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AID OR PARTNERSHIP? A CASE STUDY OF THE MHONDORO – MUBAYIRA
WARDS 1 AND 6 AGAINST A LONG HISTORY OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANISATIONS' PRESENCE: TOWARDS A THEOLOGY OF HOLISTIC
DEVELOPMENT.

BY

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I declare that this exploration is the product of my own work and the research work has not been presented as elsewhere either for purposes of academia or any other conceivable purposes. The views of others used to clarify have been acknowledged.

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ABSTRACT

This study is motivated by Theology of Development, mostly focusing on the paralysis of Aid at the expense of economic trade. It seeks to unravel and find out the real deal African communities can benefit from (Trade and Not Aid) through a study carried out in Wards 1 and 6 of Mubayira constituency the study looks at the model of African economies of Aid based/dependency as evidenced in Malawi and many parts of Africa. In many of these parts, aid has been the major focus and expected driver of African economies with lack of the indigenous effort and belief that they can use the resources at their disposal to develop themselves. Chapter one explores the introduction, area of investigation, statement of the problem, research aim, research objectives, methodological approach, sampling techniques, data collection, justification and literature review. In explaining the statement of the problem, it was discovered that huge sums of monetary aid have rather been a major source of conflict and developmental paralysis by creating a donor dependency syndrome and to some extent used as a bait to champion neo- colonialism especially by the former colonial masters. Chapter two of this study explores a general survey of development work in Zimbabwe where a definition of Aid is tackled, coupled with an analysis of missed opportunities in the post independent Zimbabwe. Chapter three of this study is merely an exhibition of the research findings of the Mubayira's wards 1 and 6 where experiences of the people show their weaknesses and strengths as they also generate lessons to those aspiring to improve and suggest new development models. Chapter four explores the theological understanding of development as modelled in Nehemiah's story of rebuilding Jerusalem and its walls. Various issues are also looked into. These include the impact of aid politicization, accountability, capacity building and the asset based community development. Finally, the research closes by suggesting better models of tackling development and these include the formation of home grown NGOs and community trusts.

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Dedications

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ABBREVIATION

ADMT –Africa Development Mission Trust.

CBOs- Community Based Organisations.

CRS- Catholic Relief Services.

DDF- District Development Fund.

ECD- Early Childhood Development.

EU- European Union.

IMF- International Monetary Fund.

MDG- Millennium Development Goals.

MOU- Memorandum Of understanding.

NGO- Non Governmental Organisations.

ODA- Official development Aid.

PVO- Private Voluntary Organization.

RBF- Results Based Financing.

REA- Rural electrification Agency.

ESAP- Economic Structural Adjustment Programs.

SDC- School Development Committee.

UN- United Nations.

UNDP- United Nations Development Program.

ZANU PF- Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front

ZIMASET- Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Economic Transition.

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 Introducing the Study

Poverty has struck communities and left them bedridden of development and self-identity. The quest for every human being or community however, is to develop themselves and enjoy life with a dignified identity. However, history has shown that there are variations of development even though a lot of effort has been made to empower and develop peoples and communities. What then is the cause of these gaps or variations is the big question.

1.2. Area of Investigation

The research is in the specific area of Theology of Development. It seeks to look at development work in communities and investigate both the positive and negative impact of the developmental approaches which have been employed by Non-Governmental Organisations to tackle development projects or programs and eliminate poverty with particular reference to wards one and six of Mhondoro- Mubayira Constituency, Chegutu District, and Mashonaland West in Zimbabwe.

1.3. Problem under Investigation

Huge amounts of resources have been mobilized and channelled to underdeveloped and developing countries with the aim of bailing them out of extreme poverty and lack of development. However, it seems as if these efforts, all in the various names of donations, relief, and so on, have not achieved much to improve the lives of the individual person, communities and nations. The huge sums of monetary aid have rather been a major source of conflict and developmental paralysis by creating a donor dependency syndrome and to some extent used as a bait to champion neo- colonialism especially by the former colonial masters. Such examples are pertinent in Africa. In this post- colonial epoch, there have been rampant efforts by developed countries to influence the internal affairs of the developing countries

despite the decolonization which took place in the aftermath of the Second World War. Former colonial powers continue to employ tactics to maintain their grip on the economic affairs of the developing countries to drain them of their wealth and build their economies through treacherous and disguising international economic arrangements with their former colonial territories in a bid to maintain their colonial control. The question which remains unanswered therefore is whether African communities in this era still need aid or rather economic trade partnership for real economic and political empowerment to be realized. Andrew Rugasira has posited that “no country has developed itself through hand outs by donors” (2011- Global Leadership Summit, Willow Creek Association Conference, and New York).

1.4. Justification for the Study

The researcher does not claim to know it “all”, or to provide the best solution to end the problem of poverty and economic disempowerment suffered by individuals and communities. However being an eyewitness and being directly involved in community development work for nine years in Mhondoro’s wards 1 and 6 communities, while working for a Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) called Africa Development Mission Trust, this has motivated the researcher to ponder about the real thrust development agents have managed to achieve. On the other hand, the researcher is motivated to answer whether the drive has benefitted the intended beneficiary and if so, to what extent and what could be the negative limitations which have caused the beneficiary to fail to reap full benefits?

The Africa Development Mission Trust is a resident PVO registered in Zimbabwe to carry out its operations in Mashonaland west province, Chegutu district, Mhondoro Mubayira constituency, particularly in two wards viz: ward 1 and ward 6 with a specific Memorandum Of understanding which gives it permission to serve these two wards. Many NGOs have populated the same area in an endeavour to champion development in these two

communities. The organizations include OXFAM, World Vision, ZIMTRUST, ZIMWASH, and Cord-Aid.

Some of the work these organizations have done include capacity building, community development through the following programs: borehole drilling, poultry projects, paying school fees for the vulnerable children both in primary and secondary schools, infrastructure (furniture in schools as well as provision of text books).

The researcher has witnessed most of these noble efforts by NGOs but has also realized that the same beneficiary communities have not moved up the ladder of real development and economic empowerment.

1.5. Aims of the Study

The research aims to investigate the limitations of development and economic empowerment in the said two wards and suggest what can be done to unlock and realize real development and economic empowerment of peoples and communities

1.6. Objectives of the Study.

The above noted aims shall be achieved through a critical analysis of the following objectives:

- Tracing and identifying the nature and history of development in Africa, with particular reference to Zimbabwe in the area of Mhondoro wards 1 and 6.
- To undertake a cross examination of the developmental frameworks being employed by NGOs in their work namely, the Sustainable Livelihood Framework and the Four Generations of Development Actions.
- To propose a workable framework of development that can achieve real and desired development and economic empowerment to the communities of Wards 1 and 6 of Mubayira constituency and their inhabitants.

1.6.1 Sustainable Livelihoods framework

At the heart of this approach is the concept of livelihoods. We may define a livelihood as what people do day by day to survive and flourish in the face of what comes their way, given the resources and relationships at their command, and the wider social arrangements that define their place and role in society. Thus, for Chambers and Conway (1992:7), a livelihood comprises "the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living." The UNDP (1999) has a similar definition when they define livelihoods as "the assets, activities and entitlements which people utilize in order to make a living", with assets being natural, social, political, human, physical and economic. The People Centered Development Forum defines livelihoods as "a means of living or of supporting life and meeting individual and community needs" (PCDF 1995). What is crucial in all these definitions is that they recognize that even destitute and vulnerable people - people who are considered by the standard development formulas to be 'poverty stricken' or 'unemployed' - are active and engaged in 'making do,' utilizing a range of adaptive and survival strategies to live and enhance their lives, Moyo (2009:44)

Yet, the reality is that such livelihoods may not be sustainable. Moyo (2009:47), also posit that, "The outcomes of various livelihood strategies may be negative, and may serve to undermine the very resources and relationships (the assets and entitlements) of one's own household or community - or that of other people." A model is therefore needed in order to understand how people live their lives, the resources they draw upon, the strategies they adopt, and the outcomes that emerge. This provides a way in which strategies can be evaluated, choices can be re-thought, and changes can be agitated for, so that the livelihoods may be sustainable, in other words, that they may be able to continue and flourish for this and the next generations. Thus, out of a theoretical reflection upon the sustainability of people's livelihoods, a model has been developed known as the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework.

1.6.2 Four Generations of Development Actions

Large donors are not the answer to serve as instruments for the institutional changes required to support the community based management of development resources. Instead, there should be a definite pattern of evolution within the community away from more traditional relief activities and toward greater involvement in catalysing larger institutional and policy changes. The Four Generations of Action involves FOUR identifiable stages or generations of strategic orientation, each moving further away from alleviating symptoms toward attacking ever more fundamental causes. The following are the generations of development as pioneered by David Korten namely relief and welfare, small scale self-reliant local development, sustainable systems development and social movement/people centered, Allesina, Alberto and Dollar (2000).

1.7. Research Methodology

Two methodologies shall be utilised to carry out the research and these are: the Phenomenological Approach and the Historical Approach.

1.7.1 The Phenomenological Approach

The Phenomenological approach will be employed. The word ‘pheno’ is from the Greek term ‘phenomena’, meaning that which appears. This approach shall be used because it promotes fairness, with little prejudice. One has to subdue and suspend his or her preconceived ideas or perceptions and let the believer (intended beneficiaries) speak or testify for themselves. The dictum “the believer is always right” will be respected in this research. The phenomenological approach promotes the idea that the believer is always right through its steps such as epoche, eidetic intuition, and empathetic interpolation, among others.

Epoche-The term is derived from the Greek verb epocho which means stoppage, doing away with one’s own judgments. Epoche emphasizes the exclusion or suspension from one’s mind of every possible pre-supposition. According to E. Sharpe (2006), *epoche* is also called bracketing, thus an object present to consciousness is reduced to the pure phenomenon by

putting in brackets or excluding from further interest these elements which do not belong to the universal essence. Performing epoche will help the researcher in that the researcher will separate himself or herself from every kind of value judgment and being present to the phenomenon in question purely as an impartial observer, unconnected with questions of truth and falsehood. So as the topic demands, the beneficiaries of Aid in wards 1 and 6 are going to speak out their joy, demands and feelings about aid. The writer is thus going to guard against making premature judgments on issues of aid.

Empathetic Interpolation-Just like epoche, empathetic interpolation should be regarded as being more like an attitude than an empirically measurable method. This stage emphasizes that the researcher enter into the believing community he is studying, viewing issues of aid as a participant observer, just as the beneficiaries would do, Sharpe (2006). In dealing with issues of aid, the researcher is challenged by this method to have a “feeling for”, thereby identifying with the attitudes, thoughts, feelings and experiences of the beneficiaries. It means that the researcher will treat testimonies of aid beneficiaries in wards 1 and 6 with sensitivity and limited pre-conceived notions.

Eidetic intuition- This is derived from the Greek noun “to eidos” meaning “that which is seen”, Sharpe (2006) This is also a critical stage to a phenomenologist in that he will also notice the impact made by aid. So the researcher will link the provided data with some evidences that can be traced on the ground as this will help to classify the data found into categories and such categories so that it can clearly be understood.

This approach will help in that it prompts the researcher not to deal with assumptions but to let the reality be known and in this case from the real people receiving aid or beneficiaries. More room is given in that the researcher will get first-hand information. Its weakness is that it is impossible for a person to completely suspend pre-conceived ideas.

1.7.2 Historical Critical Approach

The historical criticism approach will also be utilized since it is history that is being studied. The historical approach unravels information of the past that is relevant when studying the present and the future. This approach will trace the historical developments of aid in Zimbabwe and Mhondoro in particular, the behaviour and responses of people and again the main players of Aid (NGOs, Government and the recipient communities or people) will all be identified. This approach will deal with time and place thereby enabling the research to analytically explore the issue of Aid and economic transformation in wards 1 and 6 and see if enough has been done so far. The disadvantage of this approach, however, is that it dwells much on the past that if not careful one can easily forget about the future. Be that as it may, history lays a foundation on which plans can be premised for a better and sustainable development approaches to further enhance a lucrative and admirable economic status.

1.8. Data Collection

Interviews are going to be conducted especially among the general populace of the two studied communities namely ward 1 and ward 2, the community key stake holders or leaders like the chiefs, kraal heads, councillors and also other key community institutions like schools, clinics, veterinary service departments, NGOs, PVOs and Churches. These interviews will be conducted in order to gather the views of the people and all key stakeholders involved in so far as the issue of community development and economic empowerment is concerned.

Thus the researcher will travel to the two concerned communities under study in three different phases. The first phase shall be preoccupied with interviewing the concerned parties which are the NGOs particularly to establish what they are doing in the two communities under study. Thus, organisations such as Africa Development Mission Trust (ADMT), OXFAM, Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID) and Zimbabwe Water and Sanitation and Hygiene ZIMWASH shall be considered in the

interviews. Apart from the NGOs, further interviews shall be conducted with the beneficiaries which in this case shall include both individuals and institutions which have accessed developmental assistance from various NGOs. The second phase will conclude with interviews with the key community stakeholders including the chiefs, councillors, ward development committees and village heads.

1.9. Delimitation of the Study

The research seeks to study the issue of Aid (donations) in comparison to Trade as a better mechanism to achieve development. The study will specifically focus on the nature of development, models or frameworks of development and also to critique the current frameworks to expose their negative impact on the development and empowerment of the people and their communities.

1.9. 1. Limitations of the Study

The studies on development are both broad and technical hence they require more time to explore. Not only that, there are also many players in this field who have all claimed to offer development to communities especially in third world countries with Zimbabwe, particularly Mhondoro community not being spared. Donors have flooded communities but with different agendas and philosophical approaches or models.

The challenges therefore are that donors intended to be interviewed may misrepresent the correct information in a bid to cover their illicit agendas against the actual findings on the ground. The people to be interviewed may fantasize the subject of Aid not expressing their deepest and nasty experiences and feelings against Aid with the expectation that some aid may be purported to come to them after the talk.

The distance between the researcher and geographical areas of research may pose some complications on the frequency of interviews. Time allocated or at hand is again another major possible handicap to the completion of this research with adequate exhaustion of the

research.

1.10. Review of Literature

Foreign aid has long been a major topic of interest, both between governments and in academic studies. Official aid is often criticized for not having contributed to economic growth and poverty reduction. Foreign aid is always presented as altruistic endeavour on the part of industrial countries, the motive is to help the Third World nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America achieve progress and development similar to that of the North. However, the impact of foreign aid in the last half century is not impressive. If foreign aid was extended to arrest famine, disease, malnutrition, pandemics, and societal disorder, its goal has not been met and its impact is meaningless. This is particularly true with respect to Africa (Tseggai 1999).

There has been renewed interest in the reasons and effects of foreign aid. Moyo (2009), a Zambian economist, in her book “Dead Aid” which generated mixed reactions from both the western and African readers, among them heads of state advocate for the cessation of foreign aid. She advocates for the cessation of aid to Africa from developed countries and proffers a very radical but full of intriguing conviction and supported by facts which are also historically substantiated. Paul Kagame, president of Rwanda, also shares Moyo’s sentiments that aid must be completely eradicated as it has caused numerous untold suffering in Africa.

However, it is such conviction by Moyo and Kagame that an ultimatum of five years was then proposed to be given to developed countries to stop channelling aid to Africa and give Africa a chance to transform itself. This has attracted criticism from people like the former Ghanaian President, Kuffor at one of the Global leaders’ forum on Aid (2007) where he dismissed Moyo as illegitimate to comment or speak on behalf of Africa as she was distanced from the actual realities of Africans by virtue of her staying in America and not Africa. Kuffor actually claimed that Ghana’s economic strength was as a result of the aid accorded to

it by the World Bank, IMF and other developed countries. Kuffor also goes on to lobby that the current levels of poverty and under-development in Africa actually warrant the long stay of aid from developed countries (Balls Andrew:2005).

A close analysis of Moyo (2004) offers a radical but very authentic and reasonable stance to substantiate her claims especially if one looks at the trends and effects of these hand outs. They have failed to serve the intended purpose, neither have they also provided an average poor African in the peasantry any leeway to self-sustenance except to create and cement a donor dependence syndrome, abject poverty and inertia in the minds of Africans.

Another African Economist, Andrew Rugasira, "*A Good African Story*" (2009) has also emerged as a Coffee Entrepreneur and has enormously transformed lives in Uganda, his home country, has also weighed in against aid. Rugasira argues that aid should be replaced by trade. Tired of seeing Africa being subjected to poverty by developed countries from the west and America, who continue to enjoy the lion's share under the demise of aid, Rugasira advocates for new paradigms in Africa's dealings with these developed countries and that it was now time for a new business arrangement.

Foreign aid has legitimized a false but systematic poverty among Africans such that they deeply feel unable to pluck it off and has nurtured the inertia among Africans that they are a second class continent and eternal candidates of poverty and hand outs.

Rugasira advocates for a deal that respects Africa as an active partner and not a salient recipient of aid. This is somewhat a similar model to the Zimbabwean Indigenization and empowerment model which also culminates with the ZIMASET economic blue print which the Government of Zimbabwe headed by ZANU PF has propagated and defined that it is empowerment based, with native Zimbabweans entitled to a 51% ownership of shares against a 49% stake for the foreigners. Rugasira posits that if aid is done away with and replaced by

economic partnership between Africa and the developed world, it would pave way for a scenario where by it becomes about “owning the chain value, growing the coffee, processing it at source and it is about exporting a finished product ... so we retain the value, which means we can employ people, we can pay taxes, we can prosper our farmers and their communities. That’s the only sustainable way in which societies have prospered by moving from low value agriculture into high- value manufacturing industrialization” (2009:12). At the heart of all, economist Rugasira believes in transformative power of self – help or self - empowerment. According to Rugasira Africa’s future well-being lies in trade and not aid.

Rugasira points out that every flowing economy throughout history has come as a result of hard-work when he writes, “Every society and economy that is prospered has done it through their own hard work, ingenuity, dedication and commitment” (2009:18). Not through charity, not through hand outs or donations from outside, and I think that is a powerful message and it is a powerful developmental model which communities should embrace to realize economic empowerment and wean themselves from the dependency syndrome. This model does not only apply when African governments are dealing with developed countries or economies, but also within Africa and within African governments and their local communities. I say so, because we have had a situation whereby citizens are always looking up to the government for aid year in year out. Such tendencies have paralysed the thinking of citizens and have created laziness and mental inertia within the citizenry in Zimbabwe and with the particular communities under study in this research being not an exception. This has stalled development in many communities.

The work of Boone (1968), Burnside and Dollar (2000), and Allesina and Dollar (1998) provide an analysis of aid flows for several years and countries and tests a number of hypotheses concerning the effectiveness of aid, the allocation of aid or hand-outs between different recipient countries or communities, the motives for giving aid, and so on. These

papers' results provide answers to the many questions that have been put forward in the extensive literature on the economics of foreign aid. Boone (1968) concluded in his work that aid finance is consumption rather than investment and thus it does not help any country in as far as development is concerned.

There is absolutely nothing bad in financing consumption of a few poor people, but the proponents of aid hoped for the kind of society-wide transformation that would come from aid financing investment and growth with far reaching results or long term developmental outcomes. Some proponents have argued that aid could also buy time for reformers to implement painful but necessary changes in economic policies. On the contrary, researchers like Moyo (2009) and Rena (2009) concluded that aid had no substantial impact on growth, savings or investment. Aid was shown to increase unproductive public consumption (Mosley 1992). Aid is misallocated (donors give aid for strategic reasons to the wrong recipients), aid is misused (recipient governments pursue non-developmental agendas) and domestic product growth is not achieved (Lensink and White 1998). Most of the foreign aid given to communities is very specialized and when the donors pull out of the project they fall apart as communities do not have the technical capability to continue the projects. Excessive foreign aid also leads to the recipient country or community being too dependent on the donor's country, which may lead to the infant effect on the economy or misappropriation of funds (corruption). Rwanda is cited to have spent about 70% of its total aid on strategic planning meetings instead of the intended work as cited by Rugasira (2009). Using Sudan as a laboratory test ground, Elshiby (1984) acknowledged that foreign capital neither boosted economic growth nor abridges the gap between savings and investment. Foreign aid is important to developing countries (and lower-middle income countries such as Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Malawi because it is used to face their economic and social challenges namely: poverty, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases.

More than \$50 billion of foreign aid is given to African countries every year to address poverty on the continent (Moyo 2009). Although this may seem generous, and to some a solid strategy to treat Africa's ailments, Dambisa Moyo – a Zambian economist with a background that includes “Harvard, Managing Global Transitions Is Foreign Aid Panacea for African Problems, and Goldman Sachs” – says just the opposite. In her new book, “Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There is Another Way for Africa”, Moyo (2009), claims that foreign aid has been ‘an unmitigated political, economic and humanitarian disaster.’ However, Moyo stated that although she is not completely against humanitarian aid, she however does not believe that “charity-based” aid can provide long-term sustainable development for Africa. Her major critique is on ‘government-to-government aid,’ and funds from large monetary institutions like the World Bank. Moyo (2009), says that \$60 trillion of this aid that has been given in the past 60 years is not working, evident from the fact that the number of Africans who live on less than \$1 day has doubled in the last 20 years. In addition, most foreign government aid, she argues, has been pocketed by corrupt politicians.

Politicians have converted much of the donations to other businesses and to a certain extent personalised ambitions. They have misappropriated the resources which are meant to spearhead development for self-aggrandizement at the expense of the poor masses. In 2008, most European governments refused to directly channel humanitarian aid through the Zimbabwean government arguing that the government was either diverting the money to other unsanctioned purposes or was being politicized. They ended up channelling the resources through some Non-Governmental Organizations who were also in turn castigated by the Zimbabwean Government for being conduits for regime change agenda. Even though the government failed to give proper accounting of the donations as alleged by the European governments, the NGOs also fell in the same trap as they also abused the monetary resources. Moyo (2009), further vowed that foreign aid actually increases the risk of civil conflict.

People will take up arms to be in power because ‘the victor gains virtually unfettered access to the package of aid that comes with it.’ Further, in an interview with the New York Times, Moyo (2009) said that trade, foreign investments and microfinance opportunities can provide a better future for Africans.

Moyo (2009) also questions the value of ‘charity-based aid. She acknowledges that it might help after a disaster, but says it only provides ‘Band-Aid solutions’ and cannot be the platform for long-term sustainable growth.’ She illustrates her point using an example of giving a young African girl a scholarship even though she is unlikely to find a job after finishing school. Even though Moyo is correct that after receiving an education it may be difficult for graduates to secure employment, this author is of the opinion that education is still important. A good case in point is the Zimbabwean situation where a lot of young people have attained higher education but still cannot find jobs. In the end, this defeats the whole purpose of education and brings to question the merit of humanitarian aid channelled to education that will be useless. This is however, not to discard the importance of education in matters of development. We have to take into cognisance the importance of education as it will enhance an informed development to any particular community. Hence education has to be encouraged but with a balanced view to make sure that the education will be complimented by the creation of clear and sound empowering policies to the people and their communities.

CHAPTER TWO

A General Survey of Development in Zimbabwe: Defining Aid and analysing the missed opportunities.

2.1 Introduction

The history of aid points way back to 1944 soon after the Second World War a meeting of the heads of states was convened in Mt Hampshire, USA. Dambisa Moyo (2009:10) says, “About 700 delegates from some forty four countries resolved to establish a framework for a global system of financial and monetary management. Thus, it is from this meeting, that the thrust of aid-infused development would begin from till to this day across the entire globe.

Over a long period of history since the 1940s, aid has been infused for different reasons which among them were to provide a plan to bail out countries from poverty through aid, in the 1970s, the structural adjustment programs in the 1980s popularly known as the (ESAP), buttressing democracy and governance in the 1990s, and finally culminating in the present era’s obsession with aid as the perceived final solution to completely mitigate Africa’s problems.

Huge sums of money were channelled to Africa by developed countries to the developing and undeveloped countries with the entire continent of Africa being not an exception. Moyo (2004) points out that by the beginning of the 1960s some US\$100 million was channelled through the African corridors under the banner of aid. More billions were however to flow to Africa to fund industrialization and infrastructure projects such as roads and railway lines. Whilst all this was worthy to be appreciated as it was improving the continent and enhancing civilization and development, it was also a gimmick by developed countries to suck out more from Africa’s resources. Thus, according to the then United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan in his address to the heads of state on ending conflict in Africa visa vis with issues to do with development, colonial masters have flooded Africa with all sorts of handouts

amounting to billions of dollars.

Although Annan, Wood Robert E (2002), presupposes and blames the colonial masters in what he terms “the historical legacies”, he also points out that there are internal factors to be considered as well. Anan, Robert (2002), singles out the character of African states and politics as a key source of conflict and underdevelopment across the entire continent. Power and development in Africa gets so much personalized in the winner take all kind of politics. Byart (2000) supports Anan’s view when he says that Africa is flooded with barbaric use of force and corruption thereby impeding developmental initiatives and good governance promotion. Resources are numerous in Africa but they are selectively shared depending on which side of power one belongs.

In the 2000 years era, foreign aid has carried a complicated and controversial agenda. More and more aid grants have been channelled towards Africa to eradicate poverty although there has been a greater conspiracy and debate as to whether the institutions funding aid do not harbour some hidden agendas to advance neo colonialism and regime change in Africa.

Moyo (2009), notes that in 2000, Africa became the focus of the world wide pity and not for the first time. What also worries most is that African statesman have done little to determine or add their voices on what the aid must be used for. They have, to a greater extent played the passive recipients – role of aid and help the financier to implement their interests in our continent. How dare African statesman have failed to offer their opinion is a million dollar question!

Moyo (2009:27), weighs in and say, “One disastrous consequence of this (lack of African statesman on their opinion towards the use of aid) has been that honest, critical and serious dialogue and debate on the merits and demerits of aid have atrophied”. Thus, at the end of it all, it is difficult to look at aid-led development and assert whether it has really helped or

improved Africa sustainably. Ernest Harsh (2000) in one of his works, *“Conflict resources: From ‘Curse to Blessing”* says, despite the fact that by around the 1970s about US\$300 billion had been given as aid, it was merely a package to sponsor or create sustaining client regimes of one type or another with very minimal regard to developmental initiatives and outcomes in Africa.

Donors and other key players such as policy makers have ignored the alarm ringing and decided to call for more aid despite the fact that it has proven that aid is not working. The president of Rwanda, Paul Kagame has also acknowledged in the same way that, “more than US\$2 trillion of foreign aid has been transferred from rich countries to poor countries over the past fifty years- Africa the largest recipient by far”. Regardless of the motivation for aid – giving economic, political or moral- aid has failed to deliver sustainable development and economic growth and poverty reduction. Aid has also failed to live up to the expectation and Kagame laments that there is little to show for aid in Africa than abject poverty, (Jackely 2009). Where aid has not been stolen, it has been gravely unproductive. Coming closer home to Zimbabwe, aid initiatives have also been done to alleviate poverty over the last few decades before and after independence. Different aid packages have been extended to Zimbabwe since 1981 towards specific programs and goals. Included in the plan were initiatives to provide free health care, free education for all, promotion of the market structure, promoting rural development and integration of peasant farmers into the market structure (Chinake, 1997).

However, the question still remains, has aid done justice to the people in Zimbabwe? Free education has been offered to people but what does it profit to educate masses of people who do not have prospects of job opportunities after acquiring education? Employment opportunities have become hard to come by. The economy is just dead and with no signs and hopes for revival. People in Zimbabwe cannot even afford the basics of life with health care

being expensive to access. All these require a solution. There is need to think about reviving the economy of Zimbabwe and also ensure that all sectors are functional so that the general populace will afford a decent lifestyle. Fortunately enough, Zimbabwe sits on numerous natural resources which if put to good use can turn around the economy in a short period of time. Zimbabwe simply needs to put pro developmental policies which are also favourable to investment both from within and outside, and also practice good governance as well as dealing with corruption once and for all. Failure to do all this, it results in the ordinary citizenry suffering at most. Thus, regarded to be at the periphery of the periphery like the two studied communities in this research, Wards 1 and 6 of Mhondoro - Mubayira Constituency are at the appendage of the suffering and deserve to be protected from such. In any case if the government fails to combat the prevailing economic crisis in the country, these people will continue to suffer and their hope will only lie in the NGOs which route has its own implications and ills to the future of the nation in many aspects.

Like what has been highlighted earlier on, resonating with Rugasira (2009), that, no economy or nation has developed through hand-outs from donors, it's not sustainable. Not only that, the sovereignty of a people can be undermined because, usually these hand-outs do come with a lot of stringent conditions attached to them. A good example is the Malawian case where aid from Europe has been used to foster and allow foreign influence in the legislation sector. It is said seventy percent of the Malawian budget is funded by donors and thus it becomes difficult for Malawi to resist foreign ideologies because like the old saying that goes "he who pays the piper, calls the tune" is what is happening in Malawi, Kenneth Mwenda (2005).

Not only is Malawi a single case whereby aid's manipulative nature has been witnessed, we also have Kenya which recently hosted United States of America President, Barak Obama who had come to deliver an address on an entrepreneurship conference in the capital Nairobi.

Obama promised African women huge sums of money to start businesses but underneath the aid he also underscored the need for Kenya and Africa to embrace homosexuality and gay marriages. This is certainly contrary to the African values and Kenya is found in a fix as they stand at the cross roads with only limited choices. Whether Kenya is going to violate its ethos by accepting homosexuality and gay marriages or they shall rebut these demands and cling to their societal values and risk losing aid is what the world is waiting to see.

Africa, thus, needs to think about home-grown solutions to come out of poverty. There are plenty of resources in Africa and those resources must help Africa out of abject poverty and champion authentic development without relying on foreign aid. The problem therefore with Africa, is entirely Africans themselves. Somehow, deeply embedded in the psyche of Africans is the inability and unbelief to embrace development without foreign influence and improve their own livelihoods without foreign influence nor guidance and help.

Max Webber (1979), proffered that Africa's development quandary offers two routes: one in which Africans are viewed as children who are unable to change things for themselves nor develop on their own. They therefore need somebody with a mother or father figure to lead the way and show them how things should be done. Thus, the problem with aid dependence model is that it perpetuates Africa's childlike state and will always open doors for the "so-called economic brothers like Europe, America and China to dictate things to Africa. In so doing, Africa is prone to neo-colonial risk. In no time Africa will be left without a culture, identity and also economy but only a name. It will all be in the hands of the former colonizers. Already Africa has lost its vast resources to these developed countries who give with one hand while taking with another hand. On the other hand Africa's resources have become a curse instead of a blessing. Those in control of the resources have used them to perpetuate an unending manipulation of the have-nots. They have bought and sustained

economic and political power by maintaining an oligopoly in the market system and dictatorship in the political sphere whilst the poor and powerless remain in abject poverty.

No-wonder why many conflicts continue to happen in Africa more than in any other continent. It is because of its wealth and numerous mineral resources and oil which have not been shared equitably by those in power. Lack of good governance is one of the root of causes of conflict in Africa. Examples of such conflicts have also happened in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) which claimed the death of Laurent Desire Kabila on January 18, 2001. The conflict resulted in the displacement of about 3.7 million people and of this number by 2004, Sarah Zielinski (2004) says had not returned to their homes. In Liberia civil war had taken root until it ended with the then president of Liberia Charles Tylor being arrested by the international community and taken to the Hague for war crimes where he was finally convicted and sentenced to 50 years imprisonment for 11 counts of war crimes, Mart Chorley (Mail online, 10 October 2013). Another heinous conflict took place in Rwanda when the Hutus and the Tutsis killed each other in the infamous 1994 Rwandan genocide which claimed about 800 000 lives mainly because of perceived marginalization and inequitable sharing of resources and power (BBC Rwanda Genocide: 100 days of Slaughter, 7 April, 2014).

Not all these evils are alluded to the internal factors but we also see the underhand of the developed countries in these conflicts. They have continued to pursue colonial interests by using other Africans to fight other Africans. Their interest also lies in the resources in Africa. They have stood as major beneficiaries out of these conflicts. It is them who have continuously supplied arms and weapons to Africa, sponsored political splinter groups or movements all under the disguise of democratizing Africa yet with hidden agendas. They want to control the global political space and the economic markets of commodities they do not even produce. These factors have fuelled discord and tension resulting in unending

conflicts among Africans.

However, in the midst of these conflicts, the same countries who would have contributed to the conflicts are seen swiftly engaging and declaring humanitarian crisis and pledging to assist to avert the crisis of their own making. By so doing they assume a Messianic role and identity as good Samaritans yet being devils at night. What kind of political hypocrisy is that? After the conflict is over, they continue to lobby for rebuilding of the society with further humanitarian assistance just to further and lengthen their stay and looting spree. Some sociologists, Hakizimana and Endless (2009), have argued that foreign aid may be exacerbating conflicts instead of reducing and offering a lasting solution on conflicts. Africa must not allow outsiders to infiltrate them and fuel conflicts and in the process looting its resources to Europe and America. There is a great need to safeguard the resources jealously, the diamonds, gold, copper, nickel and oil among many and also our beautiful fauna and flora. These are ours to enjoy. One should really question the rationale of one person coming all the way to Zimbabwe and after seeing the beautiful animals in our Gonarezhou National Park goes on to mercilessly kill our own king of the jungle Lion Cecil. That on its own is treasonous because it's tantamount to undermining the sovereignty of a nation and its economic resources (The Herald, 28 July 2015). If in any case anyone from outside Africa wants to have a share of our resources they must pay for their full value and that's how Africa can develop itself. Trade and honest partnerships are then the only way to go for Africa and not aid.

White, Howard and Geske (1999) note that the then United Nations secretary General, Kofi Annan weighed in by alluding that even though historical imbalances are there for everyone to see, after decades of attaining independence, Africa must begin to see beyond its colonial past and impose its dignity to the world and challenge other continents to give Africa respect. Today, more than ever, Africa must look within itself. In other words it is no use blaming

outsiders for Africa's troubles if we do not take a positive initiative for ourselves. No one will do it for Africa except Africa itself. Annan, Moyo (2009), says that, in order for Africa to address its problems, it needs to promote good governance and sustainable development.

2.2 Development Aid

Development Aid is sometimes popularly known as Development Assistance or Official Development Assistance as posited by OECD.org (2015). It is given by governments and other international agencies to support the economic, environmental, social, and political development of developing nations. Hence in developmental terms, there has to be mutual understanding or cooperation which expresses the idea of partnership. A partnership should exist between the donor and recipient rather than a scenario where by the donor dominates the relationship. Most of this Official Development Aid has been coming from developed countries although some developing countries have also been contributing significantly towards development to less developed countries.

Allesina and Dollar (2004), however contributed to the discourse by contending that this is the most dangerous form of aid of all time especially when it is used to extend foreign interests to a sovereign country and also if it is handled by corrupt hands. Government to government developmental aid has been given by developed countries through bilateral means or through agencies. In most cases, it is given to help the underdeveloped economies and transform them to become developed. However, these aid resources have in many instances extended to presidents who are considered important, key and strategic to certain interests of the developed countries. After the Second World War, Mobutu Seseseko of Zaire was very rich with these aid hand outs from developed countries and he could even afford to pay the whole debt of Zaire by himself, (the Encyclopedia.com). He kept his monies in the Swiss banks instead of his own poor country. He enjoyed all the wealth with his close cronies and his government was composed of a cronyism structure with very corrupt confidantes.

In other instances also, developing countries may impede the cultural norms of the beneficiary countries. There has been a tendency of dispatching both financial and personnel aid to developing countries. These human personnel bring foreign cultural values which might taint and corrupt the locals' cultural values. It is however very difficult for the beneficiaries who might be in a state of crisis to reject the assistance. In the end they are the ones who end up compromising and losing their morality in the process. This writer also concurs with Hakizimana and Endless (2004) that beneficiary countries and communities are at times the most losers in some of these development programs. When the financiers send their money, they also send the artisans who will still enjoy benefits of the same aid at the expense of the locals. They remit their earnings back home untaxed by the project hosting country. Apart from personnel, they also force beneficiary countries to buy equipment from their countries to make sure that all the proceeds go back to their countries as well. No matter how expensive the equipment might be, not even mentioning about the bureaucracy, even if they can be purchased at a cheaper price in the host country, they will still make sure you buy from their market. Thus, at the end of it all, the deal favors the financier and not the recipient. Some of the benefits to the financier are tax aversion at both ends of governments especially to charity organisations, development agencies and multinational corporations, credit goes to the financing country and not the beneficiaries. During the stay of the foreign nationals they will be using your resources and may damage your environment in the process which will affect you in the long run. This is some kind of Tied Aid where the donor gives with one hand while taking with the other hand and is reminiscent of the white elephant's ideology where the elite and economically empowered use the poor to fatten themselves in a Marxist way and Barret (2000) notes that, as a result, the ruling class values and beliefs are dominant in society.

Development aid has however been credited with its ability to alleviate poverty and

stimulation of economic growth in the long term rather than short term responses. Statistics according to the United Nations development Program (UNDP) (2005) Report on the progress of the Millennium development Goals (MDGs) show that for the past decade 80% of development aid has been contributed from governments sources as ODA while a paltry 20% comes from private organisations such as Non-Governmental Organisations, foundations and other development charities such as OXFAM

Notable examples of development have been cited by Pace and Lazincourt (2009) as those of Haiti and Rwanda. They say that although history shows that most aid packages have usually fallen in corrupt hands of the minority elite while the majority wallow in abject poverty it has however, not been the same with the said two countries. In Haiti, aid has actually produced admirable lifelong results. It has produced a big boost in infrastructure development. This has been attributed to a combination of both transparency and good governance. In the case of Rwanda, after the genocide in 1994, international aid has propelled economic growth to Rwanda and to date the country has one of the fastest growing economies in the world, Hakizimana and Endless (2009).

When aid is then used in non-transparent manner and to suppress the minority it breeds conflict. The dejected minority are always a cause of tension and conflict keeping the unending sequence of violence. It breeds animosity and will derail development. Nyakuwa (2002) cited the conflict in Zimbabwe which was experienced during the 2008 economic and political crisis caused by the mismanagement of the economy by the ZANU Pf Government. He notes that, communities clashed due to perceived stigmatization attached to the distribution of development aid and humanitarian assistance in the form of food hand-outs. Those in power were blocking those perceived to be members of the opposition parties from accessing both humanitarian and development assistance. Suffice to say that, the aid was actually being politicised yet those who had extended it to Zimbabwe were just doing it for

the suffering masses. Not only was politicization a major concern in the whole saga but the fact that those who occupied influential and higher positions, also flexed their muscles and looted more than anyone could get. It was a “dog eat dog” situation and the paranoia of “survival of the fittest”.

The problem has to a greater extent deepened corruption in Zimbabwe and produced illegitimate fat cats in our political system. Those in positions of authority think that they are only there to fatten themselves instead of serving the people. The same can be said about the land reform of 2000 which benefitted those in the closest circles of the ruling elite and ZANU Pf although there are other minorities from other political parties who sneaked in and got a share of the national cake (Nyakuwa (2002)). The presidential input scheme is also a cause of conflict in Zimbabwe where political scores are settled yet the money used to secure the inputs belongs to the tax payers regardless of one’s political affiliation. Those in control of the distribution of seed and fertilizer to the intended beneficiaries have always been accused of giving aid only to those viewed as politically correct.

Urban communities, of late have also suffered marginalization because they have been accused by the ZANU Pf of committing a political sin by voting the MDC party in the national elections, hence there has been a government organized restriction and withdrawal of development aid in the cities. Urban communities could not access government support in the same manner that the rural constituencies were receiving since rural areas were perceived as politically correct because they rallied behind ZANU PF overwhelmingly. Even some rural constituencies which did not show political support to ZANU PF were also punished with some punitive measures. Chief among the instruments of punishment was Government Aid withdrawal and also a restriction of international donors in extending aid to those communities.

What all this teaches us is that, aid is at times a curse to people and when it is not well

administered it becomes evil and in the words of Dambisa Moyo (2009)“dead aid”. Thus, many have questioned the merit of aid as to whether foreign aid or just aid in general fuels conflict or it is conflicts which attract aid. Aid must be distributed without favour or prejudice, it must be applied in a manner that transcends all class, racial, tribal or political divisions.

2.3 Post-Independence development initiatives in Zimbabwe

At the dawn of the 1980 independence, just after the watershed national elections which ushered the incumbent president of the Republic of Zimbabwe Robert Gabriel Mugabe, as the then Prime Minister of Zimbabwe; Julius Nyerere congratulated Mugabe for winning the elections. After congratulating him, he however went on to warn him that it was his prerogative to choose to either build or destroy a country which he had inherited from the Rhodesians’ white colonial rule under Ian Smith. Shoko (2008), reiterates that Zimbabwe indeed in no time was coined as the Jewel of Africa. The economy was very strong and the currency matched the US dollar in value and buying power. Bilateral relations with other countries in the international world were very prudent and sound. It was so easy for Zimbabwe to get developmental assistance from as many developed countries as possible. More-so, Britain, the former colonizer kept its relationship with Zimbabwe and shared the same economic and political bed as bedfellows despite the protracted struggle for the independence of Zimbabwe that had taken long from the hands of the British. Humanitarian and development assistance was flowing from all angles to Harare especially from the European Union member states.

Big ‘International Aid Agencies’ poured money to Zimbabwe for various initiatives varying from sector to sector, international governments also did the same as they ‘generously’ flooded Mugabe’s government with fat aid packages. Although these did come, down the line from 1981 to 1998 nothing sustainable was established by these donations. The government

of Zimbabwe failed to look beyond the immediate. There is absolutely no reason to justify the power cuts Zimbabwe is experiencing right now if we had earlier on chosen to invest in power generation and infrastructure development. Money was not put to good use.

When Zimbabwe then, was alienated from the international community after the formula-less and chaotic land reform program, that's when it rued all its missed opportunities to have wisely invested all the aid from the international aid. People had to grapple with power cuts, shortage of basic commodities. Industry was greatly affected and resulted in low production and eventual scaling down of the work force in a myriad of retrenchments in the fashion of the recent "ZUVA Petroleum" High court ruling which left thousands of people jobless and hopeless. A social crisis was brewing and the effects continue to haunt the government and its people to this day. Many people could no longer send their children to school, families were disintegrated as some migrated to the diaspora in search of jobs.

However, despite the fragile relations between Zimbabwe and European countries and America due to what they alleged as human rights abuses and lack of rule of law by the ZANU PF led government, Zimbabwe has continued to receive humanitarian and development assistance from the same countries although little as compared to before, Jeff (2008). Of worthy to note are the developments of Zimbabwe's reaction after targeted sanctions were imposed upon government officials and government linked companies. Mugabe went on to withdraw Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth league of countries which is dominated by European countries. This was after Zimbabwe was denied access to grants from the EU led financial institution International Monetary Fund (IMF) and yet it was soiling in a heavy debt. It had also been stripped of its voting rights. Mugabe saw no reason for maintaining Zimbabwe's membership to the commonwealth league of countries and decided that Zimbabwe should withdraw.

The question that every critique of Mugabe posed was, how then the gesture would assist

Zimbabwe out of its economic woes? That was when inflation was at its peak and isolation from the international community was intensifying. In such circumstances, Zimbabwe had limited options and it also meant that doors for humanitarian and development agencies were widely opened to help the suffering masses.

CHAPTER THREE

Presentation of Research Finding

3.1 Introduction

Research is defined by the Encyclopaedia as “work undertaken on systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge to devise new application”. It is used to establish or confirm facts, affirm the results of previous work, solve new or existing problems, support theorems or develop new theories.

Thus, a research is carried out with different objectives. However, in this case the research was carried out to ascertain the impact of development and initiatives in wards 1 and 6 so as to scrutinize the status of the people’s livelihoods. Knowing is not enough, but the research also aims to suggest sustainable ways in which development work can be carried out in order to improve the livelihoods of the people. In this chapter, the study will present the gathered data and then highlight the outcomes of the research in wards 1 and 6.

The two studied communities share geographical boundaries and they share a lot of things in common. Hence, if one takes a closer look, they will find out that they are basically one people. Ward 1 is under the chieftainship of Nherera with 56 villages around the place. In terms of social infrastructure the area has one rural health Clinic called “Chikara Clinic” and three secondary schools namely Matanha, Nyamashesha and Rukuma. There are also five primary schools around the area. The primary schools are Matanha, Nyamashesha, Rukuma, Matarutse and Chibikira. Apart from these key institutions, the ward also boasts of 3 dip-tanks, a veterinary centre and 6 spread shopping centres. Apart from these, the 2 wards also boast of a good road network system which links them to either Mubayira growth point and to Harare via the Masvingo-Beit- Bridge High Way. Thus, economically, the two wards are strategically positioned and can reap benefits from the road-network system.

The communication system as provided by the modern technological trends is also available

through the infrastructure provided by the mobile telephone companies namely Econet and Net-One. Eco net Zimbabwe has constructed a network booster at Chikara Clinic thereby enhancing that communication becomes very efficient.

The two wards also have at least 6 (six) Agritex Officers around each of the wards who are highly competent as they have been trained to help farmers with the know-how of doing their farming activities. Thus, this overview helps to understand the opportunities these two wards possess in order to economically develop themselves. When we talk of development, these local assets form a formidable key in enhancing development to yield good results.

Individuals, including even those who are marginalized, associations like sporting teams, religious organisations (churches), burial societies, and institutions like schools, clinics, physical characteristics or infrastructure like land, buildings and boreholes are all key as they form the assets of the community.

Outside resources should come and compliment with what the community has, the assets within the society might not be sufficient to meet the development challenges hence the need to source other assets from outside organizations like NGOs and the government.

When dealing with development issues, it is then a requirement to begin by doing a research of what every community targeted for development has in its hands. David Kortein (2009) proposed that a capacity inventory outlining all the assets and skills of the individuals you are going to work with including youths, the elderly, disabled, artists and people on welfare are all important.

He also advocates that an inventory of key assets and resources of the community should be drawn including citizens' organisations and NGOs, public institutions, private sector institutions, local and special interest people. Finally it is also important to consider opportunities to foster partnerships and networking to build new relationships with resources

that exist outside the immediate community.

3.2 Ward 1's experiences (2005-2015)

Numerous developmental and humanitarian aid groups have made inroads to ward one with the message and drive to assist the community. Some of the development initiatives have been led by either NGOs, Charity Organisations, Churches, Individuals and the government. In 2005, Cde Sylvester Robert Nguni (MP) promised people that they would be receiving funding to do a number of development projects. These included electrifying all the schools around ward 1, helping farmers with a 3 ton truck to carry their products to market places, and five bulls to improve their cattle breed. Poultry projects for women in groups of ten, sewing machines for those who were willing to do dress-making were also promised.

All these seemed to be very good programs had they been implemented in the right way. Interviewing Mr Stanford Ndewere of Ward 1 who was the then councillor of ward 1 (2005) about the success of the programs rolled by the then MP Nguni, Ndewere applauded the MP for trying his best to mobilize for the funds and resources to help the people of his ward but went on to lament on the strategy used to distribute the projects.

Firstly he cited the lack of ownership of the projects as the beneficiaries were not involved in the formulation of the ideas. Thus, he alluded to the populist ideology of bringing development to the people which they are not passionate about. It is fundamental to include the people at the grass-roots level from as early as formulation of ideas till the projects are implemented to ensure ownership and appreciation of the projects.

3.2.1 Bull's Beneficiaries

Shangwa (interview 25/05/2015) highlighted that of all the 5 bulls given to ward 1, four of them died within 11 months and to this day only one bull is surviving. He attributes that to climatic and environmental factors in that the breed of cattle/ bulls was not favourable under the climatic conditions of the place and also that the pastures were not good enough for such

sensitive cattle breed except for the hard- Mashona type of cattle.

It is however more disgusting that the decision to import those bulls was not done in consultation with the Agritex officers who only saw the bulls for the first time on the very day of their presentation to the farmers and they even went on to cite that the survival rate of the bulls was very slim. Still nobody heeded their advice as farmers were so happy to receive the bulls with whatever short-sightedness.

Mr. Matambanashu, (Agritex Officer) based at Matambo shopping centre and working with the farmers in Rukuma area, bemoaned that had the MP and his distribution team heeded their advice the projects could have been very successful and by now many people could have had a better breed of cattle. However, all this was thwarted by lack of observing basic principles of development.

3.2.2. Poultry

If there is one project which the people of ward 1 have done better, it is the area of poultry. Of the 25 families which were assisted with poultry projects to rear broilers and layers through the MP's program, 18 of them are still surviving today with some having expanded their capacity to batches of 500 from the initial 100.

Two outstanding beneficiaries of this program interviewed were Mrs. Hanyani and Mr. Gwatidzo who all professed that the projects have changed their lives immensely as they have managed to expand them to greater capacity levels. Mr. Gwatidzo (53) thanked the MP for bringing the initiative which he said has changed his life and the community at large. He however always spoke highly of the Agritex officers for always giving him advice on how to manage his chickens whenever he needed technical help. To date he said *“Ndakakwanisa kuendesha vana vangu vatatu kuboarding school, ndikatenga chigayo chamunoona icho neMazda pick-up yangu iyi yandava kutakurisa huku dzangu kuendesha kumarket”*. (I have managed to send my three children to boarding school and bought a grinding mill and a

Mazda pick –up truck which I now use to transport my chickens to the market).

Mrs. Hanyani also praised the MP for the projects and highlighted that as a retired teacher, she had nothing to survive on until the poultry project fell into her hands. She now has 500 layers and is supplying all retail shops, 12 schools and the nearby Hospital with eggs as well as the people in the nearby villages on a daily basis.

She has also managed to diversify from the proceeds, she bought two commuter Omni-buses which are plying the Harare- Mubayira route. Apart from that she managed to drill a borehole in her plot and is doing market gardening producing green maize, tomatoes, potatoes and vegetables among many. In her remarks, Mrs. Hanyani (49) says “*Baba, pano ndipo patova pekuponera pevanhu vese muzvimbo muno. Mazai aripano, chibage, muriwo, nemvura yekumwa yacho vanotora pano handivarambidze nekuti ropafadzo yangu ndeyavowo*”. (This place has become the place of salvation for this village. They can get maize, eggs, vegetables, and even drinking water, I do not restrict anyone from enjoying these benefits because I believe that I should share the blessings with them.)

For the sewing machine received, Mrs. Munkaka and Betty Moyo among the beneficiaries interviewed had no kind words for the venture as they said it was not sustainable in their environment. Moyo (37) said there was no lucrative market for the dresses or clothes they were sewing as rural people could not afford to buy their clothes with cash. People were only comfortable in trading with items or barter trade. Converting the items traded with into cash was also a big challenge as it meant one would have to go to town with the items to sell them, and thereby required transport.

Mrs. Munkaka (41) said “*Tinongoita business time yekuvhurwa kwezvikoro munaJanuary chete patinosona maUniform eGrade one neForm one*” (The only time we have better business opportunities is during the opening of schools in January as we make uniforms for

grade one and form one students).

3.2.4 Electrification of Schools

As highlighted above, Member of Parliament (MP) Sylvester Nguni also promised electrification of all schools in ward 1 but to date only six of the schools have been electrified. However, it is worthy to note that this project was also done by the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) through the initiative of the Nguni. What is only surprising with this program is that after connecting electricity to schools in August 2005, the first school to tube or install electricity in teachers' houses and administration blocks as well as classrooms was Matarutse Primary school in 2008 after the intervention of Leonard Cheshire Charity Organization. It took two years for the school to enjoy the use of electricity, said Mazivanhanga (23/07/2015 Interview).

The Deputy headmaster of the school, Mr. S. Mazivanhanga (21/07/15 Interview) revealed that they were promised of the electrification of the school without expectation at a ZANU PF rally to solicit votes for the 2005 Senatorial elections when they did not have such plans and hence as a community, they were not ready though they applauded the move to have electricity at their school. This is why it took them two years to put in place the required infrastructure for the use of electricity at their school. This seems to suggest that the government program was a noble one but this is perhaps one of the numerous cases where such important infrastructure is lying idle or being under - utilized because of lack of involvement of the beneficiaries at planning level. Perhaps the best way of describing this kind of development would be to call it "imposed development". This kind of a development model according to Jacques P. De' Welt (2011), fails people and the focus of the whole world in alleviating poverty and that in economic circles it has not brought secure economic development. It does not promote human development effectively.

Thus, in De' Welt's understanding, development must involve people, especially those

involved or regarded as vulnerable and or affected in the circles of decision making process in a remarkable and meaningful way. Development agencies should stop deciding for the people and impose development on them. They might be vulnerable in assets and resources but they still can reason and make decisions for themselves.

3.3 Ward 6 Experiences 2005-2015

Ward six lies on the Eastern side of ward 1 and shares the same boundary with ward 1. In this section, the researcher will present a different set of projects which occurred in ward 6. The people of ward six have also mixed feelings about development work in their area as some appreciated the work by development agents, whilst some were bitter in the way programs were being implemented. Ward six under the local leadership of Councillor L. Kwaramba has enjoyed the coming of many development agents like ADMT, OXFAM, Kapineck Trust and many others. Mr. L. Kwaramba has been the only councillor for the ward since 1980 when Zimbabwe attained its independence to this date. When the researcher visited the councillor to find out what developments the area had received, there were so many positives to note but for this research paper, only 4 areas shall be dealt with.

- Water and sanitation
- Education
- Feeding
- Health

The interview was carried out with the councillor and his 8 aides whom each were said to be heading different portfolios or sub-committees. The committee is called “Wardco” and is responsible for all development projects in the ward. When I asked Mr. Kwaramba why he had assembled this team he had these words to say to me, “I am a learned person, I am a different character altogether. My experience as a leader has taught me that if you want to

be successful as a leader you must surround yourself with great minds because no one knows it all”. This statement set the understanding of why he has been a darling of the people to warrant him numerous terms of office as a counsellor.

He also went on to elaborate how the “Ward-Co” functions. The eight are chairpersons in their own right and they report to the councillor on a monthly basis “*pamuhacha*” (African Indigenous fruit tree) (their traditional meeting place) at the Township centre. The eight include a Pastor called Lameck Marozva who is responsible for advocating and encouraging religious morals and he also works with a church organization called Africa Development Mission Trust as well as pastoring a local congregation. Lameck Marozva is highly regarded as a man of integrity in the society as the only Pastor in the area and has worked with the community since 2002. He has greatly assisted the growth and influence of ADMT and its operations as the key front man with the help of his counterpart Pastor Antony Nariti of Ward 1A. More attention will be paid to the Africa Development Mission Trust (ADMT) as an organization in this chapter as it stood out to be outstanding in the discourse.

Mr. Janyure leads the portfolio which deals with Water and Sanitation , Mr. Zinhu deals with Cattle and Farming , Mrs. Mutizwa heads in the Education Portfolio, Mr. Muzanenhamo oversees issues to do with the Environment , Mrs. Tafira (Dzama) deals with issues to do with the Girl Child in conjunction with an organization called “ *Mufudzi wakanaka*” (The Good Shepherd), Mr. Spokes Zvavanjanja is the head for security issues and is a member of the neighborhood watch and lastly Mr. Shadreck Tavengwa who heads the food section.

Each of these portfolios have clear mandates and a reporting structure to the councillor who is the overall head. The village / kraal heads, ZANU PF district chairperson Mr Chindavata, the headman and all school heads in the area including the senior nurse in Charge at Gora clinic assume the roles of committee members as ex-officio members. They are the key community figures and are interested parties in the area. From the lay-out, one can see that

there is a model of good governance in place which can effectively and efficiently deliver results.

The next presentation of data is going to dwell on each of the four key areas that were focused on in the interviews, namely water sanitation which is led by Mr. Janyure, Education led by Mrs. Mutizwa, Health headed by Mr. Monera as well as Mr. Tavengwa of Food and Pastor Lameck Marozva of the Religious and Moral issues.

3.3.1 The community's Framework of Development (Ward 6)

Whilst it is the trend of many communities that development ideas have often cascaded from the leadership to the grassroots in an imposition model of development, things however seem to be different in ward six.

Every organization or development agent with an interest to invest or channel resources in ward six has to go through a series of meetings first with the councillor and then other development initiatives are passed on to the "Ward-co" at the famous "Muhacha" tree for consideration and thorough deliberations. The councillor calls an all-stakeholder's meeting at the Muhacha and leads the discussion while the development agent explains and answers questions from the people with regard to the development programs or aid. From there, the deliberations outcomes are also passed on to the ordinary people in the village through a concretization process. In the words of Mr. Leonard Kwaramba (August 21, 2015 Interview) he says "*politiburo yeZANU Pf irikowo kuno kumusha ndiyo mhaka muchiona kurongeka kwedu*" (we have a ZANU Pf politiburo model right here in our ward, hence the level of organization you see).

3.3.2 Water and sanitation

The United Nations has outlined among the Millennium development Goals (MDGs) water and sanitation as one key result area which needs to be attended to. All nations which appended their signatures to the United Nations charter have to make stern efforts to see to it

that basic amenities like clean water and sanitation are provided for. Thus, many development agents have committed themselves in providing these facilities to ensure that even the poorest, marginalized and of the periphery people also access these basic provisions for humanity. In ward 6, Mr. Janyure highlighted that in the last 10 years they have recorded about six organisations which have helped them to drill wells and build toilets for their people. These programs have seen almost every household left with a good Blair toilet and a safe and protected water well- to date, 371 households have benefited through these schemes.

Notable organisations which have contributed on sanitation and water significantly are ZIMWASH and ADMT. ZIMWASH has majored in the construction of toilets and wells while Africa Development Mission Trust (ADMT) has drilled bush-pump boreholes in almost all strategic village water points at all the schools in the ward and at the clinic. To date, ADMT has drilled 16 boreholes in ward six and have gone further to establishing community gardens at every water point to allow maximization of water usage apart from drinking and other domestic uses.

Mr. Janyure was indeed proud of the sterling work NGOs have done with regards to water and sanitation, he said that this has improved the livelihoods of people in the area. People are growing all kinds of vegetables with the help of knowledge and skills offered by the Agri-tex officers and every day trucks and buses carry those produces to Mbare “Musika” (market) for trading.

This has helped to caution people in the area against extreme poverty as they can afford to send their children to school from the garden proceeds as well as raise money to buy fertilizers and seeds for their main farming activities in their fields.

Mr. Janyure (16 August 2015, Interview) told the researcher that in Masunge and Zinhu villages, each villager who joined the vegetable garden scheme owns a row of 10 beds where

they are encouraged to plant only three different types of plants. However, the gardeners have agreed to grow plants of the same type for uniformity and this helps in pest-control. When the researcher visited Zinhu garden, there were Tomatoes, bulb onions and vegetables. One could be attracted from a fifty meter distance with the green colour of vegetables and tomatoes. There were people working in their gardens and two trucks were being loaded with fresh produce for the market.

When the researcher asked Mrs. Hatitongwe (Interview, 14 August, 2015) about the transformation the gardening project has managed to bring to their lives, this is what she said, “*Baba Mwari vakatinzwa, taifunga kuti mari inowanikwa kumaindustry ekuHarare asi tarisai muone Harare yaakutivigira mari kuno kumusha. Makoronyera ekuMbare anoswera kuno achitenga zvirimwa zvedu. Ikozvino vana vese varikukwanisa kuenda kuchikoro pasina kana dambudziko*”. (Sir, God has heard our prayers, we thought money could only be earned by working in Harare industries, but look now, people from Harare are coming all the way to buy our produce here. Hawkers from Mbare are always flooding the place buying our produce. Now we can afford to send our children to school without any challenges). Another farmer, Mr Kudakwashe Hamilton Zinhu also reiterated that these ventures had afforded them a better life. All men and women are always busy doing productive things rather than lying idle in the village.

Mr. Janyure went on to reiterate that ADMT helped them by facilitating a community workshop whereby experts in gardening and Irvine’s Day old chicken producers and Pro-feeds who taught the farmers on how to do their businesses. This he said, has enhanced quality and better yields from the farmers.

ADMT is a faith run private voluntary organization registered in Zimbabwe and has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Chegutu district to operate solely in wards 1 and 6. The leader of the Organisation, Mr. Denford Chizanga also hails from the same area

although his organization is based in Ruwa. Denford and his wife Shingirirai have since 2002 mobilized resources towards development work for the two areas. When asked about their intentions in helping these communities, Denford said, they were mainly motivated by three things. The first thing is that because they hail from the area they ought to plough back to the community that raised them, the second is that they have a passion to see transformation of societies and finally that God has put in them the vision to unlock a “can- do” attitude in the rural communities.

When asked what ADMT has done which is different with other organizations which have come prior to its coming? Mr, Kwaramba says, “Unlike other organisations, ADMT has a community development coordinator who stays with the people in the community and he knows our experiences and challenges as well as our opportunities. Other organisations drive their Land Rovers from Harare and just spend two hours in a meeting and they leave”

This philosophy or approach to development by ADMT has indeed made them to be successful. Mr Kennedy Abiyuti, the coordinator stays in Masango village in ward 6 and has qualifications in Education (Diploma) and Community Development (Diploma). He has worked with the organization for six years now. His roles are to tour and monitor every project in the area and offer as well as facilitate advice when it is required. He has managed to build relationships with the community and as such, every time they need him they can access his services.

The question of how far the aid agencies engage with communities and genuinely listen to their needs is hardly a new one. NGOs stress the need to listen to the grass roots people but they deviate from what they believe and preach when it comes to implementation which is a very big problem. But ‘listening’ is becoming political. According to a recent report, a World Bank official asked the official of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce: “Do you know why you Chinese are more successful in the aid issue?...It’s just because we know what aid we

can provide in Africa while you do not know. Since you are not clear, you ask the Africans about this and they told you what they exactly need. That is the reason you are more successful.”

The Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises in Zimbabwe, Sithembiso Nyoni once argued in an article “Friends of Hlekweni” (2011:4), that development was about changing relationships within communities, not about building things. Once the relationships were working effectively, the wells would follow and would be effective.

Organisations should learn from this, in that if you really want value ‘for your money, you have to establish these relationships and listen to what people want and say. Gone are the days of calling people for a workshop in the city in hotels then expect them to go back and make a difference in their communities. ADMT conducts its workshops right in the villages of the intended beneficiaries with a hands-on approach and as such they have a rich awareness of what the people need and they literally “scratch them where it itches”.

3.3.3 Education

It is said “the moment one stops learning, they begin to die”. Education is one goal which the UN’s MDGs seeks to address and ensure that the government afford this opportunity to its citizens. The government of Zimbabwe has fairly done very well with regard to education across the African continent with only Tunisia matching it in terms of the literacy rate, says Wood (1986).

Zimbabwe has put in place “an education for all” policy since independence in 1980 and has offered free education at primary level. However, facts on the ground also show that there have been some socio-economic factors impeding education in Zimbabwe. Among such factors are poverty, hunger, economic challenges and also culture especially towards the girl child. When it comes to the girl child’s plight, we have had organisations and people like Betty Makoni and the Girl Child Network and ‘Mufudzi Wakanaka’ working to secure the

education of the girl child and that her rights as a person are fully afforded. They have, together with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Gender reached out to communities with awareness and education campaigns that the girl child should be afforded access and opportunity to life privileges just like the boy child.

Whilst children get school fees or access to free education, it is however not enough to guarantee that learning will indeed take place as there are still a number of issues which can still impede that goal. A good home environment and food provision for the child is also essential. Good infrastructure at the school and also an environment free of abuse, all contribute to the psyche of the child to learn well. Socio economic status forms a huge part of this equation. "Children raised in poverty rarely choose to behave differently, but they are faced daily with overwhelming challenges that affluent children never have to confront, and their brains have adapted to suboptimal conditions in ways that undermine good school performance", says Eric Jensen (2009:4).

In 2008, Zimbabwe went through a heinous economic difficulty and basic needs were scarce. The environment made it difficult for children who were going to school and resulted in numerous school dropouts. However, in Ward 6, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) came in to their rescue and was feeding all the children in primary schools with a lunch meal of either bulgur wheat and beans or sadza and beans. It was well known that schools were safe zones for children as they accessed meals. The program was only implemented in primary schools and teachers were tasked to monitor the rations at the local schools together with appointed committees. CRS also assigned its coordinators who would visit the stations at least once every month to monitor the progress. These coordinators stayed in Chegutu.

Their management style however, created loopholes in the system as it also fuelled corruption in the administration of the feeding scheme. Reports were made alleging that teachers were not allocating proper proportions or ratios of food quantities for the kids. Mr Cassias Chishiri

a former teacher of Matanha Primary (4/7/2015 Interview), unearthed a corruption scandal in which it is alleged that the headmaster and his close confidantes connived with the stores person to reduce actual prescribed quantities of food. This resulted in left overs of 14 by 50kgs of Bulgur wheat, 21 by 30 tins of Cooking Oil and 7 by 50kg of beans which were shared among the teachers and the stores person. What this translates to, is simply a fact that children were being underfed. This is simply a template of the corrupt activities which were happening in most schools and Gora primary school also stood accused of the same practice. More often than not, aid was benefiting the wrong people while the intended beneficiaries and prejudiced were subjected to starvation.

Mrs. Mtizwa pointed out that, schools in ward 6 have been greatly assisted by NGOs over the last decade as some have come with feeding schemes, paying school fees and infrastructure development. She singled out ADMT as outstanding in most of its ventures, the organization has greatly benefitted the community. Mrs. Mtizwa (23 July, 2015) told the researcher that ADMT was providing a traditional drink “Mahewu” to all secondary schools and primary schools as well.

ZIMWASH supplied schools with material to build Blair toilets and also drilled water wells in all schools. ADMT also drilled boreholes in the same schools and established school gardens. KAPINECK, another organization, was assisting primary schools in establishing the Early Child-hood Development (ECD) education in conjunction with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education. The organization built ECD classroom blocks and furnished them with all required infrastructure. It even facilitated the training and payment of ECD teachers and also facilitated that school children secure birth certificates.

ADMT through its partners Christ Church of the Valley and Savanah Christian Church in America has greatly invested in the transformational work of the schools in ward 1. Mrs. Mtizwa (23 June, 2015), remarked that in 2008 apart from feeding school children, the

organization also paid teachers allowances till 2010 to help retain teachers who were wallowing in poverty as the economy was on its knees. According to Councillor Leonard Kwaramba (14 August, 2015), no schools in the ward ever experienced shortage of teachers as the incentives were good enough to retain and motivate teachers. Each teacher was getting \$50 per month apart from what the parents paid as incentives as well. Denford Chizanga (ADMT Executive and Founding Director) pointed out that his organization decided to give incentives to teachers after realizing that even though they were paying school fees for about 100 students under their Children Sponsorship scheme and feeding school children but without looking at the plight of the teachers, all such efforts would be meaningless without teachers to perform their teaching duties. Hence the idea to also consider mitigating the teachers' plight was necessary and they had to consider a holistic approach that closed all the gaps and ensure that nothing would impede their goal of educating the child.

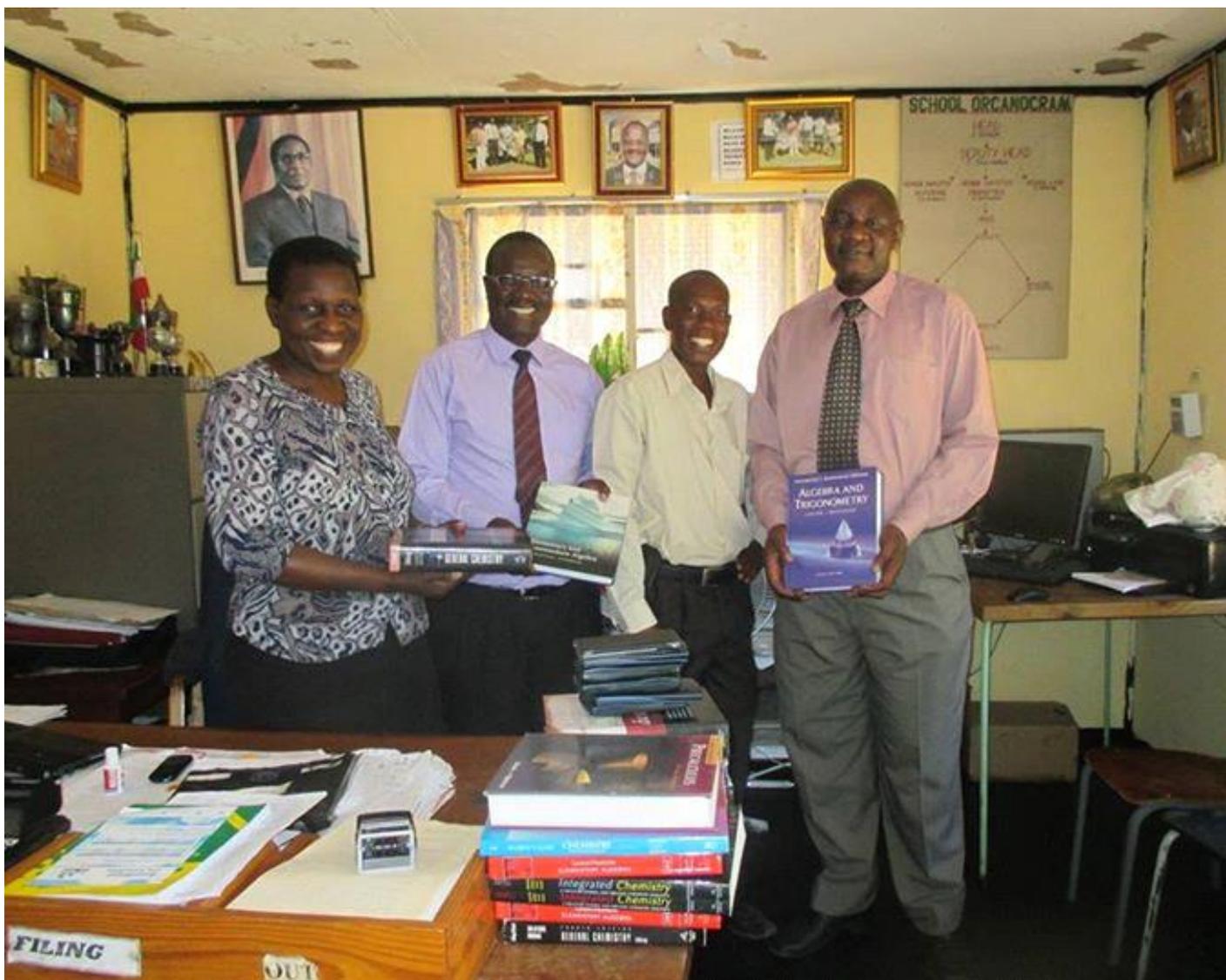
Chizanga reiterated that, in 2009, his organisation made an evaluation and realized that their input was yielding progress as students pass rate increased in all the schools they implemented the program and decided to increase the aid. The aid was channelled to acquiring of sporting kits, books, renovation of classroom, painting and furniture acquisition. Mr. Joseph Munkaka (Deputy Headmaster, Marigumura Primary School –18 June, 2015) confessed that to date their school has assumed a totally new outlook and a new nickname of “Mari-Blues” (short cut of Marigumura in Blue colours) named after the new blue paint on its buildings. The school has received a consignment of 250 desks to compliment the dilapidated furniture it had been left with and a consignment of books among other things. This has come as a relief to the school's budget and the school can now afford to channel their funds on other ventures. Without this kind of help, schools cannot afford to do any meaningful developments due to the nature of school fees paid in rural areas. Classrooms had depleted to the status of infrastructure similar to countries in a war situation. These are classrooms which

were built in the 1960s and had not seen any renovations to this decade.

ADMT has also assisted in the development of schools libraries by donating a handful of books to schools. Books are very key and essential to the learning of pupils in schools and as such they are a formidable need for the learning of children. In February 2015, ADMT teamed up with other organisations to donate books to different schools in Mhondoro and these organisations are Zimbabwe Libraries Association, Harare City Library and Book Aid International. Schools which benefitted include, Matanha Secondary, Nyamashesha Secondary, Marigumura Secondary, Gora Primary and Marigumura Primary. The event was graced by officials from the education sector who applauded the organisations for this noble gesture and remarked that this will greatly assist in the development and education of the people in these communities. International Aid also donated books at the same organisation and they have been doing so to rural schools in Africa since 1964.



Wadzanai Ndhlovu of the Zimbabwe Library Association at the International Library Day Celebrations at Matanha Secondary School: stressing a point.



ADMT Field Coordinator, Mr Kennedy Abiyuti 2nd from right presenting Library books to the school authorities on the International Library Day.

However, ADMT did not do everything for the schools whilst they were folding their hands. The councillor mobilized his community to play a part in all these developments in a partnership model. As ADMT was supplying monetary and other resources which cannot be accessed from the local community the locals would also mobilize the resources within their reach. A good example is when ADMT provided paint and the school development committees (SDC) would hire painters and pay them for their labour or do the painting for themselves. When ADMT bought furniture, the schools would use their budgets to finance

50% of the transport cost and when ADMT bought cement and transported it to the schools, the schools would procure pit sand and river sand and also hire and pay labourers. This helped the community to feel that they own the development process and instil a greater sense of responsibility. ADMT has used this principle in most of its operations in the area.

3.3.4 Health

Ward 6 has a rural clinic called Gora Clinic with a compliment of three trained nurses, one nurse aid and a community clerk. The clinic covers a wider catchment area of 78 villages and a population of about 6000 people. The clinic Nurse in Charge, Timothy Monera (23 August, 2015), highlighted that on average they have deliveries of new babies of about 18 per month. This is more of a hospital load as such it requires the clinic to be upgraded to a better capacity. The clinic had a maternity wing with a capacity of housing 4 people at a time and for all the referrals, patients had to go to either St Michael's Catholic Hospital which is 39 km away or Chegutu District Hospital situated about 109km away. The clinic means a lot as it is critical to their service delivery.

The government of Zimbabwe in 2010 launched a program to reduce the child mortality rate. Former Deputy Prime Minister, Thokozani Khupe told Parliament that many women in Zimbabwe die unnecessarily while giving birth, with 725 fatalities per every 100 000 women. She said, "This translates to eight women dying every day while giving life," said Khupe, *Newsday.co.zw*, 28 April, 2012. "When women are giving birth they are performing a national duty and therefore it is important that we prevent these deaths" (The ZIMDIASPORA, 15, November 2015). The government has partnered with the World Bank to mobilize funds from the financial institution to curb the escalating child mortality rate by implementing a maternity free program for all pregnant women and children under 5 years of age to access medication for free. It means that all user fees have been scraped off for these two categories only at all Health Facilities (HFs) under the arrangement. The program is

called Results Based Financing (RBF). The program is implemented on the ground by an NGO called Cord-Aid on behalf of the World Bank and the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare in Zimbabwe. RBF's focus is to provide the following services: focus on results – quantity and quality, Operational plan Community empowerment & ownership, Community involvement– local decisions/checking on quality, Reduced roles by higher structures, opportunity for improved health care at primary care level and strengthened referral system. RBF involves maternity and child health user fees, quality services as indicated through Community Based Organisation (CBO) patient satisfaction surveys and quality of services as indicated through district health evaluation checks through quarterly support and supervisory visits.

Cord Aid has, through its RBF program employed Community Based Organisations (CBOs) which it mandates with the verification exercise to see how service delivery is taking place and these CBOs are of different composition and make but should be composed of people who hail from the very beneficiary ward and who are also totally independent of the Health Facility. The CBOs go around through a sampling exercise and taking down feedback from the people about the service delivery at their health facility. The evaluation or verification exercise produces a rating which is then used to reward all the stakeholders involved.

Mr Tarisai Manjengwa (Provincial Coordinator –Cord – Aid) in one of the interviews (23/06/2015) narrated that clinics or HFs which score highly are also rewarded accordingly as the scheme is a results based program. Every staff member is also affected with the ratings whether positively or negatively and as such this has helped in improving the service delivery as everybody works hard and is professionally competent to attract good rewards for both the individual and the Health Facility.

The Cord – Aid coordinator comes every month from Chegutu to collect verification reports from the chairperson of the CBO and takes them to the District Nursing Officer (DNO) who

together with the Cord Aid staff make evaluations and assessments and give feedback to the beneficiary clinics and hospitals.

After every quarter, Cord –Aid releases the funds for development to the HFs and the CBOs. For the HFs, the local HF staff and the Sub- Health Committee plan on what the funds should be used in consultation and approval of the Rural District Council and District Health Officers in authority to oversee the HFs. The funds can be used to upgrade the existing facilities or build new infrastructure as well as purchasing of drugs. The HF is encouraged to hire labour and procure some of the items locally so as to inject the money into the local economy of the community except in cases where some things cannot be acquired locally. To date, Cord – Aid has helped Gora Clinic to assume a new outlook. The clinic was painted anew, a 7 roomed house was built for the new nurse in 2014 to ease accommodation worries. The clinic has a new appearance indeed with new sign posts pitched up at the gate.

Not to be out done is ADMT, the organization complimented what Cord – Aid has done by financing a new Maternity wing which was constructed from 2012 to 2014 and was commissioned to work in February 2015. What is of interest to this piece of research is the strategy which was used to accomplish this development initiative which is worthy of appreciation and can be emulated by other objective minded individuals and communities. Councillor Kwaramba asked all the villages around the ward to contribute 1000 farm bricks and a \$1 per household to finance the transportation of river sand and pit sand from Nyundo River which is about 33km away. He asked for help from the District Development Fund (DDF) and so they were only required to purchase diesel and pay the driver's allowances from the funds they had collected. After the work started, the councillor again challenged his community through the kraal heads to also pay \$5 per household towards the labour and they managed to raise enough money to do that. ADMT then assisted with cement, roof material and some other materials needed to construct the maternity wing. Janyure had this to say on

this emphatic development, “This is our work. Our people are very pro-active and do not rely on everything from donors”. What a model of development in the making at Ward 6?

The picture below illustrates a development project in the working at ward 6.



Gora Clinic Maternity Wing under construction in 2012.

3.4 Income Generating Projects

To appreciate economic prospects of a community in an absolutely non-aid environment is what many people in ward 6 expressed. Although they enjoy the outpouring of aid into their ward at the present moment, it is also a reality that one day this aid will eventually cease. Hence there is need to think beyond aid and plan for a future without aid now. There is an African proverb which says “the best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now”. Africa has to realize that the past mistakes should not be repeated. The people of yesterday enjoyed aid and forgot to champion for sustainable development, hence they lost an opportunity. Ward 6 people have also realized that aid is not permanent, it will come and go. In fifty years to come, people should be able to show something about the aid they are receiving now.

The ordinary people have the power and initiative to change the aid regime of course. They ought to stand and change the brunt catastrophe of dependence on aid whether from donors or the government aid dependence and be self-reliant. Residents of Ward 6 have advocated for measures to enhance economic progression of the community. They have requested donors to assist individuals with capital to start small businesses. Most of the people have been assisted with poultry projects. ADMT has managed to produce a document that guides its beneficiaries on how they can be successful in those new ventures. The document stresses that its transformational drive seeks not to impose projects nor ideas but it shall receive project proposals, analyses and assist prospective beneficiaries based on the impression of their projects. One key thing they also consider is the effectiveness and viability of the proposed venture so as to make sure it is successful once it starts.

The coordinator, Kennedy Abiyuti receives and assesses the proposals and recommends them to the authorities in the organization who in turn decide and determine how much can be allocated towards a successful proposals. When contacted for statistics, he revealed to the researcher that to date they have assisted 35 beneficiaries in this venture who have tried in the categories of maize farming, soya beans farming, groundnuts, poultry, cattle rearing, sewing and also gardening. These people get free grants to start their ventures and are asked to return only 20% of the money back into the pool so that other people can also be assisted.



Borehole drilling taking place in ward 6.



Zinhu Village Garden Scheme, Ward 6, Mhondoro Mubayira Constituency.

*Below: A very fruitful garden in the making,
Not to mention a much empowered community.*

From This



to This



TO THIS



[Women showcasing their produces \(Vegetables and Butter nuts\) in Ward 6, Mhondoro Mubayira.](#)

In response to the question, “What do you think of people in poverty?” maybe one can respond in the same way Jessica Jackley once did: “they” need “our” help, in the form of a few coins in a jar. The co-founder of Kiva.org talks about how her attitude changed — and

how her work with microloans has brought new power to people who live on a few dollars a day.

3.5 Politicisation of Aid, a major handicap in ward 1

It is intriguing to note that in general, most middle-class people in Zimbabwe do not want to discuss politics or even economics. They always try to express dismay at the stifling grip that international NGOs and aid agencies have on their lives and work. One is reminded of Joe Hanlon's analysis of Mozambique as it emerged from the war with Renamo. No-one is claiming here, as Hanlon (1992) did there, that donor communities are manipulating food aid to win political concessions. But the donor organisations have disproportionate influence as employers and investors, particularly in the arenas of agriculture and the arts. During the worst periods of the past decade, they provided a lifeline for many people among the educated middle classes who found themselves with no other employment choices. But, when the shore is in sight, does one want to remain tethered to the lifebelt? Certainly not indeed.

Aid agencies are mistrusted not least because they are perceived as part of the political strategies of donor governments – whether directly through organisations such as United States of America Aid (USAID), Danish Development Aid (DANIDA), Norway Aid (NORAIID) and many others, or indirectly via numerous arms of the United Nations. It is a trustworthy fact that these donor agencies are primarily answerable to their tax payers and thereby to their electorates. However, when dealing with Zimbabwe, Western Aid Agencies have political imperatives to distance themselves from the Zimbabwean government. Douglas Rodgers (2004:324) notes that “DFID’s summary of its work for 2011-15 commented that, “real transformation and sustained development progress is only likely following political change.” This may make a lot of sense in London; but it is not very helpful for people working damned hard in rural villages who do not even understand nor mind the political dynamics and their impact in the economy in Zimbabwe. In order to effect ‘real

transformation and sustained development progress, to be told that they are wasting their time because ZANU- PF is not yet in opposition is helpless. And this is regardless of any actual benefits that they know their work is achieving”.

CHAPTER FOUR

A Theological Understanding of Development

4.1 Introduction

In the first, second, and third chapters of this discourse, the researcher has touched on numerous tenets of development aid and its challenges as well as the ambiguity of foreign aid financiers' intentions. We have also noticed in the case of Mhondoro communities studied that among the organisations doing community development work are some religious or rather Christian or faith based organisations like the Africa Development Mission Trust.

Therefore, considering the remarkable work done by ADMT it is quite prudent to look at a theological understanding of development and see how this plays a vital role in the development of communities.

The bible provides a theological story line of development right from the beginning in Genesis. God's desire as drawn from the creation stories is of a flourishing, organised, healthy and prosperous society as seen in the Garden of Eden. Creatures and human beings should co-exist and be interdependent. Thus, in the words of Rowan Williams (2009:1), "human beings are to function as God's representatives, sharing equitably in the earth's abundance and the construction of their communities and also stewarding the earth and its resources in such a way that God's purpose is fulfilled". However, it is disgusting to note that God's purpose has been altered with so much greedy, violence, poverty, marginalisation, injustice and inequitable sharing of the resources. Williams, (2009) however says, God has a plan to rescue his altered plan and revive the fulfilment of his purpose, redeeming and restoring it through his son Jesus Christ. This concurs well with what the Baptist World Aid journal(2013:4) outlines that their shalom vision and work is a beginning of a realisation of God's efforts to establish a rich concept of development as the process by which humanity is able to see and attain right relationships with God, one another and the earth. This indeed

constitutes life in totality.

There has been a shift in the understanding of how the world can put poverty to an end. Several considerations have been made and there seems to be a rejuvenated inclusive approach in matters to do with development now than ever where all players have been called to contribute their ideas and efforts to champion development and tackle poverty and life threatening social problems. Religion has also been roped in and put to task in the process. Religious faith has been used to find paths out of poverty and powerlessness for the majority of the world's masses.

After decades of leaving the responsibility to deal with poverty and development into the hands of non-religious players or entities, it has turned out that the world has made a paradigm shift and placed more trust in the religious or faith based organisations as the only trustworthy arm of development. Hence religion has become a potent force to reckon with in civil society. Williams (2009) actually highlights that religion is considered the most effective and sustainable 'civil society' network that exists (especially in areas affected by conflict). The majority of the global population has affiliations to some religious beliefs, hence it is important for development agencies to be cognisant of that factor and therefore consider the inclusion of different religious groups available in the community in their development endeavours. If well handled, religion can be a prudent ally of development and a conduit for social transformation around the world.

4.2 The Nehemiah Model of development

The Nehemiah model of missions as envisaged in the Old Testament shows a model of how societies and individuals can mitigate poverty and underdevelopment. The model unravels an invaluable word picture of what it really means to be under mission for our lord in any society in this world.

Listening to and retelling of the story of Nehemiah can transform communities and generate a vision of both possibilities and impossibilities culminating into sustainable development. Through Nehemiah's initiatives the sons and daughters of Judah in diaspora and the remnant in Jerusalem were inspired and could see a new city re-emerging out of the ruins. Nehemiah, according to Mark R Gornic (1992:148), "is an unfinished story, with chapters still to be written as long as our struggling neighbourhoods do not know the full resolve of God's peace". Thus, community development requires individuals and bodies of people who are willing to summon their skills, energy and resources.

Nehemiah began by conscientising himself first and believing that the Task can be accomplished before he engaged anyone else. He was able to diagnose of the real problem and needs of the community before he rushed to do anything. He also, in my view made proper calculations to determine the needed resources and strategised on how to enter into the zone and make a difference.

After getting the description of the state of affairs in Jerusalem, Nehemiah was greatly affected by the predicament. That the great and iconic city of Jerusalem was in ruins and that its people were broken just as the walls were broken did not give Nehemiah any comfort. He couldn't shake that pathetic mental image of the broken walls and the burned gates. It compelled him to rethink and come up with a solution to redeem the great city and its nation. The story relays the great anguish of Nehemiah (1:4) in that he bitterly wept because of the sorry state of the city. Weppner (1972:312) says, "This type of activity is common to people in diaspora who are cut off from their homeland and symbols of identity". Realising the threat of ethnic identity and extinction, Nehemiah could not afford to eat.

Drawing lessons from Nehemiah's networking model, development practitioners should acknowledge that any successful vision must be well articulated and communicated in an

effective manner. Nehemiah started his communication by engaging the divine powers and then the king and finally the people of Judah. In any particular context, it is noble to be conscious of the divine authorities of any society that is in need of development so that any efforts done might not disturb the religious powers of the people. The people will also appreciate the development coming when they realise that their religious views and beliefs are also valued. After having been granted the permission, Nehemiah went on to engage the people of Judah to solicit for their commitment to a major renovation of the great city and obtain donated community labour.

Barber (1976:318) says Nehemiah's communication was very effective and full of persuasion and public exhortation. He also commends him of being "effective in his communication with the King because of careful timing, thoughtful planning, and tactical diplomacy". Indeed, it requires a higher level of diplomacy and thoughtful planning and engagement of the key players of development in any given society. When one gets into a community as an agent of development they need to first of all identify the gate keepers of the community like the village heads, chiefs, councillors and any other opinion leaders in the community so as to garner their support. Those are the custodians of the communities and have the right to unlock some of the community resources to the advantage of the developing agents. Once you go past this hurdle you are poised to at least be assured of some level of success in your work. This will take people to the next step of the adaptation phase where people in the community adapt and own the vision and are ready to partner with you to see to it that the preferred goals have been reached. However, it is not an absolute guarantee that all things will sail smoothly without any opposition. In actual fact, it is a principle of life that for anything to be successful it must go through a test or some kind of opposition.

After several weeks of hard working towards restoring the broken city and its walls, opposition arose against Nehemiah but he kept on focussed. The conflict was generated from

both within and outside the camp. Some Jews with capitalist tendencies started to display dissatisfaction and felt threatened with the development that Nehemiah was bringing and the focus had shifted from them to Nehemiah. It was now a contest of power, influence and popularity. Barber (318) writes that, “The diagnosis of the problem was an obvious case of class conflict in which the wealthy class, who controlled the means of production and the distribution of goods, had used their economic power to exploit the masses”. Nehemiah however managed to shrug off all opposition and the work proceeded with emphatic results realised. In my view, the Nehemiah story outlines key tenets of development against the imperialists and capitalists who always want to obstruct Africa’s focus from realising its dream of a competing and developed continent by fuelling conflicts. They indeed know that development cannot be realised in an environment characterised by conflict and war. Africans will remain their own messiahs for their continent as they are the ones to emancipate themselves from poverty through home grown solutions. In the story of Nehemiah we see a picture of a home-grown NGO being led by a person from their own Jewish community and supported by their own people although some aid came from outside. This is the new thinking African states might need to start to have in empowering and encouraging home-grown NGOs.

4.3 Evaluation of Development Work in Zimbabwe

The lack of local knowledge and unwillingness to adjust to the norms of the local people, among the so-called experts who design and run development projects here, is a source of constant irritation. Organisations should embrace the fact that it is key for them to understand the context of their beneficiaries before they commit themselves to giving out any penny. These aid workers are typically academically brilliant, well-educated and extremely well meaning, but really far-fetched from the technicalities and complexities of the local people. This gap impedes their good intentions at the end of the day. But they are also very young; they are moved around from project to project and country to country (even from continent to

continent) without having a chance to develop deep local knowledge; and as a general rule they have been trained in economics or development studies. While it is meant to prepare them for their future work, they also ought to be acquainted with some history and anthropological studies to be able to be relevant to their clientele or focussed communities. The most important thing also to note is that those who come as experts in these developmental works are foreigners who want to lead the locals instead of capacitating the locals with knowledge and financial resources. There is a very big advantage in fronting the locals to lead their own developmental initiatives than to give authoritarian responsibility to foreigners. These experts employ Zimbabweans to provide the local expertise; but by this stage it is too late in the process. Key to the whole process is to involve the locals from planning, strategy, budget allocation, agenda-setting – and the mind-setting – before they have already taken place. But, suffice to note that these development agencies ignore all this and jump inn to implement programmes that are disconnected to the realities of a community. Menon (2005:67) remarks that, “They spend millions but they make no constructive difference. They just meet their funders’ benchmarks and get paid. They are parasites on the poor.

4.4 Lessons from Mubayira Ward 1 and 6

It is appalling to note that there is a vast disparity between the lives lived by ordinary Zimbabweans who were mostly desperately poor compared to NGO workers who live in sheer opulence some with offices in mansions complete with marble flooring and ornamental brass taps! However more telling was the response we were given by a 65 year old rural farmer Mr Jena (Interview -23/07/2015), who told us he did not have time for NGOs. ‘They come here with their fancy cars to teach us something new. They take us to fancy hotels in Harare and give us 10 dollars for allowances. After two days the workshop is over and if you ask the people who attended what they learnt, they will not tell you anything but describe for you how nice the experience was of staying in a hotel’. When we asked him what he thought

NGOs should do he replied ‘they should stay with us, get to know us here in our poor areas not just for a workshop but for years. You cannot expect to change our customs and problems with a two day workshop’. The following are the few lessons which can be drawn from this research:

4.4.1 The Impact of politicising aid

For aid to be successful, there is need for the beneficiary communities to take a paradigm shift from the mantra of politicising development. It has proven that politics can divide people and affect their rationale up to the extent of not appreciating good developmental initiatives. It also polarises the political spaces while hampering the development of a community. Social relations are also strained yet these are necessary tools for development as we have seen that relationships are key to any developmental initiatives in any particular set up. Some of the decisions politicians make are not pro development although they carry some developmental rhetoric. They pretend to be what they are not. Politicians are there to gain, hence whenever they put their money on something, they will make sure that it wins them votes. Communities should challenge politicians to offer development that is sustainable and which is beyond politicking. Mubayira Ward 1 has shown us that politically populist driven development will also not work. The legislators must take into cognisance that it is highly imperative for them to allocate development that is needed by the people and with enough consultation being done on the ground. People at the grassroots are very important and should be accommodated from the formulation of ideas and also throughout the implementation. No one should attempt to bring development to the people, let the people develop themselves. What outsiders can only do is to assist the insiders to develop themselves as has been the case of Mubayira Ward 6.

People should learn to separate politics and development because the two, especially in African politics have failed to reward the nation positively but have destroyed good

opportunities. Partisan politics has played a major role in derailing development in ward 1. The councillor is a public officer and as such they ought to treat every member of their community fairly and equitably when opportunities arise rather than choosing beneficiaries based on political affiliation. This promotes marginalisation of development and breeds animosity that can even fuel further conflicts in the long run as has been noted in the case of the Rwandan and DRC civil war situations.

NGOs, should reconsider their position and strategies in articulating development in rural communities. They should shun assuming the leading role and accept to be partners with the local people. They are not bosses but partners. They bring what they have on the table and the locals also harness their resources and bring them to the table then they work together.

4.4.2 Engaging the Locals

Community participation is indeed a prerequisite for community development and as such there is need to build citizens or people centred organisations like the Africa Development Mission Trust and also a leadership that is acquainted with the modalities of development like Leonard Kwaramba of Mubayira Ward 6, who are keen to engage the people and add value to their passion. Projects which have proven to be successful between the two wards researched are those of Mubayira Ward 6 and part of the reason is the aspect and ability of good engagement. There is dire need for people to participate in their own development. No one should do it for them and money cannot buy development for people. That kind of development is not sustainable at all. Engagement of citizens for their own development helps create better citizens who are also aware of their right to participate and are more confident of their right to do so for themselves and their community.

4.4.3 Creating Home Grown NGOs

While it is indeed a fact that Africa lacks in financial reserves, it is however worthwhile to start thinking about growing Home-grown NGOs. Reasons for the failure of these International NGOs is perhaps, the challenge of not being properly acquainted with the

challenges of Africa, its dynamic values, and the view of Africa as a helpless continent. The other limiting factor also is the acceptance by these international NGOs to act as frontlines for regime change or neo-colonialism thus compromising their image and role in Africa. In concluding this research, the researcher identifies this as a major handicap to the success of the international NGOs and suggests that the continent should start to think about the establishment of Home-Grown NGOs. Doreen Straus (2000:9), says, in terms of the NGO power in Africa, “We think of Multinational and International organisations ... whether International NGOs originating from the North like CARE, Save the Children or Multinational NGOs”. Rarely does one think of the immediate NGOs. Non-African funding has negative implications for the sustainability of development and local influence of International NGOs.

Dependence on Non-African donors in the absence of local funding will constantly promote quantitative and not qualitative work. International NGOs tend to focus on short term or relief projects while neglecting to do long term development work so that they maintain their presence and dominance in Africa as well as furthering the interests of their financiers.

However, in a bid to maintain that dominance, developed countries have been accused of suppressing the few home grown NGOs and scuttle their work. One exceptional example is about the UN and USA’s attempt to silence and paralyse SAACID an Ethiopian NGO which is very big and independent. The organisation managed to survive due to its independent nature to this day. The CEO of the organisation Burns, (The Globe and Mail, 15 September 2011), was quoted saying, “They consider us a spoiler. We’re large, we’re independent, we’re pro-Somali, and we don’t follow the UN standard line. We get loved or hated. We don’t need the UN or international groups”.

4.4.4 Accountability

One area that has caused despondence in the field of development work is actually the issue

to do with accountability of funds. Many individuals and big organisations have been accused of mismanaging the funds aimed for development or humanitarian work in a transparent and convincing manner. Recently the Minister of finance in Zimbabwe, Mr Chinamasa was quoted by the Public media (Herald, 11 September 2015), castigating the NGO bosses for being very corrupt and embezzling funds meant for development diverting them for personal use. Chinamasa wrapped the NGO bosses saying, “It is for the benefit of the country that all developmental assistance should be channelled through the state and should also be transparent to us...If there is any corruption that has been taking place, it has been in the ranks of NGOs. If I take you to the leafy suburb of this town, the most luxurious houses belong to heads of NGOs”, he added.

There should be mechanisms from the local, district, provincial and national level in the governance system to hold these NGOs accountable for every penny received for developmental work and annual audits should be done. There is also need to publish all the audit reports not only in the boardrooms but also the people at the grass roots to see if what is reflected in the accounts books of the NGOs indeed tally with what these people received on the ground. This will go a long way to clear any suspicions and exaggerations of the real facts pertaining to development work and the handling of finances. Financiers also need to touch base constantly on the ground to monitor on the progress of their monies. Thus, constant field visits to the projects is required. In the case of ADMT, they have shown that commitment as the director, Denford Chizanga is always on the ground to monitor what is happening. He has invited his partners to come on the ground on an annual basis to see what their aid is achieving. This helps to instil a greater sense of accountability and responsibility at all levels of management. Auditors should regularly visit all the beneficiaries on the field to check and see for themselves if what is reflected on paper is indeed the truth on the ground. These beneficiaries in turn receive copies of the audit report and everyone in the management

system. The executive director uses that audit report as a tool to reinforce improvement to the staff and management team to do better in the future and also curb against repeating the same mistakes.

4.4.5 Capacity Building

This process involves the development and strengthening of human and institutional resources. It goes as far as ensuring that there is effectiveness and efficiency. The UNDP defines it as ‘the ability to perform functions, solve problems and achieve objectives’ at three levels: individual, institutional and societal’.

4.4.6 Community Trusts

Instead of funding individuals, NGOs should start to think about reaching out to communities at a larger scale so as to empower entire communities. The researcher would like to propose the establishment of community share owned trusts which are broad based. These are vehicles for participation in a broad shareholding in various business ventures by communities. Proceeds from such participation must be properly accounted for and used in projects which benefit the communities. Accounts for the trusts must be annually audited for accountability and transparency.

4.5 Conclusion

When it comes to aid work in our communities with Mhondoro being an exception, indeed it is worthy to take a paradigm shift in as far as development is concerned. Communities must embrace mechanisms that encourage them to be self-reliant in the future and wean them off from donor dependence. No development will come from outsiders but the local people should take the initiative and lead their own development and viewing outsiders as partners. It is the local community which should provide the benchmarks and identify areas where development is required instead of outsiders to employ an imposition on developmental issues in any particular people. It is also worthwhile to highly value and harness all available community assets and involve them to emancipate the people in that community.

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