

**REDUCING RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION THROUGH LOCAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF SANKPALA COMMUNITY IN THE CENTRAL
GONJA DISTRICT OF THE NORTHERN REGION**

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ACCEPTANCE

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.....

Supervisor's Name

Signature

Date



DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis is my own work, it contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree of the University or elsewhere except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

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Signature

Date

DEDICATION

To my family.



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ABSTRACT

The pre- colonial development gap between the North and the South still persists even though there have been several attempts by governmental and non-governmental interventions to bridge the gap. This has created a net migration of Northern youth to the South for menial jobs. The movement of people to urban centres poses some challenges to the development of rural areas in that in most rural areas, the impact of rural-urban migration is the rapid deterioration of the rural economy which then leads to poverty and food insecurity. The 1992 constitution empowers the District Assemblies to provide governance at the local level, especially in communities, and to help in the economic development of the people by formulating and implementing strategic plans to bring about total economic development in their various Districts. Promoting the welfare of rural people is at the heart of the local government. One of the key components of the National Decentralization Policy and Action Plan is that it provides for district assemblies to facilitate economic development at the local level. Local Economic Development (LED). This study attempts to identify various ways LED can contribute to reducing the North-South migration in Ghana using the Sankpala community in the Central Gonja District of the Northern Region of Ghana as a case study. One hundred questionnaires were administered in the community while for the community youth leader, the Regional planning office, and the district planning office in-depth interviews were conducted. Results show generally that the concept of LED has not caught on well with the district assembly. However, respondents were of the view that if LED was fully implemented rural-urban migration is likely to reduce considerably. It was recommended that the Government speed up implementation of the SADA programme and also build the capacities of district assembly staff on LED.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DA	-	District Assembly
DMTDP	-	District Medium Term Development Plan
DACF	-	District Assembly Common Fund
A2N-GH	-	Africa 2000 Network Ghana
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
SADA	-	Savannah Accelerated Development Authority
GSGDA	-	Ghana Shared Growth Development Agenda
LED	-	Local Economic Development
ADRA	-	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
NRGP	-	Northern Rural Growth Programme
MOFA	-	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
JHS	-	Junior High School
SHS	-	Senior High School
SPSS	-	Statistical Package for Social Scientist
MMDAs	-	Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

There has been an increased migration of people from rural to urban areas in search of greener pastures. These urban economies however do not have the capacity to absorb and retain the continued inflows of migrants, either skilled or unskilled labour. This leads to the depopulation of rural settlements. It is usually the economically active in rural areas that migrate out thereby increasing the poverty levels of those left behind. (Adepoju, 2010).

Braunvan (2010) has noted that there is a greater tendency for people to migrate towards areas of wealth and economic prosperity. People who migrate are mostly concerned with the benefits they hope to gain by moving and usually give less thought to the problems that they will encounter as a result of the process. The movement of people to urban centres poses some challenges to the development of rural areas in that, in most rural areas, the impact of rural-urban migration is the rapid deterioration of the rural economy which then leads to poverty and food insecurity (Mini, 2000). According to De Haan and Rogally (2002), migration is usually age selective. Thus, the youth have a greater chance of deriving positive net returns from migration and therefore they migrate in search of a better life. This creates a situation where the elderly members of the community are the ones left behind to fend for themselves and constitute the labour force.

The decision to migrate in rural areas is usually influenced by push and pull factors. The pull factors attract migrants to urban centers while the push factors force them out of their communities of origin. These factors are influenced by the strength of the local economy. The availability of jobs and social amenities act as pull factors in urban centers while the lack or inadequacy of these act as push factors in rural communities (de Haas, 2008). For instance, the absence of a rural credit market could push people to migrate to provide remittances in order to overcome the rural credit constraints and to finance rural productive investments (Katz and Stark, 1986). Rural to urban migrations could have a negative impact on rural areas by removing workers from productive rural economic activities. Rural-urban migration also has negative social consequences such as the deterioration of family, community structures and norms.

In post-independent Ghana, there has been considerable growth of the urban population due largely to increased movement of populations from rural to urban areas (Centre for Migration Studies, 2011).

In Ghana, rural areas are usually characterized by limited health and educational facilities, small industrial output, limited economic opportunities and poverty, especially non-agricultural employment.

These conditions usually motivate rural folks to migrate to towns and cities in search of greener pastures. Therefore, one significant way to stem the flow of rural-urban migration is to see to the development of rural areas (Boaten, 1997)

Rural areas fall within the jurisdiction of district assemblies and hence the district assembly in Ghana has the ultimate task of promoting economic development at the local level. The

Local Government Act 462 of 1993 provides a suitable basis to enable district assemblies establish an appropriate framework for managing the national development agenda (Wool, 2003; Local Government Act, Act 462, 1993). The main objective for the creation of the District Assemblies is to provide governance at the local level that can contribute to the economic development of people in the locality (Ofei-Aboagye, 2000).

The government of Ghana in the Ghana Shared Growth Development Agenda 2012-2013 plans indicated that it is developing special initiatives such as the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) as a way of contributing to the improvement in infrastructure, especially at the local level. This is expected to lead to the creation of new economic poles especially in the rural areas. The initiative would enhance employment creation and income generation activities, which in the long term would contribute to the reduction of social, spatial and economic inequalities as well as rural-urban migration. One key strategy for achieving this is the promotion of effective local economic development programs and activities and decentralisation (GSGDA, 2010).

According to the GSGDA document, government recognises the weak employment generation capabilities at the district level and intends to, as a policy objective, mainstream the concept of local economic development planning at the district level. The strategy as stated earlier is to provide support in order to facilitate, develop and implement employment programmes at the local level based on natural resource endowments and competitive advantage (GSGDA, 2010:195)

Local Economic Development (LED) is a process that seeks to forge partnerships between local government and the private sector to stimulate investments that will eventually promote sustained high growth in a local community (National LED Policy, 2012).

LED focuses on the community's comparative advantage such that it reaches its potential in relation to new market opportunities, and reduces obstacles to business expansion and creation (Internet Source: USAID website, accessed on 1st July, 2013)). Local Economic Development in the rural areas would help create new jobs, help communities retain existing jobs, and thus reduce rural-urban migration.

The present study examined the economic opportunities in rural areas that can be developed by promoting LED activities, which would help reduce the out-migration of rural dwellers in the Sankpala community to urban centers such as Kumasi, Sunyani and Accra. .

1.2 Problem Statement

The 1992 constitution of Ghana provides that the promotion and improvement of socio-economic activities in a locality should be done with the active involvement of the people. Despite the provision in the constitution that seeks to bring decision making and development to the doorsteps of the populace, problems such as underemployment, poor infrastructure, economic and other socio-cultural factors still persist in the localities contributing to migration of rural folks to the urban centres in search for better economic opportunities.

The lack of effective participation in local governance has resulted in the increased disparity of socio-economic development and infrastructure between urban and rural Ghana. The economic gap has therefore necessitated efforts by various governmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector operatives and international developmental partners to promote and improve the socio-economic wellbeing of rural people through various development strategies.

There have been studies on the effects of rural-urban migration on the livelihoods of rural individuals with much focus on remittances and peasant agriculture (Lucas, 2007). Some have also written on the effect rural-urban migration on urban areas including the growth of slums and the pressure on the limited urban social amenities and infrastructure.

However, few studies looked at how the local economic development approach and principles can be used to reduce rural-urban migration. It is in this vein that the present study employed the LED approach to explain how rural-urban migration can be reduced in Sankpala. Sankpala is a deprived community in the central Gonjadistrict of the Northern Region of Ghana. Rural-urban migration is characteristic of this area.

1.3 Research objectives

1. To find out the causes and effects of rural-urban migration in Sankpala
2. To outline which district assembly programmes and policies would enhance the economic wellbeing of the Sankpala community
3. To find out the current state and level of implementation of the identified LED programmes and activities in Sankpala
4. To find out how LED initiative can reduce the rural urban migration in Sankpala

1.4 Research Questions

This study sought to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the possible causes and effects of rural-urban migration in Sankpala?
2. Which district assembly programmes/policies would enhance the economic wellbeing of communities in Sankpala?
3. What is the current state and level of implementation of the identified LED programmes and activities in Sankpala?
4. How can local economic development initiatives reduce rural-urban migration in Sankpala?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is relevant for three main reasons. Primarily, this study would help in the identification of LED initiatives in communities. It would also inform government and stakeholders on practical and effective ways of reducing rural-urban migration through the promotion of LED Programmes. Lastly this study can add to existing knowledge on the reduction of rural-urban migration through the promotion of LED

1.6 Organization of Study

The study is organised into five chapters. Chapter one, entitled introduction, focuses on the background of the study, problem statement, research questions and the significance of the study. Chapter two entitled literature review addresses and fully discusses relevant papers, journals that have been published relevant to the study. It also discusses relevant migration theories. Chapter three focuses mainly on the research methodology used in this study. It also highlights the relevant theoretical framework used in this study. Results from data analyses

during the study are discussed in chapter four. Chapter five focuses summary of findings and makes recommendations based on findings.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses mainly on the literature on literature on rural-urban migration, especially migration from the North of the country to the south. The literature also discussed the merits and demerits of local government programmes.

2.2 Migration

Theoretically, migration is defined simply as a process of personal movement from one area to another (National Geographic Society, 2005). There is however no general agreement among researchers and theorist for its cause (Timalsina, 2007). Migration is classified based on various concepts (Trewartha, 1969 and Vyanga, 1981 cited in Sinha, 2005). Weeks, (1989) for instance defines migration in relation to political boundaries crossed. De Haan, (1997) defines migration depending on length of time, short or long term, permanent or temporary. Migration can also be defined according to rural-urban nature of the locality (Clarke, 1987 cited in Sinha, 2005). Thus, we have rural-urban, urban-rural, rural-rural and urban-urban

2.3 Local Economic Development

Local Economic Development (LED) is a process by which local governments, local businesses and other local actors join forces and resources to enter into new partnership arrangements with each other or other stakeholders to create jobs and stimulate economic activity in a well defined economic zone (municipalities, towns and villages) (Apeeah, 2010).

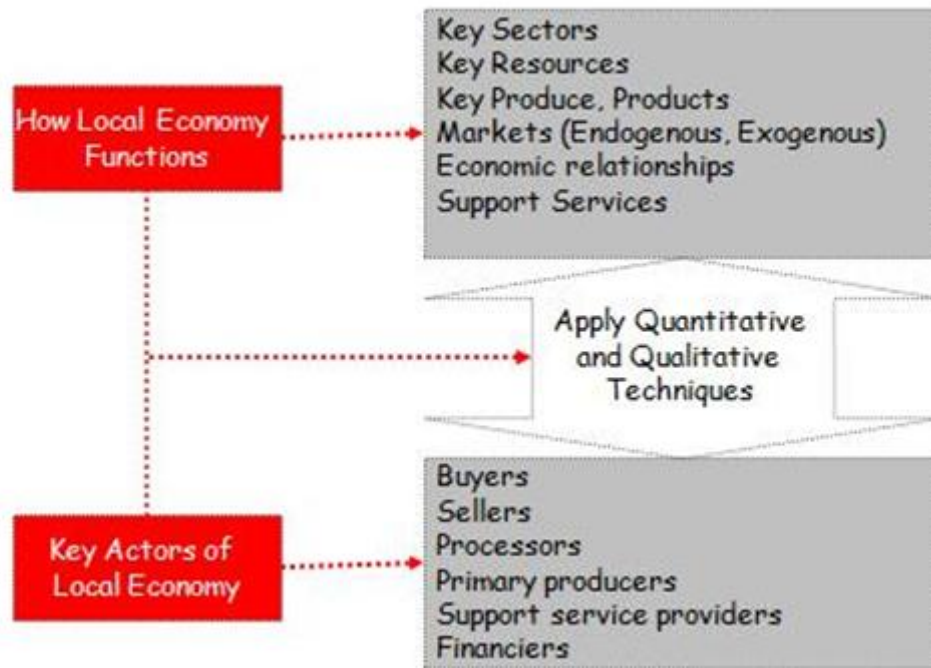
The purpose of local economic development is therefore to build up the economic capacity of a local area. Local Economic Development seeks to improve the economic future and the quality of life for all. Development, partners are to work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation (World Bank, 2003:4).

For the purpose of this study, LED would focus mainly on economic activity centred on agricultural production such as shea butter production, guinea fowl rearing, small ruminant rearing among others.

According to Boknor, (2010) the concept of LED could have varied meaning. LED could include initiatives designed to directly alleviate poverty through economic support growth by the district assemblies. This he explained can be done by providing skills training on areas such as entrepreneurship, supporting micro enterprises with funding, the provision of municipal services such as education, health and transportation services and also encouraging domestic and foreign investment by providing the necessary infrastructure to motivate private sector into the locality.

2.4 Understanding the LED Context

Fig 1 The LED Context



Source: Institute of Local Government Service (2009)

The local economy of any community is made up of key economic sectors which could be agrarian as in the case of many communities in the northern part of Ghana. These sectors would employ several factors such as buyers, sellers or support service providers such as financial institutions, District Assemblies or Non-Governmental Organisations. These actors play a key role in the LED process. The LED process involves using both qualitative (stakeholder meetings and interviews) and quantitative research methods to gather relevant data on key actors of the local community and key economic activities and potentials. This process is usually facilitated by the district assembly.

2.5 Principles Associated With Local Economic Development

LED is based on two main principles: Public-Private/ Partnership that is the cooperation between government agencies and private investors. LED is a means to achieve the effective mobilization of local resources by encouraging investments with the highest rate of socio-economic return. The partnership between private, public and non-profit actors becomes crucial for a sustainable development process allowing the convergence of interest especially in investment programming between the different local actors. Participatory Decision-Making and Social Dialogue: the involvement of local stakeholders in the process of developing their own territory is a prerequisite for sustainable growth. Bringing local stakeholders around one table through a Local Forum helps to build trust, encourages innovation and promotes the creation of social networks and activities. Most importantly perhaps, the involvement of stakeholders fosters social cohesion, thereby decreasing the risk of further conflict (Internet Source: USAID Website accessed on 1st July 2013)

2.6 Urban and Rural Settlements

In demographic terms, a country's level of urbanization is conventionally defined as the proportion of the total population living in settlements designated as urban. There is no internationally accepted means of identifying urban areas, and even within a country, definitions change and there may be more than one definition in use at any given time. Sub-Saharan Africa recognized as the least urbanized region of the world (Hardoy *et al* 2001).

Hardoy *et al.* (2001) has defined urban centres in four ways; population size or density, the proportion of the population employed in non-farm activities; through administrative or political status; and through lists of settlements named as 'urban' in the national census.

McGranahan *et al.* (2005) however were of the view that the level of urbanization depends not only on which of these four ways is being used, but on the specific criteria applied, which also vary substantially. Minimum population density criteria per the United Nations International listing (2001) commonly ranges between 400 and 1,000 persons per square kilometre; minimum size criteria typically range between 1,000 and 5,000 residents; and maximum agricultural employment is usually in the range of 50–75%. In the United Nations International listing (2001) population thresholds for defining urban varied between 200 and 50,000 persons.

Urbanization can take various different physical forms, and some of these forms do not create a clear rural-urban continuum. Traditionally urban employment (i.e. in manufacturing and services) is increasingly found in areas with traditionally rural land uses (e.g. agriculture) and population densities. Some authors (e.g. Champion and Hugo, 2004; Montgomery *et al.*, 2003) argue that planners are being misled by the continued reliance on a somewhat artificial distinction between urban and rural. All these variations suggest that great caution is needed in international comparisons of urbanization, and in assessing urbanization trends over time.

2.7 Migration and Development in Africa

African countries have experimented with many kinds of development strategies designed to raise the standard of living of their people. Majority of these efforts have not yielded the

expected result, mostly because the population component was not adequately integrated into the development planning process. However, in recent years, the situation has been rectified to the extent that migration has become a crucial variable in policy formulation aimed at achieving rapid socio-economic development.

In Ghana, for example, the urban population in 1960 was 25percent of the total population. The proportion increased by almost 15 percent to 40percent in 2010 (Ghana StatisticalService, 2010). This has engendered both scholarly and policy interests and concerns. The concerns have emanated from the fact that the bulk of the urban population constitute migrants from rural areas and other small towns in the countryside. The loss of rural populations to urban centres is often bemoaned for its implied adverse effect on rural development (Ritchey, 1976; Browning &Feindt, 1969). This creates a form of "brain drain" on the rural populations.

2.8 Historical Perspectives of Migration in Africa

Population movements in Africa date back several centuries and evidently predate colonial rule (Twumasi-Ankrah, 1995). However, the pattern, volume, intensity and the direction of migration in Africa have been altered by colonial administrations mostly due to their style of administration and economic programmes put in place which were mostly foreign to the indigenes they colonized (Twumasi-Ankrah, 1995).Moreover by accelerating some pre-existing migration patterns, colonial rule exerted a notable impact on the motivations for migration. Although the colonization of African countries was largely not homogenous, the effects of colonization on migration were mostly felt in the economic, social and political

structures of the traditional African society. Whilst East, Central and South Africa usually had large agglomerations of European settlers and practiced large plantation forms of agriculture, West Africa did not experience this kind of colonization and thus did not have the same effect of colonization especially on labour migration.

Almost throughout Africa, the economic strategy during colonial rule was geared towards the development of the foreign-export sector, with much emphasis being placed on development of the urban sector. The resulting uneven and unequal growth of the economy led to distinct social and economic differentiation between the rural and urban sectors. This therefore led to the considerable expansion of industrialization in the metropolis and increased population because of the availability of economic activities.

2.9 The Push-Pull Factors of Migration

Ghana, like many other developing countries, suffers from the problem of uneven development and distribution of basic social amenities between rural and urban areas.

The apparent dualism and disparities between the rural and urban areas being relics and legacies of the colonial administration persists after more than five decades of political independence promoting the implementation of numerous lofty rural development programmes by different national governments. The building of better roads and transportation systems has only served to facilitate migration from the rural areas. In Ghana, as in other African countries, the disparities and unfairness in the distribution of national resources help to explain this phenomenon.

Most of the rural-urban migrants of today move in response to the "push" from the vagaries and despair of rural living and the "pull" of Western industry, commerce, and "bright lights" of the urban areas (Caldwell, 1969; Frazier, 1961). It has been said that the school curricula has undermined the traditional rural order by failing to teach the requisite skills for adaptation to the indigenous way of life. Education at all levels has orientated the recipients to town-life.

However, the lack of prestige and appreciation for farm work, the social degradation and stigma associated with rural living, lack of appropriate jobs, and the dearth of social amenities in rural settlements affect the "educated" and the "uneducated" alike. The social background of the rural-urban migrant population in Ghana is therefore heterogeneous in nature.

2.10 Historical Perspective of North-South Migration in Ghana

The three northern regions of Ghana have historically constituted a belt of sparse population. There are however some few areas with evidence of population concentration. The largely sparse population is a consequence of the region's disadvantaged position with respect to natural resource availability. There is vast land with very limited natural resources. In addition, the pattern of development that the country inherited from the colonial administration at the time of independence and the subsequent development programmes, which the later governments embarked upon only, further deepened the North's comparatively disadvantaged socio-economic position. There was a conscious effort to develop the forest and coastal belt for the production of minerals, cash crops, timber for export. This facilitated the creation of transport links, ports and harbours from the coast. The

North was virtually left behind, resulting in a spatial dichotomy with a relatively developed south and largely undeveloped north (Kwankye *et al.*, 2009). This pattern of development could have triggered the migration of economically active persons from the north to the south for jobs in the areas of agricultural and mining areas.

Between the 1960s and early 1970s migration from the north mostly involved male adults who moved to work in the cocoa growing areas, oil palm plantations, and mining companies in the south. With time, however, this has been superseded by young person's moving to the urban centres of the South such as Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi and Tema. There is also evidence of young females also migrating to become head potters (kayayei) in the South. These young migrants generally have little or no education and are unskilled (Kwankye *et al.* 2009).

2.11 Development Gap between Northern and Southern Ghana

There is a considerable development gap between the Northern and Southern Ghana. The World Bank report (2006) attributes this phenomenon largely to causes such as the geographical positioning i.e. the lower rainfall, savannah vegetation and remote and inaccessible location of much of the north and the pre-colonial relationships between kingdoms and tribes. The differences that exist between the northern kingdoms and the diverse ethnic groups have been the source of most ethnic conflicts post-independence. However, the reasons for the seemingly wide gap between the North and South of Ghana is arguable because Burkina Faso, which is a direct neighbour of Ghana to the North, has endowments which by far are less good compared to northern Ghana but its operational

institutions and infrastructure have allowed its people to make better use of the endowments which are there and thus have better livelihoods compared to Northern Ghana.

The colonial dispensation ensured that Northern Ghana was a labour reserve for the southern mines and forest economy. It is also accredited for being the source for the development gaps in that the most productive and resourceful human personnel migrated to the south to the detriment of the development of the North. Finally, the post-colonial failure to break the established pattern of making the North the hub of labour capital for the industrialization of the South by successive governments is a prime reason for the economic gap between Northern and Southern Ghana.

2.12 Conditions for Addressing the North-South Development Gap

Political, economic and socio-cultural conditions have been identified as the developmental catalysts, which need to be holistically addressed before a country can effectively address regional inequality. Thus, for Ghana to fully address the issue of regional inequality, and in particular the persistent disadvantage of its three northern regions these pertinent conditions must be tackled to provide the analytical framework for the assessment of any institutionalized programme or policy put in place to reduce the economic gap between the North and the South.

2.12.1 Political Conditions

Smith, (2000) identified that there are a number of ways in which a 'central' commitment to regional balance can be expressed by a government. Populists' nationalism should thus be replaced by embracing diversity and difference. The representation of poor regions in the elite in government and the degree to which elites are fractured (e.g. economic and political

elites) bring opportunities for the underdeveloped regions to develop the regional case (Brisgten, 1980). Regional administrative capacity is essential, as this also requires central commitment since poor regions cannot easily resource their own administrations. It may be appreciation of the political risks of increased or constant spatial inequality, which underlies a commitment to balance development.

Ghana's underdeveloped regions in the north might become flashpoints for broader conflicts with unresolved conflicts in the north periodically escalating since 1980s. This may partly be a result of absence of a dynamic economy capable of absorbing and using the energies of the youth who usually are at the heart of conflicts (Brukum, 2001).

There is an ensuing debate about the relative merits of federal versus unitary political system in addressing spatial inequality. The orthodox position is that a unitary position is better in redistributing national resources among regions. There is however, evidence that federal or decentralized systems which have inbuilt political autonomy for the poor regions to make their case, are more powerful than centralized system. This system reduces the risk of secession and underpins redistribution (Shankar and Shah, 2003).

2.12.2 Economic Conditions

Economists all over the world belong to either of two camps of theorists, i.e. divergence theorists (e.g. Krugman, 1991) and proponents of convergence theorists (e.g. Williamson, 1965). Convergence theory suggest that equality in income levels will be achieved through market liberalization regardless of initial conditions, provided diffusion and adoption of technological change is unrestrained. A strong divergence hypothesis initial conditions (such

as level of income and resource endowments) matter and that increasing returns to scale and externalities of investment lead to agglomeration of economies.

Krugman and Venables (1995) argue that lowering trade barriers to an intermediate level leads to greater inequality and reinforces the patterns, but that as integration proceeds, the process is reversed as trade and transport costs become smaller. In Ghana, labour is very mobile though not in its entirety because there are some constraints in home peasant agriculture and mobility.

This notwithstanding, labour in urban areas remain relatively immobile because of institutional and infrastructural limitations and the concentration of the middle class in these centres where there appear to be considerable economic activities. There is growing body of evidence that liberalization and pattern of growth gives rise to increase inter-regional inequality in developing and transitional countries including Ghana. Divergence is likely to be caused by high barriers to internal mobility of factors of production. The government can design policy interventions reduce the inter-regional inequality. (World Bank, 2006)

2.12.3 Socio-Cultural Conditions

Dimensions of inequality often overlap and transcend over time and space (Chronic Poverty Report, 2004). Spatial inequality may be constituted by ethnic, class, and/or religious elements. People from a particular geographical region may carry unique identities with them where ever they go and most often people from undeveloped regions often tend to migrate to areas of higher economic advantages. In Ghana, migrants from Northern Ghana are often tagged with different names and tribal connotations. These tags almost certainly develop into patterns of learned behaviour strategies for coping which reinforces or confirms inequality. If

a region is to develop dynamically; norms, values, attitudes may need to change (Chronic Poverty Report, 2004).

2.13 Causes of North-South Migration

The decision to migrate in Ghana has often been a response to a combination of several pull and push factors, including economic, social, political and environmental factors such as poverty, landlessness and economic dislocations. These factors are also often linked to factors such as trade, urbanization and the growth of administrative sectors. Agriculture, land degradation and rural poverty also induce migration.

Arthur (1991) identified north-south migration to be the most predominant of all movements within Ghana. Anarfi and Kwankye (2003) observed that, migrants have generally moved from resource-poor to resource-rich areas, with a higher tendency of movements from the northern parts of the country to the southern cities.

In addition, Awumbila (1997) explained that the north-south pattern of migration may be due to spatial inequalities in levels of development brought about by a combination of colonial and post-independence economic policies and environmental factors among others. Other studies highlight economic factors as main causes especially of internal migration in Ghana.

Poverty and lack of employment opportunities have been stated by Kwankye (2005) as the main contributory factors for many young people moving from their rural communities to urban centres. Findings of these research studies in Ghana have indicated that traditionally, migration involved males who travelled over long distances as well as for short to long periods to the agricultural and mining communities in the south (Songsore, 2003). Female

migration consisted of spouses joining their husbands or relatives to help socially and economically (Boakye-Yiadom and McKay, 2006).

Whitehead *et al.*, (2007) suggest that ‘child migration is frequently a negotiated decision in which both parents and children strive to meet their own objectives’. Aside poverty, socio-cultural factors such as marriage may account for why a young girl from the north migrates to acquire household items for use after marriage. Because of this, females now form the majority in internal migrations from northern Ghana to urban centres in the south.

Awumbila and Ardayfio-Schandorf, (2008) identified that many female migrants from the North now move independently through networks of friends and relations to the South. This means that contrary to earlier studies that identified women as migrating mostly to join partners therefore making them dependants, young females in the current migration flow tend not to be just dependants but autonomous migrants who have made their decision and move despite the fact that there may be no family member at the destination area (Whitehead *et al.*, 2007).

2.14 A Review of Relevant Migration Theories

Various theories of migration have been advanced in explaining rural-urban migration. This study adopts the neo-classical theory in explaining rural-urban migration. Neo-classical migration theory views migrants as individual, rational actors, who decide to move on the basis of a cost-benefit calculation. Assuming free choice and full access to information, they are expected to go where they can be the most productive, that is, are able to earn the highest wages. This capacity obviously depends on the specific skills a person possesses and the specific structure of labour markets. The neoclassical theory understands migration to be

driven by differences in returns to labour across markets. The most basic model originally developed to explain migration in the process of economic development in the works of Lewis (1954) and Harris and Todaro (1970) who proposed the “Harris-Todaro model” which has remained the basis of neo-classical migration theory (de Haas, 2008).

Neo-classical migration theory views rural-urban migration as an integral part of the whole development process whereby surplus labour in the rural sector supplies the workforce for urban industrial economies (Lewis, 1954). Neo-classical theory has within its purview the push-pull framework that underscores the economic milieu of the flow of workers.

The theory has been subjected to criticism on conceptual and empirical grounds by scholars such as Massey et al (1998) and Arango (2000).

According to Arango (2000, p. 287), the theory ‘downplays non-economic factors (particularly cultural determinants, bound to be influential in such an existential decision as migration), that it mechanically reduces the determinants of migration, that treats migrants and societies as if they were homogeneous, and that its perspective is static.’ The theory equates migrants with workers, and disregards all migration that is not labour migration. However, owing to its analytical rigor and its ability to propose a set of testable hypotheses and provide useful tools for analyzing both the causes and the effects of migration. As a result of, it has come to occupy a prominent position in current academic and policy-related research on (Kurekova, 2011).

Migration studies in Ghana have been done within the neoclassical ‘Push-Pull’ theoretical framework as originated by Ravenstein (1889) in his work, ‘Laws of Migration’. His conclusions were that unfavourable conditions in one place ‘push’ people out and favourable conditions in an external location ‘pull’ them in and that the primary cause of migration is economic in nature. The theory of intervening obstacles by Lee (1966) also features in many Ghanaian migration research and findings that have indicated that the distance factor as proposed by Ravenstein (1889) as a determinant of migration could be overcome by factors such as a person’s education and knowledge of potential receiving population or family ties (Mensah-Bonsu, 2003; Twumasi-Ankrah, 1995).

2.15 Effects of North-South Migration

A study of migration by Cleveland, (1991) showed that migration from the north at any particular time takes around half of all working age males, and 15 per cent of working age females to southern Ghana for periods of at least a year. Similarly, Kunfaa (1999) argues that young people in urban and rural areas feel they have no choice but to leave home in search of work, since their remittances are likely to make a difference in their families. However, Mensah-Bonsu (2003) found that migrants send home only US\$5-15 a year in remittances, making little impact on rural livelihoods. Recent academic and media attention on internal migration of the poor in Ghana has tended to move away from north-south migration in general to more specific issues, such as the link between migration and HIV/AIDS, and an apparently growing number of women and especially child migrants who may be victims of trafficking and/or other exploitative practices.

The spread of HIV/AIDS is said to be linked to the movement of women from rural to urban areas where they do not earn enough to live, and where they are therefore exposed to prostitution, rape, and/or promiscuity (Anarfi, 1993). There is also the ever increasing concern about trafficking, with much emphasis on children being sold by their parents to fisher folks on Lake Volta, or adolescent girls working as head porters '*kayayie*' at lorry stations and markets (ILO, 2001).

2.16 Rural Poverty Reduction

Poverty in Ghana is predominantly found in the rural areas. Of the 35% of Ghanaians classified as poor, 75% live in the rural districts and depend essentially on agricultural production for their livelihood. The most affected are women who are believed to perform about 40% of all agricultural activities (World Bank, 1995). Gender inequalities in all labour markets in Ghana bear striking semblance to other developing countries where men and women are concentrated in different socio-cultural spheres fuelled by a communal idiosyncrasy of specific duties and work labelled as 'women's work' (Brydon, 1992). The ensuing result is that women are concentrated in the type of employment for which the risk of poverty is high and as such are found engaged predominantly in food production, unpaid work of family enterprises and self-employment. The informal sector entails a greater number of women than men due to their levels of skills, education and lack of economic resources (UNDP, 2007) with only few women attaining high managerial positions (African Development Fund, 2008).

Local governance promotes good governance factors such as: participatory democracy at grass roots, civil society participation in decision-making and resource allocation; transparency and anti-corruption mechanisms; human rights and administrative justice; equitable and fair access to services; fair balance between government and private sector; and the separation of powers between the executive, legislative and judicial arm of government.

Nkum (2002) enumerated the policy objectives of local governance aimed at reducing rural poverty as:

- *Building bridges between public administration and investment promotion of private sector*
- *Investing in traditional authorities and civil societies for the purpose of enhancing wealth creation in rural areas.*
- *Promoting grass root participation in the formulation of policies and programmes thereby enhancing ownership and appropriate choice of priorities and technologies that will address the needs of the poor.*
- *Ensuring transparency, accountability and anti-corruption mechanisms in public expenditure processes thereby making more resources available for pro-poor development.*
- *Enabling the broad base civil society and private sector involvement in the provision of public goods and services, thereby ensuring more equitable access to basic needs and services*
- *Promoting civil society capacity to serve as an effective counterpart to the dominance of the central government in decision making and in the promotion of democratic principles*

- *Promoting popular participation and ownership of the machinery of government by shifting the process of governance from command to consultative processes and by devolving power, competence, and resources to the local level.*

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study Design

The research methodology incorporated a multifaceted survey design approach, which sought ways to identify causes of rural-urban migration, and institutionalized local economic development programmes in the Sankpala community.

The use of both qualitative and quantitative approaches was employed in this study because individually both compensate for each other's weaknesses (Creswell 2009, Thornhill 2009). Labuschgne (2003) explains that a qualitative research design relies extensively on in-depth interviews that have non-numerical data as a result. Qualitative research is often conducted in natural settings and does not attempt to control the context or conditions surrounding the research setting thus prompting the use of the term "naturalistic research" to describe this approach. However qualitative methods, have been criticized for not allowing for generalizations and predictions (Bryman, 2001; Teye, 2012)

A survey however, which is considered as a quantitative method provides the researcher with a lot of information obtained from a large sample of individuals at a relatively short period. Considering the time available for this study the quantitative method provided the opportunity to interview 100 respondents over a relatively shorter period of time (Creswell 2009; Teye, 2012). Quantitative data collection methods however do not also provide opportunities for respondents to explain their responses (Bryman, 2001)

A purposive sampling technique was conducted to select officials at the District Assembly officials to conduct an interview session. This helped in understanding the various programmes being implemented to ensure the reduction of rural urban migration and improvement of economic livelihood of the inhabitants. Various opinion leaders in the community were also selected in interviewed and their views incorporated in the research. The purposive sampling technique was also used to select one hundred individuals from the community for the administration of questionnaires. This method was employed because the study was interested in persons who have ever migrated and potential migrants

3.2 The Study Area

The study area is Sankpala, a town in the Central Gonja District of the Northern Region of Ghana. This site was chosen because it is noted for the major influx of its citizens from the town, searching for greener and better economic prospects in cities in Southern Ghana.

Sankpala is one of the Central Gonja communities and is located at the northern part of the District capital. It is a nodal village 14 miles along the Tamale – Kumasi road from the North and 12 miles from Yapei from the South. It is central among several Communities including Kusawgu, Tidrope, Wambong and Kampong. It shares boundaries with Kanpog in the North, Darivoyily in the East and Kusawgu and other communities in the South. The population density of the Community is 8.3 persons per sq. km.

3.3 Study Population

Participants of this study were mainly inhabitants residing in the community. Recruitment for the study was solely based on voluntary participation and respondents were briefed on the benefits of the study.

3.4 Sample Size

The minimum number of persons targeted was 100. This number is approximately 10% of the total number of inhabitants. The Community has about 994 people according to 2006 population study comprising 587males and 412females.

3.5 Sampling Technique

The sampling technique employed in this study was the purposive sampling for recruiting respondents in the community and the purposive sampling for examining views from the opinion leaders. The purposive sampling technique aimed at targeting specific people of influence and direct link to the study i.e. Opinion leaders in the community and District Assembly Officials and persons who have ever migrated.

3.6 Data and Information Collection Instruments

The main instruments employed in the collection of data were the closed-ended questionnaire. Structured interview guide was employed to collect data from opinion leaders in the selected district. The questionnaires were administered by a team of young graduates

conversant with the area and fluent in the language of the people. Respondents were interviewed in a language that they had clear understanding off.

3.7 Limitation of Study

The time allocated for the study was limited considering the use of both qualitative and quantitative methods in the study. The LED is a new concept that was yet to be fully understood and implemented and hence getting respondent who had a in-depth knowledge on the LED framework was difficult. Limited resource was also a limitation of the study. Persons used for data collection were paid very little allowances and this could influence motivation for collecting accurate data negatively.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The respondents were recruited solely based on voluntary participation. All respondents were briefed on the benefits of the study before recruitment and reserved the right to withdraw from the study at any point during the interview. The identities of all the respondents were protected as required by the guidelines governing academic research.

3.9 Data Analysis

The data obtained was analysed using SPSS statistical package version 16. The results obtained were represented in tables, graphs and figures for easy interpretation and understanding.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This Chapter discusses presents data and discussion from data analyses..

4.2 Socio-Demographic Analyses

4.2.1 Age

Table1 Age of Respondents

Age	Freq.	Percent	Cum Freq.
16 – 19	17	17.00	17.00
20 – 29	34	34.00	51.00
30 – 39	24	24.00	75.00
40 – 49	16	16.00	91.00
50 – 59	9	9.00	100.00
Total	100	100.00	

Source: Field Survey 2013

Out of the 100 respondents, 75% of the respondents were young persons between aged 16 and 39 years. This indicates that the community is made up of young persons. They make up the economic labour force and are more likely to respond to LED initiatives in the area.

4.2.2 Sex

Table 2 Migration Status by Sex

Sex	Ever Migrated To The South		
	Yes	No	Total
Male	62.50	65.91	64.00
Female	37.50	34.09	36.00
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00
Pearson chi2 (1) = 0.124			Pr = 0.724

Source: Field Survey July 2013

Data from table 2 shows that majority of the population that moves are males. 62.50% of the respondents had ever migrated to southern Ghana while just 37.50% of the female in were males as opposed to their females in the community had ever migrated. This finding corroborates findings in Ravenstiens (1889) and Adepoju (2005). It must however be noted that there is an increase number of female migration too Piper (2005). According to the youth leader of the community men are the breadwinners of most of the households and hence are most likely to migrate out of the community in order to earn extra income to support the family.

4.2.3 Education

Table 3 Level of Education of Respondents

Level of Education	Freq.	Percent
None	48	48.00
Primary	20	20.00
JSS/Middle School	12	12.00
SSS/Vocational/Technical	12	12.00
Polytechnic	3	3.00
University	5	5.00
Total	100	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2013

The results further show that a large percentage (48%) of the respondents had no formal education consequently, this resulted in the most of the population engaged in farming (see Table 3). Another 20% also had only primary education while just eight percent had tertiary education (polytechnic or university). The high population of person with no educations in the community could account for the high involvement in subsistence agriculture.

4.2.4 Marital Status of Respondents

Table 4 Marital Status

Marital status	Freq.	Percent
Never Married	33	33.00
Married	67	67.00
Total	100	100.00

Source: Field Survey July 2013

Sixty-seven percent of the respondents were also married as seen in table 4 and are more likely to have greater financial responsibilities towards both nuclear and extended family. The lack of economic opportunities in the area is likely to motivate persons to migrate to southern Ghana where it is assumed are much more economic opportunities. Below are the sentiments expressed by Alidu and Hamzah both married community members.

I have three wives and seven children. I have to feed and clothe them. My wives depend on the farming i do to survive so in the dry season i have to go to my brother in Kumasi so i can work and get some money to send to them. That money takes care of the children's school fees, clothing's and the women's upkeep.–Alidu

Look my friend! Marriage is not easy oh. If you marry as a man and you are not working the women don't respect you. If you stay in Sankpala and never travel to Kumasi or 'Nkran' (Accra) to work small you would always be poor. If you farm, you are likely to get only eight to ten bags of early or late maize or millet. If your wife sells three of the maize and gets GH¢500 in total can that sustain you for the rest of the year. I am asking you? Your wife would complain that there is no money so you have to join the other young men travelling to Kumasi to work. As a man it is your responsibility to travel and make some income for your family- Hamzah

4.3 Causes of Rural-Urban Migration

In economically deprived area such as Sankpala economic reasons should be expected to account for migration in the area. Results indicate that majority of the people who migrate are the active youth group. Approximately 90% percent of persons who constitute the youth within the age bracket 16 to 39 had migrated to the south indicated that the lack of Jobs in the study area had motivated them to migrate to the southern part of Ghana.

Table 5 Migration and Income of Respondent

Migration Status	Summary Of Monthly Income Of Respondent		
	Mean	Std. Dev.	Freq.
Yes	217.15094	219.32926	53
No	133.58974	65.312495	39
Total	181.72826	176.05107	92

Source: Field Survey 2013

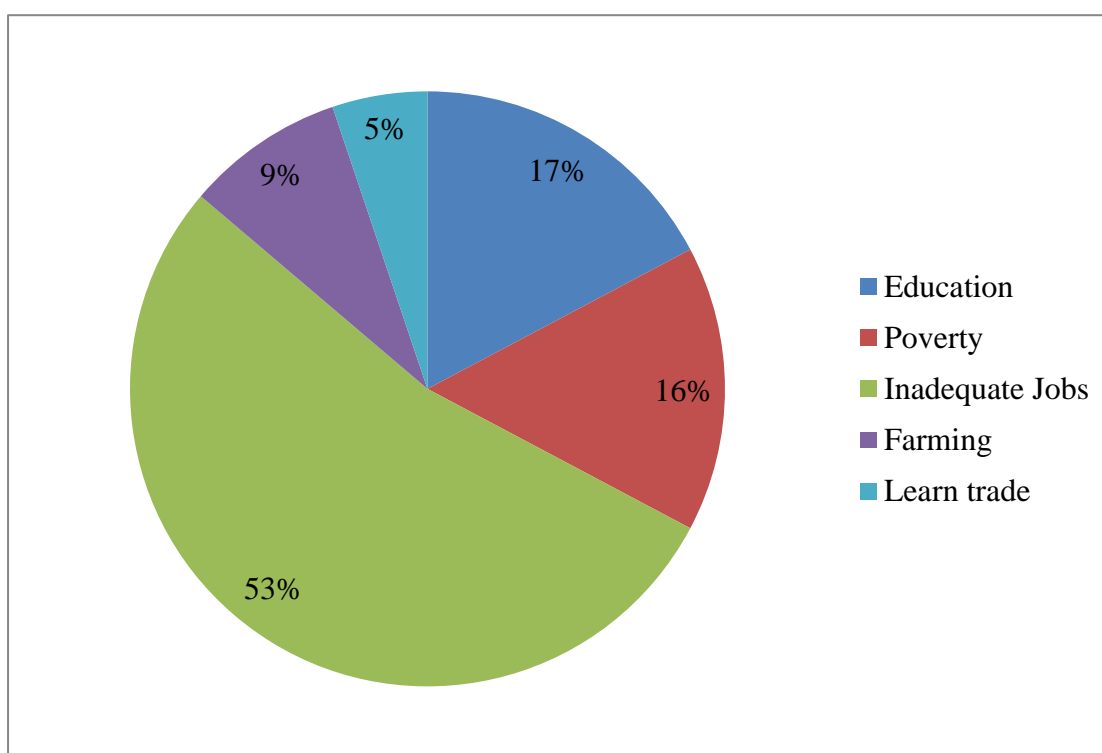
Table 5 shows clearly that the income levels of persons who had ever migrated was higher than those who had never travelled. The increased income level of the migrants is enough motivation from persons to want to migrate in order to better them financially. According to the youth leader of the community, most of the youth who migrate to Kumasi and Accra come back home and are able to by new motorbikes, build cement houses, marry and wear better clothes. Below are the sentiments of a migrants' father.

When my son Alidu travelled to Kumasi he came back with a lot of cash. He bought me a motorbike and bought one for himself. Look at my house over there the zinc (iron

roofing sheets) was bought by him. He has gone back and is building a block house (cement house) for himself. *Walahi the south is good- Baaba*

4.4 Reasons for Migration

Fig 2 Reasons for Migration



Source: Field Survey 2013

The results show that most of the people who migrate do so as a result of the inadequate jobs in the area. This also accounts for the low income levels experienced in the area. Inadequate jobs and poverty together accounted for 69% of out migration, education accounted for 17% while farming and leaning a trade accounted for 9% and 5% respectively.

According to a respondent from the regional planning office of the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly seasonal migration of young men and women from the area is common. These populations move as seasonal economic migrants to the southern parts of Ghana, mainly Accra and Kumasi, during the off season in order to make some extra income to support themselves and their families. The main occupation of the people in the district is farming which is seasonal. During the dry season there is little or no activity for the farmer to do. This encourages them to move out to find jobs.

Even for those who have not migrated before but have intentions to migrate, job opportunities are the main motivation to migrate (see Table 5). Therefore, any intervention to manage the migration situation not only the Sankpala community but communities that have high out migration due to lack of economic opportunities should consist of job creation.

Table 6 Intention verses Reason to Migrate

Given the Opportunity would you migrate	Reason for Intention to Migrate					
	Don't Know	Work	Comfortable Place Of Origin	At	Too Old To Migrate	Total
Yes	0.00	93.33	6.67		0.00	100.00
No	31.25	0.00	50.00		18.75	100.00
Total	10.87	60.87	21.74		6.52	100.00

Pearson chi2 (3) = 38.9467

Pr = 0.000

Source: Field Survey 2013

Table 6 shows that for respondents who indicated they intend to migrate down south given the opportunity, 93.33% of them would do so in order to look for work or employment. A community member has this to this sentiment to share;

Travelling is not easy. It is even not easy to get a job down south. Why should I leave the comfort of my family and friend and go and do 'kaya' in Kumasi. If I have work to do here that can at least take care of my father, my wife and send my children to school why should I migrate. Is it not because of poverty? If you stay here you would borrow money and you won't get money to pay-Mohammed, Sankpala community.

If the community was endowed with employment opportunities people would to choose to stay back and work rather than migrate down south predominantly for work.

4.5 The Importance of LED

According to the operational manual on LED for district assemblies (2012), some MMDAs in the country are not adequately resourced to carry out LED activities. They have limited capacity and knowledge of the existing economic potential in their locality. This limits their ability to harness potentials for economic development. The Local Economic Development approach to development however provides opportunity for these MMMDS and District Assemblies to collaborate with private sector, communities, NGOs and other stakeholders to provide job opportunities for all. The primary purpose of the LED strategy is to build the capacity of the local area or community to improve its economic potential and quality of life for all. This is done by providing key conditions for the promotion of economic activities based on competitive advantage of the community. LED, if implemented, has the potential to provide jobs and reduce rural-urban migration not only in the Sankpala community but in

areas where people migrate extensively due to little or no economic activity (internet source: ILO website, assessed on 22nd July 2013)

4.6 Potential LED Activities in the Community

Table 7 Community LED Activities

Community Economic Potential	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
Land/Agriculture	32	32.00	32.00
Sheabutter processing	51	51.00	83.00
Market Center	5	5.00	88.00
Farming/Livestock Rearing	12	12.00	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2013

Results from table 6 indicate that the people of the area consider sheabutter processing as the activity with the economic potential. Although women mostly do this activity, majority of the respondents view the community as having the potential to develop the industry into a large economic activity that could employ men in the value chain if developed well. This is closely followed by crop farming such as maize, millet soya beans and rice. According to the

economic planning unit of the DA then community also has the potential to grow cash crops such as cashew, groundnuts and the butternut squash for export. These crops if developed have the potential to employ large numbers of the youth in the community and surrounding communities.

4.7 District Assembly LED Programmes

According to the regional planning unit and the planning unit at the Central Gonja District the LED could be seen as a development strategy that would enable districts develop their economic potentials to encourage job creation and general poverty reduction and to stimulate economic growth in districts towns and villages. The 1992 Constitution makes the DAs responsible to facilitate LED by providing a more conducive environment for investments. This is believed would indirectly create jobs.

The Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) is a long term development strategy (2010-2030) that seeks to coordinate the development agenda for the three Northern Regions. SADA is expected to provide opportunities for poor peasants, especially women, to own assets in economic trees, sustain their food crop production and protect the fragile ecosystem of the northern savannah by managing the flood-prone river-beds better. A key strategy of the SADA is the modernization of agriculture. SADA seeks to generate a market driven force as a means of stimulating farmers to produce, using a marketing-based out grower system with improved technology and timely inputs. By this strategy, farmers do not wait to find markets after they have produced; rather the market defines their production targets and quality.

SADA also aims at expanding the scope and number of private sector firms and entrepreneurs investing in value addition of agricultural products. It also aims at employing communities through training, entrepreneurship development and the provision of business development services in general. The SADA programme is however yet to be implemented in the community.

Another development policy that is biased towards the economic development of the North is the Northern Rural Growth Programme (NRGP). Just like other development programmes that are targeted at the development of the north in general the NRGP is an eight-year agricultural initiative launched by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) in 2009. It is aimed at the sustainable poverty reduction among rural households in the Northern part of the country.

Areas of Focus

1. Rehabilitation of feeder roads that lead directly to farm gates
2. Provision of grants for agricultural machinery for farmers
3. Irrigation for dry season farming
4. Linking farmers to market

A few community members in the community had benefited from irrigation equipment for dry season farming.

Table 8 **NGOs and LED**

Are there NGO/Private Investors in your Community	Freq.	Percent	Cum
Yes	52	52.00	52.00
No	48	48.00	100.00
Total	100	100.00	

Source: Field Survey 2013

The table above indicates that there are NGOs in the community. Among the NGOs mentioned Africa 2000 Network-Ghana (A2N-GH) and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency ADRA are most visible. A2N-Gh supports the community with agricultural inputs such as improved seed (maize, millet, and Soya) livestock rearing (Improved breed of goats and sheep) and inputs for dry season farming (irrigation pumps). They have also supported the sheabutter women groups in the community with a centre where they produce and store sheabutter. The women have also benefited from capacity training on simple book keeping and packaging to boost there sheabutter business. ADRA through their micro finance programme supports individual farmers with loans of about Gh¢ 300.00 as capital to help improve farm yield.

The challenge with these supports is that they benefit just a few members of the community, implemented on a small scale.

Table 9 Level of Implementation of LED Programmes

Current Level Of LED	Freq.	Percent
Initiatives		
Not Developed	4	4.00
Under Developed	85	85.00
Fairly Developed	11	11.00
Total	100	100.00

Source: Field Survey July 2013

According to table 9, 85% of the respondents from t in the community most of their economic potentials are poorly developed. They youth leader of the community explained that while the sheabutter processing activity in the community has a lot of economic potential to empower both males and females the industry still remains at the rudimentary stages. The sheabutter is picked locally by women and processed using traditional methods. Packaging and access to market opportunities also remain a big challenge for the industry. If the economic potentials of the community are developed well most of the youth would stay behind and work.

At the DA level, the underdevelopment of LED activities is blamed on the inadequate funds to support LED activities in the districts and community. The District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) is supposed to enable the DA fund LED activities. The fund is however not adequate to support development activities at the local level. This sentiment was expressed the district planning officer who observed that:

The DACF comes quarterly but by the time, the money hits our accounts we are already in dept. Sometimes the money also delays and this in turn delays implementation. You know that economic activities here is seasonal and so if you miss the season they money would be used for other thing. The DA is also to collect revenue to support the DACF but if your economic activities are not that much here unlike the southern district and so revenue collection is a problem. All these have affected the amount of funds we have to support economic activities. If we had adequate funding we would be able to support LED activities and the youth of this area would minimize seasonal migration to the south. We would also build a strong Local Economic base so that we can increase our revenue collection targets..

4.8 Challenges with LED in the Community/District

Table 10 Level of LED Stakeholder Engagement

Does community have meetings with stakeholders to discuss LED?	Freq	Percent
Yes	28	28.0
No	72	72.0
Total	98	100

Source: Field Survey July 2013

As part of the LED strategy a consultative platform, should be created and facilitated by the DA in a quest to promote economic development in the district. However, figures from table 10 show that 72.0% of the respondents indicate that no such platform had been created for them. This has resulted in uncoordinated development activity in the community. According

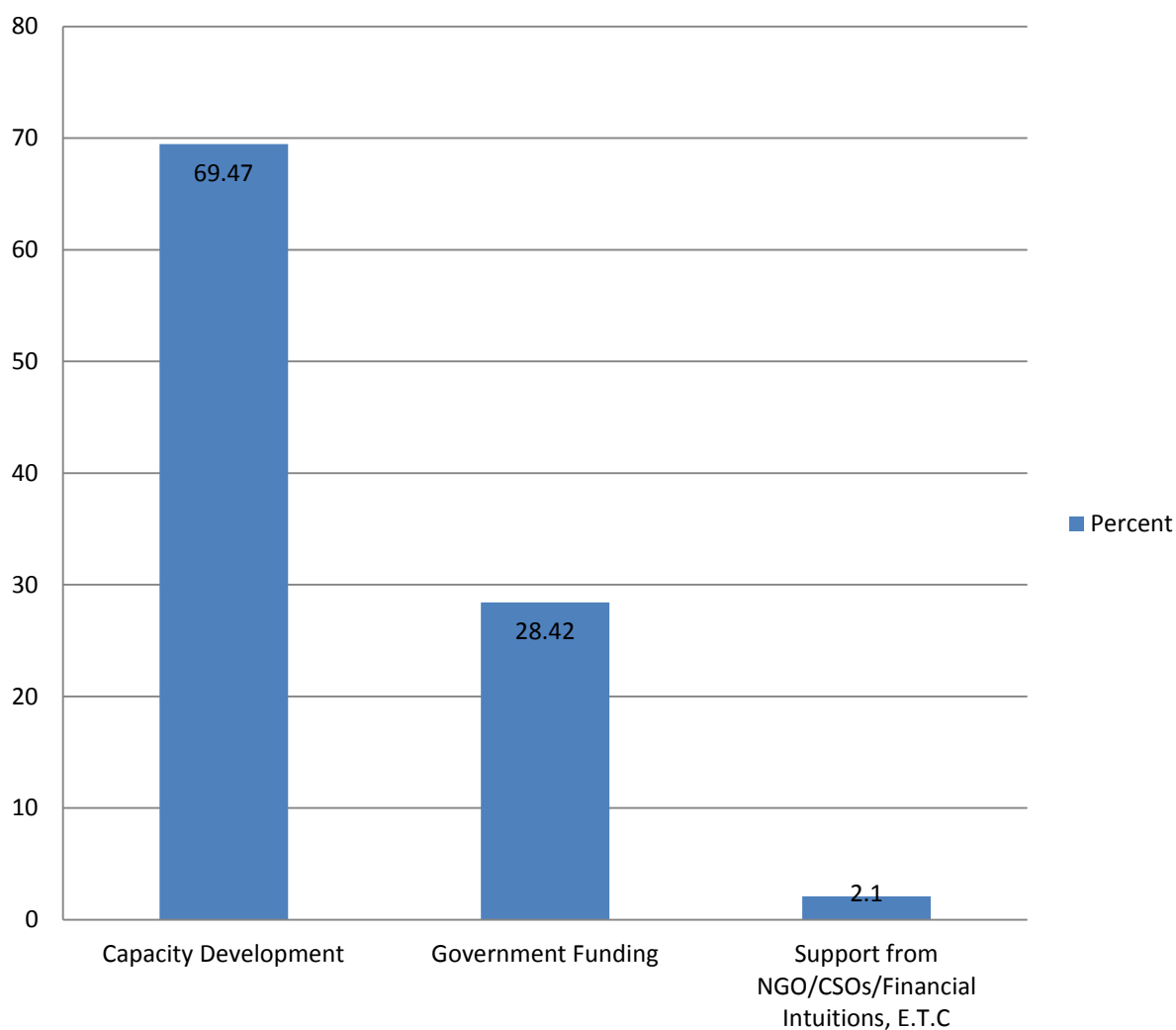
to the district economic planning office although there are department such as the National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) the Business Advisory Centre, other civil society organizations and NGOs as well as the availability of some financial institutions in the district, the LED platform is yet to be created such that economic development is coordinated. The platform is key to the development of local level economic development because it brings together key stakeholders, such as the community representatives, important local government departments at the district level and key CSO, and NGOs together to discuss the economic potential of the community. This has led to the slow economic development since each institution working in the community has its own agenda. This results in small fragmented projects, which have less impact on the community.

Other challenges to the LED process include:

1. The lack of funding for projects
2. The lack of capacity at the local level in the area of entrepreneurial and Marketing Skills
3. Capacity at the district level on LED processes
4. Inadequate market for agricultural produce
5. The DA continuous to be infrastructure biased and hence places more focus on the building of schools, hospitals teachers quarters among others instead of focusing on the economic potential of the communities, activities that “*bring money into the pockets of people*”-regional planner
6. The nonexistence of an LED consultative platform

4.9 Recommendations for Promoting LED

Fig 2 Community Recommendation for promoting LED



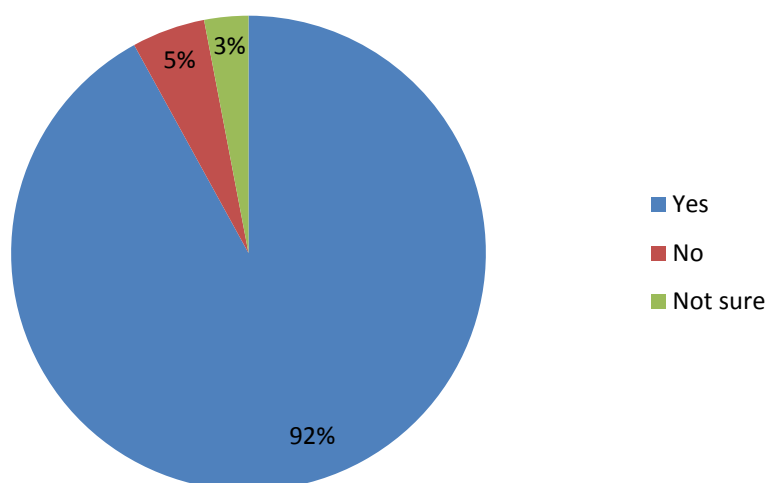
Source: Field Survey July, 2013

From the bar graph above 69.47% of the respondents indicated that their main priority was to develop capacity in the area of entrepreneurial, marketing and loan management skills. To them this was very important to consider when developing LED activities in the community. They also indicated that capacity development in the area of employable skills was also needed.

Respondents (30.53% of them) believed that funding from the Government and support from NGOs CSOs and financial institutions would go a long way to provide and sustain jobs and promote economic development in the community.

4.10 Can LED Help Reduce Rural-Urban Migration

Fig 3 LED and Reducing Rural-Urban Migration



Source: Field Survey July, 2013

Majority of the respondents (92%) expressed the view that LED, if implemented well could help reduce rural-urban migration. They mentioned that the major cause of the seasonal migration of the youth is the lack of sustainable economic venture to engage in. Once they are engaged economically and are earning a constant flow of income the phenomena of seasonal migration would reduce considerably.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter summaries the major findings, conclusions and recommendations from the study. The lack of sustainable economic opportunities at the origin accounts for rural-urban migration in Ghana. This study examined how LED could be used to help reduce rural-urban migration in communities that lack sustainable economic opportunities. The objective of the study was to find out the possible causes and effects of rural-urban migration in Sankpala. It also sought to identify which District Assembly programmes/policies would enhance the economic wellbeing of communities in Sankpala, the current state and level of implementation of the identified LED programmes and activities and also how local economic development initiatives can reduce rural-urban migration in the community.

5.2 Summary of Socio-demographic Characteristics

Majority of the persons who had ever migrated to the southern part of the country in search of job opportunities were aged between 16-19 (75%). Sixty-two percent of the migrants were males while thirty-seven percent of them were female. Most of the migrants were married and hence had greater motivation to migrate for economic opportunities to be able to cater for their wife(s) and children. 48 percent had no formal education while just 5% had university education.

5.3 Causes of Rural Urban Migration in the Sankpala Community

Respondents cited the lack of jobs as the major reason for the North-South migration in the community. The income of persons who has ever migrated was higher than non-migrants.

This is enough motivation for people to migrate to the South to find job opportunities in order to increase their income levels. Majority of the respondents said they if LED programmes and projects were implemented successfully in the community they would have no reason to migrate in search of extra income.

5.4 District Assembly Programmes that Promote LED

Both the regional and the district planning office view LED as a policy that would help reduce the seasonal rural-urban migration in not only the community but also the whole of the northern part of Ghana. According to the 1992, constitution the D.A is mandated to facilitate LED by providing a more conducive environment for investments and develop programmes and policies that would indirectly create jobs. Two key government programmes implemented at the district assembly level that have the potential of promoting LED activities in the community are the SADA and NRGF.

The SADA programme is expected to provide opportunities for the poor in the community to increase their incomes. However, according to respondents the SADA programme has not taken off in their community yet. They hope that once the SADA programme is implemented in their community it could help create jobs for the youth and hence reduce the season flow of rural-urban migration

Then NRGF and agricultural initiative by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture is also another government policy targeted at creating jobs in the northern part of the country through the rehabilitation of feeder roads to farm gates, grants for agricultural machinery, irrigation for dry season farming and linking farmers to market. Only a few respondents have benefited from dry season farming support from this programme. The level of

implementation on the projects according to respondents is low since its benefits only a few members of the community.

5.5 Level of Implementation of LED

Respondents from the in-depth interview agreed that the level of implementation of most of the projects by government and NGOs is low. There is the need to upscale most of the projects in order for it to benefit the wider community. Most of the projects are in fragments and the value chain for most of these economic activities have not been carefully identified

5.6 Other Findings

1. The major cause for rural-urban migration in the Sankpala community is the lack of jobs or sustainable economic activity
2. Respondents agree that if there was all year round economic activity there would be less rural-urban migration
3. Both the government and private agencies are the main stakeholders which need to partner the district assembly to successfully implement all LED activities in the district. In the district, other stakeholders are supporting the assembly to deliver some of the LED activities.
4. Provision of key infrastructure is the major contribution that partner stakeholders are involved in LED activities.
5. The District Assembly is not however playing its role effectively in implementing LED activities according to respondents
6. In addition, most of the people within the communities in the district are not aware of LED activities carried out by the district assembly.

5.7 Challenges

Challenges to Local Economic Development in the community included the continuous focus of the DA on infrastructure development to the neglect of economic activities, the lack of funding for projects, inadequate capacity of the district assembly staff on the LED process and the inadequate capacity of the community member in entrepreneurial and marketing skills.

5.8 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations were made:

1. The people in the community should be adequately sensitized on LED activities which would benefit them and they should be encouraged to be involved to promote the concept of participation at the grassroots /community level.
2. LED should be an important strategy of District Assemblies to help facilitate the process of economic development and change the standard of living of people in the community. The LED concept can play the role of helping the private sector to expand and grow creating employment and increasing the revenue base of the Assemblies through taxation for improved infrastructural development.
3. There should be a LED consultative platform that would encourage a more coordinated approach to community development.
4. LED activities should focus on the youth in order to engage them in all year round economic activities. This would in turn reduce their migration to the south for work

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

Introduction: This questionnaire shall be administered as part of a study on the research topic: ‘‘**Reducing Rural-Urban Migration through the Promotion of Local Economic Development.** The research is purposely for academic work and the information given shall be treated with confidentiality. Please respond appropriately to the questions below:

Section A: Background Characteristics of Respondents

1. Sex of Respondent {1} male {2} female

2. Age of respondent?

- a) {1}below 16 years
- b) {2}16-19
- c) {3}20-29
- d) {4}30-39
- e) {5}40-49
- f) {6}50-59
- g) {7}60+

3. Marital status of respondent

- {1} Never married {2} Married {3} Cohabiting/Living together {4} Separated
- {5} Divorced {6} Widowed

3. Level of education of respondent?

- {1}none {2}primary {3}JSS/Middle School{4}SSS/Vocational/Technical
- {5}college {6}polytechnic {7}university {8} Other

4. What is your main source of livelihood?

{1} farming {2}trading {3}sewing/weaving/hair dressing {4}wage labour {5}pito
brewing {6}teaching/public servant {7}other (specify).....

5. How much is your average monthly income?.....

Section B: This section seeks to examine the reasons for migration to Southern Ghana

6. Have you ever migrated to the south? {1} yes {2} no

7. If the answer to Q6 above is yes, what was your reason for migrating? (*if noskip to question11*)

{1} education {2}poverty {3}job {4}recreation {5}curiosity {6}lack of social
amenities {7}lack of infrastructure {8}farming {9} formal work {10} Family
Reasons {11} other specify

8. If you have never migrated down-south, what keeps you from doing so

{1}no opportunity to travel {2}do not see the need {3}tight work schedule
{4}schooling {5}head of family/clan {6}everything at your disposal {7}other
(specify)

9. Given, the opportunity, will you travel down-south? {1} Yes {2}No

10. What is your reason for the answer in Q9 above

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

11. Do you consider the southern part of Ghana better than the North {1} Yes {2}No

12. What is your reason for the answer in Q11 above

13. The development gap between the north and the south can be closed through LED
{1} strongly disagree {2} disagree {3}not sure {4}agree {5}strongly agree

14. What reason will you give to your answer

Section C. This Section seeks to identify Local Economic Development Opportunities

15. What economic potential does this community have?
.....
.....

16. What is the current level of development of the economic potential (activities)?
{1} not developed {2} underdeveloped {3} fairly developed {4} developed

17. Which of the above mentioned economic potential does the community have comparative advantage in?

18. Do you think the economic activity has the potential of becoming a local business opportunity?
{1} Yes {2} no

19. What district assembly programmes in your community help in economic development?
.....

20. In what ways have these programmes affected economic activities in your locality?
.....

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

21. Are there any NGOs /private investors/civil societies working in your community?

{1} yes {2} no

22. Which of them is involved in promoting economic activities in the community?

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

23. What economic activities are they involved in?

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

24. In what ways have their programmes/activities affected economic activities in your locality?

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

25. What type of investment does the economic opportunity need to develop?

{1} loans {2} capacity development {3} access to land {4} external market opportunities

{5} domestic market opportunities {6} Other

26. Do you have regular discussions with the district assembly and other stakeholders on economic potentials of your locality? {1} Yes {2} No

Section C Challenges to LED

27. What are some of the challenges to developing economic activities in your locality?.

.....

28. What is your recommendation for solving these challenges?

.....

APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. What are the possible causes and effects of rural-urban migration?
2. Which district assembly programmes would enhance the economic wellbeing of communities, businesses and the generality of the citizens?
3. Have you adopted the LED approach to community development in the district
4. What is the current state and level of implementation of the identified LED programmes?
5. What have been the challenges in the implementation of LED programmes in the community?
6. How can some of these challenges be resolved?
7. How can local economic development initiatives reduce rural-urban migration in Ghana?