



Dissertation By
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UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

**Local Government as an Instrument for Rural
Development: Explaining the Disparities within
East Akim District, EAD**

JUNE 2007



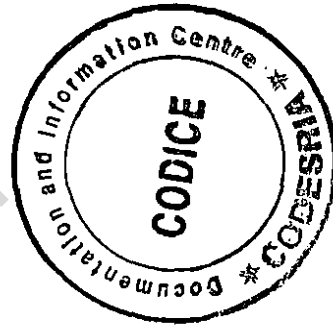
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR RURAL
DEVELOPMENT: EXPLAINING THE DISPARITIES
WITHIN EAST AKIM DISTRICT (EAD).

BY

SAMUEL OFORI



THIS THESIS IS SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA,
LÉGON, IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT
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PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION DEGREE

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DECLARATION

I, Samuel Ofori, author of this thesis do hereby declare that except for references to other people's work, which have been duly acknowledged, the work presented here was done by me as a student of the University of Ghana Business School, Legon, 2007, under the supervision of Dr. Francis Appiah.

This work has never been submitted in part or whole for any degree of this university.



.....
SAMUEL OFORI

This work has been submitted for examination with my approval as a supervisor.



.....
DR. FRANCIS APPIAH

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DEDICATION

You therefore, beloved, seeing you know these things beforehand, beware lest you also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen.
2 Peter 3:17-18.

This research work is dedicated to God Almighty who in innumerable and intangible ways helped, led, guide, financed and encouraged me. In many wonderful ways, especially when despair almost crept into my efforts, he intervened to support and strengthen me. But for Him, this enterprise would have been stillborn.

And

To my parents whose toil and sweat earned me my education; to all my lecturers at the University of Ghana Business School (academic parents) for helping to mould me and reshape my life for a better tomorrow.

And

To the rural majority of Ghana whose toil and sweat constitute the bulk of the nation's wealth, yet are deprived of the good things of life.

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Samuel Ofori

June 2007

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABRCDA	-	Asset Based Rural Community Development Approach
ADRA	-	Adventist Development Relief Agency
AEA	-	Agriculture Extension Agency
APIA	-	Accelerated Project Implementation Approach
BMN	-	Basic Minimum Needs
CBOs	-	Community Based Organizations
CDA	-	Community Development Approach
COM	-	Community Ownership Management
DAs	-	District Assemblies
DACF	-	District Assembly Common Fund
DANIDA	-	Danish International Development Agency
DCE	-	District Chief Executive
DfID	-	Department for International Development
DPA	-	Single Project Approach
DPCU	-	District planning Coordinating Unit
EADA	-	East Akim District Assembly
EAD	-	East Akim District
EU	-	European Union
GPRS	-	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
GTZ	-	German Technical Cooperation
GWSC	-	Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation
HIPC	-	Highly Indebted Poor Counties
HIV/AIDS	-	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IAPA	-	Increased Agricultural Production Approach
IGF	-	Internally Generated Fund
IRD	-	Integrated Rural Development
IRDp	-	Integrated Rural Development Programme
JSS	-	Junior Secondary School
MCH	-	Maternity and Child HealthCare Centres
MLGRD&Env't	-	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Environment
MP	-	Member of Parliament

MPD	-	Metropolitan District
MPU	-	Micro-Project Unit
NCC	-	National Commission on Culture
NCCE	-	National Commission on Civic Education
NDC	-	National Democratic congress
NDPC	-	National Development Planning Commission
NEC	-	National Electoral Commission
NEPAD	-	New Partnership for Africa Development
NFED	-	Non-Formal Education Division
NGOs	-	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHIS	-	National Health Insurance Scheme
NLGS	-	New Local Government System
NPP	-	New Patriotic Party
NSS	-	National Service Secretary
PNDC	-	Provisional National Defence Council
PSI	-	President's Special Initiative
RCD	-	Rural Community Development
RHT	-	Rural Habitat Transformation
RPC	-	Regional Planning Committee
RDGPT	-	Regional Development or Growth Pole Theory
SA	-	Sectoral Approach
SMC	-	Supreme Military Council
TC	-	Traditional Council
U.A.C.	-	United African Company
UN	-	United Nations
USAID	-	United States Agency for International Development
VIP	-	Village Infrastructure Project
WB	-	World Bank
WVI	-	World Vision International

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ABSTRACT

Ghana is regarded in development circles as one of the few countries that started planning for the overall development of its population. Perhaps, these observers were enthused by the rural development programmes that became an integral part of the national planning and development programmes of the post-independence governments. For effective implementation, Local Government was established not only as an agent of decentralized policy but also to serve as a catalyst for rural development in the rural sector.

In spite of this early attempt at improving the living conditions of the rural people of Ghana and in spite of the several other approaches and strategies to address the imbalance between the urban centres and the rural areas, the general level of development in the rural communities has remained predominantly low. Gross disparities exist between urban centres and the rest of the rural areas. Thus, the allocation of development projects in favour of urban centres, inefficiency, corruption, inappropriate technology and development have been cited as the causative factors.

Literature on rural development in Ghana indicate that lack of coordination of activities of various agencies charged with the promotion of rural development, lack of clearly defined policy on rural development have triggered a scenario in which policy makers, politicians, manipulate allocation of resources for rural development in favour of districts or communities of their choice. As a consequence, policies seemingly designed for rural development and other interventions do not get to the truly poor and deprived communities, and thus, creating inequalities in the development of social amenities in some districts under different government at different periods.

The study was carried out in the East Akim District of the Eastern Region. Apart from the District being a rural one, it also lags behind in socio-economic infrastructural development. The study therefore seeks to explain the disparity between anticipated development of socio-economic infrastructure and the reality of the situation in the District. The main focus was on the internal and external factors accounting for the intra-district disparity in socio-economic infrastructural development in the District at two different periods, that is, from 1997-2000, and 2001-2004. Whereas the study looks at the internal factors such as the contribution and

commitment of the local people including Traditional Council of the District as well as the natural resources towards development of the District; the study also takes into consideration the external factors such as the contributions from the Central Government including Local Government (District Assembly), Donor Agencies and non-governmental agencies towards the development of the District.

A sample size of two hundred (200) respondents comprising one hundred and ten (110) males and ninety (90) females were randomly selected through simple systematic sampling technique from seventeen (17) communities within the District. The interviewing and observation methods were employed to collect data from the respondents.

The internal factors of the study were informed by the past achievements of the Traditional Council, whose combined efforts in the past built a sound socio-economic infrastructural development within the District. Unfortunately, the study revealed that the Royalties and Stool Treasuries (State Treasury), the two main sources of funds of the District socio-economic infrastructural development are non-existent. Hence the inability of the Traditional Council to support development processes of the District. On the part of the people, the survey found out that the spirit of self-help that motivated them to rally behind their leaders (Traditional Council) in the development efforts in the District in the past is waning. The citizens too offer no financial support for development projects. Whereas the Traditional Council attributed their inability to support development projects to insufficient royalties, the local people cited financial constraints owing to poverty and high rate of unemployment in their communities as the root cause. Even though, there is iota of truth in their claims, numerous protracted chieftaincy disputes that have engulfed the District over the years was also identified as having undermined the patriotic spirit in the people and thus having serious repercussion on the development processes of the District.

The study also revealed that, though, the District is well endowed with both human and natural resources, these have not been developed to support development on local initiative. The numerous natural resources including mineral deposits, tourist sites, forest vegetation and suitable soils for the cultivation of cash and food crops have not been developed for the full benefit of the people. Ironically, the District is now classified as poor under the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) poverty belt classifications in the country, a situation the

researcher described as paradoxical. Besides, external factors were also seen as a contributive factor for the lagging in development in the District. The analysis of the data on the allocation of development projects in the study period supports the allegation that the previous government in 1997-2000 essentially pursued a policy of “benign neglect” with respect to the EAD. A combination of two factors account for this. While the chiefs and people in the District put up antagonistic attitude towards the previous government, the previous government on its part, found it inexpedient to develop a District perceived as anti-government.

Another significant finding of the study was that an overwhelming majority of the respondents acknowledged the numerous socio-economic infrastructural development in the District especially, from 2001-2004, and described them as unprecedented. Nonetheless, it is concluded that these infrastructural development have not been translated into income generating activities; hence they have no direct significant impact on the standard of living of the people. There is, therefore, more room for a lot of improvement to be made. For instance, part of the resources used for infrastructural development must be channeled into income generating activities, creation of employment activities, youth training programmes, and more importantly, integrating the rural economy into the mainstream national economic programme. The findings of the research work have been summarized into recommendations for attention with the hope of finding permanent solution to issues found holding back the development processes of EAD.

CHAPTER ONE

PARAMETERS OF THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This Chapter introduces the subject of the study undertaken. It begins by discussing the relevance of a study of the functioning of Local Government as an instrument for rural development. The study seeks to highlight District Administration in the country using East Akim District (EAD) as the unit of analysis. The Chapter comprises a background to the research survey, statement of the problem and the scope of the study. Besides, the objectives, purpose, significance of the study, and the methodology used to test the hypotheses have been discussed.

1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

In developing countries, local government and rural development are two phenomena of fundamental importance in development plans; and the role of Government at the grass-root level (local government) in the promotion of rural development cannot be over-emphasized. This is because development is one of the ideals and aspirations of all human societies. It has an inherent functional value in raising socio-economic standard and life-style of the citizens as it aims at providing basic needs to all, particularly the deprived sections of society.

As a multi-dimensional process, development has been characterized by lopsidedness with the result that a sharp contrast exists globally between urban and rural areas. This dualism has engendered several imbalances in the distribution of social services and amenities

between urban and rural areas (UN/ECA, 1989:10). The fact that in Africa, and for that matter, Ghana, about seventy percent (70%) of the population live in environmentally depressed, physically inaccessible, socially stagnating and politically disintegrating rural areas, illuminates the issue of deprivation that the rural folks suffer (Diaw, 1992:72).

The poverty profile of the country has been expressed in various ways: however, the rural urban dichotomy is the most common expression. All major economic indicators show disparities between rural and urban areas. According to the Ghana Living Standard Survey (GLSS) Report 4 (GSS 2000a), per capita annual income is ₵ 692,000 (USD 289) in urban areas and ₵469,000 (USD 196) in the rural areas. The report also indicated that about 80% of households in urban areas have access to pipe-borne water, while it is about 18% in rural areas. With regard to literacy, it is about 75% for urban areas and 53% in rural areas (Owusu, 2005:6).

The present socio-economic inequalities between the urban and rural areas can be traced to the colonial and post-colonial development policies and strategies. Subsequent post-colonial governments have recognized this fact and attempted to address the imbalance through various policies and strategies. The adopted strategies have largely been based on two main approaches in development planning and administration approaches; Top-down and bottom-up development planning and administration (Owusu, 2005:9).

The New Local Government System (The District Assembly Concept in 1988) as well as the Ghana Vision 2020 since its inception adopted the bottom-up development policies and strategies. The aim was to reduce disparities between urban and rural areas, and reduce hard core poverty and deprivation in rural areas. The GPRS I&II devoted a special section on district level poverty reduction. All these give credence to the assertion that successive

governments have made frantic efforts to bridge the gap between the urban and rural areas, though the results have been disappointing.

The ideology of development sets the sights on political and administrative action but it does not specify the exact form of machinery for either politics or administration. Developing countries lack institutional structures, which makes a nation a viable and effective socio-political and economic enterprise. It is in the light of the above that, in most developing countries rural development via local government and local participation has in recent years been given a great deal of attention both in development plans and programmes as well as in the utterances of government officials and policy makers. This is because it has now been realized, albeit belatedly, that an improvement in the working and living conditions of the rural poor should be the first step towards the achievement of a balanced urban-rural development (Brown, 1986:285).

Various studies have been made on rural-urban disparities and their antecedent problems. However, not much has been done on how local government can address the existing intra-district disparities in socio-economic infrastructural development among the various districts in Ghana. This study, seeks to investigate the factors that account for the existing intra-district disparities in the country, by using East Akim District as the unit of analysis; and offer suggestions that may be useful in solving the existing intra-district disparities in the country.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The unit of analysis of the study is the East Akim District. The aspect of the East Akim District, on which this study focuses, is the disparity in socio-economic infrastructural development in the District from 1997-2000 and 2001- 2004. The main problem is “What

factors account for the existing disparity in socio-economic infrastructural development in the District in the period under review?" As an agent of decentralized policy, one would expect Local Government to perform oversight responsibility in its rural development programmes involving social, economic and political dimensions. Socially, it is expected to improve conditions of health and nutrition, augment educational opportunities, expand social welfare services, and increase mobility. Economically, it is expected to raise economic incomes for the rural people, ensure higher agricultural production and increase rural employment opportunities. While political or nation-building dimension includes not only a greater political integration of rural people through grass-root participation in public decision-making and through a stepping up of efforts to make its presence felt and its goodwill and purposes understood among the rural masses, but more importantly, through the achievement of equity in the spatial allocation of development projects among the districts in the country (Owusu-Ansah, 1986:237).

Unfortunately, this has not been the case in Ghana. Instead, the modest success achieved by successive governments in rural development interventions have brought in its wake numerous disparities in the levels of development and standards of living existing between regional centres and the rural areas, between regions, and within regions, and thus trickled down to intra-district disparities (Brown, 1986:206).

This defect has been attributed to a lot of factors including a dearth of qualified personnel to man strategic positions in the administration of the deprived districts (Appiah 2000:53); lack of co-ordination of efforts by the various ministries and agencies dealing with rural matters; over-centralization of political administration; lack of socio-economic philosophy-developmental path to be followed in the economy, unrealistic setting of development targets, lack of data on meaningful socio-economic research before the formulation of

policies, mis-orientation of statistical system and the form of the existing political power, among others (Brown 1986:207; Nkrumah 1979:22; Amonoo 1986: 262).

In line with the main research problem, the following sub-problems and their justification are identified.

(1) The first sub-problem states, “What are the internal factors accounting for the intra-district disparities in socio-economic infrastructural development in EAD?” The sub-problem seeks to address the internal factors that contributed to the development or otherwise of the District. This problem was assessed in relation to the human and natural resources endowment of the District, the degree of local participation and involvement in development projects by District Assembly and other stakeholders, the contribution and commitment of the people including traditional council towards development process in the District.

(2). The second sub-problem states, “Why did EAD experience gross intra-district disparities in the development of socio-economic infrastructure at two different periods, that is, from 1997 to 2000 and 2001 to 2004?” Since development comes about through both internal and external factors, this sub-problem seeks to examine external factors responsible for the existing disparities in the District. This sub-problem is justified on the grounds that it gives the rationale and background to the existing intra-district disparities in the District at two different periods.

(3) The third sub-problem is “To what extent has local government helped in solving the problems of rural communities in EAD?” The sub-problem was used to assess the impact of local government’s (District Assemblies) rural development interventions on the living standards of the people in the District. Local Government was created and vested with authority pertaining to local matters including infrastructural development, improving the

living standards of the rural people through sustainable income generating activities. Therefore, the perception of the people on the impact of the local Government interventions on the living standards of rural communities was assessed. The sub-problem has been justified on the ground that it would enable the researcher determine whether or not local government has improved upon its rural development programme as set out.

1.4 FOCUS OF THE STUDY

The focus of the study is on the EAD from the point of view of the disparities in socio-economic infrastructural development from 1997-2000 and 2001-2004. Since rural development in Ghana has been partly urban biased and partly biased in favour of rural large-scale operators, the early scholars focused mainly on the problems associated with these issues to the neglect of the gross inter-district disparities or inequalities that had existed between districts, within districts, under different governments. The study, therefore, seeks to explain the intra-district disparities in EAD, by focusing on the factors responsible for the inequalities in the development of socio-economic infrastructure in the EAD at two separate periods, that is, from 1997-2000 and 2001-2004. The main focus here was on the extent of local participation and involvement in development projects, the respective contribution by the people, Traditional Council, and Central Government including stakeholders of rural development in the District in the period under review. The impact of local government rural development interventions on the living conditions of the rural communities in the District was also assessed.

1.5 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Considering the economic reserves of the EAD, one would expect a remarkable improvement in the living conditions of the people in the rural areas. Unfortunately, the rural folks in the

District still live in abject poverty, because of lack of human capital in terms of knowledge, skills, training, work habits etc. Besides, the rural communities lag behind in social amenities like education, health facilities, potable water, communication and transportation network, electricity etc., making the District one of the poorest in the country.

This rural deficiency syndrome seems to be a paradox considering the fact that the District is well endowed with both human and natural resources, and yet its people still live in abject poverty. The purpose of the study, therefore, is to investigate this paradoxical phenomenon.

1.6 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study aimed at achieving the following objectives:

1. To review the concept, theories and strategies in the area of rural development and look at empirical studies, which are relevant to the role of local government in rural development in Ghana.
2. To explain internal factors accounting for the intra-district disparities in the development or under-development of socio-economic infrastructure in the District.
3. To investigate external factors responsible for the intra-district disparities in the socio-economic infrastructural development in the period under review.
4. To assess the impact of the local government rural development interventions on the living conditions of the rural communities in the District.

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study derives its significance from the need to distinguish, problems associated with intra-districts disparities, from the main problems of earlier studies associated with the imbalanced between rural and urban areas.

The literature on local government extensively discusses the reasons for the general level of under-development in the rural areas. There is, however, a dearth of research on the problems associated with the intra-district disparity as distinct from the main problems associated with the rural-urban dichotomy. The study seeks to bring to the fore the internal and external factors accounting for the intra-district disparity within the country with EAD as the unit of analysis. As a pioneering work on the intra-district disparity in rural development, the study is expected to come out with observations and suggestions that can serve as a useful guide and further research work for academicians, practitioners and stakeholders of rural development.

Perhaps it is the ancient Chinese proverb: “give a man a fish and you have given him a meal; teach a man to fish and you have given him a livelihood” that motivated the researcher’s choice of the District. At the local level, the study is expected to serve as a guide on how the local people can manage their own affairs without necessarily depending solely on central government resources for the development of their communities.

1.8 HYPOTHESES AND JUSTIFICATIONS

From each of the sub-problems stated the study seeks to test the following hypotheses:

(1). The first sub-problem states, “What are the internal factors accounting for the intra-district disparities in socio-economic infrastructural development in the EAD?” The hypothesis derived from this sub-problem and which has to be tested empirically is that “lack

of commitment on the part of the people of EAD is partly the cause of the existing intra-district disparities within the District, since Local Government efforts in addressing the imbalanced rural-urban development in the country had been a mirage.” The hypothesis was chosen to assess local contribution including Traditional Council towards development of socio-economic amenities in the District.

(2) The second sub-problem states, “Why did the EAD experience gross intra-district disparities in the development of socio-economic infrastructure at two different periods, that is, from 1997 to 2000 and 2001 to 2004?” The hypothesis derived from this sub-problem is that “the existing intra-district disparities within EAD is partly caused by lack of co-ordination of activities among the stakeholders charged with the promotion of rural development activities in the country”. The hypothesis was chosen to test the assumption that local government was created to co-ordinate the activities pertaining to rural development programme, as such; it is expected to ensure equity in the spatial allocation of development projects among the districts in the country.

(3) The third sub-problem states, “To what extent has local government helped in solving the problems of rural communities in the EAD?” The hypothesis derived from this sub-problem is that “the rural development programme undertaken by Local Government has not impacted positively on the living standards of the people in the rural communities within EAD”. This hypothesis was chosen to test the success or otherwise of local government efforts in improving the living conditions of the rural folks within EAD.

The focus here is firstly, on the evaluation of the quantum of local contribution, including that of Traditional Council, towards development of their own District; the degree of local participation and involvement in the development programme of the District; and secondly,

on how to ensure equity in the spatial allocation of development projects through a clear-cut resource allocation policy. The underlying principle for the choice of these hypotheses is that the local government's effort in addressing the imbalance between rural-urban developments had been a mirage.

1.9. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

Research methodology outlines the procedures, techniques and tools that a researcher uses in carrying out his research (Kumekpor, 2002: Sections 1-3). In order to have an objective picture of the extent of rural deficiency and deprivation in the study area, the researcher was determined to ensure that the methods and techniques used for this study were dependable, objective, systematic and unaffected by personal idiosyncrasies. As a result, both survey and library research methods were used. This was done to combine the advantages of both and minimize the disadvantages of using one of them. The survey research method (primary sources) employed interviews and a schedule was used. It combined both closed and open-ended questions. The closed questions were included to avoid general answers to some of the questions, while the open-ended ones were to give respondents enough room for self-expression.

The Unit of Analysis: The EAD constitutes the unit of analysis (population universe). The choice of the EAD was informed by the fact that the researcher is not only a native of the District but also very conversant and familiar with the geographical terrain as well as the history and culture of the people in the District.

The Sampling Method: The sample of the study comprised 200 adults aged eighteen years and above, eligible to vote, and domiciled in the District for at least eight (8) years. Included in the sample were Traditional Rulers and Elders 36 (18%); General Public/opinion leaders

115 (57.5%) local residents of the communities; District Assembly Staff/Members 34 (17%); and other Stakeholders 15 (7.5%) including the employees of those non-governmental agencies embarking on rural development programmes in the District.

In the selection of respondents to constitute the sample, systematic random sampling of houses within communities was done. Adult population within the selected houses was included in the sample. The systematic sampling method, a probability sampling technique, gave each member of the universe a fair and equal chance of being included in the sample.

Secondary/Library Data Collection

There is an extensive body of literature on the subject under study; hence library research was done to review these sources. The main sources of data for this section include: Journals, Local Government Bulletins, published and unpublished theses, reports, and newspaper publications. The Internet also provided a very valuable source of information for the concept, theories and approaches to the study of rural development for the literature review in chapter two. This source is very important because it represents an unobtrusive source of data; it is a source of recent information on the subject.

1.9.1 Methodology for the First Hypothesis

The first sub-problem states, “What are the internal factors accounting for the intra-district disparities in socio-economic infrastructural development in EAD” Out of this, the first hypothesis was “lack of commitment on the part of the people of EAD is the cause of the intra-district disparities within the District since local government intervention in addressing the imbalanced rural-urban development in the country had been a mirage”.

The hypothesis was tested by making use of both secondary and primary sources of data. Data gathered here are made up mostly of information gathered from the field survey and discussions with stakeholders of EAD, responses to questionnaires and observation of Assembly and community activities. Three different sections, namely, sections B, C and E segments of the questionnaire were used to test the validity or otherwise of the first hypothesis. Whereas section B segment of the questionnaire sought to assess the extent of local participation in rural development projects, sections C and E assessed the respective contributions by the people and traditional council towards development projects in the District.

The questionnaire was designed in such a way that each section specified the group of respondents that should answer a particular section. For instance, while sections A, B and F were administered to all the four (4) categories of respondents (200), the traditional council, general public and assembly members (185) administered section C. In the same vein, traditional council; and assembly staff/members (70) only were required to answer section E.

A preliminary discussion was held with Assembly staff/members, traditional rulers and general public/opinion leaders on the objectives and scope of the research study. In addition to the questionnaires, an interview schedule was used for the respondents, including Assembly staff, traditional rulers as well as the local people. The interview schedule survey was to elicit information missing from the main questionnaires as a follow up to answers by respondents.

For detailed study of the District, fieldwork was conducted in seventeen (17) communities, which were carefully selected. The choice of the communities was done in such a way that they were fairly distributed over the entire geographical area of the District. The study was

carried out primarily to explore and determine the nature of participation of the people in development projects. It was also to examine the level of development activities taking place in the District in the periods under study, the Donor/NGOs intervention in the development in the District, the contribution/potentials of the local people, traditional council, as well as the impact of the local government projects on the living conditions of the rural people in the District.

Survey Instrument:

A meeting was held with the DCE, the District Assembly staff and Assembly Members at their last general meeting. After explaining the purpose of the study, questions were asked which the researcher answered. The questionnaires were later distributed to them. In all, twenty-three (23) Assembly Members were administered with questionnaires. In addition, eleven (11) officials/staff of the Assembly, especially the heads of the departments, were also given questionnaires to answer. Informal discussions were also held with the DCE, District Planning Officer, the Budget Officer, Finance Officers, other Departmental Heads, traditional rulers, Assembly members, opinion leaders, as well as other members of the public outside the sample population whom the researcher came into contact with in the course of the survey. Observations were also made of the various communities during meetings or while undertaking communal labour. The researcher also participated in some of the Assembly sessions as well as sub-committee meetings to observe proceedings.

Rational for Choice of Technique:

The main research tools employed as discussed above were interview schedules (questionnaire), visits, informal discussions and observations. The interview method, though time-consuming, tedious and expensive to undertake, was given preference in this study.

This is because the face-to-face encounter with respondents enabled further clarifications to be made when necessary. It also afforded the researcher the opportunity to note down extra information by respondents during the exercise. Such extra information and observation could not have been obtained if the respondents had administered the questionnaires by themselves. In addition, there was the flexibility that afforded respondents to comment on issues in the light of their own varied experiences. The questionnaires administered by the respondents provided the main source of information from which to explain the internal factors for the existence of the intra-district disparities in socio-economic infrastructural development in the EAD.

Data Analysis: The results of the survey were discussed mainly by descriptive Analysis.

1.9.2 Methodology for the Second Hypothesis

The second sub-problem states “Why did EAD experience gross intra-district disparities in the development of socio-economic infrastructure at two different periods, that is, from 1997 to 2000 and 2001 to 2004?” The hypothesis derived from this sub-problem and tested is that “the existing intra-district disparities were caused by lack of co-ordination between the central government on the one hand and other stakeholders of rural development on the other hand.” This hypothesis was informed by the preliminary discussion held with officials and staff of MLGRD&Env’t, GTZ, WVI-Ghana etc., which also confirmed observation made by Amonoo (1986) who attributed the existing disparities in rural and urban development among others, to lack of co-ordination of the activities of various agencies charged with the promotion of rural development in the country.

To obtain information to test the second hypothesis the following research methods were adopted: (1). The study made use of both secondary and primary sources of data. This was

done to combine the advantage of both and minimize the disadvantage of using only one of them. (2). For the secondary source, information was extracted from relevant documents of these stakeholders. The documents include EU Annual Report 1996-2004; World Vision Ghana Annual Report 1997-2004, GTZ Project Report 2004, brochure and journals.

Primary data was also used to supplement the secondary data obtained from this area. The main source of primary data was extracted from section D segment of the questionnaire. Having explained the purpose of the study, and the content of the survey instrument, questionnaires were given to them to fill at their own time. The researcher interviewed those who were less busy and could spare some time for the interview. For those who were hard pressed with time had two weeks interval given for the return of the questionnaire. In all, fifteen (15) respondents, who were mainly directors, deputy directors, administrators, and project co-coordinators of their respective outfit, were interviewed. The interview was based on the following: (i). Whether the development projects undertaken by these stakeholders are evenly distributed among the various districts in the country; (ii) whether any of them collaborate with other stakeholders, and the level/area of collaboration if any; (iii). how stakeholders of rural development can ensure equity in the spatial allocation of development projects (iv). Lack of co-ordination of development activities among stakeholders of rural development as the cause of inter-district disparities in the build-up of social amenities in the district in the country etc. The interview offered the researcher opportunity to assess the external factors responsible for the existing intra-district disparity within the EAD.

1.9.3 Methodology for the Third Hypothesis

The third sub-problem states, “To what extent has local government helped in solving the problems of rural communities in the EAD?” The hypothesis derived from this sub-problem

and tested empirically is the statement that “the rural development programme undertaken by local government has not impacted positively on the lives of the rural communities in EAD”. This hypothesis was chosen to test the success or otherwise of local government efforts in improving the living conditions of the rural folks in EAD. In testing the third hypothesis the two main variables were used. (i). the success or otherwise of local government in improving the living conditions of the rural people in the EAD, and (ii). the impact of rural development programme on the lives of the rural communities in the District. Like the other two hypothesis, the researcher relied on both primary and secondary sources of data. The methods and techniques adopted by the researcher have been discussed thoroughly under the methodology for the first hypothesis. The primary data was extracted from the section F segment of the questionnaire. All the 200 respondents were required to response to questions under this section. The testing of the two variables is necessary because they reveal differently the impacts of rural development interventions in the lives of the rural communities in the District.

1.10 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The East Akim District is an old one, having existed since colonial times. Unfortunately, not much research work of this kind has been done on the District. The outcome is that the history and study of the EAD have been relatively neglected in present times. The choice of the District for this study has been influenced by this apparent neglect. Again, the citizens of the District have been politically active before and since independence. It would be therefore worthwhile to conduct a research on the extent to which the District has benefited from resource allocation for rural development projects.

The vast resource endowments of, and the prevalent peace, in the District make it suitable for study in order to assess the success or otherwise of the Local Government rural development interventions that have been in force for the eight-year period. The choice of the study was made especially for the following: (i) the unfortunate neglect of the District in contemporary times; (ii) a study of this kind on the District is not known to exist; and (iii) the researcher's familiarity with the place which would count as an advantage during field trips. The Governments of both National Democratic Congress and New Patriotic Party's rural development strategy aimed at reducing disparity between urban and rural areas; and also ensuring relative spatial equity in resource allocation for development projects for all the districts, it would be worthy enterprise, almost eight years of practice by both governments, to examine how these goals have been achieved.

1.11 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Naturally, every human endeavour encounters some setbacks. In this regard, several constraints militated against the smooth conduct of this study. The major ones are discussed below: The first difficulty faced by the researcher was financial. The choice of the seventeen towns and villages was due to high cost of traveling expenses. A part from the rather too high traveling fares, some of the settlements were not easily accessible because of the unmotorable roads, especially during the rainy season. Consequently, the researcher had to grapple with a large financial outlay and inconveniences, as in some instances he had to walk long distances to reach some settlements as vehicular transport was not always available. This consumed precious time and extended or delayed the time for the fieldwork.

As large as the District is, the researcher would have wished to deal with a considerable large population. Unfortunately, because of insufficient funding and time constraints, the

selected sample appears rather small to the size of the District. The high cost of stationary and acquisition of computer was also a problem. Besides this, the electricity crisis that the nation was facing at the period the data analysis took place cause undue delay, which, at a point, left the researcher frustrated and despondent. The researcher had to rely on the magnanimity of relatives, friends and love ones for assistance both in cash and in kind for the collection of data, typing and printing of the work. The time frame within which the researcher had to complete data analysis and submit the thesis was also a limitation. The researcher needed all the 200 respondents alive for clarification of facts and cross-examination of issues whenever the need arose. This put undue pressure on the researcher during data analysis.

Nevertheless, this research has not only been a challenging enterprise: it has also been very interesting and enlightening. Though much cost was incurred in transportation fares and clerical services, among others, or, traveling time and other inconveniences for the conduct of the research, the writer's contentment rests on the fact of the study being a maiden one.

1.12 OUTLINE OF THE STUDY

The study spreads over seven chapters. Chapter one is the introduction dealing, inter alia, with the research problem, research objectives, focus and purpose of the study as well as the significance of the study. Others are the hypotheses, research methodology, and theoretical position and study organization.

Chapter Two, the Literature Review and Theoretical Parameters, traces the history of rural development in Ghana since independence, the various strategies and approaches adopted by successive governments in their rural development interventions, Local Government interventions in rural development and the problems associated with its implementation. The

Chapter also discusses the concept, theories, strategies and approaches to the study of rural development, and finally, the theoretical position of the study. Chapter Three discusses the History and Context of Development in the East Akim District.

Chapter Four- Data Presentation and Analysis- concentrates on the processing of the data gathered from the field with regard to the internal factors for the intra-district disparities within the East Akim District. Some of the variables include: (i) the extent of local participation and involvement in development projects; (ii) the people's contribution in support of socio-economic infrastructural development in the District, (ii) the contribution by the traditional council in support of development projects in the District. The Chapter concluded with the justification of the first hypothesis.

Chapter Five seeks to explain external factors for the intra-district disparities within EAD. Chapter six, Local Government and socio-economic development within EAD. Chapter Seven consists of the summary, recommendations and conclusion.

1.13 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the researcher attempted to give an introduction and background to the study. The research problem, which is the focus of the research work, was stated. The objectives of the research and justification were also discussed. Having stated the problem, the research hypotheses were outlined. The method for data collection to test each hypothesis was also set out. The organization of the research was clearly set up.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This Chapter reviews some of the existing literature on rural development. It further looks at empirical studies, which are relevant to the local government interventions in rural development. Out of the discussion, one theoretical position was adopted to inform the study: the theory of urban bias hypothesis as the main framework within which intra-district disparities in the East Akim District (EAD) was analyzed.

The review has been divided into three sections. The first section, which deals with the history of rural development in Ghana since independence, identifies the various strategies and approaches adopted by successive governments in their rural development interventions. Besides, the local government interventions in rural development and the problems associated with its implementation was also discussed. The second section of the Chapter discusses the studies of rural development. This second section is further divided into three sub-topics, namely, concept of rural development, theories of rural development, strategies and approaches to rural development. Finally, the theory of urban bias hypothesis is linked to intra-district disparities in EAD.

2.2 RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA SINCE INDEPENDENCE

Using the framework developed in the previous chapter, the various factors that have aggravated the imbalance in rural-urban development in Ghana were reviewed. The attempts that have been made by various governments since colonial era aimed at addressing the rural-urban disparities have been discussed.

In so doing, efforts have been made to examine various approaches and strategies adopted for the rural development in Ghana.

The urban bias that prevails in Ghana is rooted in the country's history. The development strategies and approaches adopted in the colonial era led to the imposition of a particular pattern of international division of labour on British colonies. In effect, the colonies produced what the population did not consume and consumed what they did not produce. As a result, Ghana became dependent on her colonial master, Britain. The British Colonial Government was more interested in extracting resources from the country for the benefit of Britain. The Colonial Government therefore, promoted the production of cash crops such as oil palm, cocoa as well as the exploitation of minerals and timber. It is not surprising that the little infrastructure provided was meant to enhance the export of these commodities. This led to a situation where few urban centres, especially Kumasi, Accra and Takoradi referred to as the golden triangle were provided with some social amenities (Chukuka, cite in Brown 1986:4). The metropole (Britain) exploited the peripheral nation (Ghana) while the centre of the periphery (the cities in Ghana) exploited her peripheral (the rural areas of Ghana).

The Guggisberg ten-year development plan from 1920 to 1930 in Ghana followed similar development strategy, and revolved around the golden triangle: Kumasi, Accra and Takoradi. This perpetuated the under-development of the people in the rural areas because it promoted rural-urban migration and intensified the dependency of the rural communities. The main objective of this plan as observed by Botchie (cited in Brown, 1986:192) was the development of the basic infrastructure such as railways, port facilities, schools and hospitals in the then Gold Coast. The infrastructure developments were concentrated mainly in areas

where resources could be tapped easily and the plan generally supported the export of commodities.

Between 1943 and 1944 there was an attempt to promote rural development, which culminated in the establishment of Department of Social Welfare (Ewusi, 1977:116) aimed at stimulating the local people to enable them to raise their living standards. Later in 1946 the Department of Social Welfare and Housing was established to see to the construction of community centres, social clubs and youth centres.

After independence in 1957, the economic planning strategies have sustained the dependency structure put in place by the colonial masters. The country has continued to rely on the production and export of primary commodities and it is the people in the rural areas who are mostly engaged in the production of these crops. The state buys their crops at low prices and uses the greater part of the surplus from the sale of these commodities to develop mainly the urban centres.

A cursory look at public expenditure on capital development from 1967 to 1970 reveals the following patterns in respect of rural areas: In 1967-68 only ₦134,000 representing 0.21 of the total expenditure for capital development was spent to develop the rural areas. In 1968-69 the percentage rose a little to 3.2 which represented ₦1,754,000. The trend changed with a decline from 3.2 to 1.6 percent in 1969-70, representing ₦1,301,520 in expenditure on capital development. Though current figures are expected to change the statistics provided show clearly that rural areas were not well catered for. In the supply of good water, few people in rural areas had access to it. (Annual Expenditure Estimates, CBS; 1968/69-1970/71, Brown 1986: 214). This is confirmed by the 1970 Population Census figures which show that only 22.4 percent of the people living in the rural areas had access to pipe-borne water. As a

result of the intervention of development agencies, especially Donors and NGOs in the water sector, the number of rural communities that have access to potable water has increased. The nine regional capitals in 1970 too had 51.3 percent of the 157 hospitals in Ghana (Brown 1986:208). Now that the government in collaboration with Donors and NGOs have intensified efforts to develop the rural areas the situation has been improved (1970 Population Census: Special Report 'D')

The plight of rural under-development was brought to the fore in the 1970s when United Nations (UN) attention was focused on poverty alleviation which is worse in the rural areas than in the urban centres in African countries. From this time onwards conscious efforts have been made by governments and non-governmental agencies to hasten the pace of rural development in Ghana. This has resulted in the adoption of various strategies of rural development in Ghana. These strategies, which are going to be discussed, do not necessarily follow a chronological order since elements of the various approaches sometimes overlap in the policies of governments of Ghana in developing rural areas.

2.2.1. Single Project Approach

The Single Project Approach (SPA) is one of the approaches to rural development in Ghana. This approach, which is also referred to as the social amenity approach (Ewusi 1977:148; Brown 1986:203), has been pursued under various national planning and community development approaches (Brown 1986:203). This approach was applied during the late colonial period when attempts were made to provide some specific social amenities. Ewusi (1977:148) observed that such amenities were provided one at a time and that when U.A.C. Limited offered to build community centre in Accra, other commercial houses built

community centres in other localities. This drew the attention of many communities to the building of community centres mainly through self-help.

It lays emphasis on the provision of social services and amenities for not only increased productivity in rural communities but also achieving a balanced urban-rural development (Brown 1974: 117). The exponents of this approach argued that although the rural areas have made considerable contributions to the overall development of the country's economy by the production of basic agricultural raw materials for export and local consumption, they have been completely neglected in the distribution of the good things of life (Brown 1986: 203). The main objective of this approach is to bridge the gap in the living conditions between the urban and rural residents while at the same time, discouraging rural-urban migration and attracting urban residents to the rural areas. This approach has the potential for the application of the concept of participation in development projects since many communities have been able to provide some social amenities through self-help.

2.2.2. Sectoral Approach

This approach, derived directly from the strategy for national planning, was adopted in the first and second five-year development plans (Ewusi 1977:150). Under this approach specialized government departments carried out programmes without any co-ordination or consultation. Programmes in such areas as Agriculture extension, health programme, adult literacy, family planning, feeder roads and water supply were implemented both at the national level and sometimes at the rural level by individual government agencies. The impact of the projects tends to be limited due mainly to lack of geographical focus, therefore, people ask for more facilities (Ewusi 1977:150).

2.2.3. Increased Agricultural Production Approach

This approach sees the improvement in the living conditions of rural people through increased in agricultural production and productivity (Brown 1986:204). The basic assumption here is that increased agricultural production will in turn enable the rural population to provide itself with some of the basic social amenities generally lacking in the rural areas. Exponents of this strategy have included in this approach such elements as improved agricultural extension services, improved feeder road network, better organized co-operative movements, experimental or demonstration farms, seed distribution nurseries, availability of farm machinery, better storage, marketing and processing facilities in the rural areas and credit facilities for rural farmers (Brown 1986:204). Both Nkrumah's CPP Government in the 1960s and Busia's UP Government in 1970 adopted this approach.

This approach was also adopted by the Supreme Military Council (SMC) Government's Operation Feed Yourself Programme, which *inter alia* aims at self-sufficiency in agricultural production. Unfortunately, the influence of the rich, party agents and bureaucrats who managed to lobby credit facilities meant for the rural farmers made it impossible for the programme to bring about the expected improvement in the living conditions of the rural people. Also, the assertion that the cost of foodstuff was rising in the country over the period and the government inability to supply the required agricultural inputs (Brown 1986:205) are indicative of the fact that the increased agricultural approach could not make a meaningful impact on the rural people.

2.2.4 Accelerated Project Implementation Approach

The accelerated project implementation approach to rural development was first tried in Ghana in 1968 through the establishment, in each region, of Regional Planning Committees to serve as the framework for the execution and implementation as well as monitoring of

projects (Brown 1986:205; Kudiabor 1970:8). The committees were given the basic responsibility to identify few avenues for development, report progress being made on execution of government projects and forge a link between the central government and the private enterprise. While this was done to decentralize decision-making at the level, it was also to ensure that effective machinery existed for prompt and efficient implementation of the various projects and programmes outlined in the annual budget. The committees were therefore given the basic responsibility of identifying new opportunities for development, or reporting on progress being made on the execution of government project developments and finally of forging a link between the central government and the private enterprise (Kudiabor 1970:8).

This approach, as stated in the two-year development plan (1968-70), indicated that the Government was convinced that it should decentralize responsibility, by ensuring that the lower level of public bodies, which were closer to the problems than the central administration, should be responsible for the implementation of projects and programmes. At the same time, however, the lower level of the public bodies were required not only to report back to the coordinating agencies and keep a check on progress in implementation and the flow of expenditure but also to provide a guide for the formulation of new projects (Brown, 1986:206). Unfortunately, as Brown (1986:206) observed, the Regional Planning Committees failed to serve as the link in matters of economic development between the regions and the central planning agency in Accra. The reason was that they lacked sufficient authority and a respectable budget to deal with local development issues transcending sectoral decision. The rural communities too were not involved in the planning and implementation of the strategy.

2.2.5 The Regional Development or Growth Pole Strategy

In addition to the four approaches mentioned above, mention could also be made of the regional development or the growth pole strategy adopted by the S.M.C (Brown, 1986:206) Government in 1972. This approach aimed at making the regional planning committees effective and serves as the link between the regions and the central planning agency in Accra in economic development (Guideline for 5-Year Development Plan, 1975-80 cited in Brown, 1986:206). The main objectives of the regional development strategy among others were to ensure proper co-ordination between national goals, and aspirations of the regions and local communities; strengthen the machinery of regional development planning; reduce the existing disparities in the levels of development and standards of living between the urban centres and rural areas and also gradually between regions and within regions; and finally, to create a number of development centres, which would service the agricultural activities in rural areas so that the new centres would serve as new centres of industrial development and thus help raise rural income (Brown, 1986:206).

The four-tier hierarchy of growth foci was accordingly planned as follows:(i) growth poles at the national level; (ii) growth centres at the regional level; (iii) growth points at the district level; and (iv) development service centres at the local and village level (Brown 1980: 206-7). The administrative machinery for carrying out this development strategy was planned to: (i) Regional Councils; (ii) District Councils, including Municipal and Urban Councils; (iii) Local and Area Councils; (iv) Town and Village Development Committees (Brown 1980: 207). The SMC Government set up nine Regional Development Corporations, one in each region to undertake viable projects and work within the framework of a national development plan. The main problem with the regional development approach was the inadequate

development personnel at the lower levels. This resulted in a situation where there was lack of participation at the grassroots level (Brown 1980:208).

2.2.6 The PNDC Decentralization Programme

The Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) Government also embarked on a programme of decentralization of administration and development in 1988 to encourage a greater degree of local autonomy and make district administration and development more efficient. Within the context of poverty and economic inequalities, decentralization is seen as bringing development closer to the people, promoting participatory development, and consolidating democracy from the stand points of planning, implementation, monitoring and delivery of the services which go to improve the living conditions of people and the orderly fair and balanced development of the whole country. It is also seen as a means of producing policies attuned to local situations, and thus enhancing the effective and efficient utilization of resources (Ayee 2000a; Yankson 2000a cited in Owusu, 2005:11). The decentralization programme has several objectives, but the basic goal is rural development (Ayee, 1997:8). This was to become more meaningful especially, when the social amenities approach was adopted to extend provision of social amenities and services to the rural communities.

The implementation of the decentralization programme led to the promulgation of the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) Law 207, giving legal backing to the Local Government, District Assemblies (DAs) as implementing agencies of local government reforms and policies. The DAs have been tasked with the overall responsibility of local (district) development and poverty reduction (MLG&RD 1996). In particular, decentralization is expected to reduce the disparities between rural and urban areas. The implementation of decentralization policies has involved the transfer of powers, resources and responsibilities from central to local levels, and thus, making the DAs the highest

political, administrative and development authorities in their respective areas (districts) of jurisdiction. In all, about 87 functions were delegated to the District Assemblies ranging from environmental conservation to provision of social services (Ayee, 1997).

The PNDCL 207 also increased the number of regions in Ghana from 9 to 10 and also established 110 districts to indirectly replace the previous 65 district councils. The basic unit of the new local government structure (district assemblies) is the Unit Committee, which covers areas with a population from 500-1,500. This means that rural areas will form the greater part of the 16,000 unit committees that have been created. This has implied strengthening settlements at the lower levels of the settlements hierarchy, particularly district capitals, to enable these centres provide the services and other amenities to their residents and hinterland population. In general, it is expected that growth and development of district capital will spearhead the overall development of districts (GSS 1995:12-14; Ayee, 1997:38). The implementation of decentralization programme also implies reversing the decades of relatively poor living standards of the majority of the rural population resulting from top-down development strategies through the promotion of economic development in rural areas (Owusu 2005:11-12).

2.2.7 The NDC Social Amenities Approach

In an attempt to make life more enjoyable for the rural communities, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) government adopted the social amenities approach with emphasis on the provision of social amenities and services to the rural areas. This was based on the assumption that the rural areas have been deprived of their share of the national wealth though they contribute significantly in nation building. The PNDC/NDC government therefore provided many rural communities with amenities such as schools and electricity.

The latter part of the PNDC/NDC era witnessed The Ghana Vision 2020, which estimated that 80% of the people classified as poor lived in the rural areas. Only 60% of the total population have access to health services and in rural areas this dropped to 45% (Ghana Vision 2020:6-9). Also, in most urban dwellers, 93% are deemed to have nominal access to safe water. The Ghana Vision 2020 programme therefore, makes provision for rural development. The medium-term (1996-2000) component of the programme on rural development aims at upgrading rural areas socially, economically and environmentally and to achieve a better balance between urban and rural investment in the national interest. The strategy was to provide an enabling environment, which will facilitate production and social well-being and positively stimulate local initiative and innovation within the rural environment.

The policy of Ghana Vision 2020 (Ghana Vision 2020:6-9) programme on rural development has the following as the main objectives in the medium term period (1996-2000): (i) “reduce disparity between urban and rural areas; (ii) achieve relative spatial equity in terms of opportunities and choice; (iii). Upgrade rural areas economically, socially and environmentally; (iv) accelerate rural development; (v) increase and diversify rural employment opportunities; (vi) strengthen rural economics by increased and sustainable production of both agricultural land industrial products; (vii) increase monetization, saving, and investment among the rural population; (viii) improve access to economic and social services, particularly for women and other vulnerable members of the rural community; (ix) reduce hard core poverty and deprivation in rural areas; (x) reduce ecological and environment degradation and; (xi) promote an efficient management system and environmentally sound development of all water resources in the country” (Ghana Vision 2020:6-9).

The success of the decentralization programme and Vision 2020 were seen in several initiatives from government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as donor agencies as a way of enhancing participatory democratic development and capacity of local institutions. Some of these programmes and projects specifically targeting district capitals include the following: introduction of the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF), which allocates 5% of the total national revenue to District Assemblies; the World Bank and United Nations Development Programme's Urban V Projects, targeting roads and sanitation problems; EU micro-project schemes; and German Agency for Technical Assistance (GTZ)/Ghana Government (Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development) project titled 'Promotion of District Capitals (PRODICAP)'. It has also been the policy of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to provide each district capital with a specific range of amenities-electricity, telephone, and district referral hospital, portable water supply, and accessible road links (Owusu 2005:122-123). However, these successes have been described as modest considering the needs of the districts and 87 functions delegated to the District Assemblies.

2.2.8 Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme

The New Patriotic Party (NPP) government took over the mantle of leadership of the country with rural development programme as one of its priority areas. Numerous programmes and policies were outlined for poverty reduction and rural development, which have attracted international concern and adequate support. Mention can be made of the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS), Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiatives, Rural Enterprise Development Programme (REDP), and Village Infrastructure Programme (VIP) among others. The GPRS, which is the Government's framework for poverty reduction, comprises the policies, strategies, programmes and projects that are needed to move the

country from its current level of development to a higher level. The five thematic areas embedded in the GPRS are Microeconomic stability; Production and Gainful Employment; Human Resource Development and provision of basic services; Vulnerable and Excluded; and Governance.

There is a heightened and conscious attention to reduce the plight of the rural poor in the country through the accelerated implementation of strategies to ensure poverty reduction, and the protection of the vulnerable and excluded. The government believed that targeting the provision of services to the poor alone will not reduce on a sustainable basis, hence strategies that encourage wealth creation must also underpin those that directly targets goods and services to the poor, for poverty to be effectively and sustainably reduced in the country (NDPC 2003).

As part of its efforts to transform the rural areas, the GPRS targeted the following: (i) modernization of agriculture; (ii) infrastructural development, energy and the development of small-scale agro-processing; (iii) establishment of one model secondary/technical school in each district (iv) introduction of national insurance scheme; (v) increasing the DACF from 5% to 7.5%; (vi) Cocoa Mass Spraying Programme; (vii) NEPAD School Feeding Programme; (viii) Capitation Grants among others.

Alongside these, Donor Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), both local and international have intervened with programmes and projects with the aim of ensuring better life for the rural poor. After 50 years of independence, rural development interventions in Ghana and innumerable rural development strategies and policies have not transformed the rural economy. Literature on the rural development revealed that the deteriorating condition of the deprived communities does not offer any hope for the country in its effort to curb

rural-urban drift. The unsuccessful attempts by the successive governments to transform Ghanaian rural economy have been explained by various theories by different scholars.

2.3 CHALLENGES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA

Many scholars have re-echoed the benefits of local government in both advanced and developed countries, it has not been able to transform the rural communities in developing countries. In Ghana for instance, in spite of 'concerted efforts' made by the successive governments to improve the living and working conditions of the rural population, the rural areas of Ghana have, to date, received less than their fair share-vis-à-vis the urban areas- of the attention and resources devoted to development. Local Government has come under serious attacks on the grounds that it allows a variation in the standard of provision of local services, which may be regarded as inequitable or unfair in an age of equality. For example, variation may be found in areas of education, health, roads, electricity, housing and in other services. In addition, there are skeptics about the amount of coordination and integration of services, which is achieved in practice in local authorities.

Besides the general criticism leveled against Local Government administration, other scholars, whose studies focus on the Local Government interventions in rural development in Ghana have been very critical of the inability of the local government to bridge the gap between the rural and urban dwellers. Over centralization of political and administrative authority was central theme of their criticism. Notable among them are Nkrumah (1979), Brown (1986).

One major setback hampering the development of local government in most developing countries is the centralization of political and administrative authority in the national capital. Citing a study of the over-centralization of political administration of Ghana, Nkrumah Hypothesized that centralization will lead to rural atrophy (Nkrumah, 1979: 22). He argued that the centre had monopolized decision-making to the neglect of rural input and moreover has dominated in matters of purely local interest to rural people. Decision making at all levels of government – national, regional, district and local – is virtually done by the national chief executive and his representatives. This state of affairs, according to Nkrumah, has resulted in the allocation of development projects in favour of the urban centers to the relative neglect of rural areas. The effect is that the facilities of good housing, clean water, health facilities, electricity etc. are lacking in the rural areas. What abound in these communities are unemployment, poverty, disease, malnutrition, illiteracy and civic inertia” (Nkrumah 1979: 22).

In the Urban bias and rural development in Ghana, Brown (cited in Brown 1986) attributed the root cause of the urban bias to the highly centralized administrative structures bequeathed to the post-independent government by the colonial administration. His observation is that in spite of the efforts to develop rural sector there is still a powerful bias in favour of urban growth and development in Ghana. This bias, according to him, is a fundamental one embedded in the social structures itself (Brown 1986:215).

Brown and Nkrumah, however, point out that the urban bias nature of central government involve neither dishonesty nor conspiracy for being unable to meet rural needs. Those at the helm of affairs are only responding to political and economic pressures from urban population for good roads, health facilities, salary increases and cheap food; as against rural

population, who are geographically remote, less well organized and less vociferous and have no powerful unions and associations through which they can influence government decisions.

2.4 THE CONCEPT AND THEORIES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The section two of this Chapter examines the concept and the general theories that have been propounded on rural development. The concept of rural development, and theories such as the growth pole theory, the cumulative causation hypothesis, the urban-bias hypothesis as well as spatial equilibrium theory, explain the disparity in rural-urban development. Strategies and approaches, on the contrary, emphasize the measures that can be taken to develop rural areas. Among the strategies discussed in this section are the agropolitan, micropolitan, basic needs, integrated rural development and the rural habitat transformation strategies. This section also discusses such approaches as the community development, agrarian reforms, rural craft and small-holding, and rural settlement approaches.

2.4.1 The Concept of Rural Development

The most fundamental definitional problem in rural development scholarship concerns what it means by “rural”. The continuing use of the term rural, in some respect, derives as much from policy discourse as from academic work. Many academics have long been wary of using the word “rural” in anything other than a loose and generic sense, with some suggesting that it is unhelpful to use it at all (Hoggart 1990). In expressing the need to exercise some caution in the use of the word rural, Hodge and Monk (2003:2) explained that:

While we may recognize an urban to rural transition, this takes place across many different variables, such as density of human settlement, remoteness from urban centres, balance of a particular economic sectors and patterns of land used. These variables transform continuously at different rate in different locations. There can be no logical point at which ‘urban’ changes to ‘rural’ and the character of rural areas varies between places and through time. Any

search for a single definitive definition of rural must be arbitrary at best and potentially futile (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rural//> Accessed in March 2007).

Pragmatically, however, definitions have to be used and those that have informed this study, when applicable are those defined in terms of population size, and geographical and economic locations by United Nations (1982) and Thunen model (1999) respectively. According to the Thunen model (Hite, 1999:3), rurality is synonymous with remoteness and is, at least potentially, measurable along some vector or economic distance. Deaver (1992 cited in Hite 1999) also identified three defining characteristics of rural economics, namely, remoteness, small-scale, low-density human settlements, and a high degree of specialization, can be understood in line with Thunen model, to be a logical implications of remoteness itself. (<http://www.strom.clemson.edu/opinion/hite/thunen.html//>. Accessed in January 2007).

In addition to the above characteristics, any community with small population, whose occupation is mainly agrarian, is considered as “rural” or “rural settlement”. But what seems to be more problematic, which is the concern of the present study, is that, what is regarded as a small population also defers from country to country. Therefore, there is no consensus about the precise population size of rural settlement applicable to all nations. In Africa, for instance, countries such as Angola, Gabon, Ethiopia, and Kenya, settlements with 2,000 or more inhabitants are regarded as urban. Nigeria has the upper limit of 20,000 inhabitants as the official definition of a rural settlement. In Zambia and Somalia settlements with less than 5,000 inhabitants are considered as rural (United Nations: 1982).

Ghana is no exemption from this definitional problem of rural settlement. For the purpose of this study, we can adopt acceptable definition within a national context, based on three main classifications under Ghana’s official urban definition. These classifications are: small towns, medium sized/intermediate towns, and large towns/cities. Adding rural settlements, Ghana’s

settlement hierarchy can be placed within a four-tier system. At the top of Ghana's urban hierarchy are the large towns/cities in Accra, Kumasi, Tema and Sekondi-Takoradi, with populations of 250,000 or more. This is followed by intermediate (medium-sized) towns with populations of 50,000 to 250,000 typified by the regional capitals. After this are the urban centres exemplified by district capital/administrative centres with populations between 5000 and 50,000. (Owusu, 2005:113-114).

The previous censuses of Ghana (1960, 1970, and 1984) based on United Nations (UN) recommendations adopted a population size of 5,000 as the lower limit of an urban centre (GSS 2005; GSS-Eastern Region, 2005). The concept of rural settlement in 2000 population censuses, which is in line with the classification of localities as rural or urban, is also based on the size of population. All localities with a population size of 5000 or more are classified as urban, while those with a population less than 5000 are classified as rural (GSS 2005). At the periphery of Ghana's settlement hierarchy are the rural settlements with population size below 5000. These, therefore, confirmed that areas with population size of below 5,000 could be considered as rural settlements.

Development on the other hand has several definitions. Professor Leornand Joy has pointed out that in the case of the developing countries, development implies provisions of basic minimum human needs and alleviating human suffering (Leornand, cited in Ewusi, 1977:6).

Other definitions of the concept in literature include that of Todaro (1992:100), which defines development as:

“A multi-dimensional process involving major changes in social structures, popular attitudes, and national institutions, as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality, and the eradication of poverty. In essence, development must represent the whole gamut of change by which an entire social system, tuned to the diverse basic needs and desires of

individuals and social groups within that system, moves away from a condition of life widely perceived as unsatisfactory toward a situation or condition of life regarded as materially and spiritually better”.

He, however, mentioned sustenance, self-esteem, and freedom as the three core values, that should be the common goal of all individuals and societies.

Attempts have been made by several writers to define the concept of rural development which embodies elements of the terms “rural” and “development”. Rural development as defined by Owusu Ansah (cited in Brown, 1986: 237), is:

“A process of inducing change in the rural areas through alignment of the central government’s socio-economic and political goals with those desired by the rural people for their own benefit”

Lele (1975) defines rural development as:

“Improving the standard of living of the mass of the low income population residing in rural areas and making that process of their development self-sustaining”.

In a broader definition, The Moshi Conference (Brown, 1986:271) conceives rural development as:

“The outcome of a series of quantitative and qualitative changes occurring among a given rural population and whose covering effects indicate in time, a rise in the standard of living and favorable changes in the way of life of the people concerned. Rural development also calls for a set of projects and policies so designed and coordinated that it will raise the pattern of living of a given population from one level to markedly higher level and in so doing create a society which thereafter be dynamic, economically and socially”.

The World Bank sector paper on rural development published in 1975 postulates that:

“Rural development is a strategy designed to improve economic and social life of a specific group of people – the rural poor. It involves extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas. The group includes small-scale farmers, tenants and the landless” (World Bank Sector Paper, 1975:3).

In recent definition from Wikipedia (2007:2), rural development in general sense is used to denote:

“The actions and initiatives taken to improve the standard of living of non-Urban neighbourhood, countryside, and remote villages. These communities can be exemplified with a low ration of inhabitants to open space. Agricultural activities may be prominent in this case whereas economic activities would relate to primary sector, production of foodstuffs and raw materials (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rural> Accessed on March 2007).

While the actual wording of the various definitions may vary, the basic themes are constant in all. They all focus on improving the well-being of people in rural communities. In summary, therefore, rural development can be defined as a process of improving living standards in rural communities and facilitating a geographical spread of development as a means of addressing disparities between urban living standards and rural living standards as well as ensuring spatial equalization in the allocation of development projects.

2.5 **RURAL DEVELOPMENT: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE**

This section examines the general theories that have been propounded on rural development. Theories such as the growth pole theory, the cumulative causation hypothesis, the urban-bias hypothesis as well as spatial equilibrium theory explain the disparity in rural-urban development. Strategies and approaches, on the other hand, emphasize the measures that can be taken to develop rural areas. The strategies that are discussed in this section are the agropolitan, micropolitan, basic needs, integrated rural development and the rural habitat transformation strategies. This section also discusses such approaches as the community development, agrarian reforms, rural craft and small-holding, and rural settlement approaches.

2.5.1 Growth Pole Theory

The growth pole theory (GPT) has been offered to induce a balanced urban-rural development. The GPT postulates that growth does not appear everywhere simultaneously but appears in points or development poles with variable intensities. It spreads along poles with lower degrees of effects on the whole of the economy (Lukwe, 1981:8). The theory observed that locating development projects in a limited number of centres induces economic growth, so that development will spread from these centres to the surrounding areas. There are therefore “trickling down effects” and the “polarization effects” or the “spread effects” and the “backwash effects” which are the mechanism through which growth centres influence the surrounding areas (Cited in Olanrewagu & Falola 1992:5).

The “spread effects” and trickling down effects” are the favourable impact of activities in the growth centre upon the surrounding areas. Some of these effects include increasing demand for industrial raw materials, which results in higher remuneration to the producers. This, in effects, stimulates food production in the surrounding region, creates employment opportunities and economic incentives, which cause the local workers to become more productivity-minded. The “polarization effects” or “back wash effects” are the advert effects of growth in the favoured region. This would occur if the resources of the surrounding areas were drained to fuel growth at the centre.

The resources include labour, capital and raw materials. This depletion might further impoverish the surrounding areas and accentuate regional inequalities. The exponents of the growth centre strategy usually expect that “speed effects” would exceed any “backwash” effects and that over a period of time, development would become more spatially balanced.

2.5.2 Cumulative Causation Hypothesis

Proponents of the cumulative causative hypothesis hold the view that spatial equalization, would not occur if left entirely to the market forces without hindrance and intervention of the direct policy implementation. This hypothesis states that the balance between the “backwash effects” and the “spread effects” determines the rural-urban gap. Proponents of this hypothesis trace the problem of rural-urban imbalance in many developing countries to the likely occurrence of strong “backwash effects” and weak “spread effects”.

2.5.3 Urban Bias Hypothesis.

From his urban bias hypothesis, Lipton (1989:66-81) postulates that the allocation of resources in developing countries is structured in such a way as to provide rural people with few resources. By virtue of their dominance over institutions of independence, he opines, the urban elites have been able to ‘win’ most of the rounds of the struggle with the countryside and as a result have made the development process in rural areas slow and unfair. In support of the urban bias hypothesis, Chambers (1984:1-4) observed that both human and physical resources are drawn from rural to urban centres, and that the reversal of this trend would ensure rural development.

2.5.4 Spatial Equilibrium Theory

Spatial equilibrium model seeks to explain the persistent underdevelopment in rural areas (Fan and Chan-Kang 2005:3-4). By emphasizing the linkages between rural and urban development, proponents of this theory observed that rural-urban livelihood are interconnected economically, financially and socially. As the rural areas depend on the urban markets and urban centers for their livelihood, various services-hospitals, banks, and

government officials; provision of various private and public goods; and remittances (DFID 2003 cited in Fan and Chan-Kang 2005:11); urban sector, on the contrary, depend on the rural demand for goods and services; supply of raw materials; livelihood (DFID 2003 cited in Fan and Chan-Kang 2005:11) cheap and sustainable food supply (Fan 2003, Fang, and Zhang 2003:733-741 cited in Fan and Chan-Kang 2005:11)), among others.

Because of this interconnection, there exists between rural-urban sectors natural economic development process including flow of information such as market, capital, and labour etc. If this economic order is left uninterrupted, can bring about spatial equalization in an economy. This in turn will promote economic growth and poverty reduction.

Unfortunately, as they observed, spatial equalization cannot be achieved in the developing countries due to persistence disruption of this natural economic development process. Very often governments interfere in favour of the urban sectors, distorting capital and labour markets to favour urban over rural areas, in an attempt to jump-start development or leap-frog this process. As a result, overall efficiency is lost, as resources do not flow to their “free market” locations where they would naturally earn highest rate of returns. This aggravates the rural-urban gap, and the natural growth that would occur in the rural areas, as well as urban areas, is also circumvented (Fan and Chan-Kang 2005:12-14).

Due to the failure of these theories to halt rural-urban imbalance, strategies have been suggested to develop more national and feasible approaches. Notable among these are: the agropolitan strategy, micropolitan strategy, basic minimum needs (BMN), integrated rural development (IRD), and the rural habitat transformation (RHT), (Singh and Singh, 1980:7).

2.5.5 The Agropolitan Strategy

Singh and Singh (1980:412) observe that the agropolitan approach entails reorganization of rural or small settlements into large. The agropolitan approach, whose main purpose is to facilitate development that is geared to the satisfaction of human needs, has been justified on the grounds that it facilitates the provision of improved rural services. For it is believed that amenities such as primary schools, paramedical-based health centres, marketing and credit facilities, extension services, community halls and shops are easier to set up in nucleated settlement. The settlements are considered more suitable environments for the development of a strong sense of mutual assistance between neighbouring areas. Besides, they provide an ideal setting for various community-based self-help schemes. It is also justified on the grounds that there is more efficient control of the reorganization villages. This is so because a cluster settlement can be more efficiently managed than a dispersed population. This approach was practised in Tanzania in the village policy of the government of Julius Nyerere (Singh and Singh 1980).

2.5.6 The Micropolitan Strategy

As an integrative planning concept, the micropolitan strategy involves a planning unit called a micropolis or micropolitan district (MPD), with a population size between 50,000 and 100,000 persons. The rationale for such a population size is that the MPD should be small enough to generate a maximum sense of community feeling among the inhabitant and still be self-sufficient.

Within the MPD there are one or more district centres of large communities with population densities ranging from 5,000 and 10,000 persons. All necessary consumer goods are provided at the centre to meet the needs of micropolitan inhabitants and it is the urban centres of the

micropolis. Ideally, the urban centre is designed to provide services such as basic public utilities, schools, health facilities, and financial institutions, shopping facilities, cultural and recreational facilities and private services (hardware, farm supply, and machinery repair). The inhabitants of the micropolis are expected to lead a life which fulfils the following criteria: (a) unstable but gradually saving income, (b) accessibility to basic infrastructural and urban facilities, (c) feeling of belonging to the community, (d) freedom to participate in the development process and, (e) full development of their human resources.

The means of achieving these development objectives include: grassroots participation in rural development; increased and more diversified agricultural and industrial production; mobilization and fuller utilization of local interaction; and Urbanization of the micropolis. In the micropolitan approach, the agricultural sector is identified as a primary developmental target. It emphasizes total self-sufficiency of the micropolis. Since self-sufficiency is such an important aspect, it places emphasis on acquiring adequate amounts of irrigation, fertilizer and credit that are readily available to farmers. Also it views development of each place as a collective effort (Olanrewaju, 1992:8).

2.5.7 Basic Minimum Needs Strategy

Another approach to rural development is the basic minimum needs (BMN). According to the ILO, it is the organization that initiated the basic needs strategy:

“Basic needs are the minimum standard of living which society should set for the poorest group of its people. The satisfaction of basic needs means meeting the minimum requirement of a family for personal consumption, food, shelter, clothing; and it implies access to essential services such as: safe drinking water, sanitation, transport, health and education. It implies that each person available for and willing to help should have an adequate remunerated job. It should further imply the satisfaction of needs of a more qualitative nature: a healthy humane and satisfying environment and population participation in

the making of decisions that affect the livelihood of the people and individual freedom” (ILO, Geneva 1976:7).

The focus of the basic needs strategy is to ensure that the poorest people of a country have access to basic public services, in particular, education, health, sanitation and clean water supply (Olowu, 1984:44). Since the poorest segment of the population usually resides in the rural areas, efforts at meeting the needs of the rural inhabitants will go a long way to promote rural development.

2.5.8 **Integrated Rural Development**

There has been theoretical discussion concerning rural development focused on two related concepts: those of integrated rural development (IRD) and rural habitat transformation (RHT). The consensus was that the IRD is a holistic and multidiscipline strategy, therefore it requires embracing not only all agencies and major stakeholders, including the rural people, who operate towards the same goal but also, a multidiscipline efforts to see to its successful implementation (Ewusi 1977). The consensus was that the IRD is a holistic and multidiscipline strategy, therefore, it requires embracing all agencies and major stakeholders, including the rural people, who operate towards the same goal as well as a multidiscipline efforts to see to its successful implementation (Ewusi 1977). Besides, it requires a whole range of activities spanning production components of agriculture, industry, roads, minor flood embankment, rural water supply, marketing storage, and housing. Attention was also given to the social services; family planning, health education and social work (Change, 1977:9)

The integrated approach aims generally at the attainment of three objectives, namely, economic development, social development; and educational and cultural development. (Hamza 1971: 39).

In brief, the basic elements of integrated rural development are that: rural development programme should form part of an over all national development plan; the active participation of all members of rural communities in the development process as well as the integration of activities of all agencies concerned with rural development.

2.5.9 Rural Habitat Transformation

The basic concept of rural habitat transformation (RHT) is understood as equivalent to integrated rural development (IRD) (Singh and Singh. 1980: 558), but while the RHT is more comprehensive and spatially oriented, IRD is more relevant to goals of economic planning. In general, RHT/IRD is based on sectoral, sectional and infrastructural/institutional development strategy (Singh and Singh, 1980: 558). The concept of RHT is based on the “needs value eco-development” programme, which seeks to promote human welfare while maintaining the ecological balance.

2.5.10 Agrarian Reforms Approach

Mention can be made of agrarian reforms approach. The guiding principles of these reforms are: “the tillers of the land – the cultivators- must have the opportunity for full participation determining the procedure by which rights in land are defined, how these rights are exercised, and how they are changed” (Dorner, 1972:18). Some of the measures of agrarian reforms are expropriation and redistribution of land; improvement in tenancy conditions and a rise in the minimum farm wage, transformation of traditional forms of tenure, and a variety of improvements, an institutional support such as better credit provisions, marketing facilities among others. Some of the countries that have adopted this approach are Kenya and Uganda.

2.5.11 Rural Craft and Small Holding Approach

In addition to agrarian reform is the rural crafts and small holding approach. This approach encourages the rural communities to undergo training for activities such as masonry, carpentry, black-smith, reproduction of agricultural tools, processing of farm produce, as well as the repair and maintenance of farm machinery. The rationale behind this is to offer the rural communities the opportunity to engage in other income generating activities during the lean season when there are very little farming activities. It also serves as a means of furthering industrialization and rural-urban migration. This approach has been adopted by some countries such as Libya and Kenya (Brown, 1980:29).

2.5.12 Rural Resettlement Approach

This approach was adopted for the Volta River Scheme and the Gezira scheme of Ghana and Sudan respectively. Such schemes are appropriate for settlement or resettlement of landless people, creating of dams for hydro-electric power project, and creating of employment. The farming method employed in such projects is mechanized in nature. The main objective of such schemes is to provide a better way of life for those to be settled (Afriyie 1970). While some of the schemes such as the Gezira scheme of Sudan meant for the growing of cotton contributed greatly to the economy of the country and improved the income of the tenants. Others such as the one in Ghana from 1950 to 1966 was considered a failure though it provided employment for many school leavers.

2.5.13 Community Development Approach

The Community Development Approach (CDA) links with politics and focused on work with those on the margins of society (Ledwith cited in Tara 2006). This approach is perceived as a social learning processes; a learning process, which serves to empower

individuals and social groups by involving them as citizens in collective activities, aimed at socio-economic regeneration, development and change (McCleneghan 2000). The main targets of these approaches are the communities defined as 'social exclusion'-individual, social groups, whole communities, parts of communities, communities within communities, that is, people whose life chances have been affected by the multi-dimensional processes of social exclusion generating social inequalities (McCleneghan 2000). The Community Development Approach as practiced in Ghana and Tanzania allows the traditional patterns of social action to be followed to encourage group activity under group leaders. The leaders help the communities to identify their needs and to undertake the necessary improvement through self-help method (Brown 1980: 25). This approach is expected to develop the sense of responsibility and the spirit of initiative in local communities to undertake programme in such areas as health, education, and other social services.

2.5.14 Asset Based Rural Community Development Approach

In recent times a number of approaches have emerged under the umbrella of the community development approach (CDA), which has occurred throughout history (Wikipedia 2007:2 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_development Accessed in February 2007). Among these new approaches is the Asset based rural community development approach (ABRCDA), which incidentally is a branch of approaches to participatory development practised in several global regions including, Us, Canada, India Australia, Brazil Uganda, South Africa etc (Tara, 2006:1). The proponents of this approach are inclined towards creating enabling conditions for rural development, and as a results postulate that this new approach should involve: (i) a paradigm shift in values, attitudes and behavioural change; (ii) development of new personal, professional and institutional skills is needed for

successful interventions; (iii) recognized that this change in practice is a process and that personal, professional and institutional change do not all have to happen at once; (iv) small group of people 'who get it' can bring about significant change in institutions and in communities. (Tara, 2006)

The underlying principle of this approach is that value, attitude and behavioural change are essential to any successful policy interventions in rural development. There is the need, therefore, for this to be integrated into personal, professional and institutional practice. Although, there is no clear agreement as to whether behavioural change leads to values (more fundamental) change and vice versa, there is recognition that the values and behaviour should be congruent with the successful realization of the ABCDA in rural development. Successful roll out of asset based approaches to rural development therefore involves the building of relationships of trust. This process is two ways from communities towards agencies and founders and from founders, agencies and government to communities (Pasteur 2004).

2.5.15 Rural Community Development

Another approach is rural community development (RCD), which encompasses a range of approaches and activities that aim at improving the welfare and livelihoods of people living in rural areas (Wikipedia 2007:6). As a branch to community development, these approaches pay attention to social issues, particularly, community organization. This is in contrast to other forms of rural development that focus on public works like rural roads and electrification; and technology like tools and techniques for improving agricultural production. The RCD is important in developing countries where a large part of the population is engaged in farming. Consequently, a range of community development methods has been used by organizations involved in international development.

Most of these efforts to promote rural community development are led by 'experts' from outside the community such as government officials, employees of NGOs, and foreign advisers. This has led to a long debate about issue of participation, in which questions have been raised about the sustainability of these efforts and the extent to which rural people are, or are not being empowered to make decisions for themselves. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_development Accessed in February 2007).

The theories, strategies and approaches to rural development that have been described in general may be labeled differently from country to country but the underlying philosophies and principles are similar. This point becomes clearer when one considers the approaches to rural development in Ghana as discussed in the previous pages.

2.6 THEORETICAL POSITION

In applying the theory of urban bias hypothesis to explain the rural-urban imbalance, the study indicated how intra-district disparity in EAD is applicable by using Lipton's model as the focus of analysis. In his "why poor people stay poor", Lipton seeks to explain the reason why urban bias keeps poor (rural) people poor by using two important arguments, namely, urban elites' dominance in the institutions of independence; and inequalities within rural areas to expatiate on his urban bias argument. The study, which employed internal and external factors to explain the existing intra-district disparity within EAD, would be analyzed within the context of the urban bias model.

Chapter three of this work deals with the history and context of development in EAD. The profile of the District reveals that its genius, patriotism, commitment and spirit of self-reliance led to remarkable improvements in socio-economic infrastructures and living standard of the citizens in the past. As a result, it attracted commendation from the colonial

government as “the most leading and progressive state of all... Native states in the Gold Coast” (Addo-Fening 2006). Sadly that same District today cannot afford adequate infrastructure to accelerate development. The findings of the Chapter give the background to and the rationale for the objectives, problems and hypotheses set out for the study, which seek to explain the intra-district disparities in the EAD in relation to both internal and external factors.

Chapter four seeks to explain internal factors accounting for the intra-district disparities in socio-economic infrastructural development in EAD in relation to the second argument of Lipton (1989), namely, inequalities within rural areas, to expatiate on his urban bias argument. This Chapter assesses internal factors such as the extent of local participation in development programme, contribution by the local people as well as Traditional Council in support of development efforts in the District. This part of the Chapter tested the first hypothesis which states that: “lack of commitment on the part of the people in the EAD is the cause of the intra-district disparities within the District since central government’s efforts in addressing the imbalance in rural-urban development in the country had been a mirage”. The findings of this Chapter enabled us determine the approach and development strategy to be adopted in the District.

Chapter five focuses attention on the first argument of Lipton, that is, urban elites’ dominance in the institutions of independence. The Chapter also seeks to explain the external factors accounting for the intra-district disparities in socio-economic infrastructural development in the EAD. The external factors the Chapter assessed include the contributions by the central/local government and other non-governmental development agencies. The second hypothesis the Chapter seeks to test states that: “the existing intra-district disparities is partly caused by lack of co-ordination of the activities of stakeholders charged with the

promotion of rural development in the country”. Variables tested include: equity in spatial allocation of development resources among the various districts, the extent of co-ordination of development activities among the stakeholders etc.

Chapter six, which assessed the impact of local government intervention on the living and working conditions of the rural people in EAD was analyzed within the context of Lipton’s first argument. Premised on the assumption that “the rural development programmes undertaken by local government have not impacted positively on the lives of the rural communities in EAD”, the third hypothesis was tested by variables such as the success or otherwise of local government interventions in improving the living and working conditions of the rural people in the District, impact of rural development programmes on the lives of the rural communities in the District.

2.7 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In this Chapter the literature relevant to the study of rural development was reviewed. The first part of the Chapter highlighted on the rural development programmes embarked upon by successive governments since independence, various strategies and approaches adopted by these governments were also discussed. The final segment of part one discussed the challenges of local government interventions in rural development in Ghana. The second section examined the concept, theories, strategies and approaches to rural development. The final part of the Chapter discussed how urban bias hypothesis is to be applied in this study at chapters four, five and six.

CHAPTER THREE

THE HISTORY AND CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENT WITHIN EAST AKIM DISTRICT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The Chapter three dealt with the presentation and analysis of data gathered in the field in the course of this project work. Data gathered here are made up mostly of information gathered during discussions with major stakeholders of East Akim District (EAD), and from responses to questionnaires and observation of assembly and community activities. It also included information gathered from assembly documents and files. Data in this Chapter also form the basis for analysis and recommendations in chapters four (4), five (5), six (6), and seven (7).

The main issues discussed under this chapter are the history and context of development in the East Akim District. The issues discussed cover the creation of the District, the size and location, the climate, vegetation, soil, natural resources, topography, drainage, population as well as economic and social infrastructure.

3.2 BACKGROUND OF THE EAST AKIM DISTRICT

The EAD was established in 1988 when the PNDCL 207 became operational. The Instrument, which brought the East Akim District Assembly (EADA) into existence is LI 1420, made on the 30th day of November 1988. The District is located at the central portion of Eastern Region and lies between longitude 0° 15' West and latitudes 6° 03' North and 6° 35' North (See Appendix I, p. 158). The District is bounded by eight other districts. On the North is Kwahu South District, North-West is the Birim North District, South-West is the

Atiwa District, on the South are the New Juaben and the Suhum Kraboa-coaltar Districts, and in the East is the Fantekwa District (See Appendix II, p.159).

The EAD, with a total land area of approximately 1,510 square kilometers, occupying 7.8% of the total land area of Eastern Region, is the third largest of the 15 Districts in the Region (GSS, 2005). The District capital, Kyebi (Kibi), is also the traditional capital town of the people of Akyem Abuakwa as well as the paramount seat of Okyenhene. Kyebi is about 45 Km from Koforidua, 105 Km from Accra and 179 Km from Kumasi.

EAD is one of the forty-five newly created Districts that were established in 1988 by PNDC Law 207, which put in place the District Assembly Concept. Using the classification of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, EAD falls within category C of Districts in the country.

The East Akim District Assembly (EADA) is the highest administrative and political body in the District. Its administrative and political jurisdiction covers six (6) traditional chiefdoms, namely Kyebi, Apapam, Asiakwa, Apedwa, Kukurantumi and Tafo. The District was named after the traditional capital of the people of Akyem Abuakwa.

3.2.1 Structure of the East Akim District Assembly (EADA).

The entire land area of the EADA encompasses two (2) constituencies, namely, Abuakwa North and Abuakwa South Constituencies, and is represented in parliament by two (2) parliamentarians. The constituencies are divided into six (6) electoral areas and two town councils each with its own number of elected Assembly Members. In addition to the thirty-one (31) elected Assembly Members are seventeen (17) government appointment members bringing the total membership of the EADA to fifty-one (51) including the DCE and two Members of parliament. In line with the provisions of Act 462, the District

is divided into six Area Councils comprising Kyebi, Asiakwa, Bunso, Osiem, Apedwa, Maase; and two towns including Tafo and Kukurantumi.

In the performance of its functions, the District Assembly works through the Executive Committee and its subsidiary sub-Committees of Development Planning, Social Services, Works, Finance and Administrative and Justice and Security. Headed by the DCE, the Executive Committee is the executing and coordinating secretariat of the Assembly in charge of day-to-day administration as well as implementing of resolutions of the Assembly. In addition to the Executive Committee and its five mandatory subsidiary sub-Committees, the Assembly has put in place other sub-Committees and Technical Committees of sub-Committees to take care of specific needs at specific periods. Some of the sub-Committees set up by the Assembly are Tourism, Education and Water and Sanitation sub-Committees. Other technical committees are formed as and when the need arises, most of which are dissolved after performing the task assigned them.

To enable the District Assemblies discharge their functions effectively, twenty-two (22) departments and organizations listed under section 29 of the First schedule of the 1988 Local Government Law (PNDC Law 207) were placed under the direction and control of the District Assemblies. In line with this the Assembly established offices for sixteen (16) of the twenty-two (22) decentralized departments as prescribed by the law.

3.3 RELIEFS AND DRAINAGE

The land is generally undulating and raises about 240 metres to 300 metres above sea level with the highest point being the Atiwa range rising over 350 metres above sea level (See Appendix III, p. 160). There are several types of rock formation giving the different relief features ranging from flat bottom valleys to steep-sided highlands, which are usually covered

with iron pans, bauxite and kaolin. The underlying rocks are of the Birimian Rock formation covering over three-fourths of the closed forest zone. Also found are masses of granite, which occur in parallel belts. This rock group contains several mineral deposits including gold, diamond, bauxite and kaolin.

There are many rivers and streams in the District but many of them dry up during the dry season, since there is virtually no rainfall during the dry season. The River Birim is the biggest river in the District. Other rivers are Pra, Densu, Kua, Adenchensu and Merepon whose catchment areas lie within the Atiwa-Atweredu Ranges, near Kyebi. The pattern is largely dendritic flowing in the north-south direction.

3.4 CLIMATE

The District lies in the west semi-equatorial zone characterized by double rainfall maxima occurring in June and October. The first rainy season is from May to June; with the heaviest rainfall occurring in June while the second season is from September to October. The mean annual rainfall is between 125cm and 175cm. The dry seasons are really distinct. The main season commences in November and ends in late February.

Temperature is found to be fairly uniform ranging between 26°C in August and 30°C in March. The relative humidity is generally high throughout the year, ranging between 70%-80% in the dry season and 75%-80% in the wet season

3.5 VEGETATION

The District lies within the moist semi-deciduous forest (See Appendix IV, p. 161). There are few forest reserves covering about 183 sq. miles including the Atiwa Forest Reserves (158 sq. miles). The forest reserves constitute about 15% of the entire surface area of the District.

Some commercial species of trees contained in the forest are Odum, Owawa, Ofram, Mahogany and Kyenkyen etc

3.6 SOIL - The major soils in the District are the Asikuma-Atiwa-Ansum/Oda Compound Association (See Appendix V, p.162). Dominating this soil group is the Atiwa series, which are mainly red, well- drained, deep gravel-free silty loams and silty clay loams. The Peki series are brown to reddish yellow, moderately well drained, very shallow and rocky. The valley bottoms are occupied by the Oda series, which are poorly drained alluvial silty clays. The soils are suitable for the cultivation variety of cash crops such as cocoa, coffee, oil palm, citrus, cola-nuts and food crops such as cassava, plantain, yam, cocoyam, maize, rice and vegetables. The land in this area is susceptible to very severe soil erosion if laid bare of vegetation.

3.7 NATURAL RESOURCES

The natural resources that abound in the District are mainly mineral and forest products as well as the water bodies. Mineral resources include deposits of gold, diamond, bauxite and kaolin. The gold and diamond deposits are found in the Birim river basin, Asikam, Agyapoma, Abreponso and Kyebi. Kaolin deposits are found in the Apedwa Ranges whilst bauxite and manganese are found in Apapam (See Appendix VI, P. 163). Forest reserves found at Apedwa (25 sq. miles) contain valuable timber species like *Wawa* (*Tripolchiton scle roxylon*), *Odum* (*Milicia execlsa*), *Sapele* (*Guthaphragong*) and Mahogany (*Kyaya ivoreensis*) etc. The rivers and streams are a potential resource base for fishing and small-scale irrigation schemes. The District is also rich in ground water resources as a result of light rainfall and underlying rock formation in the region. This is a potential source for borehole water. Other natural attractions in the District include monumental remains in the Kukurantumi forest.

3.8 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The demographic structure of the EAD bears similarities with other rural districts in Ghana like large household sizes, high illiteracy and mortality rates. However, there are peculiarities of the District in terms of its population, which are discussed below.

3.8.1 Population Size and Growth Rates The population of the District has been increasing since 1960 and this is attributable to the influx of farmers from the north and other parts of the District. However, the major reason for this increasing 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 on Table 3.1 below.

Table3.1: Population Size and Growth Rates

Year	Male	Female	Total
1960			119,766
1970			125,842
1984			166,191
2000	91,699	97,308	190,347
2001	95,570	101,125	196,696
2002	99,548	105,038	204,586
2003	103,646	109,061	212,708
2004	107,874	113,202	221078

Source: population Census Reports 1960,1970,1984, 2000, 2001,2002,2003,2004/DOCUof EADA Kibi, 2002

3.8.2 Population Density The population increase over time is reflected in the density of population recorded for the periods 1970, 1984 and 2000. The land area of the EAD (1510 sq. km) was inhabited by 125,842 persons in 1970; 166.191 in 1984; and 190,347 in 2000. The population density expresses the level of pressure that the sheer size of population exerts on land. The increasing density is a reflection of the increasing pressure of the District population on the land and its resources. Table 3.2 shows population density over the three censorial periods.

Table 3.2: Population Densities

Year	Population	Density
1960	119766	79 persons/sq km
1970	125,842	83 persons/sq km
1984	166,191	110 persons/sq km
2000	190,347	126 persons/sq km
2001	196,696	130 persons/sq km
2002	204586	136 persons/sq km
2003	212,708	140 persons/sq km
2004	221078	146 persons/sq km

SOURCE: 2000 Population and housing Census. GSS

3.8.3. **Dependency Ratio** The economically active population is within the 15-64 age group and constitutes 51.0% of the population of the District. The dependency ratio, which is the number of economically active persons catering for dependants who are within the 0-14 and above 65 years age group is 1:0.92.6. This implies that every 100 persons are catering for about 93 persons. This dependency ratio is slightly higher than the regional average, which is 1:0.90.7. Despite the dependency ratio of the District, its population ratio growth rate of 3.0%, which almost equals that of the national average of 1:0:87.1 might result in higher dependency ratio in the future.

3.8.4 **Ethnicity** The population in the District is heterogeneous. The indigenes of Akyem form the majority of the ethnic groups in the District. The other major ethnic groups comprise Akuapims, Asantes, Krobos, Northerners and Ewes. There is harmonious co-existence among the various ethnic groups in the communities.

3.8.5 **Rural-Urban Distribution** The population in the District is 68% rural and 32% urban. This accounts for 56 (10.7%) urban localities documented in the 2000 census in the region. Few towns notably Kyebi, New Tafo, Old Tafo, Osiem, Kukurantumi, and Apedwa are the urban centres. These towns are located along the major Accra-Kumasi trunk road and this explains the concentration of socio-economic and technical infrastructure in these towns.

3.9 OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE

Occupational Structure of the District involves all the economic activities of the country. These include Agriculture, Services, Commerce, and Industry. This is indicated in table 3.3 below.

Table 3.3: Occupation

Category	Percentage of Population
Agriculture	58
Services	21.1
Commerce	11
Industry	9.5
Total	100

Source: DPCU, Kibi

Table 3.3 indicates that the occupational structure of the District has not changed since 1996. Agriculture is still the leading employer of the District's workforce accounting for 58% and followed by the service sector with 21.5%, commerce 11% and industry 9.5%.

3.10 ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION

Environmental conditions in the EAD are continuously being influenced by human activities. Lumbering and farming activities constitute the two major human activities in the District that have had tremendous impact on the District's environment. Lumbering activity, for instance, contributes significantly to the depletion of the District's forest reserves. These human actions have resulted in the drying of the District's wetlands and an acceleration of forest depletion. The negative impact of these human activities forced Okyeman into launching a special initiative programme: "save the forest and its wetlands". The District has a fairly large land mass. However the built up areas within the District is relatively small, as compared to the developed areas. The major built up areas within the District are New Tafo, kyebi, Kukurantumi, Asiakwa, Asafo, Apedwa etc. These urban settlements of the District have 32% of the District total population.

3.11 ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

3.11.1 Agricultural Activities: The available records on the economic activities of the District indicate that agriculture constitutes the main economic activities in the District, with an estimated population of 58% engaged in agricultural activities. The major agricultural activity in the District is food crop farming. The greatest asset of the District is its vast agricultural potential. Agriculture is practised at subsistence level with farmers still using crude farming implements and adopted the slash and burnt methods and mixed cropping. Economic activities are financed from the farmers' own savings. Farmers are, however, being supported by the VIP and Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA). The rate of post harvest losses will be reduced by the impact of the VIP post harvest components of providing access to rural farming and marketing. Average farm size of farmers in the District is 3.5 acres compare to the national average of 5.0 acres.

3.11.2 Crop Cultivation The District grows both food and cash crops under the system of bush fallowing and shifting cultivation. Tables 3.4 and 3.5 show the major crops grown in the District and the extent of production, respectively.

Table 3.4: Major crops grown in the District

<u>Crop</u>	<u>District Output</u> (in metric tones)	<u>Regional Output</u> (in metric tones)	<u>National Output</u> (in metric tones)
Yam	4,836	582,535	3,362,909
Plantain	65,700	556,774	1,932,471
Cassava	84,150	1,729,190	8,106,758
Maize	12,070	241,990	10,120,000
Cocoyam	50,400	375,370	1,625,008
Rice	600	24,600	248,694

Source: Statistics Research and Information Directorate (SRID), MOFA, Feb 2001/EADA, Kibi

3.5: Cropped Area for Major Crops in East Akim District

Crop	District Output (in hectares)	Regional Output (in hectare)	National Output (in hectares)
Yam	500	34,100	216,041
Plantain	9000	70,000	244,406
Cassava	8,500	150,000	660,091
Maize	7,100	148,400	694,735
Cocoyam	7,200	55,000	247,642
Rice	300	12,000	115,156

Source: Statistics Research and Information Directorate (SRID), MOFA, Feb 2001/ EADA, Kibi

From Table 3.4, the most widespread crops cultivated in the District are plantain, yam, cassava and cocoyam. However, the District output in food crops seems to be insignificant comparing to the regional and national outputs, considering the fact that the District has forest vegetation and is therefore, ideal for food crops. The least widespread cultivated crops are Yam and Rice. Table 3.5, shows that the District output of Yam and Rice in hectars is negligible, an indication that forest vegetation is naturally not suitable for Yam and Rice cultivation. Though the District output in hectares in Plantain, cassava, Maize and cocoyam appears to be appreciable, it is still insignificant because none of them reaches 10% of the regional output, let alone of the national output.

3.11.3 **Extension Services:** Based on the District population of 190,347, 58% are supposed to be farmers. This gives a figure of 110,401 farmers. Accordingly, farm families are estimated at 19035. With the strength of Agriculture Extension Agents (AEA) standing at 32, AEA ratio is 1:3569 farmers. This gives AEA farm families' ratio of 1:595. In comparison therefore, the District AEA ratio is far below the national AEA ratio of 1:2000-2500.

The implication is that adequate AEA staff should be employed to enable farmers' benefit from such services.

3.11.4. **Irrigation Farming:** *Some* small-scale irrigation is practised along the banks of the Birim River and its tributaries, especially at Tafo, for the cultivation of vegetables.

3.11.5 **Animal Rearing:** Animal rearing in the District is generally at the subsistence level with most animals reared domestically. These include cattle, sheep, goat, rabbit and poultry. The census for poultry and livestock is provided below in table 3.6.

Table 3.6 Poultry and Livestock

Livestock/Poultry	Type	Total
Cattle	Bull	91
	Bullock	21
	Cow	358
	Calves	102
Sheep	Sheep	16832
Goat	Goat	59092
Rabbits	Rabbits	3380
Poultry	Local/Exotic/Guinea Fowls	126970/14371/1864
	Ducks/Turkey	6608/3600

Source: *District Agric office, Tafo*

3.11.6: **Support to Agricultural Activities:** The Village Infrastructure Projects (VIP) is assisting the District with Group Development and Training under its Capacity Building and Institutional Training components. As at October 2002, the VIP had completed the first phase of the training programme. Other areas are post Harvest where the construction of Kyebi markets has been initiated. There is feeder road under construction in 4 areas including Awiabeng-Nobi road, Kyebi-Akooko road, Agyapongma-Boaten road and Pechi Junction-Pechi

3.11.7 **Manufacturing and Processing:** Major manufacturing and processing activities in the District are mostly small scale and comprise mushroom cultivation, snail and grass cutter rearing at Apedwa; oil palm extraction, soap making and gari processing at Maase, Osiem, Tafo, Bunso, Kukuramtumi area.

3.11.8 **Mining and Quarrying:** Mineral deposits in the District include gold, diamond, bauxite and kaolin. Gold prospecting as well as small-scale gold mining covers a total land area of about 343 and 159 acres, respectively. Three large companies are prospecting for gold at Abreponso, Adjapoma and Asikam. Other small-scale mining activities are in quarrying mainly in the lowlands along the Kumasi-Accra road. The boulders are extracted from the foot of the Atiwa hills.

3.11.9 **Lumbering**

The District can boast of timber resources. Many timber species such as mahogany and *kyenkyen* etc are found in the forest reserve. However, the District has no Saw Mills. Most of the timber logs that are harvested are transported to distant Saw Mills outside the District for processing.

3.11.10 **Tourism:** The District has sites of historic and aesthetic importance. The sacred unbroken rainforest at Bansa is preserved as the burial ground for the Chiefs of Akyem Abuakwa. Other known sites include vast scenery attractions such as the butterfly sanctuary, various waterfalls, Agyemprem watershed and monumental rocks at Kukurantumi. These aesthetic features found in the District make the East Akim area attractive for tourism. Even though tourism is one of the leading foreign exchange earners for Ghana, its development in the EAD is minimal. The District's attractive sites should be developed and promoted to attract tourists to the District and hence provide employment and revenue to the District.

3.12. **ECOINOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

3.12.1 **Road Network**

Road transport, the main mode of transport in the District is based on a net-work of trunk and feeder roads. The main trunk roads are the Suhum-Apedwa junction-Bunsu-Junction

road, the Suhum-Apedwa-junction–Kyebi road and Kyebi-Asiakwa-Bunsu junction road. The Apedwa junction-Bunsu junction road forms part of the newly constructed first class road from Accra to Kumasi. The communities, living along the road, do not have a major problem with transportation because the major part of the road is alphalted and vehicles ply the road at regular intervals. Feeder roads form the bulk of the road network and it is estimated that the District has about 320 km, these form part of the main national road network. Besides these, the roads linking outlying settlements and, more importantly, roads leading to farming communities are in a deplorable state. This makes these roads unmotorable during the rainy season as a result of erosion on the roads. The impact is that drivers either refuse to ply on those roads or charge exorbitant fares.

3.12.2 **Market:** The District has four weekly markets. These are the Kyebi market, which takes place on (Tuesdays and Fridays); Osiem market on (Tuesdays); New Tafo market on (Wednesdays and Saturdays); Kukurantumi market on (Sundays). The New Tafo market being the biggest in the District attracts buyers from other parts of the District. The foodstuffs that are commonly sold in the market are plantain, cassava, cocoyam, maize, yams, snails, goats and sheep. Markets in the District are not comparable to those found in other Districts such as Takyiman, Mankesim, Ejura, Kasua etc. This dearth of major marketing centres for selling agricultural products and the poor arrangement for marketing SSI products has been a drawback to economic growth and development. This does not only limit their ability to obtain inputs in commercial quantities but also their responsiveness to customers demand in other places.

3.12.3 **Lorry Park:** The District can boast of only two lorry parks at Kyebi and Tafo. The Tafo lorry park is the busiest. The other places lack adequate space for vehicles and the

traveling public. Part of the main street is used for the parking of vehicles. This results in congestion on the road particularly during markets days and this is a potential source of accidents. In order to ease congestion on the streets and to ensure smooth loading and discharging of goods and wares on the market days, there is a need for a new and well-designed lorry park to be built at New Tafo.

3.12.4 **Rural Electrification Facilities**

Almost all the towns in the District now enjoy electricity from the national grid. This was made possible by virtue of the location of these towns along the main trunk roads and feeder roads which leads to other regional and district capitals of the country. The situation in the rural communities in the District indicates that most of the rural communities have not yet been supplied with electricity for domestic or commercial use.

During the survey, the researcher observed that the construction of a gas plant opposite the District administrative block was under way. The absence of a gas plant in the District over the years has been a drawback to the District's energy issues. This is further worsened by the continuous rise in the cost of the liquefied petroleum Gas as well as the low level of technological development in the use of solar energy in Ghana. Like other districts in Ghana, fuel, wood, and charcoal constitute the main source of energy for domestic use in the District.

3.12.5 **Post and Telecommunication**

Facilities for post and telecommunication in the District are woefully inadequate. Surprisingly, other settlements like New Tafo and Kukurantumi are served with telephone facilities, to the exclusion of the District capital, Kyebi. The problem is blamed on irregular terrain, which interferes with reception of telecommunication messages. Any attempt to improve the post and telecommunication in the District will accelerate the pace of the development of the District.

3.13. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SERVICES

3.13.1 Department and Institutions

In addition to the District Assembly, many government departments render services to the people in the District. These include Social Welfare Department, Department of Community Development, Agriculture Services, Office for the Ministry of Education, National Electoral Commission, Department of Information Service, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Ghana Education Service, Ministry of Health, Judicial Service etc. There are some financial institutions in the District including Ghana Commercial Bank, Adonten Rural Bank, Mumuadu Rural Bank.

3.13.2 **Education:** Generally, the District is in good standing in terms of education both in terms of infrastructure, resources and numbers.

Table 3.7 District Education Facilities

Facilities	Public	%	Private	%	Total	%
Nursery	125	74	43	26	168	100
Primary	181	81	42	19	223	100
JSS	125	89	15	11	140	100
SSS	6	86	1	14	7	100
Tech./Voc.	1	33	2	67	3	100
Training College	1	100	-	-	1	100

Source: District GES, Kibi

From the table, the District can boast of six (6) second cycle institutions in the District. These are the Abuakwa State College (Kyebi), WBM Zion Secondary School (Old Tafo), St. Paul's Technical School (Kukuantumi), St. Stephen Secondary School (Asiakwa), Ofori Panin Secondary School (Kukuantumi), Asafo Senior Secondary School and Sekyere SDA Senior Secondary School (Private). The only tertiary educational institution is the Kibi Teacher Training College at Kyebi.

Some public institutions such as Nursery, Primary and JSS were rehabilitated during the second period under review. Several of them under-went expansion work. Unfortunately, the situation with the first cycle institutions is quite different. Most of these schools require rehabilitation and maintenance of the facilities, particularly classroom blocks. Even though the District Assembly, communities and other stakeholders/NGOs (World Vision International, SDA), etc. have made a meaningful contribution in the provision of infrastructure for basic schools, much remains to be done.

The educational status of the adult population is very low as the District is characterized by a very high rate of adult illiteracy. It is estimated that about 85 per cent of the population aged 15 years and above, are illiterate. Empirical evidence shows that females constitute a significant percentage of the illiterate population. This situation has serious implications because of the important role women play in the social and economic life of the communities.

3.13.3 **Health:** The health delivery system in the District is fairly good. The District has two government hospitals at Kibi and New Tafo. A number of health centres and Maternity and Child HealthCare Centres (MCH) offer health services to the people. Table 3.8 shows the existing health facilities available in the District.

Table 3.8 Health Facilities existing in the East Akim District.

Type of Facility	Number Existing	Location
Hospital	2	Kyebi, New Tafo
Health Centres	4	Apedwa, Asafo, Bunso, Asiakwa
MCH Centre	3	Kwesi Komfo, Awenare, Kukurantumi
Outreach Clinics	99 points	District wide
TBAs	70 Trained	District wide
Private Maternity Home	4	Tafo (5), Asiakwa, Kukurantumi.
Private Hospital	None	-

Source: Reproduction and Child Health Care (RCH)

3.13.4 Water Facilities

East Akim District currently has water coverage of about 55% for communities with population below 5000 (EAD 2002-2004). This is slightly lower than the national figure of 57.0% (EAD 2002-2004). The water facilities in the District include boreholes, hand-dug wells and stand pipes. In all, 194 boreholes, 51 hand-dug wells, and 12 stand pipes are available. Water facilities were provided under the sponsorship of JICA, AMER, ARAP, ADRA and the EAD. However, some communities still depend on traditional sources of water supply such as streams, springs and harvested rain as the main source of domestic water supply.

3.14 REVENUE BASE

The District cannot make significant headway in her development without the necessary resources. A sound financial base for the District Assembly is therefore crucial in speeding the development of the district. One needs to look at the revenue generation capacity of the assembly. Considering the numerous functions (Eight-five distinctive functions) transferred to each District Assembly, one would expect each Assembly to strive hard to generate enough revenue. Unfortunately, the revenue base of the Assembly is very weak. It relies very heavily on the traditional sources (internally generated revenue) including rates and receipts (basic rates, property rates); lands (share of stool lands, sale of buildings permits and mining); fees and fines (courts fines, market tolls, lorry park, artisans, marriage/divorce etc); licences (local breweries, lotteries, millers, traders/bakers, kiosk, restaurants, etc); rent (Assembly houses, market stalls) and interest on investments; which are woefully inadequate. However, there are external sources of revenue including Central Government transfers, Grants-in-aids like ceded revenue, DACF, Village Infrastructure Projects (VIP), Donor funds etc. The Local Government Law empowers District Assemblies to engage in trading and

other income-generating activities. The EADA has been making judicious use of this offer, yet its internally generated income or revenue has always been lower than the external sources. A cursory look at the cash inflow/revenue from table 3.9 for 1996 to 2004 will attest to this.

Table 3.9: Sources of Revenue of East Akim District Assembly

Year/ Sources	Int.Gen. Funds (Million)	DACF (Million)	VIP (Million)	DANIDA (Million)	EU (Million)	Social Inv. Fund (Million)	Total Inflows (Million)
1997	993						
1998	1602						
1999	1,314						
2000	1,511						
2001	1,456						
2002	557+	1,715	1,468	4,149	280	-	8,169
2003	724+	2,492	3,600	6,140	336	-	13,929
2004	1,014	3,289	2,500	5,220	392	-	12,415
Total	2,313	7,496	7,568	15,509	1,008	-	

SOURCE: Revenue of Kibi District Assembly

From the table 3.10, it is clear that Donor funds (DANIDA, EU) constitute the highest source of income to the District. This is followed by Central Government Transfers (DACF, VIP) while Internally Generated Fund (IGF) forms negligible percentage of the total sum. This therefore requires extra efforts in generating enough revenue within the District.

3.15 CONCLUSION

This Chapter has traced the profile of the East Akim District. The profile of the EAD shows that apart from education, which is encouraging, even at the basic level, the District does not have adequate social and economic infrastructures to accelerate development. The District Assembly has been making efforts to develop the District but does not have sufficient resources to meet all the needs of the communities in the District. The Chapter also revealed that the District abounds in natural resources including tourist sites, yet these have not been developed to support development on local initiative.

CHAPTER FOUR

INTERNAL FACTORS FOR THE INTRA-DISTRICT DISPARITIES IN SOCIO- ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN EAD.

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into two sections. The first part discusses the social characteristics of the respondents of EAD. The second section also deals with the internal factors responsible for the intra-district disparities in socio-economic infrastructural development in the EAD. In line with this, the Chapter seeks to address the first sub-problem which asks the question; “what are the internal factors accounting for the intra-district disparities in socio-economic infrastructural development in EAD?” and out of that test the first hypothesis which states that “lack of commitment on the part of the people of EAD is partly the cause of the existing intra-district disparities within the District, since Local Government efforts in addressing the imbalance rural-urban development in the country had been a mirage. In testing the first hypothesis, three variables were measured, namely, local participation and involvement in the development projects in the district; local contribution including the people’s financial contribution, and that of the Traditional Council towards development of social amenities in the District.

4.2 DATA ANALYSIS ON THE INTERNAL FACTORS FOR THE INTRA-DISTRICT DISPARITIES WITHIN EAD

4.2.1 Social Characteristics of Respondents

When the respondents were asked to give their ages, the following statistics were obtained: 26 (26%) represented the lowest number of respondents aged between 18 and 30 age group; the second highest number of respondents 63 (31%) represented persons in 31-45 age group; the third highest number 107 (53.5%) comprised persons aged 46 years or more. However, 5 (2.5%) of the respondents did not indicate any category of age.

The statistics on age therefore indicate that most of the respondents are still in the economically active group. At the same time it points to the fact that they also abreast with the subject of the research as well as the period under study. The details of the age groups can be found table 4.1 below in page 72.

4.3 Sex of Respondents

The data on gender indicate that the researcher was gender sensitive hence, a simple male majority of 110 (55%) as against their female counterparts of 90 (45%). The data on sex of respondents can be found in table 4.1 below in page 72. The last segment of table 4.1 shows that of 200 respondents, an overwhelming majority of 181 were domiciled within the District. Only 19 of the respondents live in Accra. There were employees of Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment (MLGRD&Env't); Micro-Project Unit (MPU) of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoF); and the employees of other Donors and NGOs. These employees were drawn from European Union (EU); world Vision Ghana (WVG); and Germany Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The details on the data of the sex of respondents have been provided in table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1 Personal Data of Respondents: Age, Sex, Quota and Place of Residence

Category of Respondents	Age				Sex		Place of Residence	
	18-30	31-45	46+	Missing System	Male	Female	Within District	Outside District
Assembly Members/Staff	0	10	24		24	6	30	4
Trad. Council	0	3	33		23	13	33	3
Stakeholders of Rural Dev't	0	9	6		10	5	3	12
General Public/Opinion/Leaders	26	40	44		55	66	115	0
Total	26	62	107	5	110	90	181	19

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

The data on the occupation of the respondents also indicate that 71 (35.5%) are farmers, 4 (2.0%) are domestic workers, 12 (6%) are traders, 42 (21%) are public servants, 41 (20.5%) are self-employed; 6 (3%) are students; 10 (5.0%) are businessmen/women and 9 (4.5%) are unemployed. However, 5 (2.5%) of the respondents opted for other forms of occupation apart from the ones listed in the questionnaire. This confirms the data obtained under occupational structure in chapter three (3), which depicts agriculture as the leading employer of the District's workforce as well as the main economic activity of the rural communities in the country. The details of data on occupation can be found in table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Occupation of Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Farmer	71	35.5
Domestic worker	4	2.0
Traders	12	6.0
Public Servant	42	21
Self Employed	41	20.5
Student	6	3
Businessman	10	5
Un-employment	9	4.5
Other	5	2.5
Total	200	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

One of the conditions considered for the selection of the respondents was that the respondent should be the one who has either stayed in the town/village or worked with his/her organization, Assembly, or the Traditional Council for not less than eight years. This was to ensure selection of respondents who have stayed/or worked in the District for long and are well versed in the issues captured in the questionnaire. This condition was exclusively for the residents of the District. The employees of NGOs/Donors were however, exempted from this condition. The results obtained from this questionnaire are as follows: 25 (12.5%) chose 1-9 years; 60 (30%) chose 10-19 years; 47 (23.5%) chose 20-29 years; 16 (8%) chose 30-39 years; and 52 (26%)

chose 40 or more years. This means that about 87.5% of the respondents have stayed in the District for not less than 10 years. This is also an indication of the respondents' familiarity with the issues captured in the questionnaire.

Out of 200 respondents, a little more than half 115 (57.5%) belong to the category of general public/opinion leaders; 36 (18.0%) were Chiefs and Elders of the Traditional Council of the District; 34 (17%) were the Assembly staff/ Members. 15 (7.5%) of the respondents, however, represent the employees of NGOs, donor Agencies and Local/Central Government etc. The details of the Composition of the Sample Size can be found in table 4.1 in page 72 above.

The interview schedules were administered in 17 communities. These communities where the population is relatively large such as Kyebi (12), New Tafo/Ayigbe Town (10) Asiakwa (10), Kukurantumi/Zongo Community (12), Apedwa (8) and Osiem (8), the sample size was increased. The remaining eleven (11) communities where the population is relatively small were apportioned with five (5) respondents each. These communities were Ahwenease, Adadientam, Apapam, Bunso (Ayigbe town), Sagyimase, Asikam. The rest are Amanfrom, Odumasi, Old Tafo, Maase and Asafo. The study also took cognizance of the communities that have development projects undertaken by NGOs/Donor Agencies with or without collaboration of the District Assembly, Traditional Council or the General Public. The original plan of the survey, which was to interview at least two (2) traditional rulers from each of the 17 communities visited, was strictly adhered to. This made it possible for the research team to interview thirty-six (36) traditional rulers comprising Chiefs, Queen mothers, Elders etc. In all the 17 communities, the respondents were asked to mention specific development projects undertaken by the District Assembly/Donors/NGOs with financial contribution by the people. This same question was repeated in Section D

question 26. This question was to enable the researcher assess the quantum of contribution by each category of respondents in the District.

4.4 LOCAL PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN EAD.

Degun (1969:175) has observed that the effectiveness of local government in any country can be judged according the amount of local interest that it generates, the social amenities it provides, and the extent to which it has catered for the happiness and general well-being of the communities it has been established to served. In the light of this assertion by Degun, this thesis asks logical, hypothetical question: Has local government brought the much trumpeted people's participation in decision-making? Has it stimulated people's interest in national and local affairs? Are people now capable of satisfying their basic needs? Have the necessary infrastructure needed for increased production, equitable distribution and increased income been provided? Are health, education and market and other basic facilities available or accessible and affordable to the majority of the people?

Against this background, the internal factors accounting for the intra-district disparities in EAD was assessed. This problem was assessed first, in relation to popular participation and development; the two major objectives of the decentralization programme are the two principles upon which the answers to the above questions would be sought. In addition, the local contribution including Traditional Council was discussed. The approach adopted by the researcher was to compare changes in conditions, the extent of local participation and involvement in development programmes in the District over two separate periods, that is, from 1997-2000 and 2001-2004. Where changes are quantified, and figures were available, they have been provided.

When the respondents were asked to describe the extent of local participation and involvement in development projects, the following responses were obtained. 41.5% of the respondents described the extent of participation and involvement as low; while 47.0% chose high participation and involvement; and 1.5% said the local people did not participate in the development projects in the District. Also 10.0% of the respondents did not select any answer. The fact that less than 50% of the respondents adjudged the level of participation and involvement as high implies that either the local people are apathetic to the development of their own District or local government (District Assembly) has not been effective in stimulating people's interest in local matters. This is likely to have an adverse affect on development effort in the District. The data on the extent of local participation and involvement in the development projects in the EAD can be found in table 4.3.

Table 4.3: The Extent of Local Participation and Involvement in Development Projects in EAD.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Low Participation	183	41.5
High Participation	94	47.0
No Participation	3	1.5
No Response	20	10.0
Total	200	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

4.4.1 Participation in the Initiation of Projects in the EAD

In another development, an overwhelming majority of 157 (78.5%) of the interviewees responded in the affirmative in a follow up question with regard to local people's participation in the initiation of projects. Those who said they did not participate in the initiation of projects were few 14 (7.0%); whereas 9 (4.5%) said they did no know, 20 (10%) did not provide any answer.

Studies have shown that the grassroots populations have very marginal access to resources, and as a consequence, accept any package from development agencies. In the end, these development agencies have the power to influence the decision or strategies propagated within a given area of their operation (Njuguna Ng'ethe et al 1990:139). My informants confirmed this assertion when the researcher probed into how those who said they participated in the initiation of projects were involved in the initiation. The study revealed among others that: (i) most of the projects were either awarded on contract, or originated from the District Assembly or non-governmental agencies. Consequently, the people had no option than to accept them; (ii) there were few instances in which personnel of the DA or non-governmental agencies held discussions on the needs of the local people before deciding to embark upon the project; (iii) some were executed following request to the Assembly or non-governmental agencies for assistance.

In any case, the fact that most of the respondents said that the projects were either awarded on contract or suggested to them indicates the possibility of being influenced by the personnel of the DA or non-governmental agencies during the dialogue stage to accept the projects. This implies that one cannot rule out the possibility of the Assembly or the non-governmental agencies indirectly imposing projects on some rural communities by influencing them to accept some projects in the District. Another possibility also is that many non-governmental agencies undertake specific projects to achieve particular objectives of their own. In these circumstances, rural communities do not have any choice but to agree to what is offered them or lose assistance from these non-governmental agencies.

4.4.2 Participation in the Implementation of Projects in the EAD

The response on the extent of rural communities' participation in the implementation of development projects undertaken by the DA or Donor/non-governmental agencies shows that greater percentage of the respondents 172 (86%) claimed that the people have been involved in the implementation of projects, 14 (7%) do not and the remaining 14 (7%) were indifferent.

In an attempt to discover specific contributions made by the respondents who answered in the affirmative, a follow up question was asked thus: "How were you involved in the implementation of projects"? Out of 86% (172) who said they participated in the implementation of projects, more than two-thirds 122 (70.9%) confirmed that the people provide labour. The response given by these respondents can be attributed to the fact that rural communities are familiar with communal labour so it is easier to get rural communities to provide labour for projects than to ask them to pay money. It is not surprising, therefore, for only 6 (3.5%) to claim that they contributed money and 22 (12.8%) both labour and money.

Another reason is that the rural communities in EAD and Ghana in general, have low incomes so the District Assemblies, Donors and NGOs are not likely to succeed in the implementation of projects by relying mainly on the financial contributions from the rural people in the District. However, 4 (2.3%) said they do not know how the people are involved in the implementation process, while 18 (10.5%) did not provide any answer. The details of the data on responses of some rural communities' participation in the implementation of development projects in EAD can be found in table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Responses on how Rural Communities in EAD Participate in the Implementation of Projects by DAs/Donors/NGO.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Provided Labour	122.9	70.9
Contributed Money	6	3.5
Provided Labour and Contributed Money	22	12.8
Don't Know	4	2.3
Missing System	18	10.5
Total	172	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

4.4.3 Participation (of Some Rural Communities) in the Management of Projects in EAD

The responses on the involvement of the people in the management of projects indicate that more than half of the respondents 128 (64.0%) were involved in the management or running of projects. While 18 (9.0%) said they did not involve the people, 34 (17.0%) said they did not know and the remaining 20 (10.0%) did not choose any answer. The study, however, revealed that both the people and the DA/Donor/NGOs managed the projects together. This means that these agencies give rural communities in the District the chance to participate fully in the management of their projects.

4.4.4 Participation in the Evaluation of Projects in EAD

The responses of the question of involvement of the rural communities in the evaluation of development projects provided a positive result: whereas 131 (65.5%) of the respondents indicates that the communities participate in the evaluation of projects, 18 (9.0%) answered in the negative, while 31 (15.5%) said they did not know whether the people participate in the evaluation process or not. However, 20 (10.0%) of the respondents did not answer the question. The response indicates that most of the rural communities participate in the evaluation of projects. Here, it was found that a meeting involving opinion leaders and

personnel of these agencies organized for them to deliberate on the issues on the progress of the projects, and then take decisions on them.

4.4.5 Local Communities' Contribution towards Development Projects in the EAD

The responses to the rural community's contribution towards the development projects in their locality were as follows: majority of the respondents 170 (85%) answered in the affirmative, whilst the simple minority 25 (12.5%) responded in the negative. However, 5 (2.5%) of the respondents said that they did not know whether the people contribute towards development of projects or not.

Various reasons given with regards to why the people do not contribute towards development projects include the following: 7.7% cited lack of transparency on the part of the Traditional Council in handling funds through citizen's contribution; 34.6% poverty/financial constraints; 15.5% apathy; while 30.1% were of the view that in most cases the District Assembly, NGOs/Donor agencies award the projects on contract so there was no need for the people to make contributions. However, 2 (7.7%) stated that the protracted chieftaincy disputes in some communities have created need to support such an enterprise. Though 15.4% did not choose any response. Details of the data on reasons why the rural communities do not contribute to development projects have been provided in table 4.5 below.

Table 4.5: Reasons Given on why Rural Communities Do not contribute towards Development Project.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Lack of transparency on the part of the chiefs	2	7.7
Due to poverty/financial constraints	9	34.6
Apathy	4	15.4
Development projects warded on contracts	6	23.1
Due to protracted chieftaincy disputes	2	7.7
No Response	3	11.5
Total	26	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

Out of 85% (170) who said the rural people in the District offer contributions were asked to indicate how often such contributions were offered and the responses were as follows: 42 (24.7%) of the respondents said contribution is offered very often, 38 (22.4%) said contribution is offered often and 81 (47.6%) also said contribution is offered once a while. 1 (0.6%) said they do not know and 8 (4.7%) did not choose any answer.

When the respondents were asked to mention specific development projects to which the rural communities made financial contributions, various projects ranging from the construction of KVIP/Toilet facilities 45 (12.9%); School building/facilities including Nursery, Day Care Centres, Teachers Bungalows/Library etc 70 (20%); construction of roads and streets 20 (5.7%); electrification projects and street lights 60 (17.1); Small Town Water Projects/pipe/boreholes/hand dug well 80 (22.9); Hospital/Clinic/Health Centres 10 (2.9) etc. were mentioned. Details of Table 4.6 had been provided below.

Table 4.6: Specific Development Projects that the Rural Communities in the District offered Contribution.

Response	Frequency	Percent
No Response	20	5.7
Construction of KVIP/Toilet Facilities	45	12.9
Construction of School building/facilities	70	20
Construction of Roads/Streets/Street Gutter	20	5.7
Electrification Projects/Street lights/Bulbs	60	17.1
Small Town Water Projects/Pipe/Boreholes/Hand Dug Well	80	22.9
Market/Stores/Stalls	30	8.6
Hospital/Clinic/Health Centre	10	2.9
Funeral Grounds	15	4.3
Total	350	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

The questions under this section were to guide the researcher test the first hypothesis. The main issues considered were the extent of the local participation and involvement of local governmental and non-governmental development projects; financial contribution offered by the local people including The Traditional Council in support of the development projects in the District etc. The details and results of the test of first hypothesis can be found in page 103 of this Chapter.

4.5 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

Focus group discussion on local participation in the four stages of initiation, implementation, evaluation and management of projects in the District produced very interesting results. At the initiation stage, according to the rural communities, the District Assembly/NGOs/Donors Agencies award most of the projects on contract therefore, they played no part. While some said that they lobbied for projects through influential persons in the communities, others said they either applied or requested assistance from these stakeholders. There are instances in which Donors/NGOs approached them, held discussion with community leaders (opinion leaders) to identify their needs and proposed the type of project they wanted in their communities.

Even though 86% claimed that they have been actively involved in the implementation stage, the focus group discussion confirmed that the communities' participation in implementation take the form of provision of labour. There were some cases where financial contributions were made in addition to communal labour. In the case of European Union (EU) projects, the beneficiary communities provide 25% of the total cost of funding, which may be provided by either the District Assembly or members of the communities. Also there were some projects that some communities started on their own and got support of the Donor/ NGOs later.

The focus group discussion also confirmed that most of the projects undertaken by the Donor/NGOs Agencies were managed entirely by the communities. At Bunsu and other communities, where there were community libraries and standpipe, the projects are managed entirely by the local people. Others were managed in collaboration with the DA/Donor/NGOs and the communities through management committees.

Once again, the focus group discussion confirmed that most of the communities participated in the evaluation of DAs/Donors/NGOs funding projects, this was described as a mere formality. Because the outcome of the evaluation exercise may not conform to the project objective of these stakeholders who are supposed to take action on certain issues may not have the resources to deal with the issue or the issue may not conform to their policies.

Notwithstanding these limitations, the focus group discussion shows that local participation in development projects by stakeholders cannot be reduced to mere labour provision because there are some cases of real participation of beneficiaries in the initiation, implementation, management and the evaluation of DA/NGOs/Donor Agencies' projects.

4.6 CONTRIBUTION BY THE CITIZENS OF EAD

In the light of Degun's observation (1969: 175), this part of the chapter seeks to assess effectiveness of local government in relation to its efforts in addressing intra-district disparities in the EAD. This segment of questionnaire (Section C) was to guide the researcher find explanation to the disparity between anticipated development of physical infrastructure and the reality of the situation in the District.

In all the seventeen communities the respondents were asked to determine which of the two different periods recorded the highest number of development projects in the District; and 16 (8.6%) of the respondents said it was the period between 1997 and 2000 whilst the

majority 132 (71.4%) were of the view that the highest number of development projects were recorded between 2001 and 2004. Some 17 (9.2%) chose both periods, 13 (7.0%) did not know the period that recorded the higher number of development projects and 7 (3.8%) did not answer the question at all. Table 4.7a below provides responses for the question.

Table 4:7a: The Number of People Interviewed on the Period that Recorded the Highest Number of Development projects

Response	Frequency	Percent
1997-2000	16	8.6
2001-2004	132	71.4
Don't Know	13	7.0
Both Periods	17	9.2
No Response	7	3.8
Total	185	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

Table 4:7b: Reasons Given for the Choice of 2001-2004 as the Period That Recorded the Highest Number of Development Projects

Reasons Given	Frequency	Percent
Because of the influence of the MP in the District.	5	4.2
The Area is now covered by the DA Development Plan	1	0.8
The District was marginalized by the previous government.	33	27.5
The present government is Rural Development oriented	8	6.7
The government enjoys goodwill from the people in District	4	3.3
The DACF is now substantial and efficiently utilized	9	7.5
Rural development projects are now fairly distributed among the various districts compare to the past	51	42.5
Due to the advent of HIPC Initiatives	2	1.7
Because the DCE is very efficient	7	5.8
Total	120	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

The following responses were obtained with regard to the particular period that the District Assembly enjoyed maximum co-operation in terms of the people's participation, involvement and contribution towards development projects in the District: An over-whelming majority of

the respondents 125 (67.6%) said the Assembly enjoyed maximum co-operation (in terms of the people's participation, involvement and contribution towards development projects in the District) during the period between 2001 and 2004, while 25 (13.5%) said maximum co-operation was enjoyed between the period of 1997 and 2000. 15 (8.1%) also stated that maximum co-operation was enjoyed during both periods listed in the question. However, 20 (10.8%) did not know whether the Assembly enjoyed maximum co-operation in any of the periods stated in the question. The details on table 4.8a have been presented below.

Table 4.8a: Number of People Interviewed on the Period that the Assembly Enjoy Maximum Cooperation in terms of the People's Participation, Involvement and Contribution towards Development Projects

Response	Frequency	Percent
1997-2000	25	13.5
2000-2004	125	67.6
Both Periods	15	8.1
Don't Know	20	10.8
Total	185	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

Table 4.8b: Reasons Given for the Choice of the 2001-2004 as the Period that the Assembly Enjoyed Maximum Co-operation

Reasons given	Frequency	Percent
People were motivated by the numerous on-going projects	5	7.1
The DEC is proactive, efficient and hardworking	3	4.3
After so many years of marginalization the people opened up to embrace the administration of the new government	44	62.9
Due to public education, sensitization and awareness on the on-going development projects in the villages	6	8.6
There is collaboration between the people and the Assembly	4	5.7
It is a true reflection of the goodwill being enjoyed by the government in the district.	3	4.3
Because good governance and rule of law are at work	1	1.4
Total	70	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

When asked to state whether the rate of development projects being carried out in their communities as well as the whole of the District are faster now than before 2001, 124 (67.0%) answered “yes”. While 41 (22%) responded “no”, 13 (7.0%) also said they did not know whether the rate of development in their community is faster now than before 2001. However, (3.8%) of the respondents did not answer the question at all.

In terms of factors that account for the faster rate of development in the District (after 2001), 34 (7.7%) of the respondents chose reduction in the size of the District into a smaller unit, 56 (12.7%) chose visionary leadership of the assembly officials, especially the DCE; and 40 (9.1%) chose visionary leadership of the Traditional rulers. Another proportion 58 (13.2%) asserted that the rate of development is by virtue of the contribution by NGOs in the District; 32 (7.2%) chose contribution from Traditional Council/Royalties and 80 (18.2%) also chose contribution by the people. 30 (6.8%) opted for political patronage, while 105 (23.9%) chose contribution by Central/Local Government/MP. However, 5 (1.1%) mentioned HIPC Initiative as other for the faster rate of development in the District.

The above question was informed by the preliminary discussion the researcher had with some officials at the MLGRD&Env't. Some factors like the reduction of some districts into smaller size, old age of some districts, presence of some NGOs/donor agencies in some districts, political patronage, contribution of citizens in some districts, contribution by the Central/Local Government etc., were mentioned as having influencing the development processes of some districts in the country. In the case of the EAD, it is the Central/Local Government's contribution, reduction of the District into smaller size; contribution by NGOs/Donor Agencies, and of course, the pro-activeness of the DCE that featured prominently.

Even though, the peoples' contribution appeared the second highest, with the visionary leadership of the Traditional Rulers and contribution from the Royalties gaining significant percentage, their contributions were mainly in the form of communal labour, monitoring, and supervisions rather than monetary contribution. Unfortunately, the general perception that those districts perceived as the strong holds of the ruling government are always favoured in the allocation of development projects cannot hold water in EAD.

The focus group discussion (FGD) at Akyem Asafo confirmed the 6.8% recorded during the interview that political patronage plays no role in the development process in the District. Respondents at Akyem Asafo expressed their disappointment in their MP for not using his enormous influence in the present government to attract more development projects into the District. As one of the discussants remarked:

“We have been in opposition for far too long, we have been marginalized for all these years. Therefore, much was the expectation of the people that the District would benefit tremendously from the ruling government and more so through the influence of our MP, Nana Akufu-Addo, who incidentally, is very influential in the ruling government. But it appears the District is not attracting any thing different from what all other districts are getting”.

The question on the peoples' contribution also attracted comment from the focus group discussions, which gave the impression that the peoples' contribution, though appeared second highest, had not been all that significant as far as the development of their own community is concerned. Here, my informants at Apedwa did not mince words in remarks.

“We normally do not offer financial contribution, because we do not have money, the poverty rate is still high due to high rate of unemployment. Our contribution has been in the form of communal labour. The Assemblyman in consultation with the chiefs would beat gongong for the people to attend communal labour. It is more than five years since we contributed in support of streetlights in the town. Formerly, our citizens abroad were sending remittances but the protracted chieftaincy disputes in this town and lack of transparency on the part of our leaders have demoralized them”

The chief of Bunso also expressed similar sentiment and said:

“My community is dominated by migrant settlers, who are government workers and tax payers as well. Therefore, they do not see the need to support development projects in this town. Because of financial constraints, the citizens too do not offer any help”.

The data on the factors that account for the faster rate of development in the District can be found in Table 4.9.

Table 4.9: Responses of Interviewees on the suggested list of items that account for the Faster rate of development

Determining factors	Frequency	Percent
Reduction of the District into smaller unit	34	7.7
Visionary leadership of the Assembly officials	56	12.7
Visionary leadership of the traditional rulers	40	9.1
Contribution by NGOs/Donor Agencies in the District	58	13.2
Contribution from Traditional Council/Royalties	32	7.3
Contribution by the people	80	18.2
Political patronage	30	6.8
Contribution by Central/local government/MP	105	23.9
Other Specify: HIPC	5	1.1
Total	440	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

4.7 SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS EMBARKED ON IN EAD FROM 1997-2000 AND 2001-2004

A summary of the responses on socio-economic infrastructural projects embarked on by the Central/Local government/District Assembly with or without assistance from either NGOs/Donor Agencies/Royalties/Local people shows gross disparity in the two different periods under study. The data is clearly shown in Table 4.10.

Table 4.10: Responses of Interviewees on Specific Infrastructural Development Projects Undertaken in the EAD from 1997-2004.

Specific Rural Development Project	Frequency in 1997-2000	Percent	Frequency in 2001-2004	Percent
Educational Facilities	48	45.7	57	54.3
Rural Road Network	11	21.2	41	78.8
Communication Facilities	5	62.5	3	37.5
Toilet/KVIP Facilities	23	24.2	72	75.8
Rural Health Facilities	24	53.3	21	46.7
Rural Electrification Projects	26	37.1	44	62.9
Rural Water Facilities	20	23.5	65	76.5
Markets/Stores	15	23.1	50	76.9
Sanitation Facilities	2	28.6	5	71.4
Police station	0	0	3	100

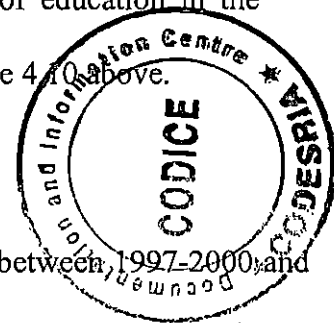
SOURCE: Field Data 2006

4.7.1 Educational Facilities

Analysis of the available data on educational facilities clearly revealed that greater percentage 54.3% of the educational infrastructure, especially at the basic level, was provided in the period between 2001-2004. The remaining 45.7% were provided in the period between 1997-2000. These facilities are newly built, rehabilitated or expanded by the Central/Local Government, NGOs or donor with or without assistance from the citizens. This can be understood from the point of view of the present government's commitment to upgrade educational facilities as an attempt to improve the standard of education in the country. The details of the data on educational facilities can be found table 4.10 above.

4.7.2 Rural Road Network

With regard to rural road network, great disparity is seen in the periods between 1997-2000 and 2001-2004. From 1997-2000 only 21.2% of the rural communities had access to good rural road network, and the bulk 78.8% of the rural road network was constructed in 2001-2004. Personal observation made by the researcher indicates that apart from the trunk and major feeder roads,



which form the bulk of the road network in the District as well as national road network, the minor rural road network linking the District capital and the rural communities were either constructed, rehabilitated or re-gravelled between 2001-2004. This includes Kyebi–Adedienatm-Awhenease- Apapam road, Asafo-Maase-Old Tafo road. Other minor rural roads networks under construction in 4 areas, during the survey, include Awiabeng-Nobi road, Kyebi-Akooko road, Agyapongma-Boaten road, and Pechi Junction-Pechi. Before then, the roads leading to these rural communities were in a deplorable state. The details of the data on rural road network can be found in table 4.10 above.

4.7.3 Rural Electrification Project

In the supply of electricity, marginal disparity exists in the periods between 1997-2000 and 2001-2004. The data revealed that 40% of the rural communities had access to electricity supply in the period between 1997-2000, while 60% of the rural communities had access to electricity supply in the period between 2001-2004. This is indictment of the previous government in that most of the communities lie along the main trunk and feeder roads. This, therefore, requires of government little funding to meet the cost of extending electricity from the national grid into these communities. The details of the data on rural electrification project can be found in table 4.10 above.

4.7.4 Rural Water Facilities

With regards to water facilities in the District, again, there is a glaring disparity between the periods understudy. The available data indicate that 23.5% of the water facilities was provided in the period between 1997-2000, while the remaining 76.5% was provided in the period between 2001-2004. It was found that the greater percentage of the water facilities in the period between 2001-2004 was partly due to the proliferation of mining activities in the District, which have led to pollution of the District main source of water supply, River Birim. These mining

companies were thus compelled to provide alternative sources of water supply by providing more boreholes, hand-dug wells etc. The details of the data on rural water facilities can be found in table 4.10 above.

4.7.5 Post And Telecommunication

Though, facilities for post and telecommunication in the District are woefully inadequate, the respondents indicated that greater percentage 72.5% of these facilities was provided in the period between 2001-2004, while the remaining 27.5% were provided in 1997-2000. The survey revealed that the only telephone facilities available in other settlements like New Tafo and Kukurantumi were provided in the period between 2001-2004. The details of the data on post and communication can be found in table 4.10 above.

4.7.6 Health Facilities

The health delivery system in the District follows a trend quite different from the other social amenities mentioned above. While majority of the respondents claim that 53.3% of the health delivery system was provided in the period between 1997-2000, others were on the view that the remaining 47.7% was provided in the period between 2001-2004. Though, available data on medical structures in the District indicate that apart from the two government hospitals at Kyebi and New Tafo, a number of health centres and Maternity and Child HealthCare Centres (MCH) were provided in the period between 2001-2004 to offer health services to the people. The respondents however, indicated that most of the communities rather patronized the two hospitals even more frequently compared to other health facilities available in their own communities. Hence, the reason for high percentage recorded for the period between 1997-2000 on the health delivery system. The details of the data on health delivery system can be found in table 4.10 above. The available evidence from table 4.10 shows clearly the existence of gross disparities in the distribution of infrastructural projects in the two different periods under study. The probable

explanation for this cause as deduced from tables 4.6b and 4.7b is that the District was marginalized in terms of resource allocation of infrastructural projects.

The rating of individual stakeholders and their respective contributions towards the successful completion of development projects in the District revealed that 60% of the respondents rated Central/Local Government/District Assembly as the highest, 20% also rated contribution by the people (including cash and labour) as the second highest. While 9.7% rated NGOs/Donor Agencies third highest, with Royalties/Traditional Council and community development agency rated 6.5% and 3.8% in that order. The data on the contribution by the individual stakeholders in the District can be found in Table 4.11.

Table 4.11: Responses of Interviewees on the Rate of Contribution by the Major Stakeholders towards Successful Contribution towards Development Projects.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Central/Local Government	111	60
NGOs/Donor Agencies	18	9.7
Community Development Organization (CBO)	7	3.8
Contribution by the people	37	20
Royalty/Traditional Council	12	6.5
Total	185	100

Source: Field Data 2006

4.8 APATHY

Development can be achieved by both internal and external factors. Internal factors like a change in attitudes and behaviour of the people; the potentials of the people- their own initiatives, interest and financial contribution towards development projects in their district; the willingness on the part of the people to pay tax or basic rate; their interest in matters affecting their own communities etc. are very critical to the level of development or otherwise of the district concern.

The people's attitude and behaviour towards overall development in their own communities was therefore put into test. Here only 13 (7%) of the respondents described the general attitude of the local people towards the overall development projects in the district as apathetic. A large proportion of the respondents 170 (92%) described the attitude of the local people as cooperative. Some 2 (1%) described the attitude of the people as different from the ones listed in the question. However, who chose other attitude did not specify.

4.9 CONTRIBUTION BY THE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

The existing literature indicates that since the 18th century, when Kyebi was established as the new capital of Akyem Abuakwa State, and lately, the District Capital of EAD, the Traditional Council (chieftaincy institution) has been very instrumental in the development of socio-economic infrastructure and improvement in the lives of the people in the state. Royalties and State Treasuries (Okyeman Treasury) were the two main sources of funds of the state's socio-economic infrastructural development. (Addo-Fenning 2006:334). Having recognized the economic value of the land in the state, the Traditional Council in 1925 introduced Land Reform Policy to salvage the indiscriminate sales of lands in the state. By 1935 the Land Management Policy had achieved a considerable measure of success. For instance, the successful enforcement of the ban on land alienation re-oriented the minds of the citizens away from alienation towards utilization for agricultural production including cash crops like cocoa (Addo-Fening, 2006:325-352). So lucrative did the citizens find cocoa industry that even some chiefs "persistently neglected" their administrative duties in favour of cocoa farming (Addo-Fening, 2006:333).

This was followed by the establishment of a management of the state's public finances. This put an end to the streak of reckless State Treasury (Okyeman Stool Treasury) at Kyebi, which

aimed at introducing sanity into the dissipation of stool revenues by establishing controls and entrenching the principles of accountability. Out of the State Treasury (Okyeman Treasury) the traditional council during the first-three decades in the 1900s initiated programmes of socio-economic development of the state based on self-reliance. A special tax, “the Education rate”, for the establishment of schools including Abuakwa State College, state scholarships for needy but promising students was also established. The Traditional Council’s “practical interest” in sanitation was also in the digging of holes in the compounds of the several towns and villages for the “disposal of dirty water and slops”, latrines and street drains, markets, lorry parks, streets and culverts etc (Addo-Fening 2006:334-338).

The outbreak of World War I put an end to “skilled road construction” in the Gold Coast. Until 1919 expenditure on new roads was “cut down to vanishing point”, and the responsibility for road construction was shifted onto the chiefs. The chiefs’s initiative and commitment to the development of the socio-economic infrastructure were clearly seen in the construction of roads in the state through state funds, including a 12-mile portion between Apedwa and Kyebi, rehabilitation of Kyebi-Nsawam road as far as Densuso (which became part of the nation’s main trunk roads from Accra to Kumasi); new bridges, replacement of all timber bridges and culverts with concrete ones at the expense of the paramount stool’s coffers (Addo-Fening 2006:334-338).

The Traditional Council’s initiative and commitment to the development of the socio-economic infrastructure were clearly seen not only in the construction of roads in the state through state funds, but also, it attracted commendation in colonial officialdom, which described the state as the “most leading and progressive state of all.... Native states in the Gold coast” (Addo-Fenning 2006:334-346). This success story, however, was seen as a

tribute to the genius, patriotism, and education, which informed the policies of the Traditional Council of the District at that period.

The aim of this section was to illustrate how highly educated and development-minded Chiefs became catalysts for development in the District in the past. At the same time, the section was meant to show the state of the economy of the EAD, and the patriotism demonstrated by the people through the spirit of self-reliance in support of the socio-economic infrastructural projects embarked on by the Traditional Council in the District, *Vis-avis* the state of the economy of the District in recent times and the effort being made by the Traditional Council to steer the infrastructural development in the District.

Besides, this section of the Chapter was to guide the researcher assess the general contribution of the Traditional Council in the EAD towards the overall socio-economic infrastructural development of the District for the period of the study, that is, from 1997-2004. In so doing, the researcher would be able to determine whether or not the Traditional Council (Chieftaincy Institution) in the District continues to serve as the catalysts of development in the District for the period of the study and beyond. The main issues covered by the questionnaire included general attitude of the traditional rulers; their quota, financial contribution from either Royalties or State Treasury (Okyeman Treasury); specific development projects undertaken by the council either through Royalties or State Treasury etc. Only 70 respondents comprising traditional ruler-Chiefs, Elders and Queen mothers (36) as well as the Assembly Staff/Members (34) administered questions under this section.

The question on the attitude of the Traditional Council towards development in the District was to ascertain the distinction between the activities of the District chief executive and the Assembly Officials on the one hand and the Chiefs on the other hand; and more importantly

whether the DCE considers consultation with the chiefs in the performance of his duties to be necessary. In most cases, where consultation exists between the two leaders, one would anticipate the relationship between them to be cordial and cooperative, and vice versa.

The study revealed that 9 (12.9%) of all the respondents described the general attitude of the traditional Council towards the overall development of the District as apathetic. Overwhelming proportion of the respondents 56 (80%) described the attitude of the Traditional Council as co-operative. However, 5 (7.1%) of the respondents did not answer the question. The data confirmed the position of the chiefs as leaders of their people at the local level, and for that matter, organizers of the people at the grassroots level for development.

The data obtained with regard to whether the Traditional Council contributes part of royalties in support of the development projects in the District revealed that 20 (28.6%) of the respondents answered in affirmative while majority of 47 (67.1%) were of the view that the Traditional Council did not contribute part of royalties towards development projects in the District. The remaining 3 (4.3%) said they did not know whether the Traditional Council contributes part of royalties towards development projects or not. Traditional Council had been responsible for the greater proportion of the development of the District in the past. This question was put forth to assess their contribution recent times.

Unlike their predecessors who shouldered greater responsibility in the development of the socio-economic infrastructure in the District in the past, the survey revealed that the Traditional Council was handicapped financially, hence their inability to support infrastructure development in the District. Apart from the funeral pavilion 13 (18.6%), street lights 4 (5.7%) in some communities, education endowment fund 11 (15.7%) for few

promising but needy citizens, almost two-thirds 42 (60%) of the respondents were emphatic that the Tradition Council contribute virtually nothing in support of the development projects in the District. Even though the Traditional Council was rated fourth highest financier of socio-economic development projects in the District, recording 20 (10%) of the total responses, this was in consideration of the role they play in mobilizing and supervising the people for communal labour for development projects by Central Government, District Assembly, or NGOs.

4.10 THEORETICAL IMPLICATION

This Chapter confirmed the position taken by the “urban bias” theorists as discussed in the literature review in chapter two. These “urban bias” theorists share the view that persistent underdevelopment exists in rural areas in developing countries (Lipton, 1989; chambers, 1984; Nkrumah, 1979; Fan, 2005), and that the allocation of resources is structured in such a way as to provide rural people with few resources (Lipton 1989). Using his second hypothesis ‘inequalities within rural areas’ to expatiate his argument, Lipton for instance, apports the blame partly on the rural people, whom, he considers to be much more numerous than urban people, but have failed to utilize their numerical strength to fight for the common good of their own localities.

This argument is borne out by the findings of this Chapter. Three different variables under sections B, C and E segment of the questionnaire were used to test the validity or invalidity of the first hypothesis. The first variable under section B, sought to test the extent of local participation and involvement in the development projects undertaken by the stakeholders of rural development in the District. The survey revealed, though that local participation and involvement in development projects is high, the financial contribution in support of these

development projects was negligible due to financial constraints. In addition, most of the development projects are either awarded on contract or decided by these development agencies, as a result, local participation takes the form of communal labour.

Section C and E reveal that peoples' contribution and that of Traditional Council towards development projects were rated second and fourth highest recording 18.5% and 10% respectively, these do not measure up to the standard. The survey revealed that the people and Traditional Council scarcely offer financial contribution as pertained to the past. On the whole, the survey pegged the people's (traditional council and general public) contribution towards general development in the District at 28.5%. Besides, it was revealed that the local people (traditional council and general public) apart from the fact that they could not support development projects financially are also individualistic and disunited by chieftaincy disputes. This has affected the commitment, patriotism and spirit of self-reliance that characterized the socio-economic infrastructural development efforts in the District in the past. The citizens abroad and elsewhere outside the District too no longer send remittances in support of development projects due to lack of transparency on the part of their leaders.

Perhaps, what makes Lipton argument more meaningful to the study is when he observed that the rural people, in addition to being much more numerous than urban people, are also much more dispersed, poor, inarticulate and unorganized. But this does not make them quiescent, as he admitted. Rather, it diffuses their conflicts, making the rural groups fight against each other locally. The protracted chieftaincy disputes have created factions in most of the communities in a way that makes it difficult, if not impossible for them to unite and fight for the common interest of their own communities. This confirms Lipton's position that the internal struggle always renders the rural people less well organized and less vociferous

to form powerful unions and associations through which they can influence government decisions or lobby for the allocation of development projects.

Findings from the focus group discussion revealed the people's disappointment in their compatriots who are either in government, abroad or elsewhere in the cities but have not made their impact felt in the development of their District. This can also be explained in the context of Lipton's last argument that, at the national level, the rural people seek to join or to use urban power and income, not to seize that power and income for the rural sector, but to consolidate the urban dominance over the rural majority. Consequently, the natural operation of personal and group self-interest has led to far wider disparities between urban living standards and rural living standards. This underscores the relevance of this theory to the study of internal factors responsible for the intra-district disparities in the EAD. On the basis of the findings, it could be validated that the existing intra-district disparities in the EAD is partly due to internal factors such as lack of commitment and apathetic attitude on the part of the citizens of the District as well as disunity due to protracted chieftaincy disputes, among other.

4.11 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This Chapter traced the internal factors accounting for the intra-district disparities in EAD between 1997-2000 and 2001-2004. It considered three main variables spanning local participation and involvement in development projects in the EAD, financial contribution by the people as well as Traditional Council towards development of socio-economic infrastructure in the District. The fourth variable the Chapter considered was the evaluation of the physical infrastructural projects embarked on in the District at two different periods under study. The study revealed that internal factors have contributed to the existing intra-

district disparities in the District. The survey revealed that though, local participation and involvement in development projects were high; the financial contribution by the citizens in support of development projects was negligible.

The findings from the analysis of the data on local participation and involvement indicated that, though, the extent of local participation was ranked high, the study could not rule out the possibility of the Assembly, Donors or NGOs imposing projects on some rural communities or influencing them to accept some projects, because, according to Njuguna Ng'ethe et al (1990), they have very marginal access to resources. The study also revealed that the majority of the people's contribution to implementation of development projects takes the form of communal labour rather than cash. Contrary to the above, the findings on the management of projects indicate that the communities in collaboration with the Assembly, NGOs or Donors managed the projects together. This implies that after completion of projects, the rural communities in the District have the chance to participate fully in the management of their projects. Similar observation was also made on the citizen's contribution and that of Traditional Council in support of socio-economic infrastructural development. It was established that the people's commitment, financial contributions, spirit of self-reliance, attitude, financial contribution from the Traditional Council etc., are woefully inadequate.

Another significant observation in this chapter was that, though the general level of infrastructural development in the rural settlements in the District during the first-four year period of the study (1997-2000) was very low, for the rural settlements in the EAD to be denied of the three most essential physical infrastructural services (water, electricity and roads) during this period is a serious indictment of then ruling government. Because, these

years formed part of the period that then ruling government embarked on massive integrated rural electrification and rural water development scheme as well as good network of rural road system for the rapid transformation of the agriculture and other sectors of the rural economy in the country. For the rural settlements of the District to be denied of these three physical infrastructural services therefore, the people were not merely deprived of the good things of life, but more importantly, they were deprived of the formative power of economic growth as well as the three important spheres of rural life, namely, agrarian traffic, social traffic and commuter traffic of non-agricultural workers living in the rural communities in the District.

It is logical, therefore, for the District to experience intra-district disparity in the periods understudy. More so, when there is no guidelines on rural development policy to ensure equitable distribution of development growth among the various districts in the country.

CHAPTER FIVE

EXTERNAL FACTORS FOR THE INTRA-DISTRICT DISPARITIES IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN EAD

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This Chapter seeks to address the second sub-problem, which asks the question; “Why did EAD experience gross intra-district disparities in the development of socio-economic infrastructure at two different periods, that is, from 1997 to 2000 and 2001 to 2004?” and out of that, test the second hypothesis which states that “the existing intra-district disparities within EAD is partly caused by lack of co-ordination of activities among the stakeholders charged with the promotion of rural development activities in the country”. In testing the second hypothesis some of the variables measured were equity in the spatial allocation of development projects, and the extent of co-ordination of development activities among the stakeholders charged with the promotion of rural development activities in the country. In a nutshell, the Chapter looks at external factors like contributions by the central government, Donors and NGOs towards infrastructural development in the EAD.

5.2 DATA ANALYSIS ON THE STAKEHOLDERS’ CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS RURAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN EAD

Stakeholders of rural development in Ghana, that is, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Donor Agencies, Ministry of local government, Rural Development and Environment, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) etc. have intervened in the socio-economic infrastructural development in many districts in Ghana. Against this background, Chapter five deals with the intervention of stakeholders in the development of socio-economic infrastructure in the EAD. Thus, as far as this study is concerned, stakeholders

refer to the governmental and non-governmental agencies, whose activities complement rural development efforts in the EAD. Mention could be made of Donor Agencies and NGOs like European Union (EU), Micro-Project Unit, and German Technical Co-operation (GTZ) and World Vision Ghana (WVG) identified by my informants as stakeholders of rural development in the District especially, during the study period. The inclusion of these stakeholders in the survey is to guide the researcher provide explanation for the external factors perceived to have contributed to the intra-district disparities in the development of socio-economic infrastructure in the District. The main issues covered under this Chapter include number of Districts that benefit from rural development projects of these stakeholders; those who determines allocation of resources for development projects; the fairness of distribution of projects among all the districts in the country; strategies or approaches, and problems encountered by these organizations etc.

When the respondents were asked to indicate the number of districts that benefit from their rural development projects, the following results were obtained: MLGRD&Env't (138 Districts) emerged the highest provider of development projects for the districts in the country, while Micro-Projects Unit (79 Districts) recorded the second highest. This was followed by World Vision Ghana (33 Districts), GTZ (22 Districts), CBO (Districts) in that order. The survey show that apart from the Central Government-cum-Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment, which use across-board criteria for all the 138 districts in the country, the other organizations have their own criteria for selecting beneficiary districts. The details of the analysis of the data have been provided in table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1: Response by respondents on the Number of Districts That Benefited from the Rural Development Projects of the Stakeholders.

Organizations/Donors	No. of District	Region	Percent
World Vision Ghana	33	Some selected Districts	12.1
Community Based Organization	1	Eastern Region only	0.4
MLGRD&Env't	138	All the Regions	50.5
GTZ/MLGRD&Env't	22	B.A/Ashanti Regions only	8.1
Micro-Projects Unit/EU	79	Some selected Districts	28.9
Total	273		100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

The question of who determines the district(s) that should benefit from rural development projects of these agencies revealed that 6(40%) of the respondents chose "other" which means that such decisions are collectively taken by both Central Government/MLGRD&Env't/Donor Agency in particular projects. Whereas 2(13.33) chose Central government only, another 2(13.33) chose MLGRD&Env't only, with 1(6.66) of the interviewees mentioning National Development Planning Commission. However, 4(26.66%) of the respondents were of the view that individual Organization or Agencies determine by themselves, who should benefit from their projects. The details of the data can be found in table 5.2

Table 5.2: Responses by Interviewees on Who Determines the Districts that Benefit from the Rural Development Projects of the Stakeholders

Organizations/Donors	Frequency	Percent
Central Government	2	13.33
MLGRD&Env't	2	13.33
NDPC	1	6.66
Individual Org/Donor Agencies	4	26.66
Other:		
Central Government/MLGRD/Donors	6	40
Total	10	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

The responses on whether or not rural development projects are evenly distributed among the various districts in the country revealed that 60% of respondents affirmed that the development projects undertaken by their organization/department/agency are evenly distributed among the various districts in the country. The remaining 40% gave a negative response. Notwithstanding the above results, the issue of whether or not rural development projects are evenly distributed among the various districts is still in contention. The fact that most of the respondents in this section were the employees of the MLGRD&Env't, whose primary responsibility is for the development of the rural communities in all the districts in the country, is likely to influence their response to this question. But the truth is that all other development agencies deal with some selected districts according to their development plans. Therefore, it is not every district that benefits from their projects. GTZ for instance deals with only 22 districts mainly from Brong Ahafo and Ashanti Regions. While World Vision Ghana, Ark Foundation etc deal with some selected districts.

Table 5.3: Responses on Concentration Districts Selected for the NGOs/ Donor Agencies' Rural Development Projects

Organizations/Donor	No. of District	Region
GTZ	33 district	Brong Ahafo/Ashanti
Micro-Project Unit	All the District in 6 Regions	Eastern, Central, Volta, Northern, upper East and West Regions
Ark Foundation (CBO)	Only one District (East Akim)	Eastern Region
World Vision Ghana	33 District	Some selected Districts
Micro-Projects Unit/EU	79 Districts	Some selected Districts

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

In reference to table 5.3, 40% of the respondents who said the development projects are not evenly distributed were asked to indicate the concentration districts, the details of which have been provided above.

Reasons Given for the Selection of the Concentration Districts

Touching on the reasons for the selection of the concentration districts, most of the respondents cited project objectives as a major consideration for the selection of specific districts. In most cases, according to them, the project objectives give priority to the newly created districts. Consequently only few districts meet the criteria set for the allocation of the development projects of NGOs or Donor Agencies who also have limited resources for a limited number of districts. Besides, others mentioned geographical locations of some districts as having an advantage over others. It appears that most of the International Non-Governmental Organization and Donor Agencies rely on the classification of the country into Southern-Northern sectors.

Studies on climatic conditions in the country depict different rain patterns for both the northern and southern sectors. The former always experiences short rainy season and long dry season. All the three districts in the northern sector, in most cases, qualify for most of the projects whose focus is on the districts with high incidents of poverty. Hence, the identification of a poverty belt. The geographical location criteria for instance, revealed that certain districts in the Brong Ahafo region possessed certain characteristics that are akin to conditions in both southern and northern sectors. As a result, those districts are most likely to attract more allocations for rural development projects than what other districts may enjoy at a given period. There is yet another criterion by the MPU/EU in which the beneficiary districts are required to provide about 25% of the total cost of the entire project. Under this criterion only those districts that can show evidence of capacity to contributing are considered for the allocations.

Of course, political patronage also featured prominently. Some influential personalities and politicians were also mentioned as having been lobbying for development projects into the

districts of their choice. This was confirmed by one of my informants at Asiakwa, who said that, he succeeded in getting EU funding for a six-unit classroom block and four-unit classroom block for the primary school and the Junior Secondary School respectively, to Adadientam, mainly due to his personal affiliation with some EU officials in Ghana. According to him, the EU officials were his colleagues when he was working with the United Nations as a Country and Planning Officer in some selected African Countries. However, it was confirmed at the EU Head Office in Accra that in some cases they accept applications from individual personalities for the allocation of development projects provided such individual community could satisfy their criterion of providing 25% of the entire cost of the project.

Other Organizations that Engage in Rural Development Projects in the East Akim District

On the question of whether the respondents were aware of other organizations that also engaged in rural development programme in the District, 73.3% of the respondents said they are aware of other organization(s) that also engage in rural development programme in the EAD. 26.7% said they are not aware of any other organization(s) that engage in rural development programme in the District.

The study discovered a handful of NGOs and Donor Agencies operating in the East Akim District as follows: GTZ; DANIDA; DFID; World Bank; World Vision Ghana; Micro-Project Unit/EU; USAID etc. It also discovered that there is collaboration between some of these organizations, and the area of collaboration was also mentioned. It was found that the main area of collaboration was provision of funds for project development, implementation and monitoring. This includes sponsoring of needy children's education; loan advances to farmers, construction of boreholes for communities lacking portable water; and also building of schools in deprived communities.

The details of the data on the NGOS/Donors working in the District, collaboration among them and the area of collaboration have been provided in **table 5.4**.

Table 5.4: Responses on List of NGOs/Donor Agencies Operating in the East Akim District, Collaboration Between them and the Area of Collaboration

Organization	Partners	Area of Collaboration
GTZ	World Bank, DANIDA, MLGRD&Env't, DAs	Provision of funding and technical support
MPU	EU/MOF; MLGRD&ENV't	Funding: Provision of funding 75%
MLGRD&ENV't	NDPC, World Bank, Dfid	Legislation-Policy making; Project Implementation, Monitoring, Infrastructural development
WV Ghana	Action Aid, Plan Ghana, Religious org. DAs Traditional Authorities	Funding: Provision of funding and technical support for school buildings; sponsoring needy children education; construction of boreholes for communities etc.

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

The issue of equity in the spatial allocation of resources of infrastructural development projects in the country produced very interesting results. The respondents from the NGOs and Donor outfits stated explicitly that there could never be total equity in spatial allocation of resources of development projects due to the variation of the conditionalities attached to the Donor funds, which also constitute the main interest of these Donor Agencies. Their counterparts in the Ministries, Departments and Agencies were optimistic that only funds coming from the Central Government can help achieve equity in the allocation of development projects. They advocated the involvement of all stakeholders in the planning and budgetary process of the development projects so as to ensure equity in the allocation of development projects. Individual responses to this question are provided in table 5.5 as follows:

Table 5.5: Responses by Interviewees on the Issue of How to Ensure Equity in the Spatial Allocation Resources for Rural Development Projects.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Through effective coordination and collaboration of rural development activities among development partners	7	28
Total equity in the distribution of projects is impossible because of variations in conditionalities attached to donor funds	2	8
By increasing the DACF	3	12
Through multi-stakeholders planning and budgetary approach	1	4
Through integrated rural development programme	2	8
By the use of poverty map	3	12
There should be a formula/guideline to avoid manipulations	3	12
The government should give equal attention all the districts	3	12
By empowering DA officials to be efficient in managing resources allotted for infrastructural development	1	4
Total	25	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

Components of Rural Development Projects embarked upon by the NGOs/ Donors in the East Akim District

The following were stated by respondents as development components upon which their organization embark in the EAD. Infrastructural development emerged as the most frequently mentioned component. This includes provision of medical structures in the rural areas for health delivery services; provision of educational structures such as schools, library, workshops and science laboratory; Agricultural services (Agro-Forestry); and water and sanitation including construction of boreholes, provision of pipe-borne water, and sanitation management.

Human development is the second highest development component mentioned by the respondents. These are mostly in youth training; capacity building; sensitization, political awareness and participatory. A third component is the mobilization of resources for District Assemblies development. These include wealth and income generation and loan advances to people for Micro-Enterprise Development. In order to ensure effective utilization of the fund provided by these organizations, they also engage in policy formulation, monitoring and

evaluation of their own projects as well as those undertaken in collaboration with either the District Assembly or Central Government.

NGOs/Donors Strategy/Approach of Rural Development

On the question of the various strategies adopted by the NGOs/Donors in their rural development programme the following strategies were mentioned: (i) decentralization (5.55%); (ii) poverty reduction (22.22%) which falls in line with the general framework of government policy on improving health and nutrition, water supply and sanitation, basic education-formal and non-formal, and food security; (iii) Environmental management (5.55%); (iv) Community participatory approach of identifying planning and implementing programmes making use of communal labour and provisions of other materials for specific projects (11.11%); (v) Adult education (5.55%); (vi) Joint Project Approach (11.11%) where beneficiary communities provide 25% of the total cost while the remaining 75% is borne by the Donor as is the case of European Union; (vii) Community mobilization and redistribution of resources (5.55%); (viii) provision of environmental and waste management system (5.55%); Supporting Agricultural System (22.22%) through provision of farming inputs, loans, irrigation etc; (ix) training of management system for Urban-Rural infrastructural development (22.22%); (x) provision of technical support (22.22%). The details of the stakeholders strategy or approaches to rural development can be found in table 5.6 below.

Table 5.6: Personnel of NGOs/Donors Responses on the Stakeholders Strategy/Approach to Rural Development

Type of Strategy	Frequency	Percent
Decentralization	1	2.8
Provision of socio-economic infrastructure	4	11.1
Poverty Reduction	5	13.9
Environmental/waste Management	2	5.6
Local Participation in development projects	3	8.3
Joint Project Approach	1	2.8
Bottom-up Approach	4	11.1
Community Mobilization and Redistribution of Resources	2	5.6
Supporting Agricultural System	3	8.3
Community development Approach	2	5.6
Urban-Rural Infrastructural Development	2	5.6
Technical Support Approach	2	5.6
Capacity Building	3	8.3
Area-Wide Approach	1	2.8
Opining-up Rural Areas to Donors	1	2.8
Total	36	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

Lack of Co-ordination of Rural Development Projects

Ghana since the period of political independence has failed to achieve its targets on integrated approach to rural development. Amonoo (cited in Brown 1986:262) attributed this to a number of factors such as lack of socio-economic philosophy, unrealistic setting of development targets, lack of data based on meaningful socio-economic research before the formulation of policies and also mis-orientation of the statistical system, lack of co-ordination of the activities of various agencies charged with the promotion of rural development programme among others.

The survey elicited views of the personnel on the NGOs and Donors on the validity of the general perception that lack of co-ordination of the activities of various agencies charge with the promotion of rural development is partly the cause of the intra-district disparities in the build-up of social amenities in the EAD in the period under review. The study, however, revealed that 66.7% of respondents agreed with the general perception that lack of co-

ordination of development activities is a key factor for the intra-district disparities in the build-up of social amenities in the EAD.

However, the minority of respondents (33.3%) disagreed with this assertion. The results obtained affirmed the earlier results obtained on whether collaboration exists among the NGOs/Donors on development activities in the country. The earlier result shows that resources for development projects cannot be fairly distributed because these agencies have diverse project objectives. Even though table 5.4 shows collaboration among some agencies including Micro-Project Unit, European Union and Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and MLGRD&Env; GTZ, World Bank, DFID and NDPC etc., they were emphatic that collaboration is a recent development.

In line with Amonoo's assertion on the mis-orientation of the statistical system as part of the cause of problems in achieving integrated rural development, the respondents were asked to determine whether or not information on the level of development in the various districts is readily available. The results indicate that 6(40%) of the respondents answered "yes" while 9(60%) responded "no". This implies that there can be duplication or over concentration of NGOs presence in certain districts. Also, there is the tendency that some unscrupulous politicians can manipulate the allocation of resources of these non-governmental development agencies to the benefit of their own communities.

When the personnel of NGOs and the Donors were asked to describe the extent to which their Organization or Agencies have satisfied the development needs of the rural communities; 20% of the respondents opted for very adequate, while 46.7% said it was adequate. The results indicate that most of the respondents felt they have satisfied development needs of the rural communities in the District. It is also an indication that the

personnel of NGOs/Donors have a good perception of the Donors/NGOs satisfying the development needs of the rural communities in the District. But this is in sharp contrast with the perception of the rural folks on the extent to which Donors/NGOs have satisfied the development needs of their rural communities. Throughout the interview, it was found that the NGOs/Donor Agencies attracted only 9.7% for their contribution towards development projects in the District. This shows that stakeholders intervention in the development of social amenities has not made meaningful impact in the development process in the District.

5.3 THEORETICAL IMPLICATION

Related to the theoretical implication of the study, Chapter five is positioned within the context of external control of allocation of resources for development projects in the country. In his first urban bias argument, Lipton hypothesized that urban elites' dominance of the institutions of independence has led not merely to far wider disparities between urban people and rural people, but also to inequalities within rural areas. Citing urban elite's control of the distribution of resources of development projects, Lipton (1989) contended that by virtue of the urban elites' role in spearheading the fight against the colonized power, they have dominated institutions of independence- government, political parties, law, civil service, trade unions, and education etc. to the detriment of the rural people.

Considering the findings of this Chapter, the current intra-district disparities within EAD can be attributed partly to the urban nature of development policy, which has been biased towards rural communities including EAD, monopolization of decision-making to the neglect of the rural input, allocation of development projects in favour of the urban centres to the relative neglect of rural areas, lack of co-ordination of activities of various agencies charged with the promotion of rural development programme, and above all "benign neglect" with

respect to EAD. It is this that validates the second hypothesis that “the existing intra-district disparities within EAD is partly caused by lack of co-ordination of activities of stakeholders charged with the promotion of rural development activities in the country.”

5.4 SUMMARIES AND CONCLUSION

The Chapter assessed the external factors of the intra-district disparities in the EAD. It examined, contribution of stakeholders in development efforts in the District, evenness or otherwise of allocation of development projects, existence or lack of co-ordination of activities of the stakeholders charged with the promotion of rural development programme, and criteria for the allocation of resources for development projects.

It was established that the allocation of development projects is not evenly distributed among the various districts and that the concentration districts are selected based on the project objectives. Besides, it was discovered that the variation in conditionalities attached to Donor or NGOs funded projects makes it difficult, if not impossible, to attain equity in spatial allocation of resources for development projects. Thus, the study revealed that ineffective co-ordination of rural development activities, diverse projects objectives of the stakeholders, “benign neglect” and lack of integrated rural development programme have significantly contributed to the existing intra-district disparities in the EAD. Another observation was that Central Government appeared/ranked as the highest contributor of the development projects in the District. Implying that any attempt by any person, group of persons or ‘political power of an era’ to sabotage the procedure for the allocation of state recourses for rural development in the country is most likely to undermine the development process of EA D.

CHAPTER SIX

THE IMPACT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS ON THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE RURAL COMMUNITIES WITHIN EAD

6.1 INTRODUCTION

As Degun (1969:175) observed, the effectiveness of local government in any country can be judged according to the amount of local interest it generates, the social amenities it provides, and the extent to which it has catered for the happiness and general well-being of the communities it has been established to serve. Against this background, the impact of local government interventions in living conditions of the rural people in the EAD was assessed. Section F segment of the questionnaire constituted the basis of this assessment.

6.2 DATA ANALYSIS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS IN THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE RURAL COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE EAD

6.2.1 Local Government Interventions in Improving the Living Conditions of Rural Communities in the EAD.

Respondents expressed different opinion with regard to whether or not local government has helped improve living conditions of the rural people. The majority of the respondents 140 (70.0%) answered in the affirmative, while a minority 57 (28.5%) thinks the living conditions have not been improved. A small proportion of respondents 3 (1.5%) did not answer the question.

6.2.1a: Reasons Given by Respondents Who Believe Living Conditions Have Been Improved in the Rural Communities in EAD

In order to substantiate their claims, the respondents were given opportunity to give reasons for their answers. Most of them attributed the improvement in living conditions to various reasons such as the tremendous improvement in infrastructural development in their communities; the mass cocoa spraying exercise; provision of loan scheme to farmers, petty traders, as well as women; free education at the basic level, capitation grants, school feeding programme etc. Some also attributed such improvement to the fact that the current government is rural development- oriented. They, however, cited the standard of education as one area that has been improved tremendously in the District. Others were also of the view that the District Assembly concept was one factor. According to them, it has succeeded in bringing governance to the doorsteps of the ordinary people. There were few others who expressed mix feelings and observed that: “The government is doing its best yet poverty is still prevailing in our communities”. Similar observation was made by those concerned with peace and security in the country. They remarked that:

“We acknowledge the fact that there is peace and security, however, economic hardship and lack of employment opportunities are worsening the poverty situation in the rural communities in the District”.

6.2.1b Reasons Given by Respondents Who Believe Living Conditions Have Not Been Improved in the Rural Communities in EAD

Some of the people interviewed stated categorically that local government has not improved the living conditions in the rural communities. In supporting their claim they observed that

there have not been meaningful development projects in the District. Those who supported this claim had this to say:

“By all standard living conditions of the rural folks have been deteriorating due to high rate of youth unemployment leading to continuous existence of poverty in the rural communities”

There were few others who also believed political victimization has been the cause of the woes of the rural communities in the District and remarked that:

“The rural development projects over the years have not been fairly distributed among the various districts in the country and that EAD is one such district that has been marginalized in terms of resources allocation for development projects due mainly to political victimization”.

Other reasons cited included the District Assembly neglected pressing issues in the rural communities; non-fulfillment of the government’s promises on micro-finance loans to the rural folks for small scale farming and micro-business. Due to this state of affairs of the people in the District, the respondents were quick to state that the District Assembly concept has not lived up to its expectation.

6.2.2 Satisfaction of on-going Rural Development Projects In EAD

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they were satisfied with the on-going development projects in the District. This was to find out the people’s perception about the Current Government’s effort towards the development projects being carried out in the District. The results show that more than half of the respondents 120 (60%) expressed their satisfaction with the rate of on-going rural development projects in the District whiles (80) 40% said they were not satisfied. This implies that most of the people are satisfied with the spate of socio-economic infrastructural development currently underway in the rural communities.

6.2.3 Specific Development Projects Undertaken in EAD

A summary of all the responses on specific development projects undertaken by the local government/District Assembly with or without assistance from either NGOs/Donor Agencies/Royalties/Local people show that a lot of infrastructural projects have been provided for the rural communities in the District. The details of the data have been provided on Table 6.1

Table 6.1: Responses on Specific Development Projects Undertaken in EAD

Response	Frequency	Percent
School Buildings/Projects	105	20.70
Roads/Bridge	44	10.5
Tele-communication	1	0.23
Toilet/KVIP	72	16.94
Hospital/Clinic/Health Centrea	10	2.35
Electricity/Light	60	14.11
Water/Pipe/Borehole/Well	65	15.29
Market/Stares	50	11.56
Police Station	2	0.47
Loan Schemes	2	0.47
Accommodation for the Public Servants	1	0.23
Library Complex	5	1.17
Migistrate Court	3	0.70
Sanitation Facilities	2	0.47
District Assembly Building Complex	1	0.23
Bus Stop	1	0.23
Agro-Forestry Project	1	0.23
Total	425	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006.

One can infer from table 6.1 that the respondents mentioned a good number of development projects. The survey shows that development projects comprising provision of buildings for Nursery/kindergarten, Primary and Junior Secondary Schools, Senior Secondary Schools, teachers' bungalows etc. were projects most frequently mentioned by respondents. This can

be understood from the point of view of the present government commitment to upgrade school buildings as part of its effort to improve the standard of education in the country.

The second highest category of projects mentioned by respondents was Toilet/KVIP (16.94%), followed by Water/Pipe/Borehole/Hand-dug well (15.29%) and Light/Electricity (14.11%) in that order. The table also indicates that projects such as Agro-Forestry (0.23%); Bus stop (0.23%); Magistrate court (0.70%); Library complex (1.17%); etc., recorded the least responses, they were very significant in view of the fact that every District is entitled to one of such projects at any given period.

It is equally important to mention that the least responses for projects like Bus stop, Sanitation facilities, Loan scheme etc., is an indictment of the District Assembly because they formed part of the priority areas of the present government development agenda. For instance whereas, the provision of a Bus stop forms part of the government efforts to develop the tourist sector, the provision of loan scheme is one of the strategies the government intended to use to fight poverty in the rural communities. So also are sanitation facilities intended to reduce the incidence of infectious diseases like malaria, cholera etc.

The absence of facility like the Loan Scheme featured prominently in the course of the interview as the women in particular complained vehemently. It is not surprising then that in spite of the numerous infrastructure projects going on in the Districts, most of the respondents said that the standard of living is still low because, poverty still prevails in the District. One should not lose sight of the fact that more than 13 different projects were mentioned. That is an indication that the District is currently attracting its fair share of the national resources for rural development projects. If one considers infrastructure as one of the

indices of development, then the District is advanced. We can infer from the majority's view that the people are satisfied with the on-going development projects in the District.

6.2.4 People's Assertion That Rural Development Programmes Undertaken by Local Government Have Not Impacted Positively on the Lives of the Rural Communities in EAD.

The survey solicited respondents' view on the commonly held assertion that Rural Development projects undertaken by local government have not impacted positively on the lives of the rural communities in the country. This particular question was to guide the researcher test the validity of the third hypothesis. The study showed 67 (33.5%) of the respondents agreed that local government development programme has not impacted positively on the lives of the rural communities in EAD. Even though they acknowledged the completion of numerous infrastructural developments in the Districts, they were emphatic that such developments projects had not improved the lifestyle of the rural people. Alternatively, a majority 128 (64%) denied the assertion that local government's programme has not positively impacted the lives of rural people. For the 64% majority to deny this assertion implied that the lifestyles or living conditions of the rural people in the District had been improved through local government programmes. However, 2.5% of the respondents did not answer this question.

Interestingly, the responses provided very intricate answers, which raise some doubt about the respondents, particularly, the rural people's comprehension of the question. Most of the 64% who denied that local government programmes had impacted the lives of the rural people positively, gave reasons that can only be understood in relation to the 33.5% whose response affirmed the assertion that the rural development programmes undertaken by local government had not impacted positively on the lives of the rural communities. For instance,

only 25% out of 64% who denied the assertion (that is, those, who said it is false) were able to explain their position to prove that indeed, local government programme had improved the lifestyle of the rural people in the District. Reasons given by this category of respondents ranging from “there is improvement in the provision of infrastructural development”, “there is availability of loan/credit facilities” to the policies such as Capitation Grant, School Feeding Programme, national insurance scheme etc. Other responses were “there is improvement in social amenities, yet there is economic hardship, because poverty rate is still high”; “even though there is improvement in infrastructural development, living condition is deteriorating”; and “youth unemployment rate in the rural communities is still high”. These responses tend to support the views of the minority 33.5% who affirmed the assertion that local government programme has not impacted the lives of the rural people positively. Reasons given for both responses have been provided on table 6.2a and 6. 2b respectively.

Table 6.2a: Reasons Against the Assertion that Local Government Development Programmes Have Not Impacted Positively on the Lives of the Rural People in the EAD

Reasons	Frequency	Percent
Government is not helping the farmers	8	1.6
Though there is improvement in social amenities, there is economic hardship, poverty rate is still high	40	8
Improvement is taking place at slow pace due to excessive bureaucratic tendencies	3	0.6
Until recently rural development projects were not fairly distributed	40	8
Youth unemployment rate in the rural communities is still high	85	17
The rural people deserved their fair share of the national wealth	60	12.4
Gradually rural peoples' lifestyle is improving through Micro-finance scheme under GPRS, provision of loan and credit facilities	80	16
The free Education, Capitation Grant and NHIS are easing the burden of the rural people	105	21
Government rural development strategy is yielding results through job creation/Youth Training Program	15	3
Standard of education is improved	30	6.4
Rural farmers are getting their fair share of the national resources	21	4.4
The DA now utilizes the DACF for the general well-being of the people	8	1.6
Total	500	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

Table 6.2b: Reasons in Favour of the Assertion that Local Government Programmes Have Not Impacted Positively on the Lives of the Rural Communities in the EAD

Reason	Frequency	Percent
Development level in the district is generally low	5	4.2
Unemployment rate is still high	15	12.5
There is economic hardship due to poverty	25	20.8
Living condition is poor	27	22.5
Rural development projects are not benefiting the youth	17	14.2
Agriculture sector in the district has not been given the necessary attention	18	15
Government efforts towards rural development is inadequate	6	5
Lack of land for farming	7	5.8
Total	120	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006.

In the final analysis, the collective view of the majority of the respondents was that development of infrastructural and social amenities have been improved tremendously, yet there is still economic hardship because the people's living and working conditions are deteriorating due to high rate of poverty, unemployment, non-availability of farm lands in some communities. This indicates Local Government's inability to translate the improved infrastructural development into better living condition in terms of poverty reduction, creating of job opportunities, income generating activities and availability of farmlands for farming etc. This also supports the general notion that the Local Government rural development programme has not impacted the living condition of the rural people positively.

6.2.5 Problems Associated with the Rural Development Programmes in EAD

All the four categories of respondents were asked to state the major problems associated with their rural development efforts. Table 6.3 below shows the responses given by the respondents.

Table 6.3: Responses of Interviewees on the Problems Associated with Rural Development Problem in EAD

Problem	Frequency	Percent
Apathetic attitude on behalf of the people in the District	3	5
Misunderstanding on the part of the rural communities about DA Concept and Donor Agencies/NGOs	1	1.7
Shoddy work by contractors	2	3.3
Financial problems facing DA/NGOs/Donors	18	30
The District is too large		
Inability on the part of the DA/NGOs/Donors to create job opportunities for the rural youth	2	3.3
Lack of maintenance culture	2	3.3
Litigation due to protracted chieftaincy disputes in the District	12	20
Over politicization of national issues	2	3.3
Delay in disbursement of the DACF	2	3.3
Lack of markets for farm produce leading to default in payment of loans	3	5
Poor implementation of Poverty Alleviation Program by MP and DCE	1	1.7
Lack of collaboration between DA and Traditional Council	2	3.3
Low standard of education	2	3.3
Excessive delay in execution of contract projects	1	1.7
Trained teachers do not accept postings in to the deprived areas due to problems of accommodation and social amenities	1	1.7
Conditionalities attached to the projects of most of the Donors do not benefit rural communities	1	1.7

SOURCE: Field Data 2006

6.2.6 Comments and Suggestions offered for the Purpose of This Study.

This is another question that solicited opinion from all the four categories of respondents. They were asked to offer comments or suggestions that might be useful for this study and the responses obtained are as follows:

One of the nationwide issues, which attracted the respondents' attention most, was the job opportunities for the youth in the District. About (9.6%) suggested the need for creation of more job opportunities for the rural youth. This was followed by another suggestion to the effect that a greater part of the rural development projects should be channeled into rural communities rather than the urban centres (8.8%). The third is a comment from 10(8.0%) of

the respondents, which while expressing appreciation for the numerous infrastructural developments in the District lamented deteriorating living conditions borne out by economic hardship in the communities. One problem that has retarded the progress of the District that the respondents did not lose sight of is the prevalence of chieftaincy disputes.

They, however, suggested collaboration between the DCE and traditional rulers with a view to finding an amicable solution to the protracted chieftaincy disputes in the District 5 (4.0%). EAD is a multi-ethnic society. It abounds in migrant communities including Ayigbe town, Zongo and Krobo communities. Consequently, a sizeable portion of the questionnaire sought to elicit the candid opinion of these migrants on the subject under study. A significant number of 10 (8.0%) appealed to the DA, and for that matter the DCE, to consider these migrants communities in the District for the allocation of development projects. There were 2 (1.6%) of the respondents, who did not respond to the question. The details of the data can be found in table 6.4.

Table 6. 4: Responses by Interviewees on Comment and Suggestion Offered for the Purpose of this study

Comments and Suggestions	Frequency	Percent
More job opportunities must be created for the rural youth	12	9.6
Government should share rural development fund proportionately	5	4.0
DCE should collaborate with the Traditional Council to find amicable solutions to the numerous protracted chieftaincy disputes that have retard the progress of the istrict over the years	5	4.0
We appreciate the numerous infrastructural development in the district living condition is deteriorating, there is economic hardship	10	8.0
There should be proper monitoring of project to ensure effective and efficient execution	3	2.4
The DA should consider the Zongo communities and Ayigbe towns in the district for allocation of development projects	10	8.0
Government should provide more loan facilities for farmers	7	5.6
The DA lacks financial, technical and manpower capabilities	1	.08
Government should provide incentives in the form of monthly allowances for the DA and unit committees members	4	3.2
The communities should assess development needs themselves rather than the individual DCE/NGOs/Donor agencies	5	4.0
Lack of coordination, duplication and waste of resources; lack of skilled personnel as well as lack of infrastructural facilities in the district have undermined the development process of the district	2	1.6
The pace of rural development program is slow, the DCE must back up	5	4.0
The MP and DCE should mobilize the women offer then loan for petty trading as pertain to other districts	8	6.4
The DACF must be increased	6	4.8
We need more NGOs/donor agencies to expedite infrastructural development in the district	6	4.8
Government should give priority of its development agenda to youth training and rural development	7	5.6
The study is useful, the topic too worth studying	4	3.2
Local Government has live up to its expectations far as rural development program is concern	7	5.6
Input into District Assembly development Plan should come from the rural people rather than the individual DCEs/NGOs/Donors etc.	1	0.8
For successful implementation of the DA concept, it must start from the Unit Committee and Area Council level	2	1.6
Greater proportion of the rural development projects should be channeled into rural communities rather than the urban centres.	11	8.8
No response	2	1.6
Total	125	100

SOURCE: Field Data 2006.

6.3 THEORETICAL IMPLICATION

Theorists of “urban bias” hypothesis hold the view that centralization of political and administrative authority is tantamount to:

- i. Far wider disparities between urban living standards and rural living standards (Lipton 1989);
- ii. Rural atrophy (Nkrumah 1979); and finally,
- iii. Disequilibrium, disruption, and distortion of natural economic growth in the rural areas (Fan and Chang-Kang 2005).

The Chapter assessed the impact of local government interventions on the living standards of the people in the EAD to find out the extent to which the theory of urban bias has been validated or contradicted. On the issue of whether living standards of the people in the District have been improved or not, the findings show a positive response from a majority of the people, meaning that there has been tremendous improvement in the living conditions of the people.

However, the other variables, which were used to validate or invalidate the third hypothesis, the findings indicate that even though there has been improvement in socio-economic infrastructure to some extent over the last four years of the study period, it has not been able to transform the living standards of the people due to “urban bias nature of the development policy” as spelt out in the study.

The findings on the third hypothesis are therefore not different from the aforementioned. The people were particularly interested in total transformation in rural economy through integrated rural development programme, which can also halt the persistent distortion of the

natural economic growth and development process that has characterized the urban-rural sector. Once again, the conclusion reached supports the hypothesis that the “local government rural development interventions have not impacted positively on the lives of the local people in the District”.

6.4 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This Chapter assessed the impact of local government rural development interventions on the living standards of the people in EAD. The study provided very intricate findings, which can only be understood from two angles. The findings from the questionnaire indicate that a majority of 64% rejected the third hypothesis, which states that: “the rural development programme undertaken by Local Government has not impacted positively on the living standards of the people in the rural communities within EAD”. But a critical assessment of the reason given indicates that the people’s assertion was based on the improvement in infrastructure development in the District.

However, there were a few people (33.3%) who affirmed the third hypothesis, and said, it is true to say that local government rural development interventions have not impacted positively on the living standards of the people in the District. This category of respondents cited the high unemployment rate, economic hardship due to prevailing abject poverty in the District, lack of farmlands in certain communities etc. as the basis of their assessment. This therefore, leads us to another question as to whether merely providing socio-economic infrastructure necessarily leads to improvement in living standards of the people in the District? A critical assessment of the various reasons given by these two categories of respondents shows that, even though, the District has witnessed unprecedented development in socio-economic infrastructure, the living standards of the people in the District has not been transformed.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

7.1 INTRODUCTION

This final Chapter of the study reviews the work of the previous chapters and attempts to recapture the main points underlying this research work. The Chapter is divided into three main sections. The first part is the summary, which discusses precisely the outline of the approach adopted in concluding the study. The research problem and the content of each Chapter are highlighted. The evidence adduced from discussing each problem is examined to see the extent to which they answered it. The testing and discussion of the various hypotheses are also carried out.

The second section of the Chapter deals with the recommendations made by the researcher, which are based on the findings of the study regarding the circumstances that led to the existing disparities in the infrastructural development in EAD at two different periods. The last part of the Chapter is conclusion, which analyses the findings of the study based on the theoretical position adopted for the study.

7.2 SUMMARY

As an exploratory and impact assessment study, the research was designed to determine the extent to which Local Government rural development intervention has solved the existing intra-district disparity in EAD. The study therefore addressed the problem of the factors that led to the intra-district disparities in the District at two different periods, that is, from 1997-2000 and 2001-2004. In finding solution to the problem, the study addressed the following: both internal and external factors accounting for the intra-district disparities in the EAD. Whereas the internal factors looked for the extent of local participation and involvement in

development projects, local contribution, including that of the traditional council, in support of development processes in the District; the external factors considered stakeholders' contribution towards socio-economic infrastructural development. Finally the study also assessed the impact of local government rural development interventions on the living standards of the people in the District. The following outline to the study was adopted to find answers to the research problem:

Chapter one captured a general overview of the study dealing with the statement of the study, the objectives, purposes and significance of the study. The methodology used for data collection and testing each of the three hypotheses was also discussed.

In Chapter two, the concept of Rural Development featured prominently in the review of the relevant literature of the study. The Chapter was divided into three parts. The Section one discussed the approaches and strategies of rural development adopted by successive governments since independence, and the problems associated with the Local Government rural development interventions in Ghana. The second part of the chapter treated among other themes, concepts, theories, strategies and approaches to the study of rural development. The final section of the Chapter, the adopted theory as the main framework within which intra-district disparities in the District are analyzed.

Chapter three of the study dealt with the history and content of development of the East Akim District. The background of the District, relief and drainage, climate, vegetation and soils, natural resources, demographic characteristics, occupational structure, economic activities and Socio-economic infrastructure as a focal point of the Chapter were amply highlighted.

Chapter four also dealt with the first of the three hypotheses for the study, which stated "Lack of commitment on the part of the people of EAD is the cause of the intra-district

disparities within the District since Central Government's efforts in addressing the imbalance between rural-urban sectors had been a mirage". This hypothesis was tested by making use of both secondary sources of data such as documents and relevant literature, as well as survey data collected from the field. The literature traced the background history of socio-economic development in the District and found that through the spirit of self-reliance, the traditional council in the District and the people alike had not only been very instrumental in the socio-economic infrastructural development in the District, but also they attracted commendation as the most progressive state among the native states in the country. Hence the need to investigate the existing disparities in the District through survey research, which looked at the extent of local participation and involvement in development projects in the District, contribution of the people and that of the traditional council in support of development of socio-economic infrastructure.

The findings of the Chapter amply show that the spirit of self-reliance that characterized infrastructural development in the District in the past is virtually waned. The level of participation and involvement in development projects had been reduced to merely provision of labour. The Traditional Council whose initiative and commitment, genius, patriotism and selfless-leadership style led to this remarkable success could no more support any development project in the District. For apparent reason, the Royalties and Stool Treasury, the main sources of funding of the numerous infrastructural projects had been taken over by the government, hence their inability to support development efforts in the District, financially. The findings of the people's contribution towards development in the District are not different from the afore-mentioned. Apart from the high rate of unemployment, poverty, lack of farmlands for farming; the protracted chieftaincy disputes and litigations have had serious repercussion on the progress of the District. A situation that has created

factions in most of the towns, and as a result demoralized the people's commitment towards development processes in their own District. The study found that the people and even most of their leaders (Traditional Council) have developed apathetic attitude very detrimental to the progress of every sector of the economy in the District. This implies that the internal factors accounting for the intra-district disparities as clearly shown in the Chapter was as a result of the apathetic attitude on the part of the people and even most of their leaders; and thus the stated hypothesis that "lack of commitment on the part of the people of EAD is the cause of the existing intra-district disparities within the District, since Local Government effort in addressing the imbalance rural-urban development had been a mirage" was validated.

In Chapter five the secondary sources data and field survey (Section D of the questionnaire) were combined to test the second hypothesis. The existing literature revealed that apart from rural-urban disparities, which is a general phenomenon in developing countries, there exist in Ghana, peculiar problems that led to inter-district disparities in some districts, including EAD. These problems emanated from lack of co-ordination of activities of rural development programme, uneven distribution of resources for development projects, the form of existing political power etc. A situation that the researcher considered as external factors, have also militated against development processes in the EAD. Hence, the need for cross-examination of the stakeholders' contribution towards development process in the District, and thus the second hypothesis, which stated "the existing intra-district disparities within EAD is partly caused by lack of co-ordination of activities among the stakeholders charged with the promotion of rural development activities in the country". The Chapter assesses whether the allocation of development projects are evenly distributed, whether there is lack of co-ordination of activities among agencies charged with the promotion of rural development

programmes, criteria for the allocation of resources for development projects among others. The findings of the Chapter revealed that the resources for development projects are not equitably distributed among the various districts in the country.

Instead, these stakeholders use their own criteria based on the projects objectives, geographical location of certain districts, the period that some selected districts were created, the poverty belt in some districts, coupled with the limited resources of these agencies, priority is given to some districts at the expense of others. It is possible therefore, for certain districts to attract more development projects than others. The finding also established that the variations of the conditionalities attached to the donor funds make it difficult, if not impossible, to achieve appreciable level of cooperation and collaboration among the development partners.

Another significant finding the study established was that the lack of co-ordination of activities among the stakeholders of rural development projects constitutes a major factor for the existing intra-district disparities in EAD. This has also led to non-availability of information on the level of development in the various districts and possible manipulation, over-concentration of donors/NGOs activities in certain districts. Besides, the study did not rule out the tendency of some unscrupulous politicians manipulating the resources of these development agencies to the benefit of communities of their choice.

Last, but not least, the stakeholders were adjudged the third major financiers of the development projects in the District. This implies that, any attempt by any person or group of persons to manipulate the procedure for the allocation of resources of rural development projects is likely to undermine the progress of socio-economic infrastructural development in some Districts. This also confirmed earlier observation made by the people on the grounds that the marginal development projects (27.5%) recorded in the period between 1997-2000

was a deliberate attempt by the previous government to sideline or distort the development processes of the District. In the same vein, the people attributed the impressive development projects (42.5%) recorded in 2001-2004 to the fact that the resources for rural development projects are being fairly distributed among the various districts in the Country. On the basis of the findings in Chapter five, the hypothesis stated can be said to be valid.

Chapter six addressed the third hypothesis, which states “the rural development programme undertaken by Local Government has not impacted positively on the living standards of the people in the rural communities within EAD”. In testing the third hypothesis, two variables were used. These are improvement in living conditions of rural people; and impact of local government rural development interventions on the living standards of the rural communities in EAD. It is these findings from these sources named that formed the basis for the recommendations and conclusions. The findings of the analysis of the two variables rejected the third hypothesis on the grounds that rural people in the District considered the numerous infrastructural development projects as an improvement in their living standards.

However, reasons given by the people for the justification of their assessment indicated that they considered such improvement to mean improvements in the provision of socio-economic infrastructure rather than economic gains. The study revealed that the people were aware of the deteriorating economic conditions, and as a result, admitted that, even though there is tremendous improvement in the development of socio-economic infrastructure, there is economic hardship due to poverty, lack of job opportunities for the rural youth as well as lack of market for their farm produce. While we maintain the hypothesis as it stands, it is recommended that in our quest to search for rural development strategy that will help transform rural economy, in future, the following factors among others should be considered.

7.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings indicate that though internal and external factors have contributed to the existing intra-district disparities in EAD, the study identified problems and constraints that have impeded EAD from achieving equity in the spatial allocation of national resources for the development of socio-economic amenities in different tenure under different governments. These issues and problems can be addressed by the citizens, opinion leaders and the Traditional Council of EAD; Ministry of local government, Rural Development and Environment in collaboration with central government and non-governmental development partners.

7.3.1 Strategy for Intra-District Disparities

Efforts have over the years been made to address the imbalance between the urban and the rural areas, however, these efforts have not achieved their desired results. The reasons for such situation have been attributed to urban bias nature of resources allocation for development projects. Brown (1986:206,211) has observed that rural development in Ghana has been partly urban biased and partly biased in favour of rural-large scale operators, leading to disparities in levels of development and standards of living between the regional centres and urban areas..., and also gradually between regions, and within regions of Ghana. Thus, under-scoring the fact that there exists a powerful bias in favour of some regions and districts at the expense of other districts, a situation, Brown considered “as a fundamental one embedded in social structure itself” (Brown 1986: 215).

As observed earlier, successive governments in Ghana have essentially pursued a policy of “benign neglect” with respect to the distribution of development projects much to the neglect of some districts and that could explain why its rural development interventions after fifty years of independence have not achieved equity in spatial development. This, therefore, calls

for a dynamic strategy like integrated programme of development, which also requires a holistic and multidiscipline approach to address the intra-district disparities in particular, and the rural-urban disparities in general. A holistic effort is required to embrace an articulated rural development policy with ideological commitment; integration and coordination of rural development activities by various agencies and organizations; participation and commitment on the part of the rural people; and structural reforms (Amonoo: 1986). In the same vein, multidisciplinary effort requiring, for example, expertise of economics, sociologists, anthropologists, engineers, medical workers, statisticians and administrators is necessary to see to the successful implementation of the programme (Ewusi: 1977).

Since agricultural development is the main focus of this strategy, it can assume first the interdependence of the rural sub-sectors; namely, agricultural production, manufacturing, repair services and processing activities, and infrastructural developments, including government services and linkages to the urban and foreign sectors. Secondly, it can assume that increased agricultural production will create serious bottlenecks unless marketing, distribution, storage, preservation and processing facilities are also given appropriate attention. In effect, the above strategy requires simultaneous development of agricultural, rural small-scale industry and rural infrastructure (Boakye-Danquah: 1984).

7.3.2 Equity in Spatial Distribution of Infrastructural Development

The study has shown Local Government's inability to achieve spatial equalization in resources allocation for development projects under different governments. While 'urban bias' theorists attributed this to the bias nature of development policy and population density; endowment of natural resources, project objectives, geographical location, and 'the form of the existing political power' were identified by the study as some of the factors that have also influenced the distribution of development projects in the country. It is imperative that

conscious effort was made to deliberately give equal attention to all the districts in the allocation of resources and services for development. There must, for example, be a minimum package of such basic social infrastructure, efficient rural health system, education and communication facilities, rural roads, markets, water supply, rural electrification and irrigation, transport and storage facilities for agricultural production. Most of the personnel of stakeholders were emphatic that it will be extremely difficult to achieve equity and fairness in the allocation of resources for development projects all the time because of the variations in project objectives and conditionalities attached to donor fund. They mentioned lack of effective monitoring and proper records on rural development projects as part of the problems that have created the inter-district disparities in the country. They, however, suggested effective coordination and collaboration among development partners in order to avoid duplication and manipulation of resources by some influential personalities and politicians. Beside, a multi-stakeholder planning and budgetary approach was mentioned as effective strategy that can address the equitable distribution of infrastructural resources for all the districts. There is the need, therefore, for a reordering of national priorities and conscious policy of adequate resources allocation to all the districts.

7.3.3 **Health**

An overview of the health situation in the District shows that malaria remains the leading cause of death, followed by anemia, cerebro-vascular accident, pneumonia, hemorrhagic shock, heart failure, hypertension and HIV/AIDS respectively (Fosu, 2007:12) Even though HIV/AIDS related deaths might be low in the District, the disease continues to pose health and economic threat to the District and the nation as a whole. It is incumbent that a multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS project is introduced in the District. In spite of the health facilities available in the District, there still exists a number of problems relating to diseases and

access to health care. The District continues to experience diseases like diarrhoea and measles common to other parts of the region. The health status of the vast majority of the people can be said to be relatively low in view of the prevalence of preventable diseases and malnutrition. The underlying factors of the health problems in the District include inadequate medical personnel to man these health institutions, the poor coverage of health delivery system, the unsanitary living conditions as a result of inadequate sanitation facilities and poor personal hygiene. The financial situation of the people in the District calls for stringent measures to encourage the people to embrace the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) for them to enjoy the full benefit of the scheme in managing the cost of health in the District. The DEC should make it a priority the performance of the Mutual Health Scheme and campaign vigorously for greater percentage of the people to register for the Scheme.

7.3.4 **Education**

Before the advent of the Kufour administration, many of the primary school buildings were in deplorable conditions. They were old and in a state of disrepair. Some of the people attended school in temporary structures with thatched roofs and uncompleted classrooms. There are even cases where pupils attend school under trees, while some schools in large settlements run shift system because of inadequate classrooms. There is a high percentage of children of school going age, who do not go to school or have dropped out of school. There are several reasons for this situation. One of the reasons is that some parents want their children to assist them with farm work. For such parents sending children to school means reducing the farm hands needed to produce more food. Since many of the people are illiterate, they consider going to school as waste of time and money and therefore prefer their children to engage in what they consider as productive activities such as farming and trading.

Some of the children who drop out of the school are from poor homes and their parents cannot afford to pay their school fees and provide other need required for their education. Some children drop out of school to engage in income-generating activities to supplement their families incomes. Another reason why pupils drop out is that their parents deliberately refuse to accept responsibility for the children. Since the mother alone cannot afford the payment of their school fees, they end up engaging in farming and other less profitable activities. Other problems facing the educational sub-sectors in the District are lack of furniture and equipment; lack of basic textbooks; inadequate workshops for JSS; inadequate number of both public and private senior secondary school to absorb J.S.S. graduates; poor staffing of the schools; unwillingness on the part of the newly trained teachers to accept postings into the rural communities among others etc. There is therefore the urgent need to resolve these problems to improve upon the standard of education in the District. This requires the concerted efforts of the central government, the District Assembly, non-governmental development partners, Traditional Council and parents since none of these groups can adequately shoulder the responsibility of education alone. In particular, the researcher is inviting the Traditional Council to take a cue from what their predecessors did under the leadership of Nana Ofori Atta and rekindle the spirit of self-help for the establishment of state scholarships for needy but promising students in the District.

7.3.5 Water

The survey identified that most of the communities still depend on traditional sources of water supply such as streams, springs and harvested rain as the main source of domestic water supply. Several factors account for this. Some of the communities do not have boreholes and, therefore have to depend on the traditional source of water supply. Such communities have no alternative source of water supply than to depend on the traditional

source of water supply. Some communities are fortunate to have been provided with enough boreholes but prefer other sources of water such as water from streams because they have developed the taste for it and consider borehole water not satisfying. Notwithstanding, the District main source of water supply, River Birim had been polluted by mining activities. There is therefore the need to provide more boreholes in the District to improve the water supply situation. Education on the contribution of good water to good health should also be intensified to compliment the provision of boreholes.

7.3.6 Electricity/Energy

Though, the number of communities that enjoy electricity from the national grid is encouraging most of the rural communities have not yet been supplied with electricity for domestic or commercial use. The energy problem in these communities is constrained by the lack of matching funds required to support community projects. The concept of community ownership and management (COM) requires communities benefiting from projects to provide a matching fund to the entire cost of the projects. In most cases, the percentage of the project cost is small, yet communities find such percentages too high and are unwilling to contribute. The energy sector has been one of such areas suffering from this. The government's electrification programme requires rural communities to support the electrification project by providing electric poles, and this constitutes a greater cost to them. The absence of NGO/donors with such mission in the District constitutes a constraint to improve energy resources in the District. Regular supply of electrical energy in the District would stimulate economic activities especially in the informal sector.

7.3.7 Employment/Income Level

The issue of unemployment and income levels should be of great concern to the Assembly. As was revealed in the survey, people do not pay for services or tax because they do not have

money. All the young men the researcher encountered mentioned unemployment as one of their major problems in the villages. They were of the view that there should be enough farmers to feed the entire population if some are employed in the industrial sector. The critical issue is how to expand their farms and increase productivity as well as production. It is incredible to discover that there is scarcity of farmland in most of the communities because about 60% of their farmlands have been converted into forest reserves. The young men called on the Assembly to team up with the Traditional Council and dialogue with the government for the release of part of the reserved forest in the District for farming. Some even mentioned pineapple and papaw plantation as having succeeded in transforming the lives of the people of Nsawam and its environs; and wished similar schemes would have been introduced under the President's Special Initiative (PSI) Scheme. The survey identifies women's group working on mushroom cultivation, snail and grass cutter rearing. It would have been better for more of such income generating initiatives introduce in all the rural communities in the District. The soils, the survey revealed, were suitable for the cultivation of food crops like cassava, plantain, maize, yam, cocoyam as well as cash crops such as cocoa, oil palm, coffee, cola, citrus etc. The Assembly can target some of these crops for its PSI programme in the District. It can solicit help from NGOs and other multi-national agencies. The Assembly can also entice entrepreneurs into the District to invest which in turn would lead to increase employment levels and subsequently increased income levels. The people believed that if they were gainfully employed, with increased income levels, they could also patronize other people's goods that will also get money to expand their business or farms in the District. The Assembly should consider the setting up of small-scale industries in the District in its long-term plans. Development should not be seen as the provision of infrastructure alone. The people need to work to earn a living.

7.3.8 Changing People's Attitude

People have lived with some behaviours or attitudes for so long that they find it difficult to change. Without the change in attitudes and behaviours of the people, no development could be achieved. Even though, facilities for both human and solid waste disposal are inadequate to meet the increasing needs of the inhabitants, the unsatisfactory sanitary practices have worsened the sanitary conditions in the District. In many communities liquid waste discharged from homes (kitchen and bathrooms) is not properly channeled and results in the formation of pools of stagnant water within the built up area posing serious environmental hazards. In some of the communities, while people dump refuse at unapproved places, other communities do not have specific places designated for the dumping of refuse, and as a result dump refuse anywhere. Inadequacy of personnel, logistic support, refuse trucks and other resources for the District Assembly to cope with solid and liquid waste disposal had also aggravated the sanitary problem in the District. The District Assemblies should explore ways of getting the necessary sanitation equipment to bring the sanitation situation under control.

Okyeman Environmental Programme had been lunched to avoid indiscriminate cutting down of trees, yet chainsaw operators maneuver into the forest to cut down trees as late as 12 midnight. River Birim, which is the District main source of water supply has now been contaminated through mining activities, and thus, exposing the people to water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, *amebiasis*, *cyclosporiasis*, *giardiasis* etc. These and other problems are what the East Akim District Assembly, and probably other Assemblies all over Ghana face. There is therefore the need for the Assembly to seriously educate people with films, video shows, plays, and drama in order for them to appreciate the harm they are causing to the environment, others and themselves. Without change in attitudes and

practices, the development the Assembly seeks to bring to the people will just be an effort in futility.

7.3.9 Impact of National Politics on East Akim District

The general perception of the people that East Akim District is the “Mecca” of Ghana politics, and for that matter, a ‘no-go-area’ for anti-Danquah-Busia traditions should be discarded. EAD is part of Ghana, therefore, its corridors must be opened to any political tradition intended to engage in party politics there. Otherwise the District would continue to be marginalized in terms of resource allocation for development projects by the government of other political traditions. The study revealed a positive attitude on the part of the both traditional rulers and the people toward development projects, the political victimization mentioned as some of the reasons for the inequalities in infrastructural development in the District especially between 1997-2000 was attributed partly to the antagonistic relationship between the traditional rulers and the previous governments. As the ‘father’ of the people in the District, the onus is on the traditional rulers to lead the people to attract their fair share of the national wealth into the District irrespective of the political tradition of the regime. The traditional leaders in the District must therefore play a neutral role in party politics. Thus, for the sake of the welfare, peace and tranquility of the citizens of the District, the Traditional rulers must always “belong to the government of the day”. It is only when they accept their position as sacred, remain neutral to party politics, and embrace any government of any political tradition that the District can also attract its fair share of the national resources for the development of the District.

7.3.10 Chieftaincy Disputes

Studies have shown that the very survival of the people of Efutu State (Winneba) hinges on the principle of “Divided We Stand” (Hagan: 2000). Unfortunately, this cannot be said of the

EAD. History has proved that the District has not known peace, unity and even development in the mist of protracted litigations and chieftaincy disputes. Litigations and chieftaincy disputes have undermined the development process in the District for far too long. In Apedwa, Asiakwa and even Kyebi, the chieftaincy disputes have created factions such that citizens of the various communities cannot come together and plan for the development of their own communities.

Not even their compatriots abroad or elsewhere in the country are willing to contribute to the development of these towns. This has led to a situation where the people depend solely on the resources of Central Government, the Assembly, Donor agencies and NGOs for the development of their District. The survey revealed that the period that the District experienced massive infrastructural development was only when the then king, Nana Ofori Atta united all the leaders of the various ethnic groups that constitute the Akim Abuakwa State. Already, the District had been marginalized by the vindictive policies of governments of anti-Danquah traditions. The traditional authorities should not look unconcerned for the District's hard won reputation to be tarnished by litigations and chieftaincy disputes. The traditional rulers can emulate the efforts made by Nana Ofori Atta; and find amicable solutions to the numerous chieftaincy disputes for development to thrive in the District.

7.3.11 **Tourism Development**

At the time tourism has emerged as one of the world's largest industries, and the government of Ghana is aiming at boosting domestic tourism thereby making the industry the largest employer in the formal sector, the potentials of the industry to the development of the District's economy is yet to be recognized. The tourism industry is aiming at making Ghana a competitive and quality tourism destination within the sub-region, and being positioned within other tourist destinations in West Africa including the Gambia, Senegal, and to a

degree most visited tourist destinations in Africa, such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa (Owusu-Frempong, 2005 – Lecture Notes Compendium). Unfortunately, tourism industry is considered a low priority in the EAD. What saddened the researcher was the fact that the District is among the few in the country endowed with potential tourists sites, yet very little is known about its tourist potentials. The District is endowed with tourist sites of historic and aesthetic importance, but these sites are poorly developed to say the least. At the time government is aiming at increasing tourism arrivals to one million international tourism annually, tourism forex earnings from US\$500 million to US\$1.5 billion by 2007, the EAD is earning virtually nothing from the tourism industry. No wonder the District is classified as below poverty belt.

Even though, the District is bedeviled with problems such as inadequate accommodation facilities, inadequate restaurants, poor sanitation, high destination cost, inadequate information for tourists and infrastructural facilities that require investment, entertainment and shopping centres among others, the Assembly cannot afford to overlook the potentials of the tourism industry to the development of the District. Now that the government is targeting international tourism to effectively introduce the culture and environmental heritage of the nation to foreigners and contributing to greater mutual understanding among Ghana and people of different cultures; the EADA on its part, can focus on domestic tourism, to generate economic benefits to local people and help redistribute income from urban to the rural communities. In so doing, the residents will have the opportunity to fully appreciate their culture and environmental heritage in recreational activities. The District tourists' sites must be well package to form part of the national tourism development plan. This can be done by marketing tourism destination of the District.

Eco-tourism is gaining more currency in some Districts in the country. EADA can emulate the shining example of Hohoe District Assembly in promoting eco-tourism. This will enhance rural tourism, promote Community-Based Tourism, and also add impetus to the Okyeman's special initiative programme: "save the forest and its wetlands". This should be accompanied by well-developed infrastructure, such as telecommunication, roads, railways, energy, water etc. The Assembly can make conscious effort in providing an excellent crop of tour guides to shepherd visitors to various destinations. The Assembly can also factor into its National Youth Training Programme (NYTP), the training of the youth in the areas of hotel and tourism management, catering and other hospitality services etc.

3.3.12 Traditional Council And Infrastructural Development in EAD.

The importance of traditional authority (Chieftaincy Institution) as an embodiment of traditional governance, unity, peace and security, a catalyst for rural development, was recognized in the annals of socio-economic infrastructural development of EAD in the early 1900s. The researcher was very optimistic that the Traditional Council will continue the success story of their predecessors whose selfless leadership led to the establishment of Okyeman Stool Treasury (State Treasury), which provided for the control of revenues and properties of the State and application of the revenues to the development of socio-economic amenities in the state, provision of state scholarships to the needy but promising students (Addo-Fening, 2006:334-338). Unfortunately, the survey revealed clearly the disappointment on the part of the people, including traditional rulers themselves, about the inability of the Traditional Council of EAD to support development efforts of the Assembly and other development partners financially, as pertaining to the past. This is a serious indictment on the part of the Traditional Council whose predecessors had won admiration of the colonial officialdom through socio-economic infrastructural development. The Traditional Council

could do better by reviving the Land Management Policy introduced in 1925, and re-instating the State Treasury (Okyeman Treasury) to serve as the backbone of the infrastructural development in the District.

The above recommendations, which are however not exhaustive if implemented, can go a long way to improve the work of the local government as well as help in the development process in the rural communities of EAD in particular, and Ghana in general.

7.4 CONCLUSION

The problem of rural development has been a matter of concern to many scholars that imbalance between the urban centres and the rural areas became the main focus of their studies, much to the neglect of the intra-district disparities in some districts. The vacuum, the researcher attempted to fill with his study. The study shown that though gross disparities exist between urban centres and rural areas, between regions, and between districts, intra-district disparities are more pronounced in some districts including EAD. Both internal and external factors were identified as having led to the intra-district disparities in the EAD.

The study identified internal factors as having contributed partly to the existing intra-district disparities in the District. For the traditional ruler whose state royalties served as the backbone of the numerous infrastructural developments in the District, have now been reduced to merely an embodiment of the culture of the people, organizers and supervisors of communal labour. Even though financial constraints; due to poverty, high rate of unemployment, lack of income generating activities etc, were identified as the cause of the local peoples' inability to support development projects in the District, the study also found that apathetic attitude and laziness have also caught up with the people. Besides, the numerous protracted chieftaincy disputes that have engulfed the District have created factions and disunity such that it is a problematic for the people to forge ahead and plan for

the common good of their District. Last but not least, the numerous natural resources endowed in the District have also not been developed to support development on local initiative.

The study also found external factors as having contributed to the intra-district disparities in the EAD. The analysis of the data on the allocation of development projects in the study period supports the allegation that the previous government from 1997-2000 essentially pursued a policy of “benign neglect” with respect to the EAD. A combination of two factors also accounts for this. While the chiefs and people in the District put up antagonistic behavior towards the previous government, the previous government on its part, found it inexpedient to develop a District perceived as anti-government. Even though, the people described the spate of socio-economic infrastructural development in the District as unprecedented, they were quick to say that it has not been translated into the living conditions of the people in the rural communities. Because, according to them, the on-going rural development programme do not involve income-generating activities, creation of employment opportunities, or youth training programme.

Nonetheless, it could be concluded that the findings from the research show that the purpose for which the study was carried out has been achieved. It has been able to establish the internal and external factors that led to the existing intra-district disparities within EAD, and how to sustain development process in the District through concerted efforts among the Traditional Council and the people on the one hand, and ‘the ruling government of the day’ on the other hand; by reviving the spirit of self-reliance; by finding amicably solution to the numerous chieftaincy disputes in the District; by ensuring chiefs’ neutrality in national politics, and more importantly, by ensuring the Central Government’s impartiality in the distribution of development projects. Furthermore, the study has observed the extent to which

local government has improved infrastructural development in the District especially, during the second-four year period of the study, there is still more to be done.

It is hoped that the study will provide an insight to other districts faced with prospect of achieving spatial equalization in the allocation of development projects. The findings and recommendations made, it is further hoped will be useful to stakeholders and students of rural development.

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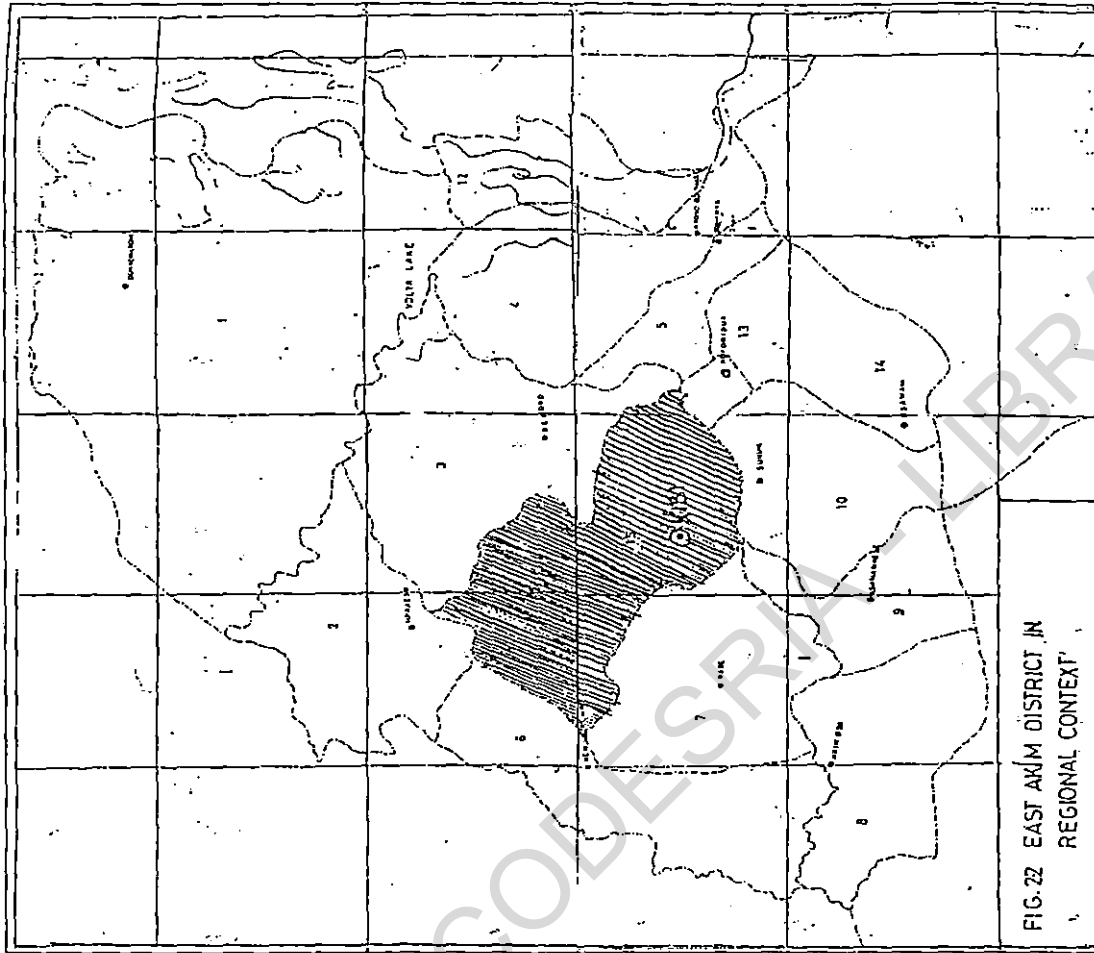
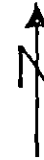


FIG. 22 EAST AKIM DISTRICT IN REGIONAL CONTEXT

LEGEND

- 1. AFRAM PLAINS DIST.
- 2. KWAHU SOUTH DI. ST
- 3. FANTEAKWA DIST.
- 4. MANYA KROBO DIST.
- 5. YILO KROBO DIST.
- 6. BIRIM-NORTH DIST.
- 7. KWAIBIBREM DIST.
- 8. BIRIM SOUTH DIST.
- 9. WEST AKIM DIST.
- 10. SUHUM/KRABOA DIST.
- 11. NEW JUABEN DIST.
- 12. ASUOGYAMAN DIST.
- 13. AKWAPIM NORTH DIST.
- 14. EAST AKIM DIST.
- REGIONAL CAPITAL
- ⊙ DISTRICT CAPITAL



SCALE 1:250,000

FIGURE 1.1

EAST AKIM DISTRICT IN REGIONAL CONTEXT

EAST AKIM DISTRICT

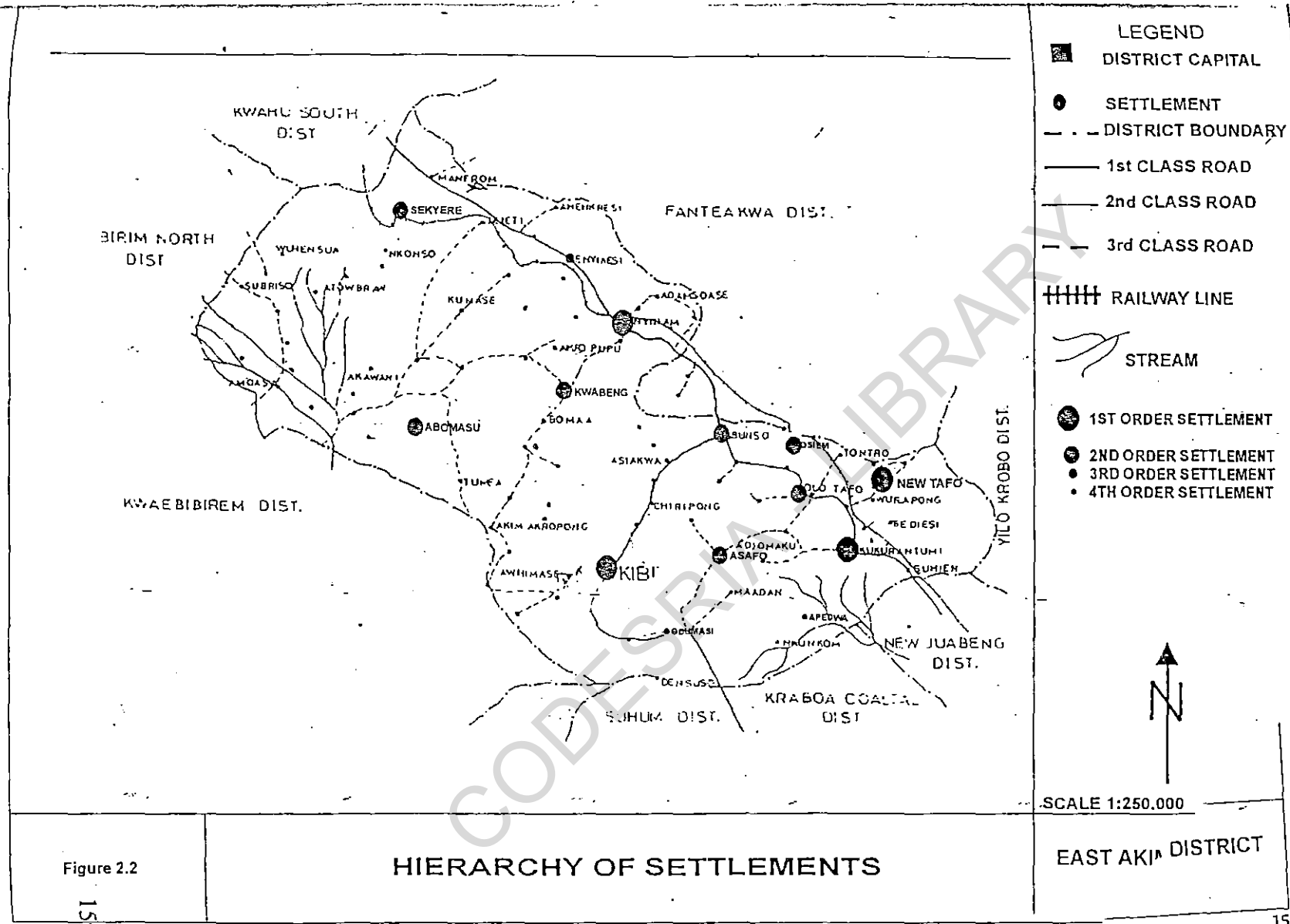
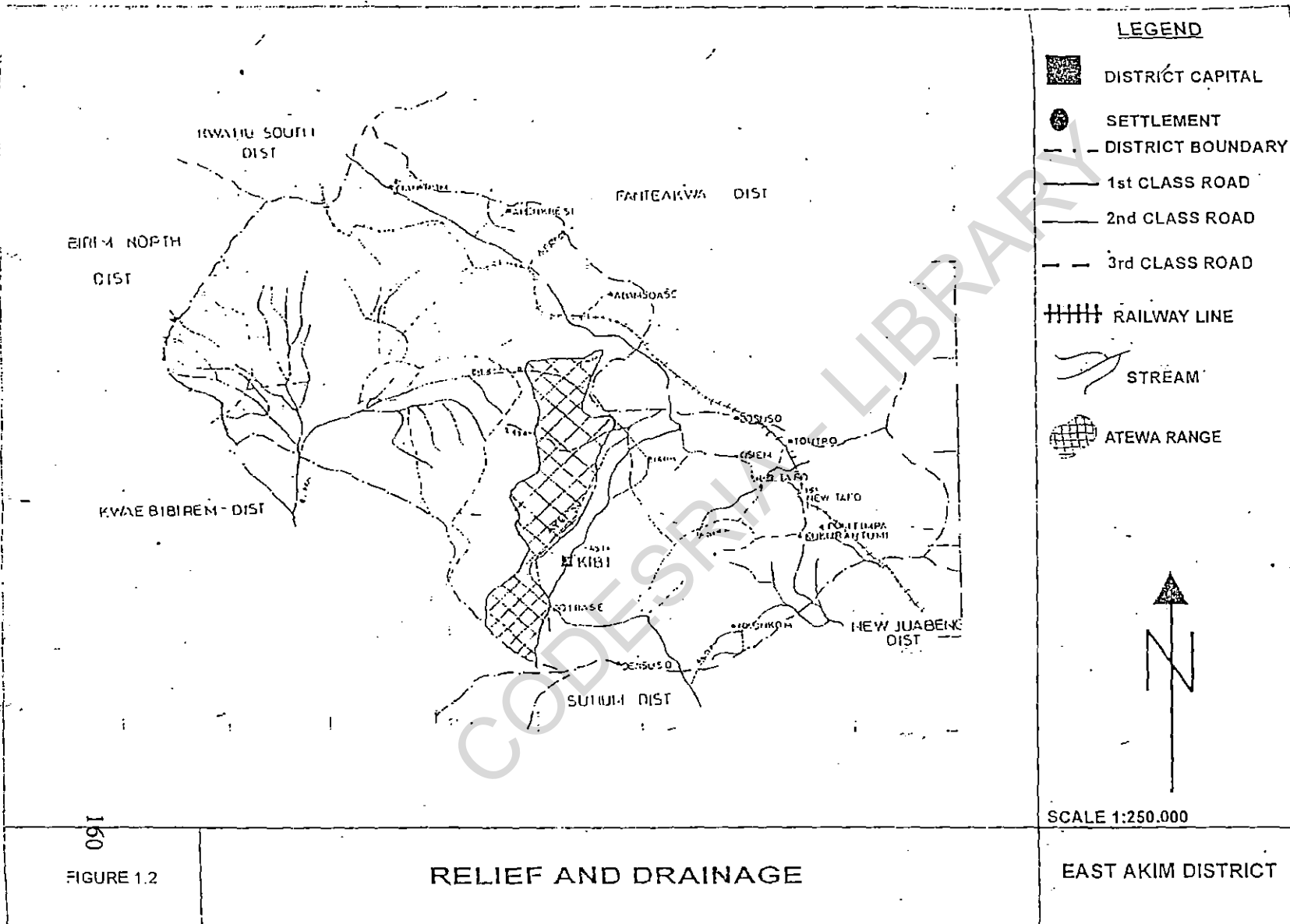


Figure 2.2



160
FIGURE 1.2

RELIEF AND DRAINAGE

East Akim District Assembly, Kibi

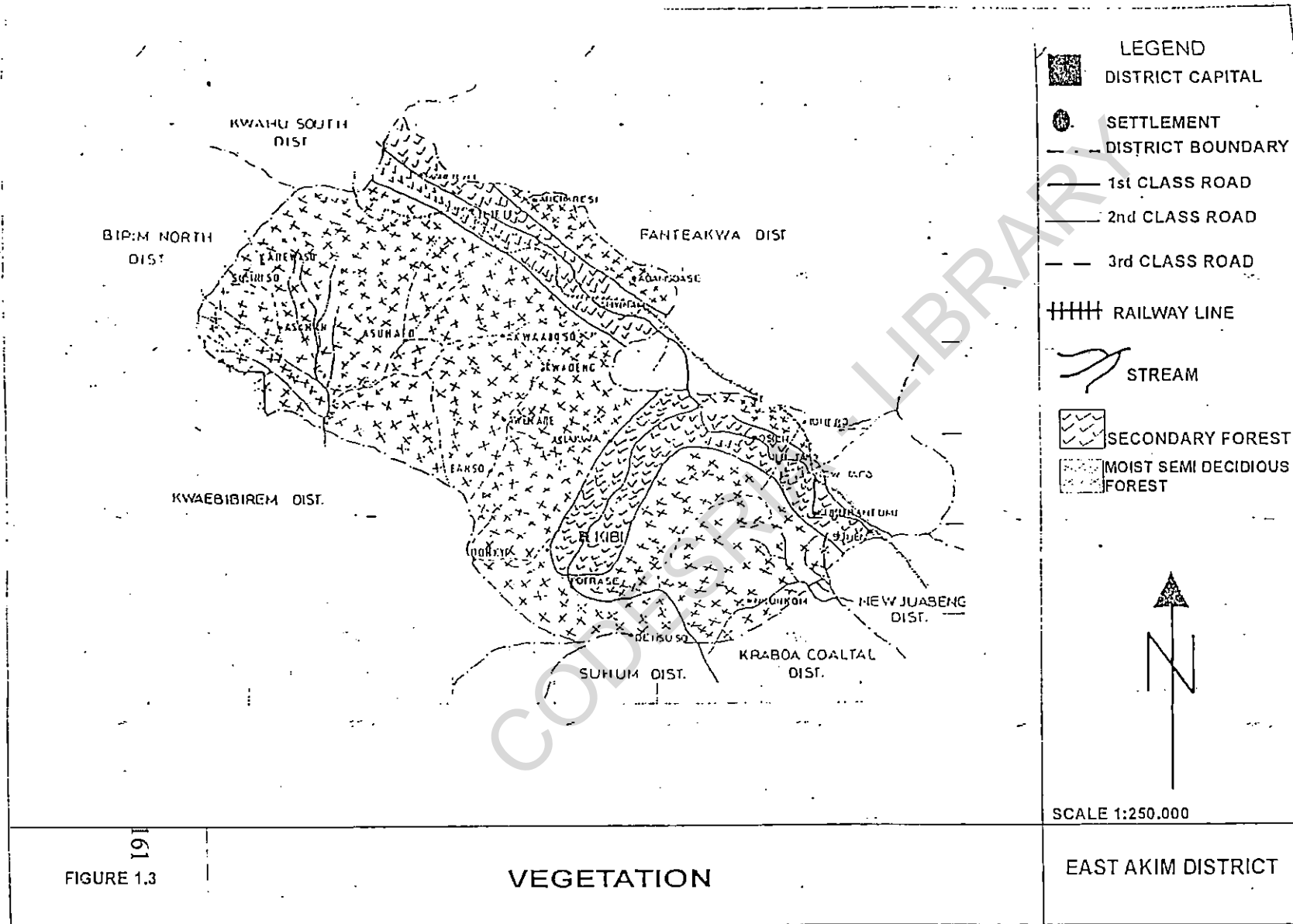
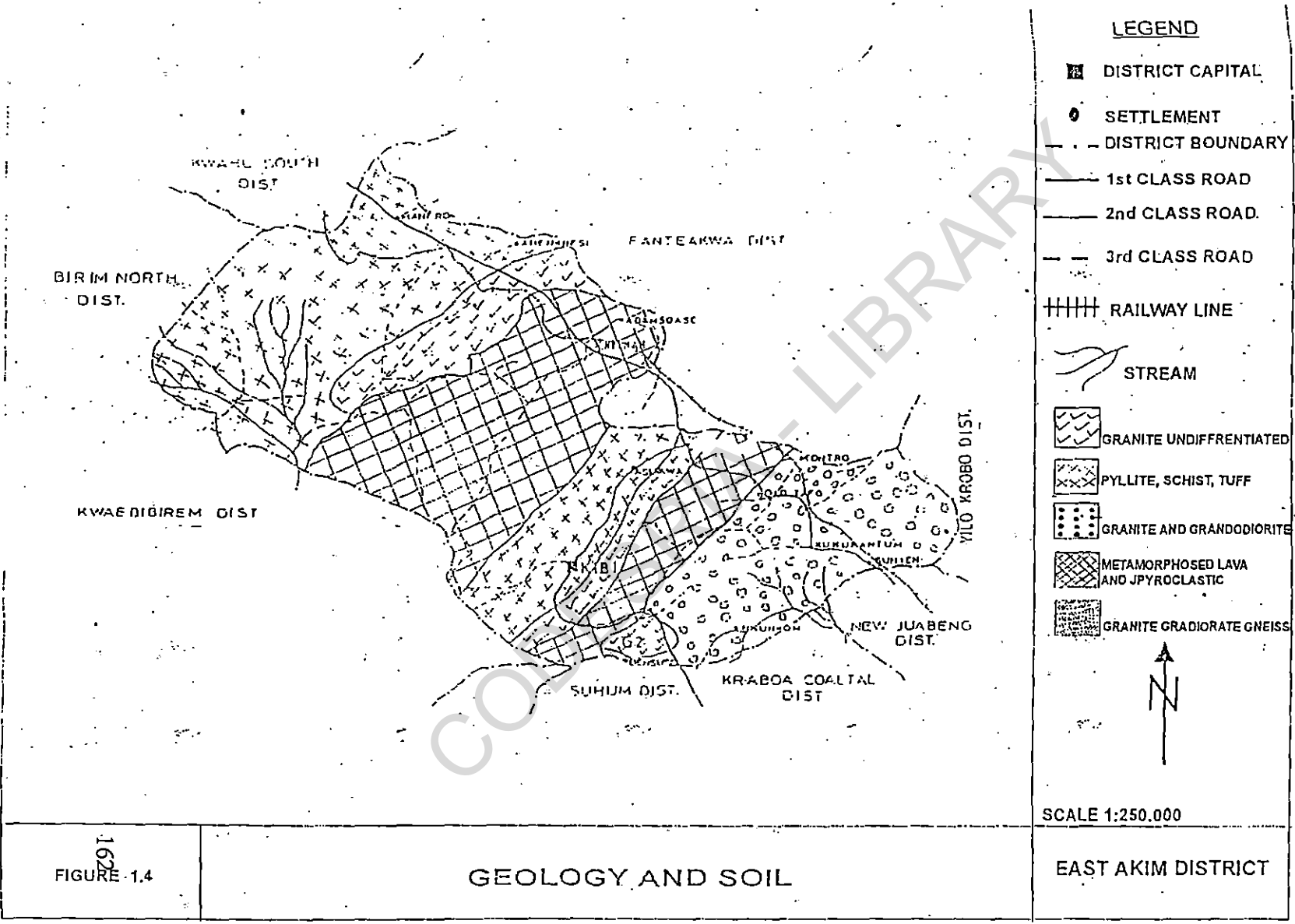


FIGURE 1.3

161



162
FIGURE 1.4

GEOLOGY AND SOIL

EAST AKIM DISTRICT

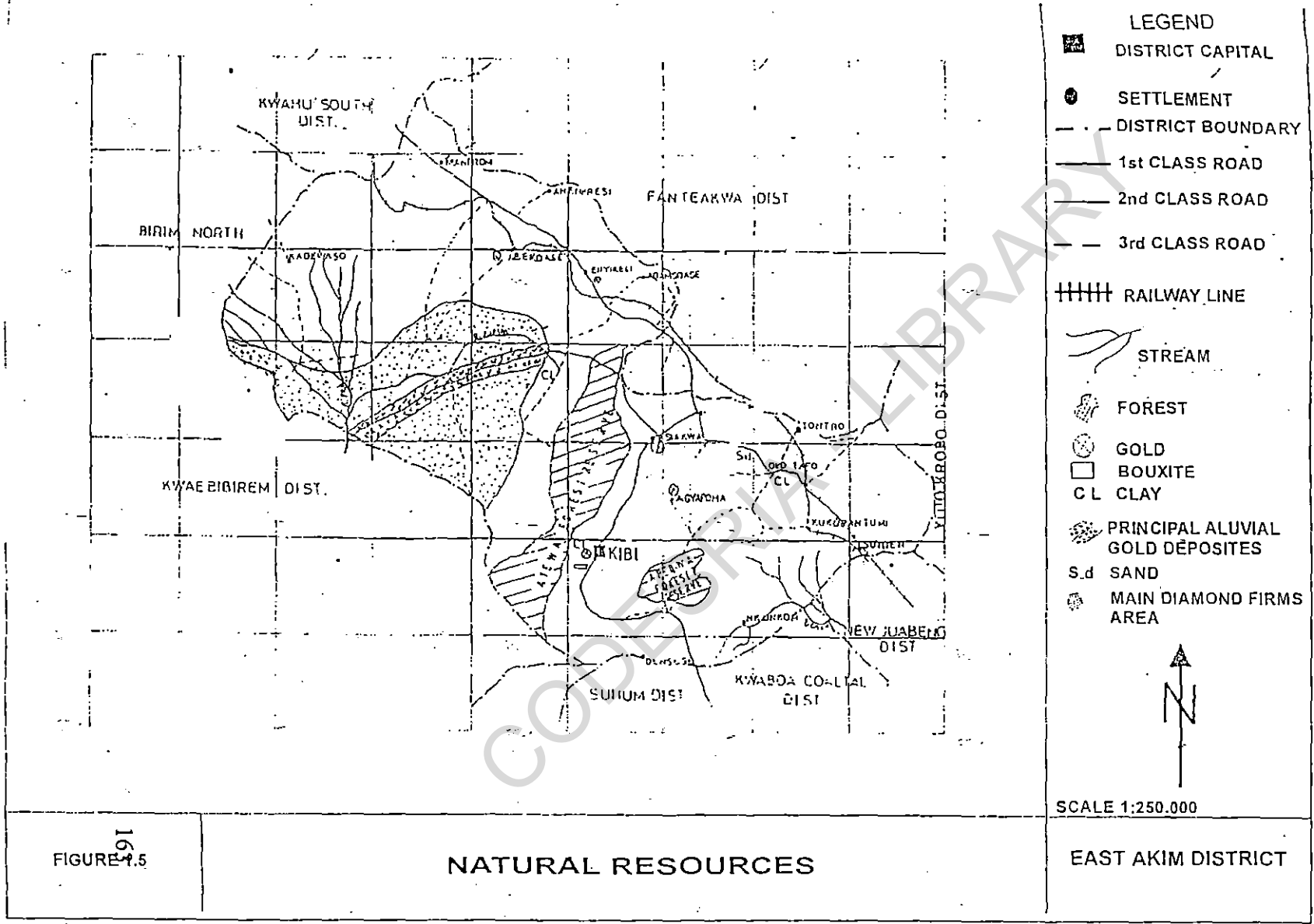


FIGURE 16.5

APPENDIX VII

QUESTIONNAIRE/INTERVIEW SCHEDULE ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT: EXPLAINING THE DISPARITIES WITHIN EAST AKIM DISTRICT.

INTRODUCTION

The questionnaire/interview schedule is meant to enable me write thesis on the Local Government as an Instrument of Rural Development: Explaining the Disparities within East Akim District.

The survey is purely for academic research. Your identity is not required, and any information you give will be treated as confidential. Your cooperation is very vital for the success of this study.

Please, read through the questions carefully and answer them as accurately, truly and objectively as possible.

SECTION 'A': For all RESPONDENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Age: 1. 18-30 2. 31-45 3. 46+ () 2. Sex: Male () Female ().
3. Marital status: 1. Married 2. Separated 3. Single 4. Widow 5. Divorce
6. Other (specify).....
4. Occupation:
1. Farmer 2. Domestic Worker 3. Tradesman 4. Public servant
5. Self-employment 6. Student 7. Businessman 8. Unemployed
9. Other (Specify).....
5. Educational Background:
1. None 2. None Formal 3. Basic School 4. Secondary School/Vocational/
Technical 5. University/Polytechnic/Training College 6. Other (Specify)
6. Religion: 1. Christianity 2. Islam 3. African traditionalist 4. None
5. Other (Specify)..... ()
7. Town/Village/Electoral Area:.....
8. Name of Department /unit.....
9. Status/Position
10. How long have you stayed in this town or worked with your traditional Council/Assembly/ Organization?

11. Which of the following 4 categories of respondents do you identify yourself with?

1. General public/Opinion leaders
2. Traditional Council-Chiefs, Queen Mothers, Elders, etc.
3. Assembly Staff/Member
4. Stakeholders of rural development – Employees of NGOs/Donor Agency/Local/Central Government etc.

SECTION 'B': Questionnaire/Interview Schedule for ALL RESPONDENTS

Local Participation and involvement

12. How would you describe the extent of participation and involvement of the local people in the development projects in your community?

- (1) Low participation (2) High participation (3) No participation

13. Do the people attend meetings called by an Assembly member?

Yes () No (). If "No", why?

14a. Do the people attend communal labour (work) willingly? Yes () No ().

14b. If "No", what is/are the cause(s)?

14c. If "Yes", what has been the motivating factor?

15. Do you involve the people in the initiation of projects? Yes () No ()

16. Do you consult the people before any project is formulated? Yes () No ().

17. Do you involve the people in the implementation of projects? Yes () No ()

17b. If yes, how are they involved? (Where one is involved in more than one, all the response applicable should be ticked or stated)

- (1) Provide labour (2) Contributed money (3) Any other

18. Do you involve the people in the management or running of the projects?

- (1) Yes (2) No

19. Do you involve the people in the evaluation of projects? (1) Yes (2) No.

20. Do the people contribute towards the development projects in your locality?

(1) Yes 2) No. 3. Don't know

20b. If no, why?

20c. If yes, how often? Very often () All the time () Once a while

21a. Have the people been paying their basic rate? Yes () No ().

21b. If "No" why?

22. Mention specific development project(s) undertaken by the Assembly/NGO that the people offered contribution:

(i).....

(ii).....

(iii).....

SECTION 'C'

Questionnaire/Interview schedule for Traditional Council, General Public, and Assembly Workers/Officials/ Members.

Reasons for the Intra-District Disparities – Internal Factors

23a. Which of the following periods do you think recorded the highest number of development projects in the District?

a. The periods between 19997-2000 ()

b. The period between 2001-2004 ()

c. Both periods ()

d. Don't know ()

23b. Give reason for your answer.....

24. Which of the following periods did the Assembly enjoyed maximum co-operation in terms of the people's participation, involvement and contribution towards development projects in the District?

- a. The period between 1997-2000
- b. The period after 2001-2004
- c. Don't know

24b. Give reason for your answer.....

25a. Do you think the rate of development projects being carried out in your community, as well as the whole of the District, faster now than before 2001?

1. Yes () 2. No () 3. Don't know ()

25b. If yes, which of the following do you think account for the fastest rates of development in your community now (after 2001)?

- (a). Reduction of the District into smaller units
- (b). Visionary leadership of the Assembly officials
- (c). Visionary leadership of the Traditional Rulers
- (d). Contribution by NGOs in the District
- (e). Contribution from Traditional Council/Royalties
- (f) Contribution by the people
- (f). Political patronage
- (g) Contribution by Central government/Local government/MP
- (i) Other Specify

25c. If no, then what accounts for the low rate of development after 2001?

.....

25d. Mention specific Infrastructural projects embarked on in your community by Central Government/District Assembly/NGOs/Donor Agencies within the following periods:

- (a) 1997-2000.....
- (b) 2001-2004.....

26. Rate the following in terms of their contributions towards overall development projects in the District:

- 1. Central/Local Government/DA ()
- 2. NGOs ()
- 3. Community Development Agency ()
- 4. Contribution by the people (including cash and labour) ()
- 5. Royalties/Traditional council ()

27. Which of the following can best describe the general attitude of the local people towards the overall development in the District?

- a. Apathetic
- b. Co-operative

28. Assess the local community in terms of their contribution towards the general level of development in the District? (Grade them from 1-10, with 10 being the highest) ().

SECTION 'D'

Questionnaire/interview schedule for Only Stakeholders Of Rural Development

Reasons for the Intra-District Disparities – External Factors.

29a. How many districts benefit from your rural development projects?
.....

29b. Who determines the district(s) to be benefited from your rural development projects

- a. Central government
- a. Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
- b. National Development Planning Commission
- c. Individual NGOs/Agency/ Organization
- d. Other (specify).....

30a. Are the development projects undertaken by your Organization/Department/ Agency evenly distributed among the various districts in the country?

Yes () No ().

30b. If “No” which are the concentration districts?

- (i)..... (ii).....
- (iii).....(iv).....
- (v).....

30c. Why did you select those districts?.....
.....

31a. Are you aware of any other organization that also engages in rural development programme in this District(s)? Yes () No ().

31b. If “Yes”, what is/are the name(s) of the organization(s)?

- (i)..... (ii).....
- (iii)..... (iv).....
- (v).....

32a. Which development Organization/Agency/Department do you collaborate within your programme?

- (i).....(ii).....
- (iii).....(iv).....
- (v).....

32b. What is the level/area of collaboration?

33a. In what ways do you think the stakeholders of rural development in Ghana can ensure equity in the spatial allocation of resources for development projects in the country?
.....

33b Has your Organization been following the strategy mentioned above?

Yes () No ().

34. Which component of rural development does your Organization/Department/Agency embark upon?

- a. Infrastructural development
- b. Rural Health services
- c. Youth Training programme
- d. Agriculture
- e. Political participation and Awareness
- f. Other (specify)
- g.

35. What is your strategy of rural development?

- a..... b.....
- c..... d.....
- e.....

36. Mention the various rural development approaches which have been adopted by your organization?

- a..... b.....
- c..... d.....
- e.....

37. Lack of co-ordination of development activities between stakeholders of rural development has been cited as a key factor for the inter-district disparities in the build-up of social amenities among the various districts in the country. 1. True () 2. False ()

38. Is information on the level of development in the district readily available? Yes. ()
No. ()

39. Is there development information on monitoring system for the stakeholders of rural development programmes? Yes () No ().

40. Rank the following in terms of their contribution towards development projects in the EAD.

- (i) Central government/DA ()
- (iii) Contribution by the people (Labour and cash) ()
- (iv) Royalties/Traditional Council ()
- (v) Donor/NGOs ()

41. To what extent has your Organization/Department/Agency's projects satisfied the development needs of the rural communities in the Districts?

1. Very adequate 2. Adequate 3. Moderate 4. Not adequate. ()

42. What are the major problems facing your organization in its rural development programmes? ()

SECTION 'E'

Questionnaire/Interview schedule for stakeholders of Rural Development, Traditional Council and Assembly workers/Officials/Members.

Contribution by Traditional Council

43. Which of the following can best describe the attitude of the Traditional Council towards the overall development of the District?

1. Apathetic 2. Co-operative 3. Other specify.....

44a. Does the Traditional Council contribute part of royalties towards development projects? Yes () No ().

44b. If "No", why?

45. Mention some of the development projects undertaken with assistance of royalties from the traditional council.

- (i)..... (ii).....
- (iii).....(iv).....
- (iv).....

46. Rate the following in terms of their contribution towards overall development projects in the District: (rate them from 1-5, with 5 being the highest).

- a. Central/Local Government ()
- b. NGOs ()
- c. Community Development Agency ()
- d. Contribution by the people (including cash and labour) ()
- e. Royalties/Traditional Council ()

47. Assess the traditional council in terms of their contribution towards the general level of development in the district? (Grade them from 1-10, with 10 being the highest) ().

SECTION 'F': Questionnaire/interview schedule for ALL RESPONDENTS.

Impact of Local Government on the life of Rural Communities

48a. Do you think Local government has helped improved the living conditions of the people in your community? Yes () No ().

48b. If "No", why?

48c. If "Yes", in what way(s)?

49. Are you satisfied with the rate of on-going rural development projects in the District? Yes () No ().

50. Mention specific development project(s) undertaken by the Local Government/District Assembly with or without assistance from either NGOs/Royalties/Local people.

- (i)..... (ii).....
- (iii)..... (iv).....
- (V).....

51a. What is your opinion on the assertion that the Local Government rural development interventions **have not** impacted positively on the living standards of the people in the rural communities in the District? 1. True 2. False

51b. Give reason for your answer.....

52. What problems do you think are associated with development projects undertaken in the rural areas in the District.....

53. Give any other comment or suggestion that may be useful for this study.....
.....

END OF INTERVIEW
Thank you for your time and cooperation.

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