

**AN ASSESSMENT ON THE IMPACT OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION ON
WOMEN IN MUKURU SLUM, NAIROBI - KENYA**

**BY
PERIS MACHARIA
REG. NO: N69/71877/08**

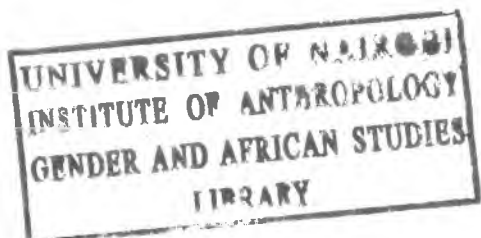
**A RESEARCH PROJECT PAPER SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE ON MASTER OF
ARTS IN GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
NAIROBI**

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DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree award in any other university.

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Signature: Peris Macharia

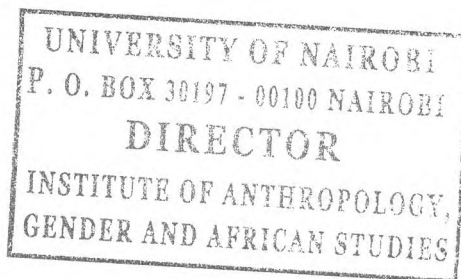
Date: 21.10.2011

This research project is submitted for defence in partial fulfillment for the award of Master of Arts degree in Gender and Development studies with my approval as a university supervisor.

Supervisor: Professor Isaac K. Nyamongo

Signature: Isaac K. Nyamongo

Date: 31.10.2011



Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies
University of Nairobi

DEDICATION

I dedicate this project to my late grandfather Justus Ndaba, who valued education and took initiative to educate his children during the colonial era. You still are a great inspiration to us today and I am the fruit of your labour.

To the people of Mukuru slums who struggle with different challenges arising from the “kijiji” environment yet put on a bright face to overcome them.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank the Almighty God for enabling me to complete my studies. To my parents, siblings and husband for their continued support you guys are the best.

Sisters of Mercy, Mukuru Promotion Centre for giving me an opportunity to interview your staff and engage your clients in Focus group discussion. To Pauline Mukami and Naomi Wangui my research assistants thank you for the great work.

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Thank you all and God bless you.

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ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
FBOs	Faith Based Organizations
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GoK	Government of Kenya
HELB	Higher Education Loans Board
HIV	Human Immuno Deficiency Virus
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LAFT	Local Authority Funds Transfer
MDGS	Millennium Development Goals
MPC	Mukuru Promotion Centre
NGOs	Non- Governmental Organizations
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TB	Tuberculosis
TULIP	Tumaini Ladies Integrated Ministries
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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ABSTRACT

The first Millennium Development Goal is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Efforts towards achieving this goal along with the other Millennium Development Goals are being carried out by governments, non-governmental organizations, International organizations, and private institutions around the world.

Despite all interventions addressing poverty alleviation in the slums there is the challenge of existing gender inequalities in education and employment opportunities where the women in the slums are poorer than men. This ties with the third Millennium Development Goal which aims to promote gender equality and empower women.

This purpose of this cross sectional study was to assess the impact of poverty alleviation programs on women in Mukuru slums. The research questions aimed at answering the question on how organizations working in Mukuru slums involve women in their programs and what effect the process of poverty alleviation has on men and women. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected.

The findings indicate that poverty alleviation efforts are being hindered by gender inequalities, dependency syndrome, lack of relevant information, ignorance, self alienation, poor living conditions and insecurity. The study findings will inform organizations working in Mukuru slums to initiate community based poverty alleviation programs, the government especially the Ministry of State Planning, National Development and Vision 2030, other government departments in policy formation and review of existing ones. The findings will also be useful to individuals and research institutions to inform further studies on this subject.

This study recommends affirmative action in the distribution of education bursaries to ensure gender equality in opportunities in education advancement. The economic empowerment of women to enable them provide basic needs for their families through capacity building in entrepreneurial skills. The government needs to improve basic infrastructure in terms of proper housing, sanitation and access roads within Mukuru slums.

CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

According to the Kenya 2009 Population and Housing Census report by the Ministry of State Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 Kenya's population is currently 38.6 million with Nairobi leading the list of most populous county with a population of 3.1 million. Kenya's population has grown incrementally from the 2.5 million at the beginning of the last century to the current figure. In 1962, just before the country gained independence from the British, Kenya had 8.62 million people, a figure which rose to 10.9 million at the 1969 census, 15.3 million in 1979 and up to 21.4 million in 1989. In the urban areas, the overwhelming majority of those who live below the poverty line are found in slums. In Nairobi this is more than 60% of the population who live in the sprawling slums spread throughout the city. The population pressure in the slums outstrips the available infrastructure making the slums large-scale pockets of filth, poor sanitation, insecurity and dangerous living. The slum dwellers mostly rent squalid housing units, which are owned by absentee landlords who own the structures but not the land. These landlords seek maximum returns on the most limited space of land, so the houses are tiny, crowded and lacking in basic social amenities. The bulk of the population of the Nairobi slums is made up of women and children. The women in the slums are almost five times as likely as men to be unemployed (Oxfam, 2009:3).

Gender-based violence (GBV) is prevalent in the slums. This perpetuates the cycle of poverty as it affects negatively women's economic contribution. The GBV is mainly by men as they have power and control resources. "Gender Based Violence puts women and girls at a risk of contracting HIV and AIDS due to their vulnerability and subordinate status"(Ruto, Mbote and Strachan, 2009:114) this is mostly common in Mukuru slums. The women lack formal employment and their low education levels predisposes them to risky behaviours such as prostitution in order to earn a living to sustain their families. The poverty vicious cycle thus continues as women experience difficulties in their intervention to eradicate poverty as discussed in the problem statement.

The Mukuru settlement is situated in the heart of the industrial area within Nairobi East division. The slum starts from Dunga Road near South B, through Enterprise Road in Industrial area. There are several slum villages within Mukuru with an estimated population of 600,000. The villages are Fuata Nyayo, Kisii, Kayaba, Mariguini, Commercial, Masaai, Kanaro, and Kaberera. Mukuru, which means 'valley' in Kikuyu language, is a valley resulting from the geographical alignment of the flow of Ngong River. The river is polluted as factories dump their effluent, some of which is toxic while the slum dwellers build their houses near the river and dump their garbage in it.

Residents are from varying ethnic and religious backgrounds which often leads to unrests due to differing values. The land belongs to the government and the villages are illegal settlements made of rusty iron, tin, cardboard and plastic structures. There is no clean water, no proper sanitation system or planned infrastructure. The "health status in the slum is pathetic due to overcrowding, bad nutrition and antisocial behaviour, particularly drug and alcohol abuse which promotes promiscuity and sexual abuse resulting in STIs and HIV/AIDS" (MPC, 2007:7).

1.2 Problem statement

Like in other urban slums, poverty is widespread in Mukuru slums. This poverty is linked to lack of employment and educational opportunities. The low levels of education contribute to high levels of gender based violence. Due to differences in educational levels most women are unable to access jobs. Most women, especially those with partners wait for their partners to provide for them. However, this is not always the case, nor is the provision from the partner guaranteed. In female-headed households the situation is often more critical. This has led to the vicious cycle of poverty where the children born, especially the girl child, are unable to break the cycle due to factors such as GBV because of their vulnerability and lack of access to financial resources to enable them further their education.

This has forced women to engage in high risk behaviours such as prostitution and crime (brewing of illicit brew) to earn a living. They also seek low paying jobs as casuals in

factories to be able to support their families. However, the jobs are unreliable; offer no job security and working conditions are often not conducive. During times of water and power rationing, many factories are forced to close down leaving many women jobless.

The result is that women do not compete at par with men. A number of organizations are involved in addressing the problem of poverty among women in the slums. These organizations are focusing on empowering women so as to raise their socio economic status and reduce existing gender gaps. The aim of this study therefore is to assess the impact that the organizations intervention on poverty alleviation has had on women's livelihoods in Mukuru. The research questions are:

1. How do organizations dealing with poverty alleviation within Mukuru slums involve women in their programs?
2. What effect does this process of poverty alleviation has on men and women?

1.3 Objectives of the study

1.3.1 The main objective of the study

To evaluate the impact of poverty alleviation strategies in place within Mukuru slums.

1.3.2 Specific objectives of the study

1. To determine how organizations involve women in the alleviation of poverty in Mukuru slums.
2. To assess the impact of poverty alleviation interventions on gender inequalities in Mukuru slums.

1.4 Justification of the study

Poverty eradication is one of the priority areas of Millennium Development Goals which has formed the bases for organizations and nations strategies in poverty alleviation. This study therefore is of great importance to NGOs working the slums in assessing the impact

of their interventions. This can assist in identifying gaps and strategizing on future interventions.

The study contributes to academic advancement in the area of the impact of poverty alleviation strategies where further studies can be done on the subject.

1.5 Scope of the study

The scope of the study was Mukuru slums and data collected and analyzed is useful to organizations working within a slum setting and the slum community. However, each urban slum is unique in its geographical settings, ethnicity, culture and social amenities that define its poverty status. Mukuru slum is situated near the Ngong River on one side and industrial factories on the other side.

This study's specific objective was to determine how organizations in Mukuru involve women in alleviation of poverty and to assess the impact of poverty on gender inequalities among women.

1.6 Definition of key terms

Development- This is movement from one level to another usually with some increase in size, number or quality. It can also be termed as growth.

Gender – Gender is about the relationship between men and women. It is defined by societal norms and practices supported by societal attitudes. Gender in this study will refer to the socially constructed roles ascribed to men and women.

Gender based violence- This is violence perpetuated against either men or women that could be physical, psychological or sexual. In most cases the dominate person mostly men inflict psychological, sexual or physical harm to women due to the patriarchal structure in most of our communities. This study will look into GBV on women in the slums because of their vulnerability due to lack of access to basic needs.

Gender inequality- In this study the term gender inequality will mean existing gaps between men and women in their socio-economic status. This includes education levels, economic power and holistic empowerment among both genders.

Poor households – United Nations define poor households as those living on or less than a dollar a day. However this study defines poor households as those living in the slum areas such as Mukuru. A general definition of a poor person could be defined as one who cannot access or even control key resources. These resources are such as financial and natural (e.g. land). Research has shown that most women in the world experience inequality in access and control of resources from household to national level.

Poverty- According to the poverty eradication committee “poverty is a situation where an individual or house hold is not able to secure its basic needs for example food, shelter, water, medical facilities, security and schooling” (GoK, 2009:3). In this study poverty will mean limited access and control of resources such as information, education and credit facilities.

Poverty alleviation- This is a process in which communities are applying to end poverty cycles as individuals, households and groups. Poverty alleviation will be measured through indicators such as access to education, credit facilities and proper remunerated employment.

Poverty cycle- Poverty is relative; it varies from society, culture and nation. Poverty cycle in this study will be defined by measuring how long an individual and household has lived in Mukuru slums. Slum condition of housing, sanitation and environment are polluted and harmful. There are risks of fire outbreaks and floods that threaten one’s survival as well as cost of living are high. Thus the longer an individual has inhabited Mukuru the more vulnerable the person is to poverty cycle.

Slum- This is a dwelling that individuals who cannot afford decent housing opt to stay. In Kenya majority of the slums were pieces of land left unused and homeless and landless

people were settled as squatters. However over the years the first inhabitants grabbed large pieces of land to construct poor houses for rental purposes.

Strategies- These are plans put in place as tactics. Poverty alleviation strategies are approaches that various stakeholders have put in place to get communities and individuals from the poverty status. Some strategies that have been employed by various institutions within Mukuru slums that this study has an interest in are such as capacity building, economic empowerment as well as provision of basic social amenities at an affordable price such as the medical clinic and community secondary school.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section focuses on some risks related to poverty including GBV, criminal activities HIV and AIDS and the poverty cycle, theoretical framework and study assumptions.

2.1 Literature review

Poverty in the slums is not only restricted to women but men too are affected. The incidences “of poor woman- headed households and the factors that affect this incidence, measures household income levels...” (Lycette, Buvinic and McGreevey, 1983:17). The female-headed households are as a result of HIV and AIDS, and other social relation problems between men and women. Most of the women in the slum have low education and thus unable to access formal jobs. The jobs available are casual which are hard to access and pay lowly.

Women are the highest number in population in the society though little is done towards their poverty status yet they play a very crucial role in the family set up. In the integration of gender in all development activities there is a misconception that the problem on gender inequality is insignificant and also over blown. Participation of women in poverty alleviation activities is not widely felt in the slum areas. A combination of factors creates inequality between men and women. In developing countries “women are indeed the second sex...less educated than men, have fewer occupational options and earn less when they work” (Lycette, Buvinic and McGreevey, 1983:3). Sustainable development can only be realized by involving all stakeholders in the development process. The only way poverty can be eradicated is for both men and women to participate in development activities to ensure self-reliance.

Organizations working in Mukuru slums have adopted various empowerment approaches through capacity building and economic empowerment. This is to enable self-reliance and sustainability of initiatives. This is different from past strategies such as provision of basic needs such as food, house rent and clothes (hand outs) in which communities highly depended on the organizations, increasing the dependence syndrome and poverty cycle.

Political and economic factors play a very big role in poverty alleviation amongst women. In Kenya, for instance, the percentage of women in key decision making is low compared to that of men. The positions are of importance for women to participate in planning of the available resources. Few women are involved in decision making and hence most of their views and opinions are not well represented. The low representation of women in the Kenyan parliament has affected women's participation and presentation of bills and laws which affect women such as the family and reproductive bills which have greater impact on empowering women. Through the marriage bill the rights of women will be protected especially where women have been disinherited even after having been contributors to family wealth. In line with the 2011 Kenya International women's day theme on "From the slums, women are on the way forward" this study encourages women's participation in poverty alleviation activities as poverty risks are bound to enslave them into a poverty cycle.

2.1.1 Risks related to poverty

a) Gender based violence

Most women in the slums live below the poverty line especially due to social and developmental challenges for instance, the retrogressive cultural beliefs which devalues women and thus are not empowered either through education and are denied inheritance. Some women who have been disinherited and cannot return to their maternal home have migrated to the slum areas where life is 'cheap'.

Industries within Mukuru slums offer casual jobs to women especially during the night to increase their production maximizing profits. However in Mukuru slums "there is a clearly strong element of discrimination against womenwomen work long hours and are lowly paid, they are usually not allowed to keep their children with them" (Gilbert and Gurgler, 1991:71). This results in psychological violence to these working women and in a family setting who are physically abused by the husband for neglecting her role as a mother and wife.

According to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), discrimination against women violates the principle of equality of rights and respect for human dignity. The convention is concerned that in the “situations of poverty, women have the least access to food, health, education, training and opportunities for employment” (UN, 1979:4) and experience GBV. Women are vulnerable to GBV because of their poverty status and their rights are greatly violated.

b) Criminal activities

“UN studies show that 17% of Kibera population is formally employed and these are primarily men working in the industrial area... in harsh working conditions including long hours, heavy manual and unclean and unsafe working environment” (Bodewes, 2005:65).

The economic activities of women in squatter settlements in Nairobi indicate that women are more restricted than men in their choice of economic activity. Due to these forms of discrimination against the women, they try to find the way out in order to get their daily bread and hence end up in prostitution, drug abuse and trafficking. “ Only a small proportion of the local business establishments were run by women and most ...were involved in illicit beer brewing or prostitution” (Gilbert and Gurgler, 1991:71). In the past the illicit brew has killed some people and left others blind in Mukuru slums. The illicit brew den is also a den of prostitution and spread of Tuberculosis (TB), Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), and HIV and AIDS.

c) HIV and AIDS

“UNAIDS estimates that 2 million of Kenya’s 29.5 million people are currently infected with HIV and that 1.5 million have already succumbed to the disease...” (Levy, Autran, Coutinho and Phair, 2008:4). Awareness creation has increased but the component of behaviour change has not helped in reducing HIV infections. Women are the majority hit since “only the condom is available for HIV prevention and this requires a man’s active cooperation” (Levy, Autran, Coutinho and Phair, 2008:1). The male condom which is easily available requires a man’s active cooperation whereby in most cases women due to

their vulnerability lack the capacity to negotiate for safe sex. On the other hand the female condom is not easily available to the poor due to its cost. There was also limited knowledge on how to use it as opposed to the male condom. Moreover, the use of the female condom was said to be cumbersome to use and requires a man's cooperation which is not easily forthcoming. Thus, women, due to their vulnerability status, engage in risky sexual relations all for the well-being of their families as a means of earning a living.

Through prostitution the spread of HIV and AIDS has greatly increased, most organizations face a set back as priorities shift from initiating development activities to taking care of the bed-ridden and orphaned children. This is a hindrance to poverty alleviation in Mukuru slums and it gradually leads to growth of single parenting resulting to the emergence of street children.

d) Unstable family relations

Mukuru slum is a residence to various communities and cultures. The marriage contracts are sometimes for convenient purposes and are faced with challenges as the individuals involved might pull out when their economic status worsens. In Bangladesh "Women are becoming more vulnerable as men increasingly abandoned their families in the face of poverty" (Pryer, 2003:43).

Most houses in Mukuru slum are small in size compared to the large families. Thus the living conditions of families is affected and teenagers, move from their parent's house to a friend or relative for shelter at night thus the parents lack control of their movements and could easily get involved in criminal activities. According to Were Parents rely on the school and teachers to discipline and morally educate their children as they have lost parental responsibility due to the instability of their families and this is evident in schools within Mukuru slums.

According to Were sexual promiscuity, where outside marriage contracts appear to be free and prostitution where sexual services offered in exchange for wage are other factors

causing instability in families in the slums. The behaviors increase spread of HIV and AIDS, increasing mortality rate especially for men.

Some of the reasons for the emergence of female-headed households in the slums are “widowhood, rising cases of divorce, separation and other forms of marital instability as well as an emerging trend in which some women have chosen to have children but not to get married” (Belanger and Ghorayshi, 1996:77).

2.1.2 Poverty cycle

a) Gender roles

Gender roles have clearly indicated that “poverty is very much a woman’s issue, at least in part because of women’s double roles” (Lycette, Buvinic and McGreevey, 1983:3). Women both affect and are affected by poverty in relation to development processes. The needs and contribution of poor women is different from that of poor men in the slums, thus their problems command qualitatively different solutions.

b) Gender inequalities

The concept of feminization of poverty considers that women are poorer than men simply because they lack access and control of various resources. In the economic sector “unemployment is usually reported considerably higher for women than for men even though many women do not actively look for work because they are aware that the opportunities open to them are severely limited” (Gilbert and Gurgler, 1991:71). Women also have poor attitudes in seeking employment opportunities thus result to hand outs and dependency on their male partners or relatives which results to a vicious cycle of poverty.

In most cases improvement in productivity in the lives of poor men will not necessarily benefit poor women and their children. According to ILO basic needs refers to “the minimum standard of living which a society should set for the poorest groups of its people where their satisfaction means meeting the minimum requirements of family for personal consumption that is food, shelter, and clothing” (Lycette, Buvinic and McGreevey, 1983:293). In most situations in the slums women lack proper housing, food

and clothing. This definition gives a clear understanding of the situation of women in Mukuru slum.

“Poor women are excluded systematically from resources and opportunities and encounter discourses that mark them as reprehensible, undeserving and deviant” (Reid and Tom, 2006:403). In terms of employment opportunities women lack access and options in the job market due to their low levels of education; they are only able to contract casual jobs in residential areas near the slum as well as in factories where the pay is low. According to ILO each person should be able to access an adequately remunerated job. However, the casual jobs available for women pay lowly. Most industries prefer men to women due to the risky nature of the work as well as the long working hours. Women’s employment problems vary from low wages, limited access to capital and technology as well as the dual household work and child care responsibilities.

Female poverty may also be caused by circumstances such as insufficient education, demographic characteristics, and lack of information to enhance productivity in the entrepreneurship sector. For example, in Kenya “Households headed by individuals with educational attainment at secondary level are better off than those headed by individuals with primary education: within each province, households headed by individuals with no education depict the highest poverty incidence” (IMF, 2007:4).

According to Nilson (1981) to break the vicious cycle of poverty there is need to intervene institutionally in poverty alleviation process by upgrading educational, training and job opportunities. “Education and training may enhance the productivity of women, not only in market work but also in household work and child care. Adult literacy was identified as a high priority to empower women with literacy. Literacy classes have become the entry point for discussion of other concerns related to poverty” (Wignaraja, 1990:60). However, in slums a majority of women are less motivated to attend adult literacy classes. They are concerned that such time in class is a “waste of time” which they could be doing their casual jobs. However, “literacy is a vital component for self reliance...and for decision making” (Nzomo, 1993: 61).

“Gender inequality has a strong repercussion for human capital in the next generation, because the burden of bearing and rearing children falls largely upon women. Women deprived of education and decision making power face serious constraints on rearing healthy and productive children...while giving income generating loans to women improves the nutritional status of their children”(Pryer, 2003:9).

Various organizations use empowerment strategies to empower women as a poverty alleviation strategy, for example, Tumaini ladies integrated program offers life skills, Vocational training, counselling skills, computer technology and sewing projects. There is a vibrant singing, dancing and poetry team that uses creative skills to pass on specific teachings in the lyrics. On the sewing project, there are successful and thriving quilts and kitchen products available to the market.

The study identified resource mobilization strategies by enhancing their capacity as they were able to economically empower themselves without factoring their differences, tribe, age, and education status. Strategies such as federations which is a form of a self-help group were being used in poverty alleviation “the Kenyan urban poor federation population has 137 saving groups in over 60 settlements in nine urban areas; it now has more than 25000 members” (Biggs and Satterthwaite, 2004:15). The economically empowered women were able to be self reliant and take care of their families.

2.2 Theoretical framework

This study adopted the gender planning framework where, “the position of women depends on a variety of different criteria such as...gender” (Moser, 1993:38).

The framework distinguished between practical and strategic gender needs. It concentrated on gender inequalities and how to address them at program and policy level. The practical gender needs are identified by women in their socially constructed roles. The needs are a response to immediate perceived necessities such as education, water provision, health care and lack of employment conditions that women in Mukuru slum were prone to. However, the practical needs do not challenge the insubordinate position

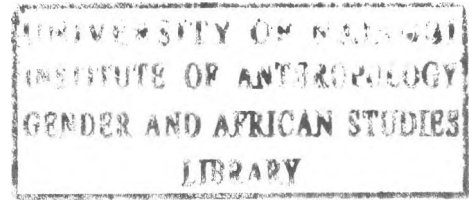
of women and gender division of labour which infringe on the living conditions of women.

The strategic needs are needs women identify because of their subordinate position. This is in access and control of resources in employment and education sectors. This includes gender division of labour, power and control such as domestic violence which if challenged can change the subordinate position of women as well as achieve gender equality. Power and control of resources is one of the strategies to empower individuals, especially women, to alleviate poverty.

2.3 Assumptions

The study assumption was that there is an existing gender gap inequality in relation to the impact of poverty within Mukuru slum. The women in the slum are poorer than men due to social and developmental challenges.

CHAPTER THREE METHODOLOGY



3.1 Study site

The study was carried out in Mukuru slums situated in South B, Nairobi. The slum is highly populated, with two community schools, a non-formal education centre, medical clinic, an adult literacy centre, a mixed secondary school, a market, non-governmental organizations and local administration offices. Mukuru slums are surrounded by industries where majority of the slum dwellers work as casual labourers while on the other side are residential houses where women seek jobs as cleaners. The slum area is covered by informal settlements which some residents use as business premises, for example, as food stalls, salons, and bars.

The slum is divided into villages which are governed by village chair persons, who work together with the local administration. Within the villages are institutions working with the community in poverty alleviation such as NGOs, and CBOs for instance Mukuru Slum Development Project, Development of Kenya Agency, Goal Kenya, Mukuru Promotion Centre and Child Fund Kenya. The Churches within are also involved in community work such as provision of food, rent arrears, medical costs while the local administration trickle down government initiatives such as the Youth Fund, Kazi kwa Vijana, the Women Trust Fund, the CDF and education bursaries among others. Mukuru slum has the majority of its residents as causal labourers in the surrounding factories and South B estates. However, a number of the people also do engage in small scale business such as hawking, green grocery, water vending, and sanitation services among others. There are public and private schools in the area, and a market.

3.2 Research Design

The study was cross sectional and aimed at collecting qualitative and quantitative data. The data was collected using the survey method and secondary data. The collected data was then be analyzed and presented.

3.3 Population

The study target population included both men and women who have lived in the slums for more than ten years from age 16 to age 45 who were currently living in the slums either working or not. The adult age was reduced from 18 to 16 since in the slums most of the young people start being responsible as early as from age 12 especially due to the hardships in the slum, family instabilities as well as being orphaned by HIV and AIDS.

3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The questionnaire was self-administered to 100 parents (50 men and 50 women) from two community schools. This sample size clearly gave data on the educational levels, family stability, and problems they encounter in poverty alleviation in Mukuru slums. The simple random sampling of parents with children schooling in two community schools on their socio-economic status in terms of ability to cost share with the school in purchase of fire wood, food and water as some of the indicators to their poverty status.

Focused Group Discussion (FGDs) were conducted with existing self-help groups, microfinance and support groups in the area. Five women groups in the slum were sampled from a total of 50 groups in the area. The discussion mainly focused on the impact of poverty as well as interventions made to reduce poverty among Mukuru women. The stratified random method of sampling stratifies the population into groups (strata) that have a common variable in this case the female gender belonging to a support group or a self-help group who will be engaged in FGDs.

Three NGOs representatives were interviewed as key informants and were sampled from the organizations dealing with poverty alleviation among women in Mukuru slums. The NGOs' representatives provided data on their interventions in poverty alleviation in Mukuru slums. Key informants who were representatives of organizations working in Mukuru slum were also sampled using stratified random method.

3.5 Data Collection

3.5.1 Primary data

This is data that was collected at the study site using tools such as questionnaire, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions.

3.5.1.1 Questionnaires

The questionnaires were self-administered to the sample of 100 parents (50 men and 50 women). However, some interviews were conducted where some of the respondents were illiterate and therefore interviews were used to collect data. For the interviews the respondents were able to ask for clarification of a question where they didn't understand. The questionnaire tool also provided information on strategies being used on poverty alleviation.

However the time spent was costly as some respondent were hard to get and required call backs. Time spent in sending, receiving, filling and sending back the questionnaires varied on age and literacy level.

3.5.1.2 Focus group discussions

The focus group discussion is a tool that involves the participants in the discussion on issues related to them. The group members are asked about their perceptions, opinions, beliefs and attitudes towards a certain topic. In this study data of the group's status and how it assists its members in poverty alleviation was collected. Five women groups were engaged in focused group discussions on the impact of poverty in Mukuru slums through themes related to the research problem.

The FGDs collected data from Self Help Group (SHG) on strategies used to alleviate poverty especially among women and how this had impacted on their ability to provide balanced meals for their families start or expand their businesses among others. The researcher was able to probe further, get clarification from the participants and observe non-verbal communication and collect notes from the discussion.

3.5.1.3 Key informant interviews

The key informant interview guide was used to interview three non-governmental institutions involved in poverty alleviation strategies targeting women. These were representatives from NGOs, CBOs and FBOs in Mukuru slums engaging women in poverty alleviation. Data collected using an interview guide provided information on how various institutions and organizations working in Mukuru were engaging the community in poverty alleviation and this was mostly among women who were more vulnerable in the slum and faced enormous risks related to poverty.

The face to face interviews ensured that the data was collected from the right respondent. The interviews provided an opportunity for the interviewer to probe for more complete data and the respondent could ask for clarification of the questions asked.

3.5.2 Secondary data

This data had been collected from both published and unpublished literature from books, journals, and articles on the research problem. The data was also used in the study for the presentation of the findings.

3.6 Data Analysis and presentation of findings

Quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS. This was data collected from the self-administered questionnaires. Qualitative data on the other hand was analyzed through themes and indicators collected from the participants' responses on the impact of poverty among women in Mukuru slums.

CHAPTER FOUR FINDINGS AND DATA PRESENTATION

This chapter provides findings on the impact of poverty alleviation on women in Mukuru slums.

4.1 SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The characteristics of the study population included gender, age, occupation, education, marital and family status.

4.1.1 Gender

A total of 100 respondents were interviewed, and comprised 70 females (70%) and 30 males (30%). The number of female respondents targeted increased from 50 to 70 as a result of their availability at home, within the slum and schools during parents' meetings.

4.1.2 Marital Status

The Table 4.1 differentiates the marital status of the respondents and their gender, where 46% of the females were married compared to 22% of the male respondents.

Table 4.1 Marital Status by gender

Marital status	Male	Female	Total
Single	6 (20%)	16 (23%)	22%
Married	22 (73%)	46 (66%)	68%
Separated	2 (7%)	6 (9%)	8%
Divorced	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	1%
Widowed	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	1 %
Total	30	70	100%

4.1.3 Number of children by gender

Table 4.2 shows that majority of the male respondents (60%) had no children compared to (54%) of the female respondents who had no children. Also (40%) of the male respondents had one to nine children with (46%) female respondents having one to nine children.

Table 4.2: Number of children by gender

	None	1-3	4-6	7-9
Male	18 (60%)	7 (23%)	4 (13%)	1 (4%)
Female	38 (54%)	27 (39%)	3 (4%)	2 (3%)
Total	56	34	7	3

4.1.4 Age of respondent

The study population ranged between 15 years to 55 years and above. However, majority of the respondents (48%) ranged between 25 years to 34 years with 43% being male and 50% female as shown in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 Respondents by Age and Gender

Age of Respondent	Male (n=30)	Female (n=70)	Total (n=100)
15-24	3 (10%)	23 (33%)	26%
25-34	13 (43%)	35 (50%)	48%
35-44	9 (30%)	5 (7%)	14%
45-54	4 (13%)	5 (7%)	9%
55>	1 (4%)	2 (3%)	3%
Total	30	70	100%

4.1.5 Education

Table 4.4 below shows that 92% of the respondents had attended school while 8% of the respondents had never attended school.

Table 4.4: Education

Attended School	
Yes	92%
No	8%

Table 4.5 indicates that out of the 100 respondents all (100%) of the male respondents had attended school compared to (89%) of the female respondents who had attended school.

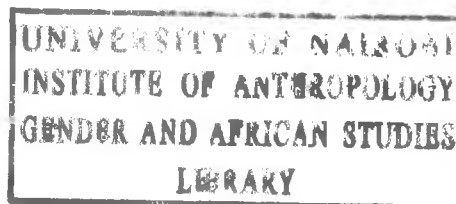


Table 4.5 Education by gender

	Yes		No	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Male	30	100	0	0
Female	62	89	8	11

Out of all 92 respondents who had attended school as indicated in Table 4.4, 52% of the female respondents had attended primary school acquiring basic education. However from the discussions in the focus group most of them had not completed their primary education as they had not done the final national exams to qualify them to join secondary education. The few who had completed their primary education lacked school fees to continue with their education. In the words of one of the respondents, “when money was available my brothers got the first priority to continue their education”. This was evident from the study carried out where 50% of the male respondents had attended high school against 39% of the female respondents. Table 4.6 below presents the respondents by level of education by gender.

Table 4.6 Respondents level of education by gender

	Male		Female	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
University	3	10	2	3
High school	15	50	24	39
Primary	11	37	32	52
Lower primary	1	3	4	6

4.1.6 Occupation and income

Out of a total number of 30 male respondents, 28 of them representing 93% had some form of occupation compared to 45 female respondents out of a total number of 70 representing 64%. This means that more men in Mukuru slum are employed than women.

4.1.6.1 Employment status

Out of 73% of the respondents who indicated that they were working, 45% were self employed while 28% were employed as shown in Table 4.7 below.

Table 4.7 Respondent's employment status

Employment Status	Frequency	Percent
Employed	28	28
Self Employed	45	45
Total	73	73%

However the findings in Table 4.8 below show that 54% of the male respondents were self-employed compared to 67% of the female respondents who were also self employed. The respondents indicated that within the slums, majority of women own small scale businesses including some carrying out unlawful activities such as brewing illicit brew and prostitution.

Table 4.8 Respondents employment status by gender

Employment status	Male		Female	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Employed	13	46%	15	33%
Self employed	15	54%	30	67%

4.1.6.2 Respondents income status (per week in Ksh.)

53% of the female respondents earned between Ksh. 100 - 500 per week compared to 46% of the male respondents earning the same amount as indicated in Table 4.9 According to most of the respondents the amount earned though not taxed is minimal to enable them to acquire basic needs.

Table 4.9 Respondents income per week in Kenya shillings by gender

	Kshs100-500	Kshs600-1000	Kshs1100-1500	Kshs1600>
Male	13 (46%)	7 (25%)	6 (22%)	2 (7%)
Female	24 (53%)	7(16%)	12(27%)	2(4%)

4.1.7 Respondents dependant status

Majority of the female respondents (38%) indicated that they depended on their husbands for their well being compared to 3% of the male respondents who indicated that they were supported by their wives for their wellbeing as indicated in Table 4.10 below. This also came out strongly in the FGDs where due to inequality in job opportunities more

men than women access casual jobs at the industries surrounding Mukuru slums. On the other hand only a few women access casual jobs including cleaning and washing in the residential areas neighboring Mukuru slums as most employers prefer employing young women from the rural areas and who reside at the employer's house.

Table 4.10: Respondent dependency status by gender

Benefactor	Male (%)	Female (%)
Parent	3	3
Sibling	3	1
Spouse	3	38
Friend	0	1
Children	0	3
Well wishers	3	0
None/ Self	27	11
Relative	0	3
Neighbor	0	1
Total	39%	61%

4.1.7.1 Assistance given to the dependants (the respondents) (n=100)

For the respondents the highest assistance given to them as dependants is rent (23%).

This is shown in Table 4.11 below.

Table 4.11: Assistance given to the respondents

Assistance given to respondent	N	Percent
Food	22	22%
Clothing	20	20%
Rent payment	23	23%
School fees payment	13	13%
Purchase of medicine	10	10%
All the above	12	12%
Total	100	100%

4.2 POVERTY ALLEVIATION ACTIVITIES

According to the study, the impact of poverty alleviation activities is not widely felt in Mukuru slums. The awareness of poverty alleviation activities greatly affects the living standards of the residents of Mukuru slums. From the study 20% of the respondents are aware of poverty alleviation programs within Mukuru slums. On the other hand 80% of

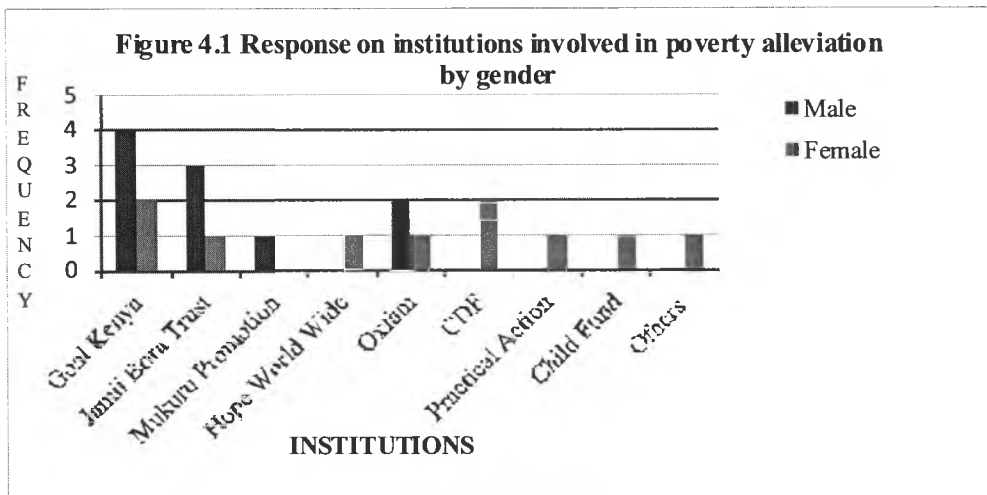
both male and female respondents were not aware of any existing poverty alleviation programs in Mukuru slums as indicated by Table 4.12 below.

Table 4.12: Respondents awareness of any poverty alleviation programs by gender

	Yes	No	
	Frequency	Frequency	Total
Male	6 (20%)	24 (80%)	30
Female	14 (20%)	56 (80%)	70
Total	20	80	100

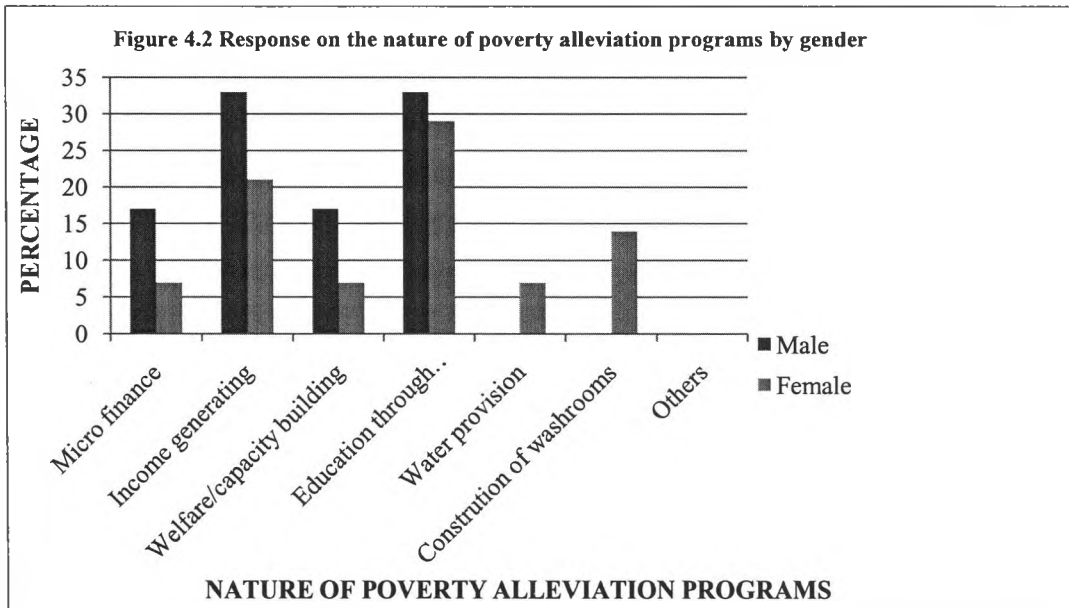
4.2.1 Response on institutions involved in poverty alleviation programs by gender

Four institutions were identified by the respondents as targeting men than women these are: Goal Kenya (4), Jamii Bora Trust (3), Mukuru Promotion Centre (1) and Oxfam (2), while four other institutions were identified by the respondents as targeting women only they include: Hope worldwide (1), CDF (2), Practical Action (1) and Child Fund (1) as shown in Figure 4.1.



4.2.1.1 Response on the nature of poverty alleviation programs by gender

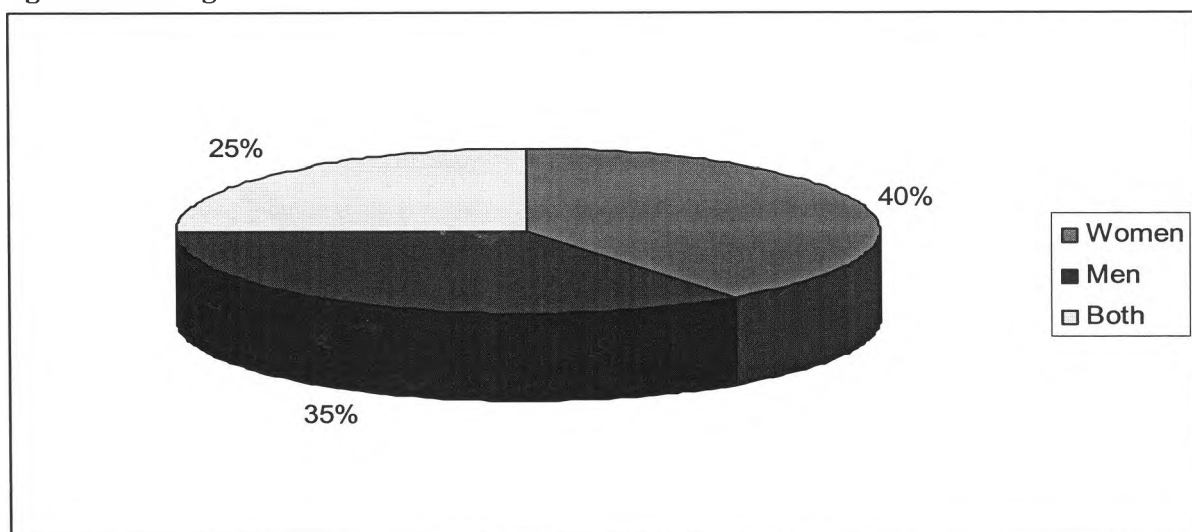
From Figure 4.2 below the nature of the programs most known to the respondents were education for children through sponsorship and income generating activities. However 33% of the male respondents were involved in both education for children through sponsorship and income generation activities compared to 29% and 21% of female respondents involved in education for children through sponsorship and income generating activities respectively. It is key to note that male respondents were not involved in programs such as provision of water, construction of wash rooms as well as other programs.



4.2.1.2 Targeted Gender

Majority of the female respondents (40%) were the most targeted by the institutions involved in poverty alleviation programs as shown in Figure 4.3 compared to 35% of the male respondents targeted.

Figure 4.3: Targeted Gender



4.2.2 Self Help Groups

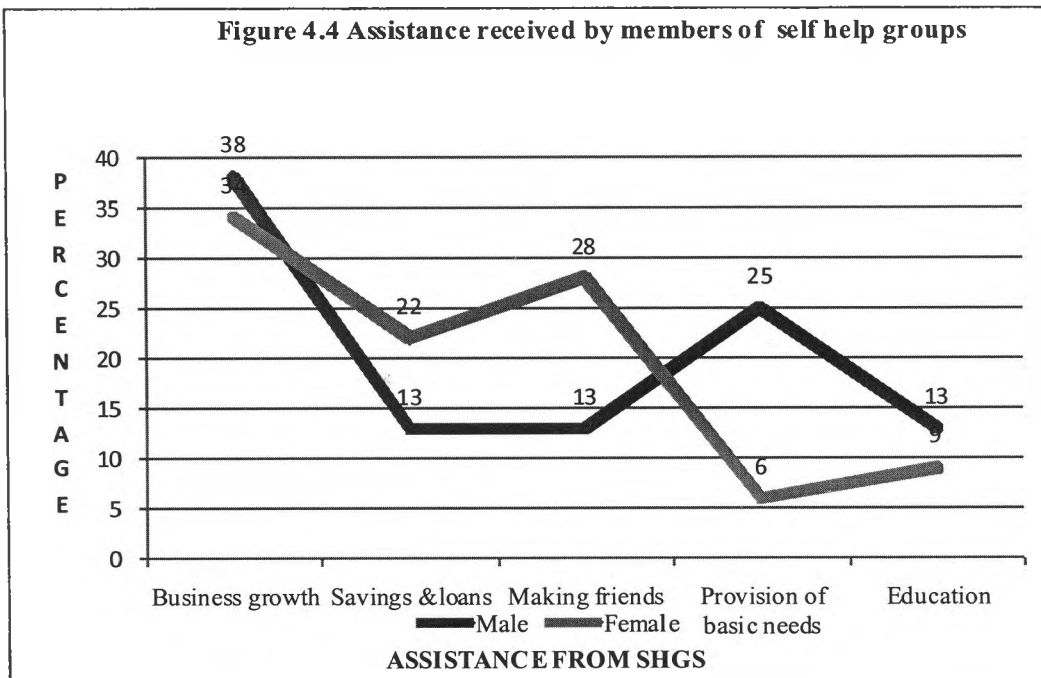
As shown in Figure 4.3 women were the main target population in poverty alleviation programs. In Mukuru slums self help groups commonly known as SHGs are involved largely in income generating activities especially for women. According to this study 46% of the female respondents indicated that they belonged to SHGs compared to 27% of the male respondents as shown in Table 4.13

Table 4.13: Composition of self help groups by gender

	Yes	No
Male	27%	73%
Female	46%	54%

However respondents who were members of SHGs as shown in Table 4.13 indicated that self help groups played an important role in alleviating poverty by boosting the growth of their businesses, being able to save and access loans, as a social support mechanism and provision of basic needs with education being prominent. Figure 4.4 below gives a clear indication of assistance the respondents received as members of SHGs.

Figure 4.4 Assistance received by members of self help groups

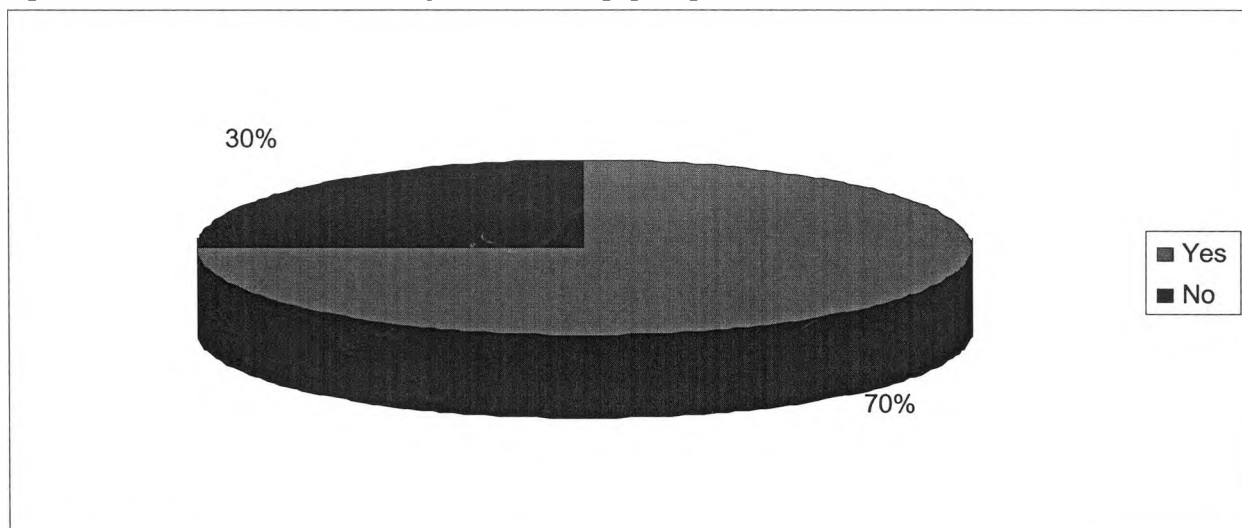


From the above findings 38% of the male respondents had been assisted by self help groups in business growth compared 34% of the female respondents getting the same assistance.

4.2.2.1 Recommendation to join a self help group

From Figure 4.5 below only 30% of the respondents would recommend someone to join a self help group compared to 70% who would not recommend.

Figure 4.5: Recommendation to join a self help group



The respondents had varying reasons why they would recommend and why they would not recommend membership to SHGs. Table 4.14 indicates that, 20% of the male respondents would recommend membership of SHGs as they can receive assistance to start or boost their business compared to 9% of the female respondents. This corresponded with responses on how the SHGs had assisted the members for instance in Figure 4.4 where 38% of the male respondents indicated that their membership to SHGs had helped in the growth of their businesses.

Table 4.14: Respondents reasons for recommending membership to SHGs by gender

	Male (%)	Female (%)
Assistance in starting a business	20	9
Encourage savings	7	27
Provide emergency loans	0	4
Social support	13	4
Other interests	0	7
Basic needs	0	9

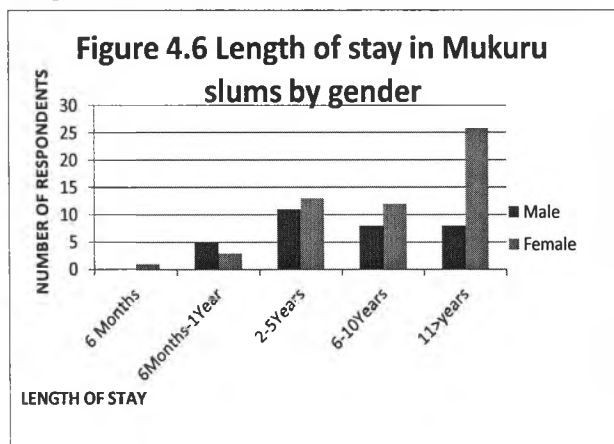
However, Table 4.15 indicates that majority of the female respondents (21%) would not recommend membership to SHGs compared to 3% of the male respondents who would also not recommend and gave no reason. However, 9% of the female respondents were not interested in joining SHGs compared to 20% of the male respondents with some indicating that “it’s a women’s affair”.

Table 4.15: Respondents' reasons for not recommending membership to SHGs by gender

Reasons	Male (%)	Female (%)
No reason	3	21
Poverty	7	1
No SHGs groups	17	2
Conflicts	7	4
Not interested	20	9
Frustrated	3	0
Lack of trust	3	1
No idea	0	2

4.2.3 Length of stay in Mukuru slums

The study went further to establish the length of stay in Mukuru slums. From the findings shown in Figure 4.6 below, 60% of the male respondents had lived for more than 11 years compared to 40% of the female respondents.



4.2.3.1 Respondents comfortability residing in Mukuru slums

Table 4.16 below shows that majority of the male respondents (53%) were comfortable residing in Mukuru slum as compared to 47% of the female respondents.

Table 4.16: Respondents comfortability residing in Mukuru slums by gender

	Yes (%)	No (%)
Male	53	47
Female	47	53

Main reason why respondents were comfortable/uncomfortable residing in Mukuru slums

This is a multiple response question from the questionnaire whereby 51 respondents indicated that they were comfortable residing in Mukuru slums because of cheap life. Sixteen (16) of the respondents were male while thirty five (35) were female respondents.

Table 4.17: Main reason why respondents were comfortable residing in Mukuru slums by gender

Why respondents are comfortable living in Mukuru	Male (n)	Female (n)	Total
cheap life	16	35	51

Table 4.18 below indicates multiple responses whereby respondents identified illicit brew (98) and immorality (97) as the major reasons why they felt uncomfortable residing in Mukuru slums. On the other hand the respondents indicated poor sanitation (31) and lack of clean water (19) as the least important reasons why they felt uncomfortable.

Table 4.18: Reasons why respondents were uncomfortable residing in Mukuru slums

Why respondents were uncomfortable living in Mukuru	Male (n)	Female (n)	Total
Poor sanitation	5	26	31
Lack of clean water	5	14	19
Overcrowding	27	64	91
Frequent fire incidences	27	66	93
Expensive life (charges on usage of sanitation services)	27	60	87
Lack of privacy	28	65	93
Outbreak of diseases	26	64	90
Illicit brew	29	69	98
Immorality	28	69	97
No other wise	26	67	93

4.2.3.2 Problems faced by the respondents in Mukuru slums

Four issues were identified as being the key areas of concern among the residents of Mukuru slum as shown in Table 4.19. These are: poor sanitation (24%), lack of clean water (18%), insecurity (16%) and frequent fire outbreaks (15%). On the other hand tribalism (1%), lack of funds (2%), drug and substance abuse (2%) and gender based violence (2%) were among the least mentioned problems.

Table 4.19: Problems faced by the respondents in Mukuru slums

Problems	Number of respondents (n)	Percent
None	12	7%
Insecurity	31	16%
Poor sanitation	45	24%
Frequent fire outbreaks	30	15%
Lack of clean water	35	18%
Drug and substance abuse	3	2%
Gender based violence	3	2%
Poor house ventilation	3	2%
Tribalism	1	1%
Disease outbreak	9	5%
Lack of funds	4	2%
Lack of jobs	5	3%
Immorality	5	3%

4.2.3.3 Solutions to problems stated by the respondents

Table 4.20 below, 46% of the respondents mentioned taking action as an individual to solve their problems in the slums compared to 1% who said they would do nothing to solve their problems.

Table 4.20: Solutions to problems stated by the respondents

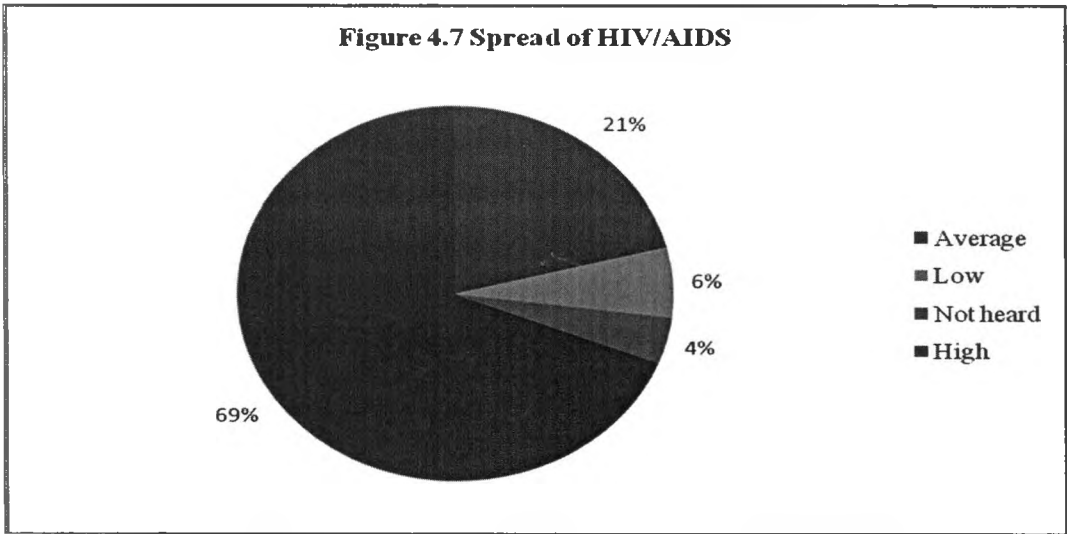
Solutions	N	Percent
No response	12	13%
Do nothing	2	1%
Community involvement	27	28%
Take action as an individual	44	46%
Involve CBO,FBO and NGO	4	4%
Report to government office	6	6%
Others	4	2%
Total	100	100.0%

4.3 CHALLENGES IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN MUKURU SLUMS

4.3.1 HIV/AIDS

In 2000 HIV/AIDS was declared as a national disaster in Kenya with increased awareness, testing and administering of antiretroviral drugs. However data collected shows that 69% of the respondents rated the spread of HIV/AIDS in the slums as high with 4% indicating lack of information on HIV/AIDS. This is indicated in Figure 4.7 below.

Figure 4.7 Spread of HIV/AIDS



The spread of HIV/AIDS has affected relationships and consequently family stability. This is as a result of parents being bed ridden where some spouses have abandoned their sick family members; children have been left orphans resulting to child headed families. Five FGDs conducted with women groups included issues of HIV/AIDS management for members who are HIV positive. The groups had trainings on home based care to cater for their HIV/AIDS infected family members' needs especially when one was bed ridden. This service was however extended to all community members with the help of organizations that have the capacity and professionals in the medical field such as the Mater hospital and Mukuru Promotion Centre.

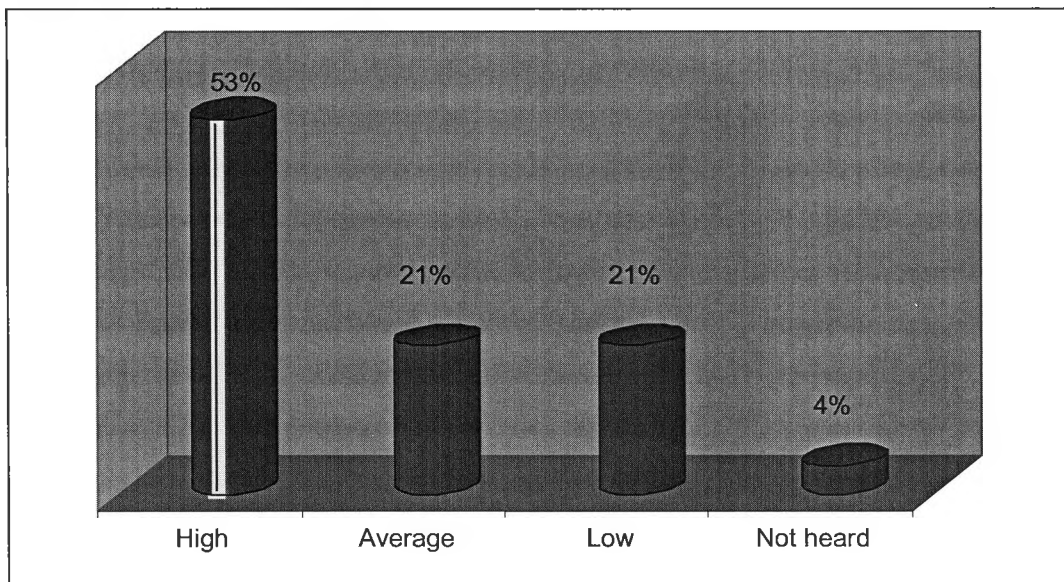
Some members had mobilized their own financial resources to have an OVC (orphan and vulnerable children) kitty. This was to cater for their children's education needs as the government education bursaries and sponsorship from organizations only supported the bright needy children and only to secondary level. Thus members felt that children who did not score high marks might lack opportunities to develop themselves either in skills training or business start-up.

4.3.2 Instability in families

Instability in families especially in Mukuru slums is high due to various problems. There are cultural conflicts as result of inter-marriages of different communities and religion causing instability in families in Mukuru slums. Due to poor academic performance of the girl child and inequality in preference of educating the boy child rather than the girl child, most young women get married at a tender age and lack skills on how to handle conflicts and they are consequently dependent on their husbands and sometimes end up separated with their husbands. However with the introduction of free primary education women in the slums are educating their girl child with assistance from organizations offering sponsorship. The empowerment of the girl child with education has consequently affected the relationship between men and women. Men are not able to handle an empowered woman thus conflicts arising affect their marriage relationship.

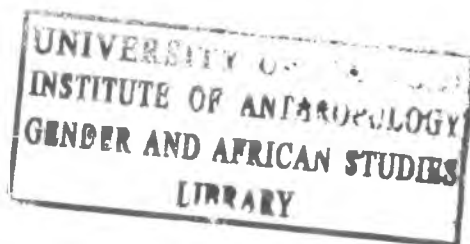
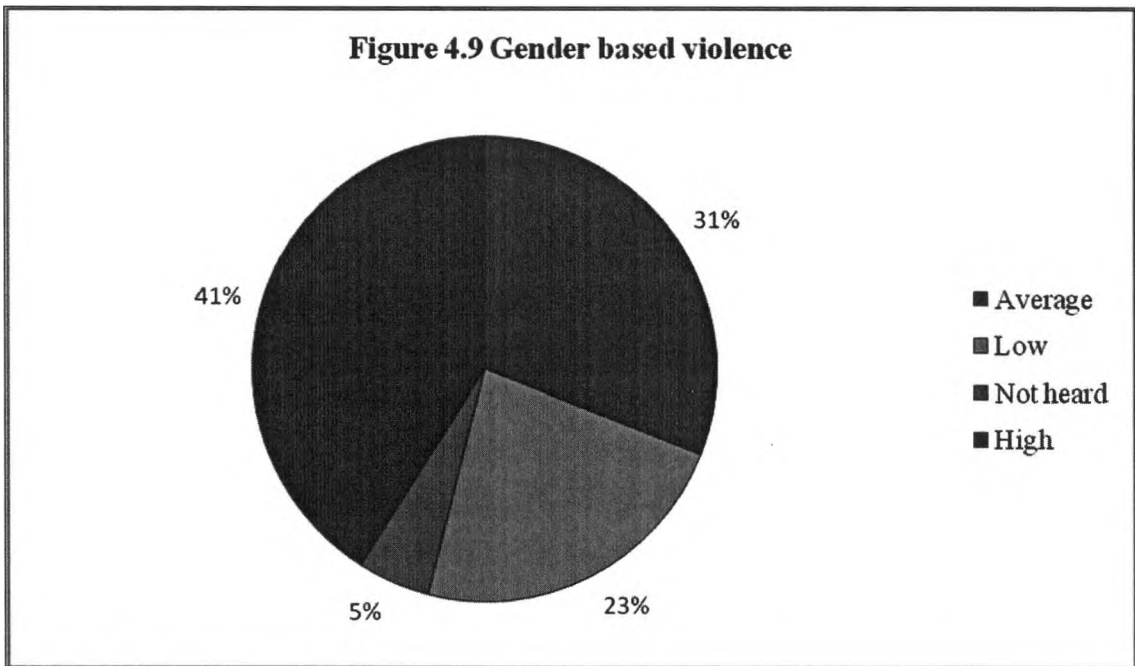
Figure 4.8 below shows the responses on whether the respondents rated instability in families as high, average, low or had not experienced this. Most of the respondents (53%) said that instability in families was high.

Figure 4.8: Instability in families



4.3.3 Gender Based Violence

Figure 4.9 below indicates that 41% of the respondents rated GBV as high in the slums. Information collected from the FGDs and in-depth interviews indicated that gender based violence is on the increase. When a man is not able to control an empowered wife, violence is the result to control women. With the introduction of gender desks in police stations women are now able to report cases of domestic violence. Although a high percentage of cases reported have taken time due to the long court process, women are aware of their rights and are engaging relevant authorities to have their gender based violence issues sorted out. One of the areas that have greatly affected women is living with criminals in their houses who are their husbands. The risk of ending the relationship or even reporting to the police is high that they would rather persevere. However women feel protected by the laws especially the new constitution, in areas of equality in access of services and resources through affirmative action.



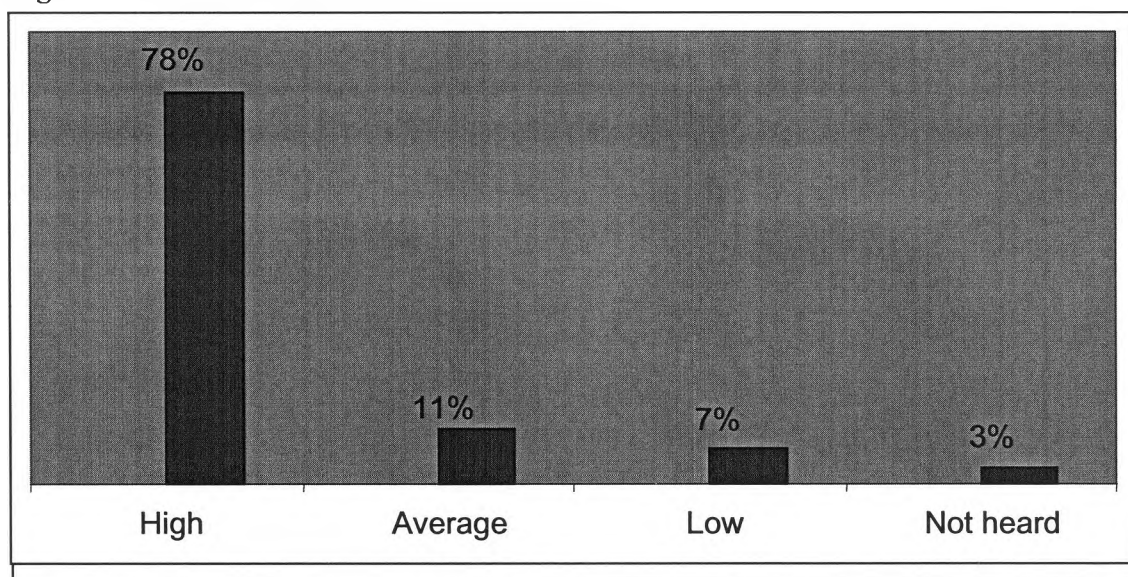
4.3.4 Criminal Activities

From Figure 4.11 illustrated below, criminal activities were reported to be at 78%.

Criminal activities in Mukuru slums are high due to poverty. According to interviews conducted, both men and women were engaging in criminal activities to increase their earnings in support of their families. The activities mentioned included brewing of illicit brew especially by women who also have employed young girls as prostitutes to entertain men. On the other hand men are involved in theft posing a security challenge for organizations working in the slum.

The criminal activities have greatly affected the development of Mukuru slum as young girls were resulting to earn quick money from prostitution which has affected their health especially due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Figure 4.10: Criminal Activities



In conclusion according to Table 4.21 criminal activities were rated the highest in hindering poverty alleviation efforts compared to the spread of HIV/AIDS, gender based violence and instability in families. The community members felt insecure to report their neighbours since if known to have reported they would be threatened or harmed. Workers from organizations working in Mukuru slum felt insecure while performing their work as they were not able to know whether their targeted populations they are working with are criminals or not.

Table 4.21: Respondents rating of the problems affecting poverty alleviation

Problems	High	Average	Low	Not heard
Spread of HIV	69	21	6	4
Gender based violence	41	31	23	5
Criminal activities	78	11	7	3
Instability in families	53	21	21	4

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION

Poverty alleviation is the first priority of the Millennium Development Goals. This goal recognizes poverty as a major problem in most of the developing countries affecting all other areas and needs to be addressed. The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of poverty alleviation efforts on women in Mukuru slums. Data collected using FGDs, questionnaires and in-depth interviews with key informants within Mukuru slums indicated that poverty alleviation programs are ongoing with both men and women being involved. However women's involvement has been hindered by various problems such as HIV/ AIDS, instability in their families, criminal activities and gender based violence.

5.1 Challenges

Gender inequalities

The achievement of the third Millennium Development Goal to promote gender equality and empower women is challenged by the existing gender inequalities in the advancement of education opportunities as a result of poverty levels in the Mukuru slums. Another factor in education is that school fees are often out of reach for poor families, leaving each generation to continue trying to find work while lacking the education to advance. Cultural biases towards women create further limitations for the growing number of female-led households.

Employment opportunities available for women are only on small scale businesses where most women are involved in almost the same type of businesses whereby returns are minimal. On the other hand more men than women access formal employment where the income is stable and there is job security. This is because most opportunities for education are discriminative against women therefore men end up being more educated.

Dependency syndrome

More women depend on men for basic needs such as rent payment, food and clothing. Other needs include school fees for the children and medical care for the ailing. This is a

challenge to the achievement of the first Millennium Development Goals on eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.

Lack of information

Most people are not aware of any poverty alleviation programs and therefore are not able to take advantage of these programs. There is lack of sensitization at the community level on opportunities available in poverty alleviation such as the Women Trust Fund, CDF, LAFT and other programs run by other non-governmental and private institutions.

Ignorance

While most people are not aware of any poverty alleviation programs, those who are aware are also ignorant of the institutions that carry out such programs. For instance, there are a number of institutions involved in programs to alleviate poverty but most residents do not even know what those organizations do or what services they offer.

Self alienation

While a number of community members are involved in the poverty alleviation programs such as self help groups, most people alienate themselves from these programs. On self help group efforts to alleviate poverty, men are quoted as terming it, "a women's affair."

Poor living environment

Most people have lived in Mukuru slums for a number of years and they are not comfortable with the poor living conditions evidenced by issues such as illicit brewing, frequent fire outbreaks, lack of privacy and outbreak of diseases.

Insecurity

Insecurity is a major hindrance to poverty alleviation efforts. This makes it difficult for workers from institutions involved in poverty alleviation programs to carry out their activities freely. Due to insecurity the fight against poverty cannot be won.

5.2 Recommendation

More emphasis should be placed on the available adult education program by the government encouraging more women to acquire basic education. There should be affirmative action in the distribution of education bursaries provided by the government such as the Ministry of Education bursaries, HELB and the Constituency Development Fund. MDG number two on gender equality in access to education to ensure gender balance in education opportunities. “Higher levels of education imply a greater ability to earn now and in the futureand an enhanced economic well-being” (Murdoch, 1980:40). However, not only will women become self-reliant but also “reduce fertility by increasing the age of marriage...and increasing her opportunities for employment” (Murdoch, 1980: 41).

Women need to be economically empowered to enable them provide basic needs for themselves and their families. Organizations working within the slums in poverty alleviation programs should provide diversified entrepreneurial skills to women as well as encouraging creativity in business ideas. There are considerable obstacles for starting a small business in Kenya. Micro credits may be one way to foster small entrepreneurs as they will be important when eradicating poverty in Mukuru slums. It is encouraging to note that “slum enterprises provide convenienceand organized to enable the slum dweller buy miniscule goods such as several table spoons of margarine which are unavailable in regular establishment and extend credit to their customers” (Goode and Eames, 1973:126).

However, According to Stewart (1995: 146) “adjustment of policies aiming to raise rural incomes and reduce urban bias” as a measure of reducing poverty in urban area and also reduce the rural-urban migration. This is only possible in a country that has an agricultural based economy. Women are likely to benefit from this policy adjustment as they are the mainly the labourers, with men been the land owners. The adjustment of policy needs further study as rural women are likely to still move to urban areas in situations where they do not own land, or are disinherited.

Institutions need to carry out community sensitization on the poverty alleviation programs they offer. Organizations should involve the community when carrying out needs assessment to initiate community based poverty alleviation programs relevant to the community. Sensitization on poverty alleviation is challenged in by some theologians that indicate that, “poverty is still highly honoured as a method by which we reach the knowledge of God...and that “poverty is the best condition for entering the kingdom of God” (Eames and Goode 1973:49). With such kind of argument changing of attitudes and believes of people to adopt poverty alleviation strategies is difficult.

The government should improve infrastructure in slum areas in terms of proper housing, sanitation, roads and access to proper medical care for slum residents. “The provision of infrastructure has often been seen as a means to improve the access of the population to goods and services and thus as a means to reduce poverty. However the experience in different parts of the country over the years has shown that the provision of the infrastructure itself is necessary but not sufficient to achieve the goal of reducing poverty” (www.ilo.org pg3). However the focus on infrastructure has been the rural area where agricultural produce and market accessibility is paramount for the growth of the economy. On the other according to Morduch (1999:11) redistribution of growth through improving health conditions is considered central to poverty alleviation as good health can enhance productivity with bad health can trigger and lengthen spells of poverty. Priorities on infrastructure development need to be set without unequal distribution of basic needs such as housing, medical centers and roads. It is also of importance to redistribute the infrastructure in relation of the population.

Community policing is a great initiative by the government to curb insecurity and crime at the community level. In this initiative the community as a resource provides information and owns the initiative. However, there is need to enhance this initiative by ensuring confidentiality when community members give information to the police officers on crime.

5.3 Limitations of the study

Mukuru slum is approximately six kilometers thus posed a challenge since the population is scattered over a wide area. Thus the sampling framework was not available to the researcher to be able to sample from this large population.

The area of study lacks proper social amenities such as, proper sanitation and drainage system that resulted in inaccessibility to some areas within the slum. Some residents have constructed near the river an area which is a hide out for criminals causing insecurity challenge and thus this limited the study to other areas away from such areas.

The study was time consuming and costly where the time spent in data collection was long. For instance groups targeted for focused group discussion had disintegrated. More time was therefore spent in the focus group discussions and in in-depth interviews. The questionnaires were self-administered, thus there was inaccuracy of some data since the researcher was limited to probe for more responses. It was a challenge for the illiterate respondents to be able to respond to the questionnaire.

5.4 Conclusion

In conclusion the impact of poverty alleviation programs on women in Mukuru slums is minimal as a result of challenges that women face such as lack of relevant information, gender inequalities in education and employment opportunities and dependency syndrome. Insecurity in Mukuru slums is also a major problem in the fight against poverty.

Community sensitization on government programs on poverty alleviation such as the Women Trust Fund, LAFT as well as other programs is of importance in alleviating poverty among women in Mukuru slums. However, the community also needs to take initiative to embrace organizations working in Mukuru slums to assist them in poverty alleviation.

Further study needs to be done on the effectiveness of existing poverty alleviation programs targeting women in Mukuru slums by the government and other organizations as well as community based initiatives.

CHAPTER SIX

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6.0 APPENDICES

APPENDIXES I

QUESTIONNAIRE

Introduction

My name is Peris Macharia I am a student from the University of Nairobi conducting research on poverty alleviation in Mukuru slums. I would like to interview you on poverty alleviation process in Mukuru slums. This is an administered questionnaire, where you are required to give correct information on educational levels, family stability, gender inequalities, poverty status and the problems that you encounter in Mukuru slums.

The study is for academic reasons where the findings will be useful to the Mukuru community and development stakeholders. The findings may also be used for future policy making and academic purposes. Your personal identity will be treated as private and confidential while your participation shall be of great value to this study. There are no risks involved in the process of gathering information from you. Do you have any question?

Do you agree to be interviewed?

1. YES

2. NO

Thank you for your time.

1. What are your full names?..... (Optional)

2. Gender (put a tick) 1) Male

2) Female

3. Age (put a tick) 1) 15-24

2) 25-34

3) 35-44

4) 45-54

5) Over 55

4. i) Have you ever attended school? 1) YES

2) NO

[IF NO, GO TO Q5].

ii) If YES, what is your level of your education? 1) University level

2) High school level

3) Primary school level

4) Lower primary school level

5) Adult literacy level

5. I) Do you work? 1) YES

2) NO

[IF NO, GO TO 5 (iv)]

ii) **IF YES**, are you either

1) Employed

2) Self employed

iii) How much do you earn per week?

1) 100- 500

2) 600-1,000

3) 1,100-1,500

4) 1,600- above

iv) Who takes care of your well being?

a)

b)

c)

[IF NONE, GO TO 6]

v) How does this person assist you?

6. What is your marital status?

1) Single

2) Married

3) Separated

4) Divorced

5) Widowed

7. How many children do you have?.....

8. (I) Do you belong to a self- help group?

1) YES

2) NO

[IF NO, SKIP TO Q12.]

c)

d)

(iii) How would you rate the above problems in the slum? **Tick the right box for each problem. DO NOT tick more than one box in each row.**

	1) High	2) Average	3) Low
a) Spread of HIV/ AIDS			
b) Gender based violence			
c) Criminal activities (illicit brew)			
d) Instability in families			

11. (I) Are you aware of any poverty alleviation programs in Mukuru slums?

1) YES

2) NO **If No skip to Q12**

(ii) If Yes name them.....

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

iii) What is the nature of the programs?

a).....

b).....

c).....

d).....

iv). Who are the main targeted gender? 1) Women

2) Men

12. Name the institutions/Organization involved in poverty alleviation programs

a)

b)

c)

d)

Thank you for your participation and your time.

APPENDIX II

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

Check list

Introduction

My name is Peris Macharia I am a student from the University of Nairobi conducting research on poverty alleviation in Mukuru slums. I would like hold a discussion with you about your group on issues related to poverty in Mukuru slums and how Organizations are involving women to eradicate poverty. I also would like to know how challenges such as HIV and AIDS, gender roles, gender based violence have affected the poverty status of both men and women. The study is for academic reasons where the findings will be useful to the Mukuru community and development stakeholders. The findings may also be used for future policy making and academic purposes. Your personal identity will be treated as private and confidential while your participation shall be of great value to this study. There are no risks involved in the process of gathering information from you. Do you have any question?

Themes guiding FGDs

1. The group
 - Background information
 - Activities
2. Strategies/intervention on poverty alleviation in Mukuru slums
 - By Organizations
 - By groups
 - By individuals
3. Impact of poverty
 - Family status
 - Education opportunities
 - Access to employment
4. Challenges
 - Gender based violence
 - HIV and AIDs

Thank you for your time and sharing insights about your group.

APPENDIXES 111

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

Date of Interview: _____

Informant: _____

Position: _____

Institution: _____

Community: _____

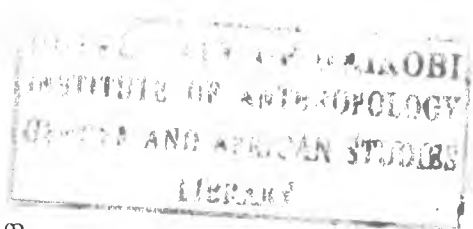
Thank you so much for meeting with me today. My name is **[Name]**, am a student at the University of Nairobi conducting research on poverty alleviation in Mukuru slums. The study is for academic reasons where the findings will be useful to the Mukuru community and development stakeholders. The findings may also be used for future policy making and academic purposes.

I've requested an interview with you because we believe that you have experience which may be helpful to others. Many times, people from outside think they know what those within the community are going through when they really don't. As one who works in this community, you are the real expert, and there's a lot we can learn from you. So today I'd like to ask you a few questions about certain life experiences and challenges that you face in the community and as an officer with **[Name of Organization]** especially on issues about gender inequalities, gender-based violence, criminal activities, HIV and AIDS in relation to poverty. I am talking with several organizations in Mukuru slums to learn more about poverty reduction strategies and programs for individuals and families in this area and how this has affected the poverty cycle. I'd like to ask you a few questions about services, programs, and policies that are provided to clients especially women in this slum.

This is very informal; you can talk about anything you think is important for us to know. I will be taking notes as we talk; everything we talk about today is confidential. Your personal identity will be treated as private and confidential while your participation shall be of great value to this study. There are no risks involved in the process of gathering information from you.

Whenever we write a report, we will use numbers rather than real names in the report so no one can identify you. If at any point during the interview you'd like to stop, or if there are any questions you'd rather not answer, just let me know -- that's fine. Is there anything you'd like to ask me at this point? **[Answer any questions regarding the interview]**.

Please take a minute to read this consent form and sign both copies on. One copy is for you to keep. **(Have informant read and sign consent forms -- they keep one copy)**.



1. What does your work as _____ consist of?
2. What percentage of the client you see are women? What percentage of the client you see are men? What do you think accounts for the difference in this percentage (if applicable)?
3. What are the most frequent reasons women give for coming here? What are the most frequent reasons men give for coming here?
4. Are cases of gender based violence against women seen? What about cases of violence that occurs outside the family? What are the most common cases?
5. Do you (or your colleagues) routinely ask questions to determine whether the client might be a victim of gender violence or any other forms of violence as a result of poverty? How do you carry out assessments on poverty status of your clients?
6. What is the impact of poverty among women in Mukuru slums? How has the poverty status of women affected the spread of HIV and AIDS, criminal activities, instability of families and poverty vicious cycle?
7. What is your organization able to do for women in the Mukuru slums in the reduction of poverty? What programmes do you have that empower women? How has this affected the socially structured/ gender roles of women and their relations with men?
8. Do you have a personal experience of a successful case study of a woman whom you or your organization has empowered and have become self- reliant? What differences have you observed, if any, between an empowered woman and one who is not?
9. Do you know of other organizations or persons in this community that work on poverty reduction among women? Who are they? What is your relationship with them?
10. What do you see as the challenges of working within Mukuru slums especially in empowering women from their poverty status? What changes in legislation, policy, or staffing would facilitate your work in the slums? Legislations /policies such as free primary education, adult education, the women fund, and the youth fund.
11. When you think about the poverty situation here, having worked here for a while, where do you see this community headed in the future? What would you like to see happen, if you had all the decision-making power? How would you implement that?

Interview Closing

That covers the things I wanted to ask. Is there anything you care to add?

Thank you so much for your time. I've really learned a lot from you today and I really appreciate your insights.

