

**PROBLEMS OF RURAL SETTLERS AFFECTED BY
URBANIZATION IN THE GA EAST MUNICIPALITY, GHANA**

BY

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that except for references to works, which have been duly cited and acknowledged, this work presented was done by me as a Master of Philosophy Adult Education student of the University of Ghana, Legon.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my late mother and father/uncle, Madam Dede Abuyaa, S.K Tsatsu and Christian Tetteh Norgah respectively, for the role they played in educating me to this stage. Your toils and advice has not been in vain. God watch over your souls till we meet again. Thank You.

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ABSTRACT

Peri-urban areas as the interface between urban and rural regions are currently experiencing enormous changes due to the extension of urban activities. The rapid growth of newly built environment and the apparent transformations of socioeconomic structure reveal how these areas become contested regions. It is recognized that peripheral areas have many disadvantages to accommodate the agglomeration of urban functions. As a result, the rapid pace of in-migration has been reshaping land-use patterns, economic structures, traditional culture, and neighborhood life. This research aims to identify problems of peri-urban settlers by focusing on the case of the Ga East Municipality of the Greater Accra Region. These concerns are then explored through an investigation on three related phenomena:

- Problems of peri-urban settlers in relations to
 - a. economic
 - b. social
 - c. cultural
- Effects of the problems of peri-urban settlers
- Coping strategies of settlers in peri-urban areas

To research into these variables, the study adopted a cross sectional descriptive analytical survey. The study employed interview schedule and focus group discussion as instruments for data collection. In all, 150 respondents were sampled from three communities in the Ga East Municipality. Based on the analyzed data, this work finds that peri-urbanization in the Ga East Municipality cannot separate itself from impending problems. The problems included; peri-urban settlers had problems with income generating activities. This is attributed to denial of livelihood activities as farmlands are being converted onto housing.

Also, social amenities in the communities sampled had inadequate social amenities and this have affected the communities negatively as most youth in the communities have engaged in social vices. Furthermore, indigenous cultural practices have been adulterated due to influence of outside cultures. With regard to the effect of the identified problems, community members have been affected so much that indigenes live in poverty due to inadequate income generating activities. Due to this, most people have resulted in trading to make livelihood as a coping strategy. Understanding the impact of development policy on spatial and socioeconomic change has implications for urban governance and growth management, as well as for future research.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Humans have been using land and its resources for centuries in pursuit of their better lives. The way humans have used land and exploited its resources over time is a serious problem as it has altered land cover and impacted the functioning of the ecosystem (Cieslewicz, 2002). With the beginning of agriculture, modern technology, and the rise of commercial mode of economy, the management of land and its resources has increased dramatically. In the last few decades, land use practices (agriculture, mining, logging, housing, recreation, etc) have become so intensive and predominant that their impacts in forms of uncontrolled development (urbanization), deteriorating environmental quality, loss of prime agricultural lands, destruction of wetlands, and loss of fish and wildlife habitats had occurred everywhere on the earth. Such impacts have reduced the local capacity of lands to support both ecosystem and human enterprise at a global scale. Therefore, the effect of urbanization is no longer a local environmental problem but a global one (Houghton, 1994).

As a result, cities are growing faster all over the world. According to the Nature Conservancy (2008), there will be nearly 2 billion new city residents accounting for around 60 percent of the world's population by 2030 leading to a severe damage of natural resources and ecosystems. When cities grow, it requires more land and resources to support the growth. This leads to change in land use causing environmental problems such as air and water pollution, loss of open space and biodiversity, heat island effects. Based on the fact that global human population is growing and rural to urban migration is increasing, the urbanization trend will continue to happen at least for another few decades.

This continuation of urbanization pattern will increase land and resource consumption, and aggravate the environmental problems which have already posed threats to the planet (Kharel, 2010).

Furthermore, the Department for International Development (1999) had it that more than half of the world's populations live in areas that are classified as urban. In developing countries, a substantial and growing proportion lives in or around metropolitan areas and cities, where their livelihoods depend to some extent on natural resources such as land for food, water and fuel, and space for living (Department for International Development, 1999). The population pressure means that resources in such zones are often overexploited. Although heterogeneous in its social composition, the urban communities constitutes the habitat of a diversity of populations, including lower income groups who are particularly vulnerable to negative externalities of both rural and urban communities.

Although the rate of urbanization in the developing world is proceeding at a fairly comparable rate as that of the industrial nations in the heyday of their rapid urbanization, the rate of population growth of cities in developing countries as distinct from urbanization is rather unprecedented (Songsore, 2003a). Also the United Fund for Population Activities (2008) indicated that first time in history, more than half of the world's population, 3.3 billion people, are living in urban areas. This is projected to increase to some 5 billion by 2030 (UNFPA, 2007). It further indicated that over 80 per cent of this growth will increase to Asia and Africa, with most of the rest to Latin America. Tables 1.1 further illustrate the growth of most urban cities worldwide.

Table 1.1: Percentage of Total Population that is Urban, 1950-2010

Region	1950	1965	1980	1995	2010
Africa	14.6	20.7	27.3	34.9	43.6
Asia	17.4	22.4	26.7	34.7	43.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	41.4	53.4	64.9	73.4	78.6
Rest of the World	55.3	64.1	70.5	74.2	78.0

Source: United Nations (1998) cited in Songsore (2003)

As depicted in table 1.1, Africa is currently rated among the least urbanized regions of the world and has hardly any of its mega-cities although its process of urbanization is very rapid (UNCHS, 1996). This can be traced to the late 1960's, European colonial powers deliberately kept down the populations of urban centres by imposing restrictions on migrations of the indigenous African population to the towns (Satterthwaite, 1996). As a result, Africa is only in the early phases of its urban transition. With a 3.3 per cent growth rate per year between 2000 and 2005 the rate of change of Africa's urban population is currently the highest in the world. With growth rates of 4.02 and 4.05 respectively, the West and Central Africa, and East Africa regions are the fastest growing regions in Africa (UN-HABITAT, 2008). The percentage share of the total population which is urban in West Africa of 41.75 in 2007 is well above the average of 38.70 for the continent while that of East Africa of 20.48 makes the region the least urbanized in Africa (UN-HABITAT, 2008).

The table further indicates that much of this urban population is concentrated in Asia and Latin America which have a good number of mega-cities which are increasingly integrated into functional networks of economic linkages with global or core cities (Rakodi, 1997). Between 2000 and 2030 while Asia's urban population of 1.36 billion will about double

to 2.64 billion, that of Africa which is far smaller will more than double from 294 to 742. At this rate by 2030 seven out of every ten urban inhabitants of the globe will be from Asia and Africa (Martine, McGranahan, Montgomery and Fernandez-Castilla, 2008). A statement by the United Nation Habitat attests to the rapid growth of population in most regions as:

“By 2050, Asia will host 63 per cent of the global urban population, or 3.3 billion people; Africa will have an urban population of 1.2 billion, or nearly a quarter of the world’s urban population. Altogether, 95 per cent of the world’s urban population growth over the next four decades will be absorbed by cities in developing countries” (UN-HABITAT, 2008a, p.15).

On the other hand, it is documented that Africa, with its relatively rapid rate of urbanization, will in future also be part of what Toynbee has called the ‘world city’ or ‘ecumenopolis’ according to Doxiadis with the majority of the world’s population then living in a network of urban centres (Songsore, 2000a). Whereas in 1995 only about 35 per cent of all Africans were urban dwellers as shown in Table 1.1, it is projected that by 2030 Africa may reach the milestone of half of its population living in urban settlements and with a total population of 749 million people (UN-HABITAT, 2008b). Africa’s urbanization is approaching a demographic shade point as a result of the projected sharp rise in the urban population (Kessides, 2006).

Africa presents a particularly affecting example of the problems involved, as it has the fastest population and urban growth in the world as well as the lowest economic development and growth and many of the poorest countries, especially in Tropical Africa (Clarke, 1993). The driving forces behind the rapid urbanization in Africa today are a combination of rural-urban migration and natural increase within towns and cities themselves. This is worsened in some regions by forced migrations precipitated by various

stresses including ethnic conflicts, wars, droughts and famine as posited by Potts, (1997) as cited in Songsore, Nabila, Yangyuoru, Avle, Bosque-Hamilton, Amponsah, and Alhassan, (2009). As a result of the profound impact of the effects of war or widespread civil strife, some analysts now talk in terms of ‘destabilization-driven urbanization’ (Swilling, 1994, Woube and Sjöberg, 1999). Africa’s urbanization has therefore been termed demographic urbanization rather than economic urbanization because it is not driven by radical transformations in agricultural productivity and industrialization (Songsore, 2003).

In this wise, the Population Division of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) (2013) has described Ghana’s situation as a rapid urbanization experience, increasing from 23.0 per cent in 1960 to 43.8 per cent in 2000, while the 2010 Population and Housing Census said urban and rural populations were at par. This has however changed (2012) with 53 percent of Ghanaians now living in urban settlements while 47 percent live in the rural areas. Ghana’s 2010 Population and Housing Census projected that the proportion of the population in urban communities would increase to as high as 62.9 per cent by 2025.

Nonetheless, there is overall course of urban evolution in Africa would seem to be a valid paradigm underpinning the urbanization process in Ghana as urbanization has generally occurred without development implying the transformation of the production structure through industrialization and agricultural modernization. This fundamental disconnect is the major difference between the urban experience in Africa as opposed to other regions in the North or the Newly Industrializing Countries. This interjectory of rapid urbanization has emerged with it own problems with the impact being gradually felt in most regions of

world including the district under study. It therefore becomes imperative to research into problems of rural settlers displaced by urbanization in the Ga East District.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Consistent with observed trends in the rest of Africa, Ghana's population is becoming increasingly urbanized. The census or statistical definition of an urban centre in Ghana is any settlement with a population of 5,000 or more persons (Songsore, 2008). Today more than four out of every ten Ghanaians live in a city or town of more than 5,000 people. According to Nabila, (1988), by the year 2020 more than half of all Ghanaians will live in urban areas. Whereas only 9.4% of the total population lived in urban settlements in 1931, this population shifted to 13.9% in 1948, 23% in 1960, 28.9% in 1970, 31.3% in 1984 and 43.9% in 2000 (Songsore, 2008).

It can be deduced that by 1984, the number of urban settlements had increased nearly nine fold from 41 in 1948 to 364 in 2000 whilst the associated population increased nearly fifteen fold from 570,597 persons in 1948 to 8,278,636 persons in 2000. This rising trend in urbanization has been driven by the following demographic processes rural-urban migration, natural increase in towns and cities and re-classification as villages grow into towns once they attain the threshold population of 5000 or more persons which is the census definition of an urban centre in Ghana.

However, empirical studies have revealed a contrary view regarding the fate of cities in developing countries (Dupont 2005). The UN-Habitat report (2005) has indicated that, in the year 2025, 61% Of the 5 billion world population will be urban. Empirical studies indicates the rising problems of rapid urbanization has brought to communities. Based on

this, the study sought to answer the question: what are the problems faced by the peri-urban settlers of the Ga-East District of the Accra Region?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Almost 50 percent of people live in urban areas as of 2008, according to the United Nations News Centre. Due to this, areas near most urban cities are gradually being swallowed due to urbanization leaving residents in disarray. It therefore becomes imperative to find out the problems the residents face as a result of rapid urbanization in the Ga East District. The purpose of the study is therefore to find out the problems faced by the peri-urban of the Ga-East District of the Accra Region.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to:

1. Identify problems faced by peri-urban settlers in the Ga-East District with regards to:
 - a. Economic
 - b. Social
 - c. Cultural
2. Identify the effects of the problems faced by the settlers in the Ga-East District.
3. Find out the coping strategies that have been adopted regarding livelihood.

1.5 Related Research Questions

1. What are the economic problems faced by the settlers?
2. What are the social problems faced by the settlers?
3. What are the cultural problems faced by the settlers?
4. What are the effects of the problems faced by the settlers?

5. What coping strategies have these settlers adopted with regards to their livelihoods?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The government of Ghana has initiated a process to arrest the challenges associated with the growing urbanization in the country while taking advantage of its benefits. These initiatives, contained in the Ghana National Urban Policy and the Action Plan endorsed by Ghana's Development Partners, including the United Nations (UN), are expected to empower all citizens to support the socio-economic development of Ghana. It therefore becomes imperative for a research to be conducted in this vain to help identify problems associated with rapid urbanization. This is to say that if we don't put in place effective urban development systems to guide their development, what is going to happen in the next 10 to 20 years would be a traffic gridlock. The study here-fore is significant as it help in developing and implementing policies that will go a long way to help minimize the problems displaced settlers face as a result of urbanization. Thus the study will help in formulating new policy framework and its accompanying action plan to ensure that the major urban areas developed systems that would absorb those coming into them over the next 20 years.

The study will further extend considerable knowledge to literature as copies of work will be made available to libraries.

1.7 Definition of Terms

Urbanization: is the physical growth of urban areas which result in rural migration and even suburban concentration into cities, particularly the very large ones.

Rural-Urban Migration: Migration from rural areas to urban centres.

1.8 Profile of the Study Area

The Ga-East Assembly was created from the Ga District. The Ga-East District Assembly became a Municipal in the year 2007 with its capital at Abokobi. The Assembly shares boundaries with the Ga West District Assembly (GWDA) to the west, Tema Municipal Assembly (TMA) to the East, Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) to the South and the Aburi Hills to the north.

Statistics of the Ga-East District Assembly (2010) showed that as at 2009, the population of the district stood at 236,219. With an annual growth rate of 4.2% per annum due to migration and child birth, the population now stands at 244,229 in 2010. Out of the population of 244,226 in 2010, 49% are female and 51% men. There are also three councils within the Municipality. Namely: the Madina Urban Council, Dome Town Council and Abokobi Area Council.

www.ghanadistricts.com in conjunction with the municipal is in the process of collecting relevant data concerning its location; size; social infrastructure; economy and all that one needs to know about this municipality.

1.9 Organization of the Study

The study is organized into six chapters. The first chapter covers the introduction- which gives a general background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives, research questions and the significance of the study. Chapter two focuses on the theoretical perspectives of the study and the review of related literature on the concept of urbanization as well empirical studies on the phenomenon underpinning the study. Chapter three is related to the methodology. It looks at the survey design, sampling procedures, the instruments for data collection and data analysis procedures. The results

from the fieldwork are presented in chapter four. Detailed discussions of the results and findings are provided in chapter five while the final chapter focuses on the summary of the study, conclusions, the implication of the theory and practice, recommendations and areas for further research.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF THEORETICAL AND RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

The chapter focuses on the theoretical framework and review of literature significant to the study. It is in two sections. Section “A” examines theoretical framework of: Central Place Theory and the Axiomatic theory while the section “B” reviews related literature central to the thesis, as follows:

- Concept of Peri-Urban
- Urban Growth
- History of Urban Transition Process in Ghana
- Problems faced by Settlers in Peri-Urban Centres
- Explore ways to Minimize the Problems

2.2 Section A: Theoretical Framework

The theories underpinning this study were the Central Place Theory and the Axiomatic theory.

2.2.1 Central Place Theory

Central place theory is a spatial theory in urban geography that attempts to explain the reasons behind the distribution patterns, size, and number of cities and towns around the world (Oludare, 2011). It also attempts to provide a framework by which those areas can be studied both for historic reasons and for the locational patterns of areas today. Central place theory was first proposed in the 1930s by a German geographer, Walter Christaller, based on his empirical studies of southern Germany. The Central Place theory was developed to explain the size and spacing of cities that specialize in selling goods and

services. According to the central place theory, a central place is a market centre for the exchange of goods and services by people who are attracted from the surrounding area. The central place as the name implies, is centrally located to maximize accessibility for people from the surrounding region. Central places compete with each other to serve as market for the provision of goods and services. This competition creates a regular pattern of settlement.

Using a model of agricultural land use, he showed how market processes determined land use in different geographical locations, and more specifically how land use is a function of transport costs to markets and the farmer's land rent. His model generated concentric rings of agricultural activity around a central city, with dairy and intensive farming closest to the city, followed by timber and firewood in the second circle, grain production in the third, and finally, ranching and livestock activities in the fourth circle. Urban demand is a key driver of spatial allocation of economic activities already in this basic model of marginal returns to assets and labor.

The main premise of Christaller's theory was that "if the centralization of mass around a nucleus is an elementary form of order, then the same centralistic principle can be equated in urban settlements" (Agarwal, 2007). His model, later refined by Lösch (1954), predicted an urban hierarchy of human settlements around hexagonal shapes (the hexagon being the geometrically closest approximation of efficient ways to travel between the settlements), with varying sizes of centers. The size of the center is determined by the type of goods and services it provides, whereby larger settlements (fewer in numbers) provide goods and services of a "higher order" (which require a large market both in terms of income and population and are therefore more specialized), and smaller settlements

provide goods and services of a “lower order.” In this framework, since some of the demand for the goods produced in the centers (such as manufacturing) comes from peripheries, production is tied with agricultural land distribution (Krugman 1991). Such conceptual frameworks not define only *rural-urban* linkages but also *urban-urban* linkages between centers of differing scale related to economies of scale in sub-sectors of the economy.

However, the early models were based on strong assumptions such as homogeneous spaces, uniform consumer preferences, and proportionality of transport costs to distance while they are really characterized by different factor endowments. Therefore, such models’ applicability to real settings is limited. Nevertheless, they do clarify the gradual nature of the differentiation between urban and rural areas: in reality, and as expected in the theory of economic geography mentioned above, the “very rural” and the “very urban” coexist along a continuum with many in-between stages varying from small towns to peri-urban areas.

2.2.3 Axiomatic Theory

According to Eldridge (1956), there are three existing classes of the axiomatic theory. First, urbanization is regarded as a process of radiation of ideas and practices from urban centers into surrounding hinterlands. Second, urbanization is viewed as the increase in modes of behavior and in problems considered to be essentially urban. Finally, urbanization is portrayed as the process of population concentration in which the ratio of the urban population to the total population increases. This third conceptual definition is useful to the discussion due to the demography and ecology since it focuses upon population change. The third definition is, there-fore, adopted here.

Since the theory formulated here is a theory of urbanization, the urban population is taken to represent the relative concentration of population in urban areas in the Ga-East District. In this wise, a large number of variables in the theory have been identified by demographers. In this formal theory of urbanization only a limited number of variables have been selected from the total possible. However, it is suggested that those selected represent critical dimensions of urbanization. One aspect of population composition which has been shown to be related to the problems of peri-urban settlers of society is the age structure. Demographers have noted the differentials between urban and rural areas in the age composition of residents. While urban areas have attracted the young, productive individuals, rural areas have been left with the task of raising the very young and caring for the aged (Sanders, 1958). Therefore, since age structure is sensitive to changes in relative urbanization and the age structure is an indicator of the human re-sources available for urbanization and industrialization, it is included as a variable in this study.

A second important dimension of population composition is educational level. Demographers have noted that the educational level is a crucial indicator of the extent to which a population has the prerequisites for an urban, industrial existence. Furthermore, the educational level of a population is second only to health as an indicator of the extent to which the benefits of urbanization have influenced the general well-being (Znaniecki, 1958). The measure of educational level used here is the median years of school completed by adults in the population.

The composition characteristic of income is the third indicator included in this theory. Income is related to urbanization in very complex manners. Researchers of migration have illustrated that differentials in income between spatial units have contributed to

migrations. Such migrations are the mechanisms through which urbanization is realized (Queen and Carpenter, 1999).

A universal result of urbanization is that individuals accumulate a wide variety of social and economic returns. A fourth characteristic of population composition is employment. While it has been empirically demonstrated that urban communities are differentially specialized in economic activities, it has also been indicated that two forms of employment are highly integrated into the urban-industrial complex. One of these is employment in manufacturing which is especially indicative of urbanization and positively related to it. The second form of employment is that in agricultural activities (Queen and Carpenter, 1999; Harris, 2001). Employment in agriculture is negatively related to the urban complex. Relative urbanization of any area may be noted in the occupational composition of residents and employment in manufacturing and agriculture are especially sensitive to urbanization.

In this theory both forms of employment are measured in terms of the proportion of employed per spatial unit in each activity. Thus far, it has been indicated that the variables in this theory are representative of the three dimensions of the domain of demography - population size, population composition, and population distribution. It was noted, however, that demographers are also interested in an additional factor. Nonetheless, the theory has implication on the study as it seeks to examine the demographic characteristics of the respondents in the Ga-East District.

2.3 Section B: Review of Related Literature

2.3.1 Concept of Peri-Urban

Examination of the literature evidence a number of distinct patterns in the way researchers have explained peri-urban. The concept of *peri-urban* emerged due to limitations in the differences between rural and urban (Iaquinta and Drescher, 1999). According to Iaquinta and Drescher (1999), some authors suggested that its analytical relevance is a long past. Others have argued more specifically that only the different construct has outlived its usefulness not the underlying distinction between degrees of *ruralness* and *urbaness* (Rambaud 1973).

The word “peri-urban” has been used widely in recent years to denote the area of transition between the clearly urban and the distinctly rural (Simon et al. 2004). It has become the term that incorporates the hybridization of urban and rural areas. From the viewpoint of semantics, this phrase derives from the words “peri,” meaning around or near, and “urban,” meaning situated in or living in a city or town (Oxford Dictionary for Advanced Learners, 2008). The word “urban” itself derives from the Latin word *urbanus* meaning characteristic of, or pertaining to, the city (Macionis et al. 2007). In the domain of urban and regional development planning, the terminology of peri-urban is defined by Phillips et al. (2006) as:

“the interface area between city and village, which characterized by strong urban influence, easy access to markets, services and other inputs, ready supplies of labour, but relative shortages of land and risks from pollution and urban growth.” (Cited in McGregor 2006:10; Simon et al. 2004:238)

Webster and Muller (2002:6) offer a more accessible and narrative explanation of the concept, explaining “peri-urbanization” as follows:

“a process, often a highly dynamic one, in which rural areas located on the outskirts of established cities become more urban in character, in physical, economic, and social terms, often in piecemeal fashion.”

RUPRI (1998) specifically criticizes the diverse basis of “urban” and “rural” definitions, arguing that many of the characteristics that define rural areas exist along a continuum within which individuals, households, communities and institutions distribute themselves. A key feature of peri-urban environments is their dynamic nature, wherein social forms and arrangements are created, modified and discarded RUPRI (1998) lamented. They are areas of social compression or intensification where the density of social forms, types and meanings increases, fomenting conflict and social evolution (RUPRI, 1998).

In furtherance of the review, Iaquina and Drescher (1999) viewed the concept of peri-urban with established theoretical definitions of urbanization/urbanism and identified the following components:

- Demographic component (i.e., increasing population size and density)
- Economic sectoral component (i.e., a primarily non-agricultural labor force)
- Social-psychological component (i.e., consciousness of what it means to be *urban*)

According to Fischer (1984), the first two components are usually taken as the basis for defining urbanization while the third is the core definition of urbanism. The social psychological component essentially refers to values, attitudes, tastes and behaviours that are seen to be characteristic of urban as opposed to rural dwellers. Earlier notions of this component tended to be associated with westernization, reflecting the ethnocentric thinking of the time (Holleman, 1964).

Given that the above three components form the basis of the definition of “urban” and given that peri-urban includes some level of urbaness, then some variation of these three components should underlie the definition of peri-urban. Holleman (1964) underscores this when he directly links peri-urban to the concept of a “change in mental orientation.” The social-psychological component is the one most often omitted from peri-urban definitions. Yet as some scholars and policy analysts have argued, ignoring this component misses the reality of peri-urban, underestimates the prevalence of social change and misclassifies the experiences of numerous people and communities in the real world (Holleman, 1964). Typically, those researchers arguing in support of including this component have also been the most critical of definitions that rely solely on proximity to the city (Groppo and Tosselli 1997).

To throw more light on the concept of peri-urban, the Division of Urban Systems Development (2012) described it in the following ways:

(a) The process of urbanization over a period of time has brought in a host of spatial problems. The gradual conversion of the rural areas around the urban center induced development of a peri-urban, which does not conform to many urban planning standards. Based on this notion, Wehrwein (2009) a social scientist and a land economist defined the peri-urban as “the area of transition between well recognized urban land uses and the area devoted to agriculture”. According to the Division of Urban Systems Development (2012) though universally valid it does not lend itself to a meaningful exercise in the delimitation of the peri-urban around cities.

(b) The other definition attempted Blizzard and Anderson, seems to be specific that is “the rural urban fringes/ peri-urban is that area of mixed urban and rural land uses between the

points where full city services cease to be available and the point where agricultural land use predominates”. This definition too has its limitation, as within the city boundary itself availability of city services is neither equal in terms of quantity and quality nor maintained to desired standards (Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, 2011). Further, the emphasis has been on the land use. Again, while land use is an important factor, the human factor cannot be brushed aside particularly in Ghanaian conditions because the rural people have a distinct culture. Therefore there appears to be a need for arriving at a practical definition for peri-urban to suit to the Ghanaian conditions.

(c) The smallest human settlement namely the village surrounds all the metropolitan cities. These villages have clearly defined boundaries. It is common to witness urban characteristics along with rural features in most of the villages, which is construed as a peri-urban area. However defining the urban land use is indeed difficult as they are diverse.

(d) In accordance with the simplest definition peri-urban is an area of mixed rural and urban populations and land uses, which begins at the point where agricultural land uses appear and extends up to the point where the urban land uses disappear or the dependency on the city for employment becomes insignificant”. This definition encompasses several important features. First of all, agricultural land uses are considered as distinct rural feature. Secondly, the type of crops grown, the presence of vegetable gardens, flower gardens and dairies producing milk for the city indicate strong linkages with the city inducing the growth of activities, which are urban in character. Thirdly, the employment structure in the settlement (village) is a major indicator of the nature of the settlement

either urban or rural. If a few adult, men and women commute to the city for work purposes everyday then it indicates the urban character (Ramamurthi, 1994).

On cursory observation one may conclude that the ‘peri-urban’ conditions prevail within the administrative boundary of a metropolitan areas and it is designated as “rural-urban or urban-urban migration”. Irrespective of definitions, settlements having urban character mixed with rural functions are common in the Metropolitan regions of Ghana.

In this study, a peri-urban area is delineated according to the following criteria:

- a) Increased demand for land for non-agricultural use,
- b) Transformation of the economic base from agriculture to service,
- c) Demographic structural change identified by new residential development.

2.3.2 Characteristics of Peri-Urban Areas

Peri-urban settlements have a number of unique characteristics that distinguish them from formal urban and rural areas (Hogrewe, Steven and Perez, 1993). Hogrewe, Steven and Perez (1993) outlined the following characteristics:

- **Poor Physical Site Conditions and Complicated Site Layouts:** it referred to way and manner in which informal peri-urban settlers lack technical know-how and assistance. They noted that settlers often develop their areas haphazardly, without allowing adequate space for installing infrastructure lines.
- **Limited Water Availability:** Most peri-urban settlements do not generally have piped water; instead, increasingly they have water vendors who sell water at market cost, which is significantly higher than what families in the urban formal sector pay. The vended water in peri-urban areas is mostly of poor quality, and

because of its high cost, families can buy only a limited amount of it. The limited availability of water leads to major sanitation problems when purchasers are forced to set priorities that may compromise public health.

- **High-Density Population:** Typically, peri-urban settlements have a high population density. High population density without basic infrastructure entails greater health and environmental risks than those found in rural and formal urban areas.
- **Organization of Communities and Social Characteristics:** Peri-urban settlements, in general, are not homogeneous with respect to ethnic background, income level, language, and social norms. Residents have migrated to these settlements from various parts of a region or country or, in many cases, from other countries.
- **Legal Land Tenure and Lack of Government Recognition and Services:** According to Hogrewe, Steven and Perez (1993), most countries, a strict application of development regulations denies the legality of land and buildings developed in peri-urban communities.
- **Low Income Level:** Hogrewe, Steven and Perez (1993) contends that many households in peri-urban areas do not enjoy a regular income, and large numbers of peri-urban households are headed by single women who in turn tend to have the lowest income levels of all workers.
- **Families in rural areas are for the most part not in the cash economy.** Their life is more agricultural subsistence. In contrast, in formal urban areas, most families do operate in the cash economy as workers and have access to steady jobs, pay taxes, and so on. In peri-urban areas, families are also in the cash economy but their

workers rely mainly on the informal economy (for example, carpenters working out of their backyards or women selling tortillas in the market).

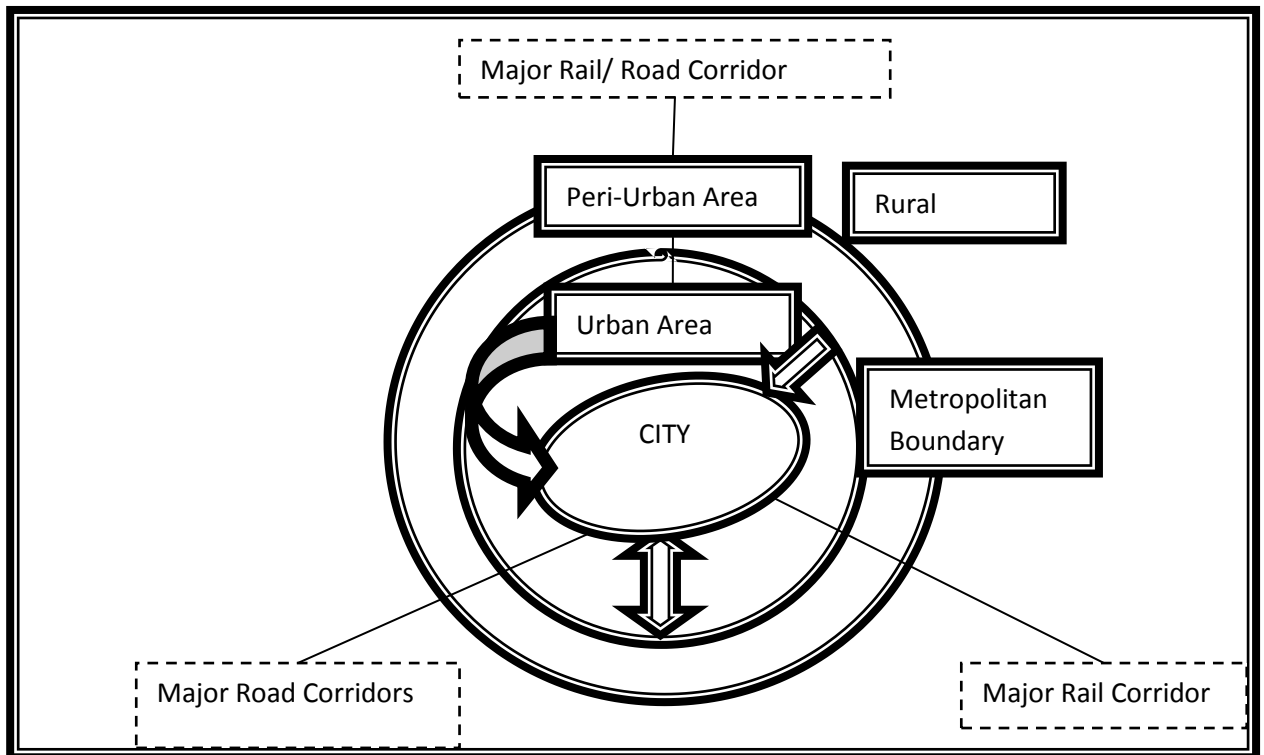
- **The Role of Informal Businesses:** Informal businesses play a significant role in the construction and urbanization of peri-urban settlements, whereas in rural areas, the community provides self for construction (for example, the digging of latrine pits).
- **Limited Political Influence:** Because peri-urban settlements are not recognized as legal areas, their community leaders and residents have limited political influence. Furthermore, given the heterogeneous nature of most peri-urban settlements, the united strength and community organizing around local issues that are visible in many rural and formal urban areas are not as apparent in peri-urban areas. Peri-urban residents in most places are less visible and vocal to municipal leaders.

2.3.3 Peri-Urban Formation

Urban centers face huge shortfall in urban infrastructure. The fast deteriorating environment often pushes the developments to the periphery of the cities, creating a rural-urban interface (Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, 2011). According to Madras (2011), the extension of urban character or the urbanization trend beyond city limit is accelerated not only by urban pressure or driving forces but also the availability of transportation corridors facilitating easy access. During the process of urbanization in the area beyond city, the peri-urban area is assumed to exist, before it reaches rural areas. The process continues and the rural areas get converted into urban area passing through the peri-urban stage.

However this pattern does not seem to take place uniformly all around cities (Nitin kumar Institute of Remote Sensing, 2001). A research in India by Nitin kumar Institute of Remote Sensing (2001) of Anna State University posited that high growth rate, faster developments are experienced along major transportation corridors, particularly where the corridor comprises of both road and rail. Comparative study of seven major cities (Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Chennai, Ahamedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad) shows that urban extensions have taken place along major transportation corridors served by both road and rail (Nitin kumar Institute of Remote Sensing, 2001). The areas abutting these corridors depending upon the proximity to the city center have all the urban characters or lost all the rural characters. The dependency on the city is more for job education etc. The Nitin Kumar Institute of Remote Sensing further stated that when transportation network is augmented and the inflow and outflow of resources is facilitated. Figure 2.3.2 shows how peri-urban areas are formed in India.

Figure 2.1: Formation of Peri-Urban Community in India



Source: Anna University, Division of Urban Systems Development, India (2011).

Formation of peri-urban settlements is influenced by several socioeconomic factors, which ultimately impinge on the natural resources prevailing around major cities (Songsore, 2003). According to Songsore (2003), the driving forces for formation of peri-urban settlements are:

- Population growth in cities
- Migration
- Increased land value in the city
- Increasing congestion and deterioration of living environment in the city
- Higher transportation accessibility
- Availability of health and education facilities outside the city
- Desire to own a house at affordable prices
- Availability of communication facilities outside the city
- Community and friends influence

From this perspective, it can be said that several factors accounts for the formation of peri-urban communities.

2.4 History of Urban Transition Process in Ghana

Songsore (2003) observed that Ghana's population is becoming increasingly urbanized. Songsore stated that the census or statistical definition of an urban centre in Ghana is any settlement with a population of 5,000 or more persons. This is to say that today more than four out of every ten Ghanaians live in a city or town of more than 5,000 people. Nabila (1988, p. 1) further stated that "if current trends continue, by the year 2020 more than half of all Ghanaians will live in urban areas". This is because whereas only 9.4% of the total population lived in urban settlements in 1931, this population shifted to 13.9% in 1948,

23% in 1960, 28.9% in 1970, 31.3% in 1984 and 43.9% in 2000 (Ghana Statistical Service, 2002).

Songsore (2003) expatiated this notion by saying that by 1984, the number of urban settlements had increased nearly nine fold from 41 in 1948 to 364 in 2000 whilst the associated population increased nearly fifteen fold from 570,597 persons in 1948 to 8,278,636 persons in 2000 (Table 2.4).

Table 2.1: Growth in Number of Urban Settlement

Table 2. Growth in Number of Urban Settlements and Urban Population, 1948 to 2000 Year	No. of Settlements	Population
1948	41	570,597
1960	98	1,551,174
1970	135	2,472,456
1984	203	3,938,614
2000	364	8,278,636

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, April 1995, Vol. 2, p.20; 2001; 2002.

Songsore (2012) stated that this rising trend in urbanization has been driven by the following demographic processes:

- Rural-urban migration;
- Natural increase in towns and cities; and
- Re-classification as villages grows into towns once they attain the threshold population of 5000 or more persons which is the census definition of an urban centre in Ghana.

The growth in the large number of urban places over the years would seem to suggest that re-classification is quite significant even though the two dominant elements driving the urbanization process have been rural-urban migration and natural increase within the towns and cities themselves.

According to Benneh, Nabila, Songsore, Yankson, and Teklu, (1990), the period 1948 to 1960, about 98% of the urban growth was caused by migration from rural areas. This is not surprising as this period coincided with the post-war economic boom and the efforts by the new post-independence government from 1957 onwards to initiate a major urban industrial development and the provision of social infrastructure for the population using the urban places as the growth nodes. This period also saw the mass influx of immigrants from other African countries into especially mining towns and the areas of cocoa production in Southern Ghana (Songsore, 2003).

The share of rural-urban migration to the growth of the urban population dropped to just over 54% in the period 1960 to 1970. Again, following the economic crisis of the late 1970's and early 1980's with its devastating effect on urban real incomes, net internal migration to the towns and cities shrank to a mere 18% of urban growth during 1970-1984 (Benneh et.al, 1990, p.39). Similar conclusions have been drawn from the evidence of other African countries (Simon, 1997). The 'vanishing rural-urban gap' in living conditions between the urban and rural poor under conditions of severe economic collapse and structural adjustment and the mass emigration of Ghanaians or in some cases return migration to the rural areas explain this collapse in the share of rural-urban migration to urban growth (Jamal and Weeks, 1988; 1993: Potts, 1997).

According to Benneh, Songsore, Nabila, Amuzu, Tutu, Yangyuoru, and McGranahan, (1993), the initial mass movement to the towns in Ghana did not result in an absolute decline in the rural population which has continued to increase in absolute terms. For example, the rural population increased from about 5 million in 1960 to about 6 million in 1970 reaching almost 8.4 million in 1984 out of a total population of about 12.3 million at the time (Benneh et al., 1993) Thus whereas the rural population increased by about 15% between 1960 and 1970, the other increase between 1970 and 1984 was about 27% reflecting an acceleration of rural population growth. The higher percentage increase between 1970 and 1984 could partly be attributed to return migration of the growing poor from the towns as living conditions deteriorated and the decline in level of migration to the cities as a result of the urban crisis (Songsore, 2003). It should however be recognized that part of the difference is due to varying duration. The rural population now stands at over 10.5 million in 2000 reflecting a 25% increase which is lower than the earlier period (Ghana Statistical Service, 2000). It relates in part to the restitution of the urban economies consequent on over 25 years of consistent positive GDP growth which has privileged the urban sector.

It is therefore valid to assert that natural increase has been a significant factor in the overall growth of population in both urban and rural areas especially after independence when migration to the towns was becoming more long-term and permanent with wives accompanying husbands. Indeed, the average population growth rate in Ghana, for the period 1948-1960, was 4.2% per annum. This, however, was affected by net immigration from other West African countries, notably Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Togo and Mali given the economic boom the country experienced and Nkrumah's pan-Africanist dream which was generally supportive of these migratory waves. By contrast, between 1960 and 1970,

the average growth rate declined to 2.4% per annum, thereafter rising slightly to 2.6% in the 1970 to 1984 period (Ghana Statistical Service, 1995, vol. 2, p.2).

It is important to emphasize that both the 1970 and 1984 population censuses do not seem to have given a correct picture of actual population dynamics because of the effects of emigration. For example, in 1960 between 10 to 12% of the population in Ghana was foreign, largely from other West African countries. Following economic difficulties in the late 1960's which partly explain the overthrow of the Nkrumah regime in 1966, the era of 'each one his brother's keeper' under Nkrumah gave way to a new policy doctrine of 'each one for himself and god for us all' in interstate relations. The incoming civilian regime of Busia's Progress Party instituted an 'Aliens Compliance Order' just before the 1970 population census leading to the mass expulsion of aliens from the West African sub-region, most of whom lacked valid residence permits. This must have influenced the rather sharp decline in growth rate in 1970.

This singular act has continued to stalk successive offshoots of the then Progress Party in zongos or strangers' quarters within the most populous cities of Accra and Kumasi in terms of electoral fortunes notwithstanding the ECOWAS protocol which now allows free movement of West African citizens in the ECOWAS region. This handicap was rectified by the promotion of Nasara Clubs in these communities before the 2000 elections by the New Patriotic Party and this enhanced their electoral fortunes in these communities to the chagrin of the New Democratic Congress. The zongos are ethnic enclaves with a predominantly West African immigrant population some of whom came to present-day Ghana in the pre-colonial era along trans-Saharan trade routes before the borders of Ghana were defined in the colonial scramble for Africa.

Ghana suffered further economic stagnation and decline from mid-1970 to 1983. The new regional growth pole was Nigeria and to some extent Cote d'Ivoire. Following the oil boom in Nigeria in the 1970's it had become the turn of Ghanaians to emigrate in mass waves to especially Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire. Even though over one million illegal Ghanaians were later expelled from Nigeria following a recession in the economy just before the 1984 population census, it is believed a lot more Ghanaians still live and work outside Ghana. The population growth rates of 2.4% per annum between 1960-1970 and 2.6% per annum between 1970 - 1984 would seem to be on the lower side because of these international emigration waves, one forced and the other voluntary. For the above reasons, demographers have argued that the post 1984 population growth rate per annum lies around 3% (Ghana Statistical Service, 1995, vol. 2, p.2). The actual population growth rate between 1984 and 2000 is 2.6% per annum as stated by the Ghana Statistical service.

As a result of this overall high population growth rate, urbanization which is defined as the relative share of the total population urban or else a rise in this share is proceeding at a fast pace as one would not expect because of the sheer weight of natural increase in especially the urban areas. The urban growth rate in 1984 was 3.3%, 1% higher than the rural growth rate of 2.3% because of net out-migration from the rural areas. At the growth rate of 2.3% the rural populations will double itself in the next 30 years. Currently, Ghana is witnessing an over flow to urban centres as most rural areas have been swallowed due to fast pace of expansion of Accra either North, South, West and East worse. Therefore a long way off the Western experience of rising urbanization going in hand with declines in the absolute numbers of people living in rural areas raising a spectre of the implications of urban change for rural development and the transformation of peasant agriculture (Songsore, 2010).

In recognition of the sizes and complexity, Accra, Kumasi and Sekondi-Takoradi have from 1988 been designated as metropolitan areas (Songsore, 2003). Tema which is part of the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area and Tamale have also been designated as metropolitan areas. With reference to this study, a more detailed discussion of intra-metropolitan growth dynamics will be restricted to Accra -the national capital where detailed studies have unraveled the nature of intra-urban change.

Consistent with general trends mentioned above for the Greater Accra Region where the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area accounts for almost the entire urban population, “the contribution of net-migration was highest for the 1948-1960, 1960-1970 periods and 1980 - 2000 with figures of 97.7%, 66.1% and 78% respectively. The contributions of natural increase was however higher than net-migration for 1970-84; 82.6% and 17.4% for natural increase and net migration respectively” (Benneh et.al., 1990, p.35).

2.5 Problems faced by Settlers in Peri-Urban Areas

Spatially, peri-urban areas are growing more rapidly than formal urban districts. In many cities, the peri-urban sections are already bigger than the formal areas (Hogrewe et al., 1993). Peri-urban areas in most developing countries are characterized by rapid population growth, a mixture of planned and un-planned settlements, inadequate service infrastructures, insecure land tenure, social tension, and environmental and health problems. In addition, these areas often fall into a responsibility gap between rural and urban authorities, leaving them in a grey zone of unclear legalities, regulations, and administration. This confusion leads to a lack of regulatory control, poor policy design and implementation, and corresponding ineffective and unjust delivery of basic services (Iaquinta & Drescher, 2000).

According to Iaquinta & Drescher (2000), at the same time, peri-urban areas are often economically dynamic and offer many opportunities for residents. They are strongly influenced by easy access to urban markets, services, resources and a ready supply of labour. At the same time, the proximity of rural agricultural zones makes the peri-urban interface a critical area for the management or mis-management of natural resources.

Furthermore, As Urbanization is driven infrastructure; technological progress, and market liberalization, previously rural areas are transformed. In this process of transformation, the peri-urban area as the interface between urban and rural experiences the phenomenon in which the rural-based socio-economic and cultural character gradually changes into a new form of urbanism, a hybridization of urban and rural features across spatial, economic, social, and cultural dimensions. In this process, the inhabitant of these peri-urban areas faced problems which call for attention as stated by Beall & Fox (2009); Castells (1989); Potter & Lloyd- Evans (1998).

Afsar (1999) who studies the contemporary rural-urban linkages in Dhaka, Bangladesh, argues that the process of rural to urban transformation is not only about population concentration, but also about changes in social and economic characteristics. Afsar finds several factors contributing to rural-urban interactions as follows:

- a. Structural adjustment in economic and political sectors will transform the society;
- b. Structural changes in employment will affect local livelihood.

In the case of Dhaka, occupations related to agriculture declined rapidly since the rural areas encompassed by the urban expansion swallowed farm lands. At the same time, infrastructure development, especially roadways to the urban fringe along with increased

construction, manufacturing, and traditional types of services generate greater employment opportunities that draw large numbers of people in those areas. From this stand point, it could be deduced that traditional farmers were later turned into labourers for construction purposes within these areas.

In furtherance to the review, Torres et al. (2007) investigate the pattern of urban sprawl in Brazil's Sao Paulo metropolitan area driven by the growth of real estate investment. They found that the city was losing population where real estate development was growing. Population moves to the peri-urban areas where the price of land is low. The lower-income migrants develop informal settlements due to the lack of affordable housing. Informal land use becomes a crucial problem, a recurrent pattern in developing nations. Torres et al. suggested that regularization and simplification of land use planning and development permitting processes are the most urgent matters to address to improve the socioeconomic conditions in peri-urban areas. They added that there remains the need to improve the social facilities and economic infrastructure as well if poverty is to be alleviated.

Another work which is relevant to this study is that conducted by Simon et al. (2004) on changes of the rural-urban interface in Kumasi, Ghana, Africa. They found that the features characterizing transformation from rural to urban occurred in different degrees depending upon distance from the city, accessibility, and the provision of infrastructure. Their research findings confirm the concept of a non-linear and non-uniform gradient of urban influence on peri-urban areas. Areas experiencing a higher degree of changes experience a correspondingly higher degree of land commercialization, diversity in social structure, and economic activity. The pressures of urbanization are manifest in increasing

plot prices and rates of land conversion (farmland or vacant land) to urban uses, especially for new residential and commercial development.

Research conducted by Huisman and Stoffers (1998 in Titus and Hinderink eds., 1998) in the District of Bantul, Yogyakarta centered on the level of urbanization achieved through a progressive transformation from a farming-dominated activities to a more diversified economy. They classified the peri-urban area using a measure based on the proportion of labor force that worked in the non-agricultural sectors. The sub-districts in which more than 65 per cent of the work force engaged in urban-based economy would be categorized as peri-urban areas, while the rural areas were divided into three other categories: (a) rural zone 1 that contains less than 10 per cent of irrigated land; (b) rural zone 2 that contains 10-36 per cent of *sawah* (paddy land); (3) rural zone 3 with more than 36 per cent of the total area covered by agricultural land.

Using these measures, only three of Bantul's seventeen sub-districts were categorized as peri-urban areas. These were Banguntapan, Sewon and Kasihan, all located around five to ten kilometers from Yogyakarta's city center. The sub district Bantul, the capital of Bantul district, located approximately 12 km from the city center of Yogyakarta is categorized "rural zone 3" since it contains more than 36 per cent of irrigated paddy land. The initial investigation of Bantul done in this study corresponds with the work of Huisman and Stoffers. This study also delineates the three sub-districts of Banguntapan, Sewon and Kasihan into peri-urban areas on the basis of the intensity of built up area observed in the spatial data provided by GIS analysis of aerial photographs made in 1987, 1997, and 2007. This study also uses other parameters to delineate the peri-urban areas, demonstrating that there are various measures, spatial and non-spatial, useful for investigating and

categorizing the scale of urbanization in the previously rural areas like Bantul. The sample of households in Bantul in this study are separated into two categories, those located near the city's boundary (around 5 km from the city center), and those located approximately 10 km from the city center.

Another related study of Yogyakarta is that conducted by Rotgé (2000) who assessed the nature and level of rural-urban linkages in Bantul District and how such linkages created opportunity for additional income sources. He found that agriculture's share of employment decreased in communities located alongside the main corridor, while the share of trade and services rose. His research findings further reveal that though a considerable number of the work force engage in non-farm activities in terms of primary employment, many still work in the agricultural sector as a secondary activity within a scheme of sharecropping since they do not have access to farmland. Those who work in non-farming activities mostly engage in industry located in the city of Yogyakarta or town of Bantul as well as neighboring districts. His empirical findings show that agricultural remains the primary livelihood for the local inhabitants. The opportunity for involvement in other employment sectors, particularly in small and medium sized enterprise or industry, is mostly taken up by the younger generation living in farming households. This research confirms that family income has become diversified, with almost all deriving from non-agricultural sources.

A study conducted by Roitman (2010), found out that the spreading of gated communities beyond the outskirts of urban area confirms the existence of social exclusion. Property corporations that develop high-end estates often do not comply with planning and building regulations. The failure of local government to monitor and empower development is not

only the result of a limited number of trained staff and lack of urban management capacity, but also because there is an elite group's interest that influences the government's decision in issuing the development permit. Local government is actually the key actor that encourages or discourages the development of enclave settlement (Roitman, 2010). These further suggest the encroachments on farms land is creating a social canker which if not dealt with will bring a division between the elites and local indigenes of the peri-urban areas.

Recent research confirms a social canker faced by residents in per-urban areas. A study conducted in the Ga South District found out most of the arm conflict and terrorization of residents are due to sale of farms lands to developers (Ghana South Municipal District Assembly, 2013). The district found out the developers of most land hire the services of guards popularly known as "Land Guards" to guard the lands. Any by passer or encroacher on that land is beaten and sometimes killed. The District found out that most of these happenings are associated to the quest to acquire land in peri-urban areas within the district.

Interestingly a research conducted by SanWatPUA Network (2012) categorized problems of peri-urban areas to;

- Unclear institutional responsibilities,
- Infrastructure provision, and
- Heterogeneous populations.

It indicated that peri-urban areas are faced with a number of complex institutional challenges which decrease the capacity of local authorities to provide basic services to the

populations (Norström et al. 2009; Parnell et al. 2009 as cited in SanWatPUA Network, 2012). It indicated that the administrative responsibility for these areas is often unclear. This lack of a clearly defined institutional structure often means that no one takes responsibility for urban planning, development or service provision.

SanWatPUA Network (2012) stated that even where there are responsible authorities defined, they are often confronted with a lack of resources, fragile technical networks, inadequate financial frameworks, and weak staff competences and capacities for dealing with booming peri-urban neighbourhoods (Norström et al. 2009 cited in SanWatPUA Network, 2012). The rate of change is so fast in many of these areas that it is difficult to establish internal routines, policies and norms that could guide their governance. As a result, enforcement of regulations can be weak, leading to vandalism, unauthorized building and dumping of waste, illegal activities and security problems. People have low expectations for public services and often abuse the services that are provided. In general, awareness or respect of citizen responsibilities is low (SanWatPUA Network, 2012).

SanWatPUA Network (2012) further explains that peri-urban areas are faced with a number of issues related to public infrastructure and housing. In general, infrastructure development cannot keep pace with population growth, leading to a backlog of un-served populations and unmaintained infrastructure. Sanitation and water supply are commonly affected, but other infrastructure such as roads, schools, and electricity networks are also often in poor condition.

The research reiterated that another major issue for infrastructure is related to unregulated land-use patterns and legal status. Land ownership is often unclear, leading to tenure

issues and problems for authorities. The research also found that when people settle on marginal plots without land rights, permission or security of tenure they are unwilling to invest in improving them. The housing structures they put up are often temporary, unimproved and can easily be dismantled in case of future eviction or voluntary displacement. However, formalization of tenure in informal settlements may result in higher rental costs, pushing disenfranchised families further away from access to urban livelihoods.

In addition to tenure issues, the unregulated construction in these areas leads to poor quality buildings and non-compliance with building regulations. These housing structures are usually not connected to basic public services, such as water provision and waste disposal. This creates major health and safety issues for the population as well as environmental degradation (SanWatPUA Network, 2012).

The third challenge the research by SanWatPUA Network (2012), visualized was the variable population found in peri-urban areas. It contends that many of whom originates from rural areas and are unfamiliar with urban conditions and ways of life. The economic opportunities offered by cities are strong drivers for rural-urban migration. Even so, many of these rural migrants remain poor and find it difficult to find housing in more consolidated urban areas and therefore settle on the fringes, often seeing this as a temporary solution. The research found out that, there are large fluxes in internal settlement patterns as people move in search of jobs or due to political interventions. The result is a regular flux of people in and out of these areas, especially in peri-urban slums. The varying backgrounds of peri-urban dwellers also lead to social tensions and lack of community cohesion, large disparities in income between the poor, who settle here due to

lack of options, and upper- and middle-class populations seeking a suburban lifestyle and space. This of course creates equity and power issues when it comes to controlling limited local resources.

This is not different as compared to the Ga-East District where inhabitants of peri-urban areas represent a diversity of origins, ethnic backgrounds, cultures, religions, social norms, hygiene behaviours, and preferences. Many are still open defecators or practice unhygienic waste disposal methods, while others are aspiring to more affluent lifestyles. Varying levels of education and expectations for public services creates further challenges for designing acceptable service levels and for taking community-based action.

A report compiled by Hogrewe, Steven and Perez (1993) estimated that 600 million people in urban areas of the Third World now live in life- and health threatening homes and neighborhoods, primarily in peri-urban settlements. Hogrewe et al. (1993) stated that these homes and neighborhoods share two characteristics that bear serious potential health effects:

- The presence of pathogenic micro-organisms (especially those in human excreta), caused by lack of infrastructure and related inadequate water supply to remove them
- Crowded, cramped housing conditions

The report concludes that the removal and safe disposal of excreta and wastewater from washing, bathing, and other domestic uses in peri-urban settlements are critical health and environmental needs. This was based on the idea that many rivers in third world cities are literally large open sewers. Surface and groundwater contamination is widespread in many

developing countries, and the resulting environmental degradation is more and more apparent along rivers and sea coastal areas.

In further deliberations, Hogrewe, Steven and Perez (1993) posited that most urban areas (both informal and formal) in Africa and Asia, including many cities with one million or more inhabitants, have no effective means of off-site disposal of excreta (for example, waterborne sewage systems or collection and treatment systems for latrine contents). Rivers, streams, canals, gullies, and ditches are the destinations of most untreated human excrement and household waste. Such waste accumulates on streets, in open spaces between houses, in stagnant pools of water, and on wasteland.

Lacking sanitation is also another major problem faced by residents of peri-urban areas. Residents of such areas resort to open defecation, hand-dug pit latrines, unregulated septic systems and informal dumping (Parnell, Susan, Edgar and Watson, 2009). The result is unsanitary environmental conditions and high rates of exposure to excreta, chemical contaminants and waterborne diseases. There can also be higher security problems related to sanitation practices in peri-urban areas. Users of public facilities and open defecators may be molested when they leave their homes at night (Dupont, 2005). All these eminent characteristics are evidence in the Ga East District. Report indicated that Ghana is no exception to this phenomenon. It reports that:

“Accra, Ghana: There is a central sewage system but much of the population is not connected to it because of high connection charges; an estimate in 1985 suggested that only 30 percent of the population was connected. New residential areas often use septic tanks for sanitation, while in other unconnected areas pan or bucket latrines are used, with their contents emptied into night soil containers provided by the city council. These are then emptied at a shoreline tipping station. In many poor settlements, there are very few public or private sanitation facilities, even in settlements with many thousand households. The city’s open drainage system

collects surface runoff, domestic discharges (other than sewage), and some industrial discharges (often illegally), and in some areas may also (unofficially) receive waste from latrines.” (Hogrewe, Steven and Perez, 1993: 18)

In furtherance to the review UN-HABITAT (2008), posited that the contextual challenges of peri-urban areas impact in a variety of ways on sanitation and water supply, particularly on the availability of these services and on the potential for their further development, which of course have predictable health and environmental consequences. UN-HABITAT (2008) had it that in many peri-urban areas, the availability of water and sanitation is not so much a problem of scarcity as it is a problem of access and control of resources.

As mentioned above, the lack of clear administrative and governance structures have huge implications for the availability and up-keep of infrastructure. Water and sanitation provision is no exception. Generally, there is no clear mandate for who should provide these services and there is a lack of financial and human capital for construction and maintenance. Investment in sanitation is particularly low due to lack of prioritization (Marshall et al. 2009). This connotes to the unregulated nature of peri-urban areas and their position on the edge of urban areas also increases the tension between agriculture, urban and industrial demands for water resources. Of course, the poor are hardest hit by the resulting reductions in access and higher prices for water and sanitation.

The high densities and unplanned characteristics of these peri-urban areas, and particularly in slums, also create problems for implementing sanitation and water supply services. The haphazard placement of houses makes laying pipe networks difficult and road access for emptying on-site sanitation can be nearly impossible.

In addition to this Norström, Anna, Jennifer McConville and Jaan-Henrik Kain (2009) espoused that the heterogeneous and fluctuating population makes planning and service provision very complex, not only for providing permanent sanitation infrastructure, but also for training users and maintenance workers in proper utilisation and hygiene practices. To curb this problem, Norström, Anna, Jennifer McConville and Jaan-Henrik Kain (2009) indicated that training and awareness-raising efforts need to be continuous and on-going to reach new community members.

The crowding of large numbers of people in peri-urban areas creates conditions very favorable to the rapid spread of a variety of infectious diseases, often in the form of disastrous epidemics such as the previously cited cholera outbreak in Nigeria (BBC News, 2013). Indeed, an increasing volume of literature suggests that health problems resulting from a lack of sanitation facilities (among other factors) are greater among the urban poor living in overcrowded peri-urban settlements than they are either in the rest of the urban areas or in rural areas (Bradley et al., 1992).

A recent World Bank study suggests that, in contrast to higher-income urban dwellers and some rural populations, the urban poor have a lower life expectancy at birth and a higher infant mortality rate (World Bank, 2013). The study indicated that a variety of intestinal parasites is usually present in peri-urban populations, with roundworms and whipworms often observed at higher levels of incidence than in corresponding rural populations. Likewise, the accumulation of wastewater as a result of the limited soil area to absorb it in densely settled urban areas has led to increased transmission of filariasis in many cities (Hardoy et al., 1990).

2.6 Peri-Urban Livelihood Changes

Demographic changes are one factor influencing urbanization and urban change. Burgess (1925 in Parker, 2004), for example, argues that the city is a place of economic opportunity and exchange which is characterized by population movement. The movement of people into and out of cities provides scope for investigating how economy forces reshape social structure. According to Wirth (1938) in Parker (2004), such movement, in turn, effect changes in social norms and traditional values as society becomes increasingly more heterogeneous. Parker (2004) suggests that “the bigger the community, the wider the spectrum of individual variation and also the greater its social differentiation.” He notes, however, that emerging common interests can lead to cultural integration despite social heterogeneity.

Yeong-Hyun (2008) argues that economic growth or decline and changes in political ideology are not only the factors that trigger the flow of people, but also the ones that determine either urban growth or decline. Agergaard (2009) argues that the demographic, social, and economic transformation occurring in the peri-urban area is the manifestation of an opposite relationship between urban and rural. There is an adjacent set of linkages between urban and rural as pointed out by Tacoli (1998), namely linkages of space as the result of the flow of commodities, people, and information; and linkages of sectors, involving agriculture, manufacturing, and service. The flow of goods, people, capital, and economic sectors overlap at both household and wider levels creates reciprocal linkages between agriculture, manufacturing, and service as part of the urbanization. However, it can be said that the synergy between agricultural outputs and urban-based enterprise significantly contributes to the local economy as well as to the regional economy (Tacoli and Satterthwaite, 2003 in Agergaard, 2009).

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The research method and procedures adopted for collecting data in addressing the objectives of the study are presented in this chapter. The research used the mixed method for data collection and analysis. Mixed methods research is a research design with philosophical assumptions as well as methods of inquiry (Creswell, 2006). Creswell (2006) explained that mixed method as a methodology, it involves philosophical assumptions that guide the direction of the collection and analysis of data and the mixture of qualitative and quantitative approaches in many phases in the research process. Creswell further stated that as a method, it focuses on collecting, analyzing, and mixing both quantitative and qualitative data in a single study or series of studies. Its central premise is that the use of quantitative and qualitative approaches in combination provides a better understanding of research problems than either approach alone. It was based on this idea that the study adopted a mixed method research.

3.2 Population

The population for this study constituted the Ga-East Municipality of the Greater Accra Region. The 2010 National Population and Housing Census put the Municipal Assembly's population at 198,220 with an intercensal growth rate of about 4.2%. The projected population for the year 2013 is therefore 224,837 (GEMA, 2014). The growth of the population is mainly due to the influence of migration inflows. The structure of the population has about 51% males and 49% female with an average household size of 4.6. There are about 52 settlements in the district with Abokobi, a well known Presbyterian community as the Municipal capital. The population is concentrated mainly along the

urban and peri-urban areas of the Municipality particularly along the border with AMA to the south. These include; Abokobi, Boi, Haatso, Ablorh-Adjei, Dome, Taifa and Haatso among others.

3.3 Sample

The components considered before arriving at the sample are the selection of communities, households and finally respondents. Communities were purposively sampled from districts. In the first instance, communities with a population of less than 5000 were considered as rural (2000 Population and Housing Census). The selection of communities in the districts was based on the percentage of rural and urban populations. Haatso, Dome and Taifa community were sampled in the study. In all, three communities were sampled for the study.

The next selection criterion considered was households within the communities. According to the Ghana 2000 Housing and Population Census, a household is the number of persons living under one domestic provision. The study reached 30 households in the three communities. Ten households each from the three communities, thus: Haatso, Dome and Taifa. In selecting respondents, 150 constituted the sample for the study.

3.4 Research Design

The research is exploratory, explanatory and cross-sectional study that aims at finding out the problems peri-urban settlers face in the Ga-East District of the Greater Accra Region. An exploratory research is conducted to find out what is happening; to seek new insights;

to ask questions and to assess phenomena in a new light (Robson, 2002). The study therefore is exploratory because it focused on finding out the problems peri-urban settlers.

Explanatory research seeks to establish relationship that exists between variables, that is, to identify how one variable affects the other; it also seeks to provide an explanation to the causes and/or effects of one or more variables (Saunders et al., 2007). The research design adopted for this work was a cross-sectional descriptive survey. According to Fraenkel and Wallen (2003) survey research makes it possible to collect data from respondents in order to describe some characteristics of the population of which that group is a part. In line with Fraenkel and Wallen definition, this study also described some characteristics of the respondents.

Furthermore, cross-sectional survey helps to gather snap shot on the views of a large group of people. Considering the magnitude of the population, the cross-sectional survey will enabled the researcher to obtain data from samples according to the demarcated by the Ga East district assembly. The cross-sectional survey was therefore appropriate for collecting data on the objectives of the research since its focus is to describe some characteristics of a population.

3.5 Sampling Technique

A multi-staged sampling method was adopted for the study thus, purposive, convenient and simple random sampling techniques were utilized to select respondents in the Ga East District. These techniques were adopted to make the sample chosen representative. Haatso, Dome and Taifa community were chosen purposely due to the rapid increase of the population in these communities as indicated in table 3.5.

Table 3.1: District Projected Population

Communities	Base Year	Projected Population		
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Dome	44686	45689	46697	47,709
Taifa	39446	40332	41221	42,115
Adenta West	18948	19374	19801	20,230
Haatso	10702	10942	11183	11,425
Agbogba	9407	9618	9830	10,043
Ashongman Estate	7001	7158	7316	7474
New Ashongman (Musuko)	5268	5388	5511	5639
Kwabenya	5827	5958	6089	6221
Papao (West Lands)	4049	4143	4237	4335
Christian Village	3700	3785	3872	3961
Atomic	1699	1738	1778	1819
Abokobi	1652	1689	1726	1764
Aboman	448	458	468	478
Abloradjei	182	186	191	195
Boi	756	773	790	807
Akporman	668	703	719	735
Adenkrabi	367	375	383	391
Siseme	186	190	194	198

Source: GSS, Population Projections and Estimates Unit, 2013

This was based on Fraenkel and Wallen's (2003) assertion that based on previous knowledge of a population and the specific purpose of the research, investigators may use personal judgment to select a sample purposively. The study further selected 30 household by means of purposive and convenient sampling technique. This was done to enable the

researcher get good judgment on the phenomenon under discussion. Also, the household were selected purposively and conveniently due to emerging nature of households within the communities. This allowed the researcher to use a purposeful conclusion and effort to obtain a representative sample of the household who have exact information on problems of settlers in peri-urban areas. Finally, simple random sampling technique was use to select 150 respondents. This gave equal opportunity to the target population and helped minimize bias.

3.6 Data Source

Data was collected via two means: secondary and primary data source. According to Greenfield (1996) and Bell (2001), every research project should include secondary research because secondary research gives on overview of what has been researched before in the same subject area, which will not only help to chose a research topic and place the research in context, but is also crucial for the decision on research design for the own research. The secondary research started with a search for articles and books that explained areas most central to the thesis. On the other hand, primary data source included information source from the field or respondents. According to Kumar (1999), primary data is suitable for academic research as it gives the researcher first hand information. With reference to this, the study used focused group discussion and interview schedule for primary data collection.

3.7 Research Instrument

The study used two research instruments for data collection thus; focus group discussion and interview schedule. The focus group discussion comprised of 6 main questions. The focus group discussions served as an opportunity for brainstorming and for bringing to the

fore collective experiences, views and perceptions on problems of peri-urban areas. Focus groups were purposively selected. Each focus group comprised of 11 members which were carefully selected to represent a cross section of the community. The focus group discussions were exploited to provide more information to enrich the data from the household interviews and one-one-one interview to ensure that data might be triangulated to bolster confidence in the ultimate conclusions reached from interpretation of the data.

Also, the study employed an interview schedule. The questions on the interview schedule were made up of both open and closed ended question. In all, 27 questions were asked. An interview involved an interaction with individual in sampled households, with the use of the interview schedule to guide the respondent in an orderly manner. According to Bernard (2002), interview process helps to elicit the kind of detailed information required. The flexible nature of the interview permitted the researcher to explore and investigate issues with respondents through probing for clarity, and for a deeper understanding of meanings of the topic under investigation

3.8 Validation of Research Instrument

The research instrument was validated both internally and externally. The following internal validity was ensured. To achieve content validity, the questions on the research instrument was given to my supervisors for review. For criterion validity, the research instruments developed was matched up with other similar validated instruments that have been developed and used in several studies by Songsore (2003) and Abass, Afriyie and Adomako (20013) on studies in relation to formation of peri-urban areas and problems by peri-urban areas respectively. To ensure external validity, the findings of the study would be functional to other peri-urban areas in the study area.

3.8.1 Reliability of Research Instrument

Reliability refers to whether a measurement instrument is able to yield consistent results each time it is applied. In this study, a pilot tests of the research instrument to strengthen its reliability was done. Furthermore, reliability of the instrument was carried out by clearly defining some concepts and constructs used to frame the items and in some instances stating methods that highlights the concepts and constructs used. For example, the concept of peri-urban communities was clearly defined as part of the study. Additionally, a pretest was carried out in the Ga South District precisely Amasaman to ensure reliability of the instruments. As part of the pretest, 10 settlers were randomly selected for the study.

3.9 Data Analysis

The study generated both quantitative and qualitative data. The quantitative data collected was edited, coded and fed into the statistical package for social science (SPSS) to analyze. Descriptive statistics such as frequency tables was used in the data analysis. The results from the open-ended questions were also edited, summarized, organized, transcribed and interpreted into themes and sub-themes. Narratives were used for the qualitative data.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the results of the field investigation. The study employed a quantitative and qualitative approach; therefore, the results were presented quantitatively and qualitatively based on the reported problems of rural settlers in the Ga East Municipality. The study was designed to answer the following research questions:

- What are the problems faced by rural settlers in relations to:
 - ❖ Economic
 - ❖ Social
 - ❖ Cultural
- In what ways have these problems affected rural settlers?
- How do settlers cope with these problems affecting their lives?
- To what extent has the Municipal Assemblies role influenced the modes of development and the direction of urban growth, and what are the challenges of urban governance ahead with respect to urban growth management?

4.2 Problems of Rural Settlers

The study sought to find out the problems of rural settlers in the Ga East Municipality. These problems were classified into economic, social and cultural.

4.2.1 Economic Problems

There is an increasing perception that rural, rural, and urban environments operate as a system rather than independently and that rural development and urban planning are necessarily linked activities. Activities or interventions in one arena have consequences in

the other, often negative. In line with this, a research by Iaquinta and Drescher (2000) in the quest for understandings rural-urban linkages provides a basis for understanding problems faced by receiving communities of migrants. Based on this notion, the study sought to find out the economic problems of rural settlers. This was to enable the researcher to get a clear view on economic problems of indigenous inhabitants. The results are depicted in table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Employment Problems

Employment	Frequency	Percentages
Unemployment	59	22.95
Job Insecurity	64	24.9
Low Income	134	52.1
Total	257	100

*** Multiple Response (N=146)**

According to table 4.1, more than half of the indigenes, 52.1%, in the sampled communities in the Ga East Municipality had low income. The low income may be attributed to unemployment and job insecurity. In a focus group discussion with respondents, it was noted that respondents had low income which they attributed to inadequate employment opportunities. This is what they had to say:

“We were originally farmers. All these buildings you see around were formally not here. The land was occupied with greens. The land was very fertile which we used for farming. We even had some ponds which we had our fishes from it but now all these areas have been covered with houses. This has left us idle. We the old people of this community depend on our children for income. They have to move from this community every morning in search for manual jobs. The little they get is what they also give us some”. (FGD, Haatso, 19th/06/2014)

In furtherance to the analysis, a focus group discussion conducted by the researcher and his team at Dome and Taifa which have been swallowed up by expansion also commented that income is a major problem for community members. Their statements were summarized as follows:

“Most of the women in this community are now table top sellers. That is the major source of income for us. Just look around, kiosk and stores all over. This even informs you that this community lacks formal employment. Majority of the original land owners now live in poverty because we don’t get enough income”. (FGD, Dome, 15st/06/2014)

“Most of us depend on remittances from relatives abroad and elsewhere in parts of the capital city. Without them, we have no means of income. The kind of income generating activities we engage in cannot meet our needs. Most of us are idle and the kind of work we do is basically manual jobs” (FGD, Taifa, 17th/06/2014).

The comments from the respondents indicate that income generating activities in rural areas is a major problem. This they attributed to change in occupation resulting from expansion of these communities. In another vein, the study found out that communities in rural areas have problems accessing funds/ loans from banks and other money lenders. This they attributed to lack of collateral. It was also found out that the only collateral they had was land. Even with this, all lands in the communities have been sold to developers. This is affecting them in terms of raising capital for businesses. The results are depicted in table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Access to Funds

Access to Funds	Frequency	Percentage
Credit Scarcity	48	45.71
Personal Debt	46	43.8
Pension Crises	11	10.47
Total	105	100

* Multiple Response (N=146)

Table 4.2 affirms that, 45.7% inhabitants had problems with credit scarcity. This was followed by 43.8% who were in debt. Respondents attributed their problems to the current economic hardship in the community and the country at large. Respondents during a focus group discussion in the Dome community commented:

“..... all the money lending institutions and even money lenders in this community want some form of collateral before they lend you some money for business. We have nothing and all we had is ourselves and the houses that we live in which we inherited from our fathers”. (FGD, Dome, 15th/06/2014).

The economic situation described above provides general insight into how the poverty of rural settlers is deepened due to lack of capital for alternative livelihood. The study further found out respondents had problems affording basic needs of life. Respondents attributed this to high price of commodities. It included high food prices, high prices of clothing, increase in rent prices as well as high prices of utility tariffs. The responses are depicted in table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Affordability of Basic Needs

Affordability of Basic Needs	Frequency	Percentage
Increase in food prices	146	25.0
Inability to afford clothing	146	25.0
Increase in rent prices	146	25.0
High electricity/water tariffs	146	25.0
Total	584	100

* **Multiple Response (N=146)**

According to the analyzed result, all respondents in the sampled communities in the Ga East Municipality had problems affording basic needs of life. In all, 146 respondents represented by 25.0% each had problems with affording food, shelter, clothing, utility and

accommodation. This they attributed to increase in commodities. When this comment was put to “the focus group” for confirmation, one petty trader made this rejoinder:

“Anytime you go to the market, there is an increase in prices. This is really affecting us to the extent that all monies we have go back into our trading. We are always running at a lost. Only God is the one who keeps us going”. (FGD, Taifa, 17th/06/2014).

Besides the increase in food prices, there are other problems reiterated by some members of the focus group discussion. A young woman within the age category of 31- 40 in the Dome community explained that she started working as a maid in a nearby community but because of her inability to meet the daily demands of her family she decided to engage in selling of “Akpeteshi” (a traditional drink manufactured from palm-wine or sugar cane). By getting involved with the new economic sector, she earned additional income. Her husband worked in the furniture industry. She gave other reasons, described as follows:

“It is relatively more sensible to stay in the house and fold my arms as I find it difficult to get my daily needs. I often borrow from the furniture shop to enable me buy food for my family. As a result I am left with nothing at the end of the month” (FGD, Dome, 15th/06/ 2014)

The responses given suggest that rural areas are often economically dynamic and offer many problems with little opportunities in terms of job for residents. These is to say that rural communities are strongly influenced by easy access to urban markets, services, resources and a ready supply of labour. At the same time, the proximity of rural agricultural zones makes the rural interface a critical area for the management or mismanagement of natural resources. It could also be said that the peasants who have lost the farmland on which they worked represent the marginal group in rural society. The steady investment in terms of housing that has stimulated the rapid growth of built-up area has resulted in the conversion of a large amount of rural land, particularly cultivated farmland in these communities. The farmers who engaged in the process of land

cultivation lost their livelihood. The informal economic sector is their only hope since they have neither the capacity nor the skill to qualify for jobs in the formal sector. Many respondents who formerly engaged in agrarian work explained that working in the informal economy was the only strategy to survive.

4.2.2 Social Problems

SanWatPUA Network (2012) established that even where there are responsible authorities defined, they are often confronted with a lack of resources, fragile technical networks, inadequate financial frameworks, and weak staff competences and capacities for dealing with booming rural neighbourhoods. The rate of change is so fast in many of these areas that it is difficult to establish internal routines, policies and norms that could guide their governance. As a result, enforcement of regulations can be weak, leading to destruction, unauthorized building and dumping of waste, illegal activities and security problems. Based on this notion, the study set out to establish the social problems of rural areas in the Ga East Municipality. The responses were depicted in four broad headings namely: Pollution, Utility, Social Amenities and Land Legalities. With regards to pollution, the study found out three main forms of pollution that existed within the communities as depicted in table 4.4

Table 4.4: Pollution

Pollution	Frequency	Percentages
Air Pollution	59	30.72
Water pollution	28	14.58
Land pollution	105	54.68
Total	192	100

* Multiple Response (N=146)

With reference to the table, three main forms of pollution existed within the communities sampled for the study. It included air, water and land pollution. Among all these categories, land pollution stood out distinctively. Out of the 54.7% respondents, 105 identified land pollution as a major problem. This they attributed to expansion of the communities due to migration. As a middle age man recounted during a focus group discussion:

“Hardly do you see plastic and other related dirt /rubbish around in this community. The Haatso community used to be very clean without any drop of rubbish on the floor. The community members always clean this community early in the morning before leaving to their respective places of work but now just look around? Plastic waste all over”. (FGD, Haatso, 19th /06/2014)

A similar comment came from a woman in her late 50s. She had this to say:

“Formally, all women in the community organize a cleanup exercise every Saturday morning before the sun even rises. There wasn’t anything like plastic bag or paper in or around the communities. The influx of people from respective communities in Ghana and even neighbouring countries has had a negative effect on the community. They just dispose of refuse anyhow and anywhere without remorse. Who are you to say a word? They will insult you to the extent of you feeling it in your bones”. (FGD, Haatso, 21st /06/2014)

Cross-checking these comments with the Dome and Taifa communities provided some clarification. A man who was born and lived in the Dome community all his life explained:

“..... we have indeed suffered as a result of improper management of waste in this community. Hardly will you hear of flooding and outbreaks of cholera and other communicable diseases but now it is common. All this is because of the way our environment is mishandled by settlers.” (FGD, Dome, 15th/06/ 2014)

While another commented:

“Flies all over! All because of the way we handle waste. Woe unto to you if you step on a tied polythene bag, you will go home with the smell of faeces on you. People defecate and tide them up in rubber bags and throw them on the streets. Same as urine and other excreta’s which are disposed off anyhow. This is contributing to the sickness in the community. I think

something must be done about this situation. It is quite serious.” (FGD, Taifa, 17th/06/2014).

In addition to this, community members had problems with air and water pollution. They attributed air pollution to frequent burning of rubbish by community members while others also mentioned the increasing number of vehicles in the community which produces a lot of fumes from their exhaust. An opinion member in the Taifa community had this to say:

“Frequent burning of bushes and rubbish around often pollutes the air. A car fume often pollutes the air. This makes it difficult for us to breath” (FGD, Taifa, 17th/06/2014).

“We had small ponds in this community. We sometime use it to bath and even wash. Now these water bodies are mosquito breeding grounds. Full of human excreta. Most of these sites have been converted to dumping sites” (FGD, Dome, 15th/06/ 2014)

In furtherance to the discussion, the study found out that communities studied had problems with utility. This was classified in irregular electricity and water supply. Respondents confirmed that there are problems with irregular electricity and water supply. This was represented by 50.2% and 49.9% respectively. Similar opinions were expressed during a focus group discussion in the three sampled communities in the Ga East Municipality. They commented on the irregular utilities in the communities which they attributed to illegal connections and expansion of the communities:

“There is frequent power cut without any notice. These are problems we face on daily basis.” (FGD, Dome, 15th/06/ 2014)

“I don’t even remember the last time water flowed through our taps. Formerly water wasn’t a problem but now we see the face of water once in every two month. We either have to harvest rain or buy water which is also quite expensive”. (FGD, Haatso, 19th/06/2014)

“As for water and electricity, it has become a problem to the extent that we are now used to it. Whether it is there or not, we don’t usually care. But it is also killing our iced water business which has made our living expenses high”. (FGD, Taifa, 17th/06/2014).

As described above, most of the sons or daughters of the communities expressed their worries in poor households since these problems are having effects on them. Also, the study sought to find out problems associated with social amenities. This was to give the researcher a fair idea in relation to what the communities have or do not have. The study showed that even though the communities had some social amenities, they were not enough to cater for the needs of increasing population of the community. The results are depicted in table 4.5

Table 4.5: Social Amenities

Social Amenities	Frequency	Percentage
Lack /Inadequate educational facilities	35	18.6
Poor road network	69	36.7
Lack of recreational facilities	84	44.8
Total	188	100

* **Multiple Response (N=146)**

The table shows that 44.8% had problems with recreational facilities. Interestingly, only few people representing 36.7% had problems with the poor road network. To confirm these results, a method triangulation was carried out by the researcher. The focus group discussion indicated that the communities lack spaces to hold social gatherings such as parties, funerals, durbars, naming ceremonies among others and as such all spaces have been converted into building plots which have been sold to developers. A sub chief of Haatso during a focus group discussion commented that:

“We had lots of parks and community centers where social activities were held but currently all these parks have been sold to developers. Currently we have only one football field which is not even big enough for sports tournaments. The park even belongs to the public school located here. This means that if there is a programme in the community which seeks to involve all community members, the educational calendar is affected. This

is a real problem which we the elders of the community regret”. (FGD, Taifa, 17th/06/2014).

In another discussion, held at Taifa and Dome respectively, they also shared similar sentiment. However, they stressed more on inadequate educational facilities in the community. Their comments were captured as:

“The few public schools in this community are dilapidated with few equipment to enhance teaching and learning. This is having an effect on us since we don’t have much to take our children to private schools”. (FGD, Taifa, 17th/06/2014).

“The public schools in the community are overcrowded with pupils with few teachers. As a result of that most of the schools are now running the shift system now. This is having a negative effect on our children”. (FGD, Dome, 15th/06/ 2014)

Looking at the comments from the focus group discussions, it could be deduced that the communities in the district have different preferences. While some communities stressed on educational facilities, others also felt that lack of adequate recreational centers and poor road networks are their problems.

The study further investigated into land problems that exist in the communities. The analyzed results confirmed some problems associated with land. The results are depicted in table 4.6.

Table 4.6: Land Problems

Land Problems	Frequency	Percentage
Unplanned Settlement	92	61.7
Insecure land tenure	23	15.4
Social tension	27	18.1
Unclear legalities and administration	7	4.7
Total	149	100

* Multiple Response (N=146)

The results indicated in the table shows that a majority of the respondents, representing 61.7%, had problems with unplanned settlement. A section of the respondents however blamed it on district officials who grant permits without any inspections of land sites for building. A claimed retired surveyor during a focus group discussion indicated that:

“The district assembly has failed totally when it comes to planning of settlement. They sit in the office and gives permits to developers just because they have the resources to build”. (FGD, Taifa, 17th/06/2014)

In a nearly resulted debate, some members of the focus group discussion blamed the occurrences of the unplanned settlements on the chiefs. An assemblyman of the Taifa community had this to say:

“The chiefs of the various areas are also to be blamed. The land belongs to the chiefs and not the district assembly. It is the chiefs who sell the lands to the developers. They often don’t care even if that parcel of land is water log area or not. All they know is to sell land or exchange land for cars. That is all they know. They also don’t use the land for any meaningful development, all they use it for is enjoyment”. (FGD, Haatso, 19th/06/2014)

In support of the above statement, a trader stated that:

“Land owners sell land to people without any proper documentation and approval. This have culminated into siting of buildings anywhere and anyhow”. (FGD, Taifa, 17th/06/2014)

Likewise, Dome and Haatso maintained similar sentiments during a focus group discussion. They indicated that unplanned settlements have bedeviled their entire community which have created more problems than good as affirmed during the focus group discussion saying:

“Unplanned settlement is occurring at a faster pace. This new phenomenon is occuring due to negligence of officials in charge of demarcations of lands. It is a major problem affecting us. Slumps springing up like flies, stores and kiosks all over. This is the reason why people defecate and put them into rubber bags. This is because they don’t have a place of convenience” (FGD, Dome, 15th/06/ 2014)

“Settlement in this community is serious problem. Apart from the estate houses in this community, most of the areas are made of up illegal migrants who settles on lands without permission. Driving them from the land also

becomes a problem. Such problem must be critically looked at”. (FGD, Haatso, 19th/06/2014)

These comments attest to the fact that communities are now being swallowed up as a result of migration and population increase. All these are influencing rural settlement. Notwithstanding this, the study further established that there were land illegalities, social tensions and insecure land tenure systems in the community. The focus group discussions established that as a result of the quest to own a land, it has created some social tensions in the communities as people are seen fighting over land, either physically and or spiritually.

These are what members involved the discussion had to say:

“Land issue is now a problem. People are dying in the quest to own land. Others are also butchered in exchange to abandon a parcel of land. Why must these things happen? All this things are happening because of greed. You cannot even buy a land because your are afraid that the land belongs to someone else”. (FGD, Haatso, 19th/06/2014)

“Both developed and developing parcels of land are now at the law court. The court is even burdened with land issues than any other problems our societies are facing. All this can be attributed to improper documentations and wrongful ownership of lands”. (FGD, Dome, 15th/06/ 2014)

“As I speak now, our family land was taken over by an unknown person, sold it to a developer and collected the money for his or her own keep. As at now, we don’t know how the person formulated all the land documents. We took the issue to court and we lost just because the person who currently own the land has money. This resulted in several battles via verbal and litigation process at the court and even beyond. I was even arrested by the police because of this issue.” (FGD, Taifa, 17th/06/2014)

The issue with reference to land problems calls for a prompt attention as reported daily in the media that people have lost their lives as a result of land problems. The same issue is happening to communities understudied.

4.2.3 Cultural Problems

A research by Asiama (2011) established that colonial development isolated almost many capital cities of most colonies. He maintained that little or no administration was carried

out outside of the capital and practically no modern infrastructure existed beyond it. With population levels outstripping the availability of work in rural regions many people flocked to these developed urban centres looking for work and food. These migrants swelled the population of cities massively, creating new forms of lifestyles which often affect receiving communities. Based on this, the study sought to find out the cultural problems facing communities sampled for the study. This was to enable the researcher get firsthand information on problems in relation to culture of the original inhabitants of the sampled communities. The results are depicted in table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Cultural Problems

Adulteration	Frequency	Percentages
Change in traditional lifestyle	130	19.0
Adulteration in cultural practices	119	17.39
Adulteration of social norms	121	17.6
Adulteration of acceptable folkways	76	11.1
Lack of Communal Spirit	129	18.85
Breakdown of the extended family system	109	15.93
Total	684	100

*** Multiple Response (N=146)**

With reference to table 4.7, communities' lifestyle had change as a result of inflow and outflow of people. This was represented by 19% of the responses. In furtherance to analysis, 129 (18.9%) had problems with lack of communal spirit. These were some remarks during the focus group discussion:

“The lifestyle of this community has changed totally. Formally, the youth were very respectful but now if you say one, they will say twenty words. They engage in smoking and alcoholism. All these things are what community members learned from migrants. The moral fiber of the society

is broken as a result of these migrants who come in with different cultures”. (FGD, Taifa, 17th/06/2014)

“We use to come together and work towards a common good. We engage in communal labour such as cleaning of the environment among other. Now these things are not done anymore”. (FGD, Dome, 15th/06/ 2014)

“The extended family system had totally broken down. Formally, we cared for each other in terms of sharing belongings. Currently, each one for himself. This is currently affecting us seriously as most children are now becoming wayward.”

Looking at the analyzed result, it could be deduced that cultural practices of indigenes in rural settlements have been adulterated. This has lots of implications for further studies.

4.3 Effects of Problems

In Ga East Municipality, swallowing of communities has had economic as well as socio-cultural effect. These include displacement and unemployment, pollution, change in cultural lifestyle among others. The opening of the district has resulted in high influxes of migrants. This, in turn, has resulted in problems ranging from economic to socio-cultural as analyzed in previous section in the chapter four. Due to the fact that the problems faced by the rural settlers were identified and categorized under three major sections, the effects of the identified problems on their livelihood, therefore was categorized as such. The researcher therefore categorized the effects of the identified problems as:

- a. Economic Effects
- b. Social Effects
- c. Cultural Effects

4.3.1 Economic Effects

Examining how household access their livelihood, depends on a diversity of occupational sectors. This is a central theme in many development studies and is often discussed in the context of poverty, urbanization, household risk, conversation and coping strategies. These have implications for economic effect as communities are swallowed and its members means of income generation are altered. It is based on this that responses were sought from respondents to know the economic effects of urbanization on the livelihood of the community. The economic effects were grouped under the following themes:

- Inability to Access Basic Necessities
- Inability to Pay Utility Tariffs
- Poor Standard of Living

Inability to Access Basic Necessities

The analyzed result show that 67.1% of the respondents admitted that they found it very difficult in accessing very basic necessities. These are some of the comments they made:

“My brother, I am telling you. It is sometimes very difficult to even get food to eat. I live not knowing where the next meal is coming from”. (Resident, Haatso: 19/06/2014).

“It is by luck that I happen to be staying in the house my father himself built. If not so I personally will not be able to hire an apartment because income is so low that there is a general difficulty in renting an apartment”. (Resident, Dome: 15/06/2014).

“You see the kind of tattered clothes I am wearing? That is what I have been wearing for the past days because I don’t have enough so I am always not fully protected from the weather”. (Resident, Taifa: 17/06/2014).

These views were however confirmed by the focus group discussions that were conducted within the three communities. This was what they had to say:

In those days food was not a problem as the farms were near and as such have access to natural foods like kontomire, cocoyam and cassava etc. These foods are in their natural state and give us a lot of energy. However in modern times, food is very scarce which is as a result of the land not sustaining agriculture and also being used as settlement and hardly do we eat twice a day. (FGD, Haatso, 19/06/2014)

“Accommodation was not really a problem when Dome was small with only indigenes. There were so many vacant rooms with fewer people. However, the influx of strangers and urbanization has created problems. The effect it has had on us is that we have rented our rooms to strangers and we rather sleep outside. So now it has created congestion in the various family houses”. (FDG, Dome, 15/06/2014)

We are not able to buy decent clothes except the ‘obroniwaawu’ (second hand clothing) which is also becoming expensive. The uniforms our children wear to school, as you can see, says a lot about the situation we face with regards to clothing. (FDG, Taifa, 17/06/2014)

However, 30 of the respondents didn’t agree to the fact that due to urbanization, they are unable to access basic necessities. They believed that indeed there are some economic effects that keep emerging from urbanization but definitely not their inability to access basic necessities. These are some of their comments:

“There are several effects of economic problems but certainly not my inability to provide basic necessities”. (Resident, Haatso: 11/06/2014).

“As for food, I can afford but there are still some negative effects of the economic problems in this community. So I won’t say it is an effect”. (Resident, Dome: 18/06/2014).

“Surprisingly, the effects of the economic problems are not made manifest in the acquisition of basic necessities”. (Resident, Taifa: 12/06/2014).

In light of the above supposition, the researcher sought to find out whether the inability of the respondents can influence their children. The study, therefore, solicited responses from the respondents on whether or not they are able to take care of their children irrespective of the coming in of urbanization.

The study further found out that 146 respondents, 105 of them inherently admitted that there was a difficulty in taking care of their children. These are some of the comments they made:

“At first, there were many jobs that I was doing to let me get money to pay my children’s school fees, but now because there are no jobs, my children are at home”. (Resident, Haatso: 9/06/2014).

“It is difficult oo my brother. My children, even though they mean so much to me, sometimes sleep hungry and it hurts me but sometimes you just can’t help”. (Resident, Dome: 21/06/2014).

“Previously in the past, parents are able to buy new clothes for their children. We called it ‘bronya ataade’. But now even my children don’t enjoy the luxury of even one dress in a whole year”. (Resident, Haatso: 19/06/2014).

“It is sometimes very frustrating and at times I feel like committing suicide because I feel like an irresponsible father especially when my children are hungry and there is no food”. (Resident, Taifa: 19/06/2014).

However, a small group among the respondents, 23%, mentioned that they are able to take care of their children irrespective of the impact of the economic problems. These are some of the views they expressed:

“As for my children, I make sure they enjoy everything, even though most of the time it is to my disadvantage”. (Resident, Haatso: 13/06/2014).

“I am able to take care of my children and will forever do even if I have to go take loans or borrow from friends”. (Resident, Taifa: 14/06/2014).

The findings that have emanated from the study gives a clear indication that a significant majority of the respondents are of the view that one major economic effect of urbanization is the inability to have access to basic necessities of life.

Inability to Pay Utility Tariffs

In furtherance to the analyses, the study identified that 67.1% of the respondents, who are a significant majority, admitted that they found it very difficult in accessing very basic

necessities. This is as a result of change in taste and environmental influence. These are some of the views they expressed:

“Previously, there was so much money in the system because hardly do we pay for water and light. We used to fetch water from the stream, we depend on kerosene and other lighting systems, especially the moon. However, presently, we pay for all utility tariffs. Now there is no money in the system so personally I am unable to pay. This has resulted in a disconnection of my light”. (Resident, Haatso: 19/06/2014).

As for the water bills, it is okay, but the light bill it is just too much. So my children and I use lantern and candles at night. (Resident, Dome: 19/06/2014).

Now due to the fact that we are not able to pay, our lights have been disconnected so it puts pressure on me to make sure I finish cooking by 5pm before night falls. (Resident, Taifa: 19/06/2014).

In furtherance of the above stated views of the respondents, the responses emerging from the focus group discussions served as a confirmation of what had been earlier on said.

These are the general views of the groups:

“In the good old days, we used to fetch water from the Haatso river but now we have pipe borne water which I can confess is cleaner but it is not regular. This has made the few well to do people in the community to sell water at higher prices which most of us cannot afford”. (FGD, Haatso, 19/06/2014)

“Though power is convenient to use, it is too expensive paying light bills. As a result, most households have their lights disconnected and with the approaching B.E.C.E, our children have no option than to result to the use of candles and lanterns. A neighbour's house got burnt recently because of the use of candles”. (FGD, Dome, 15/06/2014)

Five (5) of the respondents, however, failed to admit that inability to pay utility bills was an economic effect of urbanization because they are able to pay their utility tariffs. These were some of the views they shared:

Even though there are economic problems, I don't see its effect manifesting on my ability to pay my tariffs. That's for me. Maybe the effects of the economic problems might be seen from some other perspectives. (Resident, Dome: 22/06/2014).

It's really dark unless people have their lights on and due to this there's a lot of theft going on, people breaking into these houses. (Resident, Taifa: 13/06/2014).

Standard of Living

The study identified a poor standard of living among the inhabitants and therefore solicited responses from the respondents on how their standard of living has affected their livelihoods. The analyzed results depicts that 146 respondents, 98 of them admitted that they found it very difficult in accessing very basic necessities. These are some of the views they expressed:

“In the olden days, I used to eat three times a day. But now due to the difficulties in making money, I eat once a day and even with that one the nutritional value is nothing to write home about”. (Resident, Haatso: 19/06/2014).

“Lack of jobs during this time makes it difficult to make little money for basic things. Sometimes I walk long distances because there is no money to be used for transportation”. (Resident, Dome: 2/06/2014).

“Income is very low and it makes me go around begging friends for money or going to the banks to look for loans which in turn increase my personal debt”. (Resident, Taifa: 3/06/2014).

The responses of the respondents were confirmed by the focus group discussions organized in the various communities. These are some of their views:

As said earlier, the problems are related. Lack of sustainable income has contributed poorly to our standard of living. This has affected the life expectancy over the years. Our fathers used to live long as a result of the food they eat. Hardly do we eat twice a day, hence resulting in early death. In the olden days food was very cheap and nutritious. (FGD, Haatso, 19/06/2014)

Items or things we used to obtain from our farms in the community are no longer available. We buy almost everything and this has led to financial stress on the family as a result of borrowing and taking years of rent advance from tenants (FGD, Dome, 15/06/2014)

The findings that have emanated from the study gives a clear indication that a significant majority of the respondents are of the view that one major economic effect of urbanization is the poor standard of living within their communities.

4.3.2 Social Effects

The effects of urban expansion can be two edged sword. This is documented as mosaic of opportunities and threats to people living in peripheral villages (Olujimi, 2009). A key challenge to the urbanization process is the rapid conversion of large amount of prime agricultural land to urban land use as well as transformation in the livelihoods of rural dwellers (Owusu & Agyei, 2007). Urban dwellers purchase almost all their food as well as other goods and services, including housing, transportation, healthcare and education (Cohen & Garret, 2009). This in effect creates social problems. These social problems as analyzed in previous section further have effect on the dwellers of such communities. In line with this, responses were sought from respondents to know the social effects of urbanization on the livelihood of the community. The following themes were thus generated:

- Social Amenities
- Increase in Social Vices
- Environmental Degradation

Social Amenities

The responses that emerged from the study showed that communities in the Ga East Municipality had inadequate social amenities such as toilets, school buildings, and recreational facilities among others.

It was surprising that out of 146 respondents, 134 or 92% respondents indicated that the social amenities were not adequate. This was represented by 92%. Based on the responses of the respondents, the researcher probed to find out from the respondents how the inadequacy of social amenities affects their livelihoods. These are some of the responses that were sampled from the views of the 134 responses:

“The inadequate schools in this community have caused us to be sending our children to private schools outside the community which is relatively expensive”. (Resident, Haatso: 19/06/2014).

“In Haatso here, there is only one school and because all the children in this community cannot get access to the school, we send them to a private schools and because they are private schools, they don't teach Ga as a subject, thus affecting our children one way or the other”. (Resident, Dome: 13/06/2014).

“The effect of there being no recreational centers brings about boredom because the there are no sitting places to relax and play games the eases stress and reduce boredom. Now things are difficult so the young boys in the area have made stealing a habit. I don't call it armed robbery. I call it house robbery because now it is clear that the people who steal from you are apparently in the same house with. Just yesterday someone dashed me fifty Ghana cedis and I put it in my wardrobe. Surprising, this morning I can't find it. The young boys in this area have adopted the attitude of smoking wee. One of the small boys told me one day that he will beat me up because I asked him to stop smoking”. (Resident, Dome: 2/06/2014).

“If you have stomach problems in the middle of the night, you have to wake up and walk long distances to look for a toilet facility at the mercy of the weather and also at risks of attack”. (Resident, Taifa: 19/06/2014).

In furtherance of the above stated views of the respondents, the responses emerging from the focus group discussions served as a confirmation of what had been earlier on said.

These are the general views of the groups:

“The Dome Community has expanded without a corresponding increase in public schools. As a result, the few public schools have high enrolment resulting in congestions and this has forced parents to send their children to private schools that charge high fees beyond the reach of the ordinary person. This is in sharp contrast in the bygone days where school authorities and parents and teachers were begging people to send their children to that school”. (FGD, Dome, 15/06/2014)

“Recreational centers especially parks and playgrounds were common in this community. Children have enough space to organize games to occupy their time. Lack of these facilities have resulted in all kinds of social vices such as drug addiction, ‘sakawaism’, theft etc”. (FGD, Taifa, 17/06/2014)

“The population increase has put a serious burden on toilet facilities in the community. The effect of this is that people defecate indiscriminately in the community. People ease themselves into polythene bags and throw them about indiscriminately. This spread epidemics in the community”. (FGD, Haatso, 19/06/2014)

Environmental Degradation

In further development, the analyzed result confirmed that out of the 146 respondents, 98 of them admitted that environmental degradation has been on the ascendency due to urbanization. These are some of the views they expressed:

“The effects of littering the environment is getting choked gutters and in turn results in floods which makes us loose lives and properties”. (Resident, Haatso: 1/06/2014).

“Dumping refuse indiscriminately causes the environment to smell bad and breed mosquitoes which gives malaria, cholera etc and some other common diseases”. (Resident, Haatso: 2/06/2014).

“Burning of some items which contain poisonous substances which pollutes the air, especially the smoke that is generated from cars. Due to the fact that there are many cars in the communities, it becomes too much and it can cause lung or kidney problems”. (Resident, Haatso: 2/06/2014).

“Poor management of the soil causes erosion and when this takes place, it seriously results in low farm produce because the soil loses most of its nutrients”. (Resident, Dome: 4/06/2014).

“Anytime it rains my shop always get flooded so customers hardly patronize my products”. (Resident, Dome: 15/06/2014).

“Most often, the floods cause us to be displaced putting into consideration all the inconveniences therein”. (Resident, Taifa: 19/06/2014).

“It makes our children sick of malaria and diarrhea which makes us spend a lot of money on them”. (Resident, Taifa: 19/06/2014).

In furtherance of the above stated views of the respondents, the responses emerging from the focus group discussions served as a confirmation of what had been earlier on said.

These are the general views of the groups:

“Dome is affected by both noise and air pollution. The noise pollution has serious implication on our previously quiet life. Because there is too much rubbish too, people burn it which causes air pollutions which results in infections”. (FGD, Haatso, 15/06/2014)

“Our main source of water here at Haatso is the stream down there but as result of pollution it has been polluted to the extent that nobody wats to near it as a result of the stench that emanate from it. People defecate in the stream. (FGD, Haatso, 19/06/2014)

“The lands in the community have been eroded as a result of unplanned and sprawling settlement in the community. Rubbish are dumped everywhere. This brings about a lot of communicable diseases. The land also cannot support plant life. Most of the trees that were here that brought air, have all been cut making the environment very hot”. (FGD, Taifa, 17/06/2014)

The researcher sought to find out whether or not communal work goes on in the community. Out of 146 respondents, 129 of them indicated that there is no communal work that goes on the community. However, an insignificant number of respondents, totaling 17 in all also held contrary views. According to them, they believed that communal work is usually undertaken in the community.

This result clearly supports the problem that was identified as there being a breakdown of the communal spirit. The researcher therefore sought to find out how the lack of communal spirit in relation to communal work can affect the livelihood of the people. Some of the responses that the respondents who answered negatively gave are outlined below:

“Most gutters in major parts of the community are choked with faeces, kitchen waste, bathroom water and this makes this area smells very bad”. (Resident, Haatso: 15/06/2014).

“The community is filled with rubbish and the gutters are choked”. (Resident, Dome: 14/06/2014).

“The environment has now become filthy and nasty and this makes our children always to fall sick”. (Resident, Taifa: 19/06/2014).

On the other hand, the 17 respondents who indicated that communal work goes on in the communities also gave the effects their communal activities are having on the communities. These are few of their responses:

“It makes the gutters clean and makes the area a mosquito free zone”.
(Resident, Haatso: 19/06/2014).

“Desilting the gutters has reduced the number of flooding situations we face in the communities”. (Resident, Taifa: 19/06/2014).

“It has rekindled communal spirit which promotes a healthy environment full of development”. (Resident, Dome: 19/06/2014).

As the social problems recede in importance with development, with the transition from low- to middle-income communities, one is confronted with the most extreme problems of urban metabolism, such as ambient air pollution, polluted rivers, polluted land, problems with unacceptable behaviours among others. These impacts have a delayed effect on human health.

4.3.3 Cultural Effects

Afsar (1999) who studied the contemporary rural-urban linkages in Dhaka, Bangladesh, argues that the process of rural to urban transformation is not only about population concentration, but also about changes in social and economic characteristics as well as cultural interface. Based on this preamble, responses were sought from respondents to know the social effects of urbanization on the livelihood of the community. The following themes were generated to aid the discussion below:

- Adulteration of Tradition
- Lack of Communal Spirit
- Breakdown of Extended Family System

Adulteration of Tradition

Based on this notion, the researcher wanted to find out the views of the respondents with regards to adulteration of tradition being an effect of the cultural problems that were highlighted in the study. The study, therefore, solicited responses from the respondents on its effects of urbanization.

In line with this, out of the one hundred and forty six (146) respondents, ninety-eight (98) of them, who are a significant majority, admitted that adulteration of tradition has been on the ascendency due to urbanization. These are some of the views they expressed:

“Previously in the past, if somebody’s child misbehaves, you have the right to discipline him or her but now you cannot. It has brought so much disrespect into the communities”. (Resident, Haatso: 14/06/2014).

“In the olden days, the elders used to gather us to tell us ananse stories and teach us moral lessons in them. These things are no more so there is so much dishonesty in the system”. (Resident, Haatso: 18/06/2014).

“Due to the fact that there are different people living amongst us in the community, most people do not dress properly especially the ladies, exposing parts of their bodies”. (Resident, Dome: 2/06/2014).

“Most of the traditional practices, like drumming and dancing, were means of bringing people together, thus bringing unity. The breakdown in some traditional practices has wiped out the sense of unity”. (Resident, Dome: 2/06/2014).

“Most of the practices have changed especially the way we dress. We have lost the traditional way of dressing”. (Resident, Taifa: 14/06/2014).

In furtherance of the above stated views of the respondents, the responses emerging from the focus group discussions served as a confirmation of what had been earlier on said.

These are the general views of the group:

“Urbanization has had a telling effect on our social norms and values. The traditional respect children have for the elderly is no longer there. During our days, you see an adult carrying load and you give him/her a helping hand. This is no longer the case. Our folklores, drumming and dancing

have all vanished. This has affected the current generation who have no idea of the norms and values of society. (FGD, Haatso, 19/06/2014)

“Some of the modern ideas are good for our society but the values we used to share were the guiding principle by which our society revolves. Our traditional festivals have been adulterated with church services taking over. In those days people are scared to commit crimes because of the consequences it has but with the springing up of churches, there is an increment in crime”. (FGD, Dome, 15/06/2014)

When society changes, you must also change so though we cherish our values and norms, we must also be abreast with time. Almost all our cultural practices have undergone some changes which has increased indiscipline and crime in our community. (FGD, Taifa, 17/06/2014)

The gods have deserted us as a result of the massive pollution of the environment. We used to have sacred groves for our deities who are the protectors of the deities. The emergence of urbanization has seen our community members turning away from these gods and attending church services. But surprising, when they are in trouble, they ran to the priest over there (pointing) to assist them. So we can say though most people attend church services, they still believe in the power of the gods and this belief is demonstrated during funeral ceremonies, outdoorings and sicknesses.

On the other hand, the seventeen (17) respondents who indicated that tradition has not been adulterated in any way also gave their views. They argued that the core values are still being practiced. These are few of their responses:

“The major traditional practices are still being protected. It is just the minor ones that are being changed”. (Resident, Haatso: 19/06/2014).

“Traditional practices such as festivals, naming ceremonies, puberty rites, marriage, funerals etc are still in existence and heads of families and the chief always ensures that the appropriate rituals are made to that effect”. (Resident, Dome: 19/06/2014).

The chiefs and elders still practice their traditional beliefs like pouring libation, cleansing of stools. On scared days the chiefs and clan elders pay homage to the various deities (Resident, Taifa: 19/06/2014).

It can be deduced from the responses that migration has an effect on receiving communities. This is evident as sending communities have different cultures which they carry along to any community they settle on.

Lack of Communal Spirit

The solicited responses showed that one hundred and forty six (146) respondents, ninety-eight (98) of them admitted that lack of communal spirit has been on the ascendency due to urbanization. These are some of the views they expressed:

“Due to the fact that there is little communal spirit, it is sometimes very difficult to get help from a neighbor”. (Resident, Haatso: 19/06/2014).

“We don’t do things together anymore so you find that it is hard to find support from people”. (Resident, Dome: 19/06/2014).

“The unity that binds us is no more and we are only fighting for only individual progress”. (Resident, Taifa: 19/06/2014).

In furtherance of the above stated views of the respondents, the responses emerging from the focus group discussions served as a confirmation of what had been earlier on said.

These are the general views of the group:

“Chiefs as the custodians of our norms and values and community development in those days occasionally organize communal labour to clean the community. At times meetings are organized to discuss issues affecting the community. However with the influx of strangers, these things are no longer there. The chiefs power is reduced with the introduction of assembly members. The communal spirit where they live as one family is disbanded. Now the slogan is ‘each one for himself, God for us all.’ The effect is that the development of the community is lacking”. (FGD, Haatso, 19/06/2014)

“The authority of the chiefs has waned over the years and this has had a negative effect on the communal spirit. Strangers have now invaded our land and do not respect the chief who we consider as the agent of development”. (FGD, Dome, 15/06/2014)

“Now the chiefs role is being taken over by assembly members so there is no communal spirit because the assembly member may also be a stranger who may not know most members in the community. The economic conditions also make people to be looking for means to survive and therefore have little or no interest in what happens in the community”. (FGD, Taifa, 17/06/2014)

On the other hand, the seventeen (17) respondents who indicated that there is still some form of communal spirit also gave their views. They argued that the spirit of communalism

is still in existence even though it has gone down a little bit. These are few of their responses:

“It is the new people who do not want to identify with that kind of thing but as for us the indigenes, we still have that communal spirit amongst us”. (Resident, Dome: 19/06/2014).

“If somebody gets an issue, the whole community comes to the person’s rescue. So me I think the communal spirit is still there”. (Resident, Taifa: 19/06/2014).

Togetherness has been the major pillar upon which most communities are identified with. Most communities see themselves as one and therefore work towards the achievement of common good. However, changes in the traditional set up have affected communities.

Breakdown of the Extended Family System

According to the analysed results, one hundred and forty six (146) respondents, ninety-eight (98) of them admitted that the breakdown of the extended family system has been on the ascendancy due to urbanization. These are some of the views they expressed:

“Ever since the lost my parents, nobody shows concern again. I manage to take care of myself”. (Resident, Haatso: 19/06/2014).

“There is usually nobody at home so the children do whatever they want and it makes them go wayward”. (Resident, Dome: 15/06/2014).

“My father has had stroke and he is bed ridden. I work at Cape Coast but I have to be here to take care of him or find somebody to take care of him because there is no one at home”. (Resident, Taifa: 14/06/2014).

In furtherance of the above stated views of the respondents, the responses emerging from the focus group discussions served as a confirmation of what had been earlier on said.

These are the general views of the group:

“During the olden days, a house had both the nuclear and extended family. They do everything in common. However, urbanization has broken/dismantled the family as a unit. People now believe more in the immediate family. The effect of this is that there is lack of discipline in the community. Adults find it difficult to discipline children who may not be related directly to him/her”. (FGD, Haatso, 19/06/2014)

“The effects on our lives are that there is moral decadence where the extended family has no authority over other children”. (FGD, Dome, 15/06/2014)

“Extended family creates a bond of unity among families and promotes discipline but recent engulfment has eroded all our cherished values. Our saying ‘moko sane 3 moko sane ni’ is no longer valid”. (FGD, Taifa, 19/06/2014)

Formally, extended families system was most practiced. A system where by a person is linked with another with a share of common norms and values. Notwithstanding this, migrations into receiving communities have altered this mode of practice. This has implications as it is affecting communities now as evidenced in the communities studied in the Ga East Municipality. It must therefore be critically looked at and addressed.

4.4 Coping Strategies Adopted For Survival

A research by Abass, Afriye and Adomako (2013) showed that peri-urban households adopt strategies to cope with the effect of urbanizations. In this regard, the study sought to find out what coping strategies were adopted by communities. Four themes were generated during the analysis. The themes were:

- Dependence on God
- Dependence on Children by the Elderly
- Communal Living
- Menial Jobs

Dependence on God

In a traditional African community, the role of God cannot be over emphasized due to the several attributes. Based on this notion, the researcher sought to find out the various coping mechanisms that have been put in place to ensure survival. The study, therefore,

solicited responses from the respondents on whether or not dependence on God is considered as a coping strategy to ensure survival.

In line with this, out of the one hundred and forty six (146) respondents, ninety-eight (98) of them, who are a significant majority, admitted that they depended solely on God for survival. These are some of the views they expressed by the respondents:

“Nyomo p3!!! It is only God I look up to because he makes provisions for me when I least expect. He indeed opens new doors”. (Resident, Haatso: 14/06/2014).

“Brother, it is God who takes care of us here ooo. I don’t know how it works but at least before close of day, I would have eaten”. (Resident, Dome: 19/06/2014).

“God always works in mysterious ways, he just provides. I pray to Him to see me through. Even though sometimes it doesn’t come as expected, we still worship him for that”. (Resident, Taifa: 19/06/2014).

“I look up to God because he takes care of us. Otherwise it is clear that under no circumstance can we survive this situation”. (Resident, Taifa: 19/06/2014).

In furtherance of the above stated views of the respondents, the responses emerging from the focus group discussions served as a confirmation of what had been earlier on said.

These are the general views of the group:

“We believe that God plays a major role in our everyday life. God is the provider. He has provided for us in the years past and continues to do that”. (FGD, Haatso, 19/06/2014)

“God and the gods their ancestors served have been our source of strength. We always try to make ends meet by our own efforts but our human efforts alone cannot take us through these changing times except God”. (FGD, Dome, 15/06/2014)

“God is alive so we are also alive. We believe in Gods will and destiny. So once God has not killed us, it definitely means that he will ensure we survive”. (FGD, Taifa17/06/2014)

The analysed results show that a Supreme Being is held in high esteem in African traditional religion. He is seen as the provider of needs and keeper of life. A critical

analyses of the responses confirms this nation as almost all respondents made mention of God upon whom they depend on for coping with problems as emanated in the study.

Dependence on Children by Elderly

Children have a responsibility towards their parents. It is so because of the notion that if parents take care of them for an individual to grow up, then it becomes the responsibility of the children to also take care of their parents till they also die. In line with this supposition, the analysed results showed that one hundred and forty six (146) respondents, ninety-eight (98) of them admitted that they depended solely on their children for survival.

These are some of the views they expressed by the respondents:

“Sometimes if things go well for my son, he brings me about fifty Ghana cedis so I use that one till he brings me more”. (Resident, Haatso: 15/06/2014).

My children have asked me not to stress myself because they will cater for me. (Resident, Dome: 4/06/2014).

One of my children works with a chop bar so she always brings food that I eat. That’s how I cope. (Resident, Taifa: 12/06/2014).

In furtherance of the above stated views of the respondents, the responses emerging from the focus group discussions served as a confirmation of what had been earlier on said.

These are the general views of the group:

“Most children, because they cannot get jobs here have migrated to other parts of the country to look for jobs so they most at times remit us back home”. (FGD, Haatso, 19/06/2014)

“Because we are close to two universities, some of the youth our children have gained some jobs there and now they are bread winners for our families. In fact, this only applies to children who are responsible. Some have travelled to search for greener pasture in Nigeria”. (FGD, Dome, 15/06/2014)

“Our children really help us a lot when it comes to our survival. Somebody’s child can remember you and dash you money because of the

way you helped him or help when he or she was young. So that is another way that helps us to survive.” (FGD, Taifa, 17/06/2014)

However, the few respondents who said they did not depend on their children for their survival had this to say:

“As for my children, they are all vagabonds so if you follow them you will die. So as for them I don’t think about them as a means for my survival”. (Resident, Haatso: 4/06/2014).

“My children are also out there hassling and I don’t know how they are surviving. I expected that they use whatever they money they make to take care of themselves because I am supposed to take care of them as a father. So if I couldn’t do it and they are hassling, I shouldn’t expect that they should bring me some of the money they make”. (Resident, Taifa: 7/06/2014).

The analyzed results showed that old people in the community depend on their children as a coping strategy. It is based on their notion that an up keep of a child is an investment. Likewise, children have a responsibility towards their parents as expressed by respondents.

Communal Living

In further development, the study indicated that one hundred and forty six (146) respondents, ninety-eight (98) of them admitted that they depended solely on communal living for survival. These are some of the views they expressed by the respondents:

“The community helps groups and individuals to sell so that some money can be made to make a living”. (Resident, Haatso: 15/06/2014).

“If my brother even gets a ball of kenkey, he brings it for as many people as possible to eat. That is the case for most of us here. So at any point people who have the means are always ready to share”. (Resident, Haatso: 4/06/2014).

“At some point in time we try, as a community to organize communal labour to clean up the communities so as to reducing the pollution in the community”. (Resident, Dome: 9/06/2014).

“The community comes together to make sure that the festivals and all its rituals are performed in order to make sure that the cultural problems will be reduced”. (Resident, Dome: 9/06/2014).

“The chief makes sure that the traditional on drumming and noise making are upheld so that it would deteriorate the cultural problems”. (Resident, Taifa: 14/06/2014).

“We organize people to in helping to clean the community”. (Resident, Taifa: 14/06/2014).

In furtherance of the above stated views of the respondents, the responses emerging from the focus group discussions saw some clarification on what of had been earlier on said.

These were the general views of the group:

“Even though it is still there, it is not as intensive as it used to be in the past. In the past it was very effective to the extent that a sense of solidarity was the order for the day. Now everything has gone down drastically. But the communal spirit only exists among the indigenes. That’s all”. (FGD, Haatso, 19/06/2014)

“The spirit has really gone down these days. We used to do so many things through communal efforts but it is unfortunate that these days you can’t really get anyone unless those of us who grew up together in this community”. (FGD, Dome, 15/06/2014)

“That communal living aspect has really gone down even though it still exists a little bit. People will now want to help or join in doing something because of the benefits the person might enjoy as an individual but not for the benefit of the community at large”. (FGD, Taifa, 17/06/2014)

It could be deduced from the responses that with the continuous expanding urban areas, livelihood transformation is inevitable. This is due to the transformation in the peri-urban economy from predominantly rural agrarian economy to predominantly urban economy. Transformation in the livelihoods of people who formerly depended on natural resources to survive implies that peri-urban indigenes now have to develop a range of survival strategies to cope with the changes. The options open to households in the communities vary according to sources of livelihood and access to livelihood resources. Based on this, the studied communities share basic necessities such as food and drinks.

Menial Jobs

The study further found out that ninety-eight (98) of them admitted that they depended solely on menial jobs for survival. These are some of the views expressed by the respondents:

Ever since I realized that prices of foodstuff are going up, I have a backyard farm that supplies me some foodstuffs so I have to farm to make ends meet for my family and I. (Resident, Haatso: 14/06/2014).

I am forced to go out and hassle. I do everything that requires man power. So I go out to carry luggage of people, dig pits for various purposes. (Resident, Dome: 9/06/2014).

I help some of my relatives to sell so that I can make some money to fend for myself. Because things are difficult, I personally go round to look for contracts, sublet them and take my share of the money when the job is done. (Resident, Taifa: 19/06/2014).

“I change my job to a new one if I think the current job is not giving me enough money for my survival”. (Resident, Dome: 9/06/2014).

In furtherance of the above stated views of the respondents, the responses emerging from the focus group discussions served as a confirmation of what had been earlier on said.

These are the general views of the group:

“We have re-strategized in order to cope with the issue of land loss and loss of jobs. Now most people in this community are doing menial jobs such as petty trading, construction works et c for people who have taken over our land. So before the day ends, at least we get some money in our pockets”. (FGD, Haatso, 19/06/2014)

“Though farming is now a thing of the past, our people have resorted to other jobs to survive. These include selling, labourers at construction sites etc. Urbanization has opened a very big commercial center for selling. This has in a way helped in making ends meet”. (FGD, Dome, 15/06/2014)

“Apprenticeship has become the order of the day. Most people have compulsorily learnt trades such as carpentry, fitting, masonry, driving, etc. These have helped them to gain other employment opportunities”. (FGD, Taifa, 17/06/2014)

However, the few respondents who said they did not depend on menial jobs for their survival had this to say:

“All the little little jobs around, even though I can do, nobody will give me that contract because I don’t have the technical expertise. Eg. I can’t get a carpentry contract, masonry contract, plumbing contract etc. The ones that I can do too, it is capital intensive”. (Resident, Haatso: 19/06/2014).

“I can sometimes go out and walk the whole day and come back home without getting any job so I believe staying at home like that and looking for a different means of survival will be the best. Certainly not looking for menial jobs. It is a complete of waste of time”. (Resident, Taifa: 17/06/2014).

It can be inferred from the data that changes in the livelihood strategies involve two levels: a change within the same livelihood activity (for instance a farmer switching from cultivation of cassava to the cultivation of vegetables because vegetables have shorter development or growth period) and a change from one occupation to other (switching from farming to trading). It is also obvious that certain strategies are peculiar to a particular source of livelihood. For instance diversification and intensification of crop production are only associated with households who have farming as their livelihood source while securing alternative livelihood other than agriculture are adopted by those in non-farming income generating activities.

4.5 Examination of Peri-Urban Planning in the Ga East Municipality

The economy that used to be the primary generator of rapid development retains much of its role with regard to the phenomenon of peri-urbanization. Government policy is recognized as the most influential driving forces. The relationship between communities and local authorities creates a particular political economy that leads the process of urban growth. Urban growth as the outcome of development policy is not usually referred to in the goals stated in the urban plan. Likewise, city growth is the result of a complex of interests including different levels of governance along with market forces as outlined in

central place theory. A neo-liberalist economic approach favors market forces over the role of local government, loosening planning and government controls. According to the dynamics of peri-urbanization in the Ga East Municipal, the role of local government is a key because of the implementation of urban planning and other regulations related to development.

The section examines the effectiveness of planning and local governance in leading urban growth. The research question stated in chapter one (To what extent does the government's role influence the modes of development and the direction of urban growth and what are the challenges of urban governance ahead with respect to urban growth management?) will guide the analysis.

4.5.1 Responses from Local Government Officials

Responses from local government officials were grouped into three main themes:

- Environmental Problems
- Inadequate Social Amenities
- High Cost of Goods and Services

With reference to environmental problems, respondents stressed on pollution, solid and liquid management problems. Four officials commented:

“Solid and liquid waste management is a major environmental problems in this district. This is due to overpopulation of most communities. Small towns have been swallowed up and as result; the original plan which seeks to manage waste is being distorted” (1st Local Government Official, Interview, 19th/06/ 2014)

“Uncontrolled development in the district is the major cause of environmental problems in this district. Shanty towns are growing at a fast pace and these entire settlers do not have permits. All this has culminated in

the destruction of the environment since the district have not budgeted for such event”. (2nd Local Government Official, Interview, 19th/06/ 2014).

“The major environmental problems within this district are the encroachment on the green belt usually set aside for farming and other recreational activities”. (3rd Local Government Official, Interview, 19th/06/ 2014).

“Formally, the district used to be very green with glowing trees and shrubs but not there is a massive forest degradation. This has resulted in the current hot weather experienced in the district”. (4th Local Government Official, Interview, 19th/06/ 2014).

In furtherance to the analysis, all respondents at the Local Government Office of the Ga East Municipality poured their grievances in relation to inadequate social amenities as captured in the second theme. They expressed their views that the district lacks educational and health facilities. This is what two official had to say:

“The municipality lacks educational facilities such as school building. Even the district capital “Abokobi” is now forced to run the shift system due to lack of school block. I think the district and government are not doing enough. It is even worth when you go to Taifa and Dome due to the nature of these two communities”. (5th Local Government Official, Interview, 20th/06/ 2014)

“All the communities within this district do not have a government hospital. There is only one clinic in Abokobi which do not have what it needs to be able to cater patients within Abokobi and its surroundings”. (1st Local Government Official, Interview, 19th/06/ 2014)

Analyzing the views of officials from the Local Government raises lots of concerns. This is due to the fact that education and health are basic needs of every individual in line with the Millennium Development Goals. Could it be due to overpopulation which is stretching the available facilities or there is none? To answer this question, critical look at responses suggest that some of these facilities are in place but as a result of migration which is leading to merging of communities have created a shortage. On the other, poor road networks was a problem in the peri-urban areas. This was attributed to over usage of the roads due to the size of the communities as well as inadequate resource.

The third theme highlighted the high prices of commodities. They attributed it in flow of people into the district. Two district officials shared their views:

“Influx of people into the district has promoted competition for goods and services”. (6th Local Government Official, Interview, 12th/06/ 2014)

“Due to the quest for land for housing, it has made land very expensive. As a result, more than 90% of farmland has been converted into lands for housing. This has resulted into high cost of available land for farming and housing”. (1st Local Government Official, Interview, 19th/06/ 2014)

Comments from local government officials in the Municipal affirm significant problems regarding rapid development. In furtherance to the discussion, officials indicated that land development issues arise when land transactions are rampant. Land resources are traded and investors become the group that controls the land market. Such is the situation in the peri-urban development of the Ga East Municipality. A section of the respondents indicated that the district is unable to implement consistently the land use plan. With regard to the spatial plan, the Head of Land Use Control of Ga East Municipality argues:

“... the content of the land use plan remains not adequate to be a guidance of development. There is no detailed plan that can guide a particular use for a particular area. If the government should provide a more detailed plan, the local budget is not enough to cover it” (1st Local Government Official, Interview, 19th/06/ 2014)

With respect to the responses from the officials at the Local government, the main problem is not just the availability of a detailed plan but the consistency of its implementation and control of land development as stated:

“... the willingness to be consistent with the planning seems to be a legacy problem. It has generally been understood that the development plan favors only the rich. The fact is that many of the development regulations are consciously not applied. This is solely due to the insistence of the interests of the local council”. (2nd Local Government Official, Interview, 19th/06/ 2014)

In line with the question on distortion regarding land use regulation, officials indicated that even though there regulations on land use, people do not go according to it. This is what officials of the Local Government at Ga East Municipality had to say:

“It is quite clear that there are several housing projects established on inappropriate land. People build without permit. It has however not gotten out of control. Culprits are usually found out and penalized”. (1st Local Government Official, Interview, 19th/06/ 2014)

“Land use plans are not adhered to by some developers. Not out of control but logistical challenge make it difficult to control”. (6st Local Government Official, Interview, 19th/06/ 2014)

“Land owners selling their land without recourse to other area scheme and reservations for social amenities”. (2nd Local Government Official, Interview, 19th/06/ 2014).

“The original land use are now being changed with the intent of land uses”. (4th Local Government Official, Interview, 19th/06/ 2014).

Respondents were further asked if development regulations were out of date and have to be reformed. It was brought to the fore that regulations are not out dated and that plans do not need major reforms. All officials indicated that the regulations are up to date but enforcement of the laws is the problem. An official had this to say:

“building regulations are ok but enforcement is the problem”. (3rd Local Government Official, Interview, 19th/06/ 2014).

Officials were further asked to outline significant factors affecting the rapid springing up of peri-urban areas in this municipality. All respondents mentioned migration. Other factors mentioned included: housing, rapid population growth, business/ trade, accessibility to social amenities such as electricity, water and good roads. In line with factors mentioned, local government officials had it that strict adherence to regulations is the way forward. This is what four officials had to say:

“The introduction of the building permit system can help curb the rampant appearance of illegal structures in the residential areas”

“Assemblies laws and building regulations must be enforced”

“Farmlands and green zones must be demarcated and used for its purpose as done in the district capital “Abokobi”.

“Public education is the way forward since that will inform residents and land owners on the implications of rapid encroachment and springing up of buildings in the district”

“Physical planning and control must be enhanced”

The analyzed results showed that the expansion of urban activities into areas that previously were rural, especially the development of new settlement areas and medium-scale industries has created new opportunities for service activities and home industries among the local people. On the one hand, urbanization brought a challenge for the peasants to improve their economic capacity and welfare by running various kinds of small-scale enterprise. On the other hand, the penetration of such new urban facilities as super markets and commercial centers in a modernized setting have had a negative impact on many traditional economic, social and cultural activities generally located in the Ga East Municipality. The petty traders have suffered considerably from the competition with the new and modern businesses as community shopping habits have changed. The causal relationship between peri-urbanization and the fall in income of the traditional inhabitants of land is worth noting. This is however having negative effect on residents as highlighted in this study. The next chapter discusses the results in line with literature.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter aims to explain and interpret the empirical findings with respect to the economic, social and cultural transformations taking place as a consequence of development processes viz-a-viz the literature. The chapter further discusses the effects of the identified problems as well as coping strategies adopted by community members. The final part of the chapter discusses the responses from the district assembly administrators.

5.2 Economic Problems

There is an increasing perception that rural, peri-urban, and urban environments operate as a system rather than independently and that rural development and urban planning are necessarily linked activities. Activities or interventions in one arena have consequences in the other, often negative. In line with this, a research by Iaquina and Drescher (2000) in the quest for understandings rural-urban linkages provides a basis for understanding problems faced by receiving communities of migrants. The study found out that 52.1% indigenes of peri-urban areas had low income. Respondents attributed this low income to unemployment and job insecurity. In a focus group discussion with respondents, it was noted that respondents had low income which they attributed to inadequate employment opportunities.

The comments from focus groups indicate that income generating activities in peri-urban areas is a major problem. This they attributed to change in occupation as a result of expansion of these communities. A study conducted by Abass, Afriye and Adomako (2013) indicated that peri-urban areas are confronted with low income. This they attributed

to denial of lack of economic activities in rural areas. The result of this study in the Ga East District showed that most farmland were converted into housing and this deepened the poverty level in communities.

The study in the Ga East Municipality indicated that many farms lands are being converted into houses. At the same time, infrastructure development, especially roadways to the urban fringe along with increased construction, manufacturing, and traditional types of services generate greater unemployment opportunities that draw large numbers of people to low income earning activities. This confirms Afsar (1999) who studied the contemporary rural-urban linkages in Dhaka, Bangladesh, argued that the process of rural to urban transformation is not only about population concentration, but also about changes in social and economic characteristics. In the case of Dhaka, occupations related to agriculture declined rapidly since farmlands are being converted to houses.

In furtherance to the economic problems faced by indigenes settlers of peri-urban areas showed that they had problems accessing funds/ loans from banks and other money lenders. This they attributed to lack of collateral. It was found out that the only collateral they had was land. Even with this, all lands in the communities have been sold to developers. This is affecting them in terms of raising capital for businesses.

The economic situation described provides general insight into how the poverty of peri-urban settlers is deepened due to lack of capital for alternative livelihood. A study by Prodoto (2012) indicated that small scale businesses lack funds to upgrade and keep business running. The study by Prodoto attributed it to lack of collateral and inadequate payment plan. Likewise, to this study, it was found out that the community members had

no collateral to solicit for funds from money lending organizations. This they attributed to sales of land without any recourse to lay down regulations by the chiefs and other land owners.

Another related study of Yogyakarta was conducted by Rotgé (2000) who assessed the nature and level of rural-urban linkages in Bantul District and how such linkages created opportunity for additional income sources. He found that agriculture's share of employment decreased in communities located alongside the main corridor. This he attributed to lack of credit sources. His empirical findings show that agriculture remains the primary livelihood for the local inhabitants. The opportunity for involvement in other employment sectors, particularly in small and medium sized enterprise or industry, is mostly taken up by the younger generation living in farming households. The research confirms that family income has become diversified, with almost all deriving from non-agricultural sources. Similarly, this study found out that community members derived income from diversified income generating activities. That is most of the community members are now traders as a result of change in traditional means of income generating activities which was agricultural activities.

In furtherance to the economic problems, the study found out respondents had problems affording basic needs of life. Respondents attributed this to high price of commodities. It included high food prices, high prices of clothing, increase in rent prices as well as high prices of utility tariffs. A similar study was conducted in peri-urban Nyahururu in Kenya by Mandere (2010). The outcome of the study reveals that over 90% of the respondents were full time farmers since 1960s. The study posited that displacement of agricultural activities in the study has brought hardships and increased the cost of food since

respondents now have to pay for the food they consume. Similarly, a research conducted Abass, Afriye and Adomako (2013) in Deduako community confirmed that rapid increase of commodities is creating problems for community members in peri-urban areas. As stated in the study by Abass, Afriye and Adomako (2013), an old lady in Deduako commenting on the Kumasi expansion and cost of living said that:

“It has become difficult to make a living because you can eat only when you have money to buy food. Previously the entire new site was farmland. I grew my own food. I could get vegetables and food stuffs from the farm without paying for it but now I virtually buy everything even pepper since I no longer have land to farm We are suffering”. (Abass, Afriye and Adomako, 2013: 127)

The various literature analyzed confirms that the settlers of peri-urban areas had economic problems as a result of increased commodity prices. The findings confirmed in the literature are in line with study conducted in the three communities in the Ga East District. The responses given suggest that peri-urban areas are often economically dynamic and offer many problems with little opportunities in terms of job for residents. This is to say that peri-urban communities are strongly influenced by easy access to urban markets, services, resources and a ready supply of labour. At the same time, the proximity of rural agricultural zones makes the peri-urban interface a critical area for the management or mis-management of natural resources. It could also be said that the peasants who have lost the farmland on which they worked represent the marginal group in urban society. The steady investment in terms of housing that has stimulated the rapid growth of built-up area has resulted in the conversion of a large amount of rural land, particularly cultivated farmland in these communities. The farmers who engaged in the process of land cultivation had lost their livelihood. The informal economic sector is their only hope since they have neither the capacity nor the skill to qualify for jobs in the formal sector. Many

respondents who formerly engaged in agrarian work explained that working in the informal economy was the only strategy to survive.

5.3 Social Problems

SanWatPUA Network (2012) established that even where there are responsible authorities defined, they are often confronted with a lack of resources, fragile technical networks, inadequate financial frameworks, and weak staff competences and capacities for dealing with booming peri-urban neighbourhoods. The rate of change is so fast in many of these areas that it is difficult to establish internal routines, policies and norms that could guide their governance. As a result, enforcement of regulations can be weak, leading to vandalism, unauthorized building and dumping of waste, illegal activities and security problems. Based on this notion, the study set out to establish the social problems of peri-urban areas in the Ga East District. The responses were depicted in four broad headings namely: Pollution, Utility, Social Amenities and Land Legalities.

On this notion, the study found out that three main forms of pollution exist within the communities sampled for the study. It included air, water and land pollution. Among all these categories, land pollution stood out distinctively. 54.7 percent of the respondent's commented on this issue. This they attributed to expansion of the communities due to migration. Cross-checking these comments with the Dome and Taifa communities provided some clarification. The discussion brought to fore how waste was managed previously. The discussion had it that waste was managed properly by either burning or burying. Now, respondents attributed this situation to influx of people with different orientations. They care less about the environment. Individual homes must have toilets and sewage systems of which they find it difficult to provide.

Likewise, a research report compiled by Hogrewe, Steven and Perez (1993) estimated that 600 million people in urban areas of the Third World now live in life- and health threatening homes and neighborhoods, primarily in peri-urban settlements. Hogrewe et al. (1993) stated that these homes and neighborhoods share some characteristics. The report concludes that the removal and safe disposal of excreta and waste water from washing, bathing, and other domestic uses in peri-urban settlements are critical health and environmental needs. This was based on the idea that many rivers in third world cities are literally large open sewers. Surface and groundwater contamination is widespread in many developing countries, and the resulting environmental degradation is more and more apparent along rivers and sea coastal areas.

The study further found out that disposal of human excreta is a major problem in the Ga East District. Respondents commented that human excreta have filled gullies and other water bodies in the communities in the municipality. The study in the Ghana East Municipality brought to fore how wastes have filled streets and the dangers it poses to inhabitants. Likewise, a study by Hogrewe, Steven and Perez (1993) found out that most urban areas (both informal and formal) in Africa and Asia, including many cities with one million or more inhabitants, have no effective means of off-site disposal of excreta (for example, waterborne sewage systems or collection and treatment systems for latrine contents). Rivers, streams, canals, gullies, and ditches are the destinations of most untreated human excrement and household waste. Such waste accumulates on streets, in open spaces between houses, in stagnant pools of water, and on wasteland. This study confirms that of literature as unearthed by a study by Hogrewe, Steven and Perez (1993). This findings paints a picture of peri-urban communities with regards to waste management.

Lacking sanitation is also another major problem faced by residents of the peri-urban areas studied. Residents of such areas resort to open defecation, hand-dug pit latrines, unregulated septic systems and informal dumping similar to what Parnell, Susan, Edgar and Watson (2009) reported. The result is unsanitary environmental conditions and high rates of exposure to excreta, chemical contaminants and waterborne diseases. There were also higher security problems related to sanitation practices in peri-urban areas studied. Users of public facilities and open defecators were sometimes molested when they leave their homes at night. This corroborates Dupont (2005) study. A research by Hogrewe, Steven and Perez (1993) indicated that Ghana is no exception to this phenomenon. The report states:

“Accra, Ghana: There is a central sewage system but much of the population is not connected to it because of high connection charges; an estimate in 1985 suggested that only 30 percent of the population was connected. New residential areas often use septic tanks for sanitation, while in other unconnected areas pan or bucket latrines are used, with their contents emptied into night soil containers provided by the city council. These are then emptied at a shoreline tipping station. In many poor settlements, there are very few public or private sanitation facilities, even in settlements with many thousand households. The city’s open drainage system collects surface runoff, domestic discharges (other than sewage), and some industrial discharges (often illegally), and in some areas may also (unofficially) receive waste from latrines.” (Hogrewe, Steven and Perez, 1993: 18)

This study therefore confirms that of empirical studies reviewed that peri-urban communities face pollution as problems. This is a typical characteristic of peri-urban settlements. In furtherance to the discussion, the study found out that communities studied had problems with utility. This was classified in irregular electricity and water supply. This was represented by 50.2% and 49.9 respectively. Similar opinions were expressed during a focus group discussion in the three sampled communities in the Ga East District. Respondents commented on the irregular utilities in the communities which they attributed to illegal connections and expansion of the communities.

Similarly, SanWatPUA Network (2012) explained that peri-urban areas are faced with a number of issues related to public infrastructure and housing. It contended that infrastructure development cannot keep pace with population growth, leading to a backlog of un-served populations and unmaintained infrastructure. Sanitation and water supply are commonly affected, but other infrastructure such as roads, schools, and electricity networks are also often in poor condition. According to Hogrewe, Steven and Perez (1993), peri-urban settlements have a number of unique characteristics that distinguish them from formal urban and rural areas. Hogrewe, Steven and Perez (1993) outlined the following characteristic which confirms this study:

- **Poor Physical Site Conditions and Complicated Site Layouts:** This refers to the way and manner informal peri-urban settlers lack technical know-how and assistance. They noted that settlers often develop their areas haphazardly, without allowing adequate space for installing infrastructure lines.
- **Limited Water Availability:** Most peri-urban settlements do not generally have piped water; instead, increasingly they have water vendors who sell water at market cost, which is significantly higher than what families in the urban formal sector pay. The vended water in peri-urban areas is mostly of poor quality, and because of its high cost, families can buy only a limited amount of it. The limited availability of water leads to major sanitation problems when purchasers are forced to set priorities that may compromise public health.

Correspondingly, this research found out that there is irregular supply of water and electricity in the communities in the Ga East Municipality. Also, most of migrants have placed kiosks or metal containers as dwellings anywhere and anyhow in the communities.

However, new buildings have been sited at places with authorizations as confirmed by the study. This calls for adequate planning of settlements in the Municipality.

In furtherance to social problems faced by communities in the Ga East District, the study showed that even though the communities had some social amenities, they were not enough to cater for the needs of the increasing population of the community. The analyzed result showed that 44.8% had problems with recreational facilities. Interestingly, only few people had problems with poor road network. The focus group discussions indicated that the communities lack spaces to hold social gatherings such as parties, funerals, durbars, naming ceremonies among others and as such all spaces have been converted into building plots which have been sold to developers. A research by SanWatPUA Network (2012) confirmed that peri-urban areas are faced with a number of issues related to public infrastructure and housing. The study found out that peri-urban areas in Bangladesh and Yagyata lacks infrastructure such as roads, schools, and electricity networks.

With reference to this study, a discussion held at Taifa and Dome respectively showed that communities had similar problems. The views expressed during the research confirm the notion as respondents stressed more on inadequate educational facilities in the community. Looking at the comments from the focus group discussions, it could be deduced that the communities in the district have different problems and preferences when it comes to infrastructure.

In further deliberation, the study further investigated into land problems that exist in the communities. The analyzed results confirmed some problems associated with development in the Ga East District. The results indicated that a majority of the respondents 61.7% had

problems with unplanned settlement. This is a manifestation on the communities sampled for the study as observed by the researcher and an additional confirmation from the district officials. A section of the respondents however blamed it on district officials who grant permits without any inspections of land sites for building. Likewise, Dome and Haatso maintained similar sentiments during a focus group discussion. They indicated that unplanned settlement have bedeviled their entire community which have created more problems than good.

The responses attest to the fact that communities are now being swallowed up as a result of migration and population increase. All these are influencing peri-urbanism. Notwithstanding this, the study further identified land illegalities, social tensions and insecure land tenure systems in the community. It can be extracted from the analyzed results that people move to the peri-urban areas where the price of land was low. The lower-income migrants developed informal settlements due to the lack of affordable housing. Informal land use became a crucial problem in developing nations. Torres et al. (2007) suggested that regularization and simplification of land use planning and development permitting processes are the most urgent matters to address to improve the socioeconomic conditions in peri-urban areas. They added that there remained the need to improve the social facilities and economic infrastructure if poverty is to be alleviated.

Another work which is relevant to this study is Simon, McGregor and Thompson (2004) on changes of the rural-urban interface in Kumasi, Ghana. They found that the features characterizing transformation from rural to urban occurred in different degrees depending upon distance from the city, accessibility, and the provision of infrastructure. Their research finding confirmed the concept of a non-linear and non-uniform gradient of urban

influence on peri-urban areas. Areas experiencing a higher degree of change experience a correspondingly higher degree of land commercialization, diversity in social structure, and economic activity. The pressures of urbanization are manifest in increasing plot prices and rates of land conversion (farmland or vacant land) to urban uses, especially for new residential and commercial development. The issue with reference to land problems calls for a prompt attention as reported daily in the media that people have lost their lives as a result of land problems. The same issue is happening to communities studied.

5.4 Cultural Problems

A research by Asiama (2011) established that colonial development isolated almost many capital cities of most colonies. He maintained that little to no administration was carried out outside of the capital and practically no modern infrastructure existed beyond it. With population levels outstripping the availability of work in rural regions many people flocked to these developed urban centres looking for work and food. These migrants swelled the population of cities massively, creating new forms of lifestyles which often affect receiving communities. Based on this, the study sought to find out the cultural problems facing communities sampled for the study. This was to enable the researcher get first hand information on problems in relation to culture of the original inhabitants of the sampled communities.

The study found out that communities' lifestyle had change as a result of inflow and outflow of people. This was represented by 19% of the respondents. In furtherance to analysis 18.9% had problems with lack of communal spirit. The third challenge the research by SanWatPUA Network (2012), visualized was the variable population found in peri-urban areas. It contends that people who originate from rural areas are unfamiliar with

urban conditions and ways of life. The economic opportunities offered by cities are strong drivers for rural-urban migration. Even so, many of these rural migrants remain poor and find it difficult to find housing in more consolidated urban areas and therefore settle on the fringes, often seeing this as a temporary solution. The research found out that, there are large fluxes in internal settlement patterns as people move in search of jobs. The result is a regular flux of people in and out of these areas, especially in peri-urban slums. The varying backgrounds of peri-urban dwellers also lead to social tensions and lack of community cohesion, large disparities in income between the poor, who settle here due to lack of options, and upper- and middle-class populations seeking a suburban lifestyle and space. This of course creates equity and power issues when it comes to controlling limited local resources.

This is not different as compared to the Ga-East District where inhabitants of peri-urban areas represent a diversity of origins, ethnic backgrounds, cultures, religions, social norms, hygiene behaviours, and preferences. As a result of the diversification, family cohesion has broken down, there is lack of communal spirit and indigenous traditional socialization processes are no more. These problems call for a prompt attention as it is affecting communities negatively.

5.5 Effects of Problems

In Ga East District, swallowing of communities has had economic as well as socio-cultural effects. These include displacement and unemployment, pollution, change in cultural lifestyle among others. The opening of the district has resulted in high influxes of migrants. This, in turn, has resulted in problems ranging from economic to socio-cultural as analyzed in previous section in the chapter four. Due to the fact that the problems faced

by the rural settlers were identified and categorized under three major sections, the effects of the identified problems on their livelihood, therefore was categorized as such. The researcher therefore categorized the effects of the identified problems as:

- d. Economic Effects
- e. Social Effects
- f. Cultural Effects

Economic Effects

Examining how household depend upon a diversity of occupational sectors is a central theme in many development studies and is often discussed in the context of poverty, urbanization, household risk, conversation and coping strategies. These have implications for economic effect as communities are swallowed and its member's means of income generation altered. The study found out that community members were not able to afford their basic needs, pay utility tariffs resulting in low standard of living.

According to Burgess (1925) in Parker (2004), a city is a place of economic opportunity and exchange which is characterized by population movement. The movement of people into and out of cities provides scope for investigating how economic forces reshape social structure. According to Wirth (1938) in Parker (2004), such movement, in turn, affect changes in social norms and traditional values as society becomes increasingly more heterogeneous. Parker (2004) suggests that “the bigger the community, the wider the spectrum of individual variation and also the greater its social differentiation.” (18). He notes, however, that the movement of people creates effects as there are competitions for local job opportunities which often have effects on receiving communities.

Davila (2002) contended that land use changes from agricultural to urban use mostly in the form of residential buildings are the clearest expression effects on settlers as majority of community members depend on land for livelihood. A study by Abass, Afriye and Adomako (2013) in peri-urban areas in Kumasi's found out the horizontal expansion of the understudied communities have had a serious effect on community members. They further found out that these changes in land use pose a serious threat to peri-urban livelihood since most households in the peri-urban area depend on land either for food, water, or fuel wood. This same situation can be found in the communities studied in the Ga East Municipality as most of these people are denied of their livelihood which has resulted in the current low standard of living in the communities.

Social Effects

The effects of urban expansion can be two edged sword. This is documented as mosaic of opportunities and threats to people living in peripheral villages (Olujimi, 2009). A key challenge to the urbanization process is the rapid conversion of large amount of prime agricultural land to urban land use as well as transformation in the livelihoods of peri-urban dwellers (Owusu & Agyei, 2007). Urban dwellers purchase almost all their food as well as other goods and services, including housing, transportation, healthcare and education (Cohen & Garret, 2009). This in effect creates social problems. These social problems as analyzed in the previous section further have effect on the dwellers of such communities. The social effects were grouped into: inadequate social amenities, increase in social vices and environmental degradation.

In line with this, the study found out that the Ga East Municipality lack social amenities. This was represented by 92% of the responses. Similarly, Hogrewe, Steven and Perez

(1993), found out that peri-urban settlements have a number of unique characteristics that distinguish them from formal urban and rural areas. One of these major characteristics was that of inadequate social amenities. Likewise, the Ga East Municipality lacks social amenities which have had negative effect on settlers. Respondents attributed its effect to the increase in social vices in the Municipality. It can therefore be deduced that inadequate social amenities have implication for policy analysis and practice. When taken into consideration, it will go a long way to minimize the effect of inadequate social amenities.

In the same vein, Beall & Fox (2009); Castells (1989); Potter & Lloyd- Evans (1998) found out that lack or inadequate social amenities have negative effect on the growing youth population of a receiving community. The researchers established a positive relationship between inadequate social amenities and social vices. Likewise, the analyzed results showed that inadequate social amenities have affected the community as many of the youth have engaged in social vices.

In furtherance to the discussion, it came to light that sampled communities also lack social amenities such as school buildings. This compelled residents to take their children to private schools despite the high fees charged. This and many other factors have an effect on settlers since they had to struggle to settle payments of fees. As noted by Hogrewe, Steven and Perez (1993), lack or inadequate income generating activities in peri-urban areas have negative effects on children as most rural children are often sacked from schools due to the inability to pay fees. Taken the results of the study into consideration, it calls for empowerment of community as it will enable them to identify and find means to salvage this negative effect. Worth noting, steps must be taken to train literacy facilitators

for effective and efficient literacy programme for community members as sections of the population do no complete formal education.

In further development, the analyzed result confirmed that out of the one hundred and forty six (146) respondents, ninety-eight (98) of respondents admitted that environmental degradation has been on the ascendency due to urbanization.

A report compiled by Hogrewe, Steven and Perez (1993) estimated that 600 million people in urban areas of the Third World now live in life and health threatening homes and neighborhoods, primarily in peri-urban settlements. Hogrewe et al. (1993) stated that these homes and neighborhoods share two characteristics that bear serious potential health effects:

- The presence of pathogenic micro-organisms (especially those in human excreta), caused by lack of infrastructure and related inadequate water supply to remove them
- Crowded, cramped housing conditions

The report concludes that the removal and safe disposal of excreta and waste water from washing, bathing, and other domestic uses in peri-urban settlements are critical health and environmental needs. This was based on the idea that many rivers in third world cities are literally large open sewers. Surface and groundwater contamination is widespread in many developing countries, and the resulting environmental degradation is more and more apparent along rivers and coastal areas.

In furtherance to the review UN-HABITAT (2008), posited that the contextual challenges of peri-urban areas impact in a variety of ways on sanitation and water supply, particularly

on the availability of these services and on the potential for their further development, which of course have predictable health and environmental consequences.

In addition to this Norström, Anna, McConville and Jaan-Henrik (2009) espoused that the heterogeneous and fluctuating population makes planning and service provision very complex, not only for providing permanent sanitation infrastructure, but also for training users and maintenance workers in proper utilisation and hygiene practices. To curb this problem, Norström, Anna, McConville and Jaan-Henrik (2009) indicated that training and awareness-raising efforts need to be continuous and on-going to reach new community members.

The crowding of large numbers of people in peri-urban areas creates conditions very favorable to the rapid spread of a variety of infectious diseases, often in the form of disastrous epidemics such as the previously cited cholera outbreak in Nigeria (BBC News, 2013). In addition to this, a recent World Bank study suggests that, in contrast to higher-income urban dwellers and some rural populations, the urban poor have a lower life expectancy at birth and a higher infant mortality rate (World Bank, 2013). The study indicated that a variety of intestinal parasites is usually present in peri-urban populations, with roundworms and whipworms often observed at higher levels of incidence than in corresponding rural populations. Likewise, the accumulation of waste water as a result of the limited soil area to absorb it in densely settled urban areas has led to increased transmission of filariasis in many cities (Hardoy, Mitlin, and Satterthwaite, 1990).

It is thus clear, it can be said that as the social problems recede in importance with development, with the transition from low- to middle-income communities, one is

confronted with the most extreme problems of urban metabolism, such as ambient air pollution, polluted rivers, polluted land, problems with unacceptable behaviours among others. These impacts have a delayed effect on human health.

Cultural Effects

Afsar (1999) who studied the contemporary rural-urban linkages in Dhaka, Bangladesh, argues that the process of rural to urban transformation is not only about population concentration, but also about changes in social and economic characteristics as well as cultural interface. The study found out that most cultural practices have been adulterated which is currently having a negative effect on the communities. In line with this, 67.1% admitted that adulteration of tradition has been on the ascendancy due to urbanization.

The responses generated from the study indicate how urbanization have disrupted the cultural norms and values which served as framework to guide behaviour and activities of people towards a more accepted means of development. Similarly, empirical evidence from Parker (2004) research on demographic changes in peri-urban areas outlined cultural effects as results of urbanization. He indicated that most negative practices associated with behaviours and changes in cultural norms and values are as a result of urbanization. Burgess (1925 in Parker (2004), for example, argues that the city is a place of economic opportunity and exchange which is characterized by population movement. The movement of people into and out of cities provides scope for investigating how economic forces reshape social structure. According to Wirth (1938) in Parker (2004), such movement, in turn, affect changes in social norms and traditional values as society becomes increasingly more heterogeneous. Parker (2004) suggests that “the bigger the community, the wider the spectrum of individual variation and also the greater its social differentiation.” (18). He

notes, however, that emerging common interests can lead to cultural integration despite social heterogeneity.

It could be deduced from the discussion that adulteration of cultures has brought about unacceptable social norms as change in norms and values often goes contrary to the traditions of a community. This often paves ways for negative behaviours.

5.6 Coping Strategies

The effects of urban expansion can be two edged sword. This is documented as mosaic of opportunities and threats to people living in peripheral villages (Aberra & King, 2005; Xie et al., 2007; Olujimi, 2009). A key challenge to the urbanization process is the rapid conversion of large amount of prime agricultural land to urban land use as well as transformation in the livelihoods of peri-urban dwellers (Owusu & Agyei, 2007). A research by Abass, Afriye and Adomako (2013) showed that peri-urban households adopt strategies to cope with the effect of urbanization. The study gathered that coping strategies adopted by communities depended on Supreme Being (God), children, communal living and menial jobs. Among all these, majority of them resulted to trading a means to cope with the rapid transformation in the communities.

Interestingly a research by Abass, Afriye and Adomako (2013) indicated that with the continuous expanding urban areas, livelihood transformation is inevitable. This is due to the transformation in the peri-urban economy from predominantly rural agrarian economy to predominantly urban economy. Transformation in the livelihoods of people who formerly depended on natural resources to survive implies that peri-urban indigenes now have to develop a range of survival strategies to cope with the changes. The options open

to households in the communities vary according to sources of livelihood and access to livelihood resources. These strategies are not different from those adopted in other areas and these are discussed according to the classification by Scoones (1998) on the basis of sources of livelihood/major income. Households in the study communities adopt farm strategies, non-farm strategies or a combination of the two to cope with the expansion of the Ga East District. These strategies include diversification, intensification and migration with the aim of strengthening household resilience by enhancing income or reducing expenditure.

The study established that the increasing pressures from urban expansion have compelled most people to diversify their income sources or secure alternative livelihood other than agriculture as coping strategies. For instance 92.3% of the respondents diversify their non-farm income (multiple non farm income activities in order to broaden their income base) while the rest engage in a single non-farm alternative livelihood activity. With the expansion of the district, respondents are left with no other alternative than to switch from land-based livelihood activities to non-land based income generating activities. Essentially the most common non-farm activities available in the communities include petty trading/business, artisanry, construction and service provision. Trading in both agricultural produce and manufactured goods remain a significant livelihood activity in the communities most especially for women. Most people in the study areas resort to cash income jobs to survive through the emerging urban monetised economy.

Similarly, a research by Abass, Afriye and Adomako (2013) in Appiadu a suburb of Kumasi, brought to lime light as community members resorted to trade to generate an income as a means of coping with problems associated with urbanization. They recounted

how women in Appiadu trade in firewood which has become important component of household income.

It could be deduced from the responses that with the continuous expanding urban areas, livelihood transformation is inevitable. This is due to the transformation in the peri-urban economy from predominantly rural agrarian economy to predominantly urban economy. Transformation in the livelihoods of people who formerly depended on natural resources to survive implies that peri-urban indigenes now have to develop a range of survival strategies to cope with the changes. The options open to households in the communities vary according to sources of livelihood and access to livelihood resources. It becomes imperative to note that community members must develop a range of strategies to cope with the changing phenomenon. It becomes prudent for community members and other stakeholders to resort to education as it will pave way to help them cope with the changes in the community. This could be done by means of literacy education.

5.7 Examination of Peri-Urban Planning in the Ga East District

The economy that used to be the primary generator of rapid development retains much of its role with regard to the phenomenon of peri-urbanization. Government policy is recognized as the most influential driving forces. The relationship between communities and local authorities creates a particular political economy that leads the process of urban growth. Urban growth as the outcome of development policy is not usually referred to in the goals stated in the urban plan. Likewise, city growth is the result of a complex of interests including different levels of governance along with market forces as outlined in central place theory. According to the dynamics of peri-urbanization in the Ga East District, the role of local government is a key because of the implementation of urban

planning and other regulations related to development. From the perspective of this, responses from district officials confirm that of community members. In addition to this, responses were further solicited from officials on policies put in place with regards to springing up of settlements in the district. All officials indicated that the regulations are up to date but enforcement of the laws is the problem.

Correspondingly, peri-urban areas in most developing countries are characterized by rapid population growth, a mixture of planned and un-planned settlements, inadequate service infrastructures, insecure land tenure, social tension, and environmental and health problems (Simon, McGregor and Thompson, 2006). In addition, these areas often fall into a responsibility gap between rural and urban authorities, leaving them in a grey zone of unclear legalities, regulations, and administration. This confusion leads to a lack of regulatory control, poor policy design and implementation, and corresponding ineffective and unjust delivery of basic services (Jaquinta & Drescher, 2000). The same confusion can be said to take place at the district level where planning of communities take place.

Officials were further asked to outline significant factors affecting the rapid springing up of peri-urban areas in this municipality. All respondents mentioned migration. Other factors mentioned included: housing, rapid population growth, business/ trade, accessibility to social amenities such as electricity, water and good roads. In line with factors mentioned, local government officials had it that strict adherence to regulations is the way forward.

The analyzed results showed that the expansion of urban activities into areas that previously were rural, especially the development of new settlement areas and medium-scale industries had created new opportunities for service activities and home industries among the local people. On the one hand, urbanization brought a challenge for the

peasants to improve their economic capacity and welfare by running various kinds of small-scale enterprise. On the other hand, the penetration of such new urban facilities as super markets and commercial centers in a modernized setting have had a negative impact on many traditional economic, social and cultural activities generally located in the Ga East District. The petty traders have suffered considerably from the competition with the new and modern businesses as community shopping habits have changed. The causal relationship between peri-urbanization and the fall in income of the traditional inhabitants of land is worth noting. This is however having negative effect on residents as highlighted in this study.

5.8 Conclusion

The study reveals the problems, effects and how community members are coping with their effects. The study also captured the views of officials of the Ga East District on urban expansion and how it has culminated in the adoption of both farm and non-farm livelihood strategies including intensification and diversification of resources and migration to either develop the potentials that urbanization presents or reduce the extreme effects of urbanization. However, the responses gathered failed to acknowledge positive effects of urbanization as reported in the literature. The study however, broadly classified the problems and effects into economic, social and cultural. However, living standard of the people calls for a effective, efficient and lasting intervention to alleviate the problems of settlers. From this perspective, it could be said that the district assembly and stakeholders ought take a prudent step to develop a more acceptable and efficient means to cope with these problems as identified by the study as discussed in this chapter.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study. The summary covers the statement of the problem, review of related literature and methodology adopted. Major findings derived from the study are also captured. The recommendations were also made based on the major findings of the study and the conclusion drawn. Finally, the implications of the findings for adult education policy and practice areas for further studies are provided.

6.2 Summary of the Study

Modern technology, and the rise of commercial economy, the management of land and its resources has increased dramatically in many developing countries³. In the last few decades, land use practices (agriculture, mining, logging, housing, recreation, etc) have become so intensive and predominant that their impacts in forms of uncontrolled development (urbanization), deteriorating environmental quality, loss of prime agricultural lands, destruction of wetlands, and loss of fish and wildlife habitats had occurred everywhere on the earth. Such impacts have reduced the local capacity of lands to support both ecosystem and human enterprise at a global scale.

Today more than four out of every ten Ghanaians live in a city or town of more than 5,000 people. According to Nabila, (1988), by the year 2020 more than half of all Ghanaians will live in urban areas. Whereas only 9.4% of the total population lived in urban settlements in 1931, this population shifted to 13.9% in 1948, 23% in 1960, 28.9% in 1970, 31.3% in 1984 and 43.9% in 2000 (Songsore, 2008).

It was estimated in 1984 that, the number of urban settlements increased nearly nine fold from 41 in 1948 to 364 in 2000 while the associated population increased nearly fifteen fold from 570,597 persons in 1948 to 8,278,636 persons in 2000. This rising trend in urbanization was driven by demographic processes of rural-urban migration, natural increase in towns and cities and re-classification as villages grew into towns once they attained the threshold population of 5000 or more persons. The main research problem addressed by the study was to determine the livelihood problems of settlers in rural areas undergoing urbanization in the Ga-East Municipality of Ghana.

The following objectives were investigated:

1. To identify economic, social and cultural problems faced by rural settlers displaced by urbanization in the Ga-East Municipality.
2. Establish how the identified problems affect the livelihood of urban settlers affected by urbanization the Ga-East Municipality and
3. Identify the coping strategies adopted by the settlers to ensure survival.

Based on the objectives, the central place theory and the axiomatic theory were adopted. The study also went ahead to review related literature on concept of peri-urban settlers, urban growth, history of urban transition process in Ghana, problems faced by settlers in peri-urban centers, explore ways to minimize the problems and livelihood changes and strategies.

The research design used for this study was cross sectional descriptive survey. The population used for this study was all the thirteen (13) rural communities in the Municipality. Due to the homogeneity of the group, the researcher selected three towns (Haatso, Dome and Taifa) and the respondents through the purposive and convenient

sampling techniques. The sample size for the study was one hundred and fifty (150) respondents, three (3) focus groups and ten (10) officials of the Ga East Municipal Assembly. The two instruments used to solicit responses from the respondents are the one-on-one interview schedules and a Focus Group Guide.

The study presented data in line with the research objectives and questions. Data collected and analyzed were discussed in line with the research objectives, research questions, theoretical framework and review of related literature. Finally, the study summarized the entire study, major findings presented, recommendations drawn and its implications to Adult Education policy and practice in the field of community education and development. Areas for further study can also be found in this study.

6.3 Major Findings of the Study

The study revealed the following findings on the problems of the economic, social and culture facing rural settlers.

6.3.1 Problems on Rural Settlers

The study revealed the following findings on the economic, social and cultural problems on the rural settlers.

6.3.1.1 Economic Problems

Under economic problems of the rural settlers, the study revealed these findings:

- The majority (61.7%) of the respondents indicated that income was generally low and the low income was directly linked to the high rate of unemployment.

- The respondents (93%) had a problem with access to loans due to the fact that all the money lending institutions due to the demand for collateral before giving out loans.
- All the respondents unanimously had serious problems with regards to their ability to afford basic necessities like shelter, and food.

6.3.1.2 Social Problems

The social problems of the rural settlers included the following:

- The majority (54.68%) of the respondents, of the total sample indicated that their greatest problem was land pollution.
- All the respondents admitted that payment of utility tariffs was a problem.
- The greatest problem that the respondents identified in relation to social amenities was the lack of recreational centers in the communities to do away with boredom and forms of exercise.
- The majority (74.9%) of the respondents lamented on unplanned settlements of the lands.

6.3.1.3 Cultural Problems

The cultural problems were that:

- There is a huge problem with the adulteration of tradition and cultural practices in Haatso and Taifa.
- Most (82.1%) of the respondents said that lack of communal spirit was a problem for them.
- Majority (74.4%) of the respondents again had the breakdown of the extended family system as a problem.

6.3.2 Effects of Problems on Rural Settlers

The study revealed the following findings on the effects on economic, social and culture on the rural settlers.

6.3.2.1 Economic Effects

The economic effects on the livelihood of the rural settlers revealed these findings:

- The respondents were unable to fully provide for themselves food, clothing and shelter leading to begging of food and sleeping on verandas for shelter.
- The standard of living is poor which has affected their way of eating, payment of their children's school and debt

6.3.2.2 Social Effects

The social effects on rural settlers identified were:

- The majority (67.4%) of the respondents suffered from the lack of social amenities in the community leading to social, indiscriminate defecating due to inadequate community toilet facilities, high cost of fees to private schools outside the communities at a higher cost etc. due to lack of adequate schools in the communities.

6.3.2.3 Cultural Effects

The cultural effects of the discussed problems on rural settlers were also revealed from the study. The findings were that:

- The moral fiber of the society is now torn apart due to the fact that it is often difficult to correct a child who is found misbehaving. This form of misbehavior stems from the disappearance of folktales that existed in the past.

- The effect of the breakdown of the extended family has caused more people extra money where children have to spend money to find people to stay and look after their parents due to sickness.

6.3.3 Coping Strategies

The coping strategies that the rural settlers have adopted were as follows:

- Most (87.7%) of the respondents depended on God for their daily survival because miraculously, they are able to meet their needs.
- The majority (74.7%) of the respondents depended either wholly or partially on their children in or out of the community for support.
- The majority (79.6%) of the respondents depended either wholly or partially on communal living
- The majority (79.3%) of the respondents depended either wholly or partially on menial jobs like cleaning people's houses, weeding, carrying loads etc.

6.4 Conclusion

The rural settlers had low incomes which have culminated in the high unemployment as their lands that served as farm lands are used for building making it difficult for them to acquire for themselves some basic necessities like food, clothing and shelter. Socially, inadequate social amenities in the communities, and lack of recreational facilities led to high rate of social vices. Pollution occurs in the communities with several communicable diseases and floods which are mostly caused through choked gutters. The adulteration of tradition, the lack of communal spirit and the breakdown of the extended family system had created a decayed society with lost values and destroying the moral fiber such as disrespect among the youth while community members have lost their sense of unity and

solidarity in community work, hence inhibiting the communities from developing. The study again found out that the respondents were able to cope through dependence on menial jobs and on their children.

The Ga-East Municipality is best with numerous challenges which have been categorized into social, economic and social. Problems such as environmental degradation of all forms, reducing rate of purchasing power as a result of changes in occupation and adulteration of indigenous culture (acculturation) have combined to impact negatively on the livelihood of the people of the Ga-East Municipality.

6.5 Implication of the Study for Adult Education Policy and Practice

This study has examined the problems associated with peri-urbanization. The empirical evidence of in-migration has been more prominent in the Ga East Municipality of the Greater Accra Region. It was proven that the rapidly growing settlement area in the Municipality consumed a larger extent of farmland which has affected settlers negatively. This has implications for adult education policy and practice. Since adults are the leaders in the communities studied and as such play pivotal role in the management of community projects, it is imperative to note that adult education have a role to play in building the capacity of these leaders to identify the problems and develop an alternative and lasting solutions to cope with these problems. This will go a long way to improve the living standard of settlers in peri-urban areas.

Furthermore, the study confirmed the need for improvement in social amenities in the Municipality as it will help in minimizing social vices in the communities. The fact that this effect has been mentioned on countless occasion by majority of the respondents, calls

for prompt attention. This should be of much concern to policy makers to formulate policies that will go a long way to establish the need for improvement in social amenities in peri-urban areas. In advancement to this section, it becomes prudent for peri-urban settlers to liaise with organizations or institutions present in such communities to facelift social amenities in such communities.

Results obtained from the study indicate that cultural practices have been adulterated as results of merging communities. This has created a social menace which calls for restoration of positive cultural practices and values as it will help in diverse ways. In line with this, adults in the communities must made it as a practice to imbibe into the younger generation on the need to practice positive cultural activities as it will help give communities a positive image. It therefore becomes imperative for adult educations to educate citizens on the importance to main cultural heritage.

In addition, the study revealed that community members adopted trading as means to cope with the changes in their environment. In seeking lasting solutions to these problems, Adult educators must help the communities by means of developing an alternative livelihood approaches. This could be done through training and equipping settlers with requisite knowledge, skills and attitude. To this end, the district assemblies should design and incorporate training programmes into their activities for community on sales of land and its implication to community development. This will go a long way to make urban planning effective and efficient.

6.6 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, recommendations were made to help promote research and policy formulation.

1. Environmental pollution was one major problem that the rural settlers of identified emanating from urbanization. To this end, the Environmental Protection Agency must carry out some educational programs that will enable the rural settlers to keep their communities.
2. There was a major problem with employment with its associated negative effects on the rural settlers. Recommendations are, therefore, made to NGOs to create employment avenues to solve or reduce the impact that lack of employment has on the rural settlers
3. Lack/inadequate social amenities were identified as one major problem of the rural settlers. The Ga East Municipal Assembly is to either raise funds to build schools, toilets, recreational facilities etc. so as to reduce the effects with which these problems bring.
4. Unplanned settlement also came up as a major problem. The recommendation therefore goes to the Lands Commission and the appropriate agencies like the Town and Country Planning department must check the planning of the communities.
5. To help solve or reduce the cultural problems, which were also identified as a major problem, the Ministry of Education must find ways of means of incorporating the importance of tradition and or culture into the curriculum so that teachers will teach at all levels of the academic ladder. The chiefs in the various communities must enforce customary laws and norms such as taboos or organize programs that will uplift up image of tradition or culture.

6. In order for these rural settlers to be able to cope with their livelihood conditions in the communities amidst these numerous problems, the Government of Ghana (GoG), through the Ga-East Municipal Assembly must introduce several alternative livelihood programs.

6.7 Areas for Further Studies

At the end of this study, the following areas are suggested for further studies:

- Assessment of urban planning in Ghana.
- Community development in peri-urban areas.

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- Unfair taxation []
- Pension crises []
- Credit scarcity []
- Personal dept []
- Increase in commodity prices []
- Low income []

Other, please specify

1.....

2.....

Social Problems

10. Which of the following social problems do you face? ***Tick as many as are applicable to you.***

- Lack/ irregular water supply []
- Irregular electricity supply []
- Air pollution []
- Water pollution []
- Land pollution []
- Lack or inadequate educational facilities []
- Poor road network []
- Inadequate social amenities []
- Unplanned settlement []
- Insecure land tenure []
- Social tension []
- Environmental and health problems []
- Unclear legalities and administration []

Other, please specify

1.....

2.....

Cultural Problems

11. Which of the following social problems do you face? *Tick as many as are applicable to you.*

Lack of communal spirit []

Change in traditional lifestyle []

Adulteration of cultural practices []

Adulteration of social norms and values []

Adulteration of acceptable folkways []

Breakdown of the extended family system []

Other, please specify

1.....

2.....

Section C: Effect of the Problem

12. How does lack of income generating activities have an effect on you?

.....

.....

13. Outline your views on social amenities in this community.

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

14. How does lack of social amenities affect you?

.....
.....

15. What is your view on environmental degradation?

.....
.....

16. Mention most frequent environmental degradation that are often found within this community?

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

17. How does this affect your livelihood?

.....
.....

18. Do you have any land administration problems in this community?

Yes [] No []

19. If yes, mention the land administration problems?

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

20. How do these problems affect your daily activities?

.....
.....

21. Does this community often come together to work towards a common goal?

Yes [] No []

22. If **Yes**, mention the current work done by the community and if **No** give reasons.

.....
.....

23. With reference to question 22, how do the responses affect the community?

.....
.....

24. What are some of the cultural practices in this community?

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....

24. Would you say that the same practices are practised currently?

Yes [] No []

25. If **No**, what has changed? Comment.

.....
.....

26. In line with the above question, how has the changes in traditional cultural practices affected your livelihood?

.....
.....

27. What strategies do you adopt in coping with the social, economic, and cultural problems?

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APPENDIX B

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING AND DISTANCE EDUCATION

FOCUS GROUP GUIDE FOR RURAL SETTLERS

The purpose of this questionnaire is to solicit information in connection with a study on **“Problems of Rural Settlers of the Ga-East Municipal, Ghana”**. Please be aware that this is purely an academic exercise and your responses below are important to the outcome of the study. Your anonymity and confidentiality is assured. Thank you for your assistance.

1. What are some of the economic problems that you have been facing since you were displaced? (agric, land use, employment etc)
2. How do these economic problems affect your livelihood?
3. What are some of the social problems that you have been facing since you were displaced? (Environmental sanitation, recreational facilities, health-herbal medicines etc.)
4. How do these social problems affect your livelihood?
5. What are some of the cultural problems that you have been facing since you were displaced? (change in taste, eating habits, family unit, role of chiefs, changes in values and norms. etc)
6. How does this acculturation affect your livelihood?
7. What are some of the coping strategies you have adopted with regards to your survival?

APPENDIX C

**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON
INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING AND DISTANCE EDUCATION**

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The purpose of this questionnaire is to solicit information in connection with a study on “**Problems of Rural Settlers of the Ga-East Municipal, Ghana**”. Please be aware that this is purely an academic exercise and your responses below are important to the outcome of the study. Your anonymity and confidentiality is assured. Thank you for your assistance.

1. Are there any significance problems regarding the rapid development in this district? If yes, what kind of problems?

- a) Environmental problem
- b) Infrastructure problem
- c) Social facilities problem
- d) Availability of affordable land for housing
- e) Availability of affordable public housing
- f) Employment problems
- g) Other problem
- h)
- I).....
- j)

2. Are there any distortion regarding the land use regulation? If yes, why it can be happened out of control?

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

3. Are there any development regulations which have been out of dated and have to be reformed?

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

4. What kind of significant factors which affected the rapid springing up of peri-urban areas in this district?

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

5. What kind of intervenes which have been done by the local government in order to guide the development process (especially in this district)?

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

6. Is there any renewable plan which will be implementing to guide this fast growing development?

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