

**THE PLANNING CHALLENGES OF AWASI URBAN
CENTRE IN NYANDO DISTRICT, KENYA.**

BY

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Declaration and Recommendation

Declaration

This Thesis is my original work and has not been submitted or presented for examination in any other University, either in part or as a whole.

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Recommendation/ Approval

This Thesis Report has been submitted for examination with our recommendation and approval as University Supervisors.

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Dedication

To my mother and my daughter, who share the name *Margaret Atieno*

Acknowledgement

Writing a thesis is neither a solo flight nor an individual excursion. It involves direct and indirect contributions and support from other individuals and groups of individuals. As such, it is incumbent upon the author to acknowledge such assistance. In my case, I am greatly indebted to the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi Fund through the University of Nairobi which awarded me a partial scholarship that enabled me to successfully complete the Master Programme. I am also very grateful to my two supervisors, Professor Robert A. Obudho and Professor Samuel O. Akatch, who diligently guided me through research process and at every stage, meticulously read through my report. Similarly, I acknowledge the valuable contributions made by both Professor Peter Ngau and Mr. Zachariah Maleche, particularly at the initial stages of this study. Without their criticisms and guided comments, coming up with a research topic and working objectives, would have proved to be a very difficult task. The contribution made by my research assistant Mr. Dan Odhiambo must also be acknowledged.

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ABSTRACT

Small urban centres have been viewed as fulfilling both urban functions and some rural functions. They are understood to be capable of coordinating development activities in the rural areas through a set of social, economic and administrative linkages. To this end, most countries, have adopted strategies consisting of development of planned network of designated growth centres at different levels throughout the country so as to initiate impulses of development and improve the quality of life in rural areas.

This study is nonetheless, hinged on the premise that small urban centres are not capable of stimulating development in the areas where they are located. Special programmes for small urban centres fail to address the social and economic aspects of development. For instance, the provision of accessible urban centre, will not address the lack of land or lack of capital or necessary resources to enable development to take place. In addition, most small urban centres have weak economic bases, inadequate urban services and infrastructure facilities, land tenure problems and low market capacity.

In order to get a clearer picture of the stated assumption and be able to make generalization, the study used Awasi Urban Centre (AUC) as a case study and examined the effect of growth of the centre on the social, economic and administrative development of the centre and its peripheral umlands. The study relied on social and economic variables, such as business activities within the centre and the umlands, agricultural activities, other non-farm activities and provision of basic services such as schools, hospitals, water and the necessary infrastructure. Even though the study found out that there is considerable potential role of Awasi as a small urban centre, in regional development, its capacity to trigger this much desired development is greatly influenced by its internal characteristics and that of the surrounding umlands including the natural resource base, infrastructure, land ownership patterns, social and economic activities at the local levels.

The study also found out that the institutions responsible for rural – urban development planning are very ineffective and are a more serious constraint to development of small urban centres and their umlands than is often recognized. The over involvement of the central government in development planning and implementation has so far compromised the local contribution to the whole process. This perhaps explains the confusion surrounding the role of small urban centres in the development process. This study, therefore, gave a number of

recommendations aimed at improving the delivery capacity of Awasi centre, which is basically applicable to all small urban centres in Kenya. This include among other factors; need for reorientation of present institutional framework to unify the technical government roles with local citizen participation, need to stimulate agricultural production, provision of basic services and infrastructure facilities and strengthening of the economic base of the centre so as to improve on the trade activities and employment opportunities.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AUC: Awasi Urban Centre

CDF: Constituency Development Fund

DDC: District Development Committee

DFSRD: District Focus Strategy for Rural Development

DIDC: District Information and Documentation Centre

ECD: Early Childhood Development

GoK: Government of Kenya

ITCZ: Inter – Tropical Convergence Zone

KEMSA: Kenya Medical Supplies Agency

KNBS: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

LATF: Local Authority Transfer Fund

NCC: Nyando County Council

NEMA: National Environmental Management Authority

NGO: Non Governmental Organizations

RTPC: Rural Trade and Production Centres

SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Sciences

SUC: Small Urban Centre

UNCHS: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

UNEP: United Nations Environmental Programme

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background to the Problem

There is no consensus among researchers and scholars as to the correct definition of small urban centres. As a result of this, most of them have been forced to fall back to a functional definition. Small Urban Centre (SUC) has been defined as a place, which offers services in at least four of the following five main functional areas; administration and protection, social services, communication and transportation, commerce and industry and power (Taylor, 1972; Rondinelli, 1983; Obudho and Aduwo, 1990; Owuor, 1995 and Tacoli, 2006).

Apart from the functional definition, other researchers and scholars have also used a variety of universal population size categories to define small urban centres (Rondinelli, 1983 and UN Habitat, 1993). But as UN Habitat (2006) points out, definition of an urban centre can only be made clearer if it is based not only on population thresholds but also on the extent of its non-agricultural economic activities or the proportion of the economically active population working in non-agricultural activities. Indeed, the number of residents alone cannot adequately define SUC (Rondinelli, 1983; Pederson, 1991 and Tacoli, 2006). Population density, physical size, the proportion of the labour force engaged in non agricultural occupations, the mix and diversity of functions located within the centre, its physical characteristics and its relationship with other towns and urban centres must all be used to refine demographic criteria (Rondinelli, 1983). In this regard, constantly used labels such as towns, market centres, regional centre or rural centre can mean largely what any writer wishes to make them. They cannot be defined by clear-cut discontinuities, which have cross cultural constancy and consistency (Southall, 1979).

This study however, combines both the functional definition and the demographic criteria to define small urban centres. The term “small urban centre” in this context refers therefore, to the District service centers and below. These are centres designed to serve as the main commercial centres for an entire District and can also contain the District administration Headquarters. Such centres usually have a population of between 2,000 and 100,000 (Kimani and Taylor, 1973; Kenya, 1978 and Kenya, 1986).

Studies have consistently shown that small urban centres can play a very important role in the lives of rural inhabitants. They are considered vital interface between the developing rural system and the developing urban system, which as growth centres could transcend the false dichotomy of rural and urban problems, concentrating on the inter linkages (Kimani and Taylor, 1973; Southall, 1979; Obudho and Aduwo, 1990 and Owuor, 1995). Furthermore, these centres provide basic services and infrastructure to local farmers and businessmen located in their respective umlands and also act as links between large urban areas and the overwhelming majority of the people living in the rural areas (Obudho, 1981; Pederson, 1991; UN Habitat, 1991; Gaile, 1992 and Obudho, 1993).

In addition to the social and economic role of the SUCs, these centres have often been used as vehicles of decentralization of central government field administration (Ngethe and Ngunyi, 1991; Rondinelli, 1993 and UNCHS, 1993, 2006). Central place hierarchies which include small urban centres are designed to match central government field administration hierarchies, with centres at each tier constituting administrative centres for corresponding tiers of local government and field administration. (UNCHS, 1993). It is for this particular reason that in most countries, SUCs have been considered an important ingredient in government decentralization policies. Mathur (1984) and Egunjobi (1990) noted that administrative status such as being the headquarters of a prefecture, country or a subdivision of the administration help urban centres to diffuse growth impulses within their jurisdiction and in some cases enable them to be active catalysts of economic development and social progress.

In order to be an effective decentralization tool, the SUC must fulfill a number of important functions for its residents and also the surrounding rural communities; supply better and more varied services than those available in the villages; provide access to urban services, facilities and infrastructure that support productive economic activities; provide adequate market for crops produced by farmers from the umlands and help bring the urban way of life closer to rural areas. This potential role of the SUCs has compelled a growing number of governments particularly in developing countries, to explore ways of building the capacities of the SUCs to contribute to rural development and to a more diffuse pattern of urbanization. This has been particularly necessitated, by the evidence of growing disparities in living conditions and levels of development between urban and rural areas. There has therefore been the desire to expand the capacity of the SUCs to perform service and production functions more efficiently

and effectively (Rondinelli, 1983).

To attain the goal of expanding the capacity of SUCs to perform service functions, most developing countries have experimented with policies and strategies aimed at reallocating resources to create an articulated network of development centres in rural areas that are integrated into a national system of production and exchange and that can provide access to productive resources, economic opportunities and social services and facilities to majority of the population (Rondinelli and Ruddle, 1978). But these policies and special programmes for the SUCs, have been noted to contain rather vague spatial goals and very few, at least according to Hardoy and Satterthwaite (1988), have been designed to serve explicit social and economic goals or to do so in a way which matched each SUC's local and regional context. Indeed, national policies of decentralization to the SUCs, in most countries, have seldom been backed up with adequate capacity development and resources to support the SUC's government's new responsibilities particularly that of fostering development in rural umlands (UN Habitat, 2006).

In Kenya, a number of policies variously termed 'growth center', 'service centre', 'rural trade and production centre' and 'gate way town' policies have been adopted since independence (Kimani and Taylor, 1973; Kenya, 1978, 1986 and Owuor, 1995). These strategies are operationally defined as 'limited decentralization' or 'selective dispersal' at national and regional level and 'selective concentration' at the local level. They basically consist of developing a network of designated service centres at different levels throughout the country, intended to improve the quality of life in the rural areas and stimulate integrated rural development (Kenya, 1978 and Kiamba *et al*, 1984).

Despite the increased recognition of the potential role of the SUCs in regional and national development, in various countries, these centres face a number of serious problems. The centers are characterized by rapid unplanned growth; high concentration of low-income population, run down and often none existent basic infrastructure. The centers also have economic structure that is less diversified than those in large urban centres and this not only limits the opportunities for the expansion of the formal sector labour market but also provide unfavorable economic conditions for the private sector. The SUCs are therefore unable to fulfill their potential role in fostering development of the rural areas and stimulating the rural economy (Rondinelli, 1983).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Ever since the second Development Plan (National Development Plan of 1970 – 1974), Kenya has been committed to giving priority to small urban centers and rural development. This commitment by the government was manifested specifically by the inception of a strategy for rural and urban development and the development of the growth pole strategy, as comprehensively articulated in Kenya (1978). The strategy consisted of the development of designated service centers at different levels throughout the countryside to improve the quality of life in the rural areas. The designated central places were as follows; urban centers as the main commercial centers for an entire district, mostly district headquarters; rural centers to serve a population of at least 40,000; market centers to serve populations of about 15,000 and local centers to cater for a population of at least 5,000. This growth pole strategy was to be achieved by accelerating the development of a selected limited number of existing urban centers in development potential areas, which could be considered viable for a process of limited decentralization of growth functions.

Implicit in this Growth Pole strategy is the purpose of such designated centers. This is shown to be two pronged, including to provide adequate services for the rural areas around them and to stimulate economic and social development of those areas. To further complement and stimulate integrated rural development, Kenya (1979) modified and remodeled the growth center strategy into rural – urban strategy. This strategy was based on the realization that rural and urban developments are interdependent and that the two must proceed together and a careful balance must be maintained between them. The national objective of balanced development and alleviation of poverty was hinged on an urban development strategy that controls polarization towards Nairobi and Mombasa, and that emphasizes the development of other centres with potential for supporting rural development. From the mid 1980s, the Government of Kenya adopted the District Focus Strategy for Rural Development (DFSRD) approach, which decentralized developments to Districts within which Rural Trade and Production Centres (RTPC) formed nodes of development in their umlands. This spatial dimension was to achieve rural urban balance by dispersing development activities to as many parts of the country as possible. More of the resources were to be channeled to small urban centres in the rural areas, which had great potential for economic development. It is also indicated that in pursuance of the goal of rural urban balance, government was to promote the development of dynamic set of central places designated as RTPCs. Although Growth Pole Strategy, DFRD and RTPC have not been officially abandoned, they represent

spatial development schools of thought that underpin development of small urban centers in Kenya.

During the classification of urban and rural settlements in 1970s by the Government of Kenya, Awasi Urban Centre (AUC) was identified and classified as a market centre (See Appendix Five). Much later, in 1998 the centre was elevated to become the administrative capital of the vast Nyando District. Subsequently, Nyando County Council (NCC) was established and its headquarters located at AUC. As the district headquarters, Awasi became the seat of bureaucracy as well as the nerve centre where policies immediately affecting the entire district are generated. It also became the place where mechanisms for policy implementation are based and thus it is the intermediary structure between the central government and the rural areas.

Ideally, the elevation of status of urban centres usually takes into account a set of conditions and services, which the settlement should be able to fulfill before it is upgraded to the next level. But in recent times, upgrading of these urban centres in the country has been done in haphazard manner; resulting in some cases unnecessary administrative overheads and eventual financial incapability. In other cases, this has resulted in inadequate services offered relative to the status of the town (Kenya, 1985). Indeed, this haphazard designation of centres has strained the ability of the Government of Kenya to meet demand of new urban services and infrastructure needed to sustain economic growth and improve living conditions. Consequently, the SUCs, albeit supposed to offer superior services to the people from rural umlands, have been constrained in this role due to lack of development of their potentials.

Despite many attempts at using SUCs to initiate development impulses in the rural umlands, these centres have not attracted as much economic activities as originally intended by policy makers and as Ochanda (1989) concurs, some of these centres have remained below the levels of growth anticipated or they have collapsed. Noticeably small urban centres such as AUC, are characterized by shortage of housing; inadequate infrastructural facilities and urban services; problems related to land tenure systems; problems with transport and communication linkages; low capacity of urban enterprises to create sufficient number of jobs; problems with social and economic services such as marketing of agricultural products and supplies, education, health, extension services and repair services. AUC is characterized by perennial water shortages, poor and inadequate housing, infrastructure facilities and urban

services, a very weak economic base making it impossible to create employment opportunities and also inadequate market facilities.

The centre is under the jurisdiction of Nyando County Council, which is financially weak and therefore unable to fully undertake its responsibilities which include among others, provision of infrastructure facilities within the centre. Although the development of SUC as a centre of diversified economic activity requires physical expansion, AUC is faced with the problem of lack of room for further expansion due to slow pace of conversion of neighbouring farmlands into urban use. This thesis is designed to examine the planning challenges being experienced by AUC and how these challenges have had effects on the social, economic and administrative development process. In other words, does the designation of AUC as social, economic and administrative center, particularly its elevation of status as a district headquarter; help to enhance development by way of attracting public and private investment and producing a more efficient pattern of services?

1.3 General objective

The objective of this study is to find out the challenges that Awasi Urban Centre faces and the subsequent effects on social, economic and administrative development of the centre as well as its surrounding areas.

1.3.1 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives are:

- To examine the social, economic and administrative activities within AUC and those of the immediate rural umlands.
- Identify constraints that hamper the delivery of services by AUC to its dependant population.
- To examine the institutional arrangement and establish the roles played by the various Government institutions in planning the development of AUC and identify the problems faced by them.
- To formulate proposals to enhance the delivery capacity of AUC and promote its development planning.

1.4 Research Assumptions

The study is based on the following assumptions:

- Despite its growth over the years, AUC has not made any significant contribution to the social, economic and administrative development process.
- The existing institutions tasked with the development planning of AUC have been largely ineffective and have been a hindrance to fostering of development in the rural umlands.

1.5 Justification of the Study

Small urban centres, have not received the attention they deserve in Kenya, particularly in areas of research and development. Given that majority of the population of Kenya is still rural and most rely on agriculture for their livelihood, it is these small urban centres that can play the role of offering basic retail, administration and transport services directly to agricultural producers in the umlands. Yet the role that the SUC can play in supporting social, economic development within rural areas – providing rural populations with access to schools and health care centers, being the location for agricultural extension services and agro industries linked to local products is rarely given attention. Research and development policies have on most occasions focused on a district as a whole and have failed to recognize the fact that SUC can play a distinct role in development process.

Awasi Centre, like other small urban centres in Kenya has been ignored in terms of research and other academic studies. Although the centre is the focal point of administration, there has been less focus on the challenges that constrain its delivery potential. It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to bring to light these challenges that prevent AUC from fulfilling its mandate as a social, economic and administrative centre for the surrounding areas. Clearly, the study of problems being faced by AUC is an important subject, which deserves a greater attention than it has hitherto been accorded. This study therefore, strives at not only contributing to the existing literature but is also useful when the Government of Kenya is focusing its development strategies to the rural areas and designated urban centres, particularly those designated as district headquarters.

1.6 Significance of the study

The knowledge gained through this study is intended to assist the Government of Kenya in refocusing their policies concerning the small urban centres, particularly Awasi centre which has been experiencing development planning problems of monumental proportions. It will ensure that optimal use of meager resources is enhanced to facilitate maximum development of this centre and its rural umlands. The study is also intended to help the Government of Kenya to arrive at a better understanding of real development possibilities and development constraints through a better understanding of existing circumstances and current trends in SUCs, particularly those designated as district headquarters and their surrounding areas. Such an understanding allows a more realistic assessment of local skills and local resources.

1.7 Nature and Scope of the study

This study is primarily focused on the area within AUC and its immediate rural umlands. The study specifically examines the effect of AUC on the social, economic and administrative development of the centre and its environs. To this end, the study looked at the trade and other related entrepreneurial activities within the centre as well as the farming activities in the surrounding umlands. The existing social and community services within the centre such as education, health, water and sanitation among others are also looked at, particularly with the aim of highlighting the problems that constrain the provision of these services. The study also examines the institutional framework and highlights the functions of the institutions focusing more on service provision and development planning of the centre.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

This study has been limited by lack of literature on Awasi Urban Centre. Previous researches done on Awasi as a centre were almost impossible to find. In this regard therefore, for secondary data, the study relied majorly on studies done for the whole of Nyando District within which AUC is located. The actual population for the centre could also not be established. This is because, prior to the 1999 Population and Household Census, AUC did not feature as one of the urban centres. The study thus, adopted the population of two sub locations (Border I and Border II) within which AUC is located. In addition, the study was limited by time and resources. The researcher was not able to collect as detailed data as he would have wished or to conduct extensive questionnaire survey and formal interview, particularly concerning the chosen small urban center's current and past social, economic and administrative performance. The budget for the research was too limiting to achieve what was

accomplished and reported in this document. Overall, with the given time and resources, the researcher followed a methodology which yielded data and information that was adequate to examine the effect of AUC on social, economic and administrative development process of the study area and to justify the conclusions and recommendations presented in this study.

1.9 Definition of operational terms

1.9.1 Development

Development represents the whole gamut of change by which an entire social system, tuned to the diverse basic needs and desires of individuals and social groups within that system, moves away from a condition of life perceived as unsatisfactory toward a situation or a condition of life regarded as materially and spiritually better (Todaro and Smith, 2006). Development, in this study is defined in terms of the reduction or elimination of poverty, inequality and unemployment. Underlying this definition is the belief that development means increasing the capacity of people to influence and control their futures. It includes the realization of the potential of human personality and involves growth, participation and distribution.

1.9.2 Rural Development

Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people – the rural poor. It involves extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas. This group includes small-scale farmers, tenants and the landless. The objective of rural development encompasses improved productivity, increased employment as well as minimum acceptance levels of food, shelter, education and health. It also entails decreasing inequality in the distribution of rural incomes and a lessening of urban and rural imbalance in incomes and economic opportunities (Chambers, 1983: 147).

1.9.3 Umlands

This study adopts the definition of Zinyama (1996) who defined umlands as the region, which relies on the centre for the supply of a variety of services required by its inhabitants. It refers to the peri urban areas outside the town boundary, with which the town has relationship of interdependence. It is the immediate area after the urban centre boundary, which depends on services of the urban centre and upon which the urban centre depends for both human and natural resources – sometimes known as zone of influence or catchment area.

1.9.4 Growth centre

In this study, it refers to a geographical location chosen by the government of Kenya, where public investment is to be concentrated in order to promote growth and development of the settlement and in many instances the surrounding areas too.

1.9.5 Urban centre

This is a settlement with more than 2,000 inhabitants, mainly engaged in non – agricultural activities. Urban centre is a medium sized town in the Kenyan context, which have been designed to serve as the main commercial centre for an entire district (Kenya, 1978).

1.9.6 Planning

Faludi (1973) defined planning as a process for determining appropriate future action through a sequence of choices. Planning is nothing more than a certain manner of arriving at decisions and action, the intention of which is to promote the social good of a society undergoing rapid changes. It is therefore a decision making process of balancing claims on scarce resources and of achieving compromise between conflicting interest. This definition is the one adopted by this study.

1.10 Organization of the Study

This study is organized into six chapters.

Chapter One: This chapter discusses the background to the problem by first giving a general overview before narrowing down to the specific problems in AUC. The chapter also outlines the objectives of the study, assumptions, significance, justification limitations of the study and definitions of operational terms.

Chapter Two: This chapter outlines the literature review undertaken in the course of this study. The content of this chapter captures the theories about SUCs which had been put forward by various theorists and documented in different written materials. The policies and strategies on SUC by the Government of Kenya are also highlighted.

Chapter Three: This chapter discusses the methodology adopted during the data collection process and explains how the study was undertaken, type of data collected, method of data collection used and data analysis.

Chapter Four: This chapter discusses size and situation analysis of the study area, especially the climate, soils, vegetation and agro ecological zones.

Chapter Five: This is the chapter that discusses the findings of this study using various descriptive statistical methods of analysis. The broad institutional framework mandated and responsible for the development of AUC and rural umlands is also discussed in this chapter.

Chapter Six: This is the last chapter of this study and it contains the conclusions made based on the findings as well as recommendations to improve the delivery capacity of Awasi Urban Centre.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter gives an outline of literature from various writings and documents that were reviewed. The review of the literature is done through a critical analysis of the past writing on small urban centres, particularly their contributions to the surrounding rural umlands as well as the entire regions within which they are located. The chapter commences by giving a detailed synopsis of the rural – urban interactions and location theories. This is followed by a critical assessment of the theoretical framework, whereby the central place and growth centre theories are appraised. Literature on the regional development and the role of small urban centres as growth centres follows the detailed theoretical framework. After this, an analysis of the development of rural – urban planning policies by the government of Kenya is done through broad analysis of the national development plans. This chapter ends by giving a conceptual framework based on the literature reviewed.

2.2 Background to Rural - Urban interactions and Location Theories

Studies of locations particularly of urban centres and agricultural activities, cannot fail to mention the contributions of an agriculturalist by the name Johann von Thunen who said that concentric zones of different uses of land tend to form about an urban (market) centre. He imagined a large town, surrounded by a large plain of uniform fertility. The town supplies its rural hinterland with manufactured goods and services and provides a market for agricultural surpluses produced in the rural area (UN, 1979: 52). The most important feature of von Thunen's theory is its uncompromising "classical" structure and the fact that it is an equilibrium theory.

Walter Christaller (1933) is also considered one of the forerunners of the theorists who have attempted to explain the organization of rural – urban space through a workable model. He envisaged a homogenous plain with an even distribution of natural resources, population, consumer preference and production techniques for each and every product. He also assumed that transportation costs, demand functions and economies of scale would vary from product to product and hence the spatial range of goods and services produced would also vary. Goods having the greatest range, he postulated, would be produced at the centre of the system of centres. The next class of goods would be produced in several second and third order

centres located at gravity points of triangles formed by these centres.

August Losch (1954) modified Christaller's model to build a hierarchy of central places, starting from the lowest order and incorporating non – service activities in its functions. He treated the smallest nucleated 'agricultural villages' population as his starting point. As one of these villages embarks on some sort of manufacturing activity, it seeks a market outside. Eventually it will have a hexagonal market area. In the Loschian model, there is no hierarchy of central places, but rather a moving equilibrium of locations under a perfect competition (Klemmer, 1978). In Loschian scheme, the central places need not be hierarchical and hence centres of the same size do not necessarily have the same range of goods.

Francois Perroux (1955) propounded the theory of development poles. He primarily dealt with economic space on siting of firms and industries, their mutual interdependence and their growth and decay. According to him, economic space consists of centres (poles or foci) from which centrifugal forces emanate and to which centripetal forces are attracted. He emphasized that growth is concentrated in various spatial loci as well as in certain leading industrial branches (Hansen, 1968). Perroux, insisted that growth does not appear everywhere at the same time, it shows itself in points or "*poles de croissance*", with variable intensities; it spreads by different channels and variable final effects for the economy as a whole. However, being an economist, Perroux was less concerned with spatial dimension in geographical terms.

Boudeville (1966) strengthened the geographical context of the Perrouxian hypothesis and emphasized the regional character of economic space. He argued that economic space is intricately linked to geographical space through a functional transportation, which describes the relevant properties of economic processes. Boudeville, as opposed to Perroux's abstract conception of space, emphasized the regional character of economic space. To Boudeville, economic space is tied to geographical through functional transformations, which describe relevant properties of economic processes (Boudeville, 1966).

Gunner Myrdal (1957) has consistently maintained that once regional inequalities have emerged because of some initial advantage, some regions may have had and the play of market forces tend to increase rather than decrease the inequalities. He argues that the mechanisms of growth operate in such a way that the centripetal forces become stronger than

the centrifugal forces and that spontaneous spread of economic development does not take place. Hirschman (1958) believed that interregional inequality of economic development is inevitable and that development strategies should concentrate on relatively few sectors rather than on widely dispersed projects. He has argued strongly for spread and trickle down effects. The trickle down effects, he emphasized, are strongly influenced by the existence of complementarities between the centre and its hinterland. Myrdal and Hirschman ideas were greatly influenced by Perroux's development pole theory.

John Friedmann (1966, 1972: 82 – 107) conceptualized the core periphery interaction model. The model was originally set forth in his study of Venezuelan regional planning strategy. The urban system, he argues, constitutes the core and the periphery is defined by its relation with the core. He believes that regional planning policy has to deal as a system with the separate development of core regions, upward and downward traditional areas, and resource frontiers and makes it possible to achieve major urbanization economies. It follows that as a society undergoes development, he argues, its spatial structure will be transformed, but the development process will also be influenced by the existing patterns of spatial relation and the dynamic tensions that result from them (Friedmann, 1972: 84). According to Friedmann (1972) development, viewed as occurring through a discontinuous but cumulative process of innovation, will tend to have its origin in a relatively small number of "centres of change" located at the points of highest potential interaction within a communication field. Innovations will tend to spread downward and outward from these centres to areas where the probability of potential interaction is lower (Friedmann, 1972: 93).

2.3 Theoretical Framework

2.3.1 Central Place Theory

A complementary relationship between urban and rural phenomena and of reciprocity in urban rural interaction was postulated by Walter Christaller (1933) with his central place and umlands concepts. The cornerstone of Christaller's theory was the idea of a functional interdependence between a town and the surrounding rural areas (King, 1984). A central place, according to Christaller (1933) is a place, which has central functions that extend over a large area in which other smaller central places exist. The central place theory deals with the size, number, function and distribution of human settlements and it states that every place has a degree of importance, which is usually defined rather inexactly by its size of population or by its real size. There are therefore, categories of central places performing varying

functions and exerting influence on regions of various sizes. These central places are analyzed in terms of demand for central functions, and other factors influencing the distribution of central functions. A central place could be a city, a town or a village as long as it provides goods and services to an area larger than itself. Central places of higher order perform more specialized functions and extend their influence over large areas. Such places are fewer in number and located further apart than central places of lower order. Several low order centres and their complementary regions are found within a higher order centre and its complementary region.

A number of documents reviewed, point out that, in any research examining the role of small urban centres, the central place theory logically serve as the basic theoretical framework. Nevertheless the central place theory has been criticized that it is static in conception. It is also dismissed by many, as being reflective of certain existing social patterns at particular time in history and therefore incapable of yielding any powerful predictions. It cannot suggest ways of refashioning society that might improve the human conditions (Klemmer, 1978). Furthermore, not all central places are capable of inducing economic and social development in their surrounding areas (Misra, *et al*, 1974: 301). Hence places such as AUC, being central places, might fall in the category of those central places, which fail to induce social and economic development within the centre and its environs.

2.3.2 Growth Pole Theory

Growth pole ideas were postulated by Perroux (1955). The theory suggests that by concentrating investment and innovation in a few selected centres, development would either spontaneously or by inducement “trickle down” throughout the region. It describes an evolving or planned activity sector, which transforms an existing structure of production and consumption within an economic system through a more productive combination of technology and organization. The growth pole theory explains that growth does not occur everywhere and at the same time, but manifests itself at certain points or poles of growth with variable intensities (Engujobi, 1990). This theory has given rise to “growth centre” concept, which has been widely applied, in various countries to promote regional development. A growth pole should fulfill a two fold function, namely, that it is able both to develop itself and to transmit development impulses to the rest of the spatial system and thereby influence regional and ultimately national development (Stohr, 1975: 85).

Research literature, has however indicated that the suitability of growth pole in solving rural poverty has been disappointing, to say the least (Lo and Salih, 1978). The trickle down effects which were supposed to follow, have not had the anticipated results and the spin – off effects have benefited, at best, large component suppliers and contractors in other large cities and the spread effects to the immediate umlands are minimal. It has also been argued that growth pole theory tells us very little about where in the region, growth poles should be established. Nor does it provide, for that matter, a coherent explanation for various kinds of growth poles found in specific locations over the surface of the earth (Hermansen, 1972). Lo and Salih (op cit) pointed out that the development (growth) poles, to the extent that they really exist, in most cases either become an enclave without pole – periphery linkages or merely distort the pattern of regional development in an under developed economy and have led through leakage beyond regional and even national boundaries, to the stagnation of the rural sector. Perhaps, this explains why Awasi centre, despite continued relative growth, has not had any significant effect on the social and economic development process of the centre and its immediate umlands.

2.4 Regional Development Approaches and role of Small Urban Centres

The debate about the role of small urban centres in regional development has been influenced by various regional development approaches (Anders, 1992). These approaches towards the role of small urban centres in development try to explain the potential role of SUCs in development of their surroundings.

2.4.1 Growth Pole Approach

It has been noted in this study, that the idea of growth pole was the brainchild of Francois Perroux (1955). The growth pole approach was however introduced into the regional development debate by Hirschman (1958), Boudeville (1966), Friedmann (1966) and others. In this approach, SUCs were regarded as spatial nodes for the diffusion of economic growth. Implicit in this approach is the belief that economic development is closely related to the emergence of highly developed and interconnected functional hierarchies of urban centres and that growth are in some way proportional to the size of an agglomeration. The dominant but erroneous idea in this approach was that economic growth could be introduced from outside through an economic and technological injection (Anders, 1992).

2.4.2 Dependency or Core Periphery Approach

In this approach economic development and underdevelopment were regarded to be opposite sides of the same coin. The approach indicated that infrastructural development, also in SUCs, allow for capitalist penetration into the hinterlands to outstrip local production. This approach, however, has a weakness in that, it regards development and underdevelopment to be introduced from the outside and it neglects local development dynamics.

2.4.3 Functionalist Approach

This approach is based on the Christaller's (1933) central place theory and its focus is on the dynamics of rural and urban linkages. It mainly discusses the functions of smaller urban centres. The function, it postulates, particularly, collection and distribution, are performed by hierarchically arranged centers. This approach was developed further in the African context by Rondinelli (1982). In his approach, Rondinelli focuses on the means to achieve an equal spatial development within nation states. He regards SUCs as playing a decisive role for a more diffuse or balanced pattern of urbanization and as an instrument of spatial development.

“the potential of strengthening secondary cities to facilitate and promote urban deconcentration and widespread economic growth lies in the building of functions that these urban centres already perform or could better, with appropriate investments and supporting national policies”
(Rondinelli, 1982:16).

This approach has however, been criticized as having ideological undertones of diffusion and top down planning and is not much concerned with local needs (Anders, 1992).

2.4.4 Territorial Approach

This approach is founded on Friedmann's agropolitan approach towards territorial planning (Friedmann, 1988). The agropolitan strategy focuses specifically on spatially defined units. An agropolitan district is defined by Friedmann (1988) as containing at least one SUC and a population of between 40,000 and 60,000 persons. The purpose of SUC is to strengthen its surrounding rural base and improve life of the community. Rural development is on the agenda and the role of SUC is to support this development through provision of services and social infrastructure. In Friedmann's approach, both the urban centres and the state have a secondary status. Their main purpose is to provide the necessary financial and institutional infrastructure for rural development. But, political and institutional structures combined with a weak economic foundation cannot create an adequate foundation and resources for

development of any region (Anders, 1992).

2.5 Growth Centre Strategy

The concept of “growth centre” originated from the theory of growth pole, and as defined in regional economic theory, ‘growth centre’ refers to urban type center with a large and diversified economic base which is able to produce self generated growth, mediated through population movement; delivery of physical, economic, technological and social services and political administration and organization linkages (Maliro and Mataya, 1996 citing Wanmali, 1992).

In recent times, several strategies have been suggested as ways to improve the quality of life of rural people. The development of growth centres is perhaps the one which has received the greatest attention and which has been implemented in various forms in several (developing) countries (UNCHS, 1981, 1997). The strategy starts from the realization that since development cannot occur at all places at the same time, it is necessary to promote equitable regional development by decongesting the few areas of primate development through the establishment in selected areas of industries that generate the driving force for development (UNCHS, 1997). Thus, the strategy consists of the development of a planned network of designated service centres at different levels throughout the countryside to improve the quality of life in rural areas (Kenya, 1978). It has been common for governments to designate certain SUC as “growth centres” and through concentrating public investments there in infrastructure and services and sometimes in public sector enterprises, to hope that these centres will achieve some level of self-sustaining development (UNCHS, 1985: 44).

In a sense, this strategy can be seen as extending the ideas of growth pole theory. This is the reason why authors like, Taylor (1972), Kimani and Taylor (1973) and UNCHS (1981, 1985, 1997) have pointed out that the growth center strategy is not well defined and seems to include a number of concepts such as centrality and concentration of service functions together with the notion of economic space as contained in the growth pole concept. Indeed, the term “growth center” has been used to cover so many different kinds of policy interventions. It includes everything from villages of 5,000 people to the large metropolis. Industrial areas, administrative centres, university cities and sleepy market towns have all been labeled growth centres. As a result, growth centre has been used as the intellectual rationale for every spatial strategy (UNCHS, 1985: 45).

Kimani and Taylor (1973) observe that the general theory of growth centres is very poorly developed. Writings on this topic and the application of the theory, they argue, have generally been urban based with a strong industrial component and this makes the use of the concept in rural context more difficult. Walter Stohr (1975: 85) observes that it is not enough to simply designate certain centres or locations of a country as “growth centres” on account of local or regional criteria such as their size and economic structure, the resource potential of their umlands, and the central services they possess. Inter regional and inter urban criteria also have to be evaluated, such as their access to outside markets, and their ability to take part in the transmission of developmental impulses (e.g. institutional, technological and entrepreneurial innovations) which pass through the urban hierarchy. Apparently, designation of centres in Kenya as growth or service centre overlooked this critical component of the development of SUCs, hence centres like Awasi became growth centres incapable of taking part in initiating and transmitting development impulses to its immediate environs.

Another reason for lack of success of growth centre strategy as a policy tool to redistribute development is due to confusion between social and spatial equity. For instance, while government intervention might enhance the role of the growth centre in national production, this does not necessarily mean that important social and economic benefits will accrue to the population living there. Also, the use of large industrial growth centres has been criticized on the grounds that the centripetal forces become stronger than the centrifugal so that the spread of economic development to the rural areas does not take place (UNCHS, 1981).

2.6 Small Urban Centres as Growth/ Service Centres

In less developed countries, the nature of rural urban relations lies at the root of socio economic development in rural areas. The initial stimulus for development comes from outside the home region or country but spreads spatially into remote villages through a hierarchy of central places. These central places provide a wide variety of services to their surrounding umlands and are therefore intimately related to them (Misra, *et al*, 1974). The SUCs play this central place role in the vast regions of the developing countries. It is upon this basis, that the establishment, growth and subsequent role played by small urban centres has been recognized and promoted by governments as a comprehensive strategy towards development of agricultural based rural economy (Maliro and Mataya, 1996). The vast bulk of people in developing countries live in rural areas and if development, however defined, is to have any real meaning, then it must be in terms that will benefit the estimated 90 per cent

of the people in developing countries who live on the land (Taylor, 1972; Obudho, 1996 and UNCHS, 1985, 1997).

Maliro and Mataya (1996) argue that the basic idea behind promoting SUCs in the rural areas has been to foster development through integration and interaction and that such a move has been a key to sustainable rural population management and rural sector economic management. Based on this, various developing countries such as Kenya, have adopted a number of policies, outlining the use of SUCs as growth or service centres thereby tasking them with the role of distributing the benefits of economic growth to the rural umlands. The main objective of the growth pole policies is to achieve selective decentralization of productive investment, while service centre policies aim at creating a more balanced distribution of urban settlements, in hierarchical and spatial terms. The tendency, however, has been to merge growth and service centre ideas into growth and service policies and they are in turn complemented by government decentralization measures (UNCHS, 1981).

The underlying assumption of these spatial policies, in most countries is that the SUCs will counter primacy, facilitate urban and rural balance through decentralization; offer rural areas accessibility to higher urban areas and promote national spatial integration through a more dispersed population (UNCHS, 1997). It is envisaged that the hierarchy of SUCs linked with agricultural production areas would provide a decentralized network of development centres that would increase access of large segments of the population to economic, social and political opportunities as well as to urban services and facilities (Rondinelli and Ruddle, 1978: 19). Thus, SUCs are expected to perform central place functions, including economic and social activities, hence the centres must serve people living outside their boundaries (Rondinelli, 1983). Location of social and economic activities in SUC in rural areas lies at core of development strategy.

Many studies confirm the close relationship between location of industry, commerce and public facilities and the distribution and concentration of population. The pattern of population distribution – the spatial arrangement of human settlement – in turn has a pervasive influence on a nation's social, economic and political organization. The location of public services, physical facilities and production activities in SUC can impress on a country, a spatial structure that influences not only the rate and distribution of national growth but also the quality of life in local communities and individual access to opportunities. The location of

public services and facilities and private investment shapes development in a number of ways (Rondinelli and Ruddle, 1978). Therefore, the location of public services, physical facilities and productive activities in SUCs, can bring forth a spatial structure that influences not only the rate and distribution of national growth but also the quality of life in local communities and individual access to opportunities.

In Malawi, the government pointed out that the development of small urban centres depends on people and goods and services that originated from the rural economy, while the development of the rural economy depends on technology and goods and services that are generated by the SUC in the rural region (Maliro and Mataya, 1996). Likewise, the government of Kenya, also believes that the development of SUC would be able to relieve population pressures in the countryside; provide less congested and polluted urban living in primate cities; increase the modernization spin off which urban centres provide to the surrounding rural areas and provide a better integration with economy of the rural umlands, thus allowing development of the informal employment sector which plays such crucial role in absorption of labour force (Kenya, 1978).

The SUCs have been seen positively as service centres through which resources, commodities and information are distributed to rural areas (Hardoy and Satterthwaite, 1986; Pederson, 1991). Many researchers, notably, Rondinelli, (1990); Obudho and Aduwo, (1990); Obudho, (1993) and Owuor, (1995) have asserted that SUCs potentially fulfill an important role in integrating urban and rural functions into national spatial systems. SUCs can provide important linkage effects down the spatial hierarchy to farms and villages as well as upward to major urban centres. Farm to market roads generally pass through the SUCs which in turn serve as staging areas for agricultural marketing, retail trade, government administration, planning and service delivery (Obudho and Aduwo, 1990; Obudho, 1993). Furthermore as administrative centres the SUCs are administrative headquarters for their regions and as such, the government offices located therein exposes and introduce the rural population to a wide range of ideas, which contribute to rural development. Information on agricultural innovations, better farming methods and appropriate technology reach the hinterland through these branches. Services such as agricultural extension, credits, health and educational facilities amongst others, are also provided through them (Obudho, 1996).

On the other hand, SUCs are viewed negatively as centres of exploitation through which resources are sucked out of the rural population by the unproductive middlemen. Proponents of this school of thought have noted that instances in which SUCs are playing anything like adequate positive role are distinctly rare, and that most SUCs appear as the lowest rung of systems for oppression and exploitation of rural people (Southall, 1979: 2). SUCs are economically linked with their umlands in a variety of exchange activities. These activities can be summarized by the five processes of trade, private capital flows and migration and community employment expansion. Each of these general processes results in economic exchange between urban and rural areas. Nevertheless, if market imperfections exist, urban growth can be detrimental to the development of areas in surrounding umlands, resulting in “backwash effects” (Gaile, 1992: 135). Such kind of backwash effects is exhibited in the form of flow of capital from rural to urban areas, imbalances in government taxation and expenditure policies that favor urban areas.

A number of researchers such as Rondinelli, (1981); Mathur, (1984) and Obudho, (1998) have given attention to the importance of adequate hierarchy of SUCs to serve and support rural development. Based on these studies, recommendations are usually made for the creation of an urban hierarchy of market towns and rural service centres in poor rural areas. In terms of public service provision, the access of both urban and rural populations to, for instance, different levels of education and health care, is maximized by the appropriate location of services in the SUCs. These centres extend some specialized functions to their catchment areas. Administrative functions are usually reflected in the presence of district offices, court houses, police stations and often specialized officials such as an agricultural extension agent. (Rondinelli and Ruddle, 1978).

SUCs at this level usually have health services including physicians and maternity and general health clinic or small hospital. They could also have a small pharmacy, post office and telegraph facilities and be partially serviced with electricity and secondary education. They could also have some small scale financial institutions, either commercial, cooperative or post office banks. In the commercial sector, the market place and the general retail stores are supplemented by specialized shops, photographic studios, beauty salons, electrical appliance shops and furniture stores. The centres are usually linked to a larger settlement by a surfaced road or a railroad (Rondinelli and Ruddle, *ibid*). However, it is not clear how this creation of a hierarchy of centres would necessarily stimulate social and economic

development.

According to UNCHS (1985) provision of accessible urban centres or market centres will not address the lack of land or lack of capital of low-income groups to intensify production. Hardoy and Satterthwaite (1988) fully agree with this argument. They point out that the creation of articulated hierarchies of urban centres in rural areas does not in any way promote social and economic development. There is no economic or social rationale behind the creation of articulated hierarchy in rural areas. Such an articulated hierarchy might develop as a result of social and economic development but not the other way round (Hardoy and Satterthwaite, 1988). In India, SUCs, which lie at the centre of rural and agricultural areas, lack a systematic effort to link their growth and expansion with plans for the development of agriculture and other economic and social activities in the surrounding countryside. Many of the SUCs continue to function like overgrown villages without a positive role assigned to them in the schemes of development. They also have narrow economic base to sustain any viable economic development (Singh, 1971).

2.7 Development of Rural Urban planning Policies in Kenya

Urbanization policies in Kenya started in a rudimentary form between 1900 and the 1950s when decisions were made by the colonial government to locate periodic markets, trading centres and urban centres in various parts of the colony (Obudho, 1984, 1993 and Owuor, 1995). From 1950s to the time Kenya gained independence, most of the physical planning in Kenya was carried out within the statutory boundaries of the urban centres and most of it was “*ad hoc*” with the plans usually taking the form of fully developed land use maps. Comprehensive national and regional development planning for promoting was not adopted until 1964 (Obudho, 1984).

The first National Development plan (1966 – 1970), gave emphasis only to growth of aggregate economy and contained no explicit spatial strategy. But it took cognizance to the fact that regional disparities existed and that there was need for a policy to ensure the distribution of economic growth among the people of various regions. This resulted in a series of studies and surveys on spatial structure of the economy, which formed the baseline for spatial policies in subsequent plans (Obudho, 1984:370, 1997, 1998 and Owuor, 1995).

The second National Development Plan (1970 – 1974), contained a formal commitment to rural development and the beginning of a coherent national spatial strategy. The plan regarded the urban network as having critical importance in the provision of services. The principles and strategies of regional planning in Kenya were summed up as;

“concerned with the development which involves the use of land; promote the movement of people or goods, or modifies the physical environment. It deals with emerging patterns of production and residence, distribution throughout the country of the physical infrastructure of development; roads and railways,public buildings, houses, schools and hospitals. Physical planning in Kenya has two objectives. Firstly, in a national and regional context, to plan a national framework or strategy for the location of capital investments. Secondly, in urban context, to plan both large and small towns in detail, so as to produce coordinated economic land use for developing projects within a satisfactory environment (Kenya, 1970 – 1974: 81).

However as noted by Mwangi (1994), the establishment of growth centres and service centres during this planning period was difficult because resources for implementation were not adequate and planning was centralized.

The third Development Plan (1974 – 1978), reiterated the strategy of directing an increasing share of total resources available to the nation to rural areas. A system of urban places believed to be critical in servicing the predominantly agricultural communities was adopted in the form of growth centres and service centres. This system of urban development was seen as compatible with rural development, since service centres would provide services to rural population.

Table 2.1 *Designated Growth Centres in Kenya*

CATEGORY OF CENTRE	AVERAGE POPULATION	
	RESIDENT POPULATION	CATCHMENT AREA
Local Centre	<300	5,000
Market Centre	<1000	15,000
Rural Centre	<1500	40,000
Urban Centre	4500	120,000

Source: *Government of Kenya, Development Plan, 1974 - 1978*

Nevertheless, at the end of this development period, there was dissatisfaction due to the failure of the spatial policy and the special rural development programmes and the government began to consider other possible approaches to rural development planning. On the urban front, development benefits from the growth and service centres were yet to be realized and assessed (Mwangi, 1994: 86).

The Fourth Development Plan (1979 – 1983), continued with the emphasis on rural development. The theme of the plan was alleviation of poverty throughout the nation. This was to be achieved through the creation of income – earning opportunities and provision of other basic needs such as nutrition, water, health, education and housing. The plan also emphasized dispersal of opportunities and services to the rural areas through the use of service centre strategy.

“Rural development cannot be a self contained process. The rural areas must be knit closely to urban market for both supplies of farm inputs and consumer goods if they are to become an integral part of the monetary economy. The interdependence of rural and urban development suggests that the two must proceed together, and a certain balance must be maintained between them. If urban development proceeds too slowly, the rural areas will suffer from lack of access to supplies and weak demand for their products” (Kenya, 1979: 45).

The linkages between different ranks in the urban hierarchy and the connection between the SUC and their rural umlands were key elements in a national spatial integration (Obudho, 1984: 374). In the last half of this development plan period (1983), the District Focus for Rural Development Policy (DFRD) was enacted. Based on this policy, the districts were made the lowest level of decentralized planning and management of development. But, this change in planning strategy was abrupt and did not put the growth and service centre model in the context of district planning. Decentralization to the districts did not consider the possibility of using the local government system, which relies on civic political process and closeness to the communities as an alternative structure (Mwangi, 1994).

The Fifth Development Plan (1984 – 1988), laid emphasis on promoting a better balance of development among the various regions in the country. To achieve this, the plan indicated that, selected SUCs would be developed so as to provide direct services to their catchment populations and intermediate service to the many non – urban centres within their service

areas. The spatial planning guidelines implicit in the designated service centre policy were to serve as the basic criteria for siting public sector investments. The District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD) strategy was further elaborated on in this Fifth Development Plan and it came out as the most articulate documentation of decentralized planning (Kioko, 2003).

In essence the DFRD strategy asserts that the district based projects implemented by the government of Kenya could be identified, planned and implemented at the district level. The theme was further reiterated in the Sessional paper No. 1 of 1986 on “Economic Management for Renewed Growth” (Kenya, 1986). The development strategy, outlined in the paper, hinged crucially on balanced development of rural and urban areas. The primary aim of the strategy was to promote the development of an urban system that supported the growth of agriculture and the development of rural areas (Kenya, 1986: 42). This in turn would generate productive employment opportunities in non-farm activities. Using this Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1986, the government shifted from growth and service centre to Rural Trading and Production Centres (RTPC) as the strategy for implementing equity in the context of spatial planning. RTPC strategy was intended to promote growth and development of selected urban areas.

The Sixth Development Plan (1989 – 1993) maintained that rural – urban balance could be achieved by dispersing development activities to as many parts of the country as possible. The plan focuses on the promotion of rigorous growth of SUCs so as to curb migration from rural areas to principal urban areas. The rapid expansion of SUCs will also achieve greater integration between agriculture and other non-agricultural activities and especially the small-scale enterprises.

“Availability of the necessary infrastructure and facilities in those centres (SUCs), will further expand the range of services available to rural communities especially through offering effective markets for agricultural products while at the same time creating easier access to agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, farm implements and machinery with necessary repair and storage facilities (GoK, 1989: 75 – 76).

The Seventh Development Plan (1994 – 1996) sheds light on the government’s frustration with its rural – urban balance policy. It points out that, even though the development of urban centres was still vital in achieving rural urban balance, many urban centres had been unable

to provide the necessary infrastructure and facilities mainly because of their weak financial resources and as a result the urban centres are unable to finance new infrastructural facilities or maintain existing ones. The plan also indicates that not much success had been achieved in the development of Rural Trade and Production Centres (RTPCs). It is on this admission by the government that its policy on rural – urban balance and growth centre strategy has failed to meet its target, which this current study is hinged on.

2.8 Small Urban Centres being Growth Centres in Kenya

The selection of growth centres in Kenya, leaned very heavily on the well known concept of central place theory (Kimani and Taylor, 1973: 15) Growth centres are an integral part of the concept of development planning as outlined in the development plan (Kenya, 1974). The plan designates rural growth centre as foci of trade, social services and communications which serve surrounding farm area and which can significantly alter the pattern of migration and provide more even development of the nation as a whole (Kenya, 1974, 1978). If the quality of rural life is to be improved, then people in the rural areas must be provided with basic services such as health facilities, sanitation, water, power, education and a variety of others. It is advantageous to adopt a package approach and concentrate such services in one place (Kimani and Taylor, op cit). Concentration in selected centres ensures that input of capital resources into the rural areas is used with maximum possible efficiency and to the greatest possible benefit of the regional economy and the convenience of the local people (Kenya, 1984).

Nevertheless, in spite of the noble intentions of the government in using the small urban centres to foster development in rural areas, the process has not achieved the desired objectives. This is perhaps explained by the inherent weaknesses of the central place theory and growth centre concept upon which the development of SUCs were pivoted on. It has been noted that the central place theory is weak in that it does not explain growth phenomena. It is argued that the spatial structure of a region does not come into being at once, but is a result of process of time, in which certain things come first and depending upon configuration, determine other things. In this regard, it would seem that the selected network of growth centres in Kenya, which was patterned dominantly, but not exclusively, on central place theory, may be adequate for providing the most efficient spatial pattern of services but is less adequate for stimulating economic and social development in the rural areas in a dynamic sense (Kimani and Taylor, 1973).

Likewise, although policies on SUC by the Kenya government focus on urban dispersal, decentralization or deconcentration, such policies generally remain “top down”, being articulated and implemented from the political centre. Analyses have indicated that “top down” planning or development from above has seldom been successful (Simon, 1992). This is primarily due to the fact that the strategies are conceived, organized and implemented from the centres of political and economic power, often with little, if any, regard for the views and interests of the supposed target areas and groups. As a result of this, there has been increasing disillusionment with this approach and a number of scholars have proposed the “bottom up” strategy. This is a strategy which professes to be people centered in a manner diametrically opposite to “top down” policies (Obudho, 1998).

Several studies done in Kenya have given the empirical analysis of the critical role played by SUCs as growth centres and whether or not they have been effective in enhancing rural development and eliminating rural urban imbalance. Mireri (2006) observes that the implementation of the growth centre policy in Kenya has faced many obstacles. Lack of explicit selection criteria of designated urban centres, he notes, makes it difficult to identify urban centres with the best growth potential. In the absence of objective selection criteria, other considerations for example political expedience may result in the choice of wrong centres and inappropriate investment package.

Njau (1980), Makhulo, (1985), Ochanda, (1989), Nyatwongi, (1997) and Olwa, (2001) have identified several factors that affect the growth and development of SUCs in Kenya. Njau (1980) focused on physical development problems of planning small urban centres using the case study of Limuru town. The study revealed a number of development problems that face Limuru town, namely; inadequacy of infrastructural facilities and services, legal status of land, high land values, environmental pollution; urban sprawl of substandard housing in the peri urban areas and lack of skilled personnel and resources. But this study confines itself to the defined scope, which is a consideration of general land legal status and infrastructure facilities and services.

Makhulo (1985) found out that the location of the District Headquarters in Bungoma and the rapid growth of commerce have influenced it to grow into a major service centre for the whole district. Nevertheless, Makhulo only focuses on factors affecting the growth of the centre without considering the effect of such growth on the social, economic and

administrative development of the centre and its environs. Ochanda (1989) concluded that the continued search for appropriate growth centres is an indication that development can be brought to a region if such centres can meet the conditions desired to bring such development. He pointed out that strategies adopted have not effectively addressed themselves to the desired conditions. The study indicates that in order to stimulate umlands productivity through service provision, the designated growth centres need to have a large population of entrepreneurs and a high demand of consumer goods both within the centre and in the umlands. But, the study focuses more on the selection criteria of rural trade and production centres without analyzing the effect of growth of such centres on the socio economic and administrative development process.

Nyatwongi (1997) observes that small urban are faced with a myriad of problems making them incapable of stimulating the rural economy. These include inadequate infrastructural facilities and services, land scarcity, skilled personnel and political interference. These problems, he notes, lead to environmental pollution, overcrowding, insecurity, housing problems and financial inadequacy. Olwa, (2001) observed that measures that the government has put in place; particularly on policy papers have not enabled the people to work their way out of poverty. She further points out that the private sector investments have not been attracted into the service centres, basic community services are still lacking and there is weak interaction between the business community, the farmers and institutions. But, the scope of the study was limited to looking at the economic variables such as production, consumption, distribution and income related multiplier effects.

In assessing the effectiveness of rural and urban planning policies in Kenya, it can be argued that while the topic of rural – urban relations has a long history in development theory and planning, there is no remarkable achievement of the intended objectives of these policies. Studies have suggested that the past strategies have resulted to piecemeal economic growth with the little benefits accruing more to urban areas than rural areas (Kioko, 2003: 51). It has further been noted that most spatial policies for regional development in Kenya, just like in most developing countries, have been conceptually flawed in their treatment of space in relation to other facets of the political economy and because the relationships between different geographical scales of analysis and action have frequently been inadequately articulated. There is also a clear evidence that even in rural regions which have been relatively successful in development terms, there are substantial interpersonal disparities and

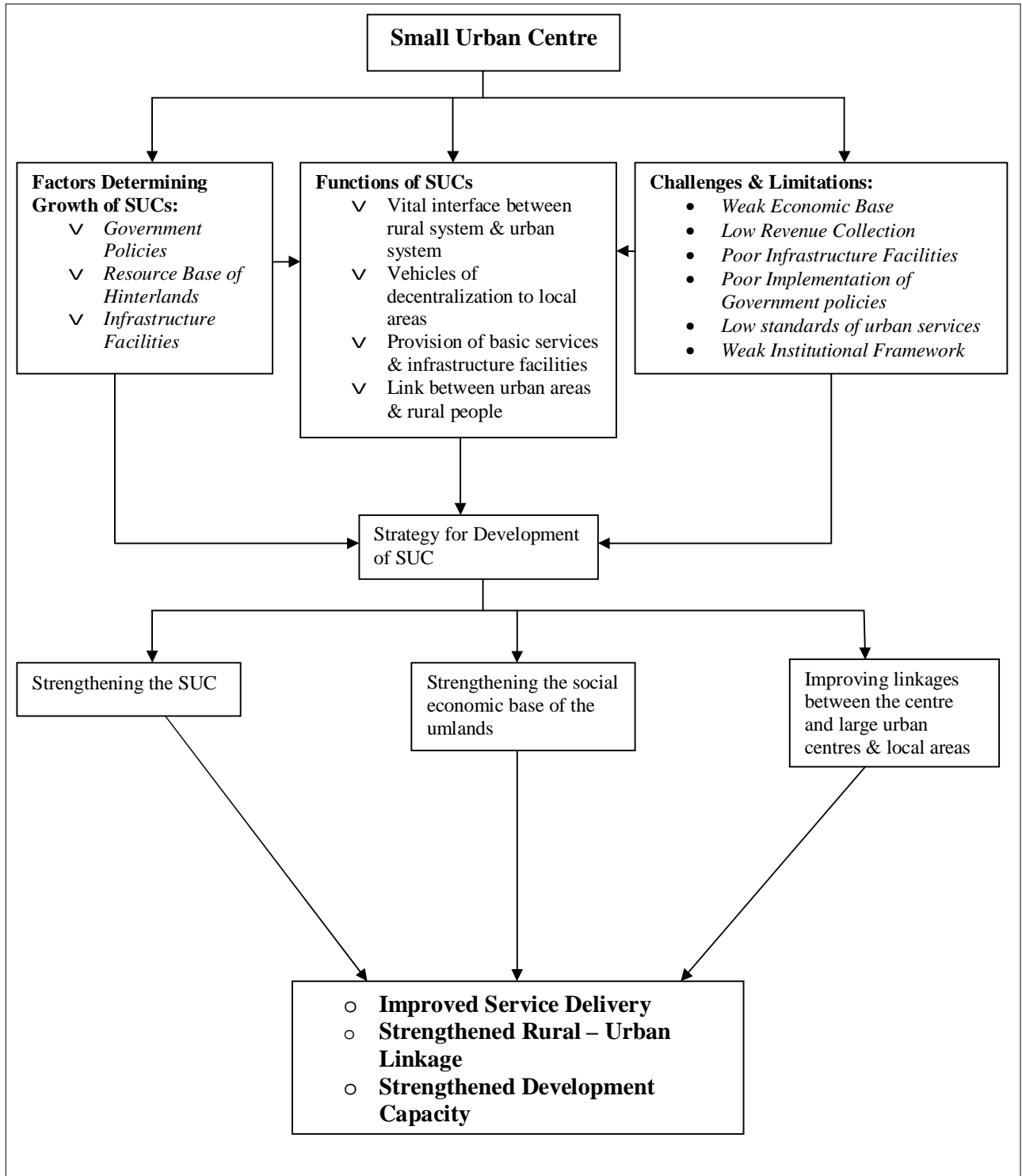
that the direct benefits of growth have gone to only a few. In discussing the development of AUC and its elevation to become the Nyando District headquarters, this study shows that its role has been to channel impulses of development to its environs. Also, in analyzing the strategies for development of SUCs that have been implemented in Kenya, the contention that these strategies have largely failed, particularly as ways to resolve the problems of uneven development will be addressed.

2.9 Conceptual Framework

It commonly argued that urban centres would grow rapidly where agricultural and other economic production increases and it is typical of market centres to expand in response to vigorous localized rural development. Studies on rural – urban interactions such as that of Rondinelli (1984) found out that the quality and diversity of small urban centres depend on the development in their hinterland instead of the other way round. SUCs with prosperous agricultural surroundings tend to be more differentiated and more resistant to the dominance and by – pass effects from the higher order centres. From the literature reviewed, it emerged that there are factors that determine growth of SUCs. These factors include among others, resource base of umlands, infrastructure, government policies and also the local population.

On the other hand, there are challenges and limitations faced by these centres such as, inadequate infrastructure, poor implementation of government policies, low revenue collection and narrow economic bases. In order to improve the delivery capacity of the SUCs, appropriate strategies and policies should be put in place and such strategies ought to be aimed at strengthening SUCs, strengthening the social and economic base of umlands and improving the linkages between the centre and the larger urban centres and also rural umlands. Based on these, the study has come up with a conceptual framework for the development of small urban centres. This conceptual framework is illustrated in the figure below:

Fig. 2.1 Conceptual Framework *A Framework for Small Urban Centres Development Strategy*



Source: Author, 2008

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 Research Methodology

3.1 Introduction

The main aim of this chapter is to provide a justification for the types of data used in the thesis, method of their collection and statistical analytical techniques adopted in data analysis. This chapter explains the sources of data collected, sampling frame and sampling design, pre processing and processing procedures, together with the relevance of the analytical techniques used. The first step of this study involved an extensive review of past studies done on small urban centers. This formed the basis on which the study proceeded. The literature gave the researcher a clearer perspective and a deeper understanding of the study problem.

The second step entailed a reconnaissance survey of the study area and was aimed at observing the study area in detail so as to have good background knowledge of the area. The reconnaissance survey also enabled the researcher to identify the authorities, who later became important sources of secondary and primary data during the data collection process. The relevant authorities were also briefed on the impending research project. It is also during this reconnaissance survey that appointments were made for later primary data collection and consultations. Prior to the actual survey that was undertaken, a Research Authorization (Appendix 6) and Research Clearance Permit were obtained from National Council for Science and Technology. Further, approval of Nyando District Commissioner was sought and obtained (see Appendix 7).

3.2 Location of the Study Area

This study was located in Awasi urban center and its immediate umlands. The area lies within Nyando District of Nyanza Province in Kenya.

3.3 Population

The accessible population was made up of all the households living within and around Awasi urban center. In this regard therefore, all the households of Awasi urban center as well as those in the rural umlands surrounding Awasi center formed the population of study. Based on the 1999 Population and Household Census, the population of Awasi and its immediate surrounding which is made up of two sub locations namely, Border I sub location and Border

II sub location, is 9,279. The total number of households in these two sub locations was 1,910 based on 1999 census. Nevertheless, the number of households within AUC is much less; given that the two sub locations cover relatively large parts of the surrounding rural areas. The study thus presumed that the number of households within the centre could be about a half of the total number of households in the two sub locations. The study also included the administrative officers, government officials as well as institutional heads as part of the study population.

3.4 Data Requirements

The study required data concerning the social, economic and administrative activities, which are undertaken in AUC as well as the environs. This was looked at in terms of finding out how the growth of AUC has contributed to the facilitation of these activities and subsequently the development of the region. In addition, the problems that the centre faces in performing its social, economic and administrative functions were also analyzed. The data was analyzed within the following framework:

1. Major activities within the centre and the rural umlands.

- § Economic activities – Trade, business, entrepreneurship, crop farming and livestock keeping.
- § Social activities and services – Education, health, housing and water and sanitation.
- § Administrative activities – Provincial administration and local government.
- § Constrains that hinder service delivery.

2. Institutional framework.

- § The role of various government and non-government institutions in development planning of AUC and its rural umlands.
- § Weaknesses of this institutional arrangement.

3.5 Sampling Frame

Empirically supported generalizations are usually based on partial information because it is often impossible or extremely expensive to collect data from all potential units of analysis covered by the research problem. Nachmias and Nachmias (1996) believe that researchers can draw precise inference on all the units based on a relatively small number of units when the subset accurately represent the relevant attributes of the whole set. On the strength of this, this study sought to select a more representative sample so as to obtain accurate results hence

samples were obtained from the residents of AUC, those of rural umlands and also those carrying out business activities within AUC. Also included in the sampling frame were the government officials and other institutional heads.

3.5.1 Sample Size

A total of 81 households in the study area comprising those of the centre and those of rural umlands were interviewed. In addition, 30 entrepreneurs within AUC were interviewed. For the institutional heads, interview schedules were used. This sample size was considered adequate due to the fact that, depending on the method of analysis, a sample size lying between 30 to 100 may be large enough to assume normalcy when other statistical conditions are observed (Oluoko, 2006 citing Clark *et al*, 1986) The sample frame was greatly influenced by the meager financial resources available to carry out the study as already noted in the limitations of the study. Therefore, it was necessary to adopt a less expensive and less time consuming procedure but one, which covers the study topic satisfactorily.

3.6 Respondents

This study targeted the following groups of respondents for interviews:

- (i) The households within Awasi urban center
- (ii) The entrepreneurs doing business within the centre
- (iii) The households of the surrounding rural hinterland.
- (iv) The administrative officials, Government officers and other institutional heads.

3.6.1 Households within the center

For effective interview of these households, they were sampled based on clusters. The clusters were identified as follows; settlement adjacent to Awasi – Chemelil road formed the first cluster, settlement behind the Catholic Church and along Awasi – Katito road formed the second cluster and settlement next to open air market formed the third cluster. Within each cluster, random sampling was conducted to ensure that a representative sample is obtained. Random sampling is considered as the best technique of selecting a representative sample, because every item of the universe has an equal chance of inclusion in the sample (Kothari, 2004). A total of 41 households were sampled for interview. Likewise, the business entrepreneurs within the centre were also sampled for interview. A total of 30 questionnaires were administered to these business people who were randomly sampled.

3.6.2 Households of the rural umlands

This group of sample was further divided into clusters through the use of road network. Those who live along Awasi – Kisumu road formed the first cluster. The second cluster is formed by those who live along Awasi – Chemelil route, while those on Awasi – Katito route formed the third cluster and lastly, those on Awasi – Kericho route forming the fourth cluster. A radius of 6 kilometers all round was covered. Within the clusters, random sampling was conducted and a total of 40 questionnaires were administered to the various households.

3.6.3 Administrative officials, Government officials and Institutional heads

The most appropriate method of sampling that was used was purposive sampling. This is because it was the only method that could ensure that representative samples were obtained. Government Ministry officials were selected for interview. Administrative officers such as the county council elected officials, as well as the heads of community based organization; non-governmental organizations were also interviewed.

3.7 Sources of Data

The use of both primary and secondary data sources in this study was inevitable, as this is a spatial planning study, which deals with issues in relation to space, location and time. The primary data also assists in filling in the identified data gaps and supplement the secondary data in order to arrive at expected results.

3.7.1 Primary Data

The collection of primary data was undertaken through the use of questionnaires, interview schedules, observation guides as well as focus group discussion.

3.7.1.1 Data Collection Instruments

3.7.1.1.1 Questionnaires

These were the major instruments that were used in data collection. The questionnaires consisted of both open and close-ended questions, and were administered to household within the center and those in the immediate rural hinterland.

3.7.1.1.2 Interview Schedules

These were used especially to supplement the questionnaires, particularly when interviewing the administrative and government officials.

3.7.1.1.3 Focused group discussions

Focused group discussions offer the researcher the opportunity to study the ways in which individuals collectively make sense of a phenomenon and construct meanings around it (Bryman, 2004). During the field survey, focused group discussions were undertaken with the liaison with the county council chairman and also the local administration officials namely the District officer and the Chief of Awasi location.

3.7.1.1.4 Observation guide

Observation guide was used to assist in obtaining data through a systematic and selective way of watching the phenomenon under study. Through observation, the researcher was able to capture some information through digital documentation and photography. Kothari (2004) points out that subjective bias is eliminated, if observation is done accurately.

3.7.2 Secondary Data

Secondary data was obtained from different libraries. These libraries were the University libraries, District Information and Documentation Centre (DIDC) library in Kisumu, UNEP library among others. Other additional sources of secondary data included topographical maps and photographs. These have been used to provide information on the study area, agro ecological conditions and other details of assistance to the research effort. There are also other sources of data, which were used, namely, district development plans, and statistical abstracts, Nyando county council business register, books and other relevant documents published by different organizations and government offices. The main sources of demographic data and information were 1989 and 1999 population census carried out by the Kenya Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). However, it was difficult to get population data for the chosen urban centre and its environs as needed for this study.

3.8 Data Analysis and Presentation

Data analysis was guided by the objectives of the study. Descriptive statistics was greatly employed. Measures of central tendency such as the mean, mode and frequency distribution as well as tables and curves were used to analyze and present the data. Other methods of data presentation that were used included charts, percentages and photographs. SPSS method of data analysis was also employed.

Table 3.1 Analytical Framework

OBJECTIVE	RESEARCH QUESTIONS	TYPE OF DATA	SOURCE OF DATA	ANALYSIS TECHNIQUE	EXPECTED OUTPUT
<i>To examine the social, economic and administrative activities within Awasi and those of the immediate rural hinterlands</i>	What are the existing social, economic and administrative activities in Awasi centre and the surrounding umlands?	Types and nature of: Economic activities Social activities Administrative activities Population Density House density	Household survey Field observations Key informants Literature review	Descriptive Statistics	Activity patterns Location and Distribution Trade activities. Entrepreneurial patterns. Number and types of social services
<i>To identify constraints that hamper the delivery of services by Awasi to its dependent population</i>	What are the factors, which hinder the delivery capacity of Awasi centre to its dependent population?	Existing infrastructure facilities Basic social services State of the infrastructure Strength of economic base	Household survey Field observations Key informants Literature Review	Descriptive Statistics (Frequency distribution, central tendency, variability)	Household demand of basic social services Supply of essential facilities and services Level of provision of administrative services.
<i>To examine the institutional arrangement and establish the roles played by each institution and also identify the problems faced by them</i>	What is the existing institutional framework in Awasi centre and what roles each institution is playing? What problems are they facing in performing their roles?	Types and nature of the institutions Their roles and tasks Institutional linkages Problems and challenges faced.	Literature Review Key informants	Descriptive Relationships	Sectoral contribution to planning and development of Awasi centre. Basis for formulation of management framework Policy indicators
<i>To formulate proposals to improve the delivery capacity of Awasi Centre</i>	How can the delivery capacity of Awasi centre be enhanced	Review of relevant operational policies Community participation Social organization	Focus group discussion Literature Review Key informants Households.	Descriptive	Policy recommendations Management framework Implementation guidelines.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 Background to Study Area

4.1 Introduction

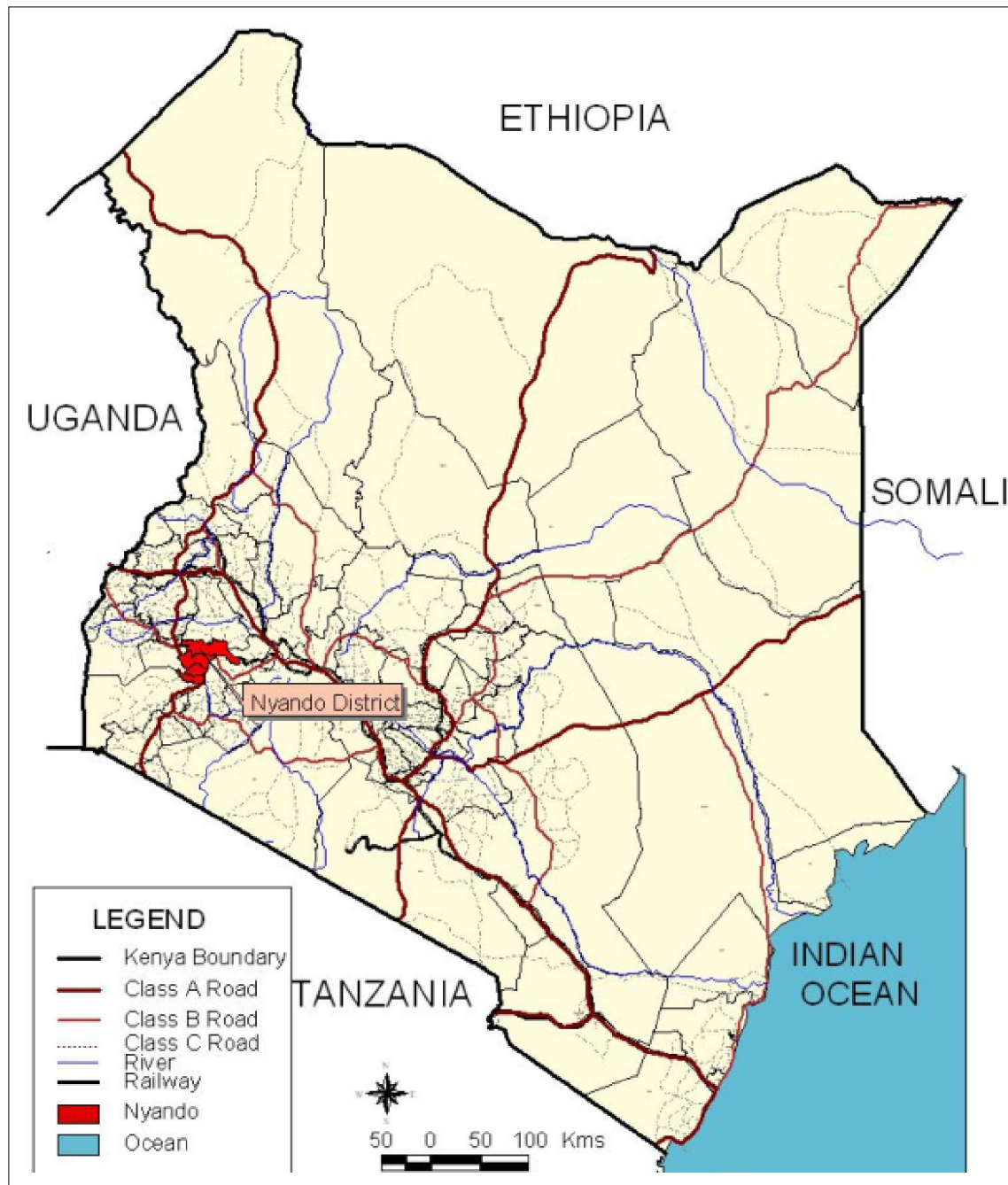
This chapter examines the location, physical background, demographic, resources potential of the study area and the general growth of the urban centre as they relate to socio economic and administrative development of the surrounding areas. Awasi centre was chosen because the centre suffers from myriad development problems, which require attention. In addition, the researcher came from the area and this provided a participatory approach to study.

4.2 Location of Awasi Urban Centre

It should be noted that at the commencement of this study, Nyando District covered the parts of Nyakach Constituency. However, before the end of the study, Nyakach District was hived off from Nyando District. But this study was unable to establish neither the gazzement of Nyakach District nor the boundary between the newly created district and Nyando District. In this regard therefore, any reference to Nyando District in this study means that district which existed before Nyakach was curved from it. Awasi centre is located in Nyando District which is one of the many districts in Nyanza province. This small urban centre, hosts the Nyando District Headquarters. Nyando District was curved out of Kisumu District in 1998.

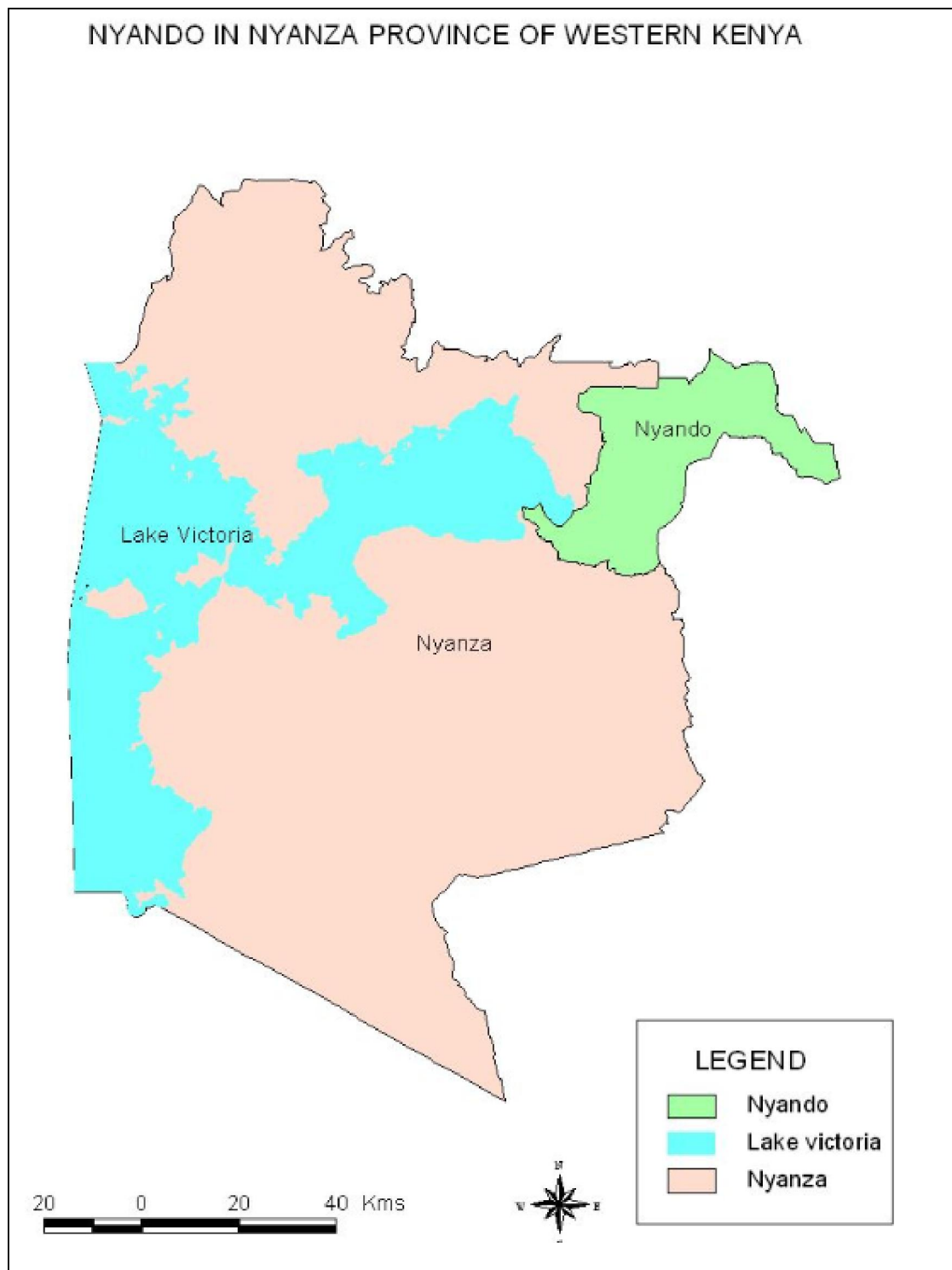
The district borders Kisumu East district to the west, Nandi South district to the North, Kericho district to the east and Rachuonyo district to the south. The district has a small shoreline to the southwest, where it touches Lake Victoria. It lies between longitudes $34^{\circ} 4'$ East and latitudes $0^{\circ} 23'$ South and $0^{\circ} 50'$ South (Kenya, 2002). Nyando district has a total land area of $1,168 \text{ km}^2$ and is divided into five administrative divisions namely, Upper Nyakach, Lower Nyakach, Miwani, Muhoroni and Nyando within which AUC lies. The centre is located on the junctions of Chemilil – Katito and Kisumu – Kericho – Nairobi highway, within the coordinates $0^{\circ} 10' 0''$ South and $35^{\circ} 4' 0''$ East. It is about 50 kilometers from Kisumu city and 350 kilometers from Nairobi. The centre covers an area of approximately 3 km^2 .

Map 4.1 Location of Nyando District in Kenya



Source: DEPHA at [www: depha.org](http://www.depha.org)

Map 4.2 Nyando District in Nyanza Province of Western Kenya



Source: Produced by the Author from Kenya Administration Boundaries Data

Map 4.3 Location of AUC in Nyando District

LOCATION OF AWASI IN NYANDO DISTRICT



Source: Produced by the Author from Kenya Administration Boundaries Data

Plate 4.1 *Satellite Image of Awasi Centre*



Source: http://travelingluck.com/Africa/Kenya/Nyanza/_200758_Awasi.html#local_map

4.3 The Physical Background of the Study Area

According to Sagerson (1952) as cited in Oluoko (2006), Nyando District, where Awasi is located, is dominated by the Nyanza Rift Valley with two escarpments, which have their origins in the Tinderet volcanic massif astride the valley in the east. The physiographic features consist of scarps formed by the rift faults having East – West to ENE – WNW direction which shapes the Kavirondo Rift branching from the main north – south oriented Rift Valley system. Foot slopes are typically along the Nandi escarpment in the north and Mau escarpment in the south. A gently sloped piedmont plain and very flat alluvial plain (Kano) are widely spread in the region. The Nyando escarpment, also forms the Songhor valley in the east, and represents the northern part of the escarpments to the Kisian/Nyahera escarpment. In the south, the southern escarpment stretches from Koru/Fort Ternan area to include the Nyabondo escarpment of South Nyakach location.

The altitude ranges from 1,800 metres above sea level in Nyabondo plateau to 1,100 metres along Kano plains. For the areas around Awasi centre, the altitude varies around 1,300 metres above sea level at the river valleys to about 1,352 metres above sea level at the highest section of the Angoro plateau and consists of steep slopes on the southern sides of the plateau as well as undulating grounds. The floor of the Rift Valley is occupied by lacustrine sediments deposited

by the formerly more extensive Lake Victoria during the end Tertiary to the Pleistocene period. On the slopes of Nyando escarpments, are found colluvial/alluvial soils eroded from the escarpments, while the Koru/Fort Ternan and Awasi plateau are occupied by volcanic cones contemporaneous with the Tinderet volcanic massif or Tertiary to Recent lava flows, which cap the Nyabondo plateau in the south. Sandy red soils derived from granite are mainly found in the foot and piedmont along the escarpment.

4.4 Geology and Soils

4.4.1 Geology

As far as the geology of the area is concerned, National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) (2008) Report, gave a detailed description of the area, and is the major reference for this section. The study area is underlain by rocks of Precambrian age. The rocks are of volcanic and plutonic origin. The main rocks include Nyanzian groups of rocks, which have been invaded by regional batholiths, diorites and giant quartz veins. These are masked in places by Pleistocene deposits that include soils and laterite. The Nyanzian group is represented in this area by phonolitic lavas divided into three main groups namely, the Kenya type, the Losoguta type and the Kericho type. The phonolite rocks are essentially basic basaltic lavas that were extruded from the Tinderet volcano. These lavas flowed extensively to the west across the head of Kano plains during the Pleistocene times. The lavas rest on tuffaceous and agglomeratic beds of Miocene age and exhibit undulating topography. The more common variety of the phonolite rocks show a ground mass consisting of finely crystalline plagioclase, pyroxene and magnetite, while olivine and augite are porphyritic.

The greater lower area is underlain by a succession of sediments. These deposits are both fluvial and lacustrine in origin and vary from talus scree through colluvium (Recent) to finer gravels, sands, silts and clays (Pleistocene). The former being derived from erosion of the neighboring landmasses, essentially the Kericho hills and the Angoro plateau. The finer materials are found further away from the hills and in greater thickness. The most important structural phenomenon in this area is faulting and associated fracturing/jointing. Faulting in the area is associated with the formation of the East African Rift Valley and hence the Kavirondo Rift (trending East from Lake Victoria). The major fault/joint directions in the rocks of the area are in the East – West and North West – Southeast directions respectively.

4.4.2 Soils

According to Jaetzold and Schmidt (1982) the soils in this study area were developed on sediments from lacustrine mudstones. Such soils are said to be developed on alluvium from undifferentiated Basement system rocks (planosols, arenasols, solonetz, vertisols and fluvisols). They are moderately well drained to poorly drained, shallow to deep and very deep, very dark grey to black, firm to very firm and could be sandy, clay to loamy in nature or slightly sodic cracking clay, with calcareous deeper subsoil. These soils in Kano plains (former lake sediments) occur in Awasi, Wawidhi and Onjiko locations of Nyando division and Nyang'oma in Miwani division. Similar soils are the ones scattered within Chemelil and Muhoroni divisions and Koru and Fort Ternan locations.

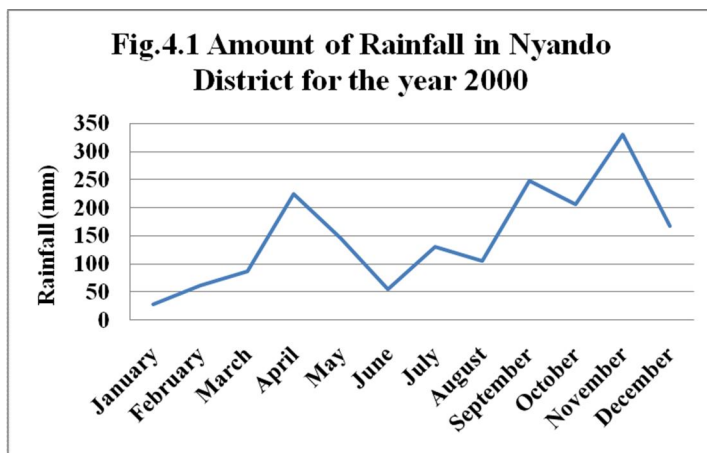
In Awasi area, the soils in the higher areas of the region such as Pala and Angoro plateau, are of low fertility and are shallow, moderately well drained, besmirched brown and loose sandy silts (predominantly sub angular quartz particles), in many places rocky, bouldery and in some places with acid humic topsoil. The lower areas of Oren, Nyang'oma, Wang'anga and Thurbie areas consist of soils, which are imperfectly drained, very deep, dark grey to black silty clays of varying salinity and sodicity. In general, the soils of the Awasi area have been leached exhausted as a result of their age and are poor as well as worn out in many places. They are generally of low natural fertility. Jaetzold and Schmidt (1982) point out that more than 75 per cent of the area forming the Nyando district is unsuitable for economically successful small-scale farming. Extremely heavy soils combined with a warm climate, relatively low annual rainfall and repeated flooding make farming a heavy burden.

4.5 Climate

Climate of any region is a function of interplay of factors such as altitude, latitude, character of prevailing winds, proximity to the sea or any sizeable water body and topography. The vegetation cover and pressure are equally significant. Climate is one of the most important factors in the lives of households. It influences the type of crops they grow as well as land allocation to various crops. In Nyando District, the general area experiences a hot and humid type of climate. This has a significant influence on agricultural activities through elements such as temperature and rainfall having a bearing on floods and droughts.

4.5.1 Rainfall

Rainfall amounts and reliability are very important factors in determining the types of activities suited to an area. In this area, the rainfall is controlled by the northward and southward movement of the Inter – Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). In addition, the altitude, proximity to the highlands and nearness to the lakeshore causes considerable spatial variations in rainfall. The areas with minimal rainfall are around the plains and the lakeshore areas, while the highland areas have high rainfall. The study area experiences bimodal rainfall, with long rains received from March to June and is associated with heavy flooding. The short rains are received from September to November and they are moderate and erratic.



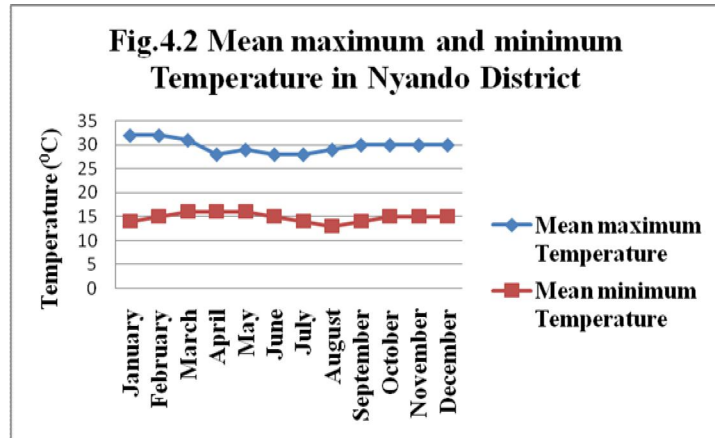
The reliability of the second rains (short rains) is so low and they are so scattered, that the cultivation of a second annual crop is very difficult. It is also difficult to define clearly the second growing period. The mean annual rainfall ranges between 600 mm to 1,630 mm.

Source: Oluoko, 2006

The mean annual open water evaporation for the area is relatively high at about 2,000 mm/year, while the annual rainfall – potential evaporation ratio is around 60 per cent. Water stress occurs especially after the second rains, which are feeble and not very reliable (450 – 600). Therefore, there is only little storable surplus for the real dry season with its peak being in January. Water scarcity in this area is therefore an ever-present problem. The erratic nature of rainfall makes it difficult for a well planned agricultural development programme. In addition, the recurrent floods and drought result in destruction to crops and livestock, thereby having a significant effect on the economic base of the area.

4.5.2 Temperature

The area is a relatively hot area with annual average minimum temperatures averaging between 9 degrees centigrade and 14 degrees centigrade, while annual average maximum temperature ranges between 27 degrees centigrade to over 35 degrees centigrade. Excessive temperature cause high evaporation rate leading to drying up of a number of water sources, particularly during dry season.



Source: Jaetzold and Schmidt, 1982

4.5.3 Wind

The wind direction is essentially in the southwest to northeast and vice versa depending on the time of the day. However, no data exists on detailed understanding of wind flow characteristics.

4.6 Drainage Systems

The general drainage pattern is from east to west. Most parts of the Nyando district are dominated by the tributaries of the Nyando River, which drains into Lake Victoria and the associated alluvial sediments from the meander systems of the river as it flows through Kano plains. Nyando River has a catchment area of 3600 Km². The main drain channel is river Nyando rising in the Mau escarpment forming a deep V – shape valley in the hilly area. It has three major tributaries namely Ainabngetuny, Kipchorian and Awach each forming a water catchment. Nyando River has a steep gradient in the upstream but the gradient gentles downstream in the Kano plains. In the lower parts of the region, the river dissipates in a swamp area and finally discharges into the Nyakach bay in Lake Victoria. The maximum-recorded flow for the river is 377 m² and the annual average flow is 15.5 m³. The river and other smaller rivers and streams cause flooding in the Kano plains, where due to shallow depths and low gradient, they often overflow their banks, with devastating effects on resources and the population settled in these areas.

The Miriu/Sondu River, which is more recent and still cutting down its valley floors, is found in the south where it occupies the southern boundary of the Nyando district in the south and west Nyakach locations. Closer to AUC, there is a seasonal stream called Nyaidho, which is a source of water for livestock as well as for domestic use. However, this stream dries up between August to October and January to March periods of the year. Inventory of the existing water supply indicate that a majority of the people in Awasi area are largely dependent on Nyando and Nyaidho rivers as well as shallow wells and various low yielding springs from Angoro plateau for their water supply. The development of water storage reservoirs along the river Nyando could greatly reduce water problems in Awasi area. But it has been noted that the water from Nyando River is heavily polluted from effluents discharged into it by sugar factories established upstream. The only option available therefore, is to harness water from a distant River Oroba, draining from Nandi hills and still having clean, unpolluted water.

4.7 Agro ecological zones

Jaetzold and Schmidt (1982) gave a rather comprehensive description of the agro ecological zones of the whole district. This study finds it apt to give this general description so as to bring to clear focus the conditions in Awasi centre and the surrounding hinterlands. SW Nyakach, Oboch, South Nyakach and Sigoti fall within upper midland 3 (UM3), UM2 and Lower Midland 2 (LM2). The UM3 is a coffee zone with a medium to long cropping season, intermediate rains and short to medium ones. The LM2 is marginal sugarcane zone with a long cropping season, followed by a (weak) medium to short one and intermediate rains. Kochogo, Kakola, Wawidhi, N Nyakach, N.E Nyakach, Nyalunya and Asao were found within the LM4 zone. That is, the marginal cotton zone with a (weak) medium to short cropping season and intermediate rains. Ombeyi, N.E Kano, Nyang'oma, Awasi and Onjiko were in LM3 – Lower Midland cotton zone, with a medium to long cropping season, intermediate rains, then followed by a (weak) short to very short rainy season. Chemilil, Tamu, God Nyithindo, Muhoroni, Koru and Fort Ternan are found within the Lower Midland 2 (LM2). There is a good potential for sugar cane growing and to minimal extent cotton growing as well as peasantry agriculture and livestock keeping for subsistence.

4.8 Vegetation

The vegetation cover of the study area varies according to elevation, due to its effect on climate. Some areas of Nyando District have more vegetation than others. Hilly places and those places bordering the escarpments are more vegetated than the plains of Kano. The vegetation of Awasi area is typically classified as shrubs and bushes and largely consists of thorny bush and shrub with very few trees. There are also scattered sisal plants, thicket and short grass. The major plant species in the area include acacia trees, *Euphorbia Candelabrum*, Guava (*Psidium Guajava*) and *Lantana Camara*. Undergrowth in most parts is largely scanty and there is thin grass cover, which allows for bare soil and rocks to be easily seen. Rare occurrence of herbal trees has been noted in the area. These include Eucalyptus, *Ipomoea Kituensis* variety, Ficus which treats venereal diseases and dysentery and also *Tylosema Fassoglensis* which is taken to cure constipation and other gastro intestinal problems, is available. Nevertheless, on the lowlands areas such as Nyang'oma, Thurbie Nyatao, Pawteng' and other areas, the vegetation has been replaced by sugar cane farms.

4.9 Population and Demographic factors

The pattern of population growth raises a number of critical issues in socio – economic development process. These include, access to education, providing adequate food, providing health services, providing employment opportunities and providing shelter and housing. Nearly all aspects of rural development are related to population size, composition and spatial distribution. What is important to planners is a clear understanding of the interrelationship between demographic, economic and social factors. The population of Awasi centre is very difficult to establish. However, using the population of Border I sub location and Border II sub location within which Awasi centre falls, the population of the centre and its immediate surrounding can be derived.

Based on the 1999 population census report, the total population for these two sub locations was 9,279 with a density of 227 per square kilometre. Other demographic characteristics of the population of the centre and the peripheral umlands are as follows:

Table 4.1 Demographic characteristics

Crude Birth Rate	40/1000
Crude Death Rate	15/1000
Life Expectancy	Males – 38 years Females – 43 years
Infant Mortality Rate	116.1/1000
Under Five Mortality Rate	212/1000
Total Fertility Rate	5.7
Male/Female Ratio	100:104
Dependency Ratio	100:99

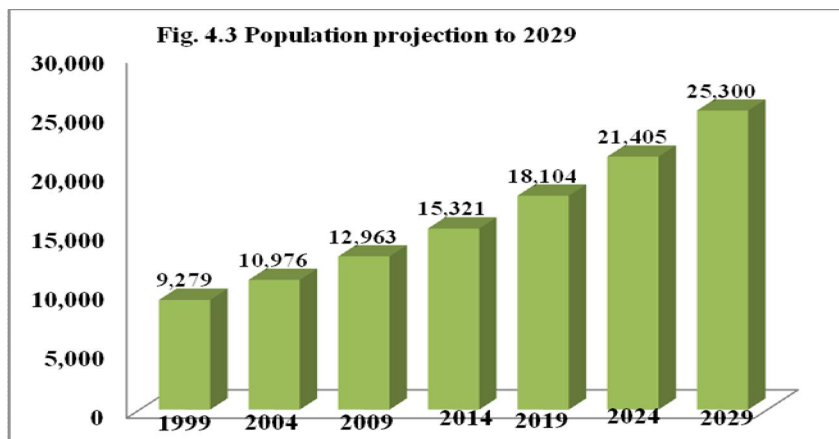
The population of this area is characteristically youthful with over 44 per cent falling below 15 years of age. This has significant implications to planners as this youthful group requires provision of specific facilities which include among others, nursery, primary and secondary schools. Planners also need to consider provision of employment opportunities for these people.

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

The population growth rate of the entire Nyando District within which AUC lies was found to be 3.4 per cent. Using the population projection formula $P = P_0 (1 + r/100)^n$ and assuming that the growth rate remains constant the population of the two sub locations (Border I and Border II sub locations) can be projected as below:

Table 4.2 Population projections

Year	Population
1999	9,279
2004	10,976
2009	12,963
2014	15,321
2019	18,104
2024	21,405
2029	25,300



Source: Central Bureau of Statistics - Kisumu

§ Migration

There has been noticeable migration of people from the rural areas to AUC in the recent couple of years. This migration has observable gender bias and has tended to be male dominated. These

is because the types of informal jobs available are relatively labour intensive and as such are in most cases only suitable for men. According to economic theory, individuals migrate from low wage to high wage areas seeking to maximize their earnings, which are conditioned by their human capital and the chances of getting a job at destination. From this perspective, rural – urban migration is very likely, given the differences in wages typical of rural and urban areas. True to form, AUC has attracted migration from rural areas such as Kibigori, Ombeyi, Lisana, Anding’o Opanga, Cherwa, Kabondo and Pala among other parts of the larger Nyanza Province. In addition, the elevation of status of the centre brought with it a new wave of migration into the centre, embodied by the newly posted civil servants, regular and administration officers as well as other people attracted merely by the centre being made a district headquarter and hoping that such an elevation would bring with it improved business and employment opportunities.

4.10 The Resource Base of the Umlands

The Awasi area falls within the lower midland cotton zone with a medium and a fully (weak) very short cropping season. The surrounding hinterland is well known for its long established sugar cane farming. But Jaetzold and Schmidt (1982) indicate that the area is not good for sugar cane because of its relatively low rainfall. The average annual rainfall is only 1,100 – 1,500 mm, while 1,500 mm are considered as the lower limit for sugar cane cultivation in the tropics. The main economic activity in the hinterlands is the small-scale sugar cane farming combined with subsistence farming of food crops and livestock rearing. It has been documented that a total of 125, 348 persons work in the agricultural sector in Nyando district.

Nevertheless, despite existing potential for growing of food crops and livestock rearing, food production has been hampered by poor crop and animal husbandry, and inaccessibility of some areas of the hinterland. In most cases, the residents of the rural hinterland have low or no income, which affects their capacity to own or even hire agricultural implements. As a result, farmers harvest very small yield and consider inputs an uneconomic investment. Almost no farmers keep improved cattle and about 10 per cent of the grazing livestock are sheep and goats. To this end, the lasting improvement of the socio economic situation of most small-scale farmers of Awasi area can only be achieved through large investment in drainage and irrigation by the government. There are also limestone deposits in Koru area, granite rocks for ballast around Awasi centre, clay for brick making in Nyabondo plateau and sand deposits from small streams in Nyakach.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 Social, Economic and Administrative Activities in AUC

5.1 Introduction

The origin and development of SUCs in Kenya can be traced back to their functions as centres of administration, economic and social services, or a combination of these (Obudho and Aduwo, 1990). The historical perspective of urbanization process in the country reveals that pre colonial; colonial and post colonial urban centres were and still are centres of administration, economic and social services (Owuor, 1995). These urban centres are central places in as much as they perform centrality functions to their umlands. Although located in widely dispersed ecological as well as cultural environments, SUCs provide more or less, similar conditions for administrative, economic and social activities. Through these activities, SUCs have the potential of establishing continuous and enduring relationships with their umlands. This chapter will therefore, taking into account functions of Awasi centre, discuss the economic, social and administrative activities that exist in the centre and also its immediate umlands. The problems that the centre faces in nurturing these activities will also be highlighted in this chapter. The chapter will begin by giving a brief overview of the growth and development of Awasi centre.

5.2 History of the Centre

The trade activities currently congregated at Awasi centre traces their origin at a location just beyond Pala area, at the border of Nyanza and Rift Valley provinces. This location was referred to as *Adhiegra* because of the flourishing barter trade particularly in milk and butter from the two neighboring communities, the Luo and the Kipsigis. Apart from being used in cooking, apparently, butter was used by the women as a jelly to apply on their skins, hence the name *Adhiegra*, meaning “to apply jelly on the body and glisten or sparkle”. The trade in agricultural produce flourished but not without occasional flare-ups and tribal clashes between the two contiguous communities. Consequently, the Luo community shopped around for a suitable location for a trading centre far away from their supposedly belligerent neighbors.

In the late 1930s, an Asian entrepreneur set up a store at a point along the Kisumu - Nairobi road. This store - house was initially used as a stockpile of cotton produce from the local farmers. It was given the name *Store pamba*. Later, this store doubled up as a small shop (*duka*), where

goods such as sugar, salt, tea leaves, bread etc were sold and bought. This marked the beginning of Awasi as a trade centre. The Asian trader had set pace for the locals, and thus a number of progressive individuals from the local community ventured into the shop business by establishing small shops in close proximity to the store - house. The shops at that time were constructed using timber and tins (*debe*). While others were mud walled and grass thatched. The establishment and development of the small *dukas* at this location were accompanied by relocation of trade and market activities from *Adhiegra*, at the border of Nyanza and Rift Valley to the present location of Awasi market.

The centre continued expanding with more shops, hotels and bars serving traditional liquor (*busaa*) being constructed. At this point in time, the centre was called *Ladhri*, meaning a place of petty trade. This was due to the fact that virtually all the traders in the market engaged in petty trade. In mid 1940s, the entrepreneurs at Awasi market started building relatively large shops using bricks, concrete and iron sheets. Growth and expansion of this market was inevitable. This meant surrendering of the land in this area by the owners. The indigenous clans around the area, who also claimed ownership of the land where Awasi market is located included, the Koguta, Wang'aya, Watombori, Wang'anga, and Jo Kakmie. Members of these clans who had money managed to construct business premises on their plots of land, while those without the wherewithal, sold off their pieces of land to those who could buy them. The growth and development of Awasi market was gradual and progressive enough to attract the attention of entrepreneurs from as far as the Central province of Kenya.

In 1950s and 1960s, traders of the Kikuyu community acquired several business premises within Awasi and ended up dominating the trade activities in the market. These entrepreneurs had initially set up their businesses at Kisumu town but later expanded to Ahero and Awasi markets which were easily accessible from Kisumu. This situation was however brought to an abrupt end in the year 1969, when Thomas Mboya, a prominent Luo politician and a government minister, was assassinated in Nairobi, allegedly by a person from the Kikuyu tribe. The resultant reaction by the Luo community to this political assassination saw them evict all the traders of Kikuyu ethnic origin from Awasi market and all other urban centres and towns in Luo Nyanza. This had serious repercussions on the business and economic activities in these centres in general and Awasi in particular. For instance, in Awasi, the ownership and operation of the small shops and

other business premises reverted back to the locals, but it was apparent that the growth and development of the centre had severely been affected by the exodus of the Kikuyu entrepreneurs. It took quite a while for the market to recover from the expulsion of the Kikuyu traders.

Awasi started playing the role of administrative centre when the office of the Assistant Chief of Border Sub location was established in the market in the mid 1970s. Much later, in the late 1980s, Awasi became the headquarters of Awasi Location, when it was hived off from the former South East Kano Location. During this time however, AUC was still one of the many market centres falling within the Kisumu county council, with the offices of this local authority being located in Kisumu town. This changed in 1998, with the creation of Nyando District and the establishment of its headquarters at AUC. Nyando County Council offices were also set up in the centre and hence Awasi centre acquired a new status among the other surrounding small urban centres as well as urban centres of higher order such as Ahero, Muhoroni, Katito and Chemelil.

5.3 The Centre and Its Environs

Awasi centre currently provides the focal point for a number of activities. These activities range from social, economic to administrative activities. Economic activities undertaken in AUC include manufacturing/fabrication/processing, distributive and commercial as well as services such as transportation among others. The social activities and services in the centre include religion where AUC hosts headquarter parishes for churches such as Catholic, Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK), African Pentecostal Church, African Deliverance Church and several other smaller Christian denominations. There is also a place of worship for the Muslim believers. In addition to the churches, there are schools and a health facility within the centre. Table 5.1 below gives a summary of the current activities in AUC. For the administrative activities, there is the Nyando District headquarters, Nyando County Council headquarters and Awasi Location Chief's office.

Table 5.1 *Activities in Awasi Centre*

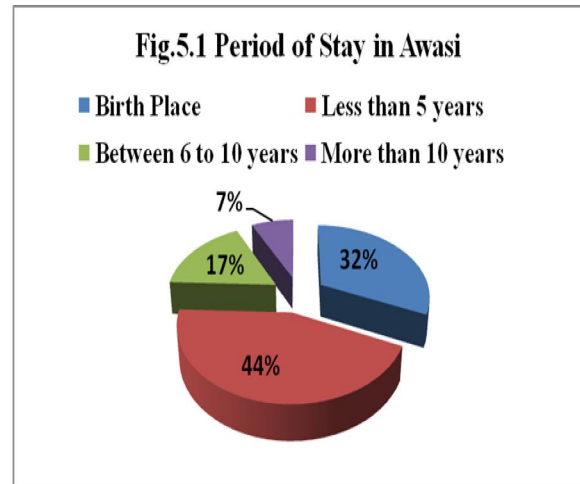
Economic Activities	(a) Manufacturing/Processing/Fabrication activities - Carpentry - Tailoring and Dress making (b) Distributive/Commercial activities - Retail shops - Whole sale (c) Services - Hotels - Hair salons and Berber shops
Social Activities	(a) Education – Nursery, Primary, Secondary schools (b) Health – Dispensary, Clinics (c) Religion – Faith based organizations, churches
Administrative Activities	(a) District Headquarters (b) County Council Headquarters (c) Location Headquarter.

Source: Compiled by the Author, December 2008

The increase in these activities within the centre has led to a number of people coming to live in AUC, hence rapid population increase. From the survey of the residents of AUC, forty four per cent of the respondents have stayed in AUC for less than five years. With 32 per cent of the respondents having AUC as their birth place, and 17 per cent having stayed in AUC for between six to ten years and only 7 per cent have stayed for more than ten years, it clearly emerges that majority of the residents of AUC are recent immigrants. These people migrate from the rural umlands to the centre to engage in various social, economic and administrative activities that the centre offers. This has significant implications for planning of this upcoming SUC, as this population of fresh migrants will exert pressure on the services and the facilities within the centre. It is also apparent that the migration into the centre was highly influenced by the designation of the centre as district headquarters. This is because majority of people migrated to AUC after 1998 when it was designated as a district headquarters.

Table 5.2 *Period of stay in Awasi*

PERIOD	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Birth Place	13	32
Less than 5 years	18	44
Between 6 to 10 years	7	17
More than 10 years	3	7
TOTAL	41	100



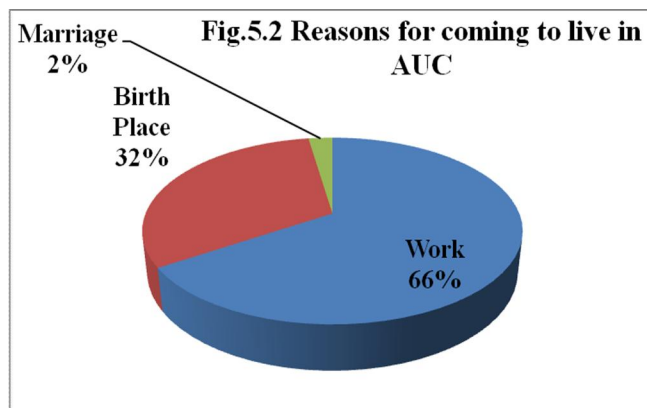
Source: Field Survey, December 2008

✓ Residents of AUC

The survey of the residents of AUC reveals that the main reason for coming to live in the centre is because of work or to enable them engage in the commercial activities that are thriving within the centre. Sixty six per cent of the respondents came from rural umlands and other far flung areas of Nyanza province to live in AUC so as to engage in both the formal and informal economic activities within and around AUC. Thirty two per cent of the respondents were born in Awasi area while two per cent came to AUC because of marriage. This clearly shows that residents of rural umlands believe that Awasi centre could provide employment opportunities for them and hence become a stop gap for rural – urban migration.

Table 5.3 *Reasons for coming to live in Awasi*

Reason	Frequency	Percentage
Work	27	66
Birth Place	13	32
Marriage	1	2
Total	41	100



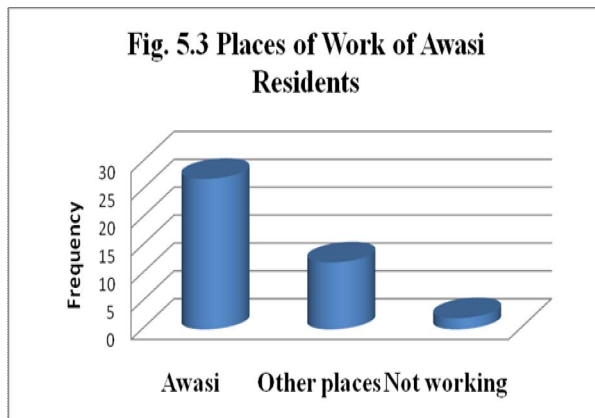
Source: Field Survey 2008

Most of those who reside in AUC are engaged in trade and commercial activities right within the centre. Also, there are those who are formally employed in the government offices and schools and other institutions within the centre. This group of people who are working within the centre formed sixty six per cent of the respondents, while those who reside in AUC but are working outside the centre were 29 per cent of the respondents. Five per cent of the respondents were not working.

Table 5.4 *Place of Work of Residents of Awasi centre*

Place of Work	Frequency	Percentage
Awasi centre	27	66
Other places	12	29
Not working	2	5
Total	41	100

Source: Field Survey 2008



In this study, out of the total respondents living in AUC who were interviewed, 51 per cent indicated that they send part of their income back home (rural areas) as remittances. This has great contributions towards sustaining linkages between the rural umlands and AUC. Such remittance can also go along way in improving the social and economic activities in the rural areas thereby having effects on the development process. 49 per cent of the respondents did not remit money to the rural areas either because they were living in their homes within the centre or the income was too little to send home or were unemployed. The frequency of sending money differed from individual to individual. Respondents' contention was that the amount of money they send home is significantly affected by the income they earn per month.

5.3.1 Economy

Because of strong role they play in offering services and supporting commercial activities, SUCs often act as markets and trade centres for their regions. This has been a historical function that continues to be of crucial importance for regional and national development. AUC was and continues to be primarily a trading centre, which found administrative functions being thrust

upon it. Most commercial activities in the centre revolve around agriculture and the marketing of the agricultural produce. As an economic centre, AUC is the confluence point for the rural population for the exchange of their produce. It is primarily a channel for bulking, sale, distribution and trading of rural products and for distribution of manufactured goods within the rural areas.

Plate 5.1 *Trade in Agricultural goods at Awasi*



Source: Picture taken by Author, December 2008

Held twice a week (Mondays and Thursdays), the market days attract not only the surrounding villages, but also wholesale and retail traders from a wide area including nearby medium and large urban centres such as Ahero and Kisumu. As already noted, AUC is situated at a junction of major roads which makes it easily accessible from both the higher order urban centres such as Kisumu, Kericho, Ahero and Muhoroni among others and also from the rural umlands. A variety of agricultural goods namely maize, beans, cabbages, kales, onions, tomatoes, potatoes, green grams as well as livestock and livestock products are usually ferried to AUC, particularly on market days. The produce traded on, is collected and delivered both in bulk and in small quantities by traders to AUC on the market days, from rural areas.

The goods exchange title and are then exported to other towns or rural areas, including Katito, Sondu, Kipsitet, Ahero, Chemelil among others. Since the Kisumu – Ahero – Kericho and Awasi – Chemelil – Muhoroni roads are tarmacked, perishable goods are easily and quickly transported to their destinations. A good deal of trading is also made among the rural population for foodstuff not locally available. A survey of AUC on one of its market days revealed that out of the 30 buyers and sellers randomly interviewed 21 of them were not residents of AUC but of the umlands.

Table 5.5 *Reasons for visiting Awasi market*

Residence	No	Reasons for visiting market	Nature of goods sold or bought
Awasi Residence	9	Mainly buying	Vegetables, fruits, maize, beans, potatoes, chicken, etc
Residents of Hinterland	21	Selling and buying	Selling: Mainly agricultural produce Buying: Cooking oil, clothes, meat salt, sugar, bread, etc

Source: Compiled by Author, 2008

Plate 5.2 *Sale of second hand clothes and mats in AUC*



Source: Field Survey by the Author, December 2008

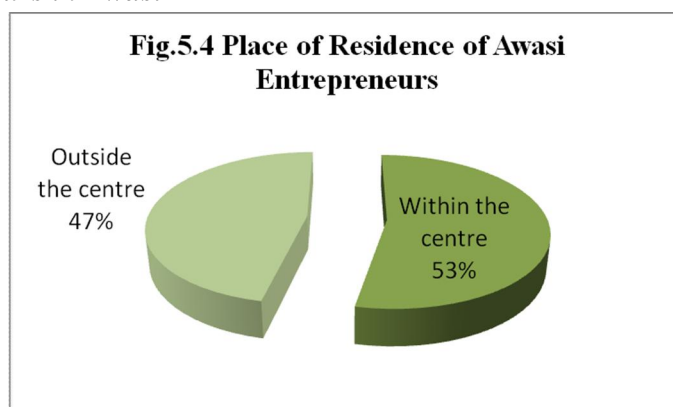
The residents of the umlands visited the market both for selling and buying. They sell mainly agricultural products and in exchange buy manufactured goods from the money received after selling. On the other hand, the Awasi residents come to the market mainly to buy agricultural produce. The population of AUC is mostly supplied with foodstuffs from rural zones. The market day is preferred for shopping because there is a wide variety to choose from since buyers and sellers from different parts converge in one point. However, this does not mean that the residents of the centre do not engage in selling. About 50 per cent of market stalls are owned by the residents of the centre and they usually sell goods to their fellow residents particularly on non – market days.

✓ **Entrepreneurs**

Awasi entrepreneurs have relatively low levels of formal education. Many survey respondents (57 per cent) had only primary education. Twenty seven per cent had completed secondary education and very few (16 per cent) of those interviewed had tertiary education. Formal and informal training not only imparts specific technical skills but also facilitates the development of contact networks. Lack of such training therefore is an impediment to carrying out entrepreneurial activities thereby constraining the development of enterprises and of the centre. The study further established that out of all the entrepreneurs doing business in Awasi who were interviewed, 47 per cent of them live outside the centre and only come in the morning to carry out the business activity before retiring to their homes in the rural umlands in the evenings. Table 5.6 below indicates the percentage of the entrepreneurs either living within or outside the centre.

Table 5.6 *Place of residents of Entrepreneurs in Awasi*

Place	Frequency	Percentage
Within the centre	16	53
Outside the centre	14	47
Total	30	100



Source: *Compiled by the Author, 2008*

Apart from agriculturally – related commerce, the centre supports other significant commercial activities. There are small retail shops, which offer a variety of goods; the list of manufactured items traded are confined to few basic commodities including manufactured clothes, shoes, domestic utensils, consumer goods, agricultural farm inputs, bicycle spares and hardware among others. The sources of supplies of the manufactured goods and other agricultural goods sold in the centre are urban centres of higher order than Awasi namely Kisumu, Kericho, Ahero and even Nairobi. Majority of traders however, buy these goods from the wholesalers in the centre who buy them from these major urban centres. Other goods are supplied directly from the surrounding villages. These include agricultural produce such as vegetables, maize, beans, potatoes, and livestock among others. Other commodities such as mats, pots, baskets, firewood and charcoal also originate from the rural umlands and are brought to AUC particularly on market days.

Table 5.7 *Source of supply of goods for sale*

Source of manufactured and agricultural goods	% of Respondents
Nairobi	10
Kericho	7
Kisumu	23
Ahero	3
Chemelil	3
Wholesalers in Awasi	47
The Villages	7

Source: Survey by the Author, 2008

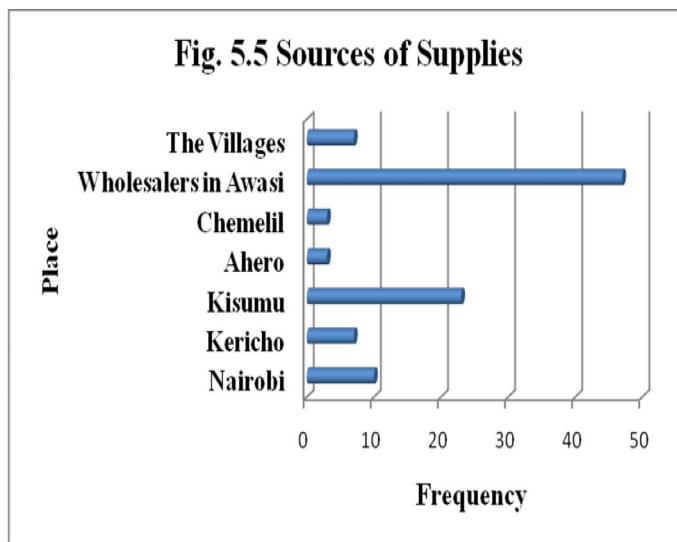


Table 5.7 and Figure 5.5 above should however, not be taken to mean that AUC is the major source of supplies for goods in the area. It should be understood in the context that given the small nature of the trade and business activities in AUC, the few wholesalers within the centre are able to supply all the remaining retail business outlets with the required goods. These wholesalers majorly get their supplies from Kisumu, Ahero or Kericho. From the field survey, it emerged that Kisumu is still playing a leading role as a centre for higher order goods within the

region. 88 per cent of those interviewed in AUC indicated that they go to Kisumu to buy high order goods. 8 per cent said they buy such goods in Ahero. A few people (2 %) said they get such goods from Kericho, while the remaining 2 % indicated that they get the same goods from Muhoroni or Nandi Hills.

It is apparent from this observation that AUC is a centre for low order goods and meeting just the most basic needs. It also emerged from the survey that a number of respondents (74 %) particularly from the rural areas preferred to take their agricultural produce such as livestock, farm produce, e.t.c to Ahero rather than Awasi, because they are likely to get good prices for their produce in Ahero and not AUC. The types of business activities in AUC can be summarized into three broad categories namely, manufacturing/fabrication/processing, distributive/commercial, and services.

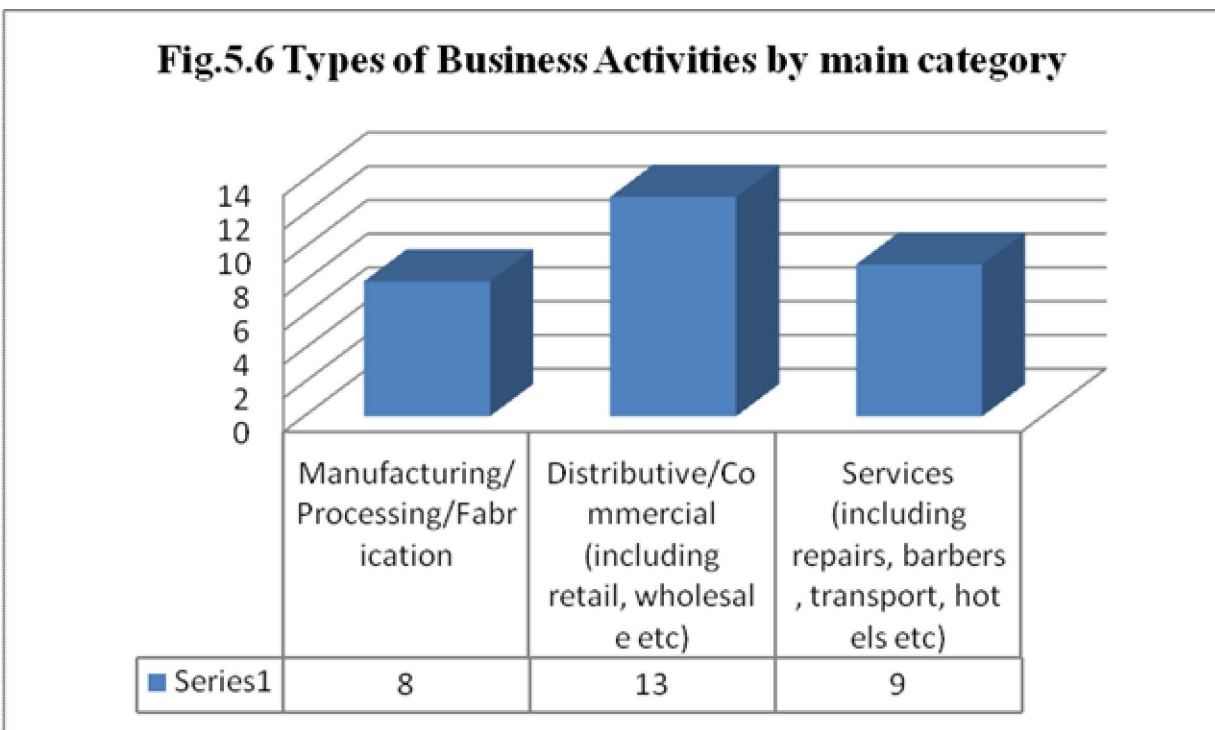
The table 5.8 and figure 5.6 below indicates the type of business and commercial activities in Awasi centre by main category.

Table 5.8 *Types of Business by main category*

Type of Business by main Category	Frequency	Percentage
Manufacturing/Processing/Fabrication	8	27
Distributive/Commercial (including retail, wholesale etc)	13	43
Services (including repairs, barbers, transport, hotels etc)	9	30
TOTAL	30	100

Source: *Field Survey 2008*

Fig. 5.6 Bar Graph showing types of business activities by main category



Source: Survey by the Author, December 2008

The ability of SUC to positively shape the production, employment and marketing opportunities available within the local economy, and thus act as catalyst for local economic development is intimately linked to the size and quality of its enterprise sector. From figure 5.6 above and table 5.9 below, it is apparent that the enterprise sector in Awasi is still relatively small and weak to say the least. Majority of the business activities in AUC are of distributive nature. This generally entails the entrepreneurs selling just a few essential goods in their retail outlets. This is an indication that the economic base of the centre is still narrow and cannot support large scale commercial activities such as large supermarkets, departmental stores, grocery stores among others.

Furthermore, the manufacturing and processing sector which is usually the largest contributor to employment creation is still very small in Awasi and represents only 27 per cent of the business activities within the centre. The entrepreneurs that offer services who accounted for 30 per cent of those interviewed are engaged in basic services that meet the immediate needs of the residents of Awasi and those of the environs. AUC thus has limited production structure but is engaged

more in consumption and distribution. The manufacturing and processing sector is small scale and is catering to the local low income clients. Studies have pointed out that a poor business environment and a weak entrepreneurial base constrain the development of enterprises hence the general development of the area. Enterprises in SUCs such as Awasi can also be undermined by competition from larger urban centres and towns. The table below gives the actual number and type of the business activities in each of the above broad categories.

Table 5.9 *Number and types of Business Activities in Awasi*

Distributive/Commercial		Manufacturing/Processing		Services	
Type	Number	Type	Number	Type	Number
Wholesalers	2	Blacksmith/Tinsmith	6	Public Telephone (Simu ya Jamii)	14
Retail Shops	30	Tailoring/Dress making	23	M – Pesa offices	4
Soda Depot	1	Posho mill	8	Laundry	3
Bread Depot	2	Carpentry	12	Filling station	1
Bars	14	Welding	11	Battery Charging shops	5
Butcheries	5	Open air Garage	3	Computer services	7
Agro-Vet	2			Hair saloons	10
Boutique	5			Barber shops	11
Hardware	5			Hotels	11
Bookshops	2			Clinics	5
Bicycle spare shop	3			Photo studio	2
Pharmacy	9				
Kerosene sellers	3				
TOTAL	83		63		73

Source: Compiled by the Author, December 2008

From the table, it is evident that the number of wholesale and retail shops in the centre is very few. As a result, there is less competition in the market, which tends to lead to arbitrary fixing of prices of essential commodities in the market by the few traders. Subsequently, substantial price difference is not unusual in AUC. This has significant effect on the cost of living, especially for the residents of Awasi and the rural umlands who do not have adequate income.

Table 5.10 (a) Price of essential commodities in Awasi as at December, 2008

Item	Unit	Price in Kshs.
Flour	2Kg	95
Sugar	Kg	65
Salt	Kg	20
Rice	2Kg	90
Cooking Fat	2Kg	320
Beef	Kg	110
Cabbage	Kg	30
Paraffin	Litre	70
AA Battery	Pair	50

Making these low income earners and unemployed people to pay more for these essential commodities, prevents such people from moving out of the poverty bracket. Furthermore, the little they earn will be spent in meeting their basic needs – that is, buying these necessities – leaving nothing for other equally important expenditures such as school fees and other levies. Achieving human development in such conditions is almost impossible. Table 5.10 (a) gives average prices of various commodities in Awasi by December 2008.

Source: Compiled by the Author, December 2008

Table 5.10 (b) Price of goods as at June 2009

The prices of these essential commodities however, have not been static. Indeed, significant changes in prices have been noted in AUC within a very short time. Table 5.10 (b) shows the prices of the same essential commodities in June 2009, a period of hardly seven months. With the exception of cooking fat and paraffin whose prices dropped slightly, the prices of all the remaining commodities have gone up in recent couple of months. The consequences of these ever changing prices for the basic commodities on the low or no income earners in AUC is a life of perpetual poverty, with virtually all the money earned spent on food items.

Item	Unit	Price (Kshs)
Sugar	Kg	90
Rice	2Kg	140
Flour	2Kg	100
Cooking Fat	2Kg	270
Beef	Kg	200
Paraffin	Liter	60
Salt	Kg	20
Beans	2Kg	120

SUCs can potentially play an important role in generating employment opportunities within the local economy. However, in AUC it was found that most of the businesses absorb little labour due to their very small scale. Consequently, very limited wage employment opportunities are being generated for households residing within and around the centre. In AUC, most of the people owning business outlets do not have any employees. Sixty five per cent of those

interviewed indicated that they did not employ anybody in their business premises. Thirty three per cent indicated that they have less than five employees. Only two per cent of those interviewed said that they have more than five employees. This is a clear indication that there are limited if not stifled employment opportunities in this centre. With minimal employment opportunities, comes the low purchasing power hence retarded development.

Most of the business premises (80 per cent) indicated that they serve an average of less than ten customers every day. Only a few business outlets (20 per cent) served more than ten customers every day. Further analysis of this, indicated that this group serving more than ten customers everyday is mainly in the services sector, such as hotels, clinics, transport e.g. *boda boda* among others. The number of customers served per day has a bearing on the amount of income received or the profits made by the entrepreneurs. Low customers means low or delayed profits made hence delayed investment of the same. This in turn has significant implications on the social and economic development of the concerned entrepreneur.

Most of the entrepreneurs interviewed (87 per cent) operated only in Awasi centre doing the same business. Thirteen per cent of those interviewed indicated that they operated in other centres undertaking the same business. This is an indication of the limited and constrained ability of these entrepreneurs to diversify and extend their business activities beyond the confines of Awasi centre. Empirical evidence shows that diversification of income sources is not transitional phenomenon, but a persistent one with great potential for poverty reduction. Therefore, AUC entrepreneurs remain small scale traders incapable of promoting enduring development of the centre and its environs. Similarly, when asked to give the reasons for investment in Awasi centre, most of the respondents indicated that proximity to their homes was the fundamental consideration. Consequently, Awasi is dominated by business people who come from the locality and hence lack input from people from other areas and regions, which could boost the entrepreneurial diversity.

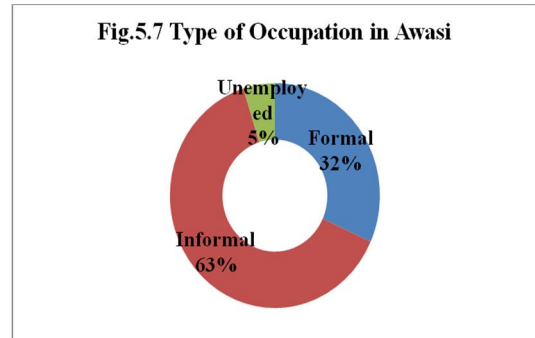
Fifty per cent of the traders interviewed, are not engaged in any other income generating activity. They wholly rely on the one trade activity, which they are undertaking in Awasi. Thirty three per cent of those interviewed and who were mainly residing in their homes but doing business in Awasi, practiced subsistence farming on their plots of land at home. Only 17 per cent

of the entrepreneurs interviewed indicated that in addition to their business activities in Awasi, they also practiced cash crop (sugar cane) farming. This lack of diversification is a further testimony that the benefits of Awasi centre to its people in terms of strengthening their economic muscle is yet to be seen.

AUC has a fair amount of informal sector activities; including hawking, second hand clothes dealers, *jua kali* artisan, bicycle repairing, motor vehicle and tractor repairing, operating bicycle or motorcycle transport services, operating hand carts and repairing shoes and footwear among others. A sizeable number of sugar cane tractor loaders are also found in Awasi. This is due to proximity of the centre to two sugar cane factories namely, Chemelil and Muhoroni. Even though they do their work in the rural sugar cane farms, most of their time including money is spent in AUC. Thirty two per cent of those interviewed in the centre were engaged in formal employment; sixty three per cent in the informal sector and five per cent are not working. Those engaged in formal employment mainly work in the District headquarters offices, county council offices, police officers and teachers in the schools within the centre and others in the umlands.

Table 5.11 Frequency table for type of Occupation

Type of Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Formal	13	32
Informal	26	63
Unemployed	2	5
Total	41	100



Source: Field Survey by the Author, December 2008

A most striking feature of the occupational structure of the respondents is that employment is predominantly in the informal sector. This conforms to a study done by Nyatwongi (1997) on the socio economic influence of small urban centres on their hinterland, a case of Keroka in Nyamira District. Nyatwongi observed that employment in SUCs is mainly in the informal sector. The informal sector, which is growing at a very fast rate, absorbs most of the residents. It should be noted that this sector employs a large number of both AUC and umlands population. As in other Kenyan SUCs, there is a significant amount of small scale or *jua kali* manufacturing in AUC.

This activity has evidently been growing in recent years, perhaps partly due to the government emphasis on its expansion and partly due to the shrinking of formal employment opportunities.

The *jua kali* entrepreneurs in the centre practice a variety of trades including tractor repairs, welding, carpentry, motor cycle and bicycle repairs, metal works etc. The informal sector also employs a large number of young ladies who come to work as bar maids. This is mainly because AUC is a stop over for most truck drivers on their way to cross the border through Busia and/or on their return journey. Based on this evidence, it comes out clearly that AUC has been incapable of providing employment opportunities to its dependent population. People do not venture into the informal sector out of choice but rather out of necessity and lack of a better option. Many enter the informal sector during economic crisis, as a survival strategy of last resort. This unstructured sector has emerged in Kenya as a result of incapacity of formal, regulated industries to absorb new entrants. But, the low productivity nature of this sector and its lack of bargaining power, as exemplified in the case of AUC, mean that household incomes are generally lower than in the formal sector. Furthermore, the very nature of the sector makes earnings more intermittent, and such erratic patterns of earnings tends to disqualify households in the informal sector from access to formal credit mechanisms. From the field survey, it was evident that the unregulated nature of the informal sector makes it difficult and virtually impossible to obtain access to services and supports necessary for increasing earnings and moving out of poverty.

5.3.1.1 Economic Activities in the Rural Umlands

✓ Farming Activities

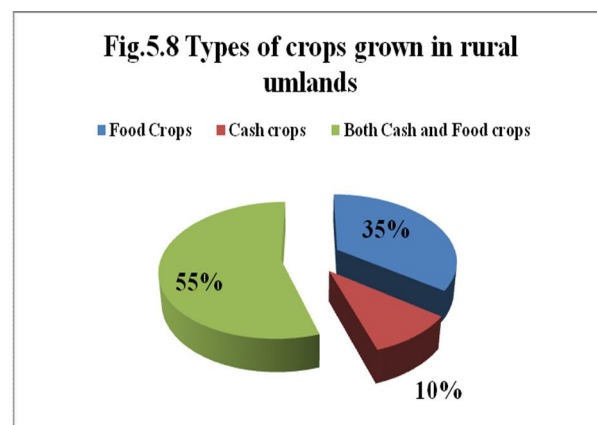
Agriculture is one of the key sectors from which majority of Kenyans derive their livelihood. It accounts for about a quarter of the Gross Domestic Product. Most of the Kenyan households engage in agricultural activities and therefore the sector generates the bulk of the country's food requirements and also provides a significant proportion of raw materials for agro-based industries (KNBS, 2008). It has already been noted that Awasi area and its immediate environs fall within the lower midland cotton zone with medium and very short cropping season. The climate of this area has influence on the farming activities, directly through elements such as temperature and rainfall and indirectly due to floods and droughts. As a result, farmers in the rural umlands of Awasi usually harvest very small yields from their crops. From observations and interviews, yield per acre in kilograms were very low, especially with maize crop. Oluoko,

(2006) points out that droughts and floods influence about 5 and 7.8 per cent of household food production respectively. Poor agricultural practices and plant diseases and weeds such as *Striga*, stock borer, cotton disease, fruit fungal disease, cassava fungal disease and tomato diseases have also contributed to the worsening production situation. Virtually all farmers in this area never use any type of fertilizer on their food crops farms. Fertilizers are only used in a few sugar cane plantations and this is controlled by the sugar companies. The presence of AUC has not made any difference in terms of farmers adopting appropriate agricultural techniques to boost production, thereby spurring development. Farmers still lack access to adequate extension services and this has a major impact on production in the area and as a result development is retarded.

Most of farmers in the rural areas (55%) grow both food and cash crops. Ten per cent grow only cash crops, while 35 per cent grow only food crops. The cash crop grown is sugar cane. Indeed, it has been observed that most of the relatively fertile land is under sugar cane. Consequently, the level of food production is low resulting in scarcity of food. This is confirmed by Oluoko (2006) who observes that Nyando district as a whole could be less than 50 per cent food secure as opposed to what was reported in the District Development Plan, with households having two persons or more experiencing more serious food problems. The food crops grown include maize, vegetables, tomatoes, cassava, potatoes, groundnuts and pineapples among others.

Table 5.12 *Type of crops grown in Rural Hinterlands*

Type of Crop grown	Frequency	Percentage
Food Crops	14	35
Cash crops	4	10
Both Cash and Food crops	22	55
TOTAL	40	100

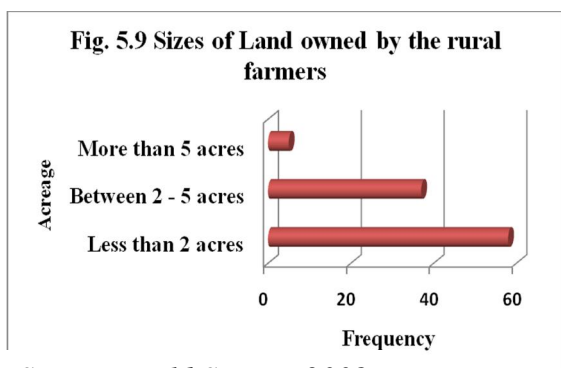


Source: Compiled after Field Survey, 2008

The size of land owned by an individual farmer is greatly linked to the yields such a farmer gets in the production process. In other words, smaller pieces of land result into less and less yields

while large pieces of land if owned by one person and put into proper agricultural production process, greater yields are likely to be obtained. Parcel and holding sizes gives an insight into the farming structure of an area as these have a direct bearing on household capacity for agricultural production. Besides the limited production capacity, small sized parcels are uneconomical to operate.

Land area, as Syagga (2006) observes, is positively related to income when the distribution is above 5 hectares, because smaller portions do not make much economic sense using current production technologies. Similarly, land sizes below 5 hectares are positively related to poverty and negatively related to life expectancy as their production capacities do not make a positive

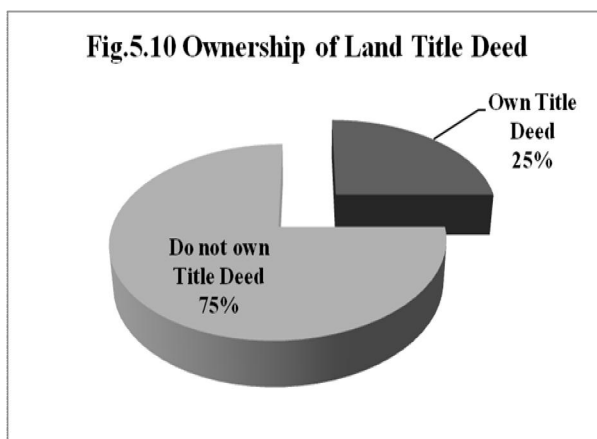


Source: Field Survey, 2008

contribution to the quality of life measured by income. Nevertheless, in the rural umlands of Awasi, the farmers own very small parcels of land. Fifty eight per cent of those interviewed indicated that they owned land that was less than 2 acres in size. 37 per cent owned between 2 to 5 acres, while only five per cent owned more than five acres of land. This has effects on

the yield got by these landowners and subsequent income derived from such economic activities. Prosperous agriculture can underpin rapid local urban development but only if a broad range of small and medium size farmers get good returns from crop production. The greatest stimulus for SUC's development arising from agriculture tends to be where the crops or other commodities produced generate a high income per hectare.

It was evident from the survey that virtually all the farmers own the parcels of land on which they undertake farming activities. Although all the agricultural parcels are owned by the farming households, only 25 per cent have land registration title deeds as shown in figure 5.10. A title deed is a land certificate that



Source: Field Survey, 2008

gives ownership assurance to a farmer, enabling him to cultivate his land without fear of eviction or any other form of prejudice (KNBS, 2007). In addition, land is often used as collateral against financial loans and other forms of credit. However, such land must be registered to be accepted as collateral by financial institutions. Tenure in form of individual title is positively related to income, negatively related to poverty and positively related to life expectancy (Syagga, 2006). Therefore, income and life expectancy increase as more people get titles and poverty decreases. The rural farmers interviewed, pointed out that they do not receive any training on agriculture and that there were virtually no extension services available to any farmer. The only information on agriculture, if ever received, is on sugar cane and from the sugar factory officials from Chemelil or Muhoroni.

✓ Livestock Farming

Livestock farming is still practiced at subsistence level in the rural umlands. Most of the inhabitants rear cattle, goats and sheep. The number of livestock kept per household is quite small and in almost all cases, the livestock kept are indigenous breeds. Grazing for the livestock is carried out on communal land due to land shortage in some areas. Some of the livestock attendants walked up to 7 kilometers to graze their cattle. The goats seem to thrive well, especially in upper parts of Awasi such as Angoro, Pala, Wang'anga and Olasi. This is due to the availability of shrubs in these areas. Poultry is kept on small scale in the area. Both poultry and cattle contributed towards the family food needs through meat, milk and income. Nevertheless, these rural umlands farmers are neither receiving any form of extension services nor sure of a market of their produce at AUC. There are virtually no credit facilities available to the farmers at AUC; hence production levels will continue to remain low with attendant high poverty levels.

5.3.1.2 Income generated to the NCC by the commercial activities in Awasi

As already noted, Awasi centre is one of the centres within Nyando County Council. In this regard therefore, the chief sources of revenue for NCC are rates, licenses, fees and cess generated and/or derived from centres such as AUC. For instance, in AUC the traders pay fees ranging from Kshs. 10 every day for petty traders to Kshs. 4,500 per month for those traders owning large premises. The traders owning large and established premises have to purchase business permits from the NCC. Those engaged in selling and buying livestock pay Kshs. 40 for goats and sheep bought or sold and Kshs 70 for cattle sold or bought in the livestock selling yard in AUC.

Plate 5.3 *Sale of Livestock in Awasi centre*



Source: Photo taken by Author, December 2008

The economic activities within AUC thus, form a major income generating avenues for the NCC. The council also collects market dues for other agricultural produce brought to the market. These agricultural produce include maize, vegetables, groundnuts, beans and even fish including *omena* which is a major delicacy for majority of the AUC residents and those of the umlands. This study singled out income to the NCC generated by sale of single business permits, market dues collection and livestock sales. Table 5.13 below gives a glimpse of the income from some of the sources of revenue for NCC for the year 2007 alone. What is apparent in the revenue generated is that it is very inadequate to finance the numerous activities to be done and a number of services to be offered by the council.

Table 5.13 *Income generated by NCC from Business Activities in Awasi in 2007, in Kshs*

MONTH	ITEM		
	Single Business Permit	Market Charges	Charges on Livestock Sales
January	115,250	291,900	81,530
February	213,450	301,680	81,230
March	282,170	295,591	65,650
April	625,315	537,395	104,570
May	762,845	514,390	33,170
June	787,650	404,214	29,570
July	182,205	391,700	61,490
August	219,600	376,640	NIL
September	315,550	465,060	57,010
October	44,900	516,030	90,780
November	45,050	411,190	80,650
December	30,250	332,650	69,600
TOTAL	3,624,235	4,838,440	755,250
GRAND TOTAL			9,217,925

Source: Compiled by the Author, December 2008

5.3.1.3 Land

AUC, like most of small urban centres in Kenya is less endowed with government land. As such land for public purpose in this centre has to be acquired from private owners. There are therefore two main types of land tenure in and around AUC. These major types of tenure are as follows:

✓ Freehold Tenure

Freehold land is governed by the Registered Land Act (RLA) chapter 300 of the Laws of Kenya. The Act provides that the registration of a person as the proprietor of the land vests in that person the absolute ownership of that land together with all rights, privileges relating thereto.

Approximately 80 per cent of the land upon which AUC is located is freehold (private owned), with some parts still undergoing adjudication. A freehold title generally has no restriction as to the use and occupation. Indeed, individual ownership emphasizes short-term economic interests at the expense of wider and long-term social interests. This has very significant implications to planners as they have no control on the use to which freehold land is put. Consequently, AUC has been experiencing uncontrolled development particularly in residential houses constructions which have sprouted in the fringes of the centre. The situation is particularly worse since this uncontrolled development has particularly contributed to mixture of developments where residential houses are mixed up with the business outlets and even schools particularly Early Childhood Development institutions. Furthermore, there have been numerous informal and uncontrolled subdivisions. Such subdivisions have been identified to be largely concentrated on the Border Adjudication area where the current commercial area is located.

Freehold tenure also has implications on the provision of public utilities and infrastructure facilities for the centre. For instance, provision of sewerage system for the centre will inevitably face the challenge of the type of existing land ownership in this centre. Likewise, the building of government offices, police stations, police lines as well as housing units for the civil servants and other government employees, will entail the lengthy process of land acquisition and compensation. As part of solution to this land problem, Nyando County Council has tried to purchase some pieces of land from their owners. For example, the land on which the offices of the local authority are located was purchased from the owner on a willing buyer, willing seller basis. The government of Kenya through the provincial administration has also been working towards acquiring some pieces of land within the centre, but the process has not been completed.

✓ **Trust Land**

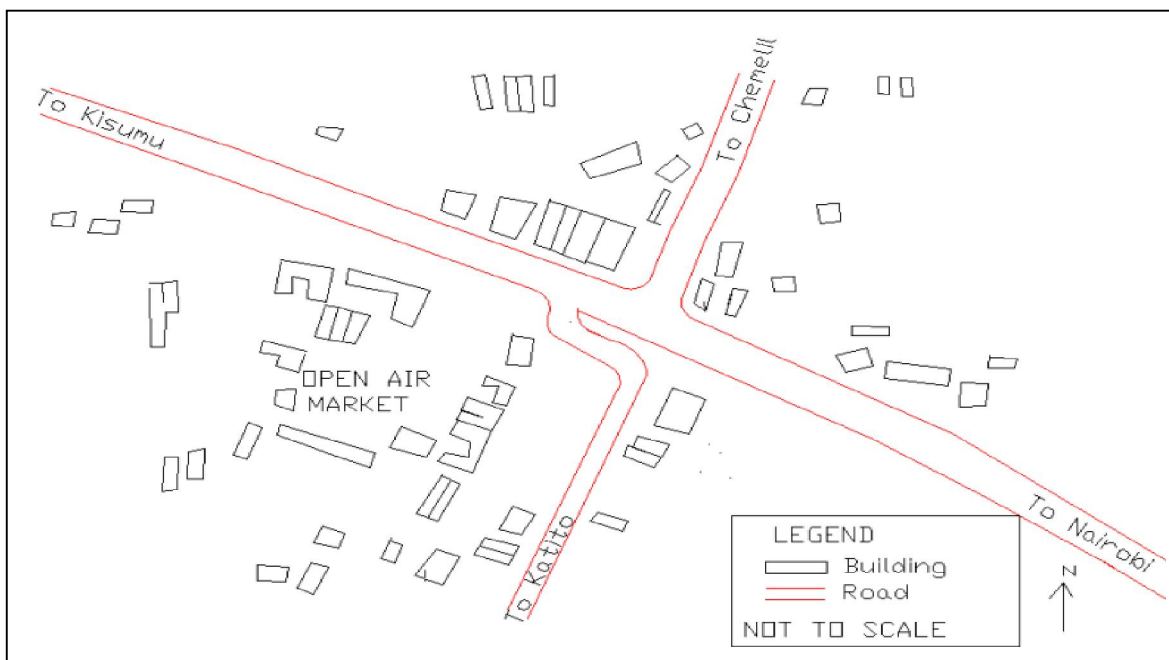
Trust land is governed by the Trust Land Act, chapter 288 of Laws of Kenya. The land is held in trust for the benefit of persons ordinarily resident on that land in the area of the county council. In this respect, Nyando County Council holds all the trust land within its jurisdiction on behalf of the local people. The county council gives effect to such rights, interests and other benefits in respect of the land under the existing customary law. In AUC, trust land covers the centre's commercial hub including the area of open air market as well as the area where District headquarters offices are located. In addition, NCC holds other pieces of trust land in Kibigori

centre and the contiguous settlement scheme. The actual sizes of the existing trust land in AUC or for all the pieces of trust lands held by Nyando County Council could not be established as such records, by all accounts, do not exist. Also, the process of setting apart and/or reserving land for public purpose is still incomplete and unclear.

5.3.2 Transport Infrastructure

The importance of transportation to the development of SUCs and their contemporary role as regional marketing and trade centres has been recognized (Rondinelli, 1983). Good access between SUC and large towns and between SUC and farms, according to Ngau (1989), is essential. Transportation plays a critical role in distribution and transfer of goods and services not only between the centre and its umlands but also with other parts of the country. The physical access that rural producers have to markets in SUCs and the extent of these urban centers' connection to wider networks of regional and national urban centres, are key influences on their development. Poor or inadequate road coverage therefore, affects both the agricultural production and effective provision of social services such as health and education. On the other hand, the location of SUCs is very critical. SUCs located on road axes, along railways or coastal areas have better links with wider market networks. AUC is strategically located on a junction of the Kisumu – Nairobi highway, Awasi - Chemelil road and Awasi – Katito road. This location of AUC is of strategic significance and could perhaps explain why AUC was designated as a district headquarters upon Nyando District being carved out of Kisumu District.

Map 5.1: Illustration of the location of AUC at a junction of major and minor roads.



It is served by a network of classified roads, rural access roads, special purpose roads and government roads. The roads include, Awasi – Kisumu road, which is classified as A₁ and has a traffic volume of 2,500 vehicles per day; Awasi – Chemelil road, classified as C₃₇ and is connecting AUC to Chemelil and upper parts of Nyando district, namely Songhor and Kopere. This road has a traffic volume of 1,520 vehicles per day; finally Awasi – Katito road classified as E₂₂₀, which connects AUC to Katito, Sondu, Pap Onditi and other parts of the larger Nyakach. Goods and services can be seen being transported from one point to another. Agricultural produce from the entire district finds their way to other destinations through the road network. Various other goods also find their way to AUC through the existing transportation network.

5.3.3 Social and Community services

Social services can contribute to the quality of human resources and to the general standards of living in a community. Public investment in water supply, waste disposal and energy helps determine the productivity of labor force and economic enterprises. Distribution of social services and facilities is crucial not only for promoting economic growth but also in creating social equity and in improving the quality of life. AUC provides a location for health, education, religion, housing, cultural and recreation activities for its own population as well as the surrounding umlands. As a small urban centre, with a fairly large catchment area, AUC is expected to make available to the dependent population wide range of social services to meet not only the needs of those residing within the centre, but also those from the umlands. To this end, AUC has within it a number of essential social services to cater for the needs of this group of people. Such services include education facilities, health facilities, water supply, housing, and churches among others.

5.3.3.1 Education

Education is an investment in human capital. Empirical evidence based on endogenous growth models shows that human capital is a key determinant of economic growth. Indeed, sustainable development is only possible if there is a critical mass of skilled people. Education can reduce social and economic inequality. Investment in education is an important strategy to address inequalities and thus facilitate faster economic growth. For an area to achieve the desired economic growth targets and social development, a high priority needs to be placed on the development of human capital through education. There are a number of educational institutions

within AUC, catering for the needs of the school going children within and around the centre. Three public primary schools are located just at the fringes of the centre with a fourth public primary school being in the immediate umlands. This brings to four, the number of public primary schools which serve the centre's school going population.

There are also two private primary schools namely, Hills View Academy and Roseate Academy, as well as private Early Childhood Development Institutions (pre- primary sections). The public primary schools also have the ECD sections and this brings the total number of Nursery schools accessible to Awasi residents to seven. They include; Ladhri pre primary, Roseate Academy Nursery, St. John Bosco Nursery, St. Agnes Nursery, St Nicholas ACK Nursery, Watoto Wetu school and Awasi Hills View Nursery school. For the private nursery schools, parents of the children who attend such institutions have to pay the required fees for their children to benefit from their services. This makes such institutions a preserve of those with reliable income. Those without stable income are compelled to make do with the public nursery schools or none at all. Public primary schools within and next to Awasi include, Ayucha primary, Paw Teng' primary, Awasi primary and Kamunda primary school. The table below gives a summary of student populations in primary schools in AUC.

Table: 5.14 (a) Student Populations in Primary Schools in Awasi as at July 2005

Name	Enrolment		Total	Number of streams
	Girls	Boys		
Paw Teng'	231	224	455	Std 1 – 6 : 2 Streams Std 7 – 8 : 1 Stream
Awasi	271	263	534	Std 1 – 7 : 2 Streams Std 8 : One Stream
Ayucha	324	332	656	2 Per Class
Kamunda	67	70	137	1 stream each class
Total	893	889	1,782	

Source: Ministry of Lands, 2005

There has been a significant increase in student population in AUC. This perhaps is explained by high enrolment rates brought about by introduction of universal free primary education in Kenya. The increase in population could also be attributed to in migration to AUC by people from the rural umlands. This increase in population poses a challenge to planners in as much as meeting the educational needs of the children are concerned.

Table: 5.14 (b) Student Populations in AUC by February, 2008

Name	Enrolment		Total
	Girls	Boys	
Paw Teng'	331	276	607
Awasi	280	261	541
Ayucha	327	338	665
Kamunda	60	69	129
Total	998	944	1,942

Source: Nyando District Education Office, December 2008

According to the District Education Officer, the existing public primary schools cannot accommodate the expected school going population. For instance, by 2004 the enrolment ratios for the district were 117 per cent for boys and 104 per cent for girls. These figures indicate an increase in enrolment in schools above the district's projected school going age. Even though the given figure is for the whole district, the DEO confirmed that this was the general trend and schools within Awasi are affected by the overwhelming enrolment rate. The situation is exacerbated by the migration into the centre, particularly from far flung areas of the district, such as Nyakach, Katito, Wawidhi, Milenye, Masogo and Kibigori among other places.

Furthermore the student to teacher ratio has raised a lot of concerns to the education stakeholders, given the wide gap. For instance, Ayucha primary school with a student population of 665 and double stream for each class, has only 8 teachers to handle this large population. The teacher – pupil ratio of this school alone is 1: 83. Awasi primary has 9 teachers handling 541 students, while Paw Teng' has 11 teachers for 607 pupils and Kamunda has 5 teachers dealing with 129 pupils. The UNESCO approved Teacher – Pupil ratio is 1: 25. In this regard therefore,

there is a high teacher – pupil ratio in AUC and this suggests that each teacher has to be responsible for a large number of pupils. Shortage of teachers has been identified as one of the factors affecting the performance of students in national examinations. Effective learning and teaching can hardly take place in a setting where there is high teacher – pupil ratio.

There are two secondary schools in AUC namely, Awasi Mixed Secondary school and Ayucha Secondary school. Awasi secondary school has a total enrolment of 334 students; 207 boys and 127 girls. It has a total of 8 classrooms (dense streamed). Ayucha secondary school is a new school established next to Ayucha primary school. It has a student population of 208 students; 119 boys and 89 girls. These two secondary schools are expected to not only meet the post primary education needs of the residents of Awasi, but also those of the rural umlands extending to as far as Ombeyi and Chiga areas of Nyando district. With such a large catchment area, the schools are obviously inadequate for the population. In addition, other essential educational facilities such as well equipped laboratories and libraries are missing in these two secondary schools. This inadequacy in number of secondary schools as well as the required facilities for secondary education has led to negative impacts on the school going populace exhibited in the form of poor results in the national examinations. Without good results in the national examinations, the young individuals cannot proceed to the next level of education. Low education levels are a hindrance toward getting employment. Therefore, the students who fail to get good grades in school, in most cases also fail to secure employment and thus the vicious cycle of poverty continues.

5.3.3.2 Health Services

Urban centres usually provide appropriate points for the location of health facilities not only for the residents of that particular centre but also those of the rural umlands. In Kenya, most public health facilities such as dispensaries, health centres, district hospitals and even provincial hospitals, are more often than not, located in urban centres of similar status or that commensurate with the level of services offered at such facilities. In this regard therefore, Awasi being a district headquarters is supposed to have a district hospital within it. However, there are no public health facilities within AUC. The existing health facility in AUC is the Awasi Catholic Dispensary which is owned and operated by the Catholic Church. In addition, the centre also has a number of private clinics operating from inappropriate facilities. The proliferation of these private clinics

has been mainly due to absence any public health facility in the entire centre. The nearest public health facility is at Nyang'oma, about three and a half kilometers from Awasi along the main Awasi – Kisumu road. Majority of Awasi residents (85 per cent), go to Nyang'oma sub health centre for medical services. 10 per cent get the services from Awasi Catholic Mission dispensary, while 5 per cent rely on the private clinics mushrooming in the centre.

Plate 5.4 *Nyang'oma sub - health centre in the rural umlands*



Source: Photo by Author, December 2008

Virtually all the surrounding rural umlands population (95 per cent) get basic medical services from Nyang'oma sub health centre, while 5 per cent of the respondents from rural umlands access medical services at the Awasi Catholic dispensary. Nyang'oma health centre therefore, serves a large catchment area which traverses Miwani, Nyando and parts of Muhoroni divisions. The catchment area extends from Boya areas to the west, to Yogo and Oren to south west, moving East wards to Oduwo areas near Chemelil. The sub health center was established way back in 1975 for the farmers of the Chemelil Sugar Belt Co- operative Union. Currently it serves an average outpatient population of between 40 – 60 adults and 15 – 30 children every day. The health facility offers services such as ante natal and post natal clinic, curative out patient services, child welfare services and VCT services. It has a staff population of 8 people, that is, 1 clinical officer, 2 registered nurses, 3 community nurses and 2 subordinate staff.

The sub health centre usually gets its medical supplies from Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA), which is a government body. On the other hand, Awasi Catholic Dispensary was established in 1997 by the Catholic Church to provide health care services to the locals. Just like Nyang'oma sub health centre, it also offers services to outpatients. However, unlike the former, patients have to pay for the services offered by the later. In fact, the facility operates on the revolving funds generated by the service charges collected from the patients. It has 4 technical staff and 3 support staff. It has already been mentioned that other existing health facilities in Awasi centre include a number of private clinics operated in private premises and other residential houses within the centre. These clinics, which in most cases lack qualified medical personnel, dispense medicine and offer first aid to the patients.

5.3.3.3 Housing

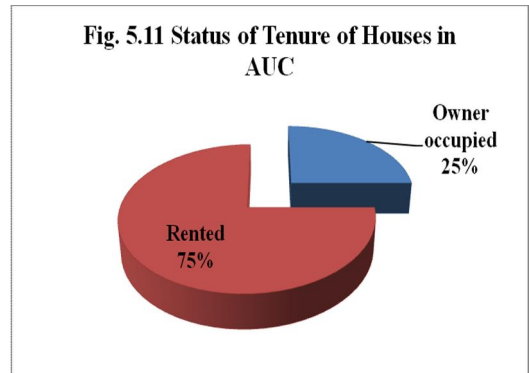
The quality of houses is a yardstick for measuring a people's welfare. But for Awasi centre, the quality of houses has been compromised due to lack of institutional houses because majority of the area is freehold. The existing rental houses are usually one roomed (10' by 10') type, which are relatively small by any standards.

Plate 5.5 *The typical rental houses in Awasi*



Source: *Field survey, 2008*

Majority of the civil servants working in AUC do not live within the centre, instead they live in Kisumu and hence are usually on the road operating between their place of residence and work place. The housing sector in Awasi is further greatly hindered by the inadequate provision of infrastructure e.g. sewage reticulation, water, electricity and roads. Within AUC about 80 per cent of the housing stock is made of bricks and iron sheets. While others are made of sub standard building materials, for instance, mud walled structures. Due to lack of development control and a plan to guide approval, AUC lacks discernible residential neighborhoods or areas (Ministry of Lands, 2005). Majority of Awasi residents who were interviewed, (76 per cent) live in rented houses, while 24 per cent live in owner occupied houses. Those who live in rented houses pay rent to the landlords.

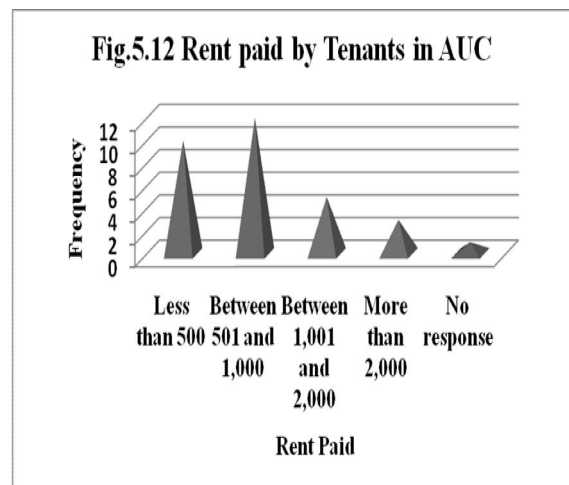


Source: Field Survey, December 2008

This has considerable effect on income and expenditure patterns of the residents of AUC since, the little income derived from the economic activities are paid out to the landlords in form of rents. The rents paid ranges from less than Kshs. 500 to over Kshs. 2,000. Majority (39 per cent) pay rent of between Kshs 501 and Kshs. 1000. Sixteen per cent pay rent of between 1001 and 2000. While 32 per cent pay rent of less than 500 shillings. The table 5.13 and figure 5.10 show the amount of money paid in rents.

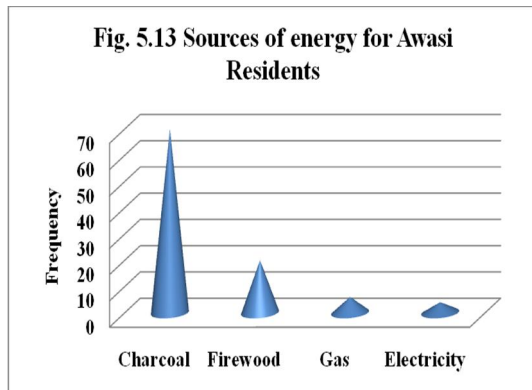
Table 5.15 *The amount of money paid as rent by Tenants*

Amount paid in Kshs	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 500	10	32
Between 501 and 1,000	12	39
Between 1,001 and 2,000	5	16
More than 2,000	3	10
No response	1	3
Total	31	100



Source: Field Survey, December 2008

Most of the houses are still not supplied with electricity and fuel based (paraffin) lighting is the most preferred source of energy for the households. Typically, fuel based lighting is expensive, dangerous and unhealthy (KNBS, 2008).



On the other hand, lack of electricity in most households, means use of charcoal and firewood as the main sources of cooking fuel. Figure 5.13 below, shows that a substantial proportion of the households use charcoal and wood fuel as their main source of cooking fuel.

Source: Field Survey, December 2008

For the umlands population, 80 per cent of the houses are mud walled and iron roofed, while 20 per cent are mud walled and grass thatched houses. This is a reflection of low levels of standards of livings in the immediate rural umlands and lead to the conclusion that any contribution to development from AUC is yet to be felt in these surrounding areas. Rural umlands population can raise their standards of living through promotion of agricultural activities and provision of suitable market for their agricultural products. This will enable them derive adequate income and improve standards of living including building better houses. It is apparent that Awasi centre has had insignificant contribution towards this development process.

5.3.3.4 Water Supply

Water is an indispensable element of life and water resources are highly sensitive to climate variability and change. Water resources are essentially the products of climate, significantly influenced however, by land factors. The quantity and quality of water affects human welfare through several channels. Water availability influences the pattern of human settlements and distribution of various development activities including agriculture and industry. Water shortages on the contrary, lead to low resource utilization, poor yields and food insecurity. Further, water scarcity accentuates poverty by limiting peoples' access to food and employment (KNBS, 2008).

Mireri (2006) observes that water could easily pass as an important basic infrastructure for urban

development. The government enacted the Water Act in 2002 and has taken concrete steps to implement it. The overall goal of national water development policy is to facilitate the provision of water of sufficient quantity and quality and within a reasonable distance to meet all competing users in a sustainable, rational and economic way. In AUC and its environs, the main water sources are river pans, roof catchments and boreholes. Residents in the rural umlands rely on rivers and stream such as Nyando and Nyaidho as well as from a few boreholes and roof catchments. The roof catchment methods however, does not seem in most cases to offer a good and reliable water supply, largely due to the low rainfall as well as the lack of necessary catchment surfaces in the form of iron sheets roofs.

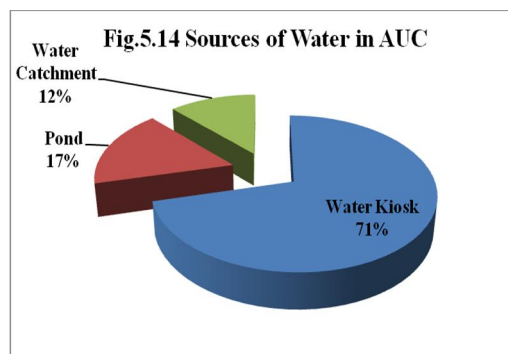
Within AUC, there are two boreholes which supply the residents with water. These are the borehole at the DC's office, managed by the Nyando and Nandi South Water and Sanitation Company and the borehole at Nyang'oma which is managed by the Awasi Catholic Mission. The two boreholes have an average water discharge rate of 10m^3 hence there is ever present water rationing. The borehole at the DC's office was purposely drilled to supply water to the District Headquarters offices and the residence of government employees such as the administration police and other staff at the district headquarters. It was extended to other residents of Awasi, just as an afterthought and at the moment, the supply is restricted to the district headquarters and a few points within the centre. The other borehole managed by Awasi Catholic Mission not only supply water to the residents of the centre but also to those of the rural umlands.

Plate 5.6 *The Water Kiosk at Awasi centre*



At the kiosks, water is sold to consumers at Kshs.5 per 20 litres water jerrican, but during the dry seasons the price usually increase to Kshs. 10 or more per 20 litre jerrican. Apart from reaching the consumers through the retail outlets namely, the two water kiosks within the centre, Awasi Catholic mission also supply piped water to individuals at their homes as well as public and private institutions within Awasi and the rural umlands. For instance, piped water has been extended to schools such as Ayucha primary, Ayucha secondary, Nyang’oma primary and secondary, Nyang’oma health centre and Ang’ogo primary school. All these institutions are in the rural umlands.

Majority of AUC residents (71 per cent) get water for domestic use from the water kiosks. 17 per cent obtain water for domestic use from stagnant ponds and seasonal streams. While 12 per cent of the respondents indicated that they use rain water obtained through water catchment methods.



Source: Field Survey, 2008

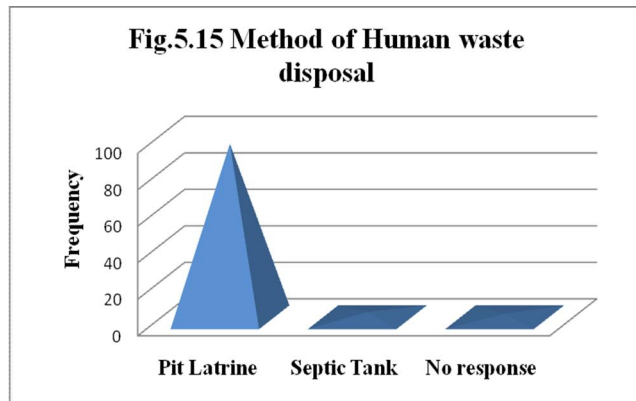
5.3.3.5 Sewerage and Sanitation

KNBS (2008) defined adequate sanitation to include the use of flush toilets (to sewer/septic tank), covered pit latrine and Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrine for waste disposal. Inadequate sanitation includes the use of pan bucket, uncovered pit latrine and other means of waste disposal. Inadequate sanitation also includes households having no toilet, since in principle; the category includes use of bush as a means of waste disposal. AUC does not have any sewerage facilities. According to table 5.16 the most common way of waste disposal is through pit latrines. Over 50 per cent of the residents do not have access to adequate sanitation. This observation has critical policy implications for safe environmental sanitation and better hygiene.

Table 5.16 Method of waste disposal

Way of waste disposal	Percentage of respondents
Pit Latrine	95
Septic Tank	3
No response	2
Total	100

Source: Field Survey, December 2008



5.3.4 Administrative Activities

Awasi centre is an important centre in the whole of Nyando District. This is because it hosts the district headquarters and also the Nyando County Council offices. In addition, the office of the Chief of Awasi Location is located within this centre. In this regard therefore, the centre plays a pivotal role in the government administrative structure. It is here, where some of the government officials reside. Also, the regular and administration police stations as well as offices of some Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and Faith Based Organizations are located within the centre. To carry out their responsibilities, these head offices, maintain frequent contacts with their branches located at divisional, Locational and sub Locational levels, thereby being the closest expressions to the rural population of the power and authority of the central government.

Plate 5.7 The Offices of Nyando District headquarters at Awasi centre



Source: Field Survey, 2008

The highest administrative authority at the district level is the District Commissioner (DC). In the process of carrying out his responsibilities, the DC maintains frequent contact with a hierarchy of administrative units located in the rural umlands of the district. These are the sub location, location and divisional level with the headquarters at the district level located at AUC. Through the hierarchy, ideas on daily operation are disseminated and flow from the highest level to the lowest level. This leads to the decentralization of administration and to further community development in order to give rural people the opportunity to better participate in development activities at the local level and to contribute to the integration of development activities at the local level.

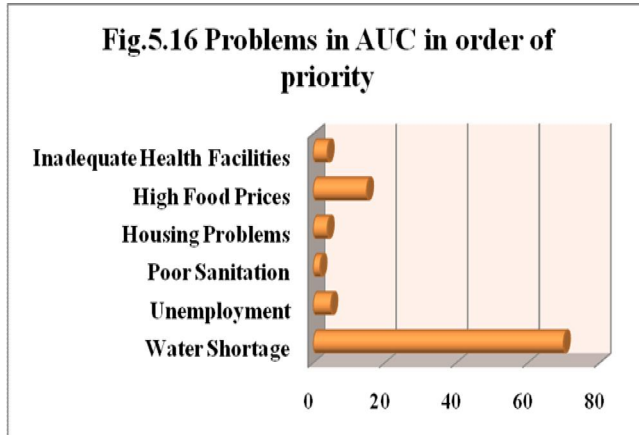
The activities of the local government (Nyando County Council) are also coordinated from AUC. Nyando County Council is made up of twenty electoral wards all of which have AUC as their headquarters. These electoral wards are: Central Nyakach/Nyalunya, Sigoti, East Nyakach, North East Kano, Chemelil, South Nyakach, Kochieng', North Nyakach, West Nyakach, Miwani, Nyang'oma, Kawino, Ombeyi, Tamu, North East Nyakach, Pap Onditi, Bwanda, East Kano, Awasi, and South West Nyakach. The twenty elected councilors usually have their council meetings in AUC where development issues appertaining to NCC are discussed. AUC therefore, is a very important centre in Nyando County Council.

5.3.5 Problems Identified

✓ Water Shortage

Clean water helps maintain a healthy population and enhance productivity. Therefore the development potential of a small urban centre without water is limited. However, as Mireri (2006) notes, the quality of water supply services has regularly deteriorated in the last decade in most urban centres in Kenya. This is attributed to a combination of insufficient investment for rehabilitation and extension of the distribution systems and inadequate commercial and financial management. Intermittent water has thus become the rule and households and businesses have to rely on costly substitutes, such as individual boreholes, tankers and water vendors. Awasi centre experiences perennial water shortage which affects the vast majority of the residents of AUC and its immediate environs. Out of all the respondents interviewed, 98 per cent indicated that water shortage is the main problem in Awasi. This situation is particularly critical during dry seasons when water supplied at the water kiosks within the centre become inadequate for the residents

and they are compelled to pay more for the commodity or travel further into the umlands in search of water with accompanied drudgery. When asked to indicate the problems in Awasi in order of priority, the residents indicated that water problem is the most urgent problem which needs to be addressed.



Other residents of AUC have been forced to rely on stagnant ponds for water for their domestic use during dry seasons. This puts the lives of these residents at risk of being infected by water borne diseases. The rivers nearby AUC have also proved to be unhelpful in ameliorating these acute water shortages. River Nyando, which is the only

permanent river, is heavily polluted by effluents from the sugar factories such as Chemelil and Muhoroni sugar factories. The pollution of river Nyando is particularly critical, because it is a major source of water in larger parts of Nyando, Miwani and Muhoroni divisions and sometimes the only source during the dry season. Nevertheless, during such dry seasons, residents of AUC make do with the water from river Nyando oblivious to the dangers and health risks they are exposing themselves to. River Nyaidho, on the other hand, is a seasonal river, which dries up during dry season when it is needed most.

✓ **Lack of Sewerage and Sanitation**

Only 30 per cent of the gazetted urban centres in Kenya have sewerage systems. This has posed serious environmental and health problems. Where they do exist, most systems suffer from constant breakages or leakages and inadequate capacity to handle their full sewage load (Mireri, 2006). It has been noted in this study that AUC does not have any sewerage facilities. Pit latrine is the main way of disposing wastes. However, pit latrine as a mode of sanitation is limited by the geological nature of the area which is rocky. There are also no facilities to exhaust filled up septic tanks and pit latrines. Pit latrines once filled are abandoned or land filled. Such pit latrines have an effect on the underground water leading to water contamination through ground percolation.

AUC neither has a designated dumping site nor refuse collection equipment, but simple dredged dump pits. The production activities of individuals and households often yield waste which if not properly disposed, becomes a nuisance and poses health hazard to communities. Majority of households in AUC throw away the litter around their houses or in some pits dug next to their dwellings. Within the market area, there are no bins or receptacles for disposing garbage. Waste generated is collected and piled up at a central point where they are burnt by market cleaners.

✓ Lack of Land for Expansion

The development of SUCs as centres of diversified economic activity requires physical expansion. There are two types of land ownership in AUC, namely, freehold and trust (council) land. Freehold land is privately owned property and is mainly in agricultural use. Approximately 80 per cent of land in AUC and its immediate environs is freehold (private owned) with some parts still undergoing adjudication. The small amount of government land, which had been in existence, has almost been used up. Land availability is a pressing problem for the NCC particularly because the control the council has over development on freehold land is curtailed. The area therefore, experiences many informal and uncontrolled subdivisions done by the owners within and around Awasi. The centre has little room for expansion due to slow pace of conversion of neighboring farmland into urban use. The productive expansion of commercial activity has been constrained by lack of physical space.

✓ Poor condition of the open air market

The existing open air in AUC, which was allocated by Nyando County Council, has been in use for over six years. However, hygienic conditions are usually very poor. For instance, there is only one pit latrine within the market used by both males and females. There is no running water and virtually no proper arrangement for waste disposal. In the rainy season, the market area usually become extremely muddy, but sellers display their produce on the ground, with a risk of contamination from soil or mud (see Plate 5.1). The open air market also lack appropriate form of shelter. Produce is displayed and stored in the sun. Apart from conditions being very difficult for those using the market, the lack of protection from the sun can have a major impact on the life of fresh produce and on its nutritional value. Leafy produce such as kales, cow peas e.t.c for example, can be kept fresh by protecting them from the sun and by keeping them moist. This is however, not possible in Awasi market, that does not have appropriate shelter or fresh water

supplies.

✓ **Inappropriate location of livestock sale yard**

Ideally, livestock sales are normally undertaken outdoors, preferably in a fenced enclosure or a ring. A livestock market needs space for holding live animals, with temporary shade space and water points. However in Awasi, livestock sale yard is located in an open space within some bushes at the fringes of AUC without any shade or water facilities. Residential houses are mushrooming in the vicinity of this yard and sooner or later, the yard will be in the midst of rental houses.

5.4 Institutional Arrangement

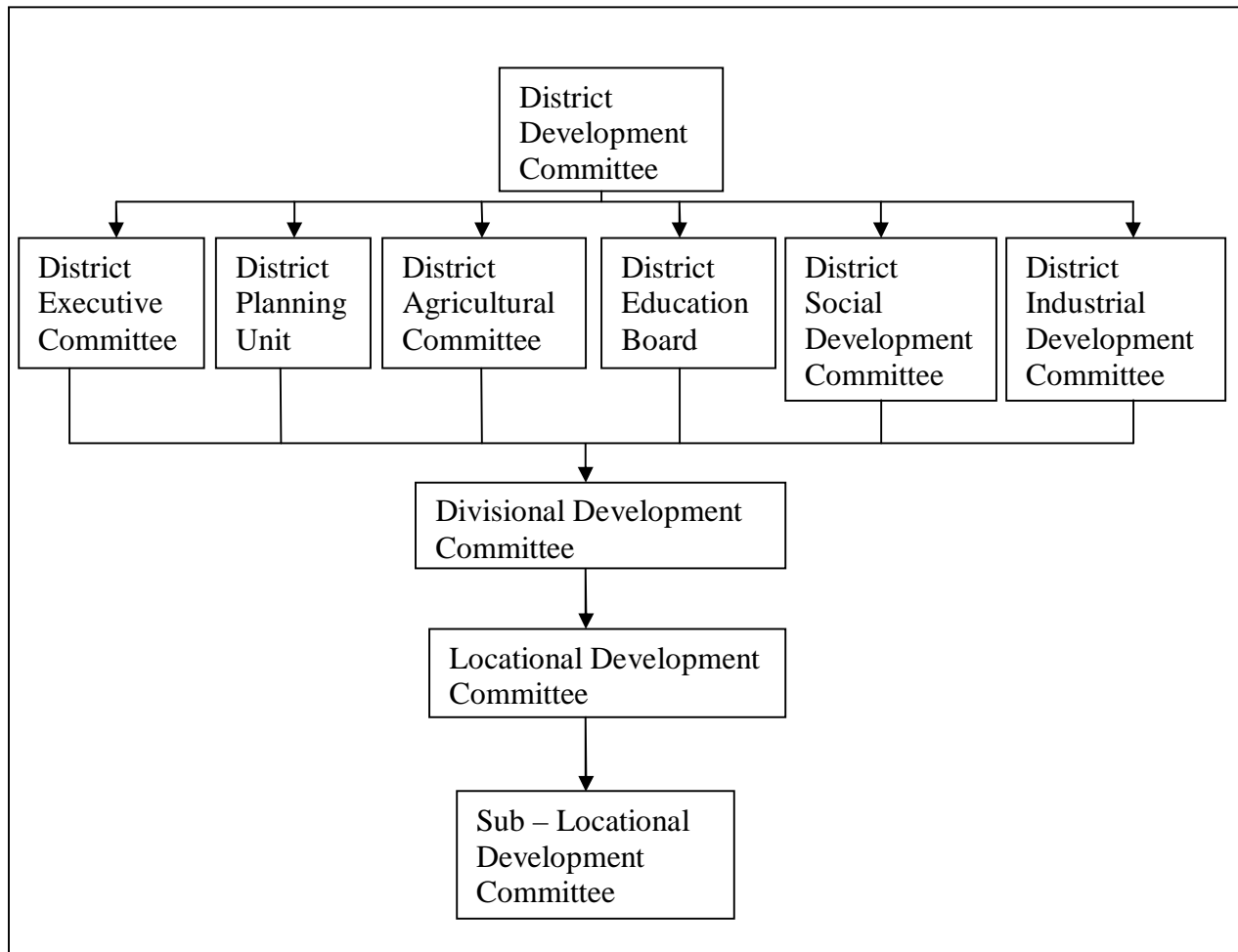
The evolution of planning machinery in Kenya has its roots in the administrative structure made in the colonial period. During this period, local level planning was mainly the prerogative of the individual government departments. There was no coordinating machinery to manage planning at the local level, which at that time was the province. However, after independence, there was a shift of emphasis to decentralization of development planning to the local levels. Such changes were aimed at ensuring that development filters down to the people in rural areas (Mideva, 1989). The underlying assumption of the need to decentralize government activities is the realization that centralization of authority stifles sound decision making in the development in the development process.

The creation of new district headquarters in hitherto remote regions of the country has been a way of facilitating decentralization of development planning to the lowest levels by the government. In Kenya, the Districts are usually the focal points of planning and implementation of development programmes. A major aim of District planning in Kenya is that of achieving effective rural development. Since independence, focus of attention has been on ways and the means for facilitating rural development at the local level (Mideva, *ibid*). District Focus Strategy for Rural Development (DFS RD) of 1983 as indicated in its revised version of 1987, noted that “each district through its District Development Committee (DDC) is responsible for rural development planning and coordination, project implementation, management of financial and other resources.....” (Kenya, 1987).

5.4.1 Provincial Administration

The provincial administration is represented at the district level by the District Commissioner (DC). The DC is the representative of the President at the District level. He is the chief executive officer for rural development activities in the district. It is at the district level where we have the District Development Committee (DDC). This committee, chaired by the DC is the highest organizational unit playing a coordinative role to harmonize and facilitate the development activities of other committees and those of other agencies such as ministries, Parastatals, local authorities and non – governmental organizations. The development activities facilitated by the DDC covers the whole of Nyando District and as such have weighty implications on AUC and its environs. The DDC is responsible for rural development planning and coordination, project implementation, management of financial and other resources, overseeing local procurement of goods and services, management of personnel and provision of public information. The DDC carries out much of its responsibilities through other functional sub committees such as, the District Planning Unit (DPU), District Executive Committee (DEC), which offers technical advice, and special – purposes committee such as the District Agricultural Committee (DAC), District Education Board (DEB), District Social Development (DSD), District Industrial Development Committee (DIDC) among others. The figure below is an illustration of the composition and structure of the District Development Committee.

Fig 5.17 *Composition and structure of District Development Committee*



Source: Compiled by Author from Nyando District Records

The Nyando DDC is composed of Departmental heads of all ministries represented in the District, Members of Parliament, chairman and Clerk of the Nyando County Council and other local authorities within the district, representatives of Parastatals, NGOs and community based organizations. As already noted, the DDC is headed by the DC, while the District Development Officer is the secretary. The representation of departmental heads forms the largest number in the DDC. This representation of the District heads in the DDC ensures that the district interests are promoted by requiring operating ministries to base their activities on district plans and priorities, to disaggregate their budgets to the district level and to guarantee the funding of district identified projects within their established budgets ceiling. Priorities and schemes to be undertaken are determined in every case by the DDC in consultation with the district heads.

Nyando County council, with its headquarters in Awasi, has a special relationship with the DDC. The council's development projects are vetted by the DDC before they are forwarded to the Ministry of Local Government for funding and/or approval. This process enables the DDC to coordinate these projects with other development activities. In carrying out both planning and implementation functions the DDC is supposed to meet not less than four times per year to review ongoing projects, to consider new project proposals submitted by the various agencies, and to establish priorities for future projects in the Five Year Development Plan.

For the case of AUC as a growth centre, the DDC of Nyando District and the local authority are mandated to build infrastructure that will help the private sector create more productive employment. It is the responsibility of DDC based on the guidelines from the government to identify SUCs that have strong rural urban linkages and a high potential for growth and employment generation. The DDC then develops a proposal for a set of investments which are viable and which best achieve the goal of allowing the SUC to reach its potential (Kenya, 1987: 84). These investments should be targeted towards increasing the economic activity and employment generating capacity of the small urban centre.

The Nyando DDC and the local authority also have the mandate of identifying suitable projects that are economically productive and are supportive to the agriculture sector. This has great implications to the rural umlands of AUC with significant effects on the growth of the centre. Furthermore, the pair is to ensure that rural – urban priorities are reflected in their budget decisions and they are also tasked with the duty of fostering the growth of informal sector employment. The informal sector has been recognized as a very important sector of the Kenyan economy. Many new employment opportunities that are stimulated by the growth of the economy are likely to be in this sector. Given that the informal sector provides the largest share of employment opportunities in AUC, its promotion by the DDC and Nyando County Council is likely to boost the employment situation within the centre. Nevertheless, despite this somewhat clear delineation of duties, Nyando DDC like several other DDCs in Kenya has not been effective in coordinating growth and development within the district. Arguments could be made that Nyando DDC is still comparatively new and that its development projects could still be nascent. But, there is no particular project that was identified to have been initiated or facilitated by the DDC either in AUC or the entire district.

5.4.2 District Development Office

District Development Officer (DDO) in his capacity as the secretary to the DDC has delegated authority from the chairman of the DDC to chair the meetings of the District Planning Unit (DPU) and to coordinate the technical planning activities of the members of the DPU. Therefore, the office of District Development Officer (DDO) is strengthened by establishment of DPU with the objective of serving as a secretariat to the District Executive Committee for day to day coordination of planning and implementation work. DPU as a unit has the role of planning and monitoring, costing of projects, preparation of bills of quantities, planning provision for land acquisition for projects and technical appraisal of project proposal. DPU is comprised of DDO, District Statistical Officer, District Physical Planner, Quantity Surveyors, Valuers and Architects. The DDO's office is located in Awasi centre, within the District Headquarters. However, the office is beset by some problems, which include among others inadequate financial support and lack of other necessary resources and equipment needed to carry out their work.

5.4.3 District Physical Planning Office

The activities of the Physical Planning office are aimed at safeguarding public interest, ensuring stable and orderly use of land, safeguarding property values and planning for future development for all human settlements within Nyando District (both rural and urban). To this end, the function of the office entail; undertaking regional and local physical development to enable the central government and the local authority develop sound strategies for the development of the rural areas of Nyando and the accommodation of urban growth such as that of AUC among others. The office is also responsible for preparation of appropriate regional, district and urban land use development plans to guide development projects.

The office prepares and helps in the implementation of plans for all growth and service centres in the District, through vetting development proposals, participation in Town Planning Liaison committee and preparation of advisory and subdivision plans. The officer also advises the Nyando County Council, public and private developers on the most appropriate use of both public and private land as well as assisting in the operation of development control, preservation orders and enforce action against contravention of planning controls. Finally, the District Physical Planning Office assists in the approval and implementation of projects by the Nyando DDC, Nyando County council, public and private developers by identifying and reserving sites

for their projects, hence having a bearing on development patterns of SUC like AUC. Within the district, the District Physical Planning Officer is a member of the DDC, DEC and DPU. However, AUC is still being planned from Kisumu and even this Kisumu office is beset with myriads of problems. These include inadequate personnel, reliance on outdated and scanty planning data and non compliance to planning standards by developers and local authority.

5.4.4 District Land Adjudication and Settlement Office

This office carries out duties such as; ascertaining existing rights and interests of individuals over land, identifying suitable government land for establishment of settlement schemes, planning and demarcation of identified land into viable settlement plots, provision of basic infrastructure and social amenities such as market access roads, water, school and health facilities and provision of development and supportive agricultural extension services. For land adjudication to succeed, the office works with other government offices such as that of Survey, Physical Planning, Provincial Administration and the Local Authorities. For the county councils such as NCC, this office carries out land adjudication and setting aside plots for public utilities, which are then registered in the name of the county council. The county council is then required to keep up to date records of all public purpose plots under their jurisdiction. The office of Land Adjudication and Settlement is located in AUC. However, like most other government offices, it is faces several problems, among them being staff shortage, inadequate equipment and the bureaucratic red tape.

5.5 The Local Government

The Kenya government at the time of independence recognized the importance of local authorities. While most other African countries tried to scrap them, the Kenya government streamlined them and encouraged their development. Today in Kenya, every man, woman and child, especially in urban areas, is affected by the operations of local authorities (Akivaga, *et al*, 1985). Local government is an elaborate system of public administration set up under an Act of Parliament known as the Local Government Act chapter 265 of the Laws of Kenya. Local Government Act is “an Act of Parliament to provide for the establishment for local government, to define their functions and to provide for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto” (As cited in Akivaga, *et al*, 1985). Local Government Act gives local authorities powers to undertake tangible services from which the people in its jurisdiction directly or indirectly benefit. Local authorities are also permitted to undertake public service provision, which directly or

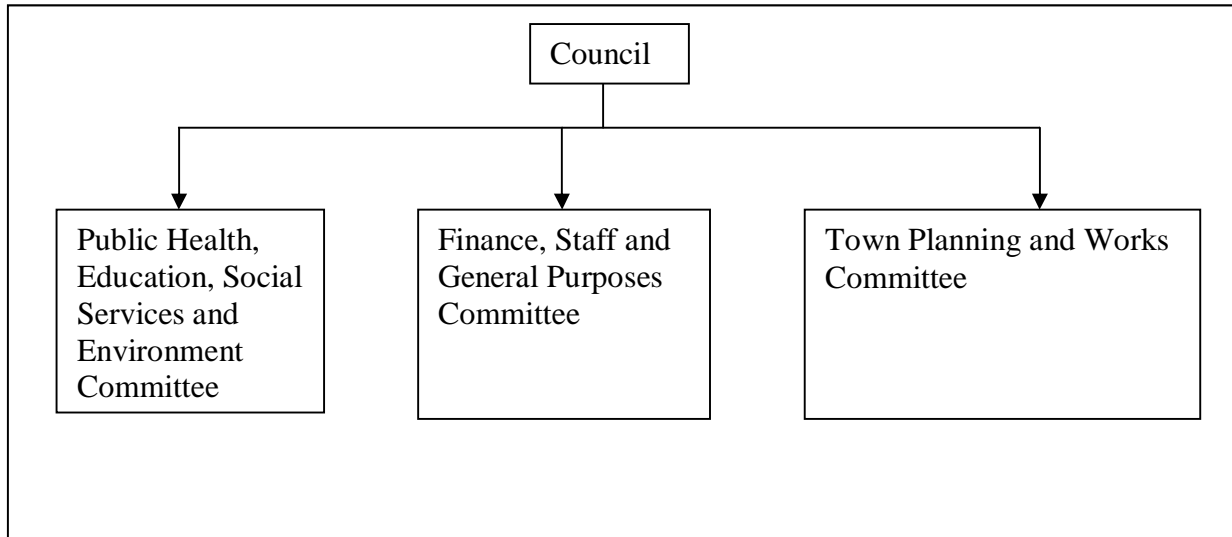
indirectly benefits the local inhabitants of their areas or the public at large. Local authorities are charged with the task of administering local areas as delegates of the central government. They include city councils, municipal councils, town councils and county councils. AUC falls within the larger Nyando County Council (NCC). NCC like all other local authorities in Kenya provide the basic ingredient of a democratic society – elected representatives who are closer to the people than even members of parliament.

5.5.1 The Nyando County Council

Nyando County Council, like any other County Council in Kenya, is made up of the electorate arm and the executive arm. The electorate arm comprises both elected and nominated councilors who sit on the local authority council. The council is an important organ of NCC concerned with policy formulation. It performs the legislative role, unlike the executive who are concerned with implementation of policies formulated by the council. The council is the policy-making body. They make policy by passing resolutions. It is the council to which the powers, duties and responsibility of local government devolve. NCC is headed by a Chairman elected from the councilors. NCC performs its functions through the council, which is made up of all the councilors (elected and nominated alike). To facilitate the proper working of the council, it is divided into various committees and sub committees. It is from these committees, covering various aspects of the NCC functions that all business of the council emanates.

Akivaga, *et al*, (1985) indicate that the number of committees and sub committees in any one particular local authority depends on the size, needs and category of the local authority. Therefore, it is up to the local authority to set up appropriate committees subject to the approval of the Minister of Local Government. The committees exercise the functions of the local authority as its delegates. In Nyando County Council, the standing committees established include: Social services and education committee; Public health and environment committee; Finance, Staff and General Purpose Committee and Markets, Planning and Works Committee. Every councilor must be a member of at least one committee as per the provisions of the Local Government Act chapter 265 Laws of Kenya. NCC is required to hold at least four full council meetings in a year; the committees meet at regular intervals of approximately three months though special committees meet regularly. Special committee meetings are convened whenever an urgent issue arises.

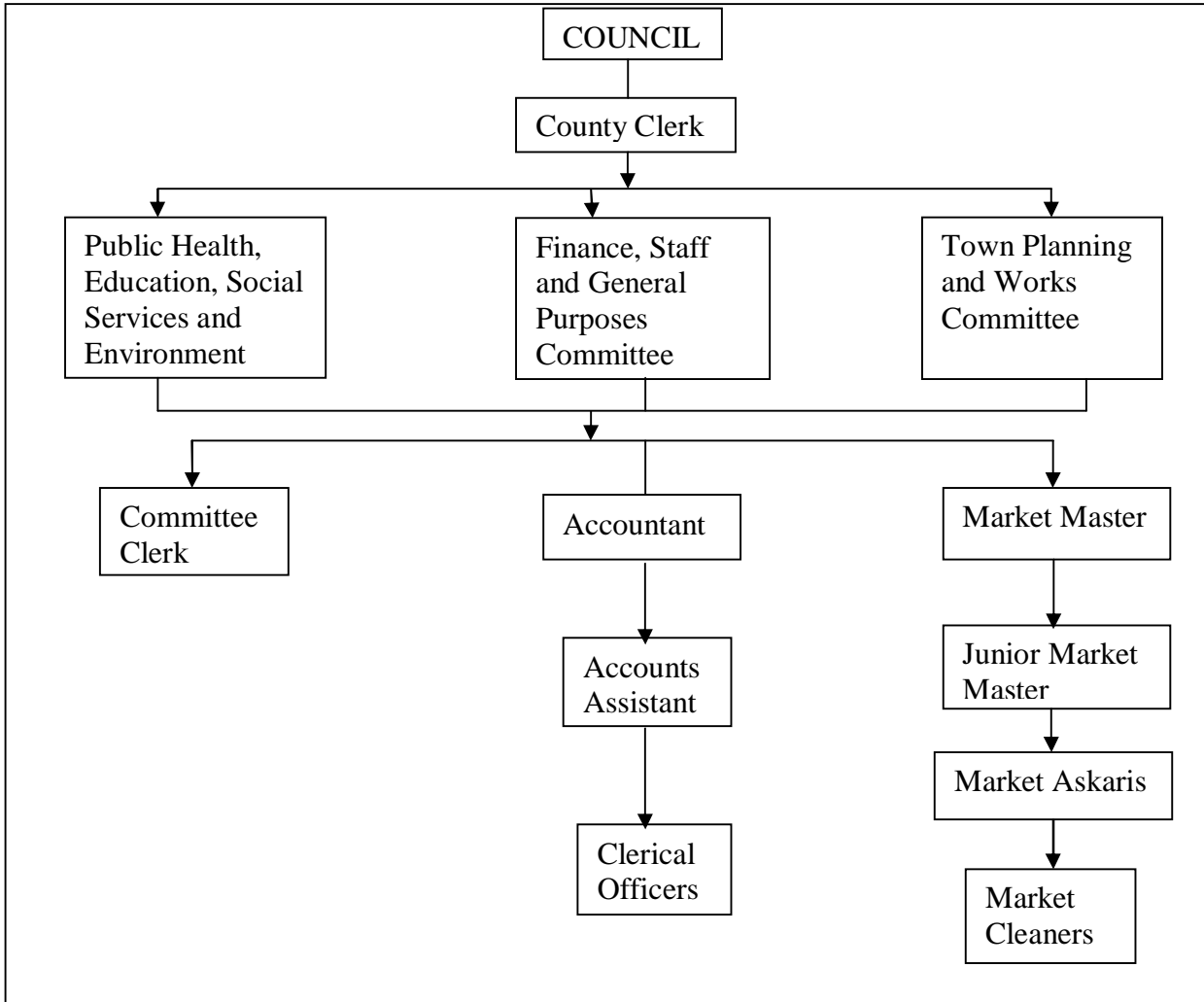
Fig. 5.18 *Committee Structure of Nyando County Council*



Source: Ministry of Lands (2005)

The executive arm of NCC forms the staff of the council. This arm has the responsibility of executing various council policies. It is led by Clerk-to-council. The responsibility of implementing council resolutions lies with the executive under the Clerk. They are to implement the policies and report back to the council any problems they have met in the course of their implementation. In NCC, the executive arm of the council is further subdivided into three departments namely, the Clerk's, the Treasurer's and the Markets and Social services, Works and Planning, Public Health and Environment departments. The County Clerk is the chief executive and administrative officer of the council. He is the coordinator of all council business. The Treasurer's Department is in charge of the council's financial management including collection of revenue and accounting for it. In addition, the Department keeps the council informed of its financial position and also initiates the preparation of annual estimates and expenditure of the council. Works, Planning and Environment Department is responsible for land matters, general cleansing, garbage collection and disposal and overall sanitary care. The functions of this Department include liaising with the Ministry of Lands on matters such as development control and land administration. The Department is answerable to the NCC's Planning and Works Committee.

Fig. 5.19 Nyando County Council organizational structures



Source: Ministry of Lands (2005)

5.5.2 Functions of the NCC in relation AUC

Nyando County Council engages in a wide range of functions and duties. These functions and duties are of public nature. However, these functions are classified under the permissive functions. These are activities that a council may do if it has the ability i.e. both financial and administrative ability to perform. Such functions include provision of public markets, social and welfare services, housing, health centres and dispensaries, sewerage and drainage, nursery schools, water supply, street lighting etc. NCC like most of the county councils all over the country has completely failed to perform these permissive functions mainly due to both financial and administrative inability. In terms of physical development planning of AUC, the NCC is responsible for development control as stipulated in Physical Planning Act, Chapter 286 and

Local Government Act, Chapter 265, Laws of Kenya.

To this end, the NCC processes development application by the private developers. Such applications include subdivisions; building plans, change of user and extension of user. NCC also facilitates preparation of Action and Subject plans. Such plans include residential, infrastructural and transportation plans. Similarly, the NCC undertake the provision of services such as expansion and opening up of new roads, provision and development of waste disposal site, water supply, education and health among others (Ministry of Lands, 2005). The constitution of Kenya grants control and management of trust land to local authorities. Consequently, NCC like all other county council in the country is vested with the control and management of all Trust Lands within its area for the benefit of the local inhabitants.

5.6 Devolved Financial Sources

§ *Constituency Development Fund*

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was established in 2003 through the CDF Act in The Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 107 (Act No. 11) of 9th January 2004. The fund aims to control imbalances in regional development brought about by partisan politics and as such it is primarily directed at combating poverty and promoting equitable growth and development around the country. It targets all constituency-level development projects, particularly those aiming to combat poverty at the grassroots. The fund comprises an annual budgetary allocation equivalent to 2.5% of the government's ordinary revenue. Each of Kenya's 210 constituencies receives CDF. Seventy five percent of the money allocated to CDF in a single year is divided equally between the 210 constituencies; the other 25% is allocated to constituencies based on their poverty ranking using a formula which ensures that poorer constituencies get more money. This considers factors such as the total number of people living below the poverty line in a constituency, the total population and so forth. More funds are therefore allocated to those constituencies that have the highest number of people living in poverty.

Since its inception, CDF has been used in rural areas to set up schools, health centres, dispensaries, water facilities and security superstructure such as police posts and stations. Within the few years it has been disbursed in various constituencies countrywide, its effect particularly in facilitating development in certain areas has been quite remarkable. In Nyando District, there

are three constituencies namely, Nyakach, Nyando and Muhoroni constituencies. In case of any development project which is of benefit to the whole district, funding can be done from the CDF kitty of the three constituencies. For instance, a district hospital can be built in AUC using the funds from the CDF kitty of all the three constituencies. AUC falls within Nyando constituency, but parts of its surrounding umlands fall within both Muhoroni and Nyando constituencies. What emerged during the study is that, the CDF has mainly been used to fund development projects in the umlands but not within the centre. Cases abound of dispensaries and schools being built or equipped for example in Olasi, Oren, Nyang'oma, and Pala among other places. However, no single development project has been initiated, implemented or funded by CDF in AUC. There had been proposals to use the Nyando Constituency CDF to fund the upgrading and improvement of the Nyang'oma – Awasi water supply, but the project never took off.

§ *Local Authority Transfer Fund*

The Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) was established in 1999 through the LATF Act No. 8 of 1998, with the objective of improving service delivery, improving financial management, and reducing the outstanding debt of local authorities (LAs). LATF, which comprises 5% of the national income tax collection in any year, currently makes up approximately 24% of local authority revenues. At least 7% of the total fund is shared equally among the country's 175 local authorities; 60% of the fund is disbursed according to the relative population size of the local authorities. The balance is shared out based on the relative urban population densities. LATF monies are combined with local authority revenues to implement local priorities. Sixty percent of the total LATF allocation is exclusively meant for service delivery projects identified within a given local council area. Forty per cent, of the total LATF allocation is for performance enhancement and is aimed at catering for administrative costs that help the respective local authority enhance its capacity in financial management (e.g., training of finance officers, purchase of equipment and facilities, etc.) revenue collection, and minimizing and eventually eliminating the perennial debts owed by councils. Therefore, Nyando County Council which has AUC as its nerve centre has accessibility to LATF and should be able to use it for promoting growth and development of AUC and the rural umlands.

For NCC, like other local authorities in Kenya, the LATF constitutes 98% of all the grant funds that it receives from the central government. The implication here is that NCC is heavily dependent on the collection of income taxes by the central government. Besides, NCC still relies on manual systems for collection and accounting for their revenues, it has been noted that the proper accounting for revenues that are collected does not take place. Although Nyando County Council has been getting its share of LATF, its impact on the locality particularly on social and economic development process is yet to be seen. From the field survey, it emerged that very few residents of AUC are aware of the existence of LATF and none could identify any project which has been funded by the LATF.

5.7 Non Governmental Organization

- ***The Catholic Mission***

As Faith Based Organizations, churches have proved to be major local implementation agents for projects in social, environmental and economic sectors. The churches are usually active in development projects involving water, health and formal education. Churches have a capacity to mobilize its members to contribute towards the implementation of these basic services. The churches are also able to secure donations from international donors. In AUC, the Catholic Mission, which was established in Awasi in 1982, plays a pivotal role in provision of basic services within the centre. Apart from providing spiritual nourishment to a number of faithful living within and around AUC, the Catholic Church is fully engaged in provision of essential services such as health services and water supply. St. John Catholic Church as it is known manages and operates the Nyang'oma - Awasi water supply which is the main water supply of AUC and its immediate environs. The church took over the management of the Nyang'oma water supply in 1994 from the Ministry of Water which had been operating the water supply at Nyang'oma area about 4 kilometers from AUC. The Church rehabilitated the water project using funds from the donor community particularly, Boxtel Rotary club in Netherlands. The church was also able to use the funds for an electrification programme. The electricity was to be used to pump the water from Nyang'oma to AUC.

Currently, the church supplies water to individual (private) consumers as well as public consumers. The public consumers are supplied with water through the water kiosks located strategically within the centre. There are two water kiosks in AUC managed and operated by the

Catholic Church. The kiosks supply water to the residents of the centre at a fee of Kshs. 5 per a 20 litres jerrican. In addition, the church supplies water to other institutions namely, Ayucha primary school, Ayucha secondary school, Nyang'oma secondary school and Nyang'oma health centre among others, all in the surrounding umlands. On health services, the Catholic Church established and is currently managing Awasi Catholic Dispensary. This dispensary, which is the only health facility of its kind within the centre, is being operated by the Franciscan Sisters of St. Anna. It was established in 1997 to give health care services to the local community. The operation of the dispensary is based on revolving funds and therefore the patients have to pay for the services. The Franciscan Sisters also have a nursery school within the Catholic Church compound to cater for the educational needs of the children of residents of AUC.

5.8 Weaknesses of the Institutional Framework

The ineffectiveness of present institutional infrastructure for rural development, according to Ngau (1989: 149), is a far more serious constraint to rural development than is often recognized. In Kenya in general and AUC in particular, an elaborate institutional framework for SUC and rural development already exist as indicated in the above discussion. It consists of governmental and non-governmental organizations for decision making, development coordination and administration, farm input distribution, provision and supply of essential basic services as well as support for urban centre's businesses. But this institutional framework is largely ineffective. As Ngau (ibid) observed, major responsibilities for decision-making and development implementation are concentrated in official hands of the central government bureaucrats and technocrats or their field agents at the district. Indeed, participation in the planning process is mainly restricted to bureaucratic participation by officers at the various levels of provincial administration.

The framework provides for very little local citizen participation, while government officials possess very limited local knowledge. Effective local participation is limited and will remain so for many years to come because of constraints in the administrative structure and political system. At the District level, there is also very rapid turn over of officials. For fear of making mistakes, they create highly centralized and standardized procedures and do nothing about urgent decisions essential for implementing local development. Field agents of technical ministries at the local level such as Ministry of Lands, Ministry of Local Government, and Ministry of

Agriculture among others work in isolation of each other and adopt a professional – subject relationship with the local people. As a result, the natural unity of urban centre and countryside, agriculture and non farm economic activities fail to prosper. Furthermore, the agents of the technical ministries face numerous problems, which include lack of adequate funds to initiate and coordinate development activities; lack of transport facilities and other vital equipment for their operations and lack of office space, for some ministries and/or departments particularly at the district headquarters. For instance, the Physical Planning of AUC is still being done at Kisumu despite Nyando being a separate district.

AUC is administered by the NCC, which is financially weak and is unable to effectively carry out its responsibilities. The functions of NCC include community development, provision of basic services and general development of AUC and its environs. NCC levy rates, charge fees and sell licenses, but the revenues generated are inadequate for the needs. Nyando County Council like all other local authorities in Kenya depends on government annual budgets and disbursements. The over reliance on LATF from the central government has made NCC to be dependent on central authority to the extent that it can not competently carry out its mandate.

The overwhelming control from the central government demonstrated by financial dependence inevitably stifles the performance of NCC. Moreover, the impact of these funds disbursed through LATF has not been felt by the residents of AUC and those of its umlands. Apparently, the money disbursed through LATF combined with the income locally generated by NCC has proved to be too little for major development projects. As a result, there are usually inadequate funds for capital development. There is also shortfall in qualified staff in most fields of specialization. There is over establishment of lower cadre staff, while lacking technical staff. The council and their technical staff have been unable to make effective use of the resources available to them. The council is therefore, unable to fund major projects aimed at improving the service delivery of AUC or any centre within its area.

The roles of local political leaders, for example the local members of parliament, are not clearly formulated. The local members of parliament for instance, do not have clearly defined roles in terms of promoting development within their constituencies and the district as a whole. They at times, use this unclarity to dominate and politicize the project identification process. Furthermore, the local MPs are the patrons of CDF and as such have enormous influence on the appointment of committee members. The upshot of this, is CDF committees packed with relatives, friends and cronies of the local MPs. Political patronage therefore, influences the decision made by various development committees resulting into lack of impartiality. This in turn, has influenced the location and/or funding of development projects such as schools; health centres water facilities e.t.c. within the district and at times has resulted in uneconomic projects. For instance, the location of district hospital in Pap Onditi in Nyakach was more of political decisions than any thing.

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1 Conclusion

Spatial development planning in Kenya has been a subject of criticism by many researchers. In assessing the effectiveness of spatial planning policies in Kenya, it is apparent that while the subject of rural – urban relations has a long history in development, there is no consistency in its adoption and implementation. Indeed, the situation is one whereby positions have shifted significantly as dictated by changes in Kenya’s economic and political climates. The government of Kenya has kept on moving from one policy strategy to another without the necessary window period of implementation and review. Similarly, decentralization to the local areas as espoused in spatial planning policies and which is aimed at bringing development closer to the people through the use of SUCs has more often than not been theoretical without much practical actions accompanying it. The government of Kenya has been designating growth and/or service centres in various parts of the country, but there are no genuine and practical measures to invest into these places so as to create independent social and economic bases thereby improving the quality of life of people living in rural areas.

Although the government of Kenya has over the years advocated for specific programmes targeting SUCs so as to scale up their contributions to rural development, such special programmes for the centres serves no useful purpose unless it is part of an explicit policy to address economic and social development goals. As UN Habitat (1985) noted, spatial policies are not ends in themselves, but they can and should play a crucial role in efficiently promoting and implementing economic and social development. In Kenya, policies and strategies of SUCs dictated that development be concentrated in such centres and their functions to include the provision of adequate services for their umlands including residential accommodation for the growing population, the stimulation of economic and commercial growth, the coordination of government and local development planning and diffusion of innovation. By concentrating efforts on selected SUCs, employment opportunities would be created which would not only lead to other opportunities, but would also mop up surplus labor from surrounding areas.

It is evident that these policies and strategies have failed to achieve the desired objectives. SUCs have proved to have limited influence in terms of their ability to transmit the impulse of development to the distant and sizeable umlands. Whether SUCs grow spontaneously or as a result of government policies, their development creates new and more complex social, physical and economic problems. New demands are made by growing populations for basic services and facilities, the extension of infrastructure and utilities, more and better jobs, housing, education and health care and for amenities usually associated with urban living. The ability of central and local government to meet these demands and satisfy these needs determines to a large extent, the capacity of SUCs to continue to perform important development functions. Nevertheless, these authorities have largely failed to perform this vital mandate.

It has also emerged in this study that actions by government sectoral ministries particularly the field agents of technical ministries and the local government are not well coordinated. These ministries work in isolation of each other with any form of cooperation stifled by bureaucratic red tape. Even in the DDC where the ministries congregate their development project proposals the situation has not been any better. Since the investment policies and priorities of sectoral ministries such as those dealing with agriculture, lands and settlement, housing, public works and trade and industry, have great effects on the development potential of many small urban centres, lack of proper coordination of these policies has led to poorly implemented development projects or some development projects failing to be implemented altogether. Furthermore, the structure and system adopted by these ministries has over time prevented effective local citizen participation in the development process.

This study concludes that AUC is increasingly facing a series of difficulties and problems, which in one way or the other prevent it from positively contributing to the social and economic development process. AUC's impact on inducing the development of the centre itself and the peripheral umlands has been insignificant to say the least. The reason behind all these is that AUC is still performing its traditional function of being a market centre. Despite being upgraded to a District Headquarter, which is expected to act as the nerve centre of the whole district, the center is still functioning as a low order centre, with minimal economic activities as compared to other neighboring centres such as Ahero, Muhoroni and Kisumu. As a district headquarters, AUC is expected to be the focal point of commercial, industrial, administrative, recreational and

social services required by the local population in the entire District. Likewise, AUC is expected to be the reception centre for rural migrants seeking employment and social benefits offered there. Nevertheless from the empirical evidence given by this study, it is apparent that as far as AUC is concerned, there are inadequate services offered relative to the status of the centre. The elevation of status of AUC was done without taking into account the conditions and service to be fulfilled before the centre was upgraded. Indeed, the only reason why AUC was upgraded to a District Headquarters was its central location in the then newly created Nyando District as well as some political considerations.

AUC is primarily a retailing centre with a small functional base in terms of manufacturing. That manufacturing is negligible should be noted, it is an indication that it is not autonomous production unit, but an appendage to the rural economy. As a result, its ability to generate employment opportunities and thus facilitate development is severely limited. Part of the economically active population, especially young school leavers, is plagued with problems of unemployment and underemployment. This is a serious problem with development planning ramifications, especially in view of the climatic conditions and severely limited off – farm employment opportunities characteristic of the Nyando district in general.

Support services and infrastructure facilities which have been identified as fundamental to the local economy and hence crucial for development planning of any area, have been shown to be totally inadequate and do not meet the standards of a district headquarters. For instance, lack of a public health facility in AUC, poor and inadequate housing, inadequate electricity supply, acute water shortage, lack of sewerage system, and general poor sanitation, are all realities in AUC which act as major impediments toward achieving social and economic development. It has been noted in this study that the provision of these basic services and infrastructure facilities is crucial not only for promoting economic growth but also in improving the quality of life. Therefore, as a corollary of all these problems, the spatial interactions between AUC and its immediate umlands as well as the centre's contribution to social and economic development process is and will continue to be negatively affected as long as no real plans exist for the organization of space, as well as regional development.

6.2 Recommendations

Ideally, AUC can play important roles in promoting economic activities, stimulating rural development and in generating more socially and geographically equitable distributions of the benefits of urbanization, when it is economically strong and linked to the immediate umlands and other larger and smaller settlements within Nyando region. Nevertheless, AUC like all other SUCs in Kenya is constrained in this development role by a host of challenges, which can be traced to the well known, built in tendencies towards economic and political centralization. Any declared policy or strategy contrary to these tendencies has usually ended up being “paper strategies”. Therefore, SUCs can only have significant impact on social and economic development process if there is genuine decentralization to the local levels, with the central government deconcentrating most of the services to the local authorities. There should be participation of all in the development process and this can only be achieved if there is effective decentralization to the local levels. Planning challenges being faced by Awasi Urban Centre are manifold. In this regard therefore, this study has come up with two categories of recommendations. The first category is that which is aimed at addressing the most urgent problems of the centre, while the second category is for long term improvement of delivery capability as well as development capacity of the centre.

The immediate needs

§ Addressing the perennial water shortage

The Government of Kenya through its national water development policy has clearly indicated that it aims to facilitate the provision of water of sufficient quantity and quality to meet the needs of all users in the country. As such, provision of water in AUC is undoubtedly the responsibility of the Government of Kenya. Therefore, in order to address the acute water shortage in AUC, which is a district headquarters, it is recommended that the government should without much delay allocate funds for the construction of a high capacity dam and water treatment plant, laying of water reticulation system and construction of water storage tanks. This is a responsibility that the government cannot delegate to any institution or organization. It can only partner with willing organizations to finance the construction and installation of these water supply systems. The water in river Nyando has been found to be heavily polluted, while Nyaidho and Awach rivers are seasonal rivers, hence water could be sourced from River Oroba, near Kibigori. A dam needs to be constructed on this river and a water treatment plant sited close by. The treated

water would then be piped to storage tanks, which should be located in high places such as Angoro plateau. Once this is done, the government will have not only solved the perennial water shortage in AUC but also in larger parts of Nyando District including Nyang’oma, Ngere, Oren, Wang’anga and Ayucha areas.

§ Addressing Housing Problems

To address the housing problem in AUC, the government of Kenya must be fully involved, particularly as part of achieving the overall goal of its Housing Policy, which is to “facilitate the provision of adequate shelter and a healthy living environment at an affordable cost to all socio – economic groups in Kenya in order to foster sustainable human settlements”. To this end, this study recommends that the government, through the National Housing Corporation need to put up at least 1,000 units of low cost houses in AUC to cater for the needs of not only the civil servants in the district but also other residents of the centre. To obtain funds for this monumental task, the government should mobilize housing finance from the public sector, private sector and international agencies including offshore borrowing.

§ Provision of Infrastructure facilities

Infrastructural facilities form a major and vital component of shelter provision. Hence lack of these facilities is a serious constraint to housing development. Lack of trunk infrastructure in AUC is a serious constraint not only to the public housing but also to the private sector housing development. Nyando County Council has failed in its responsibility of provision, delivery and management of these urban services. Therefore, it is recommended that the Government of Kenya should be involved particularly through establishment small urban centers’ infrastructure development fund under the relevant ministry. The financing should be done from the exchequer as well as other development partners. The funds should then be disbursed to AUC and other small urban centres countrywide for the development of infrastructure. Disbursement to AUC is more urgent as it is a district headquarters and there is immediate need for such urban services and infrastructure facilities.

§ Establishing a District Hospital in AUC

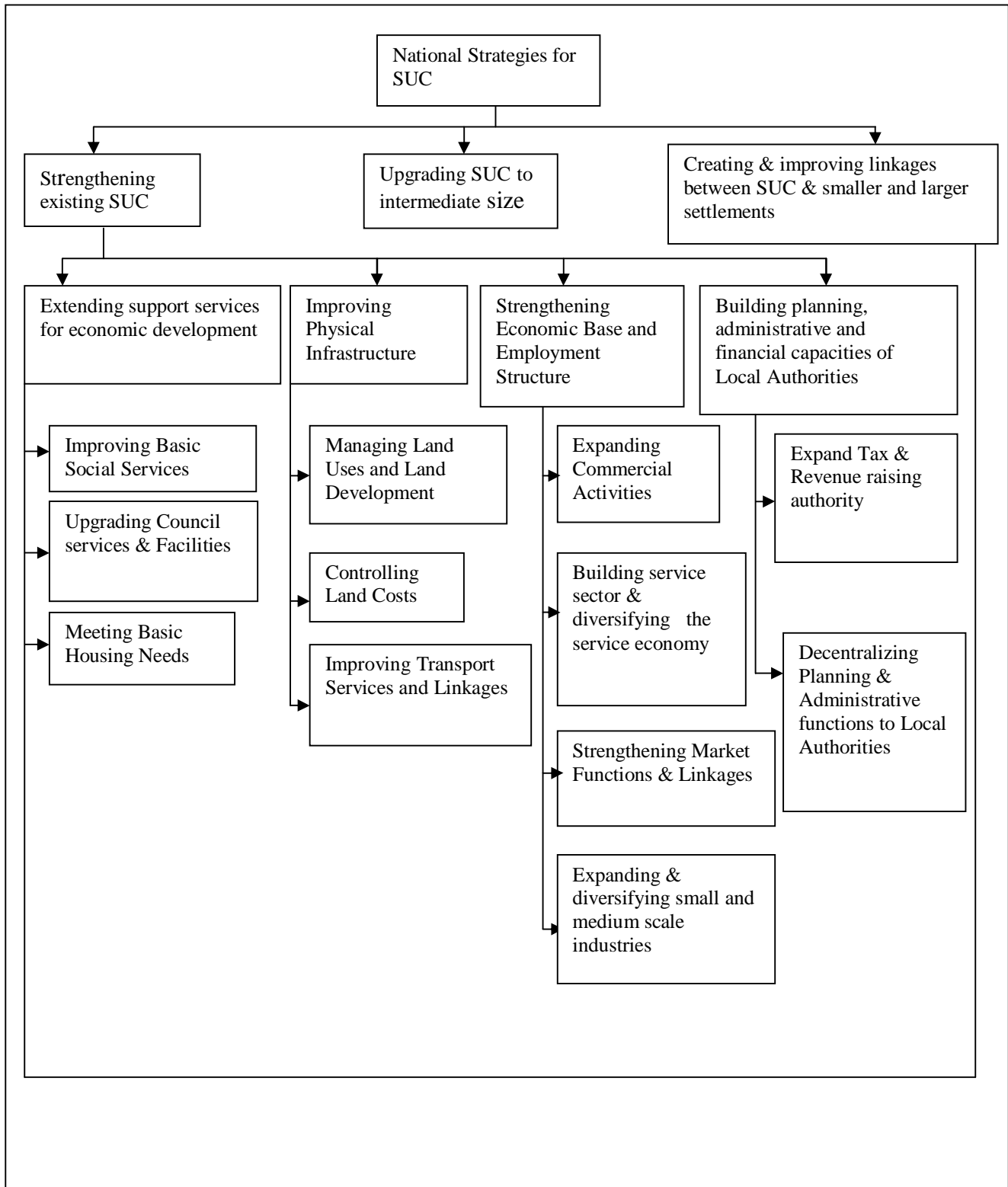
As a district headquarters, there should be a fully equipped hospital with a full range of services in AUC. In Kenya, district hospitals are usually located in the respective district headquarters. In

this regard, this study recommends the setting aside of money for the construction of a district hospital in AUC. This funding from the exchequer could be channeled through the Ministry of Medical Services. Alternatively, money from the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) kitty of the Constituencies within Nyando District could be pooled together for the construction of a district hospital at AUC. This will address the problem of inadequate health facilities not only in AUC but also the entire Nyando district.

Long Term Development of AUC

An illustration adapted from Rondinelli (1983) gives a general overview of what can be done to improve the delivery capacity of small urban centres. Rondinelli (ibid) underscores the need of strengthening SUCs through extending support services for economic development, improving physical infrastructure, strengthening economic base and employment structure and building planning, administrative and financial capacities of local authorities. This, he points out, can only be possible through re – orientation of national strategies for small urban centres. This study finds the framework proposed by Rondinelli as applicable to all SUCs in Kenya in general and AUC in particular. The general proposals if adopted, will be able to initiate impulses of development in the small urban centres and will ensure that the development so initiated, spreads to the surrounding umlands.

Fig.6.1 Framework for development Strategy for SUCs



Source: Adapted and modified from Rondinelli (1983) Pg. 233 Fig. 6.1

Relating the views of Rondinelli (1983) with the conclusions made about the findings on AUC, this study has further made the following recommendations for the development planning of AUC so as to improve its delivery capacity. These are aimed at long term development of the centre and to ensure it contributes sustainably to the development of the area where it is located. These additional recommendations will ensure enduring development of AUC and enable it to make significant contribution not only to regional but also the national development. They are as follows:

- **Need for Decentralization in Development Planning**

AUC, like all other SUCs in Kenya has its plans and budgets coordinated and controlled by the central government. The control is actualized through the District Development Committee and the different government ministries. The only way to bring meaningful development to AUC therefore is to decentralize planning to the local level. The fact that possibilities and constraints on development are so specific to AUC and the entire region of Nyando implies the need for a considerable degree of local input in designing any nationwide or region wide programme for the centre and its environs. Planning at the grass root level would help reorient AUC from parasitic to generative roles and help in reducing the gap between the centre and other larger towns such as Kisumu as well as the surrounding rural areas. Political and administrative decentralization involving real decision making power and financial autonomy is more likely to overcome planning dichotomy and identify local needs and priorities. Nyando County Council is thus the appropriate decentralization level of government, capable of effectively articulating the local needs and aspirations within its areas of jurisdiction. This will only be possible once the current constitution is reviewed and the local authorities granted semi autonomy backed with appropriate legislation on how to raise money and fund the projects within their jurisdiction.

- **Need to strengthen the interaction and linkages with other centres and rural umlands**

AUC should be networked to rural areas surrounding it, to the extent possible. Currently, the linkage between AUC and the rural umlands is relatively weak because of few and inadequate services offered by the centre. To this end, AUC should be developed to become a node of economic, administrative and social activities/services for several rural settlements in close proximity. AUC should also be made to serve as a hub for contact between urban areas such as

Ahero, Kericho and Kisumu and more dispersed rural areas. This will provide greater access to urban services, facilities and job opportunities to people living in rural umlands and create an integrated system of urban centres through which the benefits of urbanization and economic development can be spread more widely (as anticipated in the conceptual framework). AUC should be made a district transportation hub to link it with other centres and even to cities such as Nairobi and Kisumu. With strengthened links, it is also easier for the central and local government to provide services to the rural areas. Similarly, linkages with more than one urban centre are likely to be more successful for rural development as they increase the range of income diversification opportunities and the numbers of potential markets open to people.

Similarly, the authorities concerned such as the Nyando County Council and the Nyando District Development Committee among others should facilitate the establishment of strong trade links between AUC and its environs. To facilitate greater economic interaction, AUC and the surrounding umlands should work in concert to create trade policies and environment designed to increase interaction between them. Community development activities at the local levels particularly at the village levels can help develop new trade partnerships where urban businesses connect with rural businesses to develop direct trade networks and relationships. AUC can serve an effective role in developing these links.

To this end, numerous stakeholders in both Awasi and rural umlands should be involved in developing urban – rural networks. These include the entrepreneurs in AUC, the local farmers, cooperative unions as well as the local and central government. The centre and the surrounding umlands can establish a governance and policy framework for cooperation that sets out goals and objectives for AUC – Umlands partnerships and collaborations and also create terms and conditions for those partnerships. Opening up direct access to AUC markets for rural stakeholders can be very helpful for spurring economic development in rural areas and helping AUC obtain necessary goods and services more easily.

- **Strengthening the Local Authority**

Theoretically, the local authorities in Kenya are local governments in their own right. They are expected to administer the local areas as the delegates of the central government. But, it has been noted that the Local Governments are neither local nor government. Their performance at the

local levels is usually stifled by overwhelming control from the central government. As such, the only way forward for local authorities is the review of Local Government Act so as to de-link the authorities from the firm control of the Minister of Local Government. Meanwhile, before such long term solutions are undertaken, the planning, administrative and financial capacity of the Nyando County Council need to be strengthened, to enable it to effectively manage urban development. The government should find effective and appropriate ways to help NCC and private investors to strengthen the economies and service delivery capacities of AUC, both through direct investment and through national policies that have spatial implications. Stronger and more effective Nyando County Council is not only essential to national strategy for SUCs within its jurisdiction but also brings with it the possibility of enduring local and regional development. It is believed that competent and representative local government can mobilize local resources more effectively than high levels of government.

- **Need to stimulate Agriculture production**

In order to create and sustain economic viability in AUC, there is need to increase the productivity of rural umlands and to integrate both the AUC and the rural umlands into the national economy. As such, there is need to stimulate rural economies through the development of agriculture and small scale agro based industry. Increased agricultural production can provide higher levels of income for the residents of the rural areas, and increases in rural households' income and expenditure are the springboard for the expansion of many urban-based enterprises. It can create demand for commercial goods, services and durable inputs, which in turn can increase non agricultural employment opportunities in the AUC and the surrounding rural areas. The efforts aiming to increase agricultural production should also consider possible bottlenecks in commercialization, which include merchants' monopolistic practices and competition from other areas as well as lack of information about markets and prices. Therefore intervention at AUC should aim to expand and facilitate marketing and to increase agricultural productivity in the umlands. In this regard, physical facilities should be constructed for market place, supported by storage, grading and processing facilities as well as the necessary financial, commercial and business services.

- **Promotion and strengthening of commercial activities in the centre**

If AUC is to serve as a growth point in Nyando region, it must perform a wide range of functions and offer a wide variety of services and commodities. A diversified set of enterprises should be established so that benefits from association and proximity can provide economies of scale that allow it to thrive and attract related investments. For instance, as the number of trading, manufacturing and services categories grow in AUC, there is a strong probability both that the total demand for all services and products will grow and that the centre's service area will expand. To this end, in order to stimulate the centre's development there is need to identify entrepreneurs who are capable of taking advantage of the potential for growth and rapidly establish key enterprises.

- **Development of effective policies and strategies**

Another critical problem with Government of Kenya is the frequent changing of policy and strategies, for instance, from growth/service centre to Rural Trade and Production Centre to District Focus for Rural Development among other policies, which has proved to be counterproductive. It usually act as enormous disincentive to implementation of whatever SUC strategy is chosen. To improve on this, the Kenyan government needs to provide clear and stable policies and strategies for the implementation of SUC's development. The government also needs to clearly define in its policy the role and responsibilities of local governments to the central government; the definition of the role of the private sector and the informal sector, including the identification of those development areas in which private initiative will be encouraged. Nonetheless, this study is advocating for complete devolution to the local levels, where policy decisions particularly concerning development of small urban centres, are made at the lowest levels possible such as the county councils.

Areas for Further Research

With the rampant creation of new Districts in Kenya, and location of such District Headquarters in some market or local centres, more research is needed on planning problems of newly designated District Headquarter. In addition, the spatial linkages of these new District Headquarters and the entire District need to be assessed.

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APPENDIX ONE

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

N/B: Information and data gathered shall be handled with confidentiality and shall only be used for academic purposes only.

Questionnaire Number.....

Entrepreneurs Survey

1. About the respondent

Name of the respondent (optional)

Ø Sex: Male [] Female []

Ø Level of education: None [] Primary [] Secondary [] Tertiary []

Ø Where is your place of residence? Within the center [] Outside the center [].

Ø Why do you reside in the above named place?.....

.....

2. About the Business Enterprise

Ø Do you own this Business? Yes [] No []. If not give relation with the owner.....

Ø Type of business (by main category) Manufacturing/ fabrication/ processing []

Distributive/

Commercial (including retail, whole sale) [] Services (including transportation, repairs, restaurant)

[]

Ø Which goods do you sell: Agricultural [] Non agricultural [] Both [] Any other (specify) []

Ø What is the reason for your choice of the Business option?

.....

Ø How far do you travel to come to this market?

Ø What means of transport do you use to transport your goods?

Ø Where is your source of supplies? Awasi [] Ahero [] Kisumu [] Any other (specify) []

Ø How many customers do you handle daily? Less than 5 [] Between 6 and 10 []

- Between 11 and 20 [] More than 20 [] Any other (specify) []
- Ø Do you employ any people? Yes [] No []
- Ø If yes, how many? Less than 5 [] Between 6 and 10 [] More than 10 [] Any other specify []
- Ø How much do you pay an employee per month, in Kshs. Less than 1,000 [] Between 1001 and 5000 [] More than 5000 [] Any other (specify) []
- Ø Status of the tenure of your business premises: Owner occupied [] Rented []
- Ø For how many days in the month do you operate?
- Ø How much fees do you pay to operate in the market? (in Kshs.).....
- Ø Do you operate in other markets doing this same business?.....
- Ø Why did you decide to invest in Awasi?.....
- Ø Do you invest elsewhere? If yes, where and how much?.....
- Ø What do you consider as an investment
- Ø What other income generating activities do you have?.....

3. Service provision

- Ø Do you have access to the following services? Electricity: Yes [] No [] Water: Yes [] No [] Toilet facility: Yes [] No [] Banking: Yes [] No []
- Ø What services do you think could improve your business if provided?.....
- Ø What problems are you facing in this center?.....

THANK YOU.

APPENDIX TWO

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

N/B Information and Data gathered will be handled with confidentiality and will only be used for academic purposes only.

Questionnaire Number.....

Household survey of Residents of Awasi centre

1. Personal Data

- ✓ Name of the respondent (optional).....
- ✓ Sex: Male [] Female []
- ✓ Marital status: Single [] Married [] Any other (specify) []
- ✓ Place of birth: Awasi [] Ahero [] Kisumu [] Any other (specify) [].....
- ✓ Level of education: None [] Primary [] Secondary [] Tertiary [] Any other (specify) []
- ✓ Period of stay in Awasi center.
- ✓ Reasons for coming to the center: Work [] Birth place [] Marriage [] Other (specify) [].....

2. Economic information

- Ø Occupation (if working): Formal [] Informal [] Other (specify) []
- Ø Place of work: Awasi center [] Other places [] Unemployed []
- Ø Income per month (in Kshs.).....
- Ø Do you send part of your income back home? Yes [] No []
- Ø If no, give reasons.....
- Ø If yes, approximately how much per month (in Kshs.).....
- Ø Reasons for sending money back home: Domestic [] School fees [] Farm upkeep [] Other (specify) [].....
- Ø How often do you send money back home and why?

3. Housing information

Building materials used:

- Roof: Grass [] Tiles [] Iron sheets [] Other (specify) []
- Wall: Bricks [] Earth [] Stones [] Blocks [] Timber [] Other (specify) []
- Floor: Earth [] Cement [] Other (specify) []
- Status of tenure of your dwelling unit (house): Owner occupied [] Rented []

- Rent per month (if rented) in Kshs: Less than 500 Between 501 and 1000 Between 1001 and 2000 More than 2000 Any other (specify)

4. Service Provision

Water

- Source of water: Piped water Pond Borehole River/stream Other (specify)

Health facility

- Distance to the nearest health facility: Health centre Hospital Dispensary Clinic

Education Facility

- Distance to the nearest educational facility: Nursery Primary Secondary

3 Sources of Energy

- ✓ What is the source of the energy you use? Firewood Paraffin Charcoal Electricity Gas Any other (specify)
- ✓ Sewage disposal: Main (public) sewer Septic tank Pit latrine Other (specify)
- ✓ Refuse disposal: Dumping Compost pit Other (specify)
- ✓ Where do you go for the following services: Recreation.....[] General repairs..... [] Buy low order goods..... [] Buy high order goods..... Administrative services.....[]
- ✓ What are the problems being faced in Awasi center?.....
.....
- ✓ Suggest possible solutions to the above-mentioned problems.....
.....

THANK YOU.

APPENDIX THREE

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

N/B: Information and data gathered shall be handled with confidentiality and shall be used for academic purposes only

Questionnaire Number.....

Household Survey (of the residents of the rural hinterland)

1. Personal Data

- ✓ Name of the respondent (optional).....
- ✓ Sex: Male [] Female []
- ✓ Marital status: Single [] Married [] Other (specify) [].....
- ✓ Level of education: None [] Primary [] Secondary [] Tertiary [] Any other (specify) []
- ✓ Place of birth.....

2. Household Characteristics

- Ø Members of the household: Males [] Females []
- Ø How many members of the household are in or left at: Primary level [] Secondary [] Tertiary [] Any other (specify) []

3. Work/ Economy

- Of the members mentioned above, how many are: Working [] In school [] Just at home [] Other (specify) [].....
- For those in school, how do you pay for their school fees and other needs?.....
- For those working do you have any of them working in Awasi center? Yes [] No []
- If yes, does he/ she send money home? Yes [] No []
- If yes, approximately how much per month (in Kshs.) Less than 500 [] Between 501 and 1000 [] Between 1001 and 1500 [] More than 1500 []
- How often do you receive the money? Fortnightly [] Monthly [] After two months [] Any other (specify) []
- What do you do with the money? Buy food [] Invest [] Use in farm activities [] Any other (specify).....

4. Housing

Building materials used:

- Ø Roof: Grass [] Tiles [] Iron sheets [] Other (specify) [].....
- Ø Wall: Bricks [] Earth [] Stones [] Blocks [] Timber [] Other (specify) [] ...
- Ø Floor: Earth [] Cement [] Other (specify) []

5. Farm Production

✓ How many acres of land do you have? Less than 2 [] Between 2 and 5 [] More than 5 []

✓ Do you own a title deed? Yes [] No []

✓ What crops do you grow in your farm? Food crops [] Cash crops []

✓ If you sell your produce, where do sell them?

✓ What animals do you keep in your farm?

✓ If you sell your animal products, where do you sell them?

✓ What is the main means of transport you use to transport your product to the market?

✓ Does the location of Awasi help you in marketing of your farm produce? (Explain)
.....

✓ Has there been time when you have been unable to get your produce to the market? Yes [] No []

✓ Why were you unable to market your produce? Poor prices [] Lack of transport []
Any other (specify) []

.....
.....

6. Non farm Activities

Ø What non farm activities are you engaged in (e.g. weaving, pottery, shop keeping,

Any other, specify)

Ø Where do you sell these products?
.....

6. Service Provision

✓ Where do you go if you want (to go for):

- Recreation: Awasi [] Ahero [] Kisumu [] Any other (specify) []

.....

- General repairs: Awasi [] Ahero [] Kisumu [] Any other (specify) []
- Buy low order goods: Awasi [] Ahero [] Kisumu [] Any other (specify) []
- Buy high order goods: Awasi [] Ahero [] Kisumu [] Any other (specify) []
- Hospital services: Awasi [] Ahero [] Kisumu [] Any other (specify) []
- Administrative services: Awasi [] Ahero [] Kisumu [] Any other (specify) []
- Farm inputs: Awasi [] Ahero [] Kisumu [] Any other (specify) []
- Agricultural extension services: Awasi [] Ahero [] Kisumu [] Any other (specify) []

✓ What problems are you facing in this area?

.....

.....

✓ Suggest possible solutions to the above-mentioned problems.....

.....

THANK YOU.

APPENDIX FOUR

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

N/B: The Information given will be handled with confidentiality and will be used for academic purposes only.

Interview Schedule for institutional heads

Name of the respondent (optional).....

Designation

Type of the institution: Governmental [] Non governmental organization []

Community Based Organization [] Any other (specify) []

Year of establishment.....

Reason for establishment

.....

What role does the institution play in regard to planning and development of Awasi Centre?

.....

What are the challenges/ problems being faced in promoting the planning and development of Awasi Centre?

.....

Do you collaborate with other institutions in carrying out your work?

If yes, which institutions are these and what are the forms of collaborations?

.....

Do you get any assistance from the central government?

If yes, what is this assistance?

.....

What problems are you facing in carrying out work?

.....

.....

.....

How has Awasi center been of benefit to its residents and those in the rural hinterland?

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

What, in your view is the potential of Awasi to foster development within the region?

.....
.....

Suggest the possible way of improving the delivery capacity of Awasi center.

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

THANK YOU.

APPENDIX FIVE

DESIGNATED GROWTH/SERVICE CENTRES

Nyanza Province

<i>District</i>	<i>Principal Town</i>	<i>Urban Centre</i>	<i>Rural Centres</i>	<i>Market Centres</i>	<i>Local Centres</i>
Kisumu	Kisumu	Ahero	Miwani	Chiga	Kibos
		Maseno	Chemelil	Kibigori	Ramula- Ombeyi
			Sondu	Rabuor	God Abuoro
			Muhoroni	Awasi	Songhor
			Kombewa	Kusa	Masogo
			Kiboswa	Pap Onditi	Nyamasaria
				Kisian	Korowe
				Awach	Onjiko- Otho
				Daraja Mbili	Kibogo
				Paw Akuche	Onyuongo Nyamarimba
				Otonglo	Sigoti
					Bodi
					Nyang'ande
					Nyabondo
					Makindu- (Kowawa)
					Koru
					Tamu
					Magwar
					Reru
					Akado
					Wath Orego
					Ulalu

Source: Human Settlements in Kenya: A Strategy for Urban and Rural Development 1978 Edition, by Ministry of Lands, Physical Planning Department .Page 80

APPENDIX SIX

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Telegrams: "SCIENCETECH", Nairobi
Telephone: 254-20-241331, 241349,
254-20- 311761, 241376,
Fax: 254-20- 213215
When replying please quote



P. O. Box 30623 -00100
NAIROBI- KENYA

REF: NCST/5/002/R/001-A

11th December, 2008.

Laji Duncan Adoyo,
University of Nairobi,
P.O. Box 30197,
NAIROBI.

Dear Sir,

RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Following your application for Authority to Conduct Research on:- "Planning Challenges of an Upcoming Small Urban Centre: The Case of Awasi, Nyando District Kenya. I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to conduct Research in Nyando District for a period ending 30th May, 2009.

You are advised to report to the District Commissioner and the District Education Officer, Nyando District before embarking on your Research Project.

On completion, you are expected to submit two copies of your Research Report to this office.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jane L. Chokaa'.

Jane L. Chokaa
FOR: SECRETARY

cc: The District Commissioner,
Nyando.

The District Education Officer,
Nyando District.

APPENDIX SEVEN

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Telephone: 057-51566
When replying please
quote



**DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
NYANDO DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 1,
AWASI**

NDO/ED/17/13/139

Date: 15th December, 2008.

The District Officer
NYANDO DIVISION

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION – LAJI DUNCAN ADOYO

The above named is a master student of University of Nairobi. He is carrying out research on:-

“Planning challenges of an upcoming small urban centre. The case of Awasi, Nyando District, Kenya”

This office has granted him permission to carryout the research. Give him all the necessary support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V.J.A. Wambi'.

V.J.A. WAMBI
FOR: DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
NYANDO DISTRICT