

**Community Participation as an Instrument of Development in East Akim
Municipal Assembly**

by

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DECLARATION

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

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ABSTRACT

There has been widespread concern that community participation in development has been making an important contribution to development of countries. In this regard, the then PNDC Government of Ghana in 1992 undertook measures to decentralize administration and political authority as well as engender communities' involvement in planning and implementation of development programmes in Ghana. This study sets out to examine community participation in the East Akim area, evaluate how it has helped in the provision of social amenities and the residents' sense of responsibility or ownership of projects in the area. Data was obtained from residents in various communities in the area, community leaders, and senior members of the Assembly using the non-probability sampling technique. The study revealed that community participation, as far as development is concerned, has been a good contribution to the community's development. Specifically, educational infrastructure, health facilities, and notably toilet facilities have been built. A consultative decision making approach ensued between the community members and leaders for development. Residents contributed through communal labour and to some extent felt a sense of ownership of projects, though government plays important role in ownership. Whereas findings revealed that more projects could be built through community participation, some attitudes that did not promote community participation were indiscipline and instability of the community. A few senior members revealed that community participation is very poor, at best moderate and more needs to be done to rejuvenate it. It was recommended that communal labour movements be properly constituted in the area to empower, educate and inform residents on the need for participation. The study recommended that future studies should attempt a more comprehensive study that would compare community participation

among communities to identify indicators for development and the impact community participation really has on development.

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my mother and the blessed memory of my father.

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“A journey of miles begins with a step,” so goes an adage. Without contributions from individuals and close associates, it would have been extremely difficult for me to reach this stage of academic enterprise. I therefore owe many people a debt of gratitude especially the following personalities without whom my efforts would have been in vain.

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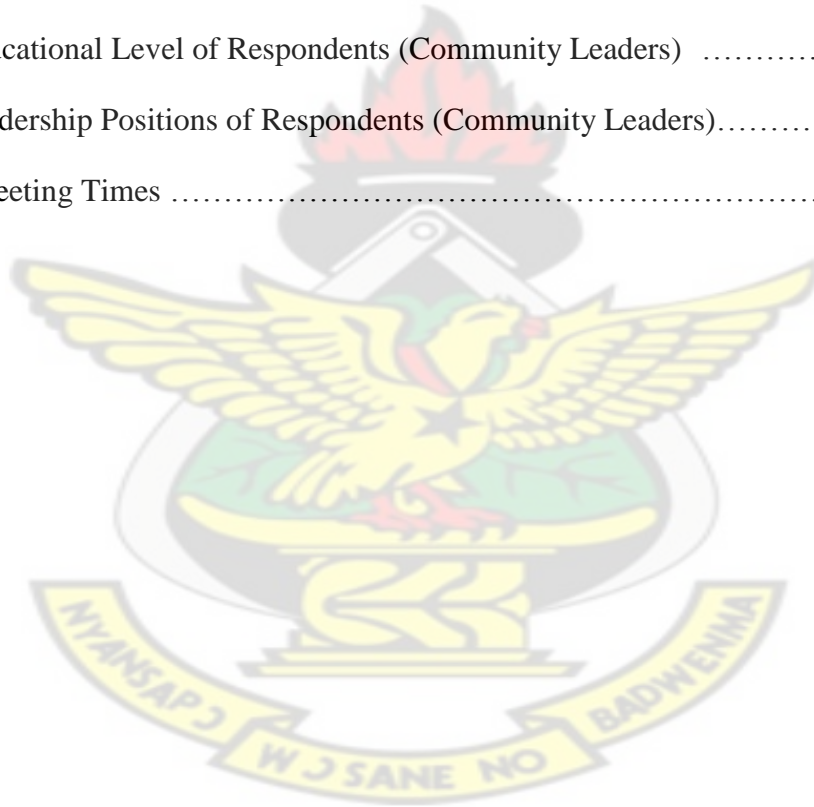
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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The concept, “Community Participation” in development process goes back to the past. In common parlance, “Community Participation” often merges with decentralization and is used interchangeably with it. Participation, however, wears many faces. When we say that one has participated in an activity or decision, to a layman, he or she has “taken part”. It connotes the direct involvement of ordinary people in local affairs.

Community participation is not an idle principle. Communities that have chosen to follow it find that not only do they derive satisfaction from the joy that comes from community involvement, but they also achieve more results, more rapidly, and with greater benefit to the community as a whole. In short, participating communities succeed better than those that only pay lip service to this important concept.

By definition, therefore, “Community Participation” is viewed as a “process of action by local people to reflect their interest or to contribute their energies and resources to the system which governs one’s or the local people’s life” (Arnstein, 1985). In this context, “Community Participation” may also be viewed as a way by which the effort of the people themselves are united with those of governmental authorities to improve the economic, social

and cultural conditions of communities, to integrate these communities' into the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national progress. A United Nations document (1981: 5) defines the term community participation as the creation of opportunities to enable all members of a community to actively contribute to and influence the development process and to share equitably in the fruits of development.

“Community Participation” is a concept that has been identified at the international, national, regional, and local levels as making a singularly important contribution to development of countries. Participation is the heart that pumps the community's life blood-its citizens-into the community's business (Reid, 2000). It is a principle so important that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has made active involvement in all aspect of its strategic plan development and implementation a condition for continued participation in its empowerment programs. But community participation is far more than a requirement. It is a condition for success. Experience has shown that communities that engage their citizens and partners deeply in the work of community development raise more resources, achieve more results, and develop in a more holistic and-ultimately-more beneficial way. In fact, many governments and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) have concluded that participation is to be promoted as a general policy apart from narrow practical considerations. The United States (US) Congress, for example, in its foreign assistance Act of 1973, endorsed participation as an essential element in United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Projects. Other donors have taken similar positions, for example, the Overseas Development Ministry (ODM) project 1975 (World Bank, 1975: 35-38). Lillian, Rubin holds that the point Four Programme for community development in the “under-

developed” nations established the major principles which guided subsequent efforts for enlarging “Community Participation” (Rubin, 1997: 16-17).

For many years, developing countries have been implementing different models of developments in order to eliminate poverty, deprivation and social disparities among groups and regions, the most widespread obstacle to social integration. These differ in their understanding not only of the correlation between economic and social factors of development but also of the role of popular participation in development.

The disappointing experiences with conventional human settlements in developing countries have convinced most governments that they alone cannot continue to be providers; instead they must act as facilitators of low income communities to provide service and facilities. Since independence and particularly after 1967, onwards, several attempts have been made by various regimes to alleviate some traces of poverty in Ghana. But concrete results achieved so far have fallen short of promises and expectations; namely the very people for whom development programmes are designed are neither involved in the planning or implementation stage(s). In the past, development took place in urban centres before extending to the rural areas as a result of the “Top-bottom approach”. The “trickle-down” approach or development and management from the top, no longer automatically serves the ordinary man or woman in the village, who does not have a voice in the issue affecting his or her life (UN, 1987). This approach has been seen to be ineffective and causing numerous problems to various towns and villages development or movements and local groupings who voluntarily embark on development projects for themselves.

To reverse this tendency of ignoring community participation in decision making and development activities, the PNDC Government undertook measures to decentralize administration and political authority as well as engender communities' involvement in planning and implementation of development programmes in Ghana. Decentralization seeks to provide avenues through which agencies engaged in development could make planning and implementation more meaningful by involving the people (Information Digest, No. 6 184: P.14).

Demand for community participation and decentralization in the provision of amenities such as health, road rehabilitation and educational facilities are no accident. They are functionally interrelated so far as development is concerned. To give strength to the capacity of rural and local government institutions and staffs (District Assemblies), within the context of decentralization programme as a means of sustaining participatory community action in the local development process, section six (6) of PNDC Law 207, 1988, assigns deliberate, legislative and executive functions to district as well as a role in the formulation of the district composite budget and the mobilization of the district resource. In poor local neighbourhoods or communities in Ghana, various groups are established through which pressing issues are channeled for redress. The leadership of these groupings works in close relation with government agencies to facilitate programmes and projects implementation. Where necessary, citizens communally involve themselves by providing labour in support of the initiated projects.

Apart from the peoples' willingness to give their labour to implement the projects, they are most of the time prepared to raise some money towards the purchase of materials for the projects. However, there is a concern that "participation of people in development has meaning for them if it helps to accelerate their involvement in community and social life as equal and active member" (UN 1987). The motive of this study is to explore community participation as an instrument of development laying the focus on East Akim.

1.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In Ghana it has been found that most of its population lives in the rural areas and a large percentage of this number do not have access to basic amenities of life, the pre-requisites of realizing the potential of human personality. Some of these facilities even when they are available are imposed on the people and because they did not take part in planning and implementing stages often does not represent their needs and the problem of disownership resurfaces. These problems normally create unenviable environment and make life unpleasant for inhabitants particularly in East Akim.

The current advocacy is therefore, towards an examination of the extent of communities' involvement in matters of government intervention which seek to meet the needs of ordinary people. The premise is that community decisions that involves citizens are more likely to be acceptable and owned by the local people. Similarly, citizens' participation provides a source of special insight, information, knowledge and experience, which contribute to the soundness of community solutions.

Though a lot has been achieved in the field of education, health, market, sanitation and many others in recent times at different places through joint effort of government, communities, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Donor agencies at the East Akim community, the problem now is to examine “Community Participation” as a means for development of the East Akim area.

1.3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study attempts to analyze the extent to which the people in the numerous communities in the study area have been involved (community participation) in development process. The specific objectives are:

1. To identify areas and extent of “Community Participation” in the development of the study area.
2. To evaluate how the “Community Participation” has helped in the provision of basic amenities such as market, public place of convenience, health, education, water and other related facilities that are communally achieved.
3. To find out the communities sense of responsibility for the sharing in the ownership of the facilities or services provided through their contributions or involvement.
4. To find out some of the impediments militating against citizens participation in issues concerning themselves.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following critical research questions are therefore raised based on the study objectives:

1. What is the extent of community participation in the development of the study area?
2. Has community participation been useful in provision of basic amenities in the study area?
3. Do the communities share a sense of ownership of the facilities acquired through their participation?
4. Are there any impediments militating against citizens involvement in issues concerning themselves?

1.5. SIGNIFICANT OF THE STUDY

The research findings helped the researcher to come out with a number of outputs which will be significant in the following ways:

Bringing out the ways in which the residents in the communities have participated in the development process of the East Akim area to enhance information about community participation. It will help to promulgate the efforts of residents in the community aimed at development through collective participation with highlights on some key projects that have been achieved.

The information about community participation of the area will help appropriate stakeholders to make recommendations and plans that will inure to the development of the communities.

This study will also add to existing knowledge in that, it will improve further the understanding of ways in which Ghana's communities have participated in their own development. It will provide significant reference material for scholarly work and research.

1.6. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to examine community participation as an instrument of development in the East Akim area.

1.7. SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The work presents a case study on the extent of community participation and how it has inured to the development of the East Akim area. As the scope of this study, various community residents in the in the East Akim area were used in the study. The components in focus were the extent of residents' participation in development, provision of amenities including shared ownership of community facilities. All other factors were excluded. The limit of this research made the research more manageable from a research point of view.

The study had limitation in that it was not able to include all communities in the area for a comprehensive study due to data collection and time constraints.

1.8. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This study is presented in five (5) chapters.

Chapter one presents the Introduction which covers the background to the study, the statement of the problem, significant of the study, research objectives, research questions, the purpose of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, and the organization of the study.

Chapter two covers the Literature Review which reviews pertinent literature and empirical studies related to the study.

Chapter three deals with the Methodology which is made up of the profile of the study area, research design, sample size, sampling procedure, data collection and data analysis.

Chapter four presents the analysis of data and discussion of findings from the research.

Chapter five provides a Summary of Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0. INTRODUCTION

This chapter reviews pertinent literature that regards development and community participation. The review highlights development as the key to improving and sustaining essential social services, especially in poor local or rural neighbourhoods. The review also touched on community encouragement to participate in the development process.

2.1. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Population pressures, changing priorities, economic competition, and demands for greater effectiveness are all affecting the course of social welfare (Bens, 1994). The utilization of nonprofessionals through citizen involvement mechanisms to address social problems has become more commonplace (Kaufman and Poulin, 1996). In their modern form, the concepts of community development and community participation took shape in the 1950s (Chowdhury, 1996). Since then, it has been perceived that community development was synonymous with community participation.

Development, a normative term, must be seen to include the “realization of the potential of human personality” (Seers, 1973: 6). According to Kabwegyere and Adholla (1978), it involves three components, growth, participation and distribution. These are values and

conditions at the same time. Development involves growth defined as an increase in certain capacities on what is to be developed. Development, therefore, may be regarded as the key to improving and sustaining essential social services, especially in poor local or rural neighbourhoods. The people of the community are encouraged to participate from the onset in identifying their needs, choosing priorities and implementing programmes of action. This helps to establish the responsibility of the community for supporting its own services.

The various past development plans in Ghana gave attention to rural areas. The main strategies adopted include the social amenity approach, the community development approach, increased agricultural production approach, regional development and growth pole approach, and the integrated rural development approach which is variously referred to as the integrated, the multi-pectoral, the multifaceted or the fully comprehensive approach, all of which purport to deal with every aspect of rural life. One or more of the approaches could be found in any Development plan (Brown 1980). However, it appears most of the development strategies in East Akim municipality have been stagnated or completely collapsed due to lack of effective involvement of people residing in the local communities.

There are several reasons which advocate citizen participation as important in developmental activities. 'Community participation' as a concept is used and interpreted in different ways in different situations. It is most often used concept in developing countries. Peoples' participation in voting was considered as community participation (Nientied et al., 1990; Oakley, 1991). Developed societies used this concept for development of their citizens and achieved unbelievable results (Gaigher, 1992).

Therefore, community participation oriented approach in the provision of communities basic amenities need to be encouraged due to its inherent potential for development in East Akim Municipal.

2.2. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT

In the late 1960s there was a series of debate around ‘participation’ (Pateman, 1970). While ‘participation’ may be a vague term its advocates often rely on two key arguments about its value. It:

- Makes for justice in decision-making-people have some say in, and influence on, collective decisions.
- Has an educative value. Through participation people learn (Beetham, 1919).

These interests became formalized in a number of United Nations reports including Popular Participation in development (1975) and Popular Participation in Decision making for Development (1975).

According to Midgley et al (1986:23) the notion of popular participation and that of community participation are interlinked. The former is concerned with broad issues of social development and the creation of opportunities for the involvement of people in the political, economic and social life of nation, ‘the later connotes the direct involvement of ordinary people in local affairs’.

According to Arnstein (1969: 216), 'citizen participation' is the redistribution of power that enables the have-nots, presently excluded from the political and economic process, to be deliberately included in the future. It is the strategy by which have-nots join in determining how information is shared, goals and policies are set, tax resources are allocated, programmes are operating and benefits like contracts and patronage are parceled out. In short, it is the means by which ordinary citizens can induce significant social reform which enables them to share in the benefit of the affluent society.

Participation of people in decision making implies their involvement in the formulation and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of strategies and policies for social integration. In addition, this process has to take account of the varying national economic and political systems of developing countries, (Commission for social development, 1985 p.64).

'Community Participation' is the active involvement of the local population in making decision concerning the planning and implementation of development projects. Community participation is understood as centering, on specific activities such as the funding of cooperative, local community development committees and literacy or health education campaigns. But community participation projects also contribute-usually in a minor way-towards the broader goals of democracy, employment or income distribution (United Nation, 1987). 'Community Participation' therefore, may be defined as an active and meaningful involvement of all segment of the population in decision making process for the formulation and implementation of development strategies and policies. These strategies and policies should aim at improving the social status of the people and their role as agents and

beneficiaries of development and human progress, thereby promoting social integration on the basis of equality (United Nations, 1987).

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (1985), in its resolution 1929 (LV III), stressed that ‘popular participation’ should be consciously promoted by governments with full recognition of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights and through innovation measures, including structural changes and institutional reforms and development, as well as through encouragement of all forms of education. Also, people’s power revolution of the Philippines has valued ‘Peoples Participation’ in national development.

There are wide ranges of tribulations which encumber and undeniably restrain the endorsement of participatory development and this often leads to surfacing of non participatory approaches. According to Gilbert (1987), people participation is a key for successful implementation of developmental projects. He agrees about the benefits which he perceives a community should get if involved properly in local development. He think that community participation initiatives are always overstated by planners and the upshot of these community projects constantly injure the allied for weak social groups in society. It’s only because of the government only enforcing the political dimensions of community participations. There are many examples in history of community development in Pakistan in which state government Politian’s impedes the participation of community.

According to Morgan (1993), participation of community at state level is always constrained by lack of resources, funds unavailability, local Politian’s, institutional infrastructure and elite interference in local development. State fails to solve the unattended social problems of

community. Rahman (1993) explored the loopholes in institutional infrastructures which inhibit the community participation in development and impede the chances for community to improve their capabilities for self help development.

In a country like Pakistan, community participation is often considered as a mean to gain more control over community resources. The main aim of current participatory development initiative is to legitimize the political system to access more control over reserved funds for communities. Many researchers doubt the role of state in provision of services towards poor peoples. They claimed that community based projects initiated by government is to support Politicians to improve their vote banks while spending the community reserved funds on community (Constantino, 1982; Gilbert et al., 1984; Morgan, 1993, Rahman,1993).

The major problems which may be failure of community participation are quantification of presented data to agencies, the way they communicate the data and biased documentation. These reports lack lesson learned during different phase of project. According to Dudley (1993), lesson learned are important part of reports as it provide theoretically basis to research practitioners and these failures become lesson for future. But it's the fact that professional experts while their reports always writes their success stories but a true pictures can only be gained from failures. No doubt that success always rewards while one learn more from failures. The professional experts lost the important information while compiling the reports results according to their own assessment (Friedman, 1993; Rahman, 1993).

There is need for studies which shows why things went wrong in each phase of project so that rectification steps would be taken to avoid those mistakes.

2.3. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA

The concept 'Community Participation' even though has a long tradition in international arena, received serious attention not long ago in Ghana. The concept is often substituted or viewed as synonymous for phrases such as 'popular participation', 'citizens' participation', as well as 'grass-root participation'. In Ghana, according to PNDC government Law 207, (1988) a District Assembly is the highest political and administrative organ in the District of operation and section 6 (3) of the Law clearly spelt out a wide level of the District Assembly's responsibility in terms of promoting development at the 'grass roots'. Aristotle argues in words, that, "the people at large should be sovereign rather than the few best..." Permeating these words is the belief in the autonomous citizen (Kasperson, E. R and Myrna, B., 1974: 14). Aristotle (1962) made it clear that participation in affairs of the state as a citizen is essential to the development and fulfillment of human personality.

At the basic economic level, participation in society can be seen as employment in a profitable occupation. At another level, it is an active involvement in decision making process with regards to plans and priorities for the development of resources and assets at the community and ultimately national level participation denotes an intimate involvement whereby people critically influence decisions about how, when and in what form they acquire benefits; it implies power transfer to the target group (Mbithi 1973: 26).

Participation is a value in the development process as well as a condition for development to take place. It has to be conscious, so that the participant is aware of the benefits of participation. He or she must have the means to participate autonomously. His or her participation has to be continual rather than episodic. It has to be instrumentally stimulus rather than response to situation (Milbrath, 1965: 10). It has to be participated, that is instrumental to the realization of the basic needs of the participants if it is to be a component of development.

Total development implies development in the political, economic, social, cultural and other dimensions of human life and also the physical, moral intellectual and cultural growth of the human person (UN Report, 1980). A few countries have tried to establish community development system on a nationwide basis. The best known example of such an approach is the Indian Community development programme, which was launched some decades ago. The basic aim of the programme is to unite the efforts of government, communities and non-governmental Organizations to bring about development at community level by establishing local councils (UN, 1987).

Decentralization in Ghana seeks as an objective to create a kind of democracy that will bring about popular participation; the participation of the populace in taking decision that affect their well being. It seeks to give local people the responsibility to manage their own affairs especially with reference to planning, implementation and evaluation of projects and programmes that will improve upon the quality of life and make this improvement sustainable (Ahwoi, 1994).

At the individual level, community participation involves both leadership and commitment from above and people's motivation from below (Stohr and Taylor 1981). To them motivation, organization, leadership and inducement make participation spontaneous. When people are motivated to address their own problem, they can organize themselves effectively to achieve their development objective, (Aforo, 1987).

2.4. REASONS FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT

The achievement of greater equity in the allocation of government resources for investment is presumed to be more likely when representativeness of a wider variety of political, social and ethnic groups participate in the decision-making (Rondinelli, Nellis and Cheema, 1983). People are likely to be more committed to revenue development project or programme if they are involved in its planning and preparation because they are more likely to be abreast with it and see it as their project. Within the mobilization framework, development projects are implemented but when mobilization is lacking development projects are hard to implement. By helping people realize their own potential, participation can make citizens feel that the decisions of the system of which they are a part are their own. This process can induce increased popular enthusiasm for the implementation of decisions (Arora, 1979).

Basic human needs are not constant phenomenon. A need-oriented strategy is primarily a matter of redistributing authority to decide on the distribution of resource, hence decentralization. The need-oriented strategy includes the provision of health, education, shelter, water and other needs to all members of community (Bruwenius M. Lundhal 1982).

Participation offers new opportunities for creative thinking and innovative planning and development. Participation is understood as giving a few influential people a voice in local decision making and planning whereas the most needy and deprived, who may be the majority of the community, are not even consulted, let alone given a part in the process (Johnston, 1982).

According to Breuer (1999), participation can help target resources more effectively and efficiently. Participation promotes efficiency, effectiveness and equity in the total process of development (Arora, 1979). Hence, involving communities in decision-making will lead to better decisions being made, which are more appropriate and more sustainable because they are owned by the people themselves (Bruer, 1999). Participation can reduce the risk of project failure and the cost of the project.

From a related dimension, the essence of community participation lies in the several ways in which writers have attempted to discuss participation. Passmore (1971) affirms that community development is a process by which the efforts of the people themselves. Hakanson (1981), Edwards and Jones (1976) concur that community development is a process in which the people of a community attempt a collaborative effort to promote what they consider to be the welling of their community. Also Edwards and Jones (1976) point out that community development should include the involvement of people in the community in an effort to attain common goals. Sharma (2000) views community development as a process by which effort of the people at grass root level is united with those of the government (Ntini, 2006).

From the foregoing discussions, the concept of participation appears as the main indicator of community development. Community development defined as a group of people in a locality initiating a social action process that seeks to empower individuals and groups of people by providing these groups with the skills they need to effect change in their own communities (Christenson, 1989). The central means of community development is "a people's programme with government aid" and not "a government programme with people's aid" that doing things for people (Kamath, 1961).

2.5. CONCLUSION

Generally, people who are informed about a community issue and are interested in resolving it feel that they can be more effective in working with group. People of the community should actively participation in community change as discussed by Cary (1970). Community participation as viewed from the above list is necessary, if for no other reason than to enable us to grasp the problem involved in pursuing the elusive goal of development. Hence, the urgent need for policy makers to encourage the concept.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0. INTRODUCTION

Leedy and Ormrod (2005) define research as a systematic process of collecting, analyzing and interpreting information (data) in order to increase our understanding of the phenomenon in which the researcher is interested. The methodology will describe the methods involved in conducting the study. This section presents the profile of the study area, research design, the population, sampling procedure and sample size, data collection, and data analysis.

3.1. PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

The East Akim District is located in the central portion of Eastern Region with a total land area of approximately 725km². The Municipality is bounded by six districts namely, Atiwa District to the North, West-Akim District to the West, Fanteakwa District to the East, New Juaben to the South, Yilo Krobo District to the South East and Suhum-Krabo-Coaltar District to the West. The district capital, Kibi, is 55km from Koforidua, 105km from Accra and 179km from Kumasi. (East Akim Medium Term Development Plan, 2013)

Demographic Characteristics

The demographic structure of the East Akim Municipality bears similarity with other rural districts in Ghana. The municipality is characterized by relatively large household sizes, high illiteracy and mortality rates among others discussed as follows:

Population Size and Growth Rates

The population of the municipality has been increasing since 1960 and this is attributable to the influx of farmers and government employees from other parts of the country. This is especially so due to the recent decentralization, which has brought with it the creation of district capital to serve as service centres or growth poles for development. Another major reason for this increasing growth trend is the natural increase in population due to high fertility rate of 5.9%. This trend of the population growth and density are shown in Appendix D.

Age-Sex Structure

To ensure that development caters for the aspirations of every section of the municipality it is important to review the age-sex distribution of the municipality in relation to the region and the nation as a whole. Appendix D indicates that the female population continues to outnumber the male population of the district.

Environmental Situation

Environmental conditions in the East Akim Municipality are continuously being influenced by human activities. Lumbering, mining and farming activities constitute the two major human activities in the municipality that have had tremendous impact on its environment. Lumbering activity for instance contributes significantly to the depletion of the municipality's forest reserves. The negative impact of this singular human activity resulted in the Okyereman's launching of a special initiative programme: "save the forest and its wetlands. The consequences of these twin human actions have resulted in the drying of the municipality's wetlands and alarming rate of forest depletion.

The municipality has a fairly large land mass. However, the built up areas within the municipality is relatively small, as compared to the developed areas. The major built up areas within the municipality are New Tafo, Kibi, Kukurantumi, Asiakwa, Asafo Anyinam, Apedwa etc. These urban/semi urban settlements of the municipality have about 32% of the municipality's total population.

Human Settlement Patterns

Landcrate and wattle and daub constitute the major housing type in the municipality making a total of about 70%. About 65% of the houses are roofed with iron sheets while the rest are roofed with asbestos, and thatch. The housing stock in the municipality is inadequate as shown by the serious accommodation problems being faced by both residents and migrant workers. This situation calls for both individuals and corporate bodies to invest in the housing sector.

Ethnicity

Five main ethnic groups exist in the municipality. These ethnic groups comprise Akyems, Krobos, Asantes, Akuapem, Northerners and Ewes. The Akyems form the majority of the ethnic tribes in the district.

Rural-Urban Distribution

The population in the district is 68% rural and 32% urban. Few towns notably Kibi, New Tafo, Old Tafo, Asiakwa, Osiem, Kukurantumi and Apedwa are urban. Most of these urban towns except New Tafo, Old Tafo and Osiem, are located along the major Accra - Kumasi trunk road and this explains the concentration of socio economic and technical infrastructure in these areas. (East Akim Medium Term Development Plan, 2013)

3.2. RESEARCH DESIGN

Collis and Hussey (2003:47) purport that there are two main research paradigms, namely: the quantitative and the qualitative. Leedy and Ormrod (2005:94) define quantitative research as research used to answer questions about relationships among measured variables with the purpose of explaining, predicting, and controlling phenomena. Also, the authors define qualitative research as typically used to answer questions about the complex nature of phenomena, often with the purpose of describing and understanding the phenomena from the participants' point of view. The present study employed both the qualitative and quantitative research paradigm to enhance answering questions about relationships among measured variables, explaining, and predicting the phenomenon under study.

The present research is a descriptive case study. According to Collis and Hussey (2003:10), a descriptive research is research which describes phenomena as they exist. It is used to identify and obtain information on the characteristics of a particular problem or issue. A variety of case studies could be identified as descriptive, explanation, evaluation or exploratory. Robson (2002) defines the purpose of a descriptive research as the portrayal of an accurate profile of persons, events, or situations; this in turn requires extensive knowledge of the research subject in order to identify appropriate aspects on which to gather information”

According to Yin (1984: 23), a case study is “an empirical enquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context”. Mitchell (2000:169) states that the “case study refers to an observer’s data, that is, the documentation of some particular

phenomenon or set of events which has been assembled with the explicit end in view of drawing theoretical conclusions from it”. The reason for utilizing the East Akim area as a case is that it allows for an in-depth, detailed understanding of a specific phenomenon within a bounded system.

3.3. POPULATION

The research population for this study comprises the all residents, community leaders, the District Assembly Members in the East Akim area. These subjects were sampled for purposes of information gathering relevant to the study to assess community participation in development at the area.

3.4. SAMPLING PROCEDURE AND SAMPLE SIZE

The researcher opted to select a representative sample out of the population of employees. Sampling is the process of selecting units from a population of interest so that by studying the sample one may fairly generalize results back to the population from which they were chosen. A sample is defined by Collis and Hussey (2003:56) as a subset of a population and should represent the main interest of the study.

The researcher selected, from the population, one or two respondents each from 50 households using the non-probability sampling technique. One of the most common types of non-probability sample is called a convenience sample not only because such samples are necessarily easy to recruit, but because the researcher uses whatever individuals are available rather than selecting from the entire population. The sample for the present study was 60

residents selected by administering questionnaires to residents who were available. By means of purposive sampling, 12 senior members of District Assembly, and 22 community leaders in the area were sampled for qualitative data. In all a total number of 94 respondents were used.

3.5. SOURCE OF DATA

The study collected data from both primary sources and secondary sources. Primary data represents information that was collected from the residents, senior members of the District Assembly, and opinion leaders in the East Akim area by questionnaires. Secondary data represents information that was obtained from books, journals and other printed materials.

3.6. DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT

The popular ways to collect primary data consist of surveys, interviews and focus groups, or questionnaire. However, the questionnaire is the most popular and was used for data collection. The questionnaire used for the study was administered to the residents and community leaders of the East Akim area whereas the interview guide were used to collect qualitative data from the selected senior members of the District Assembly.

3.7. DATA COLLECTION METHOD

Data was collection from the residents of the community in 50 households using the non-probability sampling technique. One or two residents, based on their availability at the time of data collection, were asked to fill the questionnaire designed for residents. The community leaders purposively selected (numbering 22) were contacted in their houses also with

questionnaires while the researcher interviewed the 12 senior members of the District assembly in their offices.

3.8. DATA ANALYSIS

Analyzing the data for this study involved reducing and arranging the data, synthesizing, searching for significant patterns and discovering what is important. Patton (1990) advises that in analyzing data researchers should “make the obvious obvious...and make the hidden obvious. The interpretations in this study sought to confirm what is supported by the data and relevant things that are not known but should be known. Statistical tables were used for numeric descriptions with the aid of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) computer software.



CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.0. INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the analysis of data gathered for the study and discussion. The general focus of this study is to find out the extent to which the people in the numerous communities in the study area have been involved in community development process. The study was conducted using 60 residents, 22 community leaders and 12 senior members of District Assembly within the East Akim Area. The analysis is presented in the form of descriptive statistics and discussions. The results of data analyzed have been presented in the form of tables and charts.

4.1. RESIDENTS

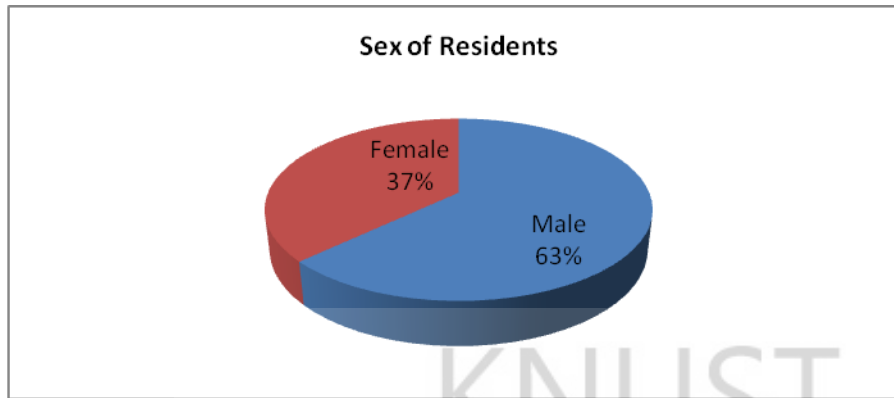
This part of the study analyzes the background information of the 60 residents involved in the study as given below.

4.1.1. Background Information

Sex

The respondent or the residents used in this study were made up more of males (63%) than females (37%). This result shows that males were available during the administration of questionnaires and for that reason were involved in the study more than females. See figure 4.1 below.

Figure 1: Sex of Respondents (Residents)



Age

Results showed that the majority of the residents (31.7%) were from 40 to 49 years of age. The mean age of 40.75 shows that residents had an average age of 41 years. However, the standard deviation of 14.3 indicates some respondents aged farther above or below 41 years. Specifically, 21.7% of the respondents were between 18 to 29 years whereas 6.7% were 70 years and above. The least number of respondents were from 60 to 69 years of age. See table below.

Table 1: Age of Respondents (Residents)

Age of Respondents	Frequency	Percent	Mean	Standard Dev.
18-29 years	13	21.7	40.75	14.3
30-39 years	15	25.0		
40-49 years	19	31.7		
50-59 years	8	13.2		
60-69 years	1	1.7		
70 years and above	4	6.7		
Total	60	100.0		

Educational Level

The majority of the residents (18.4%) had the Teachers' Certificate 'A'. This is followed by respondents who had HND/Diploma or GCE 'O'/'A' Level certificate (13.3%). As much as 11.7% had their First Degree with 5% having a Masters' Degree. There were 15% of respondents who had 'Other' education some of whom mentioned MSLC and CTC II. It can be deduced that respondents were quite literate given that only 3.3% had no formal education. See table below.

Table 2: Educational Level of the Residents

Educational Level of Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Master's Degree	3	5.0
First Degree	7	11.7
HND/Diploma	8	13.3
Teachers' Cert 'A'	11	18.4
GCE 'O'/'A' Level	8	13.3
SHS/Vocational/Technical	6	10.0
JHS	6	10.0
Other	9	15.0
No formal Education	2	3.3
Total	60	100.0

Occupation

Results showed that majority of the residents (21.7%) were Public Servants; some of whom mentioned local government staff, social worker and secretary. This was followed by Teachers (16.7%), Farmers (11.6%), and Students (8.3%). Some respondents were Business men, Carpenters, Masons or Mechanics (3% respectively). It could be noticed that majority of the respondents were engaged in one form of occupation or the other given only 4% were retired. See Table 3 below for details.

Table 3: Occupation of Respondents (Residents)

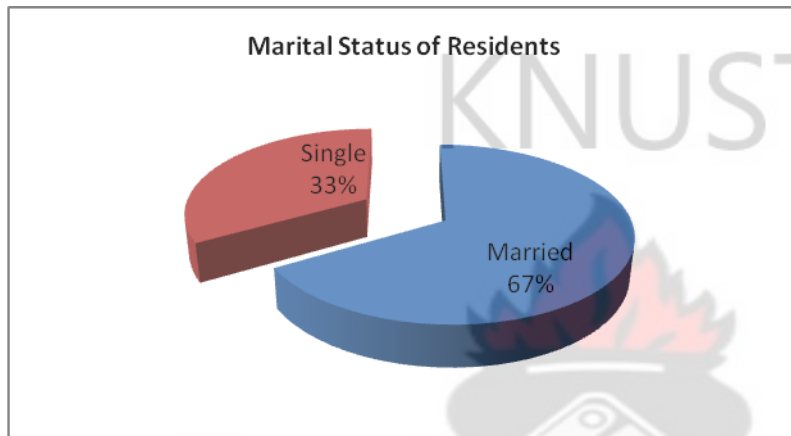
Occupation of Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Business Man	3	5.0
Carpenter	3	5.0
Mason	3	5.0
Technician	1	1.6
Mechanic	3	5.0
Farmer	7	11.6
Contractor	4	6.7
Public Servant	13	21.7
Teacher	10	16.7
Student	5	8.3
National Service Personnel	4	6.7
Retired	4	6.7
Total	60	100.0

Marital Status

The majority of the residents studied (67%) were married as against 33% who were single.

See Figure 2 below for details.

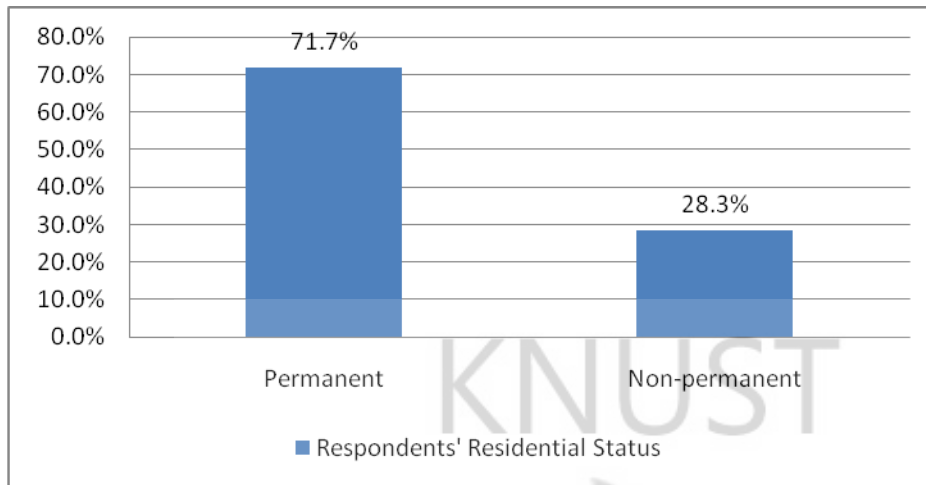
Figure 2: Marital Status (Residents)



Residential Status

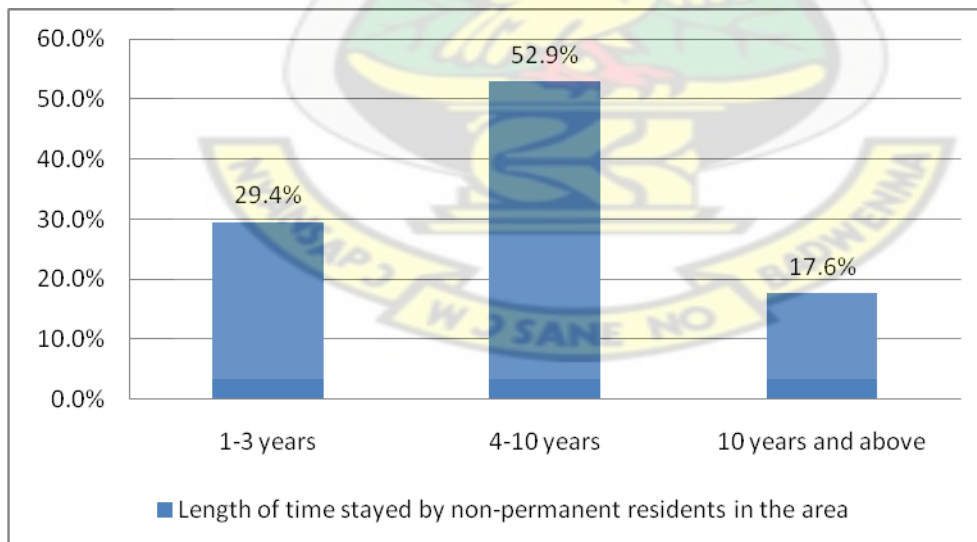
The study sought to identify respondents' residential status in the East Akim community as to show permanent residents and non-permanent residents. The results revealed that, the greater number of respondents were permanent residents in the area as against non-permanent residents. See Figure 3 on next page.

Figure 3: Residential Status



Regarding non-permanent residents, the study sought to find out how long they have stayed in the area. More than half of these respondents (52.9%) were found to have stayed in the area for 4 to 10 years. See Figure 4 below for details.

Figure 4: Length of Time inhabited by Non-permanent Residents



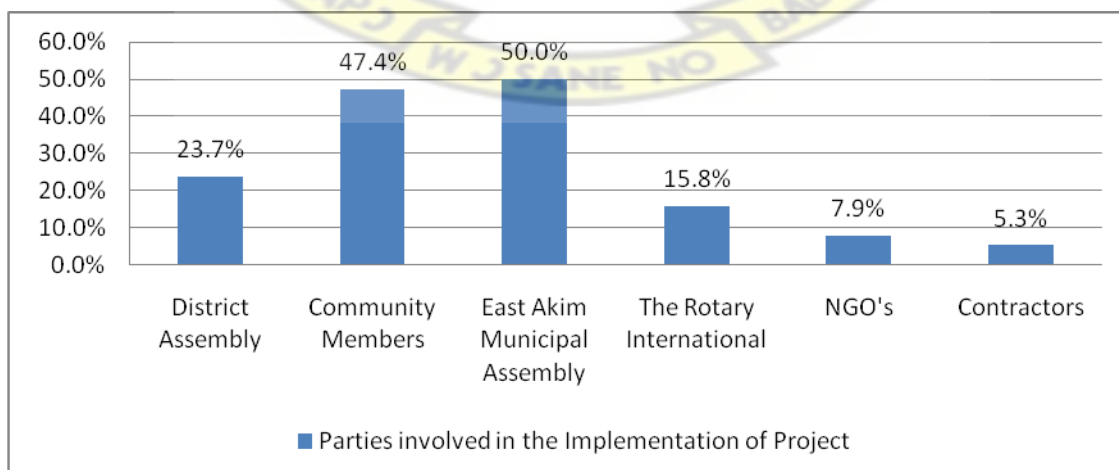
4.1.2. Community Participation in Development Projects

This part of the analysis begins with examining the residents' knowledge concerning development projects in the East Akim municipality. Then later, it proceeds to determine the dimensions of participation in development projects.

First off, residents were asked whether or not there were any development projects ongoing in their communities. Results showed that development projects were ongoing, as indicated by 75% of the residents studied. Regarding these development projects, majority of the residents (63.3%) mentioned several institutions as the parties involved in implementation.

Results showed that amidst institutions such as the District Assembly, Rotary International or other NGOs, Contractors as well as the Community, the East Akim Municipal Assembly appeared to the respondents as the main party involved in implementation of the development projects. This is followed by the Community, and then the District Assembly. See below.

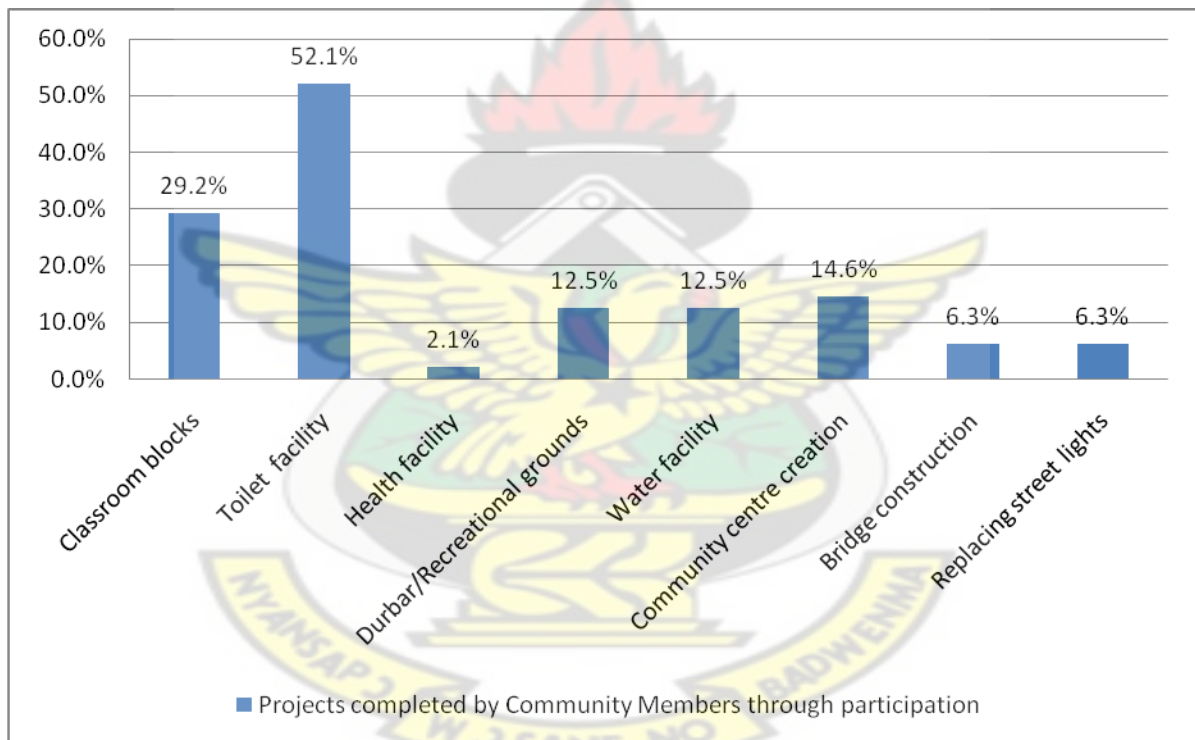
Figure 5: Parties involved in Implementation of Project



Projects completed by the Community Members

Majority of respondents (80%) indicated various projects that have been completed through community members' participation. Amidst building classrooms, health facilities, recreational grounds, water facilities, and construction of various forms, results from more than half of these respondents (52.1%) revealed that, toilet facilities were projects that were mostly completed through participation by members of the community. See figure below.

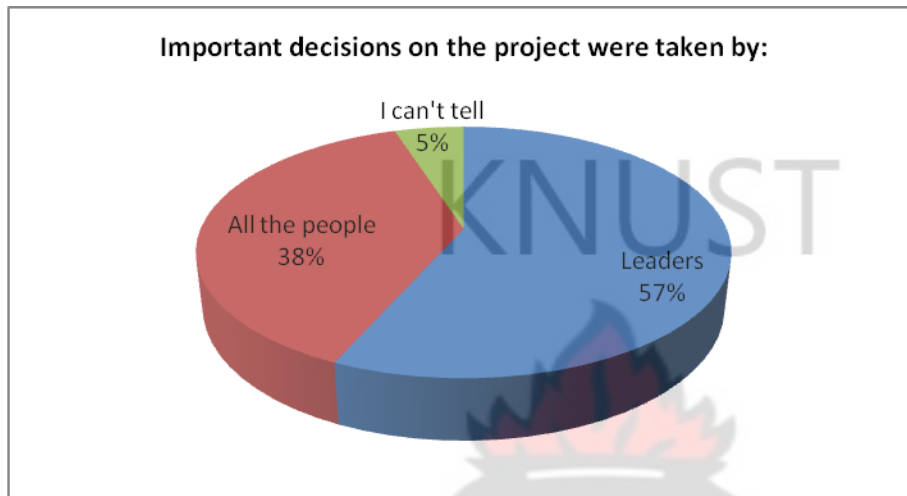
Figure 6: Projects completed by Community Members through Participation



The study further inquired who made important decisions on the project in which members of the community took part. The majority of the respondents (57%) claimed that the leaders

took the important decisions, 38% indicated important decisions were taken by all the people whereas 5% could not tell who does this. See below.

Figure 7: Important Decision Making Group



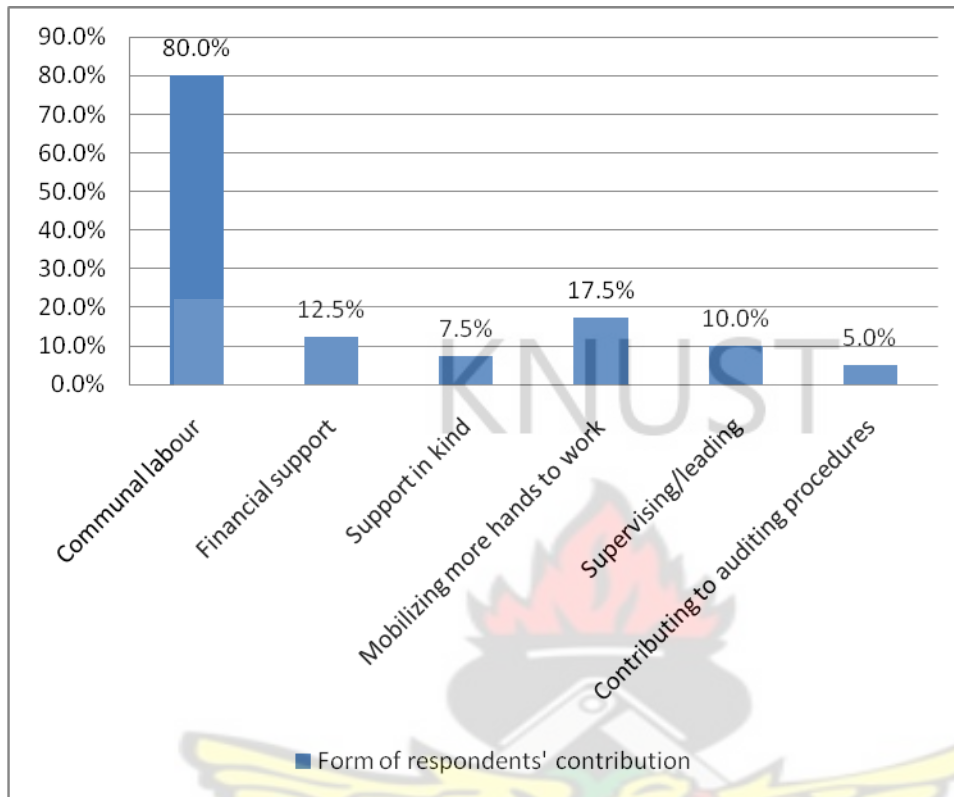
Form of Individual Contributions

To answer the question of what form individual contributions took, the residents studied were asked to indicate what form of contribution they made to the development projects.

The various responses given included communal labour, fetching water or sand, giving financial support or support in kind, mobilizing more hands to work, supervising or leading and contributing to auditing procedures.

Results however, showed that, the majority of the residents studied (80%) contributed to the development projects in the form of communal labour. Following this some respondents have considered mobilizing more hands to help with work (17.5%), while a few of them supported in other ways. See below.

Figure 8: Form of Residents' Contribution to Projects

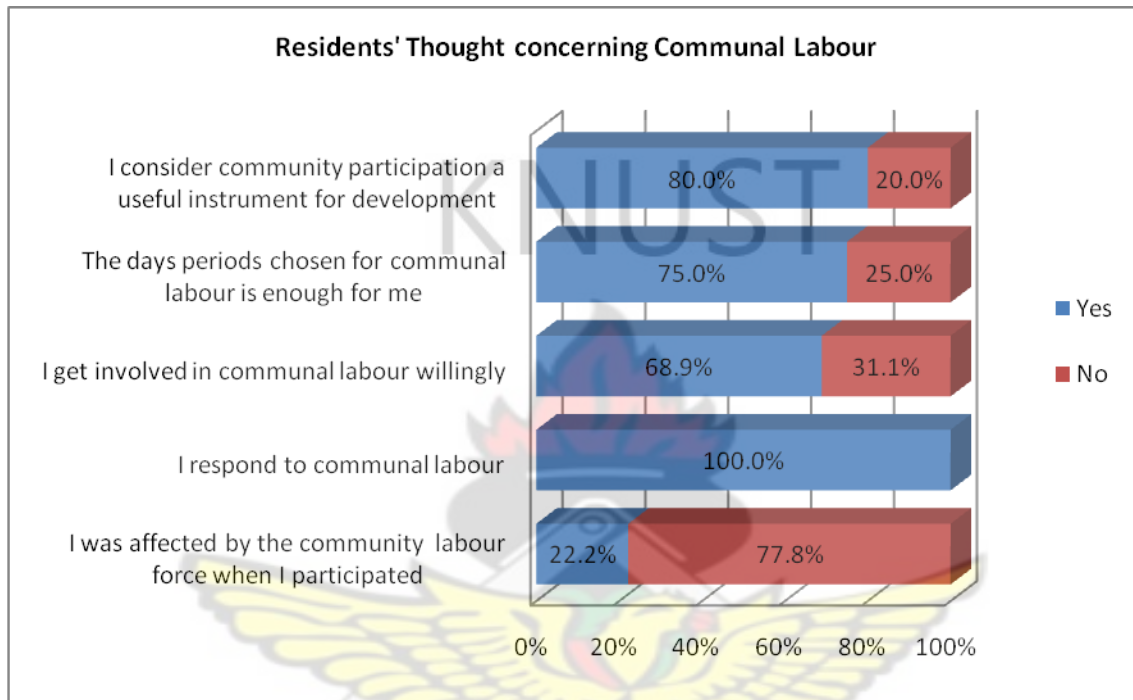


Respondents Thoughts concerning Communal Labour

A notable aspect of findings revealed that all the residents studied respond to communal labour. However, not as many respondents indicated they get involved in communal labour willingly (68%) which suggests that some respondents do so out of compulsion. The majority of respondents considered community participation a useful instrument for development (80%). The periods chosen (days, weeks, fortnight, and months) for the communal labour are enough for 75% of the respondents. A major reason was that, the period allowed to expedite development actions whiles paving way for people to attend to their private matters and businesses. There was enough evidence that most of the respondents (77.8%) were not affected by the community labour force when they participated. This may be owing to a

rather dormant or uninteresting attitude played out by the labour force which makes participation less influential. See figure below.

Figure 9: Residents' Thoughts concerning Communal Labour



The major reasons given by respondents for responding to communal labour have been itemized as follows:

- Belief in communal labour as a civic responsibility to keep the community clean.
- It is a call for true citizens to participate in development.
- It is a responsibility to respond to communal labour.
- It brings about unity of purpose.
- It is a way by which anybody can contribute to development of their town.
- By doing so we provide assistance to the government in the quest for development.

- Development could speed up through communal labour.

The major reasons given by the respondents who thought community participation was a useful instrument for development have been itemized as follow:

- Development starts with the common people.
- We give others the permission to know what is good for human kind.
- Decisions taken together are properly executed and owned by the people.
- It cuts down cost of development.
- People can decide which project they want and they can share responsibility and project ownership and protection. This is in support of Cheetham (2000) who states that “taking responsibility includes identifying the problems, developing actions, putting them into place, and following through (Cheetham, 2002). Hence, the role of participation in community development is very important. Community development cannot take place if there is no participation by the community.

Frequency of Communal Labour

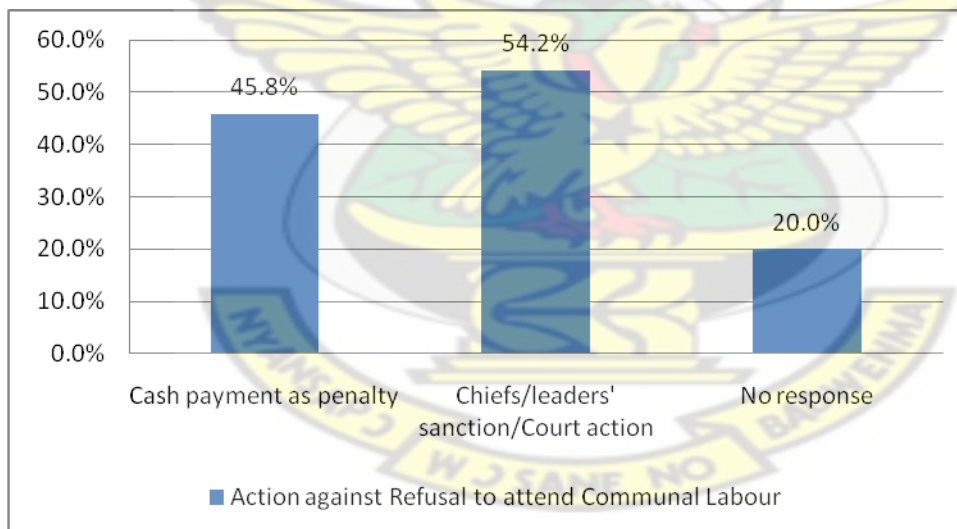
Majority of the respondents (45%) showed that communal labour is held once in a week. This is followed by once in month (21.7%). Relatively, communal labour is held frequently in the area. See Table 2 below for details.

Table 4: Frequency of Communal Labour

Educational Level of Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Once in a week	27	45.0
Once in a Month	13	21.7
Once in 2 Months	3	5.0
Once in 3 Months	2	3.3
Once in several Months	1	1.7
Depends on quantum of work	2	3.3
I don't know	12	20.0
Total	60	100.0

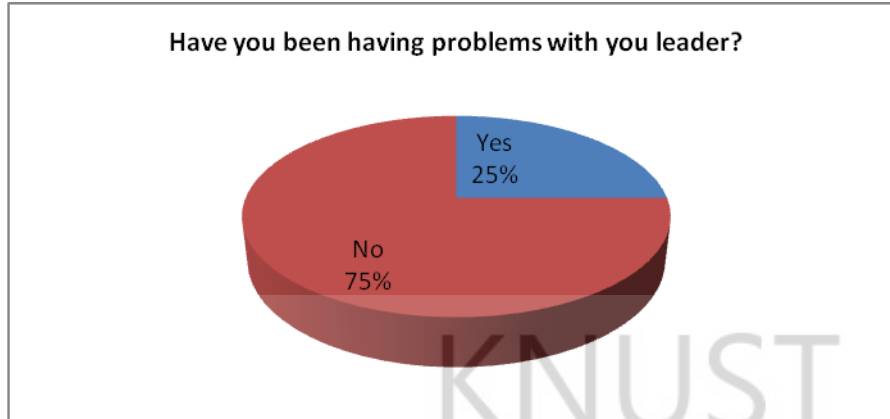
Action taken against Refusal to attend Communal Labour

The majority of respondents believed when dialogue fails, chiefs/leaders' sanction or court action is taken against refusal to attend communal labour. This is followed by cash penalties.

Figure 10: Action against Refusal to attend Communal Labour

Furthermore, the study found out whether respondents have been having problems with their leaders. Results revealed majority (75%) have encountered no problems with their leaders while 25% have had problems with leaders, notably, accountability issues. See figure below.

Figure 11: Problems with Leaders

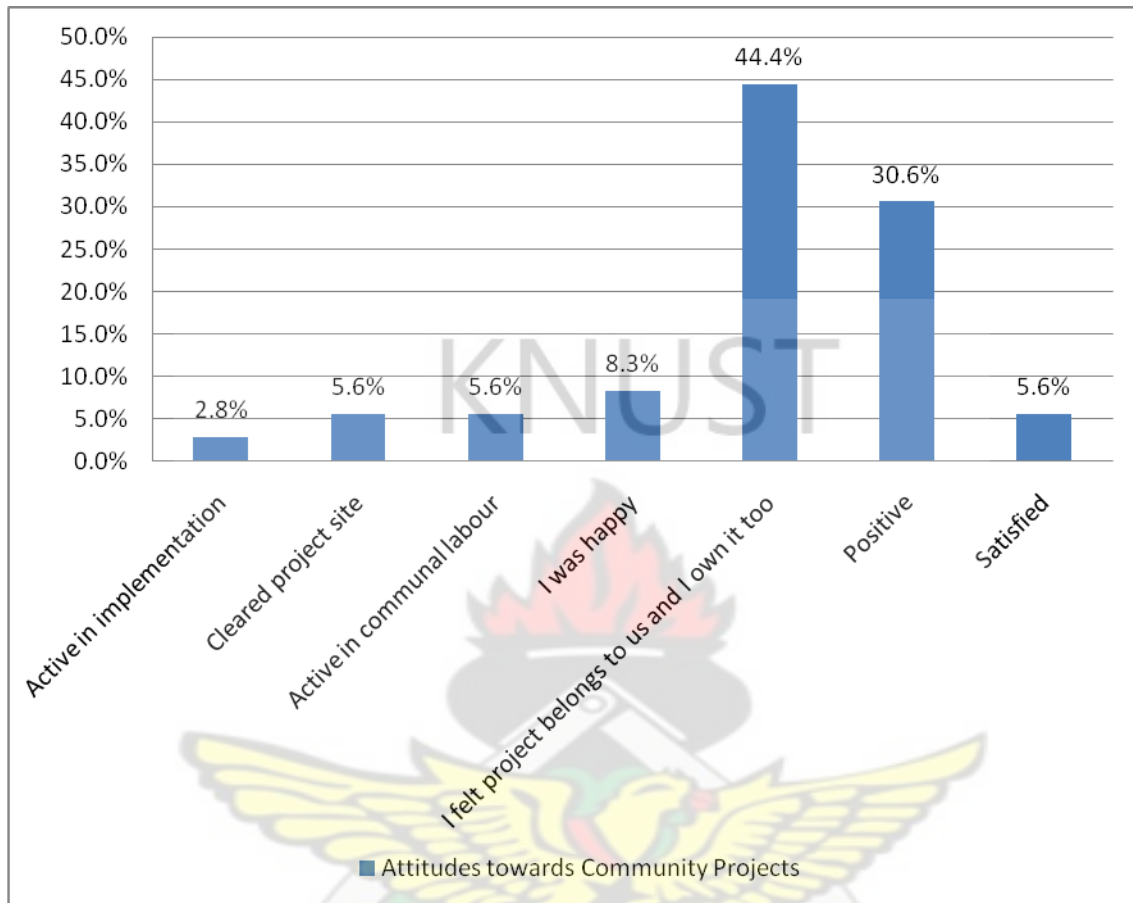


Residents' Attitude towards Community Projects

In order to find out the attitudes of residents towards community projects, their attitudes towards the projects they have contributed were elicited. Though there were 40% of the residents in the study who did not express their attitude, the majority (60%) did.

Most of the residents studied indicated that they felt the project belongs to their community and they have an ownership in it too (44.4%). Also, 30.6% of respondents felt positive about the project. Generally, good attitudes were expressed. All responses were generally complementary. See figure 11 below for details.

Figure 12: Residents' Attitudes towards Community Projects



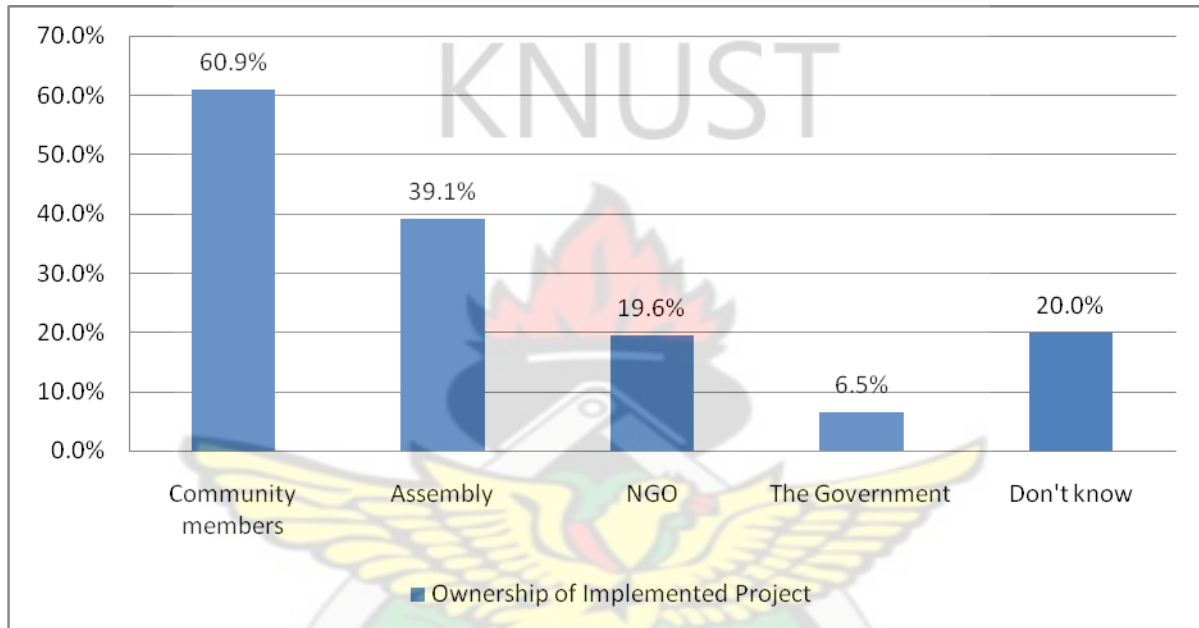
Actions of Community that were Unfavourable to Development

A number of responses revealed some actions of the community have not been favourable for participation in development. In certain cases participants have insulted their leaders, and challenged authority unreasonably. Apart from these, some residents have been extremely lazy. However, some ways suggested to restrain this is proper education, application of sanctions, peaceful dialogue, and collaboration of leaders and community members' effort.

Ownership of Project/Programme implemented through Community Involvement

The majority of the respondents (60.9%) showed that the community members are the main owners of the implemented project. The Assembly was seen as the owner by 39.1% of respondents followed by NGO's (19.6%) and the Government (6.5%). See figure 12 below.

Figure 13: Ownership of Implemented Project



4.1.3. Recommendations by Residents for Participatory Development

The respondents were asked which projects they will recommend for their community.

Most of the respondents (58.3%) indicated an educational infrastructure in the form of school buildings, Information Communication and Technology (ICT) centre, and library as commendable project for the community. This is followed by provision of portable water (30%), toilet/KVIP facility (28.3%), and reshaping of roads in the township (25%). See Table 5 below for details.

Table 5: Projects Recommendation made by Residents

Projects recommended by Respondents for their Community	Frequency	Percent
Educational Infrastructure/ICT/Library	35	58.3%
Provision of portable water	18	30.0%
Reshaping roads in township	15	25.0%
Toilet/KVIP	17	28.3%

A notable aspect of the findings revealed that, projects could be achieved through mobilization of members of the community. Though some respondents mentioned collection of taxes, help from the Municipal or District Assembly as ways to achieve projects, a contributive factor that emerged was the fact that efforts through communal labour would help achieve the projects.

In order to achieve optimum community participation in programmes, respondents pointed out that the members of the community need to be sensitized about the fact that commitment to the community is a significant way to develop the community. Likewise, a number of respondents suggested that any community depends mostly on participation in communal labour for significant development. Therefore, commitment to the progress and development of the community ought to be at heart of citizens.

There were also suggestions that communal labour should be done on weekends to promote full participation and adequate information be given on the status of work or projects. Some respondents pointed to interventions of government as to compel citizens to participate as well as imposing levies on members who fail to participate. Additionally, participation in

communal for a few respondents should be made compulsory for citizens eighteen years old and above once it is summoned.

4.2. COMMUNITY LEADERS

This part of the study analyzes the data of the 22 community leaders involved in the study as given below.

4.2.1 Background

Sex

All the community leaders in the study were males. This may be due to the fact that female leaders were in the minority and particularly because they were not available at the time of data collection.

Age

The majority of the leaders (54.5%) were aged from 40 to 49 years. The mean age of 43.00 indicates that the average age of the leaders was 43 years. However, the standard deviation of 9.00 implies some of the leaders aged farther above or below 43 years. Leaders who were from 50 to 59 or from 30 to 39 years represented 18.2% respectively. The youngest of the leaders aged from 18 to 29 years constituting 9.1%. See table below for details.

Table 6: Age of Community Leaders

Age	Frequency	Percent	Mean	Standard Dev.
18-29 years	2	9.1	43.00	9.00
30-39 years	4	18.2		
40-49 years	12	54.5		
50-59 years	4	18.2		
Total	22	100.0		
Community				

The study found that the community leaders came from various communities within the East Akim area. More community leaders came from Asafo-Akim than other communities. See Table 6 below for details.

Table 7: Leaders' Communities

Community	Frequency	Percent
Adonkwanta	1	4.5
Ahenebronom	1	4.5
Akim-Maase	3	13.6
Akwadum	1	4.5
Apedwa	1	4.5
Asafo-Akim	4	18.2
Asiakwa	3	13.6
Kibi	1	4.5
Kukurantumi	2	9.1
Old-Estate	1	4.5
Old Tafo	2	9.1
Osiem	1	4.5
Sagyimase	1	4.5
Total	22	100.0

Education

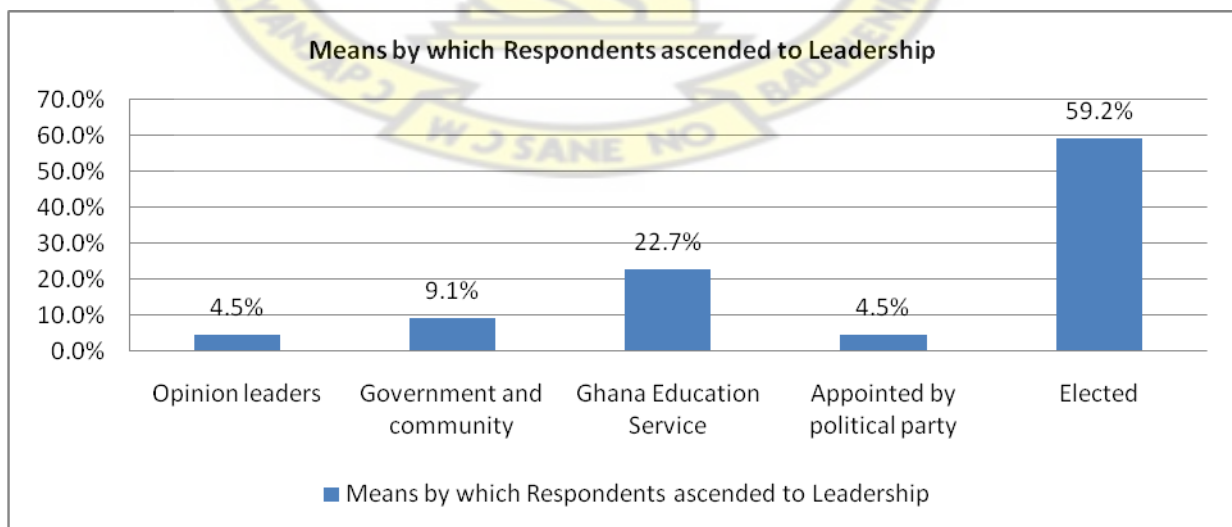
The majority of respondents (27.3%) held a Diploma certificate, followed by Secondary/Technical/Vocational graduates (18.2%), First Degree and GCE 'O'/'A' Level (13.6%). A few respondents (2%) had Master's Degree, and Teachers' Certificate 'A' respectively. See Table 7 below for details.

Table 8: Educational Level of Respondents (Community Leaders)

Educational Level	Frequency	Percent
Master's Degree	2	9.1
First Degree	3	13.6
Diploma	6	27.3
Teachers' Cert 'A'	2	9.1
GCE 'O'/'A' Level	3	13.6
Secondary/Technical/Vocational	4	18.2
Others	2	9.1
Total	22	100.0

Means by which Respondents ascended to Leadership

Majority of the respondents showed that they were put to leadership by election (59.2%). The Ghana Education Service appointed 22.7% of the leaders in the study, followed by those appointed by government and the community (9.1%), and opinion leaders or political party (4.5%). See Figure 14 below.

Figure 14: Means by which Respondents ascended to Leadership

Leadership Position

Most of the respondents (50%) were in leadership position as Assembly men. This is followed by 13.6% who were Assembly members or Head teachers respectively. About 9.1% were school proprietors and the fewest of respondents were “Amankrado”, Youth organizers or Secretaries (4.5%). See table below.

Table 9: Leadership Positions of Respondents (Community Leaders)

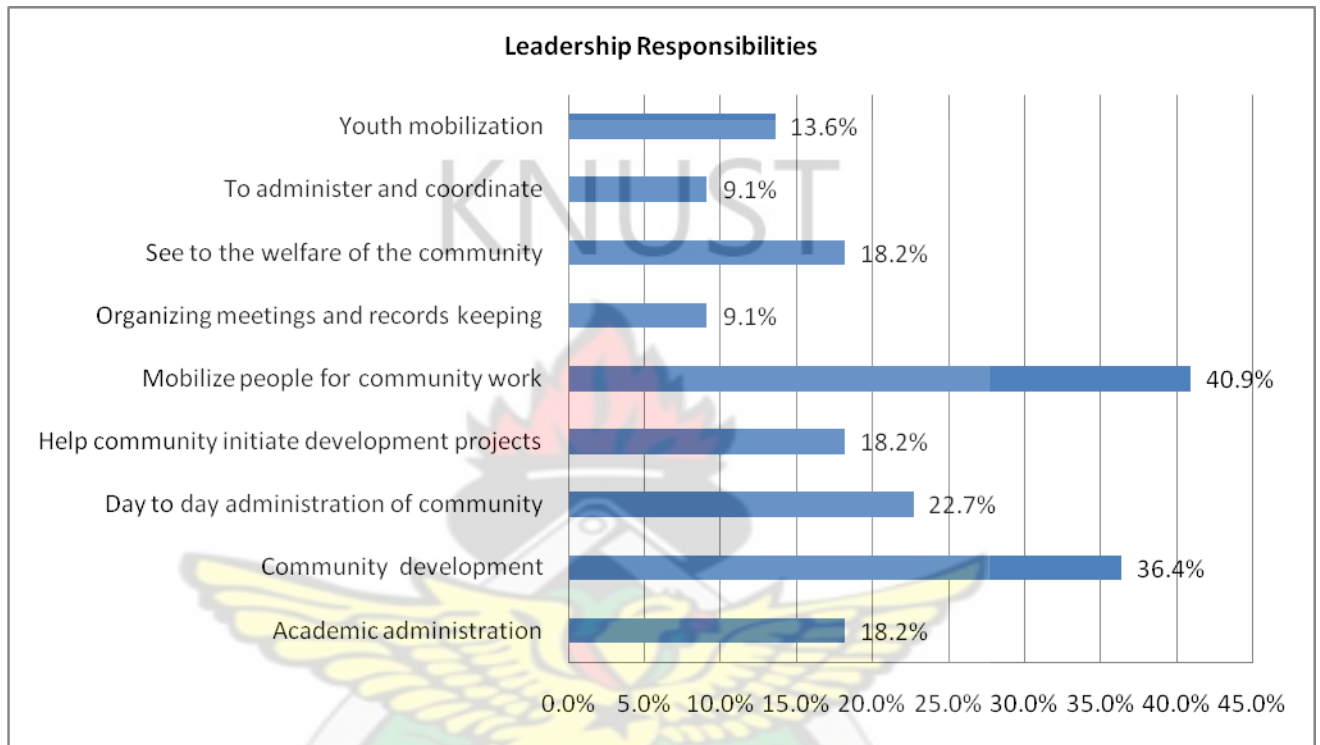
Leadership Position	Frequency	Percent
Amankrado	1	4.5
Assembly member	3	13.6
Assemblyman	11	50.0
Head teacher	3	13.6
Proprietor	2	9.1
Secretary	1	4.5
Youth Organizer	1	4.5
Total	22	100.0

4.2.2 Leadership Responsibilities

The majority of the respondents (40.9%) had the responsibility to mobilize people for community work. This is followed by respondents who were responsible for community development (36.4%), responsible for the day-to-day administration of the community (22.7%), responsible for initiation of development projects for the community or seeing to the welfare of the community (18.2%) and academic administration (18.2%). The fewest of the respondents (4.1%) indicated they were responsible for organizing meeting and keeping records or the administration and coordination activity in the community. A notable aspect of

the findings was the fact that most of the leadership was engage in mobilizing people for community work. See figure below for details.

Figure 15: Leadership Responsibilities



Furthermore, the number of times that leaders set to meet the community appeared to be once in a month, as indicated by the majority or the leaders (18.2%). About 13.6% of the leaders respectively showed they had meeting everyday or 4 times every month. See table on next page for details.

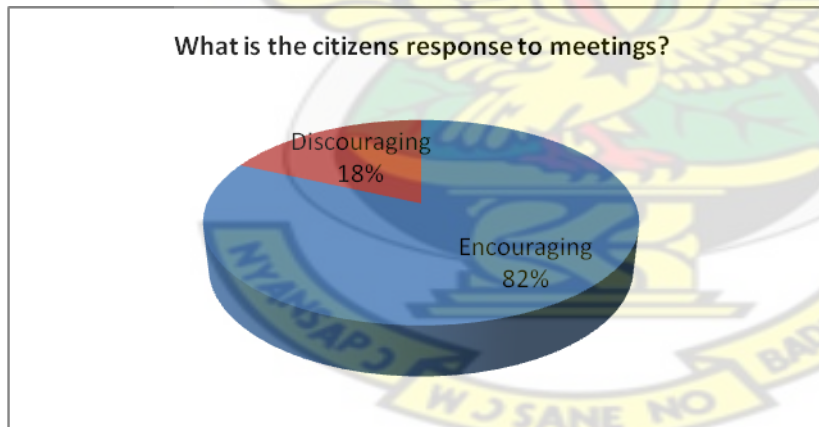
Table 10: Meeting Times

Meeting Times	Frequency	Percent
Several times	1	4.5
Every day	3	13.6
Twice in a week	1	4.5
Weekly	2	9.1
Three times a month	2	9.1
Once in a month	4	18.2
Twice in 3 months	1	4.5
Every 4 months	3	13.6
Every 6 months	1	4.5
Seldom	2	9.1
When necessary	2	9.1
Total	22	100.0

4.2.3. Citizens' Response to Meetings

The majority of the community leaders studied showed that citizens' response to meetings were encouraging (81.8%). Only 18.2% felt citizens' response were discouraging. See below.

Figure 16: Citizens' Response to Meetings



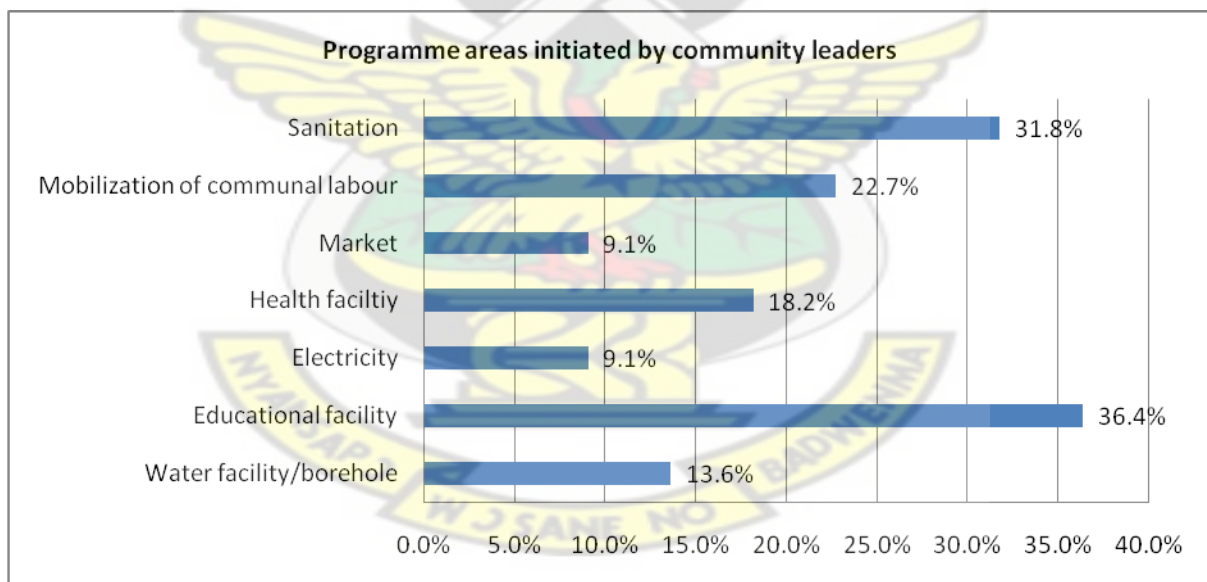
Notable reasons put forward by the leaders for citizens' encouraging response to meetings include the eagerness of citizens to build for themselves a better community and a high sense of participation in the development of the community.

However, citizens discouraging response to meetings resulted, according to few of the leaders, due to involvement in ‘galamsay’ activities, loss of trust in leaders due to bad leadership, and strong chieftaincy disputes.

4.2.4. Programmes Initiated by the Community Leaders

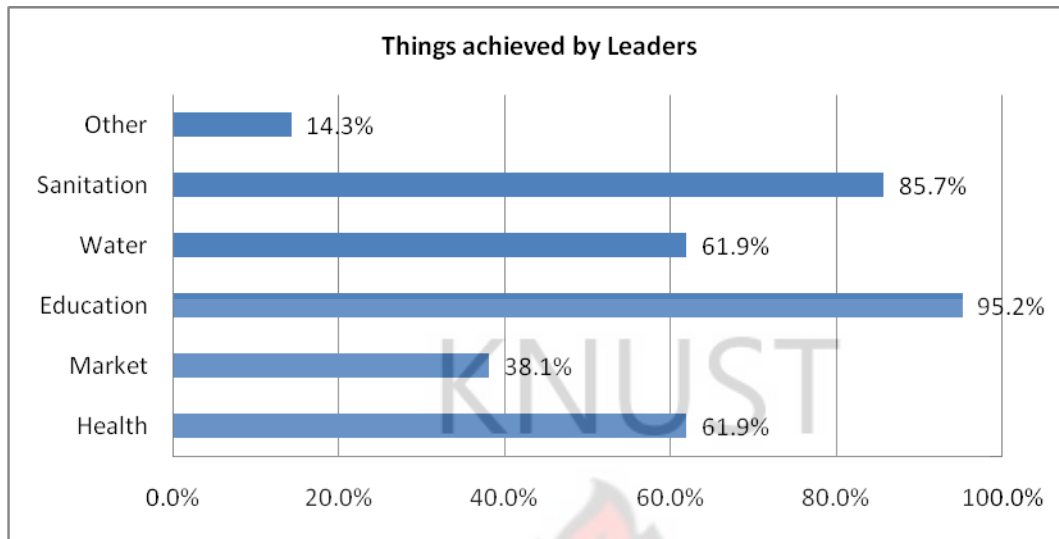
Results showed that majority of the leaders (36.4%) have initiated programmes in the area of educational facilities. As much as 31.8% had initiated sanitation programmes, followed by efforts to mobilize communal labour (22.7%), building health facility (18.2%), and water facility/borehole (13.6%). See figure below.

Figure 17: Programmes initiated by Community Leaders



Further probing revealed education as the major area that the leaders have made remarkable achievement (95.2%). This is followed by sanitation (85.7%), health and water (61.9%), and market (38.1%). See figure on next page for details.

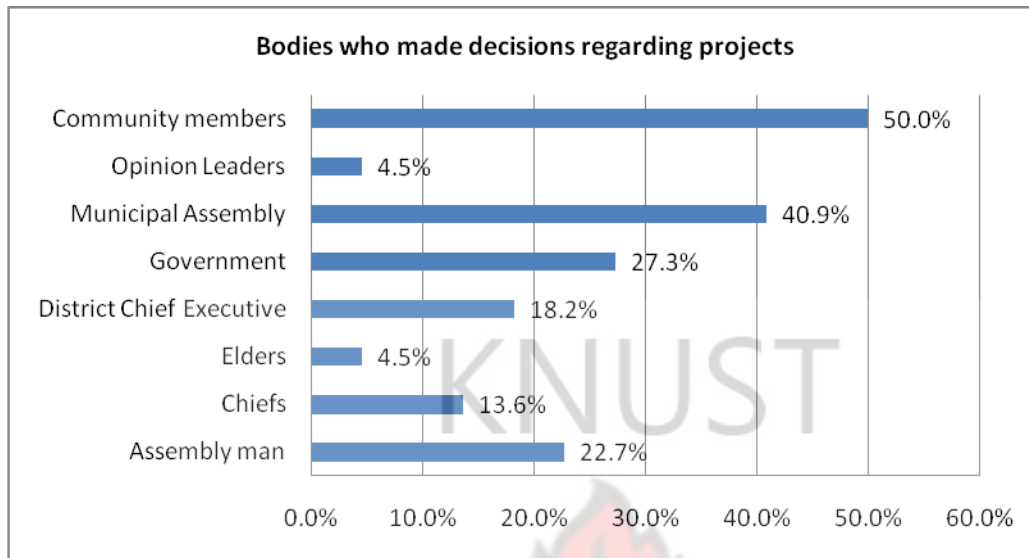
Figure 18: Achievement by Community Leaders



4.2.5. Decision Making on Projects

In a bid to find out who they were that made important decisions on projects, various members and institutions were found. For the majority of the community leaders studied (50%), the community members made important decisions on the projects. This is followed by the Municipal Assembly (40.9%), the Government (27.3%), the Assembly man (22.7%) and the District Chief Executive (18.2%) respectively. A notable aspect of the findings is the fact that the community members were seen to be those who made important decisions about project. See figure on next page for details.

Figure 19: Bodies who made Decisions regarding Projects



4.2.6. Attitudes towards Community Project

All the community leaders studied demonstrated that they exhibited positive attitudes towards community projects. Specifically, some respondents were dedicated to participation, hard work, supervision of project and communal labour whereas others motivated and encouraged people to participate, contributed money for projects, and paid attention to punctuality and influenced project performance.

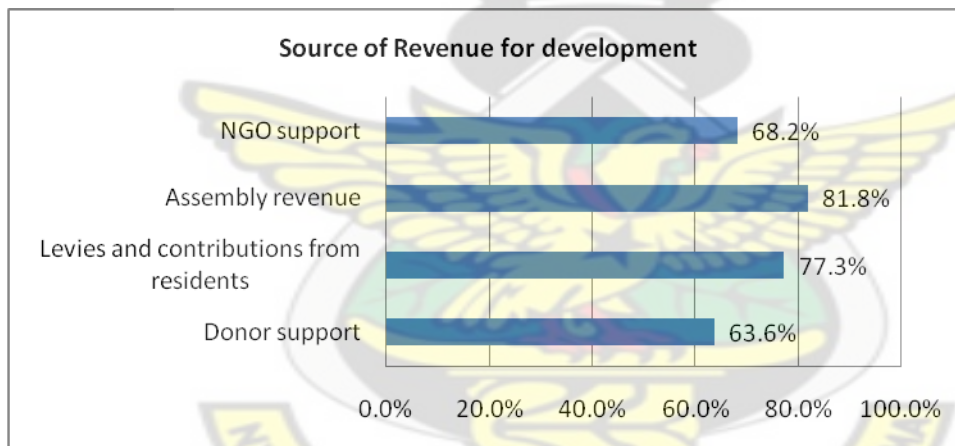
On the other hand, residents' attitude towards the leaders was seen by the majority of community leaders studied as cordial (68.2%). About 32% saw residents' attitude towards leaders as good. This implies there were favourable attitudes of residents towards the leaders. Specifically, residents believed in their community leaders' ideas and complemented their efforts, cooperated during implementation, followed instructions truthfully and faithfully, and appreciated leaders' initiatives.

Notable evidence shows that the project is owned by the Government and the community though a few respondents thought project is owned by Municipal Assembly, NGO's and other institutions that sponsored the project.

4.2.7. Sources of Revenue for Development Programmes

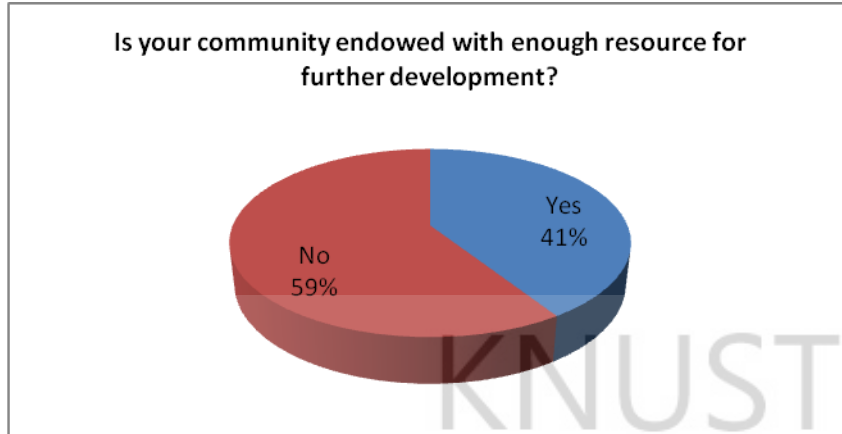
The Assembly revenue or fund appeared to the largest extent (81.8%) the source of revenue for development programmes. This is followed by levies and contributions from residents (77.3%), NGO support (68.2%) and donor support (63.6%). See figure 20 below.

Figure 20: Source of Revenue for Development



Further probing to find out whether the community itself has enough resource for development revealed that the community is not so endowed with resources. The majority of the community leaders showed that the community does not have enough resource for development. See figure below.

Figure 21: Community Endowment of Resource for Development



However, from the fewer respondents who believed the community has resources mentioned mineral deposits like gold and diamond, stones, cocoa, timber, oil palm, and human resource.

4.2.8. Problems Associated With Community Participation

The study sought for whether there were problems associated with community participation as a tool for development. Results showed from the majority of the community leaders studied that there were not much problems associated with community participation (71.4%). About 28.6% however thought there were problems.

Notable among these problems are those that have been presented in bullets below:

- Arrogance of community members;
- Chieftaincy and land conflicts;
- Indiscipline; and
- Misconception among the people that the government is solely responsible for development.

4.2.9 Recommendations by Community Leaders

Nearly all the community leaders studied recommended that community participation should be encouraged as a tool for development. Reasons for this position are that participation generates commitment to development, responsible citizens who are active for development. Citizens are able to build a good nation on their own bring about a sense of ownership and consequently protection of society value.

4.3 SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

This part of the study analyzes qualitative data of the 12 senior members of the District Assembly involved in the study as given below.

4.3.1 Background Information

The senior members of the District Assembly studied were high ranking positions such as Municipal Coordinating Director, Heads of Units, Deputy Directors, Planning Officer, Finance Officer and Accountants, Auditor, Municipal Chief Executive, and Engineers.

4.3.2 Evaluation of Community Participation in the East Akim Area

The senior members expressed remarkable view that community participation as far as development is concerned is good. Other few members indicated that community participation as far as development is concerned is very poor, at best moderate. What was outstanding from the senior members was that the development of the area could not come from community participation only and that this will be too small a contribution.

The findings above suggest that other partners will be needed in the development quest of the area. Consequently, the members mentioned that support from government, private partnership, NGOs and donor agencies will be adequate. Some respondents did show that support was given by the government, the Assembly, the Rotary Club, NGOs and other development partners. Whereas some respondents showed that community participation is not an effective tool for development, the majority of them thought community participation remains an effective development tool. Some of them believed this is because it is the people themselves who can identify need areas.

4.3.3 Problems Associated With Community Participation In East Akim

While some respondents maintained there were no problems with community participation in the East Akim area, some contested there problems associated with community participation. Specifically, the problems which exist include apathy and unwillingness of member participation, funding problems, and not attending community labour and meetings. In other examples, members felt suspicious of officials of the Assembly and refuse to accept their leadership which thwarts participation.

Further probing revealed that though there were no conflicts between the District Assembly and the communities, few responses show that there were sometimes conflicts between the District Assembly and communities. Specifically, the assembly sometimes fails in its duty to manage community facilities, and some of the leaders were perceived as hardly incorruptible.

4.3.4 Solutions to Conflict Situations in Community Participation

The findings regarding solutions to the conflicts revealed that the assembly or authorities should welcome constructive criticisms for the community members. There is also need to communicate project specifications to members; the contractual terms, all in the quest to promote transparency and accountability. There is also the need to constitute proper bodies to manage community facilities.

4.3.5 Concluding Thoughts on Community Participation

All the senior members thought that it is significantly advisable to encourage community participation in the municipality. A respondent showed that Ghana's National Development Planning Commission has chosen a bottom-up approach which gives community participation a strong foundation in the development process. Another response has it that nation building is a collective responsibility of everybody. Each person has a role to play in the decision making process and participation is the vehicle through which this can be done.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0. INTRODUCTION

This chapter is organized into three (3) parts namely, the summary of findings, conclusion, and recommendations based on the findings of the study. This study attempts to explore community participation in the context of community development; find out the extent of community participation in development and impediments militating against community participation in the East Akim area. The chapter concludes by making recommendation about community participation based on findings.

5.1. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

For the purposes achieving the objectives of the study, researcher collected primary and secondary data. Primary data was obtained from residents of the East Akim municipality, community leaders in the municipality and senior members of the Assembly. The senior members of the Assembly occupied high positions in the Assembly such as Directors, Heads of Units, various Officers, and the Municipal Chief Executive. The community leaders comprised respondents, all males; of average age 43 years; from various towns in East Akim, mostly, Asafo-Akim; and having mostly Diploma qualification. Most of them were elected serving as Assembly men. The main responsibility has been to mobilize people for community work. The residents comprised more males than females contacted in their household from various communities in the East Akim area, notably married, fairly educated,

employed, and with average age 41 years. Most of them are permanently resident in the community. Major findings are summarized as follows:

5.1.1 Extent of Community Participation in Development

Findings revealed ample information that there were development projects ongoing in the East Akim municipality. Regarding these development projects, majority of the residents mentioned several institutions such as the District Assembly, Municipal Assembly, the community and NGOs as the parties involved in their implementation.

The Municipal Assembly appeared to the residents as the main party involved in the implementation of the development projects. Likewise, findings from community leaders supported this claim stating that the Assembly revenue or fund was the largest source of revenue for development. The Assembly, on the other hand, appeared to get support for projects from government, private partnership, NGOs and other donor agencies, as revealed by senior members of the assembly. This suggests that the Assembly played a major facilitating or supporting role in the community development process.

Most of the residents met for communal labour once a week whereas the number of times that community leaders set to meet the community appeared to be once in a month, as indicated by the majority or the leaders. The majority of the community leaders studied showed that citizens' response to meetings were encouraging. Notable reasons put forward by the leaders for citizens' encouraging response to meetings include the eagerness of citizens to build for themselves a better community and a high sense of participation in the

development of the community. The periods allotted for communal labour was also seen by most residents as enough for communal labour and that this expedited development actions while paving way for people to attend to their private matters and businesses.

However, citizens' discouraging response to meetings resulted, according to few of the leaders, due to involvement in 'galamsay' activities, loss of trust in leaders due to bad leadership, and strong chieftaincy disputes. There was also evidence that most of the residents were not affected by the community labour force when they participated in communal labour which suggests a rather dormant or uninteresting attitude played out by the labour force which makes participation less influential.

5.1.2 Evaluation of Community Participation in Provision of Amenities

Findings showed that most of the residents have been involved in completed community projects mainly toilets facility through community participation. Further evidence from residents showed that those who made important decisions on the completed community projects were the leaders other than all the people in the community. The community leaders had initiated various community development programmes notable among which is education related. Aside this, they initiated steps to mobilize communal labour. However, for the majority of the community leaders studied, the community members made important decisions on the community projects. These findings suggest some level of consultative decision making approach between community leaders and the people in the community. The residents contributed their part to projects through communal labour such as fetching water

or sand and so on, and mobilizing more hands to work. The majority of the residents considered community participation as a useful instrument for development.

The main reasons given by residents for responding to communal labour were as follows:

- Belief in communal labour as a civic responsibility to keep the community clean.
- It is a call for true citizens to participate in development.
- It is a responsibility to respond to communal labour.
- It brings about unity of purpose.
- It is a way by which anybody can contribute to development of their town.
- By doing so we provide assistance to the government in the quest for development.
- Development could speed up through communal labour.

The major reasons given by the respondents who thought community participation was a useful instrument for development have been itemized as follow:

- Development starts with the common people.
- We give others the permission to know what is good for human kind.
- Decisions taken together are properly executed and owned by the people.
- It cuts down cost of development.
- People can decide which project they want and they can share in its ownership and protection.

The majority of residents believed when dialogue fails, chiefs/leaders' sanction or court action is taken against refusal to attend communal labour.

5.1.3 Communities' Sense of Responsibility for Sharing in the Ownership of Facilities or Services Provided Through Their Contributions

Findings revealed, first and foremost, that the residents encountered fewer problems with their leaders. Residents' attitudes towards their leaders was seen by the majority of community leaders studied as cordial. The community leaders exhibited positive attitudes towards residents and were dedicated to participation, hard work, supervision of project and communal labour whereas others motivated and encouraged people to participate, contributed money for projects, and paid attention to punctuality and influenced project performance. They showed that the residents believed in their ideas and complemented their efforts, cooperated during implementation, followed instructions truthfully and faithfully, and appreciated leaders' initiatives.

In certain cases, negative attitudes of residents were that they have insulted their leaders, and challenged authority unreasonably. Apart from these, some residents have been extremely lazy. But generally, residents attitudes expressed about community participation were positive and complementary. Whereas most of the residents felt the project belongs to their community and that they have a share in its ownership, the community leaders showed that the project is owned by the government and the community. The community therefore plays an important part in the ownership of projects. The community however, does not have enough resource for development neither is it endowed with much resources, according to community leaders. The few resources the community is likely to have are gold and diamond, cocoa and timber.

To the residents, commendable projects for the community, which could be achieved through community participation, include educational infrastructure such as school buildings, Information Communication and Technology (ICT) centre, and library. Though some respondents mentioned collection of taxes, help from the Municipal or District Assembly as ways to achieve projects, a contributive factor that emerged was the fact that efforts through communal labour would help achieve the projects.

5.1.4 The Impediments militating against Citizens' Participation in their own Community Development

The main problems that could thwart development through community participation were found to be:

- Arrogance of community members;
- Chieftaincy and land conflicts;
- Indiscipline; and
- Misconception among the people that the government is solely responsible for development.

Some ways suggested to restrain negative attitudes towards community participation is proper education, application of sanctions, peaceful dialogue, and collaboration of leaders and community members' effort.

5.2. CONCLUSION

There was increasing concern and very little doubt about the fact that community participation as far as development is concerned is good though there may be the need to complement it. This is because it is believed that it is the people themselves who can identify their need areas for it to be well met. This is capable of inculcating in the community a sense of ownership and protection of community property.

In the present study of the East Akim area, the Assembly played a major facilitating role in the community development process but not without the involvement of the community in the projects that were completed. Through community participation toilet facility is provided remarkably. There were some level of consultative decision making approach between leaders and the people in the community. What was notable was the fact that residents contributed their part to projects through communal labour and mobilizing more hands to work. There is commendation that educational infrastructure could be achieved through community participation.

The study reported some negative attitudes towards participation with regards to improper accountability, transparency and leadership on the part of leaders. On the other hand, community member have flouted authority and shown apathy in some case of participation. But generally, attitudes expressed about community participation were positive and complementary. Senior members in the community have advised that community participation be encourage as an instrument for development.

5.3. RECOMMENDATIONS

This part of the chapter presents the recommendations based on findings of the study. The recommendation essentially attempts to empower communal efforts at development as follows:

Firstly, there is the need for the community to properly constitute Communal Labour Movements equipping them with framework that communicates its workflow, with a well-defined hierarchy which aims at treating residents equitably and promoting unity of purpose. This should be geared towards eschewing arrogance, laziness, and indifferent feelings among community members. This should also seek to revive the communal labour system of old times for development.

Secondly, there is also the need to embark on strong educational campaigns on the need for all individuals to get involved in the building and development of their communities; the fact that individuals have needs which if not identified measured could also not be taken to meet them for mutual satisfaction.

Thirdly, the Assembly needs to inform the people about the truth that government could not solve wholly every problem for citizens. This is because of the misconception among some people that the government is solely responsible for development and which tends to relegate other important initiatives to the background.

Owing to time and data collection constraints, the researcher exercised restraint to operate within a manageable framework for this study. This research area however, requires deeper studies and there is the possibility that this study alone may not have covered all areas pertinent to the research. The researcher therefore, recommends that future studies should attempt a more comprehensive study that would compare community participation among communities to identify indicators for development and the impact community participation really has on development.



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APPENDIX 'A'

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3. Faculty: IDL
4. Degree: CEMBA
5. Date of Registration: 2010
6. Approved Date of Completion 2012
7. Title of Thesis: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AS AN INSTRUMENT OF DEVELOPMENT IN EAST AKIM MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY
8. Date of submission to Head of Department: 30-07-2012

Index No P.G 4127110

Signature of Candidate.....
(TEL. 0243207238)

B.

SUPERVISOR

1. Name of Supervisor: Dr. Smile Dzisi
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 3. Reasons (if not approved):
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C.

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APPENDIX 'B'

COMMONWEALTH EXECUTIVE MASTERS OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION
KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

INFORMED CONSENT

Hello, my name is NKETIA DONKOR and I am a post graduate student of the above mentioned institution. I am undertaking a research into the below topic and I wish to solicit your views for academic purpose.

Topic: Community Participation as an instrument of development in East Akim Municipal Assembly.

Questionnaire for Residents in the Communities: Responders are reminded that this information provided will be treated as extremely Confidential and will be used for academic purpose only (Tick where applicable and fill the spaces provided).

1. Name.....2. Sex: Male---- Female-----

2. Age.....

4. Educational Background.....

5. Occupation.....6. Marital Status: Married---- Single-----

7a. Do you stay here permanently? Yes----- No-----

7b. If no how long have you been staying here?.....

8. Is there any development project going on in your community? Yes---- No-----

Specify).....

9. What are the main parties involved in implementation of the project.....

10. What are some of the projects which have been completed by members of your community through participation?.....

11a. Who made the important decision on the project in which everyone took part?

(a). Myself----- (b) Leader----- (c) All the people----- (d) Do not know-----

11b. What form of contribution did you make?.....

11c. What is your attitude towards community project you have contributed during implementation?

11d. Who owns a project/program that has been implemented through community involvement?

.....

12a. Were you affected by the Community labour force you participated? Yes/No

12b. If yes, how were you affected?.....

.....

13a. Do you agree to use particular type of labour for developing your Community

Yes----- No-----

13b. If no, who decided the type of labour to be used?.....

.....

14a. Do you respond to communal labour? Yes----- No-----

14b. Give

reason(s).....

.....

15. Are you forced to be involved in communal labour or it is willingly? (a) Forced-----

(b) Willingly-----

16. What action is taken against a citizen who refused to attend communal labour?

.....

.....

17. How many times do you attend communal labour in a week/Fortnight/month/year.....

18. Do you think the days in the week/fortnight/month/year, chosen for the communal labour is enough? Yes---- No-----

19b. Give reason (s)

.....

.....

20a. Do you consider community participation as useful instrument for development?

Yes----- No-----

20b. Give reason(s)

.....

.....

.....

21a. Is there any other way one can avoid communal labour but at the same time contribute to community development? Yes----- No-----

21b. Specify.....

22. What encourage(s) you to contribute to Community projects/programs?.....

23a. Have you been facing problems with your leader? Yes----- No-----

23b. If yes, what are some of the problems and causes?.....

23c. What other actions of some of the residents do you think are unfavourable to development efforts?.....

23d. In your view, how can these problems be solved?.....

24a. What project would you recommend for your Community and why?.....

24b. How do you think this can be achieved?.....

25. What advice will you give to the people to participate in Community Programme?

26. Any suggestion(s) with regard to community participation?.....

APPENDIX 'C'

COMMONWEALTH EXECUTIVE MASTERS OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION
KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

INFORMED CONSENT

Hello, my name is NKETIA DONKOR and I am a post graduate student of the above mentioned institution. I am undertaking a research into the below topic and I wish to solicit your views for academic purpose.

Topic: Community Participation as an instrument of development in East Akim Municipal Assembly.

Questionnaire for Leaders in the Communities: Responders are reminded that this information provided will be treated as extremely Confidential and will be used for academic purpose only (Tick where applicable and fill the spaces provided).

- 1.Name.....2.Sex: Male---- Female-----
3. Age-----
4. Name of Community..... Town/Village.....
5. Educational Background.....
6a. Who made you a leader?.....
6b. What type of leadership are you holding?.....
7. What is your responsibility as a leader?.....
8. How many times do you meet the citizens of your Community?.....
9a. What is the citizens response to meetings? (a) encouraging (b) discouraging
9b. What are your reasons for that?.....
.....
.....
10a. What are the areas of your initiated programmes?.....
11. Have you achieved something on the following? a. health Yes----- No-----
b. market yes----- No----- c. Education Yes ---- No-----
d. water Yes----- No----- e. sanitation Yes----- No-----
f. other Yes----- No-----
12. Specify the achievements on 'f' above.....
.....
.....

13a. Who made the important decision on the project in which everyone took part?

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

13b. What is your attitude towards community project you have contributed during implementation?

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

13c. Who owns a project/program that has been implemented through community involvement?

.....
.....

14. What are the sources of revenue for development programmes in your area? a. NGOs-----
b. Donation from donor agencies----- c. Municipal Assembly-----
d. Levies or contributions made by residents in the community-----

15a. Is your community endowed with enough resources for further development? Yes-----
No-----

15b. If yes, mention the type(s) of resource.....

16a. What is the attitude of the residents in your community towards you? a. good----- b. cordial ----- c. bad-----

Give reason(s).....

.....
.....

17a. Is there any problem associated with community participation as a tool of development?

Yes----- No-----

17b. If Yes, specify the problems.....

.....
.....

18a. Do you recommend community participation to be encouraged as a tool of Development? Yes----- No -----

Give reason(s)

.....
.....

APPENDIX 'D'

COMMONWEALTH EXECUTIVE MASTERS OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION
KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

INFORMED CONSENT

Hello, my name is NKETIA DONKOR and I am a post graduate student of the above mentioned institution. I am undertaking a research into the below topic and I wish to solicit your views for academic purpose.

Topic: Community Participation as an instrument of development in East Akim

Questionnaire for Officials of the Assembly: Respondents are reminded that this information provided will be treated as extremely Confidential and will be used for academic purpose only (Tick where applicable and fill the spaces provided).

1.Position (Office).....

2. What can you say about Community Participation as far as development is concerned?

a. Very poor b. Moderate c. good d. very good.

3.Do you see East Akim development resulting from Community Participation only?

Yes---- No-----

3b. If No. what are the other factors?.....

.....

4a. Do you see community participation as an effective tool for development ? Yes/No

b. If no, give reasons.....

.....

5a. Is there any problem associated with community participation as a tool of development in East Akim? Yes----- No-----

5b. If yes specify the problems.....

.....

6a. Is there any conflict between the District Assembly and the communities over the issue of who should exercise control over initiated programmes? Yes----- No-----

6b. If yes, state some of the conflicts and the causes.....

.....

7. What are some of the solutions to these conflicts?.....

.....

8.Do you think it is advisable to encourage community participation in your area?

Yes----- No-----

9.If No, what are your reasons?.....

.....

10.Do you have something to say about development as far as community participation is concerned?

.....

.....

11.Have you received any assistance or support for development apart from what is contributed by the people?.....

.....

