



FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

THE ROLE OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) IN RURAL
POVERTY ALLEVIATION. A CASE STUDY OF KEZI RURAL DISTRICT
FROM 2008-2018

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ABSTRACT

Up to the 21st century, poverty remains to be a global threat. Millions of people around the world live in extreme poverty hardly making ends meet and suffer from chronic deprivation of basic essentials such as food, shelter, water, health care, education and other social services. According to the United Nations Development Programme (2015) 1.3 billion live in poverty. Statistics on the African context are alarming as they turn out that the highest rate of people particularly children are living in extreme poverty in the Sub-Saharan. Zimbabwe is no exception in the scope of poverty. Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZIMVAC) in 2012 indicates that approximately 4.1 million live in poverty. Poverty in the country can be indebted to unprecedented economic recession, adverse climate conditions and industrial under-performance among other factors. The lobbying of NGOs has been closely tipped towards poverty alleviation efforts in the communities. There has been a significant number of people living in misery, cannot afford daily prerequisites such as food, health services, education and safe water and sanitation. In light of the above, it is the purpose of this research to assess and explore the significant role of NGOs in poverty alleviation in Kezi rural district. The study constructively make use of three broad areas, schools, clinics and the rural community at large to examine NGO operations aimed towards poverty alleviation. The study employs qualitative research method, significantly making use of semi-structured interviews. This enabled gathering of perceptions, experiences and activities of NGOs in Kezi rural district. The role of NGOs such as the World Vision, Camfed, Orap (Zenzele), Oxfam and Higher Life no mention among other organizations enriched the study in reflecting their efforts towards poverty alleviation.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to all the NGOs that have played and continue to play a crucial role towards poverty alleviation thereby harnessing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This work comes as an inspiration for future collaboration in the fight against poverty.

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I humbly like to thank the almighty God for being my pillar of strength and guiding me throughout this precious academic journey.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BEAM	Basic Education Assistance Module
CAMFED	Campaign for Female Education
CNFA	Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEWS	Famine Early Warning Systems
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
IACCH	International
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
MDGS	Millennium Development Goals
MOHCC	Ministry of Health and Child care
MOPSE	Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OPHID	Organization for Public Health Interventions and Development
ORAP	Organization of Rural Associations for Progress
OXFAM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
PSG	Parent Support Group
QLE	Quality Learning Environment
SC	Save the Children
SDGS	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMDGs	United Nations Millennium Development Goals
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
ZIMVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

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CHAPTER ONE-INTRODUCTION

Poverty remains to be the greatest threat in the world as it presents ripping adverse effects to the people. Its elimination has dominated much of the discourses and platforms particularly in the auspices of the United Nations and Millennium Development Goals. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have made a grand entrance and their prominence has not gone unnoticed as they have been a force to reckon in most communities. Their gap-filling role has been a notable phenomenon as they are increasingly taking active roles and responding to the needs of ordinary people including the poor. This stems from the idea that at times the government is unable or could not meet the needs of the people or is embedded to do so. The international community as such is increasingly regarding non-governmental organizations as crucial actors to respond to the issues affecting individuals and their communities. This derivative study seeks to explore the phenomenon of NGOs in tackling rural poverty in Kezi District in Matabeleland South Province. It is of paramount importance to note that this study also seeks to reflect the role of NGOs in rural poverty alleviation basing on the programs and projects that have been undertaken in the rural areas.

There is a need to make a clarification when it comes to the phenomenon of NGO as it is complex and complicated. The term NGO has been defined exhaustively and differs diversely in the scholarly arena. NGO can be perceived as a legally constituted organization created by natural or by legal persons that operate independently from any government. The World Bank (2005) defines non-governmental organizations as “...private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services or undertake community development...” the above insight hence provides a platform that forms a guideline that reflect the role and activities of diverse NGOs in their attempt to relieve the lives of the suffering.

The role of NGOs that include community based, national, and international organizations are explored to reflect their crucial intervention in the ever growing scope of poverty alleviation. As poverty has been at a centre core of humanity, its

Eradication remains a highly notable concern emphasized to be uprooted. Hence the focus of this study will be on NGO's action in rural poverty alleviation as their work has been prominent and has not gone unnoticed.

It is of paramount importance to note that the existence of various NGOs has been heavily linked with developmental issues and efforts that will help communities in the quest for poverty alleviation. This stems from their ability and their long-standing familiarity with social sector development and poverty alleviation. Hence the chief argument is that they are in a position of being better equipped to engage in constructive experimentation in the quest to understand and respond to the issues and problems that affect ordinary people including the poor, Manor (2004). They provide services to vulnerable individuals and communities and are often supported by donors.

This study does not merely concentrate on NGOs alone but also consider the issue of poverty at hand as it has been the driving force behind the lobbying of NGOs in societies. It is also crucial to consider a notable variation in the terminology when it comes to the aspect of poverty.

“Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. It is the deprivation of one’s ability to live as a free and dignified human being with the full potential to achieve one’s desired goals in life. It also includes the concept of vulnerability, which is the likelihood that people will fall into poverty owing to shocks to the economic system or personal mishaps and the concept of social exclusion, which focuses on the lack of participation of individuals or groups in society...” Ferguson (2011)

Poverty is perceived as detrimental and as a result of its destructive ability it needs to be uprooted. Over three billion people constituting almost half of the world live in poverty, Shah (2014). There has been a notably commendable world effort in fighting poverty, however poverty still prevails as a major problem and its elimination still remains a pipeline dream. In 2015 world leaders met and agreed to fight extreme poverty, hunger and disease through the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), United Nations (2017).

Poverty reduction has remained the core concern of the most development interventions in most of the developing world. The efforts of diverse NGOs have not gone unnoticed in alleviating poverty and they are important actors in international politics and economic order Sahel et al (2007) and also are contributors to the realization of development Lewis and Kanji (2009), Adjei Osei-Wusu et al (2012).

Poverty remains to be the biggest threat of the world as its consequences are inevitably devastating and its elimination remains a greatest goal to be achieved. A large literature has been concerned with the emergence of various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in various aspects of the society in trying to relieve lives of the suffering. This study is notably concerned with the lobbying of diverse NGOs in trying to mitigate or lessen poverty in the rural area of Kezi district. The overriding aim of this study is to explore the role of NGOs that have been involved in rural areas in an attempt to mitigate poverty.

It is paramount to note that deprivation can also be measured in terms of lack of resources such as income, assets and capabilities like skills, knowledge and technology. Capabilities approach envisages that poverty and deprivation are a lack of prerequisites for self-determined life. Hence investing in human capital including health care and education is paramount at this juncture. This is why it has been noteworthy to consider that NGOs have undertaken active roles in such community spheres with the aim of lessening misery of the rural dweller.

This work is comprised of three different elements aimed at identifying the role of NGOs in rural poverty alleviation. First, interviews were held in the rural village with family, groups, and individuals in the bigger picture. Secondly, interviews were conducted with schools. Lastly, the rural clinics personnel provided an insight in this scope. Following this introduction, the second part of this study will be concerned with the historical background to rural poverty alleviation. The third part will dwell on the role of NGOs in rural poverty alleviation in Kezi. This is concerned with issues pertaining to the provision of services towards development of capacities, public health, basic education and vocational training. It also points out among other things that include NGOs unique capacity to reach grassroots people to effect programs and projects in agriculture, education and other social services. The fourth part is concerned with the future of NGOs in rural poverty alleviation. It assumes that

they exist but are failing or have failed to mitigate poverty probably in the long run. Their failure can be a result of inexperience as pointed out by de Graaf. The relationship between donor and NGOs also provide pressing challenges for NGOs to legitimately uproot poverty in the long run. The final chapter presents some conclusions that could be drawn from the study.

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Poverty remains to be the greatest threat even in the millennium epoch. It threatens the global population as billions of people live in extreme poverty struggling daily for survival. The World Bank estimates that 736 million people live in extreme poverty surviving on \$1.90 a shift from \$1.25 or less a day. Globally, individuals suffer from chronic deprivation lacking sufficient food and nutrition, health care services, education, water and sanitation among other things. Poverty situations can be seen in countries like Bangladesh, Indonesia and India where a huge number of people live below the poverty line.

Similar to the global concern, Poverty in Africa is the most resistant phenomenon that brings about suffering in the third world or developing countries as pointed out by Tazoacha (2001). In his view, the rate of poverty killing cannot be compared to any disease from the genesis of mankind. Africa is the world's poorest inhabited continent and poverty has brought about disheartening consequences. Sub-Saharan for example, has the highest rate of people living in extreme poverty. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts the world's extreme poor with approximately 413 million people living in poverty. The UNDP reflects an alarming situation of the Middle East and North Africa where the number of people living in extreme poverty nearly doubled from 9.5 million to 18.6 million in 2015. The devastating effects of poverty can be seen or mirrored in situations such as lack of food, water, improper health care, homelessness, education and other basic services.

Zimbabwe is no exception when looking on the issue and context of poverty both in the global and continental spheres. The data available from Poverty Consumption point out that 72% Zimbabweans live in poverty and majority of the population suffer

from the adverse implications of poverty. Zimbabwe has greatly experienced worsening economic performance that is reflected by the 2008 financial crisis which saw the Gross Domestic Product decline by 17 %. Unprecedented economic recession coupled with flip-flop of the government performance, negative impact of climate change on agricultural activities and HIV and Aids epidemic has brought misery to the people.

In 1980 after attaining its independence from the white minority, Zimbabwe had a strong colonial infrastructure promising a bright future and approaching a high level of social cohesion. The country had plenty of government assurances to reform equality and African autonomy and it was tipped for an enormous potential to become a strong independent state. The economy was relatively stable within the first decade of independence. UNCTAD (2007) concurs to the above, highlighting sound economic growth of approximately 2.9 % in the decade following independence, above other Southern African regional average of 1.7%. Hence living standards during that period made a significant improvement and life expectancy reached 59 years in the year 1990 before collapsing to 37 years in 2005, World Bank (2007).

Furthermore, in 1990 the country had begun to experience a deepening economic collapse, as a result of a number of economic, political and environmental factors. The shape of a chaotic state was largely blamed on government's ill-starred policies positioned in the context of poor governance, economic mismanagement and loss of the international community. Repeated human rights violations and manipulation of electoral processes, unprecedented economic recession, HIV and AIDS epidemic, negative effects of climate change on agriculture and international isolation further affected the population.

The economic decline jointly with a series of factors that include economic and social policies such as land reforms, inflation and environmental uncertainties condemned and relegated the state to near-complete collapse and abject poverty. It is also fundamental to understand that the mechanisms of poverty which are at a local level but also interlinked in complex ways with national and international factors such as government policies, international commodity prices, debts, unequal trading practices and conditional 'aid'. Overall various poverty manifestations such as lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure and sustain livelihoods

entails of the poverty situation. The above scenario has led to hunger, malnutrition, ill-health, limited or lack of access to education, health care among other services. Homelessness and inadequate housing, unsafe environments, social discrimination and exclusion also provide lenses in which we perceive poverty from. Thus Poverty in the country can be notably manifesting in various facets such as material conditions, limited resources, and unmet needs, pattern of deprivation and lack of basic security and exclusion which has had adverse effects.

Food security is significant basing on the axiom that Zimbabwe is an agriculture-based economy and the majority of its population in rural areas make a living largely from subsistence farming. United Nations' World Food Program (WFP) which has been pivotal in food distribution since 2002 to millions of Zimbabweans entirely dependent on outside intervention pointed an alarming scenario indicating the country as one of seven famine "hotspots" and that more than 4.1 million people would need food assistance by summer 2008. In May 2007 the Famine Early Warning System (FEWSNET) expected prolonged dry spells during 2006-2007 harvest seasons in most Southern zones of the country contributing to low yields of cereals, particularly maize. FEWS (2007) point out that 2006-2007 economy was further condemned by poor harvest and future disruptions of food supply, due to price controls and eminent restrictions on basic commodity imports significantly threatened food security.

This thesis reports the findings of a thorough study to establish the intervention of NGOs. Non-governmental organizations play a crucial role in the ever growing scope given to poverty alleviation to cater for the welfare of the people as stated by Matenga (2001) and Ibrahim and Hulne (2010). NGOs can be charitable, service and empowering oriented in undertaking active roles in the society. The lobbying of NGOs in Zimbabwe can be perceived as agency to augment the means of poverty alleviation particularly in service provision and development discourse leaning towards developing skills and tools for strengthening society. NGO action is often described or perceived as small scale, dynamic, adaptive, local, efficient and innovative. Sequiera et.al (2001) asserts that the government does not have such ability and capacity as NGOs. Thus this thesis contends that NGOs are credible in poverty alleviation in Kezi rural district reacting accordingly to the needs of the poor.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Poverty remains to be the greatest threat of the world and Zimbabwe is no exception in this phenomenon particularly in the rural areas. The purpose of this research is therefore to analyse the role of NGOs in rural poverty alleviation in Kezi rural district from the year 2008 to 2018.

1.3 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To explore the role of NGOs in alleviating poverty in Kezi rural areas.
2. To scrutinize relative benefits of NGOs to the rural people
3. To compare and contrast the government and NGO initiatives in poverty alleviation

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the roles played by NGOs in rural poverty alleviation?
2. What are the relative benefits of NGOs to the rural people
3. How are the rural dwellers benefiting from the projects and programs introduced by the government and NGOs

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Over the years NGOs like the World Vision, World Food Program and ORAP assumed active roles in alleviating poverty to make a difference in the livelihoods of the people. NGOs, both local and international have constantly been hailed for their unique capacity to reach the local people to even complement government efforts in decentralizing programs and projects in agriculture, education, health and other social services. The main causes of poverty in the country have been identified as coupled with lack of sufficient credit, infrastructure, and social services. Welfare and

development oriented NGO intervention becomes aimed directly and indirectly at poverty alleviation.

In Zimbabwe particularly in the rural areas, the poor have had to devise survival strategies in light of the hardships experienced over the years. For example, mass exodus to the neighbouring countries particularly Southern Africa can be credited to the economic turmoil in the country. NGOs have possibly contributed towards the needy particularly in the provision of material goods and services such as food, clothing, shelter and health care. Therefore, this study will add on to the existing perceptions on the role of NGOs.

The findings of this study will fill literature gaps and provide credible information on the growing debate and critiques on the role of NGOs in a given context. It will relatively unpack all forms of poverty and how NGOs try to combat them according to their orientation and level of co-operation. The study will attempt to relate to a large literature that has emerged in recent years to explore the possible contribution of NGOs to rural development.

The focal point will be on the perspectives or approaches on poverty such as the basic needs approach that entails of basic materials such as food, water , capabilities approach that is concerned with prerequisites for self-determined life, and well-being approach that looks at resources and conditions to achieve satisfaction of physical, social and self-actualization needs. In this essence NGOs become destined to provide and cater for various facets of individuals. After all, the study aims to provide an insight to fellow academia that might have interest in the discourse of the NGOs as having a significant role to play.

1.6 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Definitions of NGOs vary, in this regard there are no widely agreed upon or shared definition in the scholarly arena. Lewis and Kanji (2009) define NGOs as extremely diverse group of organizations that take different shapes and forms within and across different country contexts. Sohel (2007) defines an NGO as a “legally constituted organization created by natural or legal persons that operates independently from any

government and a term usually used by government to refer to entities that have no government status”.

NGOs have multifaceted categorization and definitions touch upon issues of bringing about some form of change. Lang (2013) alludes to the above pointing out that NGOs have shared characteristics as “not related to government, not for profit, voluntary and pursue activities for the common good instead of just for their members”. The World Bank (2007) defines NGOs as private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services or undertake community development thus definitions vary in regards to the organizational orientation and levels of co-operation.

The literature is diverse and even greatly varies in the context of poverty. Poverty is defined as a human condition characterized by sustained or chronic deprivation of the resources, capabilities, choices, security and power necessary for an adequate standard of living and other civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. Baratzk and Grisby (1971) define poverty as a severe lack of physical and mental well-being closely associated with inadequate economic resources and consumption. Poverty alleviation in this sense entails various means and measures to mitigate or relieve lives of the poor.

1.7 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theories employed include The Human Needs Theory which assume that in order to live and attain well-being; humans need certain essentials or basic needs as they are all complementary and essential to human life. The theory makes use of the capabilities approach which assumes that poverty and deprivation are a lack of prerequisites for self-determined life. Scarcity of resources and opportunities hinder individuals to satisfy their basic needs, physical and social needs. Basic needs approach is pivotal in this field. The perspective or idea behind this is that poverty is scarcity of resources and opportunities to satisfy basic needs. Whelan and Whelan (1995) point out that needs are still clearly important as primary indicators of

poverty. At this juncture, it is clear that lack of basic daily needs necessary for day to day survival constitute a situation of poverty. Baratzk and Grisby (1971) point out that poverty can be a severe lack of physical and mental well-being closely associated with inadequate economic resources and consumption.

Public goods or the performance failure theory is also of importance in this study. The theory underlines the emergence of NGOs in society as to satisfy the residual unsatisfied demand for public goods in the society. Weisbrod (1971) argues that people created NGOs when the government or market could not provide public goods for all or serve the general interests of everybody. Brown and Korten (1991) similarly argue that failure by the state creates a situation in which NGOs emerge as innovative response to different types of problems. NGO action is often described as small scale, flexible, dynamic, adaptive, local and innovative and such capability can be employed in alleviating poverty. Sequeira et.al (2001) point out that government in most cases does not have such ability and capacity. Hence NGOs can be directly involved in communities and take active roles towards poverty alleviation.

Furthermore, Theory of partnership or interdependence is to be considered at this juncture. Interdependence theory provides unique insight into how interpersonal situations afford specific goals and motives as well as how situations set the stage for interpersonal processes and interaction. The theory of partnership or interdependence propounds that the relationship between government and NGOs could be conflicting, interdependent or partnership and complementing if it is such that they have to share experiences, resources and expertise with each other. Salamon and Anheir (1998) allude to the above stating that under such arrangements the theory could be argued for the emergence of NGOs as partners. Krashinsky (1986) and Williamson (1985) assert that NGOs could emerge because people have trust in them more than profit making entities. Similarly Esman and Uphoff (1984) argue that NGOs could play the role of local intermediaries by mobilizing the people for participation in government initiated projects, profoundly effective for the delivery of services to disadvantaged people in the society.

1.8 DATA ANALYSIS

Information obtained from the study will be thoroughly examined and then presented in the form of written words or sentences. At this stage data will be reduced to a story and its interpretation. Therefore large amounts of collected data are reduced to make sense of the studied phenomenon.

1.9 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Working with human participants in research always raises issues about how the researcher treats them. The individual values of the researcher relate to honesty and frankness informs the cornerstone of any research project. The researcher's treatment of other people involved in the research must uphold principles relating to informed consent, confidentiality, anonymity and courtesy. Wellington (2015) postulates that ethics are the moral principles and guiding conduct which are held by individual, groups and any other professions. The overriding emphasis is the morality representing a code of conduct that governs how people treat each other.

1.1.0 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study will be confined within Kezi rural district area situated in Matobo, Matabeleland South of Zimbabwe. The study mainly focuses on the role of non-governmental organizations towards rural poverty alleviation from the year 2000 to 2018. The research is centered on the causes and manifestations of poverty in the rural areas and the intervention by either local or international organization

1.1.1 LITERATURE REVIEW.

This platform seeks to give an appraisal on the articles, journals, books, and all other related literature that had explored the role of NGOs particularly concerning poverty alleviation. It is generally an overview outline of works crafted or written in relation to the topic of concern. This dwells on the common understanding of NGO roles in their pursuit to relieve lives of the poor. This stage unfolds to form a basis to discuss

poverty in depth and the active roles undertaken by diverse NGOs in regard to their orientation and level of cooperation.

The chief reason for conducting a research is to bring forth knowledge and understanding and to make it available to everyone by simply disseminating it. It is paramount to note that available information sources have been scrutinized in order to acquire the latest knowledge and to assess it for relevance, quality, controversy and gaps. This seeks to explain where to find the requisite information for the purposes of analysing and presenting it so as to form a solid basis for research. Hence critical appraisal of the research literature relevant to the subject under consideration is developed.

NGOs operate in different levels but at the end have a common or a similar driving force which is to lessen the suffering of the poor or to pursue interests of the poor. The critical aspect noteworthy is concerned with their level of impact rather than their level of operation. The fact that their output may differ due to their level of operation and capacity cannot be disputed. However with all this in consideration, their activities are pivotal in improving the lives of the poor all over the world. For example World Vision in many years had provided food to the needy and also introduced programs and projects aimed at assisting communities in the long run.

Failure by the government to provide basic prerequisites to its poor citizens has intrigued various NGOs to make a grand entrance. This is concurred by Weisbrod (1971) who is of the idea that NGOs try to complement government when it could not provide public goods for all or serve the general interests for all. Brown and Korten (1991) arrive to the same assertion as the above postulating that failure by the government creates a situation in which NGOs emerge as innovative response to different types of probes. Hence this provides a basis or a platform that reflects a ground on how several or diverse NGOs come in and offer a helping hand to the people.

Furthermore, it is paramount to note the efforts undertaken by certain organizations in their quest to alleviate poverty. This is vindicated by Esman and Uphoff (1984) who argue that NGOs are pivotal in mobilizing the people for participation in

projects profoundly effective for the delivery of services to disadvantaged people in the society. NGOs are considered the better placed agents to mitigate poverty and lessen the misery of the suffering communities. Whelan and Whelan (1995) point out that needs are still clearly important as primary indicators of poverty. Baratz and Grisby allude to the above pointing out that poverty is lack of physical and mental well-being closely associated with inadequate economic resources and consumption. Hence NGOs relatively emerge as means to ease deprivation seen through lenses such as resources, capabilities like skills, knowledge and skills.

The capabilities approaches which assert that lack of human capabilities constitute poverty. Ibembe (2007) points out that a large part of educational services and reinforcing governments efforts in achieving universal primary education come from NGOs. NGOs have relatively moved beyond 'gap-filling' initiatives into capacity building. Development discourse which leans towards developing skills and tools for strengthening society. Sequeira, Modesto and Madox (2001) posit that the government do not have such ability and capacity. Riddell and Robinson argue that NGOs are pivotal in providing additional resources and in making government programs more effective. Edwards (1999), Petit (2000), Howes (1997) emphasize the crucial role of NGOs to alleviate poverty as that of strengthening local institutions to make a lasting impact on poverty. The general overview in this case is that the non-governmental organizations are much better positioned to cater for the necessities of the affected communities.

Bassey (2008) postulates that NGOs have been relatively harnessed by most developing countries as a force to uproot poverty. This stems from the point of view that they have proven beyond measure that they have the capacity to respond and cater for the suffering. Sato (2000) posits that NGOs can be engaged in economic activities aimed at low income groups for the purposes of income generation, and working in social sectors like education, health and environment. It is from this axiom that NGOs provide various public services to the poor and also mobilize and clarify the demand for services from both the government and the international community at large. Hence it is paramount to note that their efforts have not gone unnoticed in the scholarly arena as they continue to gain prominence in the societies.

1.1.2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1.1.2.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

There are numerous types of research design that are appropriate for the different types of research projects. The choice of which design to apply depends on the nature of the problems posed by the research aims. Blaxter et.al (2006) posits that each type of research design has a range of research methods that are commonly used to collect and analyse the types of data that is generated by the investigations

Punch (2003) defines a research design as the overall plan for the research which includes a technique, the conceptual framework, the question of whom/what will be studied and the tools to be used for collecting and analyzing empirical data. Hawkins (1993) classified research design as exploratory, descriptive and casual. The exploratory research is concerned with the nature of the problem and the variables in the problem model. This study will use an exploratory research design. Marshall (2005) elaborated that the main purpose of the exploratory research design is to gain familiarity with a phenomenon and to acquire new knowledge and insight into a study area in order to formulate a more precise problem and develop a hypothesis.

This study is going to use qualitative method of gathering information. Qualitative research is concerned with quality information. It attempts to gain an understanding of the underlying reasons and motivations for actions and establish how people interpret their experiences and the world around them. The tool used is the researcher, who is the data gathering instrument. This technique will enable the researcher to explore and explain how several NGOs have undertaken active role in rural poverty alleviation. Hence, Creswell (2007) defined qualitative research as a situated activity that starts with the assumptions, a world view, the possible use of theoretical lens and the study of research problems inquiring. This will enable the research to approve or disapprove the theoretical hypothesis.

The aim of this study is to assess the role of NGOs in rural poverty alleviation by scrutinizing their operations. The literature review dealt mostly with the extensive perspectives and opinions dominating the scholarly arena on NGOs and their quest to mitigate poverty. In the process of reviewing literature theoretical perspectives were

considered that included public goods or the performance failure theory, interdependence and contract failure theory and the human needs theory. Hence theories were pivotal as they reflected the evolution of NGOs and their active roles in the poverty alleviation concerns.

The study made use of both inductive and deductive means. It is deductive in the sense that firstly it employed theories that reflected empirical collection of data and was also closely linked to confirmation and contradiction in empirical analysis. Induction can be reflected through my qualitative study that generated diverse perspectives to existing body of knowledge. The process of on-going theory advancement requires “continuous interplay” between the two thus according to Parke (1987).

1.1.3 DATA SOURCES AND METHODS

The study will make use of qualitative research approach in the form of interviews. This is pivotal to advance a thorough assessment of the studied phenomenon on the role of NGOs. Interviews enable one to actively indulge respondents and get crucial information to enrich area of study and concern. Consistent with Dawson (2002), qualitative research enhances in-depth exploration of attitudes and behaviour of respondents leading to in-depth opinions and findings. Interviews also present a unique opportunity for quality data gains as respondents are allowed to wander and meander around the issues.

Both primary and secondary data together with theoretical perspectives are used. This is chiefly designed to enrich the quality of the studied phenomenon. Bekhet and Zauszniewski (2012) postulate that this method is “beneficial in providing confirmation of findings, more comprehensive data, increased validity and enhanced understanding of the studied phenomenon”. One is able to support information from the interviews with that from already existing literature. Theoretical perspectives are employed to inform my empirical data collection and analysis.

1.1.4 INTERVIEWS

The use of the semi-structured interviews advances oneto conduct organized and structured yet flexible interviews. Belshaw and Coyle 2001, Adjei 2009, Christensen 2010 successfully used this approach in their research. This enhanced versatility and conversational manner of interviews offering respondents the chance to explore important issues and provide in-depth information as postulated by Clifford (2016). The guide come from both main and sub research questions aligned with the project.

Furthermore, it is crucial for data collected to be subsequently coded to derive patterns and meanings necessary for analysis of data as postulated by Craze (2014). The researcher has toread through and highlight important responses crucial to reflect perspective of NGOs on poverty and the poor, approaches and strategies, interventions and other concerned roles.

1.1.5 FINDINGS

This section aims to provide findings basing on the used methodology to gather information. Findings are subsequently summarized using derivative research arguments. The main argument derived from the findings is that NGOs are critical actors in alleviating poverty in the rural areas. This stems from the derivative observation that they have been instrumental in communities in sectors that include health, education, agriculture and other various projects and programs. Lack of basic prerequisites such as food, shelter and water means that individuals or groups are in a poverty situation as needs are critical. Whelan and Whelan (1995) point out that needs are still clearly important as primary indicators of poverty. At this juncture, it is clear that lack of basic daily needs necessary for day to day survival constitute a situation of poverty. Baratzk and Grisby (1971) point out that poverty can be a severe lack of physical and mental well-being closely associated with inadequate economic resources and consumption. Poverty as a material concept entails that people are poor because they do not have something they need or because they lack the resources to get the things they need or desire. The study found out that NGOs are also pivotal in

provision of basic essentials and are also development actors that try to engage communities and foster programs and projects essential in fighting poverty.

1.1.6 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

CHAPTER I: Introduction

CHAPTER II: Historical background to rural poverty alleviation

CHAPTER III: The role of NGOs in rural poverty alleviation in Kezi

CHAPTER IV: The future of NGOs in rural poverty alleviation in Kezi

CHAPTER V: Conclusions

CHAPTER 2 -HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO RURAL POVERTYALLEVIATION.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Up to the early millennium, poverty remains to be the greatest problem of the world. It is a greatest threat to the global population as billions of people live in an extreme poverty and they struggle daily for survival. Individuals suffer from malnutrition, inadequate health care and services, water and sanitation and are also deprived from other basic necessities or prerequisites such as education. In this essence it is clear that poverty remains the greatest challenge or threat of global society and poverty situations can be seen in countries like Indonesia, Bangladesh, India and Sub-Saharan Africa where a huge number of people live below the poverty line.

2.2 GLOBAL TRENDS ON POVERTY

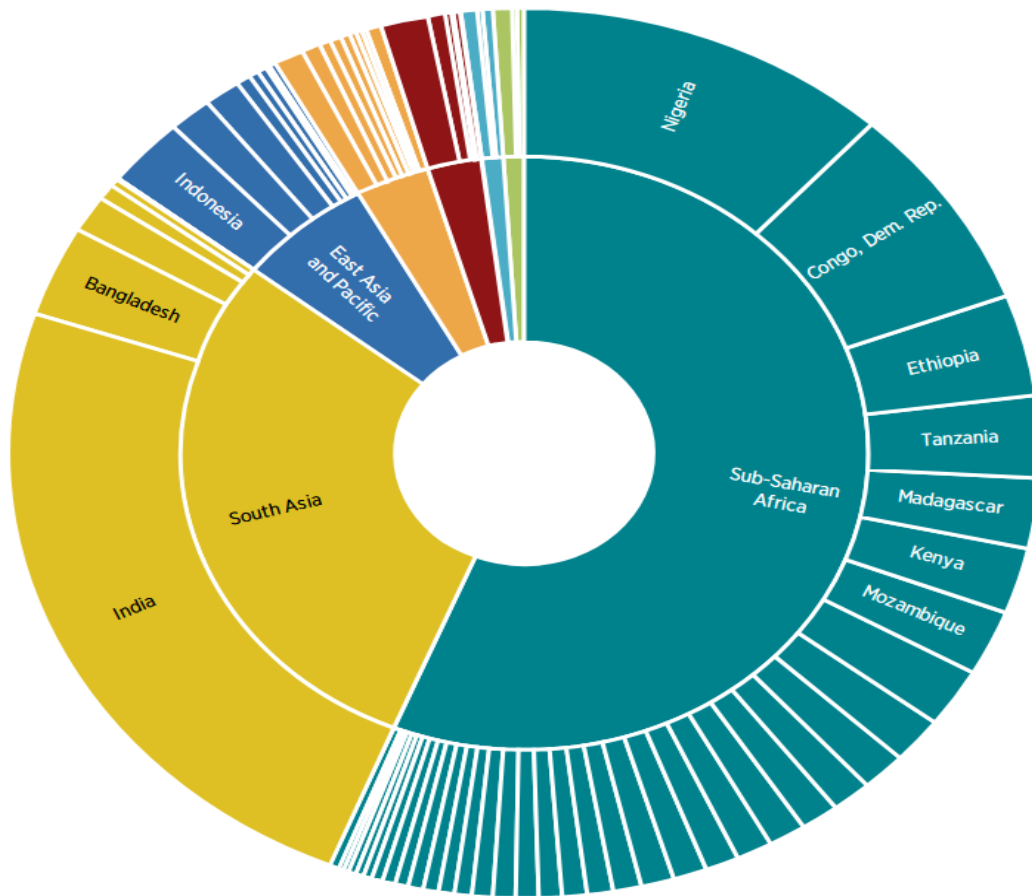
Poverty threatens millions of people globally considering the alarming number of people being affected and the grave adverse effects associated with it. The World Bank (2018) report for example suggests that India has 338 million people living in poverty and Bangladesh on 45 million indicators. The United Nations (2007) postulate that 80% of the world's population lives in poverty surviving on less than \$10 a day. Consistent with that, the United Nations Development Program (2014) in its report, asserts that nearly half of the world's population live in poverty denoting that more than 3 billion people globally live in poverty surviving on less than \$ 2.50 a day and more than 1.3 billion being trapped in extreme poverty living on less than \$1.25 a day.

Poverty is usually associated with the lack of food for consumption as one of its chief primary indicators. The World Food Program (2010) asserts that the poor are those who are hungry and are trapped in poverty because of their hunger. Millions of people worldwide lack food in their day to day life and suffer from chronic hunger. Food and Agricultural Organization and World Food Program (2014) cement to the above asserting that worldwide population of about 805 million people are in hunger without enough food to eat because they cannot afford it themselves. UNICEF (2013)

reported that in 2011 chronic malnutrition affected 165 million children under the age of 5 years resulting stunted growth and development. Hunger is perceived as the number one cause of death in the world killing more than HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined thus according to the World Food Program (2010). 1 billion children worldwide live in poverty and 22,000 die every day as a result of poverty UNICEF (2014).

More so, poverty can be manifested in basic prerequisites such lack of adequate water sources and health care. 750 million people lack adequate access to clean drinking water. Consequently, diarrhoea becomes rampant as it is associated with inadequate drinking water, sanitation and hygiene WHO and UNICEF(2014). WHO (2014) maintain that globally, an estimated number of 842,000 people die each year and approximately 2,300 deaths result from the grave effects of poverty. Preventable diseases like diarrhoea and pneumonia kill 2 million children per year who are too poor to afford proper treatment thus according to UNICEF.

Figure 1 SHOWS GLOBAL TRENDS ON POVERTY



Source: Internet, online analysis tool, World Bank, Washington DC, <http://iresearch.worldbank.org/ProvcalNet/>. Note: the inner circle is proportionate to the percentage of the total population of poor people in each region. The outer circle likewise but shows trends on the country level.

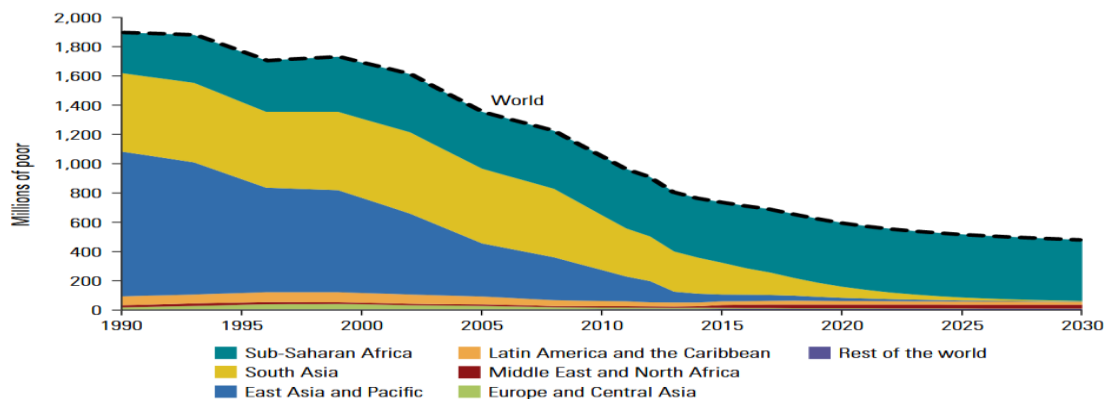
2.3 POVERTY IN THE AFRICAN CONTEXT

Similar to the global concern, Poverty in Africa is the most resistant phenomenon that brings about suffering in the third world or developing countries as pointed out by Tazoacha (2001). He continues to state that its rate of killing cannot be compared to any disease from the genesis of mankind. Africa is the world's poorest inhabited continent and poverty has brought about disheartening consequences. The devastating effects of poverty can be seen or mirrored in situations such as lack of

food, improper health care, homelessness and inadequate water sources and sanitation.

More so, poverty seems to be an alarming growing trend in Africa particularly in the Sub-Saharan Africa. According to the World Bank (2018) people living in the Sub-Saharan Africa region drastically increased from 278 million in 1990 to 413 million by the year 2015. The above scenario denotes that most of the global poor are habited in Sub-Saharan Africa in countries like Nigeria, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The majority of the people live below the poverty line and their lives being condemned to misery.

Figure 2 SHOWS POVERTY TRENDS IN AFRICA COMPARED TO OTHER CONTINENTS.



Source: Internet, available at <http://iresearch.worldbank.org/ProvcalNet/>.

The multidimensionality of poverty in Africa includes the lack of access to basic utilities such as food and water, education, health care and security. The rate of poverty is seemingly high in Africa particularly in the sub-Saharan region. World Bank (2018) alludes to the above stating that the average poverty rate of sub-Saharan Africa is approximately at 14%. The disheartening statistics prove that out of the 28 poorest countries of the world, 27 of the countries are in the Sub-Saharan Africa with a 30% and above poverty rate. Nigeria and Ethiopia for example have 51 million and 29 million people living in extreme poverty respectively. This has meant that people relatively suffer from chronic hunger, malnutrition and lack adequate water sources, sanitation and hygiene and access to health care. The culprits that have sustained and

exacerbated poverty can be argued from prolonged violent conflicts, lack of resilience and weak institutions thereby making poverty uprooting a pipe-line dream.

2.4 ZIMBABWE'S POVERTY SITUATION

Zimbabwe is no exception in the phenomenon of poverty and can be juxtaposed with the global and the regional poverty scenarios. UNICEF (2013) point out that 78 % of the people in Zimbabwe live in “absolute poverty” and about the 13, 5 million people estimated live under the food poverty line. Concurring to the World Food Programme (2010), the poor are the hungry as their hunger traps them into poverty. Many people do not have enough food to eat resulting in chronic hunger. UNICEF (2013) alarmingly point out that the food poverty line has meant that 3, 5 million children are chronically deprived of food and suffer from prolonged hunger because of lack of enough food and adequate nutrition. Hence, the extreme increase in food shortages and insecurity has brought misery to the majority of Zimbabweans particularly in households that lack minimum amount to purchase a basket of essential commodities particularly food.

Furthermore the country has been deficient in food security. The country as an agriculture-based economy means that the majority living in the rural areas earn a living largely from subsistence farming. United Nations' World Food Program (WFP) which has been a major food distributor in the country since 2002 to many Zimbabweans who depend entirely on the outside intervention pointed a critical issue concerning the country. The statement relatively issued a warning incident regarding Zimbabwe being considered to be one of seven famine “hotspots” highlighting that more than 4.1 million people needed food assistance by the summer of 2008. Hence to food security for consumption has seemed to remain an uphill task in the country.

People also lack adequate access to health care and clean drinking water. This has mostly affected millions of children in households that lack access to safe drinking water and proper health care. WHO (2013) point out that 4, 5 million children who are deprived of safe water are at risk of contagious diseases such as cholera and

typhoid. Preventable diseases such as cholera have claimed many people who are too poor to get access to proper treatment. The Zimbabwe Data Portal (2016) indicates that poverty rate took a drastic increase from 25% to 63% between 1990s and early 2000s affecting the majority who cannot make ends meet. People suffer from ill-health coupled with inadequate resources to access health care.

More so, the majority of the population in Zimbabwe suffer from the adverse implications of poverty. Individuals suffer from chronic hunger, lack of sufficient and adequate basic services such as education, health and sanitation. The under performance of the economy can be perceived as a major culprit causing suffering to the many Zimbabweans. Failed land reforms and inflation together with increased malnutrition and evaporating access to basic services such as education, health care and employment can be argued within the scholarly arena as having exacerbated levels of poverty in the country.

Zimbabwe having attained its independence in 1980 from the white minority seemed to hit the ground running. This stems from the idea that the economy was relatively stable within the first decade of independence. UNCTAD (2007) allude to the above asserting that, in the decade following independence in 1980, Zimbabwe recorded solid economic growth of approximately 2.9 % well above the Southern African regional average of 1.7%. It is of paramount importance to note that living standards during that period improved significantly with life expectancy reaching 59 years in 1990 before collapsing to 37 years in 2005 as stated by the World Bank (2007). HIV/AIDS epidemic has affected most of the country's population.

A drastic change can be however be argued during 1990, when the country had begun to experience a deepening economic collapse of unprecedented proportions. The chief culprit to the deepening economic crisis can be argued from a number of factors that include political, economic, and environmental factors. The Mugabe's ill-fated policy perceived as the main culprit in the evolution of a chaotic Zimbabwean state. Poor governance, loss of international community for investment and mismanagement of funds reflect the factors that sustained poverty.

Environmental concerns have also affected the country. May 2007 come as a vindication as the Famine Early Warning System (FEWSNET) reported that most

Southern districts had harvested relatively low yields particularly maize corn and prolonged dry spells estimated during that period. FEWS (2007) point out that protracted economic decline, exacerbated by a poor 2006-2007 harvest as well as potential future disruptions of food supply, due to price controls and eminent restrictions on basic commodity imports caused a significant decrease in Zimbabwe's food security.

The economic decline in Zimbabwe associated with a series of events has meant that individuals are caught in between the government that cannot provide enough or nothing at all for its citizens and abject poverty. The state has been relegated to a near-complete collapse and poverty has gained prominence in most literature it continues to be majorly argued as being brought about by the economic turmoil condemning the majority for a daily struggle for survival. The notion behind is that the economic turmoil associated with political and environmental uncertainties has affected the lives of the people.

The rural population in the rural areas particularly in Kezi just like any Zimbabweans have been affected by the poverty levels in the country. Overall poverty has been manifested in various aspects such as the lack of income, increase in food shortages, hunger, malnutrition, ill-health, limited or lack of access to education and health services has been the norm. Increased food shortages have led to drought resulting from collapse in food output. This stems from the idea that the country faces a regular cycle of rainfall variability affecting the majority of livelihoods that depend on rain fed agriculture. It is paramount to note that attributes of poverty are embedded in material conditions. Thus lack of basic essentials remains to be primary indicators of poverty.

NGOs have therefore been perceived as quite effective in undertaking constructive experimentation as Manor (2004) asserts that NGOs respond to the problems of ordinary people including the poor. This constructively reflects how NGOs have evolved as crucial actors to poverty alleviation as their active role have rarely gone unnoticed. NGOs play a crucial role in the ever growing scope given to poverty alleviation. This stems from the fact that the state at times fails to cater for the

welfare of its people as stated by Matenga (2001) and Ibrahim and Hulne (2010). NGOs have orientation and level of co-operation. The charitable, service and empowering orientation inform how NGOs may undertake active roles in the society and community based organizations, National NGOs and International NGOs entail the level of co-operation of concerned organization.

CHAPTER 3-THE ROLE OF NGOS IN RURAL POVERTY ALLEVIATION

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The active roles that NGOs have undertaken in this phenomenon are categorized in three broad classes or components. Firstly I chose to make use of the education sector particularly engaging schools as a mirror to contemplate and reflect the active roles that have been undertaken by various NGOs. This approach derives from the viewpoint that education is vital to the empowerment of individuals so as to escape poverty and establish an independent living. Aspects that will follow under this platform are mainly concerned with the provision of services and basic necessities.

Secondly the other division I employed at this stage is the society or the community at large. Most poverty instances are such as lack of basic needs such as food, health services, shelter, safe water sources, lack of empowerment and exclusion are mirrored in the communities. These offers a point of departure where by NGOs have made notable efforts in trying to mitigate these problems with the aim of lessening misery. This part attempt to point NGO roles such as the provision of basic necessities such as food, health services, projects and programs to the needy. The ability by the NGOs to respond to the needs of the poor has reflected their quest to eliminate poverty both in the short term and in the long run in communities.

Last but not least, the critical aspect of NGO intervention touches upon the area of health. Although the health sector is part of the community, I chose to separate it to make a distinction between health needs or necessities and some other community related needs. The Well-being approach posits that people can be considered to be in a poverty situation because poverty manifests itself not in one area but in all domains including health. This provides a basis to lay out NGO activities in the health sector that include issues to do with infrastructure, programs and projects.

3.2 NGOS AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION EFFORTS IN SCHOOLS

Education has been a key aspect for escaping poverty as skills and knowledge bring about human capabilities and capital for a self-destined and decent life. It is however a disheartening phenomenon in the education sector that there has been a considerable number of school drop outs or children who could not attend critical educational stages. This stems from a viewpoint that some family household in rural areas could not afford to pay school fees and provide all the required resources and materials. Education is regarded as the most influential tool to change the lives and destinies of individuals as such; schools have been engaged as tools and apparatuses to inculcate students with skills, knowledge and shape their capabilities to head and reach a dignified life. This section makes use of four schools, Kezi Primary school, Mangala Primary School, Donkwe-Donkwe Secondary School and Shashane High School.

3.2.1 SUPPORT AND COMPLEMENT GOVERNMENT EFFORTS

Primary education has become the basic element of NGO programs. This lies on the axiom that there is a great need for educational foundation so as to build up strong capable individuals who are independent oriented and geared to make a positive impact in their lives and their communities at large. Save the Children (SC) for example, started their work in Zimbabwe in 1983 under the strategy of supporting the ministry of primary and secondary education (MoPSE), local authorities and local NGOs in the provision of basic education. The focus was to increase access to basic education. Save the Children has helped the needy in primary schools to access education services.

The government has also made notable efforts in the years towards basic education. This is based on the viewpoint that great strides have been made to achieve universal primary needs. Marginalized children have been catered for so as to get access to basic education. Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM)

3.2.2 SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH A RANGE OF CHALLENGES

Non-governmental organizations have been engaged in supporting or assisting children with range of challenges such as school fees, uniforms, books, food and safe water sources. Save the Children (SC) for example has assisted children both in primary and secondary schools with the aim of making a difference through improving learning outcomes. The organization provided school fees payment, stationery, uniforms, consumables and safe water sources for the benefit of school children. In an interview with Moyo and Khumalo senior teachers at Kezi and Mangala primary School respectively, highlighted the holistic approach of Quality Learning Environment (QLE) concerned with children's physical, emotional and psycho-social needs aimed at improving the concentration of children in a learning environment that is conducive for improved outcomes and progress. Thus, NGOs are engaged in schools to ensure that children including the poor access education and in a conducive environment pivotal for improved and sound outcomes.

3.2.3 EDUCATION ADVOCACY

Keeping schools functional is another pivotal role undertaken by NGOs engaging schools to be functional through dialogue to return teachers and inculcate skills and knowledge to the rural school individuals. NGOs engage in active roles for education through programs anchored on strategic partnerships and advocacy activities. This is inclined towards advocating for increased national budget allocation towards education. SC has been pivotal in this area providing a platform for education for all. NGOs advocate for children particularly the poor to access education so as to attain skills and knowledge Bhebhe (2019). Consistent with Willets (2002), NGOs have the ability to fill in the gaps in society through the mobilization of resources to provide services for those who need them. Banks (2005) concurs, positing that NGOs have the unique capacity to respond to the needs of the poor. Thus, NGOs are relatively in line with the need to eradicate poverty also endorsed by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aimed at increased access to quality education so as to mitigate poverty.

3.2.4 PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

NGOs have been pivotal in assisting the poor to access education. Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) is one organization that has worked in rural schools to assist the needy. CAMFED was launched in 1983 in arrangement with CAMFED International chiefly to respond to poverty and the prevalence ratio of orphans. Camfed had partnered with thousands of rural schools providing crucial and vital help to poor children. In Shashane Adventist High School (therein after SAHS) and Donkwe-Donkwe High School (thereinafter DKHS) the organization assisted the poor providing scholarships particularly for girl child but also taking some few boys as pointed out by Bhebhe and Tachiona SAHS and DKHS teachers respectively. The organization is concerned with sound education and learning outcomes through lenses aimed to improve the school environments for the students. Thus, NGOs support the poor through the provision of financial assistance such as scholarships.

More so, Higher Life and Capernaum Trust were also instrumental in providing scholarships for the poorest children particularly girls. The holistic approach of the organizations targeted support for girls and to go to secondary and high school. SAHS and DKHS hailed the genuine efforts of these organizations in assisting children in their schooling paying school fees, providing school uniforms, and stationery. Bhebhe and Tachiona further point out that the NGOs have taken roles to ease burden for the poor families that cannot afford to pay school fees and provide essentials for their children to access education services. Therefore, NGOs have been a force to reckon in the education spaces in their quest to assist individuals to attain skills, knowledge and capabilities that are instrumental for a dignified life.

NGOs in essence have been pivotal in limiting school drop outs through its pivotal role in providing for individuals particularly girls with school necessities such as school fees, uniforms and stationery to enable them to attend school without constrains that will trigger their drop out. Over the years non-governmental organizations have been crucial in assisting the poor paying termly school fees and providing school prerequisites such as uniforms and stationery. The notable element is that NGOs have been pivotal in lessening the misery of the poor and are engaged in the educational spheres in their quest to shape capable individuals destined for greater heights. Through education, community individuals will be able to head a

self-determined independent life and NGOs attempt to provide such basis for the full realization of capabilities and opportunities.

3.2.5 FEEDING SCHEMES/PROGRAMS

Chronic hunger associated with lack of food has been the primary indicators of poverty. NGOs particularly the World Vision has been pivotal in engaging the rural community through Parent Support Groups (PSG) program aimed at providing vital feeding services to vulnerable boys and girls. World Vision for example, provided food consumables such as peas, beans, cooking oil and mealie-meal for rural schools. Khumalo, Mangala primary school teacher supported by Moyo, a Kezi primary teacher pointed out that the introduction of school meal programs ensured that the poor were provided with food to deter hunger and to enhance concentration in their school work aimed at attaining better outcomes. Similarly, the school meal programs in secondary schools (now high schools) ensured that food was provided for school children as pointed out by Bhebhe and Tachiona. Hill (2005) points out those NGOs have been instrumental in service delivery and development. McGuire (2013) concurs to the above asserting the unique capacity of NGOs in service to make a positive impact on children and enhance life skills. NGOs have also been actively engaged in the provision of safe water sources for school children.

3.2.6 INTRODUCTION OF SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION ORIENTED PROGRAMS

The non-governmental organization has been instrumental in the introduction of programs. The programs aimed at alleviating poverty have been beneficial to many of the rural dwellers. Education oriented programs that aim to support young people to gain the skills and knowledge they need for a living had a great impact to the rural communities. World Education for example, started their work in Zimbabwe in 2008, together with USAID introduced programs such as Second Chance Education Program. The program helps out-of-school children to catch up in school. The program has been crucial as it comes with an integrated package of academic skills and life skills. Rural children have benefited from the program to access education so as to acquire skills critical for building capacities. Hence the organization has been

pivotal in ensuring that children access education so as to mould a better future for them.

3.2.7 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

NGOs have also been concerned with the physical aspects in the communities. Education has been harnessed and as such building and developing schools has been an important role undertaken by NGOs. International Child Resource Institute for example has been instrumental in this field. The organization has assisted in the building of more classrooms in rural schools and also diverted its concern towards renovating of school classrooms. This has been helpful to the rural communities that had dilapidated physical school structures. ICRI also provided educational materials to rural schools such textbooks

3.2.8 PROMOTE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The lack of adequate water sources and poor hygiene has brought grave effects in the global world. This comes as an alarming phenomenon whereby contagious diseases such as cholera are usually rampant in such circumstances. UNICEF has been pivotal in the provision and promotion of adequate safe water sources such as boreholes and tapes and health education. In Mangala Village, Mangala primary school had borehole to ensure adequate water sources Health and sanitation education in four schools ensured that contagious diseases such as cholera and typhoid are deterred. Health education benefitted both students and the teachers to ensure a health living. Thus, NGOs have realized the grave consequences brought about by poverty through inadequate water sources and lack of health education and as such they have stepped up to promote health living.

In essence, NGOs have been the main service provider in the education spheres. They have been pivotal in the provision of learning materials that include books to impact children with knowledge and skills. The programs that have been introduced by the non-governmental have seen rural children being provided with food at schools which has meant that their misery and burden has been eased. Provision of

safe water sources has also reflected how NGOs have responded to the needy. It is also noteworthy to consider that NGOs have engaged the government through advocacy to ensure that education is harnessed so as to ensure better communities.

3.3 NGOS AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION EFFORTS IN RURAL VILLAGES

NGOs have been a force to reckon in the rural communities to relieve lives of the poor. Basse (2005) posits that many developing countries have turned to NGOs for their alternative nature in alleviating poverty. Kezi rural communities as such have placed high hopes on NGOs as means to lessen their misery. This stems from the idea that NGOs have played pivotal community roles aimed at mitigating poverty in the region. NGOs have been involved in provision of basic needs to the rural community such as food, safe water sources, and social health services. NGOs through their unique projects and programs they attempted to make lives of the rural dwellers better and dignified.

3.3.1 MOBILIZE RESOURCES FOR PROJECTS

In sight of the poverty situation in Kezi rural areas NGOs have attempted to mobilize resources attained through financial donations and materials to sustain projects and programs. Such mobilization of resources has indicated NGOs commitment to alleviating rural poverty through introduction of programs and projects aimed at empowering communities for a dignified life. Organization of Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP) Zenzele for example, introduced projects and programs that aimed to mitigate misery of the poor. ORAP mobilized both financial and material resources for projects such as poultry, horticulture, permaculture and vegetable gardening projects. The programs ensured that people were given expert knowledge and skills on maintaining projects to collectively benefit the communities. Such mobilization had lenses focused on income and food generation for the rural people as pointed out by four project beneficiaries in Madwaleni Village. The aim was to provide rural people with a source of food and income so as for them to meet their daily basic

prerequisites and non-governmental organizations are a force to reckon in rendering a source of food and income to the people.

3.3.2 INTRODUCE AND EXECUTE CONCRTE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

NGOs are normally regarded as having expertise and being better tipped for designing and executing concrete projects. Projects that have been undertaken by NGOs in rural communities reflect that notion as they have implemented and effected programs to hopefully assist the poor. The projects designed aimed to at being effectively inclusive to the rural people so as to benefit everyone as the project approach emphasized on the issues of participation as pointed out by permaculture project beneficiaries in Madwaleni village. The approach used by NGOs also hinges upon empowerment and granting voice to the people. Ehlekwinini and ORAP for example, worked with the rural communities through projects introductions inclusive of all the ordinary people including the poor rural dwellers. NGOs hence lobby to provide a basis for everyone to partake in the projects with the lenses focused on empowerment and granting everyone the voice to their needs.

Figure 3 SHOWS A PERMACULTURE PROJECT IN MADWALENI VILLAGE



Source: The Researcher

3.3.3PROVISION OF FOOD

Lack of basic essentials such as food has been one of the primary indicators of poverty. The rural people being dependent on rain-fed agriculture, the changing rainfall patterns have threatened food security. NGOs have been pivotal in rural areas in the short-term provision of food. World Vision for example, as a global faith-based relief has dedicated its work in rural communities working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty. In an interview with ten rural homes, the organization was pivotal in the provision food consumables such mealie-meal, sugar beans, peas and cooking oil to overcome hunger. Food security is basically affected by the change in rainfall patterns ensuring that people are unable to produce enough food for their consumption. World Food Program (WFP) has also been identified as instrumental in the provision of food services to the rural people. Therefore, NGO intervention reflects their concerned efforts towards eradicating hunger.

3.3.4PROMOTE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Ill health caused by poverty manifested in poor water sources, inadequate hygiene and sanitation is usually coupled with grave consequences such as the outbreak of

contagious diseases like cholera that can lead to misery and eventually death. NGOs have worked in rural areas with the providing health expect towards proper sanitation and hygiene. Makoba (2002) posits that NGOs are an essential factor in catering for the needs of groups in society. NGOs like USAID have promoted sanitation and hygiene through buildingof toilets for families in critical need of them. Ncube pointed out that Sikhethimpilo actively engaged people in sanitation and hygiene education services in Madwaleni village to deter outbreak and transmission of contagious diseases. Consistent with Lewis and kanji (2001) NGOs are pivotal in gap filling in the provision of services including health services. Thus, NGOs have been concerned with health living of rural individuals for a dignified.

3.3.5 PROVIDE ADEQUATE WATER SOURCES

Lack of adequate water sources have been a threat to rural people mainly being in the verge of suffering from water-borne. Poverty manifest in lack of proper water sources as water is a basic essential. With this in a bigger picturein the rural areas, NGOs attempted to mitigate the situation through borehole drilling and upright construction. OXFAM together with USAID and ORAP for example facilitated the erection of borehole in Madwaleni village. This was meant for rural communities to access much safe water sources as compared to that from unprotected village ponds and wells as pointed out by Mdluli. NGOs are therefore concerned with welfare of the people and alleviate poverty manifested in inadequate water sources.

Figure 4 SHOWS A BOREHOLE IN MADWALENI VILLAGE



Source: Mdluli (interviewee).

3.3.6 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

NGOs have also been significant in irrigation infrastructure development to ensure the provision of food surpluses for consumption and income. The development of the Valley pivot irrigation system in Spero Village ensured that people produced surpluses for consumption and income generation. Danisa, one of the farmers pointed out that through pivot system food surpluses such as sugar beans, wheat and maize was facilitated by the system and enabled people to obtain food and generate. Nyathi alluded to the above pointing out that the pivot system also complemented the government efforts such as the Command Agriculture where by the people are assisted by the government with agricultural inputs and expect services on farming to

ensure better harvest for consumption and even for sale. Nelson (2007) and OXFAM (2017) point out that development projects are crucial for collectively benefitting the human economy. Thus, NGOs have facilitated the development discourse to benefit the rural people through food and income sources.

More so, the development aspect of NGOs has been considered to be a key factor to rural poverty alleviation. This stems from the stems from the goals and projects of NGOs such as ORAP, Ehlekwinini and World Vision in rural areas that have been concerned with alleviating misery for the poor. Holmen and Jirstrom (2009) point out that NGOs are efficient channels of development through and their development activities ensure that the lives of the poor are improved. The Development of Gravity channel irrigation system bears testimony as it facilitates small scale source of income and food for the rural people. The gravity channel system facilitates horticulture activities that ensure community benefit from the produce as pointed out by Nyathi one of the system beneficiaries. Thus, projects hinge on development to ensure a dignified life for the rural people through food provision and income generation.

Figure 5 SHOWS GRAVITY IRRIGATION SYSTEM IN MANYANE VILLAGE



Source: the researcher

In essence NGOs have reflected to boast unique capacity in sustainable development and are therefore growingly recognized as crucial development actors. This is normally argued from the viewpoint that NGOs are better equipped and well positioned to respond to the needs of the communities. Consistent with Lewis (2009) he posits that NGOs have gained notable prominence in the service provision and are critical in the development assistance. Therefore the focal point noteworthy is that they have stood up as gap-fillers in service delivery and in the development aspect actively involved in the communities to cater for the needs of the poor.

3.3.7 PROVISION OF TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY ASSISTANCE IN AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

More so, provision of technical assistance and advisory skills has also been a major task undertaken by NGOs. Mr Nyathi a plot holder pointed out that NGOs have made notable efforts mostly in the agricultural activities to ensure better harvest for consumption and income generation. Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA) and ICRISAT for example have been noted in the Manyane Village as being crucial in technical advice particularly concerned with inputs and crop diversity. World Vision and Food and Agriculture Organization also supplied also inputs to the rural people in form of fertilizers and seeds to facilitate food security as pointed out by Nyathi. The aim of such NGOs clearly reflect the need to empower communities and provide a basis for meeting and satisfying their day to day basic needs such as food security

Figure 6 SHOWS AN ICRISAT SIGNAGE ASSISTING IN AGRICULTURE



Source: the researcher

3.3.8 MOBILIZE PEOPLE AND ASSIST COOPERATIVES

NGOs mobilize people for conscious-raising and normally believe that people must be mobilized to create awareness of their problems and help them to understand actions to overcome them. People must be organized so as to collectively overcome their difficulties. NGOs such as World Vision, ORAP and ICRISAT seem to hinge upon that notion as they have been crucial in mobilizing people to benefit the communities through projects and program introduction. The focus on NGO engagement in intensive community interaction to cooperatives can be argued from the view point of collectively assisting people in projects such as goat keeping and poultry projects to promote better living for individuals through food and income projection.

3.3.9 INTRODUCE AND PROMOTE INCOME AND FOOD GENERATING PROJECTS.

NGOs such as World Vision and Ehlekwinini have been actively engaged in promoting and sustaining project for income and food generation. NGOs are normally perceived to be small scale in nature and are involved in the critical areas of the society. Projects that include poultry projects for both broiler and layer birds benefited the

rural people in Spero village as they were a source of income and food. The projects aimed at empowering communities ensuring that they live a dignified life as one village known as Nasuku narrated. The focal point is that NGOs have a unique capacity in even implementing planned activities and engaging community that will ensure that people meet their essential daily needs.

Figure 7 SHOWS LAYERS PROJECT IN SPERO VILLAGE



Source: the researcher

More so, NGOs have been concerned with projects that generate food and income. The horticulture projects ensured activities for production of yields such as tomatoes for income generation. Nyathi pointed out that the tomato harvests ensure that they can sell the produce in the vegetable markets and generate income for basic prerequisites. ICRISAT has been prominent in ensuring that a better yield is obtained. Thus, NGOs have also noted income and food as the main poverty indicators and as such are working tirelessly to overcome the problem.

Figure 8 SHOWS TOMATO YIELDS IN MANYANE VILLAGE



Source: the researcher

3.3.1.0 WORKSHOP FACILITATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Imparting particular skills is also a key area that NGOs have been actively engaged in their quest to alleviate poverty. The aspect of skills touches upon issues to do with human capabilities for a dignified and independent life. NGOs such as World Vision and ORAP were prominent in this field. Through workshops held in Madwaleni Centre to benefit rural dwellers, community individuals were taught on how to manage projects for sustaining daily basic needs as pointed out by Msebele. The workshops imparted skills and knowledge concerned with collective running of beneficial projects on their own so as to benefit their households and communities at large covering the poor and the marginalized, he narrated. This provides a point of departure where by NGOs attempt to help the poor owing to the limited of government poverty reduction programs or efforts as postulated by Riddell and Robinson (1995).

Krantz (2001) points out that NGO approach seeks to go beyond the conventional definitions and approaches to poverty alleviation. In his idea social needs that include

networks, participation, empowerment and human needs that include knowledge and skills are essential for livelihoods. The sustainable approach can be indebted to Robert Chambers' school of thought in the mid-1980s who perceived the development cooperation of NGOs Kollamir and Gramper (2002). Livelihoods entail the activities that are meant to sustain day to day lives of the people. Thus NGOs have relatively engaged rural communities to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

3.3.1.1 REBUILDING BURST DAM WALLS

NGOs have been concerned with the environmental security taking active role in the reconstruction of burst dam walls caused by the overflow of water from the rains. Manyane dam in Manyane Village and Midlo dam had the walls reconstructed after being swept away by the rains. Water security is crucial for the rural community for livestock survival, subsistence agriculture, vegetable activities and other uses vital for rural people as pointed out by Nyathi. He continued to state that livestock such as cattle and goats are considerably a source of income, food and can be used for productive means such pulling ploughs and as such need water for survival. Development NGOs such as USAID have notably made an effort in the reconstruction of burst dams to reserve water for community productive activities. Therefore, NGOs assist the communities to ensure that they meet their daily needs through sustaining rural activities that hinge on water usage.

Figure 9 SHOWS RECONSTRUCTED MANYANE DAM IN MANYANE VILLAGE



Source: the researcher.

3.4 NGOS AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION EFFORTS IN HEALTH SECTOR

Health is closely associated or related with well-being. As such, under developed health can be a hindrance or a barrier for poverty alleviation and development in the country. This part attempts to provide a point of departure concerning NGO dedication to improving for the rural people. The section provides an insight on ill health facets such as denying children to access education, decreases life expectancy and transmission and transmission of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and denying mothers to safely. Thus, the NGO efforts provide a basis to unravel their roles in alleviating poverty in the rural areas.

3.4.1 ENGAGE GRASSROOT ORGANIZATIONS IN HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Grass root representation has also reflected the eagerness of NGOs to alleviate rural poverty. NGOs are notably in contact with the sectors of society which they are representing in tackling adverse grave effects of poor health. The major principle is that NGOs are receptive to the people's concerns and are placed better to understand their needs and problems. The grass root organizations in health issues are concerned with individual well-being through community health. Sikhethimpilo (we choose life)

for example, has been concerned with the health aspect of the rural people engaging Home Based Care (HBC) as an established grass root organization to provide health assistance to the poor and on a home and door to door basis as pointed out by caregivers Ncube and Khumalo. The activities extended to health education particularly in sexual intercourse aimed to eradicate the spread of sexual transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS that wreaked havoc to many people. Thus, NGOs are concerned with the welfare of the people and work towards eradicating diseases that have plagued communities.

3.4.2 PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES

NGOs have been notably pivotal in the provision of health services crucial to the poor for a dignified living and well-being. This comes as an effort owing to ill-health poverty indicator with the norm being that the poor hardly have the means to access quality health services owing to the issues like medical expenses. World Health Organization concerned with building a better and a healthier future for people all over the world has been noted in working side to side with government to ensure highest attainable level of health for all people including the poor. The organization can be noted in the provision of services particularly for expecting women to safely conceive without being obliged to medical expenses as pointed out by Khumalo and Ncube, respective nurses in Kezi and Maphisa rural clinics. NGOs therefore have lenses focused towards improved healthy living for the people.

3.4.3 SUPPORT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

UNICEF has been prominent in the support of emergency preparedness and response. This is reflected in health and hygiene promotion, disease surveillance and capacity development. This aimed to ensure that contagious diseases such as cholera are not transmitted. The organization has notably been actively engaged in working towards children's well-being in the emergence of diarrheal diseases and saving curative interventions including oral re-hydration therapy as Ncube and Khumalo narrated. NGOs intervene in cases of natural disasters to assist the poor. For example in the outbreak of Typhoid UNICEF conducted the development of a typhoid operational

response plan. The plan was led by the Inter-agency Coordination Committee on Health (IACCH) and secretariat support from WHO to fight against diarrhoeal diseases. Hence, NGOs attempt to alleviate poverty by ensuring that they combat grave diseases through their technical expert.

3.4.4 PROMOTE HEALTH AND NUTRITION

NGOs are also committed to improving health and nutrition for individuals particularly women and children in their areas. World vision and Sikhethimpilo for example have been notable in this area. World vision had the development efforts focused on community standards and emergency health needs, nutrition and HIV and AIDS programming in rural clinics. It is usually an alarming phenomenon that women and children are the most affected in communities where poverty is the culprit manifesting ill-health. NGOs also attempt to alleviate poverty in the rural areas through innovative approaches to enhance improved health living. Organization for Public Health Intervention and Development (OPHID) is a Zimbabwean NGO that develops and implements innovative approaches and strategies aimed at strengthening the provision of quality HIV prevention, care and treatment services. Khumalo and Ncube pointed out that the family centred approach of the organization ensures health care and accessible comprehensive maternal, child health and sexual as well as reproductive health. NGO efforts are therefore channelled towards the vulnerable to ensure that ill health is eradicated.

3.4.5 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT HEALTH MINISTRY.

NGOs have also been concerned with the physical health facilities. The completion of clinic in Fumugwe area is one classic example of NGO efforts that bears testimony in alleviating poverty. World vision provided building material for the completion of the outpatient department block. Villagers expressed joy that the clinic brought relief to them accessing health services close to their homesteads. NGOs have also partnered with the Ministry of Health and Child Care in the provision medical equipment and consumables as pointed out by Khumalo and Ncube. It is therefore clear that NGOs are often responsive to health needs of the people so as to promote their welfare and combat suffering from health related concerns.

3.3.6 HEALTH ADVOCACY.

Health advocacy entails the combination of individual and social actions that are designed to gain commitment, policy support, social acceptance and systems support for particular health goals. NGOs are engaged in advocacy for improved health care and facilities through engaging donor aids such as Australian Aid and UNICEF that also partner with the Ministry of Health and Child Care. Health advocacy is inclined towards a better and efficient provision of health services. Sikhethimpilo for example, was pivotal clarifying health needs and demands aimed at promoting wellness and saving lives through advocating for essential deliverance of health care and crucial medicine supplies medicine. This was focused at preventing diseases and offer health expertise and medical services for the benefit of the rural people. In this regard NGOs have therefore been committed to the integration of activities aimed at care giving, material and financial support, educational and information services and training towards health for sustainable livelihoods.

CHAPTERFOUR-THE FUTURE OF NGOS IN RURAL POVERTY ALLEVIATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

NGO emergence in alleviating poverty for the rural dwellers has been applauded as the misery of the poor at some point has been mitigated, however their existence has yielded less tangible long lasting outcomes. NGOs have been unique in their intervention given the reasons that they are well informed on the needs of the poor, staffed and funded to reach a wider coverage. NGOs also boast a unique capacity of being flexible to reach out the poor in remote and marginalized areas hardly visited or in attention of the government personnel. Their influx however presents a question of, why is poverty still being experienced despite their numerous efforts? This chapter tries to provide an insight on the factors that have seen NGOs as failing in their capacity to alleviate poverty and also hinging on the NGO-donor aid relationship.

4.2 NGO-DONOR AID RELATIONS

Aid donors have literally presented a challenge to both NGOs and the recipients in fighting poverty. This phenomenon lies on the axiom that donors are at times issuing their aid with a shrouded hidden agenda. This presents a situation of unbearable conditions to meet desired outcomes as the helping hand is concealed within the interests of the provider. Consistent with Vivian (1994) who asserts that donor narrows the avenues for innovation in developmental discourses. Development as a key aspect to long lasting poverty alleviation can be achieved through a transparent environment. There is need for the non-governmental organizations to thoroughly harness the development aspect by engaging donors to assist in the discourse.

More so, the tailoring of programs to local needs is usually a significant challenge that is faced by NGOs. Incentives are usually centred within donor-aid spheres and strategies and policies are normally formulated to meet the demands of the donor, interests and priorities. This point to a situation where we cannot merely say NGOs have failed in their efforts but are guided by the donor-aid principles. Local needs are however presented with programs that suit the interests of the donor and as such have

less impact on poverty alleviation. It would be beneficial for the NGOs to engage donors in crafting programs that do not only meet the interests of the donor. To continue blaming donor behaviour maybe it also opens up avenues for NGOs to stand on their own and be profit making organizations only in one condition, to raise funds aimed at the actions and activities that can foster eradicate poverty.

Political economy of Africa has effect in poverty eradication particularly with the international organizations being patronages of the willing powerful nation donors thereby imposing ideologies and models to the people. Donors seem to determine NGO life span as they are the ones who have the ability in funds provision. Hudock (1999) uses sarcasm in this case concurring to the above by pointing that NGOs to survive, poverty has to remain. For him they usually put their interests first before the concerns of the needy for their survival. This obviously presents an insight how NGOs have relatively achieved less or no success in poverty alleviation in the long run owing to their survival that preys on misery of the vulnerable and the poor. Poverty provides an opportunity cost for certain organizations and its presence remains a source of incentive. Korten (1990) points out those NGOs should avoid relying on one source of funding so as to achieve a level of financial independence. In this case, NGOs should adhere to their core values usually premised to the poor and the marginalized and work towards a unity of purpose for poverty eradication.

Thus NGO intervention is further argued as one that tends to align with the agenda of the donors such as political, economic and social agenda. Mohan (2002) and Kilby (2006) point out that NGOs survival is determined with their ability to keep the donors happy and as such they become literally uncountable in community activities in the empowerment of the poor and the marginalized. This presents a two way fold of dependency where by NGOs depend on donors for the aid and the poor depend on NGO intervention for their needs particularly in service delivery. NGOs however should be accountable for the people they represent and neutralize themselves in the face of the dilemma.

4.3 LACK OF MACRO LEVEL CAPACITY TO ERADICATE POVERTY

NGOs at a macro level have reflected lack of the desired capacity crucial for macro-economic growth. Macroeconomics is concerned with a holistic approach to poverty alleviation. Both national and international NGOs have not reflected influence in macro-economic growth and this remains a pressing challenge as the economy at a larger scale is thwarted to even uproot poverty. For a long lasting alleviation and uprooting of poverty macroeconomics has to be engaged. NGOs should try to engage governments at a macro-level to come up with lenses and sound capacities that will ensure macro benefits that will equally boil down to impact the poor and benefit them in a positive way.

NGO intervention has been short of capacities to change structures that perpetuate and sustain poverty. The notable phenomenon is that NGO intervention have failed to move away from a given problem intervention towards a more innovative way of addressing the root causes of poverty. NGOs are also mainly focused on poverty reduction through projects or service delivery and restrictions ignoring change of the structures conducive for poverty alleviation. Mohan (2002) and Bebbington (2005) arrive to the same assertion pointing out that NGOs are increasingly concerned with poverty reduction through projects and casting a blind eye on the structures that are usually in the centre stage of perpetuating poverty. Power (2002) concurs to the above asserting that NGOs are only concerned with narrow and specific targeted programs that can be measured ignoring the culprits of poverty. Bebbington (2008) arrive to the same assertion positing that the long lasting ingredients necessary for development such as resourcefulness, self-reliance and local initiatives necessary for poverty alleviation are not met. Poverty alleviation does not mean solving a problem at hand, but the eventual elimination or change in the structures that sustain chronic deprivation of the individuals. NGOs need to come up with sound innovative ways crucial in influencing sound structures that are critical for eradicating poverty and introduce development strategies and policies aimed at the long term uprooting of poverty.

4.4 SMALL SCALE NATURE OF NGOS

The small scale nature of NGO intervention means that a small sample is selected from a bigger population. NGO intervention is normally small scale in nature and covers a certain groups or individuals but not all the community individuals. Issues of inclusion and exclusivity mean that poverty cannot be easily uprooted in the communities. The fortunate individuals covered by the activities of NGO cannot provide for the whole community's dynamic needs and prerequisites. NGOs require a macro approach to poverty alleviation that will benefit individuals at all the community and country levels in the long run focused on poverty eradication.

4.5 SHORT TERM INTERVENTION OF NGOS

There has been a notable phenomenon where by NGOs have been concerned with short term interventions in the scope of poverty alleviation. A short term intervention such as in the provision of basic necessities like food has carried much of the NGO intervention. These interventions have proved beyond reasonable doubt that they lack lasting sustainable impact that can liberate people from their poverty situation and eradicate poverty. This has also created a situation whereby NGO intervention presents a challenge of perpetual dependency as the poor are relatively caught within the spheres of depending from NGOs for their survival. NGOs need to move away from the norm of providing short term services but make a long term commitment in fighting poverty through long lasting projects and programs and create structures and that can collectively benefit societies in the face of any challenges to desist from dependence syndrome.

4.6 POOR MONITORING TECHNIQUES

NGOs have been plagued with poor monitoring techniques and lack of supervision in particularly in projects. Activities are normally short lived and the impact becomes immeasurable. This has presented a situation whereby vital projects are no longer active to benefit communities. There is a need for organizations to promote capacities that will monitor and supervise the continuity of effected programs and projects in

the community. Thus, NGOs need to adequately guide groups in the development discourse in ensuring that projects and programs bring about a desired outcome to positively impact livelihoods of the poor.

NGOs are also notably in a dilemma of being preoccupied with their professionalism in service provision. Alexander (1998) and Ghosh (2009) point to a scenario where by NGOs falsify activities and impacts in their representation and reporting. The misrepresentation and misreporting tendency is arguably and chiefly aimed at luring positive appraisal from the donors and beneficiaries and as such they are concerned with their continuity survival. Lewis and Kanji (2009) allude to the above pointing out NGOs spend their time concerned with their profession and stepping up to requirements and interests of the donor. This usually creates a situation whereby less time is directed towards interaction between NGOs and their recipients. NGOs need to relatively allocate time to engage with the locals to possibly provide insight on their needs and means to acquire them so as to uproot poverty in the long run.

4.7 LIMITED GRASSROOT ORGANISATION PARTICIPATION AND INDEPENDENCE

.Grass roots participation is affected by the external determination and means that local agendas are rendered absolute. Abraham (2003) points to a situation of a 'participation ladder' where by participation ranges from beneficiaries being informed and involved. Joshi and Moore also assert that NGOs are concerned with participation but rather appear to do less to advance such. In essence NGOs relatively practice a top-down approach where by the programs are imposed to the poor. NGOs should provide a platform for the people to come up with their programs that they think can of benefit rather than imposing programs on them and promote Grass root capacities

CHAPTER 5-CONCLUSIONS

Various efforts have been made by NGOs in Kezi rural areas to eradicate poverty. This has been instrumental in assessing the role of NGOs in the rural poverty alleviation scope and notably the concept of NGOs in poverty alleviation is a complex one and as a result one cannot fully capture the entire essence of the phenomenon. Salamon and Anheier (1997) posit that NGOs possess a strong advocacy and are pivotal in the service provision. NGOs have been noted to play pivotal role in the service delivery in education, health, community projects and advocacy where they request for the assistance in critical areas of concern. White (1999) posits that NGOs are private sectors inclined towards meeting interests of those who are poor and underprivileged. This reflects how NGOs have been a force to reckon towards poverty eradication.

NGOs are perceived and recognized as crucial actors in poverty alleviation. Osei-Wusu et.al (2012) and Iniamagha (2015) in their existing research point out the NGO importance inclined towards poverty reduction. In this case the phenomenon of NGO intervention captures their poverty reduction approaches aimed towards relieving the lives of the poor in multifaceted aspects of the phenomenon. The study also made an effort to reflect what constitute poverty such the basic needs approach which posits that deprivation in basic prerequisites constitute to poverty. The basic needs such as income, food, health services and education are crucial in human life. Lack of certain basic needshave ensured that NGOs step as service providers and gap fillers where the government would have failed in its traditional role to cater for its citizens.

The study also reflects NGO efforts in poverty alleviation in three broad areas or categories that comprise of schools, clinics and community at large. Education has been strongly regarded as the most influential tool to impact individual lives positively. Schools have been engaged as tools and apparatuses to ensure that knowledge is passed to the recipients. Poverty has been strongly condemned in the society as some individuals cannot afford to access basic education because lack of sources and NGOs have attempted to respond to such difficulties and

obstacles. NGOs work is inclined towards assisting or supporting children with range of challenges in areas such as school fees, uniforms, books, food and safe water sources. One can conclude that the core aim of organizational work in rural community, both in primary and secondary schools is aimed at making a difference through improving learning outcomes. NGOs like CAMFED, Save the Children and Capernaum Trust have been engaged in the education sector harnessing Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with their notable efforts aimed at increased access to quality education.

The study also looks at the community efforts undertaken by NGOs as they have been considered a force to reckon in the rural communities to relieve lives of the poor. Bassey (2005) posits that many developing countries have turned to NGOs for their alternative nature in alleviating poverty. NGOs through their unique projects and programs they attempted to make lives of the rural dwellers better and dignified. In sight of the poverty situation in the rural areas NGOs have been pivotal mobilizing resources and introducing programs and projects aimed at eradicating poverty. NGOs are better tipped for designing and executing concrete projects. The project approach is centred on issues of participation, where by individuals partake to collectively benefit.

NGOs have been pivotal in rural communities in the area of short term provision of basic needs such as food, clean water sources, health services and nutrition. Poverty can be manifested in the chronic deprivation of basic necessities. The non-governmental organization had their efforts directed towards working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty. NGOs have therefore been directed towards relieving lives of the suffering through provision of basic prerequisites. NGOs have also been significant in development particularly in the agricultural discourse to ensure food security by enabling generation or production of surpluses for income and consumption. The intensive, long term community interaction and assistance to cooperatives strongly regarded as critical to poverty alleviation because of their capacity and the ability of conscious-raising and mobilization of people. NGOs normally believe that people must be mobilized and

made aware of the causes of their problems and assisted collectively to overcome their difficulties.

NGOs in rural areas seem to be driven or guided by Sustainable livelihood approach. Krantz (2001) propounded that NGO approach seeks to go beyond the conventional definitions and approaches to poverty alleviation. The approach dates back to the work of Robert Chambers in the mid-1980s who propounded the idea with the intention of development cooperation as postulated by Kollamir and Gramper (2002). Livelihoods mean activities that people evolve around to make a living and NGOs have attempted to facilitate activities to sustain livelihoods of the rural people that also foster social needs including participation, empowerment knowledge and skills.

The study also notes NGO efforts in the health sector. NGOs have been notably pivotal in the provision of health services to the ordinary people including the poor. Provision of such services is crucial to the poor for a dignified living and wellbeing. NGO's innovative approaches reflect. Organization for Public Health Intervention and Development (OPHID) has been working to develop and implement innovative approaches and strategies to strengthen the provision of quality HIV prevention, care and treatment services. NGOs through donor aid engage in the support for health facilities clarifying the demands of the people through health advocacy.

The study also recognizes NGO role in the physical aspects of health sector. This part takes into consideration the completion of rural clinic in Fumugwe Village and an outgoing patient department block to ensure that the local rural people have access to health care and services closer to their homesteads. NGOs have also been pivotal in health advocacy, engaging the government through Ministry of health and child care in the service provision to cater for the welfare of the ordinary people including the poor.

On a different footing, the study looks at the future of NGOs that reflect the possible failures of NGOs to mitigate poverty. It hinges on the NGO-donor aid relationship and also the conditions and challenges faced by certain organizations in their quest to alleviate poverty. NGOs have been unique in their intervention given that they are well informed on the needs, well staffed and equipped. Their influx however presents a question of poverty resistance despite their numerous efforts. The existing literature

point out to the scenario whereby NGOs have been concerned much with short intervention on an already existing problem ignoring developmental aspect efforts and policies that can uproot poverty. Macro level engagement has been a notable failure by NGOs resulting inability to bring about the desired capacity crucial for macro-economic growth. The holistic approach to macroeconomics is critical for the long lasting alleviation and uprooting of poverty. NGOs are therefore recommended to proffer lenses and capacities that will ensure macro benefits to equally boil down to benefit the poor.

NGOs have been concerned with short term interventions in the scope of poverty alleviation such as the provision of basic necessities such as food. This has basically meant that their lasting sustainable impact is inadequate to mitigate poverty in the long run and rather create perpetual independency. NGO scenario where by they tend to align with the agenda of their donors mean that NGOs are only concerned with narrow and specific targeted programs that can be measured as postulated by Power (2002). Thus donors are notably in a trial to have a level of certain influence on the receiving governments and NGO survival hinges on their ability to keep the donors happy and thereby representing donor interests. NGOs in such instances also tend to misreport or misrepresent their activities so as to be applauded by their donors.

This work also considers donors as the determining factor of NGO life span. Haddock (1999) in his sarcastic view points out that poverty existence is crucial for the existence of NGOs. Simply put, poverty provides an opportunity cost for certain organizations and its presence remains a source of incentives. Small scale nature of NGOs also means that their intervention is relatively micro and as such it only covers a certain groups or individuals rather than all the community individuals. The issue expands to poor monitoring techniques and lack of supervision in programs or projects which has meant that activities are normally short lived with their impact becoming immeasurable. The tailoring of programs to local needs also seem to have a top-down approach creating lacuna in the local grass root and NGO participation.

The study concludes that despite shortcomings surrounding NGO future, they have been a critical sector in the community. NGO efforts directed towards poverty alleviation have been noted. In schools, NGO efforts have been directed towards the provision of scholarships, food services, water sanitation and hygiene services and

physical infrastructure. At the community level, NGOs have been concerned with the provision of food services, project introduction and developmental efforts for sustainable livelihoods. Their significant contributions can be noted in the health sector in health service provision for the welfare of the people. Thus NGOs have remained critical sectors engaged in community welfare through its various lenses.

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