


**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN SLUMS: APPROACHES AND IMPEDIMENTS IN
ASHAIMAN**



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DECLARATION

I, Jamal Appiah-Kubi, do hereby declare that with the exception of the references duly cited, this thesis titled “Community Development in Slums: Approaches and Impediments in Ashaiman” was entirely conducted by me in the Department of Social Work, University of Ghana, Legon under the supervisions of Dr. Kwabena Frimpong-Manso and Dr. Alice Boateng. This work has never been presented in part or full to any other Department or Institution for any academic activity.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my late mother, Sarah Araba Esaawa Domson. She motivated me to reach for academic excellence but unfortunately, she could not witness my first degree graduation. Although she is not around, she still motivates me to work hard in life.



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ABSTRACT

Community development in Ghana began in the rural areas, and depended on the participation of rural dwellers, based on the spirit of reciprocity and mutual assistance. Over time, it has been adopted in the urban communities. However, there is scanty information on community development in Ghanaian urban communities. Therefore, this study was conducted to understand how the practice has fared in the urban communities, in particular the slums in Ashaiman. A qualitative research design was adopted for the study with seventeen participants who were purposively sampled from three communities in Ashaiman. Data from unstructured interviews were analysed using thematic analysis. The findings of the analysis revealed that community development in Ashaiman adopted the self-help and technical assistance approaches. Contributions of community development to Ashaiman included infrastructural projects, public health projects and campaigns as well as increased civic activism. Inadequate funding was the biggest factor that impeded development efforts within the study area. It is recommended that projects and educational and health care campaigns should be regularly assessed so that errors during execution can be detected and rectified on time. Additionally, efforts to raise more funds for community development should be promoted so that financial constraints can be resolved. It is also recommended that social workers should educate and link inhabitants of the communities to available resources which they may not have knowledge about.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Community development was used to improve the living conditions in Ghanaian communities before it was introduced as a professional practice by the British colonial administration. Inhabitants in rural communities collaboratively undertook efforts to meet their needs, made possible as a result of the collectivist cultural values such as interdependence and reciprocity (Dei, 1998). A typical practice was the ‘nnoboa’ system that was based on self-help and mutual assistance among farmers who took turns to work on each other’s farm during planting and harvesting of crops (Brown, 1984; Dei, 2000).

The British administration introduced community development practice in the 1920s to tackle the high levels of illiteracy, poor infrastructure and other problems that existed in rural communities at the time (Bhattacharyya, 1972). Community development practitioners encouraged and assisted rural inhabitants to work together to develop their communities, capitalising on existing values of mutual aid, reciprocity and interdependence (Smyth, 2004; Craig, Popple & Shaw, 2008). An experiment of community development by means of a mobile team started in Trans Volta Togoland (now Togo) (Kwaku, 1976). The intention was to train the literate members so that they would be equipped to organize social service activities which would help raise the general standard of culture and living in their areas. Other projects that were undertaken in the

early stages of community development included mass education, literacy, self-help construction projects, women's work and extension services (Bhattacharyya, 1972; Lewis, 2000).

Over the years community development in Ghana has grown and expanded to include income-generating activities, health campaigns, community resettlement and construction activities meant to provide social amenities (Kendie & Guri, 2006; Laird, 2007). This is as a result of the success that had been achieved by community development, since the philosophy based on which the process was carried out was in line with the traditional values in the rural communities. Considering the enormous importance of community development to rural communities in Ghana, it became necessary for such efforts to be adopted in Ghanaian urban communities to deal with the problems such as the resettlement programmes in Tema and Akosombo (Sautoy, 1969).

1.2 Statement of the problem

Ghana has become urbanized in recent years due to the rate of rural-urban migration (Simon, McGregor & Nsiah-Gyabaah, 2004). The population in the urban areas grew from 44 percent in 2000 to 51 percent in 2010. The population is predicted to increase to 63 percent by 2025 (Ghana Statistical Service, 2012). The increase in population in the urban areas has been problematic, because there has not been a commensurate infrastructural development leading to the creation of several slums such as Tulaku, Taboo line and Old Fadama in Accra (UN-HABITAT, 2006).

Dinye and Acheampong (2013) assert that the word “slum” was mentioned for the first time in the 1820s when it was used to describe haphazard settlements with poor housing, unsanitary conditions, and poor social amenities. The emergence of slums is attributed to various reasons. However, a major factor that has led to the emergence of slum communities around the globe is urbanization (UN-HABITAT, 2007). United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (2003) attributes the formation of slums to rural-urban migration, poverty in the cities, poor housing plan, lack of structures for implementing planning standards and regulations, and poor repairs and maintenance. Another factor is the inadequacy of urban houses to absorb the high influx of people into the urban communities (Durand-Lasserve, 1996). Slum dwellers often face a myriad of problems including poverty, poor sanitation and poor housing condition (Butala, VanRooyen & Patel, 2010; Dinye & Acheampong, 2013).

In recent years, community development, as opposed to it being practiced in rural communities in the past, has been adopted as a means to help deal with community-oriented problems in urban areas in Ghana (Jankowska, Weeks & Engstrom, 2011; Owusu & Afutu-Kotey, 2010; Dinye & Acheampong, 2013; Izugbara, Tikkanen & Barron, 2014). Thus, Departments of Community Development have subsequently been established in all the major cities and towns (Botchway, 2001; Laird, 2007). For example, community developers who worked as Liaison Officers in urban planning in the Tema and Volta River Resettlement programme in the 1950s served as an instrumental link between government policy and community growth (Norrey, 1965; Sautoy, 1969).

Although community development has been adopted in urban communities in Ghana, not much is known about the nature of the practice of community development in the urban communities. The inadequacy of information on community development in urban slums is as a result of the fact that not much studies have been carried out on community efforts undertaken in the urban slums in Ghana. The literature thus far has concentrated on community development in rural areas. Ideally, there should be much literature on community development in urban slum community developers, just as many studies have been conducted on community development in rural Ghanaian communities (Asomani-Boateng, 2007; Thaddeus & Owusu-Sekyere, 2013). Adequate information on the urban slum communities is needed to help community developers in the urban slums to know the approaches to adopt and also foresee and deal with some of the potential challenges to be faced.

Key authors in community development such Campfen (1997), Sautoy (1969) and Thaddeus and Owusu-Sekyere (2013) have focused on how community development has been practiced in the rural communities. This has led to the inadequacy of information on how community development has fared in the urban slums. This has led to a number of questions being asked about community development in urban slums. Such legitimate questions include: is community development processes in urban areas the same or different from those in rural areas? Are there characteristics in urban communities that necessitate that different approaches to community development are used? It is against this backdrop that this study was conducted to understand community development as a tool for urban communities' development and challenges to the practice.

1.3 The main and specific objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is to understand how community development is undertaken in Ashaiman. Based on this goal, the specific objectives of the study are:

1. To describe the approach(es) used in community development in Ashaiman.
2. To find out the contribution made by community development efforts in Ashaiman.
3. To explore the challenges encountered in community development work in Ashaiman.

1.4 Research questions

The following research questions guided the conduct of the study:

1. What approach(es) are used in community development in Ashaiman?
2. How has community development contributed to the development of Ashaiman?
3. What challenges are encountered in community development work in Ashaiman?

1.5 Significance of the study

This study adds to knowledge on an aspect of community development on which there is not much information. The information from the study on how community development in urban slums is approached, the contributions the process has made, challenges encountered and support gained by the stakeholders in community development efforts in such communities is not enough. This study would come up with information to supplement existing literature. Such information would provide an insight into the approaches used in community development

efforts in urban slums, in order to ascertain how similar or different community development in the urban slums is from community development in the rural communities.

The study also provides information that is useful to policy development with regards to community development in Ghana. The findings and recommendations of this study will inform policies and approaches on urban community development. Beside community development, policies on other matters such as health and education will also benefit from the findings of this study. Such information includes the importance of involving community members in understanding their problems and planning suitable interventions. Such policies will promote the participation of the stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), members of communities and chiefs in community development efforts.

This study provides information on the challenges encountered in the practice in urban communities and how those challenges can be overcome. With such information provided, the various stakeholders would know how their actions and inactions impede community development efforts. This will in turn help the community development practitioners to put in place measures that will make the development efforts worthwhile.

In addition, the study provides information that will be beneficial to social workers. Community development is a field under the social work profession, particularly at the macro level. Social workers will benefit from this study as the information provided by this study will help social workers in playing many macro level roles such as advocacy, brokering, and community development. This study will also help social workers understand the institutions of authorities in

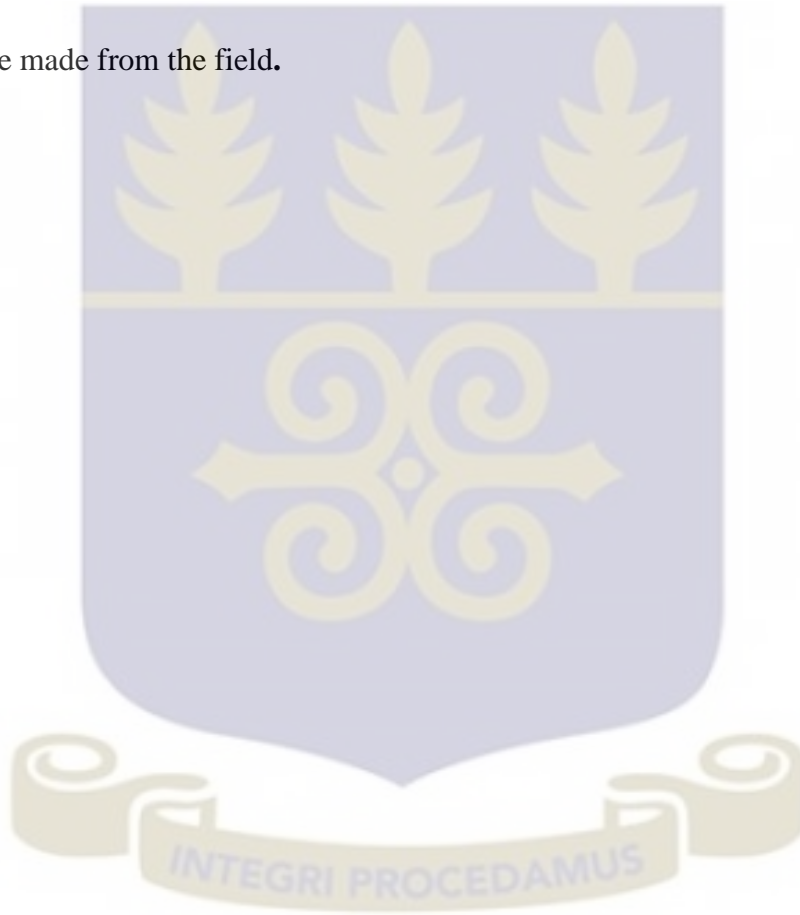
communities and how such institutions govern the interactions among community members. Social workers will also benefit from this study with regards to how to involve the various groups in communities so that their human and material capital can be exploited for community development efforts. Additionally, social workers will be equipped with skills that will help them in playing roles such as creating community awareness about problems and interventions, forming alliances with interest groups, building the capacity of community members and advocacy and brokering.

1.6 Organization of the study

This study has been divided into five (5) chapters. Chapter one (1) which is the introduction entails information on community development. The topic has been introduced from the global level and then narrowed down to the Ghanaian context, with much focus being placed on community development in urban areas. The research problem which the study sought to solve has also been explained in this chapter. The research questions which guided the conduct of the study as well as the objectives, and significance of the study have also been outlined in the chapter. Chapter two (2) discusses literature that exists on the topic. It reviews literature on approaches to community development, contributions made by community development efforts, challenges encountered in community development and measures to overcome the challenges. The theoretical framework of the study has also been discussed in this chapter.

Chapter three (3) which covers the research methodology entails the strategies and procedures that were used to obtain the data needed for the study. It discusses the research design that was

adopted for the study. It also provides information on the population that was studied, data, sampling strategy, sample size, collection technique, among others. The procedures for handling and analyzing data, as well as some ethical issues that were considered in the study have also been explained. Chapter four (4) presents the findings that have been made from the analyzed data. Chapter five (5) contains discussion of findings, conclusion and recommendations. The recommendations that have been made and conclusions that have been drawn are all based on the findings that were made from the field.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviews literature relating to the topic. Themes under which the literature was reviewed include approaches to community development, contributions of community development to beneficiary communities, challenges encountered in the practice and measures adopted to overcome the challenges.

2.1 Approaches to community development

2.1.1 The self-help Approach

Three dominant approaches are used in community development. The first approach is self-help which is a collaborative process in which members of communities share ideas and experiences about common problems and make effort to solve them (Koissaba, N.D.). The process is focused on inhabitants' volition based on the spirit of reciprocity, cooperation and self-reliance, which encourages participation (Tamuno & Iroh, 2012). In some instances, self-help approach can be supported by external agencies (Laird, 2007). The self-help approach is a prominent approach to community development in rural communities (Akpomovie, 2010; Ebong, Otu & Ogwumike, 2013). According to Thaddeus and Owusu-Sekyere (2013), a popular project which was undertaken by many rural communities in Ghana with the self-help approach was the Henderson Box Water Project. This project provided portable water in safe environments for the rural communities. Beside the Henderson Box project, numerous other projects such as the

construction of schools, town halls, and clinics have been undertaken in Ghana with this approach (Campfens, 1997).

Literature indicates that the self-help approach has advantages when it is utilised in community development. According to Chappell and Funk (2010) and Robinson and Green (2011), the approach empowers communities to utilize their social capital which is created through the positive relationships that exist between inhabitants, enabling the inhabitants to work together in adopting measures to overcome their challenges. The self-help approach also helps communities utilize their own initiatives to invest their resources in improving their living conditions without reliance on external support (Berner, 2000; Berner & Philips, 2005). In order to effectively empower communities to effectively initiate and sustain self-help projects, the inhabitants need to be trained in certain requisite skills by some technical experts (Aryeetey, 1998). However, not much has been explored on the disadvantages associated with the adoption of the self-help approach.

Currently, community development efforts by the community development agencies do not adopt the self-help approach. Although community development by its nature emphasizes on empowering people, many development agencies do not require very high level of participation from the inhabitants of the communities. One of the reasons for the decline in the use of the self-help approach is that the development agencies usually have their own resources which they expend in major parts of the projects and campaigns (Brass, 2011; Njoku, 2006). Additionally, these development agencies sometimes initiate the projects, reducing the level of local initiatives. The massive role played by community development agencies in community development

efforts in recent times has resulted in the prominence of the technical assistance approach in community development and the building of the capacity of the inhabitants of communities.

2.1.2 The technical assistance Approach

The technical assistance approach is the approach in which community developers implement projects to help solve the problems of communities while utilizing innovations that may be new to the local people (Burkhart-Kriesel, 2005; Koissaba, N.D.). Given that this approach involves interventions which may be new to the inhabitants, mass education and sensitization plays crucial role in enabling the inhabitants understand the projects and hence support and participate in the execution of the projects (Thaddeus & Owusu-Sekyere, 2013). Commenting on the rationale for the adoption of this approach, Fucher, Cahill and Wahl (1998) opines that the approach aims at strengthening and supporting local people to build their communities in a stable and sustainable manner. Under the technical assistance approach, the community developers conduct surveys to understand the conditions prevalent in communities while working with groups within the communities or the whole communities. Furthermore, although the development agencies bear most of the cost of the projects, the beneficiary communities may be required to provide some resources such as labour and materials (Laird, 2007).

The technical assistance approach has become a prominent approach to community development in both rural and urban communities, although it is most popular in community development efforts in the urban areas. This is because currently, many community development efforts involve community development agencies who utilize their expertise and other resources to execute projects for communities (Brass, 2011; Laird, 2007). Regarding the role played by

inhabitants, Laird (2007) explains that under the technical assistance approach, the inhabitants support the community developers with some local resources, and also provide information about their community that may be sought by the community developers.

Beside the active role played by NGOs as a factor for the prominence gained by the technical assistance approach, another factor is that cooperation and interaction among urban dwellers is low. The low cooperation and interaction among the inhabitants in urban communities is as a result of the fact that the inhabitants are from different ethnic groups and communities, and the constant changes in the urban population over time (Allen, 2003). Due to this, the cooperation among the urban dwellers which is required for collective processes towards community development under the self-help approach has reduced, as compared to the cooperation by rural dwellers. This has accounted for the reduction in the rate of self-help projects which require massive community participation and ownership; and the increased adoption of the technical assistance approach by the development agencies.

According to Burkhart-Kriesel (2005), the technical assistance approach can be utilized to perform tasks which have been selected by the community members themselves but do not have the expertise and resources to execute them on their own. This means that the approach gives communities the opportunity to get experts to accomplish tasks which involve lots of technicalities and hence do not have the expertise to accomplish such tasks on their own. However, a disadvantage associated with the technical assistance approach is that projects that are executed in a community by the experts may not be practically suitable in tackling the problems targeted at if the community developers do not get adequate information about the

community needs (Burkhart-Kriesel, 2005). Additionally, Koissaba (N.D.) asserts that local communities may not be able to sustain projects that are executed with this approach after the experts have left the communities. This suggests that problems such as lack of expertise and financial constraints may inhibit community members from sustaining community development efforts that have been carried out by external community developers.

2.1.3 The conflict Approach

The conflict approach entails the collaboration among people with different opinions, values and interests, working together to bring about change in their community (Robinson & Green, 2011). Their differences come to bear as they collaborate to execute tasks, leading to some disagreements and conflicts (Burkhart-Kriesel, 2005). Burkhart-Kriesel (2005) and Koissaba (N. D.) assert that although conflict is usually considered a negative element, it can be used to the group's advantage as it has the potency of bringing about alternative ways of solving problems. According to Burkhart-Kriesel (2005), the conflict approach is useful in situations where there is a perceived institution that is proposing a change that is deemed by the community members as undesirable. With this approach, people can collaboratively oppose change through social action utilizing processes such as demonstrations and petitions (Midgley, 1995). However, this approach may have a detrimental component in that the continuous conflict and disagreements between members of a community could destroy the harmony and feeling of togetherness among the people, which are very crucial in community development. There is scanty literature on the conflict approach to community development. This may be due to the fact that this approach is not as prominent in community development especially in the developing region compared to the

other two approaches explained above. In other words, this approach has not been used in community development efforts as frequently as the self-help and technical assistance approaches inuring to little discussion on the approach in community development discourse and practice.

Regardless of the approach adopted, success in the use of the approaches depends on a number of factors among which are the linkage with the outside and the planning process (Flora & Flora, 2004). Reflecting on this assertion, Burkhart-Kriesel (2005) refers to linkage with the outside as the ability of members of a community to identify and access requisite assets and resources beyond the borders of their community for their utilization in development efforts. Burkhart-Kriesel (2005) adds that planning is crucial in community development regardless of the approach being adopted as it is the means through which targets to be accomplished are set and worked towards (Burkhart-Kriesel, 2005).

2.2 Rothman's models of community development

The search for a model of community development has been ventured by many scholars over the years. This view is expressed by Weil (1996) who argued that the search for models of community development has been undertaken by various scholars in community developers for more than a century. Boehm and Cnaan (2012) asserted that a model of community development has two main roles to play. A model of community development is designed to help both scholars and community developers understand and explain what exactly community development involves, and also help the community developers execute their roles well (Boehm

& Cnaan, 2012). Three models of community development that were identified by Rothman have proven to have played a pivotal role in the conceptualization of community development efforts (Checkoway, 1995; Hardina, 2004; Staples, 2004). Rothman's models of community development are locality development, social planning and social action. Although other models such as the feminist model (Hyde, 1989; Sanders, Weaver & Schnabel, 2007) and policy practice (Droppa, 2007; Hong, 2007) have been developed by other scholars, Rothman's models of community development have been discussed in this section for the purpose of this study.

2.2.1 Locality development

Locality development refers to a model of community development that is based on the initiatives of inhabitants of a community (Rothman, 2001). Rothman (2001) added that this model of community development dwells on the involvement of the various interested groups in a community to collectively understand their situation in the community and make decision aimed at developing their community. Locality development which is similar to Smock's (2004) civic organization aims at developing the potential of inhabitants of a community so that they can tackle their challenges as a people, promoting the inclusion of stakeholders in a community and ensuring that there is harmony in the interaction among community members as a people (Rothman, 2001). Commenting on the goal of locality development, Hyman (1990) opined that the model has a principal aim of ensuring that there is a healthy relationship between communities' structures of authority and the inhabitants of such communities so that such healthy relationship can be exploited for the development of the communities.

According to Hyman (1990), locality development works under the assumption that the inhabitants of a community share values and aspirations, and that communities have democratic mechanisms through which the inhabitants collectively make decisions concerning their development as a people. The locality development model is based on the premise that all stakeholders in a community have some common interest and that even though there may be some differences, such differences can be resolved through constructive deliberations on issues (Hyman, 1990). This means that the model thrives best in community development efforts in which the people share common values, beliefs and interests. Additionally, communities in which the inhabitants face common problems and hence have similar aspirations will be more appropriate for the adoption of the locality development model in community development efforts undertaken in such communities.

Commenting on the importance of the locality development model, Stockdale (2014) opined that the model is very popular and useful in community development efforts in the village and rural settings. This implies that the characteristics of rural communities such as the high level of bonding among the inhabitants and the feeling of ownership for the community by the inhabitants, makes the rural communities appropriate for the model. Stockdale (2014) added that the key characteristics of the locality development model are that the model stresses on the indigenous leadership of communities, local initiative, self-help and participation of a significant population in the community. This observation shows that in locality development, projects to be undertaken must come from the initiative of the local people and must actively involve the local or traditional leaders of the community. Additionally, the project must be conceived by the people as beneficial to them, and hence must consider their participation as a means of helping

themselves. The conception of the self-help nature of the project must then get the local people on board in their numbers. Stockdale's (2014) assertion shows that under the locality development model, community members can embark on self-help developmental projects for their collective good. For example, a locality development model is said to be adopted in a school building project if the decision to build the school came from the community members upon the appreciation of the need. In such a project, the leadership of the community would be playing a key role in the project. Additionally, although some experts in building a school may have been brought on board, the chunk of the work on the project would be done by the community members since it is a self-help project.

2.2.2 Social planning

The social planning model of community development pertains to the utilization of technical expertise in understanding and remediating the problems of a community (Rothman, 2001). According to Rothman (2001), under this model, the expert knowledge, skills and requisite resources of professionals are employed to understand and solve the problem faced by a particular community. This model has the aim of devising plans and policy frameworks which would dictate or influence the process of creating goods and services for deprived groups in communities (Rothman, 2001).

According to Brieger (2012), under the social planning model, community development efforts are designed and implemented by entities that are external to the benefitting community; the projects to be undertaken are sanctioned by forces that are external to the community; and such community development efforts are usually reactive in nature. The community development

efforts are considered to be reactive because they are planned and executed in response to an identified problem. This means that the social planning model of community development is necessitated by the identification of a problem that needs to be solved. Brieger (2012) cited examples of the external forces that could sanction the execution of community development efforts under the social planning model as national laws and community development agencies that are outside the benefitting community.

The social planning approach primarily seeks to provide the needs of communities, utilizing the requisite expertise and other resources to meet people's needs and in essence developing their communities. Stockdale (2014) opined that the social planning approach focuses on accomplishing tasks but not the participation of the inhabitants of communities. This implies that this model is not much concerned about the participation and empowerment of inhabitants of a community (Guiang, 2014), but their access to the goods and services needed. This is because without the participation of the local people, they will not be able to understand the processes undertaken in community development efforts. Additionally, they cannot equip themselves with some skills, and hence may not be able to replicate such processes on their own. However, this is not to say that community participation is not encouraged in the social planning model. Stockdale (2014) opined that the reason for key role played by professionals in this model is that the model emphasizes on constructive decision making and planning. The execution of such roles requires some technical expertise which the professionals bring on board.

2.2.3 Social action

The third of Rothman's models of community development is the social action. According to Rothman (1996) the social action model operates on the assumption that there are groups of people in society that find themselves in disadvantaged positions. Rothman (1996) added that the conception of the existence of disadvantaged groups in society then necessitates the organization of the disadvantaged or aggrieved groups to demand for equal treatment, opportunities and resources. Rothman (2001) asserted that the social action model seeks to effect changes in issues that are fundamental in communities such as the distribution of resources, and also causing a change in laws and policies which shape communities. According to Hyman (1990), the principal goal of social actions is, "to redress an imbalance of power between dominant and minority groups, and to gain allocations of resources for a segment or disadvantaged group. This model presumes that the power structure will not give up its benefits and privileges willingly. The social action model is appropriate where a community segment or disadvantaged group is involved" (pp. 35). This assertion shows that the model is needed in situations where there is a perceived exploitation or social injustice. In such situations, the disadvantaged groups are empowered to work with a change agent such as a community developer to challenge the source of the injustice and seek better conditions and treatment for the disadvantaged groups.

Taking a critical look at the model, the contemporary issues such as labour strikes and demonstrations can be said to be efforts that are in line with this model. This is because the idea behind such actions has been that there is some sort of injustice in society which has rendered some groups disadvantaged and aggrieved. Such actions are then being embarked upon to cause changes in society, and this is in line with Rothman's social action model.

Hyman (1990) argued that the social action model stresses on techniques that cause the rise of grassroots groups since these are usually the disadvantaged groups in communities. Hyman (1990) also opined that communities are made up of power structures that are in a hierarchical manner. This shows that the disadvantaged status of some groups in society is as a result of the power structures in society which is exploited in some instances by people in authority to advance their interests at the expense of others. Hyman (1990) and Guiang (2014) argued that it therefore becomes necessary for the disadvantaged or aggrieved groups to exert some force on the authorities of communities with the aim of causing a change in their communities for their benefit.

2.3 Contributions made by community development

Community development has played a role in improving the living conditions in many communities. It has made different contributions in different countries or geographical regions, and this is as a result of the differences in the community development projects that are undertaken in those communities (Campfens, 1997). The difference in the projects and campaigns undertaken in the countries is as a result of the differences in the problems encountered in the developed and developing countries. Although the inhabitants in developing regions share some common problems with the developed regions, problems such as poverty, hunger, high rate of illiteracy and poor health are mostly peculiar to the developing world.

In the United Kingdom, community development has provided cheap and accessible local recreational activities for the inhabitants; equipped them with knowledge and new skills in

executing and sustaining community development projects and campaigns, which has boosted their confidence to deal with issues such as sanitation in the community; provided them with the opportunity to work with other organizations; and gave them a voice on issues that concerned the development of their community (Ewles, Harris, Roberts & Shepherd, 2001). On the other hand, contributions made by community development in developing countries include infrastructural development and poverty reduction (Campfens, 1997). Considering the enormous benefits derived through community development, Emeh, Eluwa and Ukah (2012) and Ugwu (2009) opine that community development has led to improved living conditions in Nigerian communities.

Community development has contributed to good health in many communities. Nissinen, Berrios and Puska (2001) indicate that community-based health projects and campaigns in USA, Finland, Sweden and other developed European countries led to reduction in the contraction of non-communicable diseases. Many of the projects focused on the prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases. In Bangladesh, educational campaigns on family planning, health and disease have helped the inhabitants gain knowledge and control over these issues, leading to improved health (Campfens, 1997). Kendie and Guri (2006) and Thaddeus and Owusu-Sekyere (2013) indicate that similar projects and campaigns were undertaken in Ghana and those projects also led to improved health in the beneficiary communities. Thaddeus and Owusu-Sekyere (2013) add that other health projects that were undertaken by the government led to the treatment of some diseases and awareness creation on HIV and AIDS. This shows that although the health focus of development efforts in developed and developing countries may differ, community development has solved some health problems in both regions.

Beside governments' health promotion projects and campaigns, Laird (2007) indicates that some community development projects undertaken by both local and international NGOs have led to improved health in Ghana. Although, literature shows that community development improved health in Ghana, most literature have focused on rural communities at the expense of the urban areas. As developing countries, Ghana and Bangladesh have had health as a major focus of community development and this is because poor health is a major problem faced in many developing countries.

Community development in Ghana has also promoted the wellbeing of people, especially women. Community development promoted women's wellbeing through literacy projects and campaigns. Through home economics and adult education in rural communities, illiteracy which was a major problem especially among the women reduced (Thaddeus & Owusu-Sekyere, 2013). Commenting on the role played by community development efforts in Ghana's formal education, Laird (2007) opine that the schools that have been established in both rural and urban communities have provided more avenues for education, translating into a reduction in the population of illiterates in Ghana. Another contribution of community development which is related to people's wellbeing is the promotion of peace and welfare in some neighbourhoods in Israel. According to Campfens (1997), this was achieved through the "Ossim Shalom" project that helped reconcile the Arabs and Jews in those neighbourhoods, and also enabled the people participate in conflict resolution, improve their neighbourhoods and prevent retaliation from the Jews for violent acts committed by the Arabs. This he asserts was a major achievement of community development in Israel. This proves that community development has been

instrumental in helping different communities, both developed and developing ones overcome their sources of distress.

Community development efforts have also helped reduce poverty and hunger. In Ghana for example, income-generating projects (e.g. palm oil, bead and tie-dye making) with women helped them gain a trade and in essence earned some income to meet their needs (Campfens, 1997). This alludes to the fact that women as a disadvantaged group in many countries such as Ghana and India, due to dominant paternalistic cultures, have benefitted from community development efforts. These women have benefitted through their acquisition of some skills, information and trade which have come as a result of undertaking community development in their respective communities (Mansuri & Rao, 2004).

Additionally, Campfens (1997) found that community development adopted during the National Liberation Council regime, to promote programmes such as Operation Feed Your Self and Operation Free the Industries led to increased food production. This finding is in consonance with Kendie and Guri's (2006) view that community development in Ghana has helped reduce the intensity of hunger in some rural communities. Other agricultural efforts which helped reduce hunger were the extension services and disease and pest control campaigns were executed with farmers in Ghana (Campfens, 1997). A similar result was experienced in Bangladesh, as the formation of farmers' cooperatives and the provision of credit facilities and farm inputs to the farmers contributed to increased food production, providing enough food for families (Campfens, 1997; Mannan, 1989). With regards to poverty and hunger in developed countries, Brueggemann (2002) indicates that through community development efforts which created credit

facilities, shopping centres and jobs in USA, the economic conditions in some communities improved. The minimal literature on development efforts that target hunger and poverty in the developed regions is due to the fact that poverty and hunger are not major problems in those regions, hence not many projects and campaigns target those issues.

Through community development in Ghana, infrastructure such as schools, clinics, market places, houses, roads, among others have been provided in many communities (Asomani-Boateng, 2007). Sautoy (1960) shares this observation through his view that self-help projects in Ghana provided portable water in many communities, while making reference to the Henderson Box Water Project. Laird (2007) also attributes the provision of facilities such as schools and clinics to community development efforts in those communities, especially the urban areas. Comparing Laird's (2007) view on urban community development to the findings of other studies, it is clear that infrastructural development as a result of community development has been experienced in both rural and urban communities in Ghana. Literature shows that communities in the developed regions such as USA have also gained some infrastructure through community development efforts. According to Brueggemann (2002), community development efforts in USA in the 1990s led to the creation of low-income houses for the poor; and credit facilities for people in those communities. Additionally, shopping centres were created to help promote congenial trading environments for the inhabitants.

Citing reasons for the successes achieved by community development in Ghana, most of which adopted the self-help and technical assistance approaches, Campfens (1997) attributes the successes to the governments' willingness to spend money to support the self-help village

projects, among other reasons. However, Laird (2007) and Smillie and Helmich (1993) assert that in recent times, governments' involvement in community development in Ghana has reduced. Laird (2007) attributes government's reduced involvement in community development to the active role that some private community development agencies have assumed, thereby absorbing some of the responsibilities born by the government in the past. Laird (2007) also posits that the active role played by community development agencies has been very useful against the backdrop of the financial constraints faced by governments. Beyond the borders of Ghana, Smillie and Helmich (1993) have also concluded that many NGOs have sprung up to play active roles in developing communities in other countries.

2.4 Challenges encountered in community development

Regardless of the enormous importance associated with community development as a tool for improving the living conditions of communities, there are several challenges associated with its execution (Amoako & Cobbinah, 2011; Gulyani & Bassett, 2008). Some human factors that hinder community development are the attitudes of the members of communities, lack of rural representation in community development efforts and bureaucracy.

2.4.1 Attitudes of community members

Izugbara, Tikkanen and Barron (2014) opined that the behaviours of members of communities such as alcoholism pose a challenge to community development. The authors explain that such negative attitudes inhibit the people's ability to keep jobs and also cater for stable homes. This

leads to their loss of control over matters that affect their lives and inhibits their ability to participate in community development efforts.

Attitudes of people as impediment to community development are not peculiar to developing countries. There is evidence that Canadian rural communities' reliance on volunteers and their resistance to development efforts due to perceived incompatibility between the projects and the values of inhabitants are challenges faced in the development of those communities (Dukeshire & Thurlow, 2002). With regard to the perceived incompatibility between values and proposed development efforts, Doern and Phidd (1998) opined that some communities stand so staunchly to their culture that they are reluctant to compromise on some values and beliefs for the sake of development efforts although the impending efforts could bring improvement in their lives.

2.4.2 Lack of or little community involvement

Community development is also impeded by the lack or little involvement of the inhabitants of communities. Dukeshire and Thurlow (2002) observed that the lack of representation of rural communities in designing development efforts leads to lack of community support for the projects. This is because the inhabitants are likely to feel indifferent about the development efforts due to their lack of understanding and the feeling of having those projects being imposed on them. This challenge is usually caused by bureaucracy especially in state development institutions. The bureaucratic measures in Ghanaian state institutions impede community development, because they pose legal constraints; cause restrictions and delays due to regulations, legal standards and time-consuming planning methods; and hinder consultation with and participation of the local people in development efforts (Aryeetey, 1998; Nour, 2011;

Oakley, 1995; Thaddeus & Owusu-Sekyere, 2013). This shows that state-sanctioned development projects might experience delays than in non-governmental projects. However, literature has not provided much information on bureaucracy in non-governmental community development agencies.

2.4.3 Societal issues

Some societal issues such as culture, land issues, and poor road network and transportation have also been found in literature to have impeded community development efforts (Aryeetey, 1998). Aryeetey (1998) asserts that due to cultural values, local groups who executed projects and campaigns in Northern Ghana overly depended on their chiefs in development efforts which compromised the success of some of the efforts. This is because some of the chiefs who were depended upon lacked the skills and knowledge about the projects. Aryeetey (1998) adds that some cultural values also prevented women and children to participate in the development efforts although some women and children had the resources and expertise to assist the community development efforts. Ethnic rivalries prevented people within a particular community but from conflicting ethnic groups to work together on projects for the benefit of their community (Aryeetey, 1998).

Sherbiniin, Rahman, Barbieri, Fotso and Zhu (2009) opined that insecure land tenure is another impediment to community development. The authors explained that in situations where the inhabitants in a community are not owners of the land on which they live, community development efforts may be impeded due to low community participation. This is because inhabitants without ownership of land are not motivated to develop the land knowing they could

be evicted from it. This challenge is compounded by improper demarcation and registration of the land which leads to land disputes, disruption of development efforts and the destruction of properties on those lands (Sherbiniin et al, 2009). This shows that even in situations where there are abundant resources for projects, community support and participation for the projects could be compromised if the inhabitants do not have ownership and control over land.

2.4.4 Poor road network and transportation

Poor road network and transportation in many rural communities in developing regions are societal factors that have also impeded community development in those communities. According to Campfens (1997), poor road network challenged interaction among the participants of the projects in Bangladeshi rural communities and the supervisors who were in the urban communities; and the transfer of materials from the urban centres to the rural communities for project implementation. He asserts that this challenge worsened during the rainy season. A similar challenge was encountered in Ghana where the women in the income-generating projects found it difficult to transport their wares to the markets for sale, thereby stifling their progress and the sustainability of the projects (Campfens, 1997). Laird (2007) shares a similar view by asserting that poor road network and transportation have impeded community developers' access to some remote communities, translating into stifled development efforts in those communities.

2.4.5 Lack or inadequacy of funds

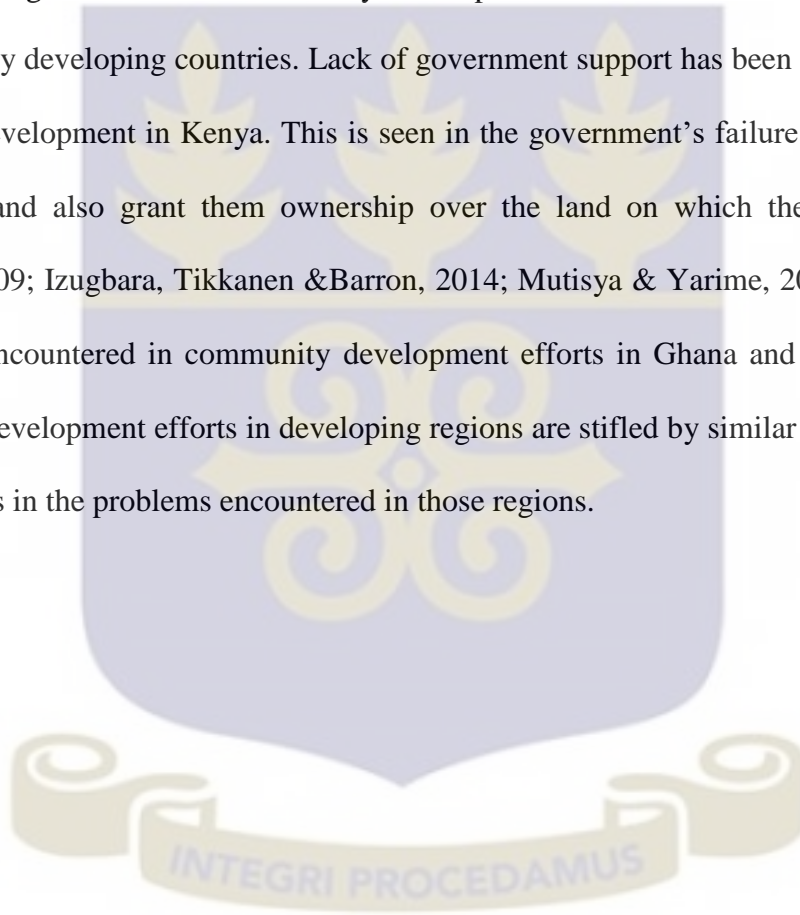
Some challenges to community development are related to structural factors such as lack of resources and the poor coordination of community development efforts. Lack of funds and

resources has been a major challenge to community development in different countries. Dukeshire and Thurlow (2002), in a study conducted in rural communities in Canada, found that due to the lack of the resources, rural inhabitants were impeded to initiate and actively support projects in their communities. The lack of funds and resources does not only impede communities in their development efforts but development agencies as well, especially the state institutions. This is evidenced in Aryeetey's (1998) and Laird's (2007) findings that Ghana's Local Government Ministry and Department of Community Development lack resources such as logistics that the staffs required to work effectively. Dukeshire and Thurlow's (2002) failure to capture funding as a constraint on government in their study might signify that community development effort by government in Canada is not to be stifled by lack of funds. However, lack of funds is a major challenge to community development in Ghana and other developing countries whose governments have multitudes of problems to tackle with limited resources.

2.4.6 Poor coordination of community development efforts

With regards to poor coordination as a hindrance to community development efforts, Campfens (1997) asserts that community development efforts in both Ghana and Bangladesh have been hindered by the poor co-ordination of programmes and activities. In Ghana, he asserts that clashes and competition between the Department of Community Development and other departments have disrupted the collaboration between the departments, and this has affected the smooth execution of projects and campaigns. The challenge of poor co-ordination in Bangladesh concerned the ineffectiveness of the government. Campfens (1997) indicates that although efforts to develop the rural communities in Bangladesh were instigated by the government, over

time government support for those efforts reduced. This led to poor co-ordination and subsequently impeded the smooth execution of the community development programmes. Commenting on the effect of poor coordination in community development efforts, Amoako and Cobbinah (2011) opine that community development efforts in Africa have been hampered, because there are few effective approaches for assessing the impact of projects undertaken. The ineffectiveness of government in community development in recent times has also become a challenge in many developing countries. Lack of government support has been a major challenge to community development in Kenya. This is seen in the government's failure to create jobs for the inhabitants and also grant them ownership over the land on which they live (Amnesty International, 2009; Izugbara, Tikkanen & Barron, 2014; Mutisya & Yarime, 2011). Considering the challenges encountered in community development efforts in Ghana and Bangladesh, it is safe to say that development efforts in developing regions are stifled by similar factors as a result of the similarities in the problems encountered in those regions.



CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the general research strategy adopted for the study. It discusses the study area, source of data and population. In addition, this chapter details and justifies the sampling method and technique that the researcher used in selecting participants. Data collection tools that were used for the study as well as how the data that were generated were handled and analyzed are also discussed.

3.1 Research design

The study employed a qualitative research design, because the researcher intended to collect information from participants, regarding their knowledge and experience about community development efforts undertaken in their community (Merriam, 2009). Through this design, the researcher obtained in-depth information on community development in urban communities. It helped the researcher build a trustworthy relationship with the participants. This relationship was built as a result of the meetings and familiarization that ensued between the researcher and the participants prior to the actual data collection. These meetings were held in order for the researcher to seek the participation of the people. Additionally, on the dates of data collection, the researcher interacted with the participants for a while before the data was collected.

3.2 Study area

The study was conducted in Ashaiman, an urban municipality in the Greater Accra region of Ghana. Ashaiman has been in existence since the 17th century and is believed to have been established by the late Nii Ashai (Addo, 1995). It is also believed that Nii Ashai named the town after himself, hence Ashaiman, which means, “Ashai’s town”. Like the evolution of many urban communities, people from other ethnic groups including Adas, Ewes and northerners migrated to Ashaiman (Nunoo, 2008). Currently, there are about fifty different ethnic groups that are co-habiting in Ashaiman (Nunoo, 2008). Considering the presence of many ethnic groups in Ashaiman, Agyei-Mensah and Owusu (2009) posit that it reflects the emerging situation of increased diversity in cities’ population, where cities are co-habited by people from different ethnic groups and social classes.

Ashaiman is located about five kilometres north of Tema and about thirty kilometres away from Accra central. The population of Ashaiman is 190,972, with 49.1 percent of the population being males and 50.9 percent being females (Ghana Statistical Service, 2012). There is a central chief in Ashaiman under who are the chiefs of the various communities. Ashaiman was selected for the study because as a municipality, it has many slums such as Tulaku, Taboo line and Valco flat which have several problems including poor sanitation, unsafe drinking water, poor housing, overcrowding and insecure land tenure as defined by UN-HABITAT (2007). Ashaiman was an appropriate study area because the slums are inhabited by diverse ethnic groups, which allowed the researcher to find out the effect that these different ethnic diversities had on community development efforts in those communities.

3.3 Target and study population

The target population consisted of assembly members, chiefs and staff of community development agencies that worked in Tulaku, Taboo line and Valco flat, all of which are slums in Ashaiman. The assembly members are individuals who have been elected through elections by the people in their community, to represent the government in their respective communities. These assembly members are also responsible for representing their communities at the Ashaiman Municipal Assembly. These individuals ensure that the government's plans in the various communities are carried out. The chiefs are the traditional leaders of the various communities. The participant community developers were recruited from the Department of Community Development (DCD) and three NGO community development agencies. The chiefs and assembly members provided information about community development projects and campaigns that had been undertaken by the communities themselves, while the community developers provided information about community development efforts that had been made by their respective agencies in the communities.

3.4 Sampling technique

The researcher used purposive sampling technique to select participants who could provide the relevant data needed for the study (Tashakkori & Teddlie, 2003). Participants comprised of chiefs and assembly members in the selected communities who had served their communities for at least two years. This is because such persons had experienced community development efforts undertaken in their communities and hence could provide the researcher with the information sought for (Patton, 2002). It also included community development workers who had undertaken

community development projects in the selected communities within the last two years. The participants were at least eighteen years old.

With regard to the recruitment of assembly members of the selected slum communities, the researcher introduced himself and his intention of undertaking the study in the municipality to the receptionist of the Ashaiman municipal Assembly. Through the help of the receptionist, the researcher got in touch with assembly members under whose jurisdiction the slum communities were located. The researcher then called the assembly members on phone to introduce himself and also find out when he could meet them to seek their consent and also fix the date and venue for data collection. Through the meeting with the assembly members, the researcher sought for their assistance in getting in touch with the chiefs in the various slum communities. The assembly members then introduced the researcher to the chiefs, who were recruited for the study after the researcher met them and sought their consent.

Regarding the recruitment of the community developers, the researcher first introduced himself to the head of the Department of Community Development in Ashaiman to help him identify two staff members at the agency. Through the help of the head of the Department and recruited assembly members, the researcher identified and got in touch with three NGO community developers who had undertaken projects and campaigns in the selected slum communities. The researcher then went ahead to contact the agencies, made his mission known to the heads and sought for their assistance in recruiting three personnel from each agency.

3.5 Sample size

Data were collected from seventeen (17) participants. This sample size was selected, because Creswell (1998) argues that the number of participants in a qualitative study could be between five and twenty-five in order to reduce the tendency of data saturation. Considering the fact that there were different participant groups and the need to get the views of different people from a particular group, the researcher opted for that sample size. The sample consisted of two (2) officials from the Department of Community Development (DCD), three (3) Chiefs, three (3) assembly members, and nine (9) workers of NGO community development agencies.

3.6 Data collection technique

The primary data for the study were obtained through unstructured interviews with the seventeen participants. The technique afforded the participants the opportunity to freely and extensively express their views on issues that were raised during the interviews. The researcher used a set of interview questions to conduct interviews with participants. The interviews were in English, lasted between 35 to 60 minutes, and took place in comfortable and convenient places chosen by the participants such as their homes and offices (Denzin & Lincoln, 2005). A voice recorder was used in all the interviews after permission had been sought from participants.

3.7 Data handling and analysis

The audio data from the interviews were safely kept on researcher's computer and was password-protected so that unauthorized persons could not get access to them. The researcher then listened to all the recorded voices that were captured on the voice recorder after which the

data was analysed using the six phases of thematic analysis according to Braun and Clarke (2006).

At the first phase, the researcher familiarized with the data. This was done by transcribing the audio data into word format, reading and re-reading the data, and noting down initial ideas derived from the transcribed data. After this phase, initial codes were generated. In doing this, the researcher coded the features of the data systematically, across the entire data set and collated the data that had been identified to be relevant to the generated codes. The third phase entailed searching for themes. At this phase, the researcher searched for themes from the data. This was done by collating the codes that had been identified into potential themes. All data that were identified to be relevant to each of the potential themes created were then gathered. After this, the themes were reviewed. The researcher at this phase, checked to ascertain if the potential themes created were in line with the already identified codes and data. After this was ascertained, a thematic map was created. The fifth phase entailed defining and naming themes. The researcher did this by clearly stating what the analysis depicts and also generated succinct definition and names for each of the reviewed themes. After defining and naming the themes, the researcher presented the findings. The voices of some participants were used to buttress the findings.

3.8 Ethical considerations

Ethical issues that the researcher faced in the conduct of the study include voluntary participation, informed consent, confidentiality and plagiarism. All these ethical issues were duly considered by the researcher. In order to ensure the voluntary participation of participants, the

researcher made it known to the participants and that they could decide to withdraw from the study at any point, and that their participation in the study was on their own free will. This was done after the purpose of the study had been clearly explained to them.

With regard to participants' informed consent, the researcher introduced himself and his intention of conducting the study to participants before they were interviewed. The researcher also sought and obtained consent from the heads of the organizations from which some participants were selected before they were engaged as participants in the study. Additionally, the researcher provided information about the study to the participants. This information included the kind of data that the researcher sought to obtain from participants; sample questions that participants would be asked in the interviews; how the data obtained would be handled, including issues of confidentiality; the use of the data and the benefits that would be derived from the data; and the risks and benefits that were involved on the part of the participants as a result of their participation in the study. The researcher provided this information to participants in advance before and at the beginning of the interviews.

In order to keep information obtained from participants confidential, the researcher replaced the names of participants with pseudonyms. Additionally, the researcher ensured that other participants did not get access to the raw data that had been obtained from participants. After the audio recordings had been obtained from the participants, the researcher saved the files on the hard drive of his computer and password-protected them to prevent unauthorized persons from gaining access to those files. The researcher also kept the transcripts that had been produced from the audio files out of the reach of others beside himself and his supervisors. The researcher also refrained from plagiarism by acknowledging any author whose work was used in this study.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study based on the research questions. It begins with the presentation of the socio-demographic characteristics of participants such as ages and sexes of participants, years of practice in the discipline of community development in the slums, and educational qualification of participants. The chapter then goes on to present findings according to the key themes in each of the research questions.

The questions this study set out to investigate were:

1. What approach(es) are used in community development in Ashaiman?
2. How has community development contributed to the development of Ashaiman?
3. What challenges are encountered in community development work in Ashaiman?

4.1 Socio-demographic characteristics of participants

4.1.1 Age of participants

The majority of the participants (9) had their ages within the range of forty-five to fifty-four years. Three (3) had their ages within twenty-five to thirty-four years, while five (5) of the participants fall within the thirty-five to forty-four years age bracket.

4.1.2 Sex of participants

Both sexes were representative in the participants from whom data was collected. There were eleven (11) male participants and six (6) female participants. The male participants consisted of the workers of community development agencies, assembly members and chiefs. The female participants were recruited from the department of community development and NGO community development agencies.

4.1.3 Years of community development practice in the slums

Out of the eleven community developers that were recruited for the study, five of them have been involved in the practice for less than five years while the remaining six personnel have worked for 5 years or more as community development workers. On a whole this shows that the community developers that were recruited for the study have amassed lots of experience as far as community development practice in Ashaiman is concerned.

4.1.4 Years of service of Assembly members and chiefs

Out of the three assembly members that were selected for the study, two of them were in their first term of office and as such had served for four years. The third assembly member was serving a second term and as such had served for eight years. This shows that all the assembly members who were participants had at least four years of experience in community development in their communities.

On the part of the three chiefs who were selected for the study, the years for which they had been chiefs in their slum communities were five, eight and twelve years. It was found that within the periods of their reigns, some community development efforts have been made in their communities.

4.1.5 Educational qualification of participants

Among the seventeen participants of the study, two of them had obtained Masters' degree, five of them had Bachelors' degrees, four had diploma, two had certificate (Cert A) from teacher training colleges, and four were educated to the secondary school level. This shows that majority of the participants (13) had gone through post-secondary education whereas few of them (4) had had secondary school education. Hence, all the participants had had some form of formal education.

4.2 Approaches to community development efforts

The main stakeholders in community development efforts in Ashaiman include the community developers, Ashaiman Municipal Assembly (ASHMA), chiefs and inhabitants. Community development in Ashaiman used both the self-help and technical assistance approaches. Some projects were initiated and undertaken by the members of the communities through their own efforts while others were executed by community developers, although the inhabitants played roles in the projects executed by the community developers.

4.2.1 The self-help Approach

With this approach, this study found that community development efforts were initiated by the inhabitants of the communities themselves. This means that the particular community development project or campaign that was undertaken was initiated by the communities themselves. It was found that in some self-help projects, the community members design projects on their own based on their definition of a felt need:

In projects that we do on our own, we decide how we can solve a problem we face.... We also make some little contributions to support whatever we get from other people such as MP or people who once stayed here or have relatives here but are rich now. Besides the money that we contribute, we provide labour since we do most of the things on our own (chief 2).

However, in some community development efforts that adopted the self-help approach, the expertise of some community developers was sought in the design and implementation of those projects. A key characteristic of the self-help approach adopted in Ashaiman is that the inhabitants of the communities played a key role in identifying their problems and designing community development projects with or without the expertise of external community developers:

One thing that is worth noting is that all these were driven by community initiative. We hardly undertake projects for which the slum dwellers don't express need (Community developer 3).

The self-help approach was found to be rarely adopted as compared to the technical assistance approach. This is because the inhabitants face challenges in collectively identifying problems, designing interventions and mobilizing resources with which to undertake the projects. This

challenge is due to the low social and psychological bond between the inhabitants since most of them do not consider the community as theirs'. Another reason is that poverty which is a major problem faced in those communities constricts their ability to come together and raise the requisite funds and other resources for community development efforts.

4.2.2 The technical assistance approach

This approach was found to be adopted in community development efforts that are being undertaken by community development agencies in which such projects fall under the focal area of the community development agencies. Under this approach, the community development agencies through their community developers who are usually external to the Ashaiman communities enter the communities with predetermined projects in mind. Such community developers were found to have specialized in undertaking specific projects in different communities:

We are into providing livelihood for the people, helping them get access to loans so they can expand their businesses. These businesses are basically income-generating activities. We mobilize the community members and help them form savings groups. With these groups, they make contributions and they save their own monies (Community developer 1).

Another participant also said:

Apart from the livelihood and loans that we give to the slum dwellers, we also build affordable houses, public toilet and bathing facilities and stores for the community members. Currently, we are undertaking the project of providing household toilet facilities to houses that have been constructed without toilet facilities. We have already

provided sixty-five toilet facilities to both households in the slums and other parts of Ashaiman (Community developer 6).

This means that some community development projects which are undertaken with the technical assistance approach is undertaken with little regard to the felt needs of the community members, but according to the programme of such agencies.

The technical assistance approach was found to be the dominant approach adopted in Ashaiman slums. This is because most of the community development efforts in Ashaiman were found to have been undertaken by community development agencies most of whom execute the projects because they fall under their specialized areas although they engaged the inhabitants in designing some of the projects. Although the technical assistance approach is adopted in most instances, there is an appreciable level of community participation in community development efforts.

4.2.3 Steps in community development (The community development process)

In executing the community development projects and campaigns in Ashaiman, a number of steps were undertaken. The steps were community entry, survey, planning, implementation, and monitoring, management and maintenance. However, there were variations in how these steps were used depending on the particular projects and campaigns and the approach that was being adopted in those projects.

Community development projects in Ashaiman often began with community developers getting in touch with the leaders of the community to introduce themselves and make their intentions of executing projects and campaigns known to them. According to the participants, this was

important as it helped acquire the support of the community leaders for the project. This is what an official from the Department of Community Development said:

Normally when you go to the target community for the first time, you ask for the assemblyman and traditional leaders of that community. After meeting them and making your intention known, they will call for a gathering of community members on a set date to introduce us to the community and also dialogue about their needs. So through the traditional leaders, we are able to meet many community members, although not all of them attend those gatherings (DCD Staff 2).

The next step in the approach is conducting a survey in the target community. Here the community developers interact directly with the members of the communities to learn about their problems. This is done by holding meetings with groups, for example market women and keep-fit associations in the communities, or visiting homes to inquire about the problems they face. Participants especially the community developers explained that the survey which is in the form of needs assessment takes many forms such as verbal or written. They further explained that the survey is usually conducted through informal interaction, and that the informal manner enables them get more information from the members of the communities than they would get if the inhabitants were made to fill questionnaires:

We undertake surveys in the communities before the projects, because you cannot undertake a community development project in a community that the community does not need. We even involve children in the survey. The adults would want to create the impression that everything is good in the community...but a child will tell you exactly what is going on, because of their innocence (NGO Community Developer 3).

In some instances, however, the community developers do not conduct surveys, because the inhabitants decide on what their own needs are and communicate it to the development agencies

for help. In such instances, the community developers are informed about the projects needed by the communities even before the community developers enter those communities. The following statements were made by an official from the Department of Community Development and an NGO Community Developer:

Sometimes we are there in the office and they (members of communities) come to us or when we go for group meetings, then they tell us about something they need that they want us to help them do (DCD Staff 1).

There are some projects which the inhabitants of the communities invite us to help them undertake. In such instances, they come to tell us their pressing needs which they want us to help them meet, because they do not have the resources do it on their own. So we help them with some resources so that together, we execute the projects (NGO Community Developer 7).

In other instances the community developers go to the communities with their own pre-determined projects and campaigns. In such projects and campaigns, the community developers explain the projects to the members of the communities during community entry, to garner support for the projects. However, it was found in the interviews that community support for projects initiated in this way was low at the beginning of the projects. However, participants explained that community support and participation improved as the project goes on, as a result of the sensitization undertaken during the course of the project:

At times we get sponsorship from some international donors for particular projects. With these projects, we design them and then we go to the communities to meet their leaders to talk about it and see if it is feasible for us to execute it in their communities (NGO Community Developer 6).

After the problems faced by the communities have been identified, the next step is to plan or design projects. The designed projects and campaigns are usually based on the problems identified during the surveys or the needs that the community members communicate to the agencies. The projects and campaigns are often designed by the community developers, usually with the involvement of community members of the communities involved. On the design of projects, some participants said:

After the survey in the community, we come back to the office and generate projects to satisfy the needs of the people that are identified...The projects we undertake in the community come from among the people themselves. Based on the problems and needs we identify from our survey in the community, we design a project that will help them meet their felt needs (DCD Staff 1).

...If the community members upon our dialogue with them say they want a borehole, then that is what we will do for them. So we (community developers) design projects and campaigns whose execution will provide them with the borehole which they have asked for (NGO Community Developer 1).

Other participants expressed the need for community developers to involve the inhabitants in the process of designing the projects in order to do what would suit the community's needs. This they believed would also ensure high participation from the community members in the development effort. The following narrative is from a community developer from DCD:

It is important that the planned projects are communicated to them (community), because they might not like the design or the processes involved. So doing all this helps us get the participation of the people (DCD Staff 2).

Beside the projects that were designed by the community developers, the assembly members and some community developers explained that the community members themselves were able to

design some projects on their own based on their felt needs. This was normally undertaken during self-help projects and campaigns. However, this was done in few instances, as most of the development projects and campaigns were spearheaded by the community developers:

The people are able to plan some projects themselves...in campaigns like normal clean-up exercises, they plan it and do it on their own (Assemblyman 3).

Another participant said:

...The inhabitants understand their situation. In some instances, we went to the community to help the inhabitants undertake projects and campaigns which they themselves design...we do not take part in designing the project. So you see, the people have the capacity to improve their situation if they are given the support they need (NGO Community Developer 8).

After projects are planned, the next phase is implementation. Projects and campaigns which would directly benefit an entire community, for example clean-up exercises and building of footbridges, were normally undertaken with members of the particular community as a whole. However, projects such income-generating schemes which would not directly benefit the entire community but particular groups, for example market women, were undertaken with only such groups:

Anytime there is a project, we (chief and elders) and the assemblyman go round from house to house, area to area, church to church; all associations, just to get the community members informed about what is coming. And they do cooperate or accept such projects to be done. Once the people understand and accept the projects, then we undertake the project for the benefit of the community (Chief 2).

An NGO community developer also said:

We are into providing livelihood for the people, helping them get access to loans so they can expand their businesses. These businesses are basically income-generating activities. We mobilize the inhabitants and help them form savings groups. With these groups, they make contributions and they save their own monies (NGO Community Developer 1).

Most participants mentioned that community participation in many projects and campaigns was fairly high. According to them, the inhabitants supported them in the execution of the projects, because they understood it was for their benefit. The support and participation from the inhabitants came through ways such as volunteering their time to convey raw materials from warehouses to the projects' sites, providing some raw materials and labour, and creating congenial working atmosphere for the smooth execution of projects and campaigns:

I will say that they (inhabitants) participate in the projects. They help with digging, conveying materials and in other ways. In the housing project for instance, at some point some of the community members provided bags of cement and other materials for the contractor (NGO Community Developer 1).

Project monitoring and maintenance were the next phase of the approach used by community developers in Ashaiman, that were meant to ensure that projects and campaigns that were handed over to the community were sustained. Participants explained they had observed that the inhabitants were able to manage and maintain projects better if they were actively involved in implementing them. This was because it gave them a sense of ownership. In a few projects, committees comprising some community members were set up to monitor and manage the projects:

As these projects are being undertaken, committees which comprise mainly of the inhabitants are being formed to monitor progress and also manage the facilities, and this also improves their project management skills (NGO Community Developer 6).

Sensitization on the designed projects was found to be a crucial process that was being undertaken and also needed to be taken seriously by the community developers. Some community developers stated that through proper sensitization on projects, some inhabitants could understand the projects and their benefits. Such inhabitants then participated in the execution of the projects even when they were not involved in designing those projects. Some community developers who were interviewed stressed that they sensitized the community members on the projects prior to the implementation of the projects and campaigns. In doing so, the benefits of the designed projects were mentioned to the people in order for them to support the community developers in their efforts:

Sensitization is very important. For instance, if we identify the problem of poor sanitation, the people must understand why they should not litter or should keep the surroundings clean. If you clean for them without the sensitization, you will go back there the following day and they would have littered again (DCD Staff 1).

In all our projects sensitization plays a key role; as the project goes on, we sensitize the people on matters concerning the particular issue that the project is about (NGO Community Developer 6)

The findings show that community development efforts undertaken in Ashaiman adopted the self-help and technical assistance approaches, although it is being dominated by the technical assistance approach. Community development efforts go through a number of steps, including community entry, survey, project design, project implementation and project monitoring. Nevertheless, these steps are carried out differently depending on the project being undertaken

and the approach adopted. Although most of the projects are being carried out by community development agencies, members of the communities are included in most of the phases. Accordingly, the community members understand the projects over time and participate in the implementation of such projects. The community members' ability to understand the projects carried out is attributed to the sensitization which is carried out in the projects, especially with the technical assistance approach.

4.2 Contributions made by community development

4.2.1 Infrastructural development

The interviews revealed that through community development efforts, Ashaiman had gained public toilets, portable water, a market, footbridges, storm drains, among others. Most of these infrastructures were derived from projects executed by community development agencies, although few projects had been undertaken by the communities themselves. Through the provision of portable water, the inhabitants have got safe drinking and bathing water, which has reduced the contraction of water-borne diseases such as cholera. Additionally, the public toilets that have been provided in the communities have helped reduce the incidence of open defecation, and this has translated into improved sanitation and health in those communities. The creation of storm drains has also been very beneficial to the inhabitants as these facilities have reduced flooding which used to destroy properties and killed people hitherto the creation of the storm drains:

The public toilet that has been built for us has also reduced the situation where people go into the bush just to ease themselves. When there was no proper public toilet facilities

here, people would ease themselves at different parts of the community and that brought bad odour in many parts of the community. Now, that has reduced (Chief 1).

4.2.2 Public Health

It became apparent from the interviews that community development projects and campaigns were used to tackle some public health issues such as poverty, sewage and water-borne diseases (sanitation) in Ashaiman. Projects aimed at reducing poverty were often income-generating schemes and savings groups. The community developers, mostly those from the DCD, started income generating projects, for example soap and bead making, that required minimal start-up capital which was intended to help the women earn some income to support their families. In addition, susu groups was also another highly popular project which provided a means for the members of the groups to save money and reinvest in their existing businesses. Participants explained that the monies which the susu groups save with the banks serve as leverage with which they secure loans from those banks. Two participants had this to say:

Poverty among some households has also reduced through the training in income-generating activities that we have given them, and the savings that they do which is also our intervention (DCD Staff 1).

...Poverty among some of the people has reduced, because we have helped many inhabitants to engage in some trade and also to save some money...With the income-generating activities, it has empowered the women to be able to depend on themselves and also be able to take care of their families (NGO Community Developer 1).

Another public health issue that was improved in Ashaiman through community development efforts was sanitation. The unsanitary conditions in Ashaiman necessitated the execution of many community development projects and campaigns to help improve upon those conditions.

Findings show that community development projects and campaigns such as clean-up exercises and provision of public toilets in the communities resulted in improved sanitation in those communities. Participants explained that prior to the clean-up exercises, sanitation in the communities was poor. However, through those campaigns and provision of refuse bins, the communities have been tidied up, resulting into improved sanitation:

...Now, because of the clean-up exercises, sanitation in the community is a bit better. You know, sanitation has been a very big issue in Ashaiman for a while now, but the situation here is now better than before (Chief 1).

The cleanup exercises have helped to keep our surroundings clean to prevent diseases spread in our community... Through our clean up exercises the surroundings are tidied up and that has helped to reduce the contraction of diseases such as cholera in the community (Chief 2).

Members of communities in which development projects and campaigns were undertaken also benefitted in terms of overcoming some health issues. Some participants stated that health campaigns led to improved health of the inhabitants. With such projects, health personnel were taken to the communities to educate inhabitants on health-related issues such as reproductive health and prevention of malaria. In other projects, mosquito nets and other health promotion materials were distributed. Beside these campaigns, participants stated that the provision of facilities such as public toilet and drains helped improve upon the sanitary condition in the communities. Consequently, the contraction and spread of some diseases such as cholera and typhoid which were rampant hitherto the provision of those amenities has been put in check:

...Due to the poor sanitation in Ashaiman, malaria is a common disease in the community. So we undertook a project to help them... we conscientised them on the

sanitation situation, cleaned the community with them and distributed mosquito nets to some households (NGO Community Developer 6).

4.2.3 Community ownership of community development projects

Additionally community development efforts in Ashaiman also led to a feeling of ownership of the projects and the communities on the part of the inhabitants, and this has resulted in the reduction in apathy about the development efforts among the people. Participants explained that prior to the execution of the development projects and their accompanying sensitization, many inhabitants were apathetic or indifferent to matters concerning the development of their communities. The assembly members who were participants mentioned that the apathy was high in projects that were undertaken by external community developers, especially at the early phase of the projects. The apathy or indifference on the part of some community members was because those projects were not initiated by the community members themselves, and hence were not motivated to participate in those projects initially. Nevertheless, participants mentioned that the situation of apathy have changed for the better over time. Through efforts such as education and sensitization in the communities, inhabitants tried to get involved in efforts that were undertaken to develop their communities whenever their participation was sort:

Through our projects in the community, apathy among the people has reduced. Now the people are able to cooperate to make decisions or do things to benefit themselves (NGO Community Developer 1).

An Assemblyman said this:

Community development has also somehow helped the people to be able to cooperate and work together for a common good. In that sense the apathy or resistance that the people used to show towards new projects has reduced (Assemblyman 1).

4.2.4 The protective nature of community development projects

Furthermore, some community development projects and campaigns were used to protect the lives and properties of the inhabitants. Such projects and campaigns include the building of storm drains, foot bridges, community watchdog programmes and road and fire-safety campaigns. Participants mentioned that prior to the execution of such projects and campaigns, flooding, road accidents and criminal activities were rampant in the communities. The foot bridges which have been provided have made it possible for the inhabitants to move freely from one part of the communities to the other. Additionally, crime in the communities has reduced due to the watchdog programmes in the communities. Participants also mentioned that road accident and fire outbreak were problems that had destroyed properties and also killed some inhabitants in the communities. However, through the road-safety and fire-safety campaigns in the communities, road accidents and fire outbreak in the communities have reduced:

The flooding in particular was a big problem for us. About three years ago, two children were killed when it rained heavily here, so we had to do something. Now, because of the storm drain and gutters that have been constructed, flooding is no longer a big problem for us (Chief 3).

The road safety campaigns have helped both drivers and pedestrians to be careful and adherent to traffic regulations, and this has contributed to reduced incidence of road accident. The fire safety campaigns have also enlightened the inhabitants on ways to

prevent fire outbreaks, and through such campaigns the occurrence of fire outbreak in the community has reduced (NGO Community Developer 9).

4.3 Challenges to community development efforts

In spite of the enormous contributions that were found to be associated with community development efforts in Ashaiman, some factors were found to hinder the smooth execution of the efforts in the communities. The challenges were related to many factors such as the ways in which the community developers carried out the projects and the attitudes that were put up by community members. The challenges that were encountered in community development in Ashaiman have been discussed in subsequent paragraphs.

4.3.1 Community issues

The findings revealed that some community development projects were stalled or even could not be undertaken due to some issues in the communities. Community issues that were found to have impeded community development are negative attitudes of some inhabitants towards development efforts, crime, land issues, and ethnic and tribal differences among inhabitants.

4.3.1.1 Attitudes of community members

The attitudes of some inhabitants hampered community development efforts in Ashaiman. The attitudes included poor community commitment in some projects, sabotage of projects, and inhabitants' expectation for reward for their participation in projects. Participants explained that the community members showed little commitment to projects and campaigns that the

inhabitants were not actively involved in the design, and were not properly sensitized about. This translated into low patronage and poor maintenance of the resultant facilities. Some inhabitants also tried to sabotage the execution of some projects, because they felt threatened that they would lose their land through the execution of those projects. Additionally, some community developers indicated that some inhabitants' expectation of being given money or gifts as reward for their participation in the projects had the potency of dissuading community members from the purpose behind the efforts being made. The following statements were made by an Assemblyman and an NGO Community developer:

On the construction of the public toilet in the community, it came to a point where the assembly wanted to use a particular plot of land but the people staying close to that land kicked against it, saying that they would not allow the assembly to build toilet facility on that land. Meanwhile the wider community needed the facility (Assemblyman 1).

At times the attitudes of some inhabitants impede the smooth execution of our projects. At times there are people who do not want to see change and those who think they might lose their properties if the project continues. So they will always have a way of being in your way (NGO Community Developer 7).

4.3.1.2 Crime and development Efforts

Certain criminal issues were found to compromise the smooth execution of community development projects and campaigns. The major crime that affected development efforts was theft. Some participants mentioned that in some projects, some of the materials such as bags of cement and wheel burrows were stolen. This led to shortage of the materials in some instances, and this created the situation where some projects and campaigns could not be executed according to initial plans made:

At times crime affects some projects...With the water project for instance, along the line it was found that some of the people were stealing some of the materials like the pipes and wheel burrows (NGO Community Developer 3).

An Assemblyman also had this to say:

There were lots of theft cases in the community and that really affected development projects... there were cases of theft of some materials such as cement which were meant for a toilet building project (Assemblyman 3).

4.3.1.3 Access to land

Some projects and campaigns were stalled or could not be executed due to the difficulty in getting access to land on which projects would be undertaken. The assembly members who were participants mentioned that the difficulty that the communities faced in allotting land for projects was due to the lack of ownership of land by many inhabitants. The lack of land ownership by the inhabitants is as a result of failure on the part of the government and the chiefs to lease portions of land to the inhabitants. Additionally, lands in the communities have not been well demarcated, and this makes it difficult for space to be identified for projects such as building schools and toilet facilities:

We had wanted to put up a toilet facility and a public school but because of lack of space, all these things could not be done. Had there been enough space to accommodate these projects, they would have been done without any hindrance (Assemblyman 3).

Because it is a slum community, the people usually do not have ownership over the land on which they live and work. The land has not been well demarcated and so the people do not know the portion of land they own and the portion that belongs to the government and other people (Assemblyman 1).

4.3.1.4 Ethnic and tribal conflict

Ethnic and tribal differences also resulted in some challenges to community development in the area. The participants indicated that such differences inhibited the ability of the people to work together towards a common goal in some instances, causing delays and sabotage in the development efforts in those communities. Ethnic and tribal differences among the inhabitants impeded community development efforts, especially when people from a particular tribe perceived that community developers had sidelined them, and aligned themselves with other tribes in the community. In such situation, the group that felt sidelined in projects became apathetic to such projects, hence did not participate in such projects and campaigns. Participants also mentioned that at times identifying the communities' pressing needs based on which projects and campaigns would be designed and implemented became a problem due to differences in the interests of the various ethnic groups:

It has not been easy working with the inhabitants at times especially due to the fact that the people belong to different ethnic groups and have different tribal chiefs. With such diversity, the people at times have different interests which make deciding on a particular project a bit difficult (NGO Community Developer 4).

Tribal differences also worry us at times. Sometimes some people from particular tribes feel they are being sidelined in some projects, because their leaders are not actively involved. With such thinking, they will not come for meetings and participate in that project (Chief 2).

The findings show that some challenges encountered in community development emanate from the life situation of the inhabitants of the communities. Examples of such challenges as discussed include criminal acts, land issues, ethnic and tribal differences. Such challenges were found to have impeded some community development efforts in the communities. This means majority of

the responsibility of resolving such challenges must be shouldered by the community members themselves.

4.3.2 Institutional and operational challenges

4.3.2.1 Lack or inadequacy of resources

It became evident from the interviews that some projects stalled or could not be undertaken, because the development agencies undertaking the community development efforts lacked adequate funds and resources required for those projects. In such situations they had to make do with what they had and as such altered the original designs. Some community developers were unequivocal on the fact that changes which at times occurred in the communities between the periods of survey and project implementation impeded their ability to amass all the requisite resources in time for the projects. The inadequacy of resources is worsened by some community members' expectation of rewards for their participation in the projects' and campaigns' execution. The inadequacy of funds and resources also rendered some development efforts unsustainable. This is because due to the inadequacy of resources such as dustbins, inhabitants continued to litter around after the community had been cleaned. Had there been enough dustbins, littering would have reduced:

Funding becomes a challenge when along the line there are unexpected changes in the plan... Even at times we are not able to meet the prioritized needs of the people due to funding issues (NGO Community Developer 3).

Funding is a major challenge for us... Some time ago, the money we had from Government of Ghana for the whole year was GHC 24, but I refused to take it (DCD Staff 1).

4.3.2.2 Poor monitoring and supervision

Poor monitoring and supervision of projects were also mentioned to have led to situations where things were done haphazardly and hence ruined the success of such projects. In projects that there were no strict monitoring and supervisory mechanisms, the smooth execution of the projects and campaigns according to their initial designs was compromised. This is because the workers tried to squeeze the raw materials or even use inferior materials for the projects in order to cut down the cost and in essence maximize their profits. Beside this, people were able to steal some raw materials due to poor monitoring and supervision. Additionally, some participants asserted that poor management and maintenance of facilities and conditions in the communities led to breakages and damages of those facilities and in essence rendered development efforts unsustainable. The poor management and maintenance of facilities and conditions manifested in people littering around after clean-up exercises had been executed and dustbins had been provided, riding motor bikes on foot bridges, and other ways that contradicted the normal way of using facilities provided. Such practices damaged the facilities and good conditions created, leading to unsustainable community development efforts:

Barely three years ago, a drain was built in the community. When you compare that drain to another drain that was built ten years ago in a community nearby, you see that the drain in my community was not well built. Such project was a failure, because of poor monitoring and supervision which allowed the contractors and workers involved to do things any how (Assemblyman 2).

I will say that community participation in the projects is low especially in the maintenance of the projects that are executed. I say this because some of my people abuse the projects. For instance the footbridges that were built, some people abuse it from time to time by using their motorbikes on them. Such conduct weakens the facilities and hence they break down in no time (Assemblyman 1).

4.3.2.3 Project model

A community developer mentioned that the projects' model also served as a challenge in some projects. This challenge was usually encountered in projects that were designed by the community developers without the involvement of the inhabitants. The participant explained that in instances where the projects were more technical, it was difficult for the inhabitants to understand the processes involved. As a result, it became difficult for them to support the execution of those projects. Even if they eventually supported the projects, their participation was low, especially at the initial phases of such projects:

Project model is also one of the constraints. With this, what I mean is that when the project is not developed from the community's view point but from the technical point of view of we the experts, community support and participation in such projects becomes very difficult, because it takes time for the project to be understood by the community members, unlike the projects which are their own initiatives (NGO Community Developer 8).

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction

This chapter covers a discussion of the findings that have been presented. A conclusion has also been drawn from the findings. Through careful study of findings, the researcher has made some recommendations that if adhered to, will help the various stakeholders in community development efforts in Ashaiman overcome the challenges they face. Some recommendations for social workers on community development practice in Ashaiman and other urban communities have also been made.

5.1 Discussion of findings

5.1.1 Approaches of community development

Findings show that community development efforts in Ashaiman adopt both the self-help and technical assistance approaches. Although Ashaiman is an urban community, there is some level of bonding social capital between the inhabitants, and this creates resemblance between Ashaiman and rural communities. The ties between the inhabitants of Ashaiman, although not as strong as the ties in rural communities, enabled the inhabitants to cooperate to initiate and execute projects and campaigns such as clean-up exercises on their own for the benefit of their communities. Additionally, they were able to decide on some projects and sought for technical assistance from some community development agencies in executing them. Furthermore, it was

established that even in projects that were initiated by community development agencies, the inhabitants supported and participated in the implementation of those projects, as found by Tamuno and Iroh (2012) that under the self-help approach, community members work together on their own volition to initiate and execute projects for the betterment of the conditions in their communities.

The self-help approach is also in line with the Rothman's locality development model. This is because the inhabitants of Ashaiman collectively decide on their needs and work together towards meeting those needs on their own. This supports Rothman's (2001) assertion that the locality development model entails community members collectively making plans that are aimed at developing their community. Additionally, community members' ability to decide on a particular project because of their acknowledgment of a common interest supports Hyman's (1990) position that the locality development model is based on the premise that people share some common interests.

The element of the technical assistance approach was found in community development agencies' utilization of their own resources and technical expertise to execute projects for the communities. The technical assistance approach is popular in Ashaiman, because poverty among the inhabitants constricts their ability to raise enough resources to execute projects on their own. Additionally, the inhabitants lack adequate skills needed for the execution of some technical projects such as designing a storm drain project. Hence, they required the expertise of community developers to supplement the inhabitants' competence. In some instances community developers' assistance was sought by the communities, whereas in other instances the

community developers went to the communities to undertake the projects without invitation by inhabitants. This finding supports Robinson and Green's (2011) position that the technical assistance of community developers may be sought for by communities or the community developers may offer them on their own volition. The self-help and technical assistance approach which were found to be used in Ashaiman support findings by Burkhart-Kriesel (2005) and Robinson and Green (2011) that self-help and technical assistance are prominent approaches to community development.

It was found that community development agencies through their professional community developers utilize their funds, expertise and other resources to carry out projects in the communities. This finding is in consonance with Rothman's (2001) description of the social planning model in which technical expertise is employed to understand communities' problems and solve them for the members of such communities. Additionally, the fact that professionals who are mostly external to the communities undertake projects in Ashaiman supports Brieger's (2012) observation that under the social planning model, external entities design and implement projects in communities. The variation however, is that, although external community developers design and implement some projects in Ashaiman, the inhabitants participate in most of those projects. This is because the community developers engage the community members in most of the phases of the projects and also sensitize them on those projects.

In comparing the approach to community development in Ashaiman as an urban community to those used in the rural communities, a distinction can be made. Although there are elements of self- help and technical assistance approaches in both rural and urban communities, community

development in Ashaiman is dominated by the technical assistance approach. This is due to the nature of the projects that were undertaken and the loose social and psychological bonds that exist between the inhabitants, compared to that of rural communities where there are strong bonds between the community members. This is a bit different from community development in the rural communities, which is mostly based on the self-help approach (Campfens, 1997; Emeh et al, 2012).

Findings revealed that prior to the execution of many of the community development projects and campaigns in Ashaiman, which were undertaken by the Department of Community Development, surveys were conducted to understand the problems and needs of the communities. In instances where the Department of Community Development did not conduct survey, it usually designed and implemented projects based on the needs communicated by the inhabitants of the communities. Although some projects and campaigns which the Department of Community Development executed were the agency's predetermined projects, the majority of the projects were found to have been designed and implemented based on the community needs that were identified through the agency's surveys or reports from the inhabitants. This finding contradicts Laird's (2007) finding that the staff of Ghana's Department of Community Development did not conduct surveys prior to project implementation, and that the projects executed by the agency were designed and implemented based on the community developers' perception about problems suffered by the communities.

The participation of the inhabitants was found to be crucial in community development efforts in Ashaiman. Findings revealed that through the participation of the inhabitants in the projects and

campaigns, the inhabitants understood the projects and also gained ownership and control over those projects. This understanding and sense of ownership and control translated into the empowerment of the inhabitants and the successful execution of the projects. Furthermore, due to the understanding and skills acquired by the inhabitants, they were able to replicate some of the projects and also maintain the projects undertaken. This is in line with Brueggemann's (2006) observation that community participation in development projects empowers the inhabitants to be able to utilize local resources to initiate, undertake and sustain self-help projects in their community. It also supports an observation made by UNDP (1993) in its Human Development Report that people's participation in their own development leads to successful processes in which the people are empowered to become self-reliant.

With regard to the initiators of projects and campaigns in Ashaiman, findings point to the fact that projects were initiated by the inhabitants, government or NGO community development agencies. These entities were found to have collaborated in some projects and campaigns as well. Their actions and inactions were also found to impact the success or failure of the projects. This supports Thaddeus and Owusu-Sekyere's (2013) finding that community development efforts in a community may be internally or externally driven or both, and that the stakeholders in development projects in a community influence the projects. It also supports Campfens' (1997) view that community development effort may be sponsored by an internal entity, thus the inhabitants, or external entities such as NGOs and government agencies that are interested in the development of the community.

5.1.2 Contributions made by community development

Community development projects and campaigns that have been undertaken in Ashaiman tackled different problems such as poverty, poor sanitation, poor housing and others. This means that particular problems that were faced by the inhabitants necessitated the execution of particular projects. This means that community developers focused on all the problems that have contributed to the deplorable conditions in Ashaiman. Priority was placed on particular problems depending on the prevailing conditions in a particular community. This is in line with Campfens' (1997) study that stated that community development efforts such as home economics, educational campaigns and income-generating projects were undertaken in Ghana to help the beneficiary communities overcome issues such as illiteracy and poverty which had become pressing problems of the people. However, this finding contradicts Amoako and Cobbinah's (2011) view that most community development efforts in urban slums have had poverty reduction as their main focus. Although there are some key projects such as income-generating and savings projects, there are other projects and campaigns such as water, clean-up exercises and storm drain projects which do not focus on poverty reduction.

Beside the infrastructural, health and income-generating projects and campaigns, a new form of community development efforts undertaken in Ashaiman is the formation of savings groups. Community development in the past did not involve the formation of savings groups. However, this has become a popular project in Ashaiman. This may be due to the massive reverence given to savings and investment in modern societies, and the availability of many savings and loans agencies in the urban communities. The savings groups, after having saved with the banks for a while, are able to use their savings to leverage for loans to undertake projects and campaigns in

their community or support their businesses. This has helped members of such groups solve problems associated with poverty.

Community development efforts in Ashaiman were mostly championed by the chiefs, assembly members, governmental institutions, NGOs and informal local groups of inhabitants. These entities were found to be key stakeholders in community development efforts in Ashaiman. Although the efforts made by these entities varied, most of the development efforts got these entities on board at some point in the projects' cycle. This supports the view of Emeh et al (2012) that community development efforts are basically spearheaded by four groups or institutions, namely, the local government, formal but non-governmental organizations, non-formal institutions, and traditional institutions.

It became evident that through community development projects and campaigns in Ashaiman, some inhabitants have gained control over their lives. Some projects such as health campaigns which were undertaken in the communities were found to have helped the inhabitants understand issues concerning diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, and hence they are now informed about how to prevent the contraction of those diseases. This has translated into improved health situation in the communities. The women and girls were found to have benefitted more from the campaigns as they were given education on reproductive health issues. This finding supports findings by Campfens (1997), Laird (2007) and Thaddeus and Owusu-Sekyere (2013) which indicated that community development projects such as health campaigns and home economics training which were undertaken in Ghana helped some people especially women to improve their health, and also to effectively execute their domestic roles such as child-rearing.

Community development projects in Ashaiman have assisted families to reduce poverty levels among the inhabitants. Poverty was found to be a common problem that is faced by many inhabitants in Ashaiman. Some projects such as income-generating projects which were undertaken with the inhabitants especially the women have helped them reduce the level of poverty in which they lived hitherto to their participation in those projects. Through such projects, some community members acquired skills in certain trades such as soap-making, catering and bead making. Some community members who participated in the projects utilised the acquired skills in small and medium scale trades to earn some income. This is in line with Campfens' (1997) and Laird's (2007) views that the income-generating projects and vocational and craftsmanship training projects in Ghana have helped participants gain employment and reduce their poverty levels. However, most of the beneficiaries of the training programmes in Ashaiman were women, which is different from Campfens' (1997) findings. This is because Campfens (1997) indicates that the training programmes that were undertaken in the Ghanaian communities involved both male-dominated activities (e.g. carpentry and leather work), and female-dominated activities (palm oil making and tie-dye making), whereas those that were found in Ashaiman were mostly female-dominated programmes (e.g. being bead and soap making).

Infrastructural development was found to be a major contribution made by community development in Ashaiman. Infrastructural development is a common or integral component of community development efforts in all parts of the world, urban and rural communities alike. The findings of the study show that the provision of social amenities such as public toilet facilities, shelter, portable water, market facilities, footbridges and others are some of the contributions of community development efforts in Ashaiman. These facilities have led to improved sanitation in

the communities, security of inhabitants and their properties, and afforded the inhabitants the opportunity to enjoy some facilities which are found in other urban communities. This finding is in consonance with findings by Asomani-Boateng (2007) and Laird (2007) that community development projects that have been undertaken in Ghana has led to the provision of infrastructures such as schools, clinics and portable water in many communities.

5.1.3 Challenges faced in community development

There are many challenges that are encountered in community development efforts in Ashaiman. The challenges that were found include some community issues such as negative attitudes of some inhabitants and ethnic differences, while others were related to how development efforts were planned and executed. Those factors were found to impede the smooth execution of development efforts in Ashaiman. Some of the challenges such as those related to land issues and ethnic differences utterly prevented the execution of some projects and campaigns. However, with other challenges, the projects were undertaken but excessive delays were encountered. Beside the delays caused by those challenges, they rendered some development efforts unsustainable. For example, findings showed that contracted workers in some projects used inferior materials, or even stole some materials in projects in which monitoring and supervision were poor. This led to the provision of facilities of low quality, as it was explained by a participant in a storm drain project. This finding supports Amoako and Cobbinah's (2011) and Gulyani and Basset's (2008) observation that the challenges that are encountered in community development make it difficult for projects to be carried out successfully, and also render the efforts unsustainable.

A challenge that was identified with the execution of the income-generating projects in Ashaiman was difficulty on the part of the participants in those projects to buy the raw materials that were required for the projects. Some materials such as dye and solder which were needed in the training projects could not be afforded by some of the inhabitants in those projects. This situation which resulted from the inadequacy of funds and resources impeded the smooth completion of those projects within the stipulated duration. Inadequacy of funds and resources as a challenge to community development was also stated by Campfens (1997), to have been encountered in the income-generating projects which were undertaken in some rural communities in Ghana.

The lack of funds as a challenge in community development was also found not to have been suffered by only the community members, but also the community development agencies. Due to lack of funds and logistics, the development agencies strived to execute some projects, and this stifled their development efforts at times. This was found to be as a result of failure of the government of Ghana to provide adequate funds for the Department of Community Development, and the inability of NGO community developers to raise adequate funds for projects and campaigns. This finding on the lack of adequate funds on the part of the Department of Community Development supports Laird's (2007) finding from a study on community development in Ghana that highlighted the financial and logistical challenges hampering the Department of Community Development's ability to render services to communities.

Some community development efforts in Ashaiman were found to have been impeded by ethnic and tribal differences among the inhabitants. There are people from diverse ethnic backgrounds

co-habiting in Ashaiman. These ethnic groups include Ewes, Akans, Ga Adamgbes, Hausas and many others. In some projects, it became difficult for the inhabitants to work together for the effective execution of the projects and campaigns at hand. This challenge resulted in instances where some ethnic groups felt their leaders were not part of the group of front liners in those projects. Such ethnic groups were found to have dissociated themselves from the projects and this was to the disadvantage of the entire communities. The challenge that is presented by ethnic differences among inhabitants in particular communities supports Aryeetey's (1998) position that ethnic and tribal differences posed a challenge to community development efforts which were made in northern Ghana.

Another challenge which was found is related to the situation where community members were not involved in the design of the projects. In some projects, the community developers designed the projects on their own without the involvement of the inhabitants. In such instances, there was a high tendency that those projects did not reflect the worldview of the inhabitants concerning their living conditions. Although some inhabitants participated in the implementation of such projects due to the sensitization which was undertaken, their participation was very low at the beginning stages. This was due to their lack of understanding about those projects and how beneficial their successful execution would be to the communities. This led to the situation where some projects could not be completed within their stipulated durations. As a result of the inhabitants' lack of understanding about certain projects, patronage and maintenance of the facilities provided through such projects was low. This finding supports Dukeshire and Thurlow's (2002) view that poor representation and involvement of inhabitants in the efforts to

develop their communities challenges the smooth execution of those efforts and the ability of such efforts to achieve their intended targets.

Lack of ownership of land on the part of many inhabitants was found to be a factor that gravely impeded development efforts in Ashaiman. It became apparent that many inhabitants in Ashaiman do not own the land on which they live and as such do not have control over them. Majority of the land in Ashaiman is owned by either the municipal assembly or ethnic groups. The lack of ownership of land by the inhabitants, coupled with the poor demarcation of land in the communities challenges communities' ability to access land for the execution of some projects. This was found to have prevented the execution of some projects while other projects which were eventually executed experienced delays. The inhabitants' lack of ownership and control over the land in their communities has led to feelings of apathy among some people about the development of those communities, since they think they could be evicted from the communities at any point in time. This is in line with Sherbiniin et al's (2009) position that community development efforts are impeded by inhabitants' lack of ownership and control over the land on which they live.

The attitudes of some inhabitants in the communities also served as a challenge to community development efforts in Ashaiman. Attitudes of the inhabitants such as apathy, sabotage of projects and their expectation of rewards for their participation in development efforts posed a challenge to the successful execution of those efforts. This challenge was found to have had grave effect on projects in which funds and resources were scarce; hence the scarce funds could not be dished out as rewards to the community members. Since some community members were

not being given those gifts, their support and participation in the development efforts was low, especially at the initial stages of the projects when they did not understand the projects and benefits to the communities. This finding supports Izugbara, Tikkanen and Barron's (2014) position that the attitude of some community members is a challenge to community development efforts.

Findings also showed that the government of Ghana has supported the residents in Ashaiman in their bid to improve upon the living conditions in their communities. This the government did through the Department of Community Development and ASHMA, where these agencies executed projects and campaigns in the communities to help the community members meet their needs and thereby improve their living conditions. However, this is not to say that the government has done enough for those communities, as findings show that the government did not provide enough funds to the Department of Community Development in Ashaiman at certain times. Regardless of the fact that the government can do better than it has done in the past, this finding contradicts Izugbara, Tikkanen and Barron's (2014), King and Amponsah's (2012) and Nahiduzzaman, Baudouin and Hasan's (2006) opinion that governments have neglected the development of slum communities.

5.2 Conclusion

Over the years, community development has become an important tool for helping Ghanaian communities meet their needs. The process involves efforts made by members of communities with or without the help of community developers, to improve upon their living conditions in

their communities. Due to the inadequacy of literature on community development in urban slums, little is known about the approaches used, contributions made and the challenges encountered in community development in such communities. This study was therefore undertaken to understand how community development has been approached and has fared in Ashaiman slums, with a qualitative research design.

Community development in Ashaiman slums adopts both the self-help and technical assistance approaches, although it is dominated by the technical assistance approach. The process of community development involves a number of steps such as community entry, survey, project design and project implementation, among others. However, there are variations in how these steps are carried out, depending on the kind of project and the approach adopted.

Community development efforts undertaken in Ashaiman have made many contributions to the beneficiary communities. It has led to improved health, poverty reduction and infrastructural development, among others in the communities. Nevertheless, the process has encountered some challenges which have stifled the execution of some projects and campaigns. The challenges include community issues, lack of funds and other resources, and poor monitoring and supervision among others. The study has discovered some mechanisms through which the challenges encountered can be addressed. The mechanisms include capacity building for both community developers and community members, ensuring transparency in the execution of projects, ensuring the proper demarcation of land and granting community members ownership to land.

5.3 Recommendations

5.3.1 Recommendations for the government

The government through its policy makers should enact policies to ensure that security is tightened in Ashaiman. Crime was found to be a challenge to community development efforts in Ashaiman, and hence must be dealt with. This can be done through police patrol and the community watchdog programmes. With improved security in Ashaiman, crime such as theft and its effect on community development can be reduced. The government, through its institutions, should also conscientise the inhabitants on the deleterious nature of crime on the development of the communities. It should also motivate the people to be vigilant and report criminal issues to the police. Through such policy and practices, community development in Ashaiman can be promoted.

The government should also enact policies that are specific to community development efforts in urban slums. Community development in the urban communities is not as prominent as it has been practiced in the rural areas, especially with respect to government-sanctioned projects. This issue has also been aggravated by the fact that the execution of self-help projects in the urban communities is low, as compared to the practice in rural communities. It is therefore important that the government enacts policies and also spearhead community development in the urban communities. Through this, development efforts made by the NGOs can be supplemented by the government.

It should also institute by-laws that will promote the development of the communities. It is important that some by-laws are instituted in Ashaiman to help overcome some of the challenges that are associated with the negative attitudes of some inhabitants. It was revealed that some

inhabitants are not much concerned about the development of their communities and hence do not participate in development efforts, nor maintain the facilities provided. It is therefore important that by-laws such as sanitation laws are instituted. The by-laws will compel the inhabitants to participate in the projects and campaigns, and also desist from acts that compromise the sustainability of development efforts. It is also important that punishment for flouting those laws are clearly spelt out and also enforced.

Additionally, the government should work with the chiefs of the communities to expedite the demarcation of the land in the communities. Community development in Ashaiman is impeded by the fact that the lands on which the people live have not been properly demarcated. This impeded the planning of the development of those communities and resulted into situations where space could not be obtained for the execution of projects. It is therefore important that the government through ASHMA works with the chiefs to properly demarcate the land so that they can plan the development of the communities.

Furthermore, it should grant the inhabitants ownership of the lands in their communities. The apathy on the part of some inhabitants was found to be partly related to their lack of ownership to the land on which they live. Without the ownership of the land, coupled with threats of eviction on some occasions, the inhabitants have conceived that they could be evicted from the communities anytime, hence would not use their resources to develop those communities. This conception and resultant negative attitude towards community development will change among some community members if they are granted ownership of the land. The government should

therefore consider giving out some of its land in those communities to the inhabitants so that they can develop them as their own properties.

5.3.2 Recommendations for community developers

Community developers should ensure that projects are assessed on regular basis right from the beginning of the projects to the end. In the project execution cycle, a defect at an earlier phase of the project could affect the subsequent phases. It is therefore important that the various phases in the project cycle are carefully assessed to detect errors so that such errors can be rectified in due time. Additionally, at the beginning of a project for which massive education and sensitization is conducted, there are many people who would offer their assistance in various ways. However, as the project wares on, the enthusiasm might reduce and some of the actors may fall out. Regular assessment will help the community developers know those who are still actively working on the project and as such can be counted on.

They should also strive to understand the needs of the inhabitants and design projects based on those needs. If this is done, the inhabitants can identify themselves with the projects and also believe that their needs can be met through the successful execution of those projects. With such belief, the apathy that is exhibited by some inhabitants will reduce and they will be motivated to support the projects and also actively participate in their execution. Besides understanding the needs of communities, community development practitioners should conduct research to understand development efforts made in the communities. This will help them understand communities' pressing needs, to avoid the duplication of efforts in those communities.

Additionally, in their practice, community developers should motivate the inhabitants and community leaders to play active roles in the development efforts so that the inhabitants will own and exercise control over the projects. The involvement of the community leaders must be overt through means such as inviting them to meetings and publicly acknowledging their support. Getting the leaders of the communities on board in development efforts is very important. This is because they are influential in their communities and their involvement in itself will motivate some community members to also get on board. It is important that community developers do not look down upon the inhabitants as people who are helpless and as such have no input to make in the development of their communities. Rather, they should be seen as people who understand their situations and can make constructive inputs into community development efforts. In other words, the inhabitants should be seen as partners in community development practice.

Furthermore, education and sensitization about the projects and campaigns should be championed. It is also important that the education and sensitization are carried out in the media that the intended audience, for example inhabitants, will get the intent and content of the messages. This will help the inhabitants and other stakeholders understand the projects and how beneficial they will be to the communities, so that the people will support and participate in the projects. Continuous education and sensitization will also help maintain the enthusiasm that people have for the projects, and translate into effective community development practice.

Community development practitioners should also try to expand their networks so that they can solicit for more funds. Community developers can overcome the challenge of inadequacy of

funds and other resources by forming networks and partnerships with other institutions such as governmental and non-governmental institutions. This will help them raise more funds or share projects' costs with those institutions, to enable community developers execute the projects that they plan.

Community developers should also build the capacity of the inhabitants by equipping them with some skills. In order for community developers to be able to get the inhabitants on board and play active roles, they should equip them with some requisite skills on the particular project that is being undertaken. If this is done, the people will be confident that they have something to offer in the projects and hence will not shy away if they are called upon to play certain roles in the project. The acquired skills will also help inhabitants better manage and maintain the facilities, and also be able to replicate such projects on their own.

They should also ensure that there is transparency in their practice in the communities so that the issue of rumour mongering about their intentions will be avoided. Rumours will be circulated if the community members and other stakeholders feel certain deeds concerning the projects are concealed from them. Lack of openness and transparency could also give the inhabitants reason to doubt the true intentions of the developers. In order to avoid such situations and the resultant effects such as non-participation and sabotage of projects, community developers must be open to the people and also ensure that there is transparency in all of their operations.

5.3.3 Recommendations for chiefs

The chiefs should constantly dialogue with their people so that the community as a whole can have a common understanding regarding their needs. This will help them communicate the felt needs of the majority of the people whenever they are approached by government officials or community developers, about the development of their communities. The majority of members in their communities will support efforts that are made to solve the needs which they decided on their own as more pressing.

The chiefs should also work with the government through the assembly to expedite the demarcation of the land in Ashaiman. As local leaders, their knowledge about the land on which they have stayed for several years will be very useful in the demarcation process. They should therefore work with the government to identify the boundaries of the land so that the land can be demarcated properly. Additionally, they should grant community members ownership of land in their communities. Findings of the study showed that some of the land in Ashaiman is owned by some chiefs and their respective ethnic groups. This means that beside the government giving the inhabitants land, the chiefs can also give out some of the land in their custody so that their own people can have ownership and control over those plots of land and in essence make efforts to develop them.

Furthermore, each traditional leader in Ashaiman should strive to see other traditional leaders as their partners in development and hence cooperate to engender community development practice in their communities. Findings revealed that some inhabitants from particular tribes sometimes do not participate in some development efforts, because they feel their leaders have been

sidelined from the projects. In order to get all the inhabitants on board, the leaders of the various tribes should work together on the projects so that they can garner support from their respective constituents for the projects.

5.3.4 Recommendations for inhabitants

The inhabitants should strive to look beyond the instant material rewards which they expect for their participation in development efforts in their communities. The attitude of some inhabitants who expected rewards for their participation in development efforts was found to impede the development efforts due to the inadequacy of funds. They should therefore change such attitudes and see the results of the efforts, thus improved living conditions in their communities, as the reward for their participation in the projects and campaigns.

Additionally, they should see the development of their community as their responsibility, and that efforts made by the government and community development agencies are meant to assist them bear such responsibility. They can only understand the projects that are being undertaken if they involve themselves. As stakeholders in community development practice, they should also voice out their concerns as far as the development efforts are concerned, so that such concerns can be factored into the design of the projects.

In order for the inhabitants to adhere to these recommendations, their perspectives about community development that do not make them consider the development of their community as their responsibility must be deconstructed. This can be done through education and

conscientisation by the Department of Community Development, social workers and other institutions.

5.3.5 Recommendations for social workers

Social workers should undertake more research into urban communities. This will enable us understand the challenges of the inhabitants, and efforts that have been made so far, to help them overcome their challenges. Community development in the urban communities, approaches used, contributions made and challenges encountered are issues about which much is not known. It is therefore important that social workers delve into how the practice is utilized in the urban communities. This will enable us utilize the information we obtain to plan projects and campaigns to help the communities.

Social workers should also educate the inhabitants and link them to the institutions and resources that are available to them. Social workers' role of linking inhabitants to resources will be crucial in community development practice. Some inhabitants may not have information about the resources and institutions that they can reach out to for assistance. The onus therefore lies on social workers to educate them on those institutions and also link them to the institutions for assistance.

Additionally, social workers should advocate with and on behalf of the inhabitants, for them to gain ownership of the land on which they live. The lack of ownership of land was found to be one of the major challenges that the inhabitants face in trying to develop their communities. It was also found that significant portions of the land in the communities belong to the government.

Social workers should therefore help them gain ownership of land by engaging the government on the need to lease out some portions of the land to the inhabitants.

Social workers should also lobby for the formulation of policies that will deal with the development of urban communities, especially the slums. Due to the fact that the emergence of slum communities is a new phenomenon, there are no specific policies on the development of such communities. This means that not much attention has been given to the subject. As social workers, we need to draw public attention on the subject and also engage policy makers to enact policies that will be specific to the development of such communities.

Furthermore, as community development practitioners, social workers should develop skills and techniques for entering and working with the inhabitants of urban communities. Some development efforts in Ashaiman were found to have been impeded by challenges related to ethnic and tribal differences among the inhabitants. This means that sections of the communities may not participate in projects or even sabotage them if they suspect that the community developers have aligned themselves with people from particular ethnic groups, especially where there is conflict between the ethnic groups. It is therefore important that as social workers, we equip ourselves with skills and techniques that will help us work with people from all factions in the community. Through this, social workers can get the support and participation of inhabitants from the various ethnic groups in the communities for the development efforts we make.

Finally, we should equip ourselves with knowledge and skills in soliciting for funds. A major challenge to community development efforts in Ashaiman was found to be inadequate funds and

resources. This means that as social workers, we need to develop our ability to solicit for funds and resources from diverse avenues. In order for us to be able to obtain the funds and resources required for our projects, we need to be abreast of grant and proposal writing so that through those measures we can obtain the needed funds to help communities.



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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Consent Form UNIVERSITY OF GHANA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

The researcher is an M. Phil student of the University of Ghana, Department of Social Work, conducting a study on the topic, “**Community Development in the Slums: Approaches and Impediments in Ashaiman**”, as part of his fulfillment of the requirement of the M. Phil Degree. In the researcher’s bid to honour the ethical requirements of the study, participants have been assured of the following ethical issues:

Informed consent: The researcher has introduced himself and his intention of conducting the study to participants before they agreed to participate in the study. The researcher has also provided information on the kind of data sought for, sample questions, how the data obtained would be handled, the use of the data, and the benefits and risks of participating in the study.

Voluntary participation: The researcher has made it known to the participants and that they can decide to withdraw from the study at any point, and that their participation in the study is on their own free will.

Confidentiality: All information obtained from participants will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone beside the researcher and his supervisors.

In order to facilitate the interview section and data collection, the researcher will use a voice recorder, after permission has been sought from participants of the study.

Thank you.

.....

Appiah-Kubi Jamal

(Researcher)

.....

(Participant)

Appendix II: Interview Questions

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

The researcher is an M. Phil student of the University of Ghana, Department of Social Work, conducting a study on the topic, “**Community Development in slums: Approaches and Impediments in Ashaiman**”. The researcher humbly asks for your participation in a brief interview to solicit for information and understanding into issues on his research topic. Participation is voluntary and you can decide to opt out at any stage of the research.

Socio-demographic information of Participant

1. Age
2. Sex.....
3. Educational qualification.....
4. Years of practice in the slums (For community developers).....
5. Years of service (For Chiefs and Assembly members).....

Questions related to approaches to community development.

1. What are the community development projects undertaken in the community?
2. In what ways are these projects benefiting the community?
3. What approaches and procedures are adopted in undertaking projects in the community?
4. How are you able to assess the needs and interests of the community?
5. Do you think there is a strong local leadership in the community?
6. What can you say about community support for community development projects?
7. Do you think there is a sense of ownership for community development efforts and the community as a whole among the inhabitants in the community?
8. In what ways do the inhabitants participate in development efforts in the community?

9. Are there instances where the inhabitants of the community initiate development projects on their own?

Questions related to the contributions made by community development efforts

1. Which particular problems have community development efforts in the community addressed?
2. Apart from the problems encountered in the community, have community development been adopted for any other purpose?
3. What factors have contributed to the success in community development?
4. Have there been instances where there were failures in some community development efforts?
5. What factors contributed to such failures?

Questions related to the challenges faced in community development work

1. What challenges do you face in undertaking community development in the community?
2. What are the sources of these challenges?

Questions related to ways to overcome the challenges hampering community development efforts.

1. What mechanisms can be put in place to overcome the challenges hindering community development efforts?
2. What are the measures that can be put in place to ensure that community members' involvement in community development efforts is be promoted?
3. Have any of these measures been successfully adopted in the community?
4. In what ways would you like community development to be improved?