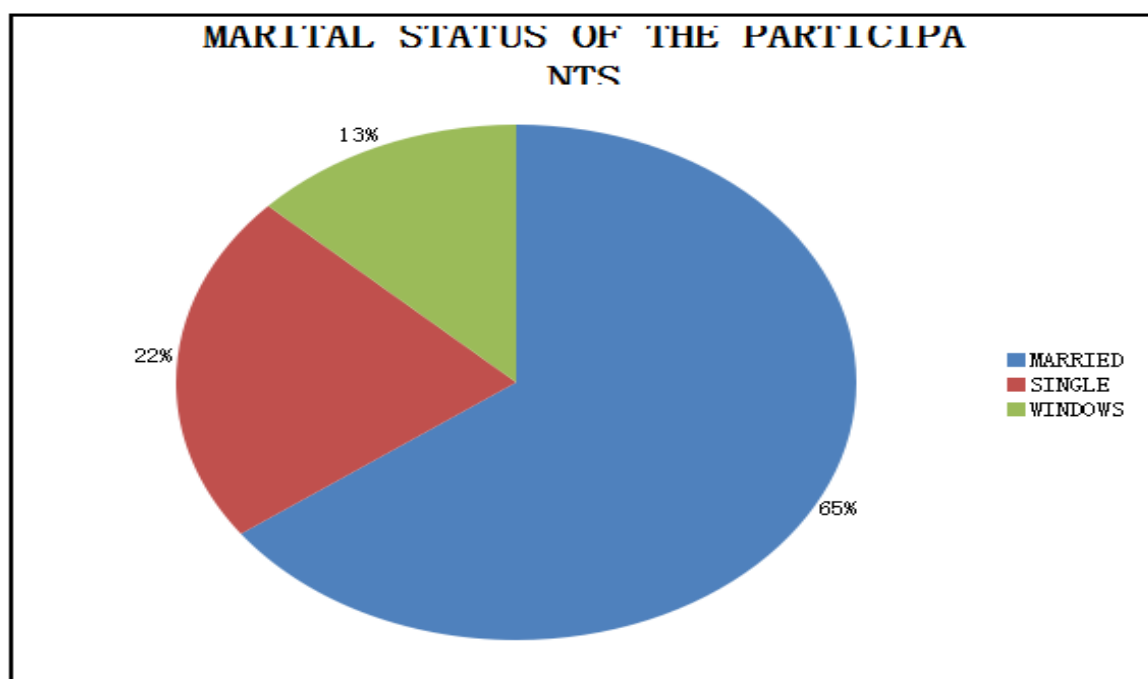
The NGOs that were part of the sample were chosen in accordance with the wards that they operate and the kind of programmes the NGOs are implementing. NGOs which have more than five years of existence were chosen because they have been working in this area for a long period of time. The key informants were chosen purposively on the grounds of their roles in the villages or wards. Letters were sent to them informing them about the research. Babbie (2007:93) states that, "it is appropriate to select a sample on the basis of knowledge of a population, in its elements and the purpose of the study". Three NGOs were chosen purposively, namely; Midlands Aids Service Organisation (MASO), Heifer Project and Christian Care. These NGOs were purposively selected as they have more than five years operating in Mvuma rural district.

The Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Gender and Youth Employment were selected because of their close relationship with NGOs in Mvuma district.

Wards 15, 7 and 2 were chosen. Ward 15was chosen because it is a resettlement area and it is very far from the town of Mvuma and is not easily accessible because of poor roads. The main purpose for choosing it was to check clearly if the objectives for community development by the government meet the demands of the impoverished communities. Ward 7 was chosen because it is nearer to the town of Mvuma. This would in turn help the study on determining whether the impact and distribution of community development projects is determined by the location of the community. Ward 2 was chosen because it has been implementing community development projects before other wards and because the other part of the ward has a communal area which is characterized by poor soils and rainfall.

Table 4 : Biographic Information of respondents

Characteristic	Total
Gender	
Male	17
Female	06
Age	
30-40	11
41-50	05
51 and older	07

Three (3) organisations which are MASO, Heifer project and Christian Care were used in the study. These organisations were chosen from wards7, 15 and 2 respectively as illustrated below:

Figure 3 : NGOs names and wards they operate
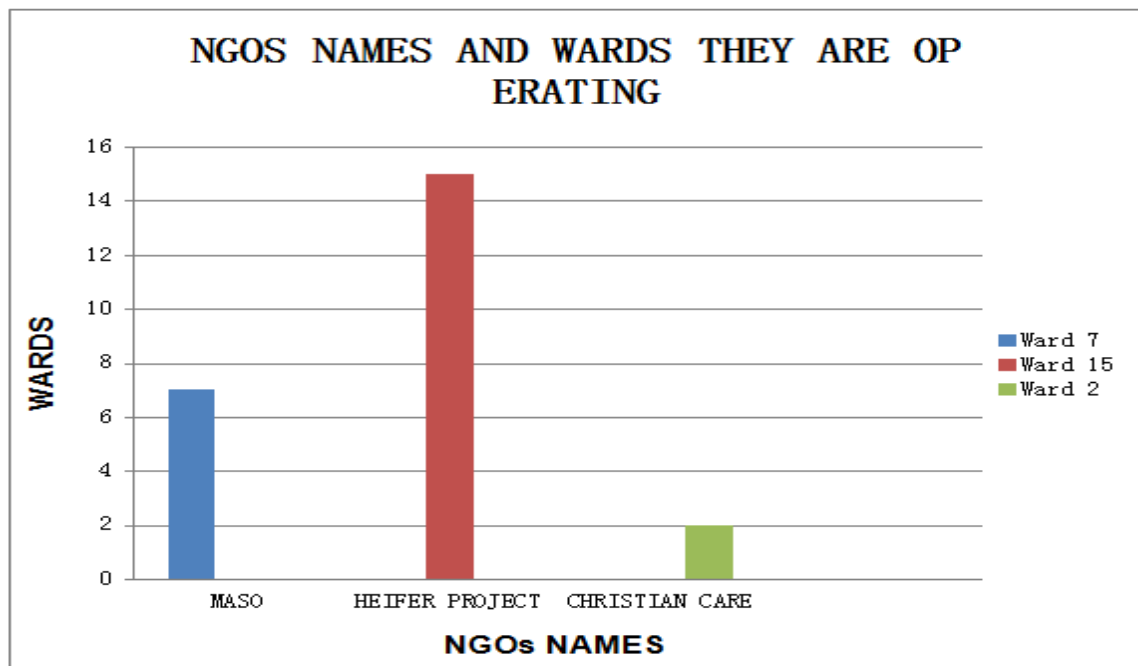
These informants were twelve (12) beneficiaries of community development projects. Four (4) beneficiaries of the project were selected from each of the three wards that were under study. This constituted 52% of the sample. More so the sample consisted of six (6) community leaders who were selected; two (2) from each ward which constituted 26% of the sample; three(3) community development officers, with one(1) officer per ward which constituted 13% and two (2) government officials who constituted 9% . This information is illustrated on the next page:

Figure 4 : Key informants of the study
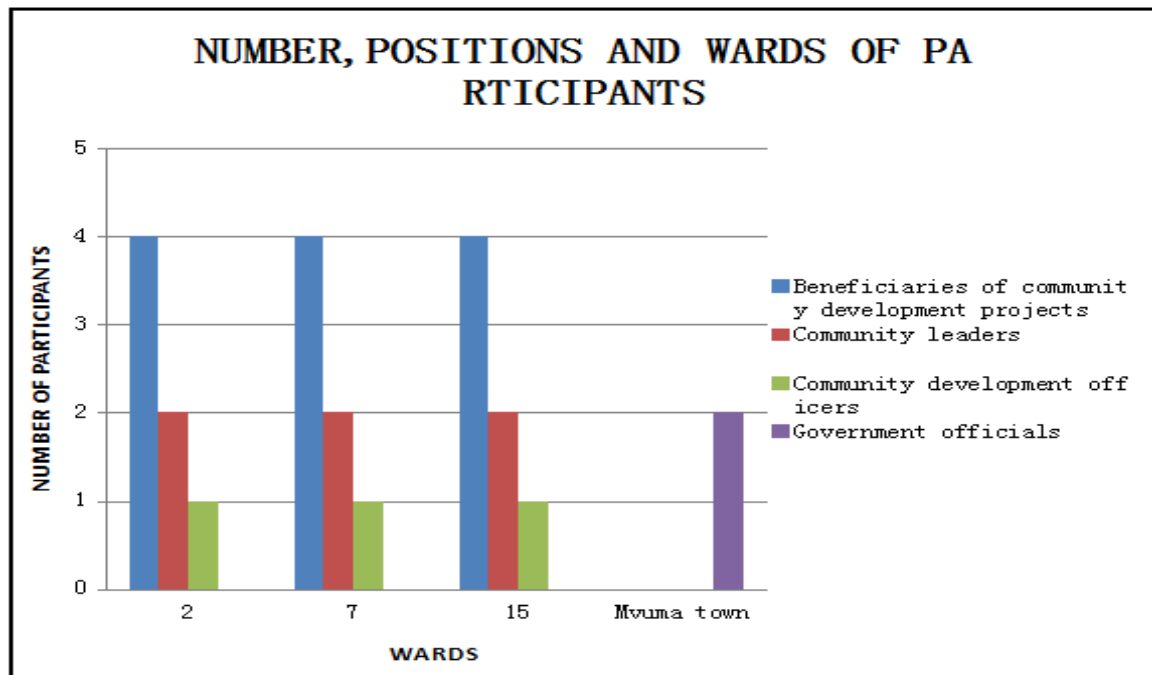
Figure 5: Percentages and positions of the participants
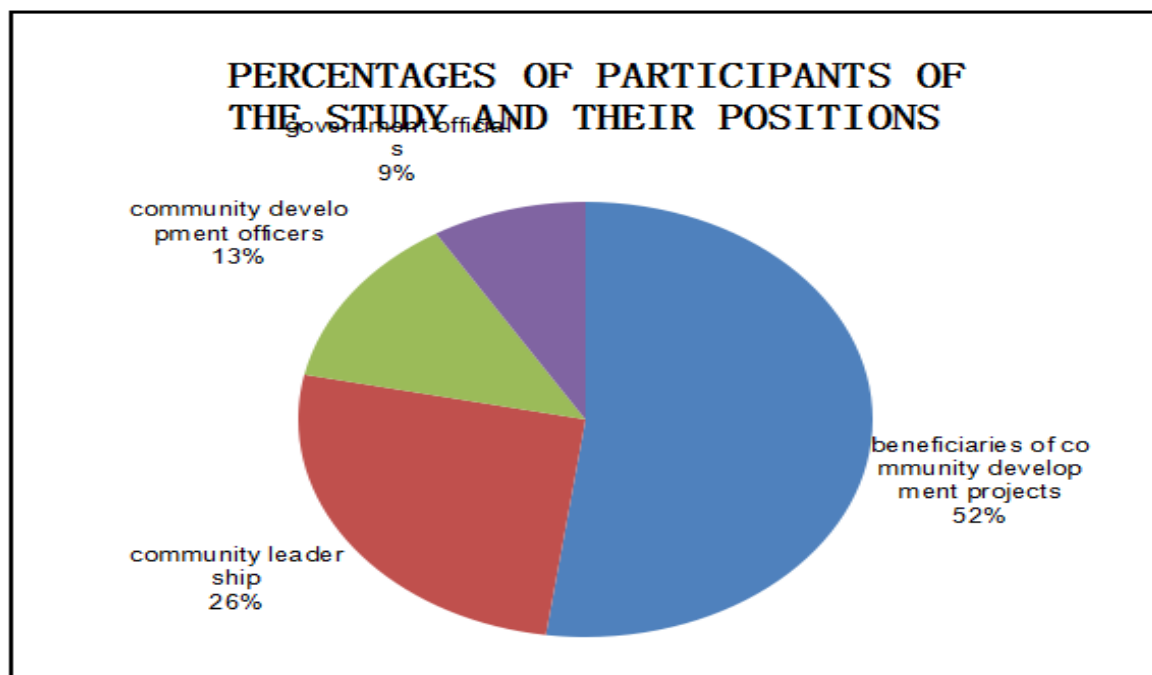
Letters were sent to community leaders as well as government officials informing them about the research. Babbie (2007:93) states that, "it is appropriate to select a sample on the basis of knowledge of a population, in its elements and the purpose of the study".

4.2.3 LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Thirteen (13) participants reached grade 10, four (4) participants have diplomas in different fields; three (3) participants have university degrees and three (3) participants ended in grade seven. Generally most of the people engaging in community development projects did not go further with their education.

Figure 6: Level of education of the participants
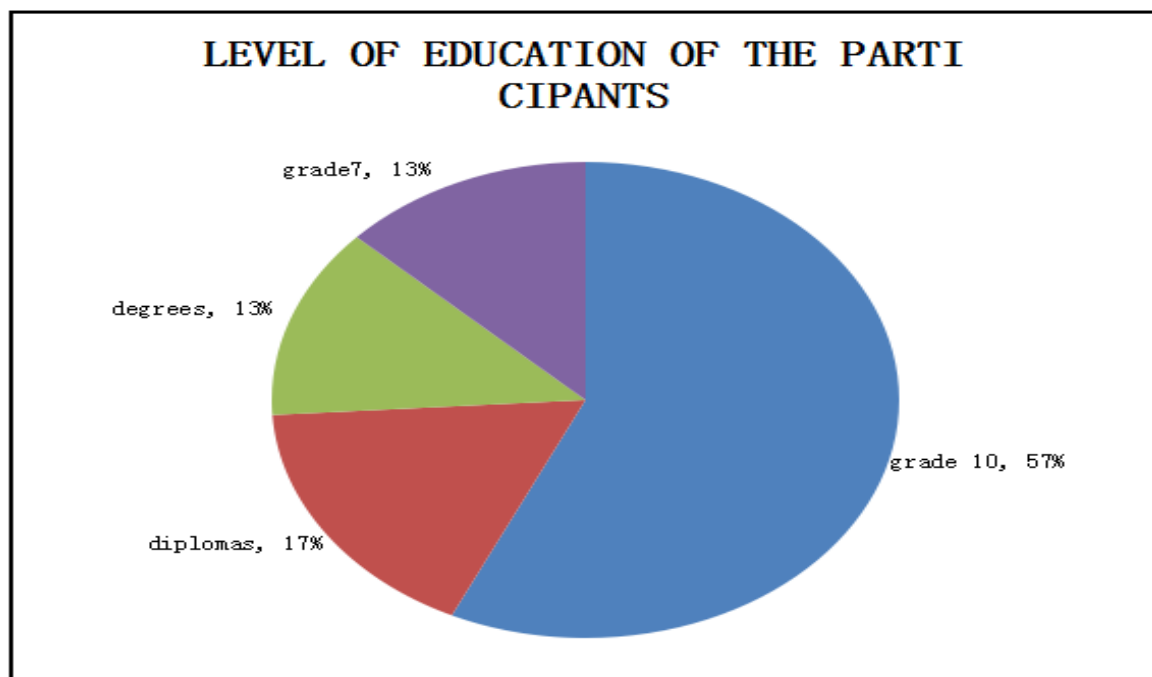
4.3 DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Semi-structured interviews were used for data collection. According to De Vos et al (2011), interviewing is a major way to collecting information in qualitative research. De Vos et al (2011:342) further noted that, "Researchers obtain information through direct communication with individuals or a group expected to provide the knowledge the researcher may be seeking". So the study made use of semi-structured interviews on community dwellers in the district, community leaders, government officials as well as community development officers from NGOs. This gave guidance

to the participants as well as enabling the researcher to obtain relevant information from the beneficiaries of the community development project. Descriptive and open ended questions were also used in this study. This gave room to participants to participate fully in sharing their ideas. More so, community development projects beneficiaries were not confined to an expected way for answering questions. Participants were assured of confidentiality on their identity and responses and that their information would remain anonymous. It is of importance to note that in as much as the study employed qualitative technique in data collections, quantitative techniques have been used on demographic information.

4.4 ANALYSIS OF THE FINDINGS

Wellman.et.al, (2005) define data analysis as a process of gathering, modeling, and transforming data with the goal of highlighting useful information, suggesting conclusions, and supporting decision making. Qualitative analysis has been defined by Babbie (2007: 378), "as non-numeric investigation and interpretation of observation with the aim to discover underlying meanings and patterns of relationships." Accordingly, De Vos et al (2011) argued that the qualitative data analysis inflicts an independent study with limited bias as there will be a collection of data through inductive reasoning, thinking, and structured, mechanical and technical procedures. The researcher read repeatedly the notes taken during interviews. After reading the transcripts, the research came up with themes and patterns of categorizing the information according to the questions on the interview schedule. Findings were categorized in main themes: Questions to the beneficiaries of community development projects, Questions to the community development officers and Questions to community leaders and government officials.

The study has made use of thematic inquiry which is a method of narrative approach to qualitative data exploring strategy. According to Braun and Clarke (2006), thematic enquiry deals with data that involves the creation and use of codes to the data.The researcher came up with some themes and codes which were used to analyse the data. According to Braun and Clarke (2006), thematic analysis is a technique to identify, analyse and report data patterns. Furthermore, thematic study minimally arranges and designs data sets in detail (Braun and Clarke 2006). Thematic analysis will be used because it is flexible in the sense that it gives the researcher an opportunity to come up with themes that best describe the data and assign codes to the data. The themes will be based on the objectives of the research and this will help the study not to derail from the aims and objectives of the study.

4.5 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Permission to collect data was obtained from the political authorities, (the district administrator) and the community leadership (traditional chiefs and headmen) of Mvuma rural district. A written letter from the University of Fort Hare Research ethics which gave permission to do research was shown to the participants together with the responsible authorities in Mvuma rural district.

Participants were promised confidentiality on all the information that they shared. As de Vos et al (2011) argue that the privacy implies individual privacy, while confidentiality involves handling information in a confidential way. The participants were assured that whatever information they shared would be used for academic purposes only. Anonymity was maintained by ensuring that the respondents' names are not mentioned. The purpose of the study was clearly explained both verbally and in writing on the first page of all questionnaires and at the start of all interviews. The

researcher also communicated verbally with the communities informing them of the importance of their participation and told them that participation was completely voluntary.

4.6 PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

This section of the study is presented in the form of themes which were developed from the interviews with the participants who constituted the sample of the study.

4.6.1 NATURE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS RENDERED BY NGOs

MASO, Christian Care and Heifer project are all developmental NGOs operating in Mvuma rural district in Midlands province.

Midlands Aids Service Organisation (MASO)

MASO is an indigenous NGO that is reaching community through community development projects. Amongst the projects is the gardening project in which the communities are provided with seeds to start nutrition gardens. Midlands Aids Service Organization (MASO) is a non-governmental organization based in Gweru, Zimbabwe, that offers HIV/AIDS services in the Midlands Province. MASO beneficiaries are children and families with the greatest needs that are identified by the community. Target population comprises of orphans, children looked after by their elder brothers and sisters and children whose parents are sick. The volunteers identify Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) households that have space for cultivation. Caregivers in these households then receive training in permaculture. According to Bowora (ed) (2013);

"Nutrition gardens normally favour the sick to get balanced diet mostly those with chronic diseases like tuberculosis, AIDS and others. NGOs collect information about the living standards, family size, assets and choose according to the vulnerability context of that communal area" (Bowora (ed) 2013:10).

Training is done in collaboration with the Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme (SCOPP). Caregivers attend lessons on how to control aphids and pests through non-costly traditional means, management of herbal gardens and how people can produce their own seed. After the training, the trainees are given herbs and vegetable seeds to plant in their gardens. In 2004, the community started nutrition gardens for the households with sick members and OVC. MASO had sensitized the community members caring for OVC and the sick for nutrition counseling. The idea was to export the successes of the urban nutrition gardens to the rural areas. Committees consisting of the councilor, volunteers and selected households members were set up to monitor activities of the nutrition gardens. The organization also donated sewing machines to the urban volunteersso that they could start income generating projects in each zone. The volunteers in each zone have a treasurer who manages the money obtained from the sewing projects and keeps record of sales made. The different zones meet and decide on the use of the money that has been accumulated from their sales.

MASO provides grandparents who are also caregivers with the opportunity to own livestock and to make handmade items for sale. With the support of Oak Foundation it also gives small start-up grants to caregivers for projects in farming or market gardening as well as in sewing and crochet.

Heifer Project

The Heifer project is an international NGO. Beneficiaries of the project receive heifers as a pass on gift and is aimed at improving the lives of the poor through increased food production and household income. This project is aimed at benefiting vulnerable groups in the communities, which include widows, orphans, child headed families, the elderly and people living and affected by HIV and AIDS. Heifer International had been active in the cattle re-stocking programme since 1983 in the Midlands province. The organisation initiated the pass on heifer scheme that has seen the communal farmers tremendously benefiting, and is currently working with other various organisations in improving the lives of the ordinary Zimbabweans. The organisation donates cattle and goats to disadvantaged community members. The first to be given the cow and a goat is expected to pass on to another identified family the first calf, after that the rest of the cattle would belong to the beneficiary. This is meant to help communities to become self-sustainable.

Christian Care

Christian Care is helping communities to establish gardens for different kinds of sweet potatoes and it also gives groceries to identified families. Christian Care has operated in Zimbabwe since 1967. Its mission is to improve quality of life and self-supporting capacities of disadvantaged people. The organisation works in regions affected by drought. Christian Care is national and works in Manicaland, Mashonaland, Masvingo and Midlands provinces. In Matabeleland the organisation is operating in Insiza, in water and sanitation. In Binga and Mvuma it is involved in nutrition gardens and health. People generally believe that Christian Care is one of the foreign NGOs, whereas it is indigenous in Zimbabwean. The organisation

depends on the goodwill of Christians locally and internationally. As an NGO, it had problems related to the uncertainty on the way forward for their programmes; most of the anxiety has been that they did not know how much people were willing to work and defend their services. The programmes involve the locals in the identification of areas to set up the vegetable gardens, form their own committees and work together. In Insiza there are water-harvesting tanks. These are community activities where the locals are in charge. Christian care projects are also said to have the facet of learning and take over.

4.6.2 KNOWLEDGE OF THE POLICY: POVERTY ALLEVIATION ACTION PLAN (PAAP)

From the sample used in this study only 30% acknowledged that they were aware of the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan (PAAP). The 30% comprised of government officials, community development workers, a single community leader and a single beneficiary of the community projects in ward 15. The majority of the people constituting 70% of the sample, who are beneficiaries of the community development projects together with community leadership, were not aware of the policy. The answers ranged from knowing the reasons for the establishment of the PAAP to not knowing the reasons. The 30% of the participants agreed that the PAAP was introduced after the advent of SAPS and was meant for impoverished communities to help them alleviate rural poverty. One of the respondents who is a government official said;

> "I know very well about the foundation of the PAAP, the government came up
> with a strategy in which they made communities to be accountable of their
> wellbeing through community projects, partners that were considered to

implement were NGOs since government had not been able to reach all corners on its own people. Poverty was very rife at that moment"

Community development workers have agreed that the PAAP was meant for impoverished rural communities. The workers explained that the PAAP saw the putting into effect of the community development approach to help communities reduce poverty with the assistance from government together with NGOs and the civil society. Beneficiaries of community development denoted that, in the event that the PAAP objectives had been implemented correctly, every action was going to respond positively. The workers further mentioned that the overall objective of the PAAP was the reduction of poverty and unemployment through the implementation of programmes targeted at the poor and vulnerable segments of the population, and those adversely affected by the structural changes occurring in the economy. Generally communities have a tendency to look down upon the underprivileged and not giving them room to make decisions that impact on their lives. One of the community development workers explained that:

"You know what…… the problem is we are living in an era whereby corruption and nepotism have eroded the value of our brilliant policies. You can hardly find the proper implementation of polices. Of recent are situations whereby as NGOs we are expected to deliver and reach people within impoverished communities alongside political violence. For your own information there was a time we were not allowed as NGOs to engage with communities until elections were done".

One of the community leaders from ward 2 spoke about the Community Action Plan (CAP). This was also supported by a beneficiary of the projects from ward 7. The beneficiary of the project mentioned that he happened to know about the CAP when

he visited his family in a place he refused to mention. The CAP used to finance small grants for investments in social and economic infrastructure, improve natural resource management identified by communities. This intervention is designed to strengthen local structures in the context of the redefined responsibilities between the state and the civil society that has taken place under the SAPs.

It is also worth noting that in ward 15 not even a single participant was aware of the PAAP. All four community development project beneficiaries together with two community leaders knew nothing. From ward 2 only one community leader was aware of the PAAP. From ward 7 only one community leader was also aware of the PAAP. It was the community development officers and the government officials who had the full knowledge and understanding of the PAAP. Of the 70% who did not have knowledge about the PAAP, one of the participants responded as illustrated by the response below;

> "I do not know anything about the policies, what I heard was that there is an NGO that is looking for poor people to help, and because I know that I am poor I then came to join the project"

> Some of the participants who were aware of the policy, one community development worker supported the view by participants who said they did not know anything about the PAAP saying;

> > "Yes I said community members are not well informed about the policies which are said to be benefiting them".

It can however be noted that in as much as there was general agreement on the knowledge of the PAAP policy between the government officials and the community

development officers, there were points where they differed. The community development workers stated that the PAAP was a policy to guide the poor whom the government did not put much effort to reach using available resources in the country or internationally. In contrast the government officials believed that justice was done with the establishment and implementation of the policy. Community development officers however strongly felt that the reasons behind the formation of the PAAP were lost along the way. The community development workers agreed that the PAAP needs to be implemented correctly to be able to achieve desired goals and objectives. The community developers added that there is need for citizens to be involved in policy making and for their voices to be heard as the policies are meant to protect them. On the other hand, the government officials felt that the communities have always been involved in the process of policy making and on matters that affect them.

Generally it was the community development officers and the government officials who had the full knowledge and understanding of the PAAP. More so, it was those people who have a diploma or degree that had knowledge about the PAAP.

4.6.3 SUCCESSES AND FAILURES OF THE PAAP

The PAAP managed to address extreme poverty. About 40% of beneficiaries of community development agreed that the level of poverty has changed compared to the time when NGOs were not rendering services to their communities. It is important at this point to note that 70% of the participants were not aware of the PAAP. This group of the participants started responding positively when interviewed about community development approach. One community development officer

acknowledged that the PAAP had contributed positively in some areas of life for the poor.

"…….with the establishment of nutrition gardens and planting of herbs, the health of people especially those who are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS has improved"

One community leader explained as well that:

"Involvement of NGOs to our community is a blessing, we had our youth who did not even have a hen but when the Heifer project came with the pass on of hen, goats and cattle the lives of people improved as they now have draught power for farming". The village head added that one of the villagers approached him thanking him for recommending Heifer project to help. He stated that the family said:

"Now my family is rich, I was given a calf (female) and a goat (female) as part of pass-on. Now I am counted amongst those who are rich in our community but it all started with Heifer project".

Government officials and community leadership agreed that in as much as the PAAP targets the poor there is a misconception by the general public that everyone is poor when you are living in rural areas. This they mentioned as a problem as illustrated below:

"The problem is that everyone needs to be part of the project, they do not understand that their level of poverty differs as some families could hardly have two meals a day as they are orphans and do not have any parent to provide for their needs. Only a limited number of families are identified due to limited funding".

It is important at this point to note that 91% of the respondents agreed that there are challenges faced in trying to reduce poverty in the area hence making it difficult for community development to be fully successful. According to Middleton (2009) community gardens in rural areas face management challenges. The graph below shows some challenges and responses by each category of the respondents that makes PAAP policy especially community development projects to be a failure as a poverty reduction strategy in Mvuma rural district.

Figure 7 : Challenges faced in community projects
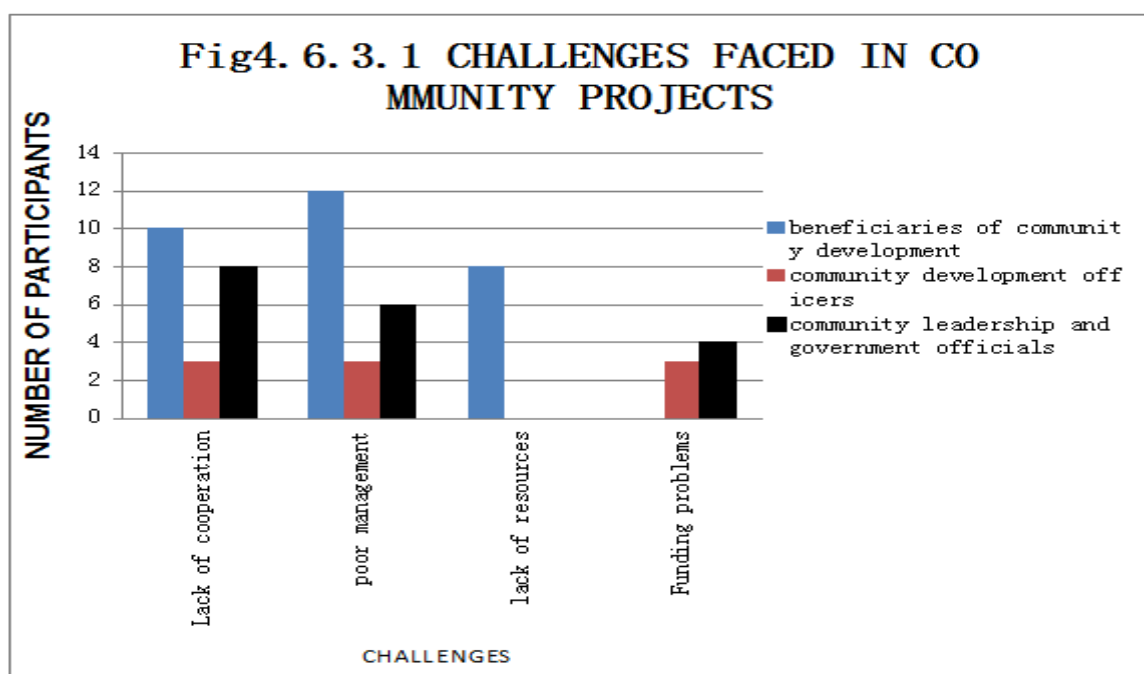
The diagram above shows the challenges in implementing community development projects in Mvuma rural community. These challenges are lack of cooperation which was emphasized by 44% of the beneficiaries of the projects, all the CDOs together with 35% of the community leadership as well as government officials. All the beneficiaries agreed that there is poor management of community projects as there is no clarity of roles and duties. CDOs also agreed with the problem, citing that it is the communities which have poor management of their projects as the projects tend

to fail in most cases. The community leadership laid the blame of management to NGOs as he said that the lines in which NGOs operate are not clearly outlined to them. More so, only 35% of the beneficiaries of the community development projects mentioned that their communities lack resources. However government officials, community leadership, CDOs as well as some beneficiaries, which constitute 65% of the population, did not agree with that assertion. CDOs and the government officials together with one community leader agreed to lack of funding as a challenge that community development projects are facing.

4.6.4 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The majority of the participants agreed that there is change that was brought about to the communities through engaging in community development projects. The majority of the participants, 60%, agreed that to a greater extent community development projects have improved the lives of the poor in rural areas. Communities have upgraded gardens and individuals from these gardens sell surplus produce to obtain household incomes which in turn cater for household food needs. Community gardens benefited the communities to build social networks through sharing gardening activities. According to Moyo and Tevera (2000) family and kinship act as the distribution mechanisms as well as promoting interpersonal relations and social identity of individual members. This mainly happens in sharing cooperative gardens among the families who participate. Gardens have promoted intermarriages between the families and thereby building networks of kinship (Moyo and Tevera 2000).

The majority of the participants agreed that with the establishment of community projects and provision of inputs the beneficiaries of the projects are no longer in extreme poverty. The views however differ from one participant to the other. Community leaders and government officials acknowledged the services by NGOs as part of community development. However, they strongly felt that the government was doing better work directly to its citizens as services by NGOs are not sustainable as they rely on external donations. This was however different from projects beneficiaries who had mixed feelings. 4O% of the beneficiaries agreed with the assertion by government officials that the government did better in working with its citizens in helping alleviate rural poverty compared to 60% of the beneficiaries who strongly feel that the NGOs are at least providing something which is better than nothing. One beneficiary gave an example:

"You know what, there was a time the government issued inputs and equipment for resettled farmers, the inputs did not benefit the poor, it was the rich who got tractors and a lot of better equipment, those who are poor did not have access to the inputs, as a result widening the gap between the rich and the poor"

One beneficiary of community development projects stated that,

"Before the project we were not having cows but now we are milking the cow which we got from the project… it is bringing change because those who did have nothing are now a step ahead"

60% of the beneficiaries of the community development projects agreed that NGOs provide them with agricultural inputs. One beneficiary stated that:

"Ye,.Provisions of inputs by the donors, for example maize seeds, beans and fertilizer improve the outputs and at the same time help the families obtain food. The market also helps the family to get cash".

Another beneficiary of community development projects said;

"…there are field days that are done as a form of motivation to people who have the best crops/ garden. I am motivated because of the benefits, Christian Care help you find a market for the crops after harvesting, in return the standards of living for my family becomes better than nothing".

However there was no common agreement between the beneficiaries on the impacts of the provision of inputs by NGOs. 40% of the beneficiaries felt that NGOs only provided them with inputs when it suits them and not when the communities need the assistance most. Community development officers had a different feeling on the issue, they stated that their provision of inputs depends on the time they receive donations of which they said the donors provide inputs on time most of the time. One beneficiary said;

"Yes. Provisions of inputs by the donors, for example maize seeds, beans and fertilizer improve the outputs and at the same time help the families obtain food. The market also helps the family get cash. However, we experience a problem of market prices which are very low when selling our outputs"

Another beneficiary of community projects said that:

"Christian Care helps you find a market for the crops after harvesting in return the standards of living for my family becomes better than nothing".

This means that those members who did not have anything have at least something from the project.

A good 60% which comprised of the project beneficiaries, community leadership together with government officials felt that community development projects are not addressing the root cause of rural poverty, as illustrated by the response from one community leader that:

"There is still a gap between the rich and the poor in the communities. By the end of the day those who are poor remain poor as if they are not responding to the welfare needs provided to them"

4.6.5 STRENGHTENING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL POVERTY REDUCTION

A number of ways in which the participants thought community development projects could be strengthened was raised. The 100% of the participants were of the view that community leadership, government, NGOs and project beneficiaries should work together to their full potential to reduce rural poverty. Government officials felt that community development projects by NGOs are not addressing the root cause of poverty as the NGOs rely mostly on donation or aid which at times is not available. Government officials together with community leaders, amongst them, headmen and village heads strongly felt that local resources should be utilized to improve the standards of living for the poor. NGOs should make use of available resources. One government official said:

"Aid cannot be a solution to rural poverty problems, it is bringing more harm than good as community become lazy…..look in ward 15 there is a dam in one of the

villages , NGOs need to source resources that can allow community members to utilize the dam as there is availability of water throughout the year."

One project beneficiary said:

"People and the community must motivate each other in such a way that everyone will be part of a group, introduction motto "united we stand divided we fall"

Community development workers saw the need to educate communities and to create employment through cooperatives as a way to helping rural communities reduce poverty.

"There is need for community development projects which are meant to educate the local community to create employment through cooperative schemes and there is need for donors to do the follow up on implemented projects, officers to do the monitoring and evaluation should rotate and be chosen randomly".

100% of the participants agreed that communities should utilize available resources in their communities to help reduce poverty. This can be developed from the statement by one of the participants who is a community leader that:

"They should not just wait for the government to help them, they should also try to do some projects on their own like in areas where they have water they should try to do gardening for their own consumption and some crops for sale, and they should try again things like poultry, keeping bees for honey, go into mushroom farming and brick laying for sale. Women can also go into bakeries and sewing of uniforms for schools and to sell those things".

4.6.6 ATTITUDE TOWARDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

There were mixed feelings towards community development projects in the communities. Community development officers had a positive attitude towards community development projects as they said that there are changes acknowledged by the projects beneficiaries. However, community leaders had a problem with few numbers of people who were being assisted with sustainable projects by NGOs. Amongst the community development beneficiaries, 70% agreed that community development projects seemed not to have effective monitoring and evaluation by funders or donors as illustrated by the expression conveyed by one community development beneficiary that:

"It is a good initiative, but the truth is while the projects are meant for the underprivileged, those people are getting nothing, most of those things are appropriated by the top offices and are misdirected. Most people or regions are getting nothing but on the office records it will be stated that they have delivered whatever will be meant for the underprivileged".

Generally, 60% of community development projects beneficiaries enjoyed being part of the community development projects. Community leaders together with government officials expressed their happiness about the implementation of community development projects in their area. However government officials had a concern on how resources in the communities are left depleting not being utilized by community dwellers. One community development beneficiary said:

"Yes I enjoyed being part of the project. The way they introduced the project motivated me, that is, terms and conditions of registering, and paying back conditions".

This clearly indicates that the participant is happy with the project and enjoys being part of it. One participant, a project beneficiary loved being part of the project as he voluntarily became a beneficiary after seeing other people who were beneficiaries of the projects by the NGOs in the neighborhood. She said;

> "Yes I enjoyed being part of the project, because at the end of day I benefited from the project. It was my general knowledge which motivates me, because of what I had seen from some projects which were launched in some surrounding communities"

A total of 80% of the participants comprising of community leadership, government officials and project beneficiaries felt that there was a need for more of participation and home grown ideas by community members to help reduce poverty. One participant felt that welfare by NGOs would create a dependence syndrome in which communities will have to live on donations which might make them suffer in the absence of such donations. The participant, (beneficiary) of community project was of the view that:

> "Assistance from or by NGOs cannot improve our standards of living but it can worsen, why? Because it can cause us to be too reluctant, knowing that we are supported and the time they left your areas some of us will cry foul because we are used to donation rather than work".

4.6.7 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND NGOs: ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND ROLE OF NGOs

There was a difference on how participants felt about the role of government and NGOs in relation to community development projects. 40% of project beneficiaries felt that the role of the government is to invite NGOs to implement community

development projects and the NGOs should deliver because the government has played its part by inviting them to implement programmes to its people. This can be seen from the response from one beneficiary of community development project who said;

"The assistance we get from government is training of some of our members on how to manage the project, and the government is the one who invited donors".

However, government officials felt that NGOs should stop interfering with local politics which makes the government not to understand their role in developmental projects in rural communities. 50% of project beneficiaries argued that it looked like the government and the NGOs are not working together because there were times NGOs stopped providing services because of the misunderstanding of roles between NGOs and the government. According to Tandon, "For a person to understand the role of the NGOs, voluntary institutions, citizen's initiatives, neighborhood groups, development organisations in the contemporary society we need to approach the questions of these institutions from a different perspective. There is need to understand the relationship between the state and the civil society in order to situate the role of NGOs and voluntary development" (Tandon 1997:4). More so 50% of the project beneficiaries were not willing to express themselves on this issue as they said that they do not really know about how the relationship between NGOs and the government should be.

Again, 80% of the participants comprising of community development officers and community beneficiaries together with government officials agreed that it is the role of the government to stabilize the prices of outputs as in most cases the donors did help with the provision of inputs. One community development worker stated that:

"The government should stabilize the prices of outputs".

Government officials together with community leaders also acknowledged the fact that the government at times helps its people with inputs and equipment as rural areas are dominated by subsistence farmers. One beneficiary of community development projects acknowledged the provision of inputs by the government when he said that:

"Government helps through provision of equipment such as wheelbarrows and cultivators to facilitate the smooth running of the projects".

However community development officers argued that it is the government officials and those in better positions who benefit most from such initiatives. Community developmentefforts are said not to be directed to grassroots level hence persistence of rural poverty.

"I strongly feel the relationship between NGOs and government needs to be revisited and the government should trust the NGOs in helping them deliver for its people"

4. 7 CONCLUSION

It can be noted that a larger proportion of the sample is the beneficiaries of community development which were not well versed about the PAAP. Government officials were aware of the policies hence they shared their knowledge about the PAAP. More so, community development officers were also aware of the components of the policy because of their level of education which gave them exposure to having information about the policies and their work as NGO community developers. There was no mutual agreement on how the government officials and the community development workers interpreted the issues surrounding community

development approach. In most cases community leadership and governmental officials complimented each other. There was a general agreement amongst the participants on saying that NGOs are facilitating community development projects and extreme poverty for other families has been eradicated. The findings obtained indicate that the poor are not well informed about the policies that govern them. This makes it impossible for them to even speak of what they are entitled to. The methodology used in the study made the participants to fully participate during the interviews. The use of open ended questions as well as the judgmental sampling method made the researcher to obtain relevant information from the participants. As such, the next chapter will contain the analysis of the study.

CHAPTER 5 : ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The researcher acknowledges that the findings of this study will add value and broaden knowledge on the implications of PAAP and contributions towards poverty reduction in impoverished communities in Zimbabwe. Four themes emerged during data analysis. These were as follows: the PAAP and community development, incrementalism and prevalence of rural poverty, community development projects' beneficiary engagement and role of the government and NGOs.

5.2 THE PAAP AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Zimbabwe's National Strategy to Combat Poverty is outlined in a policy framework document, adopted in 1994, entitled the "Poverty Alleviation Action Plan". The basic thrust of the PAAP is to invest in people as the country's key resource. The goals of this strategy were to be achieved through targeted social expenditure, decentralized decision making, empowerment of beneficiaries through participatory methods and recognition of their expertise and knowledge, especially of their environment, movement of the poor from welfare to income earning productivity, and finally monitoring of social policy and poverty indicators (United Nations 1997). Furthermore, ZIMSTAT (2013:6) mentioned that the PAAP was meant to encourage the integration and participation of vulnerable groups into mainstream economic activities. Community development programme is under the PAAP, and is meant to provide budgetary resources directly to communities, who will use them to finance their own community development initiatives. This process was expected to engender ownership and make communities accountable for the use of their resources (United Nations 1997).

The findings of this study indicate that the Mvuma rural poor are treated as recipients of the policies and projects that are being imposed on them. This is evidenced by the findings of this research that 70% of the beneficiaries of community development projects had no idea about the PAAP. It was only 30% of the sampled population that was aware of the PAAP. The 30% comprised of government officials and CDOs and one community leader. This therefore puts into question the goals of the PAAP which were to be achieved through decentralized decision making so that the poor could effectively participate and empowerment of beneficiaries through participatory methods. This clearly indicates the fact that the government has not done much in involving and informing its citizens about policies that are intended to benefit them. These sentiments are in tandem with Kottack (1996:24) who argued that, "acknowledgement of the need to put the local people at the heart of any development effort emphasizes that this should be informed by the idea of "…nothing for them without them".. Lack of knowledge about the policy which is meant to be guiding the rural poor raises a question on how could one be expected to be a beneficiary under a policy that he or she is not informed about? Furthermore, Monyai (2005), argued that, the context of social policy should be informed by the country's development objectives that address social needs and principles espoused in policy formulation. This should inform the translation of policy principles into practice, that is, programme design and implementation. This brings in the question of whether the ideas of those who make and influence policy are in congruence with the social realities in the environment in which these policies have to be implemented. The fact that communities are not well informed about the PAAP policy clearly indicates that the PAAP has failed to achieve its goals in Mvuma rural

communities hence calls for a radical change on how the policies are formulated and implemented to benefiting impoverished rural communities in Mvuma.

The community development programme under the PAAP is meant to provide budgetary resources directly to communities, who will use them to finance their own community development initiatives. This process was expected to engender ownership and make communities accountable for the use of their resources (United Nations 1997). This however has not been met in Mvuma rural communities as evidenced by the findings of this study that, community projects are initiated and established by the NGOs without the knowledge of the beneficiaries of the projects from the start. The government did not provide resources directly to communities as it is the work by NGOs that is directly linked to communities. Chofi (2010:15) argued that; "NGOs have been accused of imposing their projects on local communities in central Africa without preliminary need assessment to identify and determine real development priority needs". This explains why in Mvuma, rural projects that are meant to benefit the poor are imposed on them without prioritizing on their needs first. This therefore means that what Mvuma beneficiaries of community development need are community development workers from NGOs who, "will come meet them, live and stay with them, love them, work with them. Begin with what they have, plan and develop from what they know, and in the end, when the work is over, they will say: "we did it ourselves"Dennis, 1977 as quoted by Mulugeta (2003, 3).

This study also found that the level of education determines the knowledge one has with the policies governing the rural poor. In Mvuma,the population that was aware of the PAAP comprised of community development workers, government officials as

well as one community leader. All these people had qualifications ranging from having a diploma to having degrees. Most the beneficiaries of community development projects had a low level of education as they end in grade ten (10) and others grade seven (7). Fifty seven (57%) of the population had grade 10 and 13% had grade seven; this explains why beneficiaries of community development projects lack knowledge about the PAAP. The more one becomes educated the more one tends to explore and review issues surrounding them.

This study also found that when it comes to marital status and involvement of community members to community development projects, there is a clear indication that most of the people who are into these community development projects are married. The married population consisted of 65% of the beneficiaries. This explains the fact that those community members engaging into community development projects are doing so as a way to help their families to have food on the table.

The study found that communities feel that their participation in policy framework and in development projects are important elements if they are to establish feelings of ownership towards any development efforts which directly or indirectly affect them both in the short term and long run. This is supported by Florin and Wandersman (2006:43) who noted that participation takes a variety of forms such as advisors on boards or committees, policy makers on neighborhood councils which influence municipal policy, and residents in local community organisations which develop block and neighborhood activities. The principles of the participatory approach as cited by Dennis (1997) quoted in Mulugeta (2003:9-10) include transparency, power sharing and sharing responsibility. Transparency means that all participants must help to create a climate conducive to open communication and building dialogue. Sharing

power means that authority and power must be balanced evenly between all stakeholders to avoid the domination of one party. Sharing responsibility takes into consideration the view that all stakeholders have equal responsibility for decisions that are made, and each should have clear responsibilities within each process. These principles had not been fully recognized for Mvuma rural poor as evidenced by the findings that the government and NGOs tend to disagree on certain occasions which at times leave the community members dispersed and afraid to be part of a development project.

The study shows that there is limited or no active involvement and participation of the poor towards crafting relevant policies that would in turn help shape the future of impoverished communities in Mvuma rural district. The PAAP was supposed to encourage the integration and participation of vulnerable groups into mainstream economic activities. This is in line with the participatory approach which calls for participation and active involvement of stakeholders or people to any decision that affects their wellbeing. It can however be noted that from the findings of this study, Mvuma communities are not fully engaged in community projects from the initial stages.

A study in Bangladesh found that Water Aid in Bangladesh's programme experience indicated that most partner NGOs appreciated the need to target the poor, however, diversity among the poor makes this particularly an elusive challenge (Ahmed, 2006). An underlying problem here was that Water Aid Bangladesh and partners tended to view communities as homogenous settlements and applied broad-brush approaches to project implementation rather than tailoring inputs to meet specific needs and capacities (Ahmed, 2006).The findings of this study clearly indicate that NGOs should change their approach to community projects as there is a tendency of

generalization and not taking into consideration the resources Mvuma rural communities have.

5.3 INCREMENTALISM AND PREVELANCE OF RURAL POVERTY

Incrementalism refers to continuations of the government activities where only marginal adaptations are needed. The basic assumption is that existing government policy is effective and satisfactory. Lindblom (1959), argued that policy makers do not meet regularly for policy changes and for assessments on the importance and relevance of policies because of restrictions by time and costs which make it impossible for policy makers to work on the policies. Since independence in 1980, the Zimbabwean government adopted the incremental model of policy making. This continuation did not bring about more changes for the rural poor in Mvuma rural district. The incremental model does not take into consideration communities and their people as entities that are unique. Instead there is a generalization of communities, which makes it difficult to alleviate rural poverty in Mvuma rural community. The incremental model has not done much for the Mvuma rural communities. This is explained by the fact that, there is no participation and involvement of Mvuma rural poor on policies to help them to alleviate rural poverty in their area. The colonial conditions still persist alongside the rural poor which call for a radical change pertaining to the participation of the poor to improve their standards of living.

ZIMSTAT (2013:48) noted that the geographic pattern of poverty is partly explained by the degree of rurality, land quality in rural areas, and proximity to major urban centres. Poverty is far worse in rural areas and the overall level of poverty is positively related to the proportion of the provincial population living in the rural areas. Of the three wards that were under study, which were wards 2, 7 and 15,

ward 15 has a higher prevalence of rural poverty. The area is far from Mvuma town and is characterized by bad dusty roads with a lot of potholes, gullies and poor bridges construction. In as much as ward 15 is rich in minerals resources like gold, the area is not user friendly as it is not easily accessible by investors, hence the resources are not fully utilized as people lack knowledge. Youth and the elders have resorted to illegal gold mining which is risky as they do not have protective clothing. The level of poverty in Mvuma rural communities remains high. This goes in line with the research by Riddel and Robinson (1992) which revealed that there is always little evidence to suggest that many beneficiaries had managed to escape from poverty on a permanent basis after services by NGOs. NGOs, government officials and beneficiaries of community development have a different understanding of poverty. For beneficiaries of community development poverty is lack of basic needs with special emphasis given to food and shelter; for NGOs, poverty is broad and encompasses aspects of life such as access to credit, improved roads and sanitation together with lack of basic needs for families; For government officials and community leaders poverty is not having a place to stay, though they also did emphasize on the issue of basic needs like food. Government officials and community leaders were of the view that Mvuma rural communities are not poor because they have access to land which they can utilize to change their standards of living. This was however criticized by community development officers who said land without knowledge on how to utilize it will not change the lives of the rural poor in Mvuma rural district. Furthermore, it was not clear what the role of needs assessment is that is done by NGOs and prior to project implementation. Ahmed (2006) carried out a research in Bangladesh about the operation of NGOs; the

findings showed that NGOs viewed communities as uniform leading to the verify generalisability of the problem of poverty.

From the discussion with beneficiaries of community development projects in Mvuma, the communities have valuable resources in them like gold mines and availability of water throughout the year from dams. It is interesting to note, however, that the dwellers of Mvuma rural communities, especially in ward 15, only came to find out about the availability of gold after people who came as far as Kwekwe, which is about 90km away, started gold mining in their area and they only joined at a later stage because of rural poverty.

The community members agreed that it was a risk to go underground without protective clothing but that they have no choice because families need food as well as school fees. So for Mvuma rural communities what is needed is someone to help them with coordination so that they can utilize resources that they have in their communities.The issue is that development projects aimed at the rural poor tend to be external oriented which even makes it difficult for some community members to understand and become part of the community development project. In the case of Mvuma, beneficiaries of community development together with community leadership said that no NGO has consulted them before coming to implement projects in their area. The community leadership was only assigned to choose poor families in their communities who ultimately became beneficiaries of a project by NGO. This is a clear indication that these projects are externally oriented. There was no needs assessment for Mvuma rural communities to see the relevance of projects. There is therefore a lot that needs to be done about the poverty alleviation strategies implemented by NGOs and the government in Mvuma. Poverty in Mvuma rural communities is characterized by lack of infrastructure as well as hunger and

starvation for most families. It therefore means that there is a great need for NGOs to review their strategies. This also shows that communities also need to be consulted before sourcing donations in the name of communities perceived as impoverished. What Mvuma rural communities need are sustainable projects which give them room for participation as well as utilizing available resources within their communities to improve their standards of living.

Another issue is that community leadership tends to be biased when given the chance by NGOs to select beneficiaries of community projects. There were reports of the poorest being left out of the programme because of the relationship between the person and the leadership. This was said by the majority of beneficiaries who stated that the NGOs have a limited number of people for poverty alleviation projects and the decision to choose beneficiaries rests with the community leadership .This resulted in increasing the gap between the rich and the poor as the process becomes characterized by nepotism and corruption. According to Davis (2005) the poorest of the poor include the widows, the child headed households and people living with disabilities. For Mvuma rural communities, especially ward 15, the fact that NGOs offices are only situated in Gweru is a problem. All NGOs servicing Mvuma rural communities operate from urban Gweru which is the provincial city for Midlands province in Zimbabwe. Gweru is about 100km from ward 15, the ward is characterized by bad dirt roads on which community development workers rarely come for evaluations of the projects. This means that NGOs mostly maintain regular contact with accessible wards.

Despite the current political situation which was described by community development officers as tense and affecting NGOs negatively, community development for Mvuma rural communities is not addressing poverty. Despite some

claims of the contribution of NGOs in poverty alleviation by some of the beneficiaries of community development in Mvuma, saying that their living standards have changed through engaging with NGOs as they now have cattle, their families still struggle to meet basic needs and educating their children. Even transport for going to the nearest town of Mvuma is still a problem for residents of ward 15. Few individuals with their own cars provide transport services to town. In the event that the person decides not to be going to town for any reason, it means that people have to walk a distance of more than 24km to access transport to town. This was evidenced by what even the researcher of this study went through whilst collecting data from Mvuma rural communities. There is little evidence about NGOs and government efforts to prove rural poverty alleviation for Mvuma rural communities.

5.4 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS' BENEFICIARIES ENGAGEMENT

The majority of people engaging in community development projects are people who are not employed anywhere else. They rely mostly on part-time jobs given to them by other community members whose lives are better. This also has to do with the level of education. Most of the people have no academic qualifications which make it difficult to find a job anywhere because even people with diplomas and degrees are not getting jobs easily in Zimbabwe as a result of the current economic system. This study also found that the fact that these people have failed in school tends to stand as a barrier to employment hence they are treated as recipients of community projects. NGOs need to realize that through their experience and exposure to their environment community members are able to initiate and take responsibility for their community projects. What NGOs should do is to help communities to fully realize their potential and help them coordinate and not tell them what to do. NGOs should link community to needed resources and not impose projects on them. There is

need to acknowledge resources within communities and to make the communities realize how useful available resources are, for example dams can be utilized to improve their standards of living. The principles of the participatory approach as cited by Dennis (1997), quoted in Mulugeta (2003:9-10), include equal partnership, which is recognizing that every person has skill, ability and initiative and has an equal right to participate in the process regardless of their status. The principles of the participatory approach as cited by Dennis (1997) quoted in Mulugeta (2003:9-10) include, empowerment which entails that participants with special skills should be encouraged to take responsibility for tasks within their specialty, but should also encourage others to also be involved to promote mutual learning and empowerment. Mulugeta further advocates for cooperation which is very important as it calls on sharing everybody's strength as a way to reduce everybody's weaknesses.

5.5 CHALLENGES HINDERING SUCCESS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The study identified a number of challenges that were said to be hindering community development projects in Mvuma rural district. These challenges were poor management, lack of cooperation, lack of resources and funding problems. There was a general agreement across the participants; beneficiaries, community development workers, community leaders as well as government leaders agreed to the problem of poor management of community development projects by NGOs. Management of community development projects is of vital importance as it shapes the directions and keeps in control the project in order to achieve desired goals. The projects need to be coordinated in such a way that there is role clarity of every member and the beneficiaries should be involved in the running of the projects. The beneficiaries should know who to air their grievances to in the event that the project

does not progress according to the beneficiaries' expectations. This study found that poor management of projects calls for both parties involved in the projects to take action and establish a committee which will handle the day to day running of the projects. The committee should be subject to review after a couple of months and should consist of all role players in the project.

This study also found out that community development officers and government officials agreed to the problem of the funding as hindering development of community development projects in Mvuma. The study also noted that Mvuma rural communities are rich with natural resources, for example dams which provide water throughout the year. The government together with NGOs can work together with beneficiaries of community development and find a way on how Mvuma communities can utilize available resources in order to alleviate poverty instead of relying on the donor world which is not sustainable. More so, this study found out that it was only the majority of community development beneficiaries that agreed to lack of resources as a hindrance to community development projects. This shows that government and community leaders and community development officers are aware that there are available resources hence the need to capacitate and inform some beneficiaries who cannot recognize resources available to their communities. Interesting to note is the differences on the views of the government officials and community development workers; for the government officials and community leaders Mvuma communities have the most important resource which is land. However, for community development workers it was more than just availability of land; resources like dams and mining claims needs to be used in such a way that benefit Mvuma rural dwellers. This study also found that there is lack of cooperation when projects are being run in Mvuma rural communities. Cooperation means working together for a common

purpose or goal. There is need for all stakeholders of community development projects in Mvuma rural communities to iron their differences and work in collaboration towards Mvuma rural poverty alleviation for better results. A transformative view to community development is what this study found to be part of the answers. According to Kelly (2013), transformative view to community development states that planning decisions should be made by communities, rather than local or national government; this would eliminate clashes with local people and ensure developments would be designed to add value to an area, rather than be imposed on communities against their will. This therefore means that for cooperation to be there in the projects, the beneficiaries need to be involved from the initial stage of the projects and given room to fully participate. Given all the challenges rural areas became characterised by issues discussed by Galston and Baehler (1995) as quoted by Janvry et al (1999:3), "poverty is highly concentrated by regions, creating conditions of social exclusion and a culture of poverty similar to those which prevail in urban ghettos. Economic disadvantages of many rural areas include: (1) low density settlements and geographical isolation, which imply poorly funded public sectors and costly provision of basic needs services, (2) lack of diversification in economic activity, implying high income exposure to sudden displacements of employment, (3) low-skill labor force employed in low-wage traditional industries that face enhanced foreign competition with progress in globalization, (4) declining employment in resource based industries (agriculture, mining), and (5) rigid social stratification that limits social mobility for specific groups of citizens". There is therefore a need by all stakeholders to take action in helping impoverished rural areas to alleviate poverty.

5.6 ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND NGOs

The participants who are beneficiaries of community development projects in Mvuma rural communities were not happy about the relationship between the government and NGOs working in the area. It was clear that NGOs do not operate freely in Mvuma rural communities as supported by the argument by one community development officer who stated that there are moments towards elections that the NGO was denied access and entrance to Mvuma rural communities until the end of elections. It needs to be emphasized that the working relationship between the government and NGOs is of vital importance in improving the lives of the rural poor.There is need for role clarity for a partnership to go smoothly.The government and the NGOs should have clear lines of communication and duty outlined to avoid confusion in Mvuma rural community. The researcher observed that there were moments when community development workers were stammering when asked about the roles the government and NGOs play in helping Mvuma dwellers alleviate rural poverty.   Tandon (1997:4) argues that; "For a person to understand the role of the NGOs, voluntary institutions, citizen's initiatives, neighborhood groups, development organisations in the contemporary society we need to approach the questions of these institutions from a different perspective. We need to understand the relationship between the state and the civil society in order to situate the role of NGOs and voluntary development". The government and the NGOs need to complement each other for the betterment of impoverished Mvuma rural communities. The government on its own has failed the rural poor in Mvuma. The World Bank (1997:55) stated that the concept and formulation of the implementation strategies is expected to benefit from contributions by other development partners, including the public sector, private sector, NGOs and the donor world.   Every

sector's contribution would help alleviate rural poverty in these rural communities. This would include educating and empowering communities about the policies and it will also engage communities on debates about the policies and their expectations as a result enhancing community participation.

NGOs need to advocate for the rural poor to participate on issues that affect them. According to Holloway (2009) advocacy is a systematic, democratic, and organised effort by NGOs to change, influence or initiate policies, laws, practices and behaviour so that disadvantaged citizens in particular or all citizens generally be benefited. Moreover, Coates and David (2002:530) gave an explanation about advocacy stating that:

> NGOs seek to improve the access of the disadvantaged people to services provided by the state. Ideally, NGO advocacy gives the poor and disadvantaged groups the tools to influence public policies and their implementation practices to challenge the status quo by addressing social injustice issues and structural causes of inequity, to defend human rights and to promote democracy (Coates and David 2002:530).

It is also important at this point to note that the relationship between the NGOs and the government is of utmost importance. This study also established that it is the relations between the NGOs and the government which determine the level of community participation as well as a shift from the poor standards of living to the better in Mvuma rural. It was clear from the findings that there is a higher level of misunderstanding between the government and the NGOs. This would in turn worsen the conditions of the poor as the poor will be fighting at the expense of the impoverished communities. This therefore calls for clear boundaries and what the government expects from the NGOs as partners before engaging with communities

to avoid confusion and interference with local politics. A research that was carried out in Bangladesh to examine if the NGOs were reaching the poorest of the poor found that even well respected programmes failed to reach the hard core.This would also impact on NGOs engagement as well as advocacy to influence public policies to be more tolerant on the views of the poor. Community development calls for participation of the poor communities on matters affecting them through active participation. The view of this study is that this can be facilitated only if the government and its coordinating structures are working together or are having a mutual relationship.

5.7 CONCLUSION

Rural areas harbor poverty in most African countries. Mvuma rural communities are not an exception. Concentration of poverty is high in Mvuma rural wards. Community members are not aware of the PAAP which advocates for the need for the government to involve its citizens in every aspect of their lives. Mvuma rural dwellers living in poverty need to be appreciated as people who have the capacity and ideas that can help them and government to alleviate rural poverty. The incremental policy approach in Zimbabwe hinders citizen participation on issues that affect them. Community participation is the way that can help Mvuma rural populations change their way of living. There is a need for strengthened citizen participation in order for community development projects to be a success. Effective involvement of the poor from the beginning of the projects would allow the NGOs and government to take the beneficiaries along, starting from identification of their challenges, identification of the intervention strategies, and implementation of intervention plans and the sense of collective accountability from both parties involved. The relationship between the state and the NGOs seems not to be helping the swelling of poverty especially in

Mvuma rural communities. The government tried to implement some poverty alleviation strategies, their impacts lacked sustainability and others were over-politicised which led to their failures in Mvuma. In order to bring about sustainable development to community development strategies to Mvuma's impoverished rural communities there is need for the government, NGOs and communities to work together acknowledging each other's effort and utilizing available resources to help alleviate poverty for disadvantaged households. The subsequent chapter will be looking at the conclusion and recommendations of this study.

CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 CONCLUSION

Historically, community development projects have failed most rural families in Africa. In Zimbabwe, Mvuma rural communities were not an exception. In trying to get rid of the wave of poverty and hunger the Zimbabwean government under the PAAP adopted the community development programme. Adoption of community development in most African countries has not achieved desired goals. This is evidenced by prevalence of rural poverty which was targeted through community development projects. In Zimbabwe community development was not clearly outlined in the policies before independence and was later introduced under the PAAP policy in 1994.

The introduction of community development in Zimbabwe was brought about because of a number of problems. It can be noted that PAAP was introduced after the advent of SAPs. This period was exacerbated by the poor weather which resulted in the further spread of poverty especially in rural areas. NGOs were to partner with the government to help deliver community development projects. It can be noted that the adoption of the incremental approach to addressing poverty by the Zimbabwean government after independence stood in the way of identifying the needs of the impoverished communities and helping to alleviate rural poverty. This is so as it did not give room to the impoverished communities to fully participate in order to improve their standards of living. The fact is that nothing much was done to the policies to be pro-poor and to accommodate the rural poor after independence.

The PAAP was meant to help impoverished communities to alleviate rural poverty through active participation of the community members. However, the issue of

participation is not clear as the poor do not participate in the projects and NGOs tend to impose community development projects on communities who at times take long to understand them. Community resources which are supposed to be utilized for the benefit of community members are not being utilized. There is need to utilize resources communities have for them to have a sense of responsibility and belonging and for improving their standards of living. Community development needs to be viewed and implemented as a way to capacitate impoverished communities with skills that can in turn help them improve their lives. Mvuma community members need to be equipped with skills to utilize their available resources such as dams and minerals. This would help alleviate rural poverty compared to relying on aid to alleviate poverty.

Failure of community development to alleviate rural poverty despite being initiated by different policy makers is of concern. In Zimbabwe during colonisation community development failed to alleviate rural poverty; this is still the same even after independence though the policy makers are different. As a result, people end up migrating from rural areas to urban areas and internationally. Failure of community development to achieve its goal saw the prevalence of rural poverty in Zimbabwe as one of the poverty stricken African countries. Failure of community development to achieve desired goals can be seen in the development of the first Millenium Development Goal (MDGs) as the need to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. This happened years after the adoption of community development strategy which was aimed at curbing extreme poverty. As such, it is evident that community development needs to be implemented accordingly if it is to be considered as a poverty alleviation strategy to benefit developing countries.

The participatory approach calls for active participation and involvement of the community members in issues that affect them. It therefore means that for community development to be a success on poverty alleviation there is need for impoverished communities to be given room to fully participate and contribute to ways in which they think their current situation can be improved. Based on the findings of this study, adoption of incremental model of policy making by the Zimbabwean government has failed Mvuma impoverished communities. This is explained by the fact that there is little and at times no evidence of participation of the poor towards policies that are said to benefit them. A country like Bangladesh has recorded some successful community development projects because of participation of targeted communities as well as the policy model adopted by their government.

There is need for the government to work together with NGOs so that the community members will become informed about their policies as NGOs can be found among the poorest of the poor. Accommodating beneficiaries of community development projects as well as involving them in every stage of the projects means giving them room to participate and to be empowered. Mvuma rural is rich in resources, which include mineral resources such as gold and chrome that when fully utilized can help improve the standards of living for the community dwellers. The rural poor need to be involved when projects are being initiated for them.

Beneficiaries of community development projects in Mvuma rural district are not aware of the PAAP. The majority of the beneficiaries are married, ended in grade 10 and are unemployed. There is no mutual agreement between community development officers and government officials on what really contributes to the persistence of rural poverty in Mvuma rural communities. While the beneficiaries of

community development projects in Mvuma rural communities acknowledge the presence of NGOs in their area and the fact that at least some families can now put food on their tables, there are problems outlined by all participants as hindering change in Mvuma rural communities. Chief among these problems is poor management which calls for both parties engaging in community development projects to have a sense of responsibility to improve the running of the projects in the area.

There are a lot of questions based on the fact that impoverished communities are not informed about the policies which are said to benefit them. This calls for the government and its partners to let rural poor participate in any decision that impacts on their lives. The fact that Zimbabwe adopted the incremental model to policy making remains a stumbling block for Mvuma rural dwellers as they are not given room to participate and to voice out their problems and how they think their problems can be resolved.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

There is need for government to capacitate the rural poor in Mvuma rural communities. The capacitation can be done by skills development programmes as that would in turn be sustainable. This can be done through collaborating with partners like NGOs to facilitate the process, for example in ward 2, there are community members who are interested in bee-keeping but do not have an idea on how to go about it. Skills development interventions would see a number of rural poor acquiring skills that would help them alleviate rural poverty.

There is need for government and partners to coordinate and help Mvuma rural dwellers utilize available resources to improve their standards of living, for example,

in ward 15 there is a dam that has water all year round. Community members can be helped with provision of inputs for irrigation to start agricultural projects like gardening. In wards 7 and 15 as well there are gold claims that youth are engaging in, illegal gold panning as a survival strategy. The government can help the community members with information on how to register and legalize gold mining in the area. This would empower communities and mark a shift from welfare to sustainable development whilst utilizing resources within rural communities in Mvuma.

There is need to engage the poor before and in the process of establishing a community development project in the Mvuma rural district. This would make them realize their importance and create a sense of ownership to the project which would in turn result in active participation which can help community members improve their standards of living. Finally, government must create an environment that is conducive to communities as well as partners to help coordinate community projects. This can be done through change of policy model to a pro-poor approach. This also creates a good environment for community members to fully participate in community development projects without fear.

It is also recommended that NGOs in Midlands province must decentralize their offices to remote rural areas or nearer to them. This will in turn improve the accessibility of their services to the clients from further wards. More so, regular communication and contact with projects beneficiaries is needed to keep alive the projects being rendered to these communities. This would in turn make the project viable as the transport costs will be cut for beneficiaries to access the offices when encountering difficulties. It will also promote a sense of the project to belonging to the community and a strong working relationship. This would also help the NGOs to

be eyewitnesses to issues on the ground rather than being told, for example over the phone.

NGOs should do needs assessments with communities in which they aspire to implement community development projects. Meetings with other departments, community stake holders to identify the projects that have already been implemented is greatly recommended. This will infuse the sense of belonging of the community development projects to the communities. Issues of imposing projects on communities did not yield good results hence a call for change of that strategy for successful community development projects. More so, there is also need for NGOs to monitor and evaluate their projects after implementation. Projects lack sustainability because they are not evaluated. So, NGOs need to have independent Monitoring and Evaluation Officers who can do the monitoring of their projects. Carrying out proper monitoring and evaluation will make them to realize what needs to be added or changed on their strategies.

It is also recommended that all agents of community development should develop a system that would make them fully participate in the establishment and running of the projects with clear lines of communication. This would in turn help both beneficiaries and coordinators to be in position to evaluate the positive and negative impacts of every project. In the event of a setback in the running of the project both parties would work towards improving.

It is strongly recommended that Zimbabwe as a nation should also have a clearly outlined community development policy. Zimbabwe does not have a community development policy that is treated independently like other African countries, for example Kenya. The policy will help the government and community development

partners to evaluate on the projects and map what needs to be done. This will also help on the clarity of roles to be played by every partner.

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APPENDIX 1 : ETHICAL CLEARANCE

University of Fort Hare

Together in Excellence

ETHICAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE
REC-270710-028-RA Level 01

Certificate Reference Number: MON061SCHA01

Project title: **Community development and rural poverty in Zimbabwe: A policy perspective.**

Nature of Project: Masters

Principal Researcher: Annah Chatindo

Supervisor: Dr P B Monyai
Co-supervisor:

On behalf of the University of Fort Hare's Research Ethics Committee (UREC) I hereby give ethical approval in respect of the undertakings contained in the above-mentioned project and research instrument(s). Should any other instruments be used, these require separate authorization. The Researcher may therefore commence with the research as from the date of this certificate, using the reference number indicated above.

Please note that the UREC must be informed immediately of

- Any material change in the conditions or undertakings mentioned in the document
- Any material breaches of ethical undertakings or events that impact upon the ethical conduct of the research

The Principal Researcher must report to the UREC in the prescribed format, where applicable, annually, and at the end of the project, in respect of ethical compliance.

Special conditions: Research that includes children as per the official regulations of the act must take the following into account:

Note: The UREC is aware of the provisions of s71 of the National Health Act 61 of 2003 and that matters pertaining to obtaining the Minister's consent are under discussion and remain unresolved. Nonetheless, as was decided at a meeting between the National Health Research Ethics Committee and stakeholders on 6 June 2013, university ethics committees may continue to grant ethical clearance for research involving children without the Minister's consent, provided that the prescripts of the previous rules have been met. This certificate is granted in terms of this agreement.

The UREC retains the right to

- Withdraw or amend this Ethical Clearance Certificate if
  - o Any unethical principal or practices are revealed or suspected
  - o Relevant information has been withheld or misrepresented
  - o Regulatory changes of whatsoever nature so require
  - o The conditions contained in the Certificate have not been adhered to

- Request access to any information or data at any time during the course or after completion of the project.

- In addition to the need to comply with the highest level of ethical conduct principle investigators must report back annually as an evaluation and monitoring mechanism on the progress being made by the research. Such a report must be sent to the Dean of Research's office

The Ethics Committee wished you well in your research.

Yours sincerely

Professor Gideon de Wet
Dean of Research

12 November 2014

APPENDIX 2: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
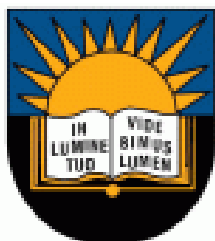
FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

I am a Master of Social Science in Development Studies student and I am carrying out a research on the effectiveness of the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan (PAAP) towards rural poverty alleviation with special reference to community development strategy. I kindly request you to assist with information that may help in the analysis of the Zimbabwean PAAP and the challenges faced by rural households. The data collected will be treated as confidential and will only be used for academic purposes.

1. Gender

Male	Female

2. Occupation/ position you are holding: ……………………………

3. What do you know about the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan? …………………………………………………………………………………

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4. Why was the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan developed? ....

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5. What problems has the PAAP managed to address in the community? Which problems are left out? And why?

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6. What institutional and administrative structure is in place to guarantee the provision of community development project to poor families?

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7. What mechanisms have you come up with in ensuring that community members are actively involved in community development projects?

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8. Which projects engage the community more, the government or Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO)?. Why is it like that?

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9. How do you address the issue of imbalances in resource allocation in order for poor households to benefit from community development projects?

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10. What policy action do you take to cushion disadvantaged families against the deteriorating economic situation in the country?..................

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11. What are the roles of NGOs, CBOs and FBOs giving a helping hand in the plight of poverty alleviation?...

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12. What education do you provide to the poor families about community development projects?

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13. What challenges are being faced by the government in ensuring community development projects to poor families? ....

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14. Which aspects of the policy would you recommend to be continued? Give reasons   for   your   answer……………………………………………………………
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15. Which aspects of the policy would you think must be revised or taken off?

Give reasons for your answer………………......................................

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16. Are there other important issues concerning the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan in relation to community development that you think need attention?

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Thank you for your cooperation.

APPENDIX 3 : INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT BENEFICIARIES
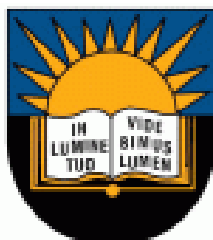
University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

I am a Master of Social Science in Development Studies student and am carrying out a research on the effectiveness of the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan (PAAP) towards rural poverty alleviation with special reference to community development strategy. I kindly request you to assist with information with regards to challenges that you are facing and what you think should be done to address these challenges. The data collected will be treated as confidential and will only be used for academic purposes.

1. Gender

Male	Female

:

2. Age:…………………………….

3. Level of education/ Last grade attended: ……………………………………

4. Marital status:

Married	Single	Other: Specicy

5. Number of people in the household…………..Males………Females……

6..Are you aware of the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan?

Yes/ No

If yes what is it about? ....

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7. Do you enjoy being part of the community development project? What motivated you to be part of that project? ....……………………..

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8. Is the community development project bringing any changes to the way of leaving for your family?

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9. What do you do to earn a living?

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10. What do you think needs to be done to address poverty in this community?

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11. What kind of assistance do you get from NGOs? Do you think that assistance is of importance to improving your standards of living?

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12. What kind of assistance do you get from the government?

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13. What do you think the government should do to help reducing poverty in this community?..…………………………………………………………
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14. What do you think the community members should do to help alleviate poverty in this   community?

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15. What other things about your life as a family you think need government and community attention? ....

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Thank you for your cooperation.

APPENDIX 4: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

I am a Master of Social Science in Development Studies student and am carrying out a research on the effectiveness of the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan (PAAP) towards rural poverty alleviation with special reference to community development strategy. I kindly request you to assist with information with regards to challenges that you are facing and what you think should be done to address these challenges. The data collected will be treated as confidential and will only be used for academic purposes.

1. Gender:

Male	Femake

2. Age: ………………………..

3. What is the name of your organisation? ……………………………………………………………………………………………… ………………………………………………………………………………………………

4. What kind of community projects are you rendering to the communities?

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5. To who does the community development projects belong?

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6. What are your reasons, as an NGO for partaking in community development projects?

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7. Are you aware of the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan (PAAP)?

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8. What is it that you know about the PAAP ?

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9. Do you think the PAAP is relevant to the programmes that you are rendering to communities?

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10. What kind of assistance/services do you render to the communities?

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11. Do you think it is right for communities to fully participate on decision making for the projects you are rendering to their communities?

Yes No

Give reasons for your answer…………………………………………………..

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12. What are the means of livelihoods for these communities?

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13. What is the relationship between your NGO and government's involvement in the lives   of   these   community   projects?

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14. Are you satisfied by the government's effort?

Yes No

Give reasons for your answer…………………………………………………….

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15. What role and contributions are you bringing towards alleviating rural poverty in this community?

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16. What do you think needs to be changed to enhance community development?

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17. What do you think the government should do to reduce the challenge of rural poverty?

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18. What do you think the community leadership should do to assist the poor in their communities?

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19. What do you think needs to be done to strengthen community development projects that you are rendering to the communities?...……………

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Thank you for your cooperation.

APPENDIX 5: EDITOR'S CERIFICATE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

LETTER OF ATTESTATION

I, Dr. K. E. Monyai, hereby certify that I received and edited the Masters Dissertation of Annah Chatindo , entitled "COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL POVERTY IN ZIMBABWE", pages 1-134. Proposed corrections made for implementation were 464.

Director/ Editor/ Educator

Dr. K. E. Monyai (Ph D)

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Date: 18 June 2015