

**POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES: AN EVALUATION OF KATHONZWENI
SUB-COUNTY IN MAKUENI COUNTY, EASTERN KENYA.**

**BY
RUCIAH WANZA NGILA**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE INSTITUTE OF
ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER AND AFRICAN STUDIES IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER
OF ARTS IN GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

NOVEMBER 2014

DECLARATION

This Research Project is my original work and has not been submitted for any award in any other University.

..... Date:

Ruciah W. Ngila
N69/82559/2012

This Research Project has been submitted for examination with my approval as the University Supervisor.

..... Date:

Dr. Wilfred Subbo

DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to my heroic parents the late Kilula Nduulu and Joyce Katunge Kilula, who taught me to believe in God and the values of sacrifice, patience and determination., and to my darling children Annah K. and Samuel K. and all ACK Girls and Boys Bregade members, as a proof that they gonna be what they wonnabe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My first and foremost gratitude is to my gracious God who has been Jehovah Jireh, to me, providing all the resources I needed for this project

I would like to thank my Supervisor Dr. Wilfred Subbo, who guided and motivated me to complete this project on time. Dr .Olungah, Director of our institute, Professor Wandibba, Chairman, IAGAS,FPSC, university of Nairobi for his words of challenge and encouragement which also propelled me to complete this course in time, all my /2012 Lectures especially Enid Ndiga, Mr. Were, Madam Kamau, among others, and classmates in Master of Arts Gender and Development Studies for supporting me as your class Representative, especially Mary Peter, Catherine Ndei, Muenis, Joe ,Mheshimiwa Mercy, Makena, Kerubo and all others., Former workmates in CSD, Upper Kabete and current workmates in office of the Governor, Makueni County for their moral support during my course of study and special gratitudes tomy very close friend and prayer partner, Eunice Kamau and Grace Obwanda, VCs staff especially Isabela and Mwangi and Moses, Makueni county Fraternity especially my Kathonzweni respondents for granting me vital information for my research work. Last but not least, my typists Eunice and her workmates. To you all, may My God grant you the desires of your hearts

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to identify the effectiveness of poverty reduction strategies in Kathonzwani Sub County, Makueni County. Kathonzwani is one of the areas that are hard hit by poverty in the county. The study looked at the various strategies which the Kenya government has put in place since independence, causes of poverty in the sub county, Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, approaches to poverty reduction, a public management (participatory approach) strategy and the different theories of poverty.

To accomplish this, data was collected by the use of questionnaires which were administered to the respondents. Focus Group Discussions were also held. Analysis involved measures of central tendency, Percentages and proportions.

The study examined whether the following could be used to solve the poverty problem: - education and training, access to income and economic empowerment, participatory and bottom up approach to policy processes, access to social services, implementation of the new constitution, especially the affirmative action, and networking, so as to come up with projects for poverty reduction.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	ii
DEDICATION.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
ABSTRACT.....	v
LIST OF TABLES	viii
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	ix
CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY	1
1.1. Introduction.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	3
1.3 Research Objectives.....	4
1.3.1. General Objectives.....	4
1.3.2. Specific Objectives	4
1.4 Justification of the study	4
1.5 Assumptions of the Study	4
1.6 Scope.....	5
1.7 Limitations of the study	5
1.8 Significance of the Study	5
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	7
2.1 Introduction.....	7
2.2 Characteristics of those who are poor	10
2.3 Causes of Poverty in Makueni County	10
2.4 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	11
2.5 The Role of Parliament	12
2.6 A Public Management Strategy	14
2.7 Theories of Poverty.....	15
2.8 Theoretical Frame Work.....	19

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY	21
3.0 Introduction.....	21
3.1. Research Site.....	21
3.2 Research Design.....	24
3.3 Study Population.....	24
3.4 Sample Population and Unit of Analysis	25
3.6 Data Collection Methods	26
3.6.1 Focus Group Discussion Guide	26
3.6.2 Questionnaire	26
3.6.3 Pilot Study.....	27
3.7 Data Processing and Analysis.....	27
3.8 Ethical Considerations	27
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION.....	29
4.1 Introduction.....	29
4.2 Data analysis and presentation.....	29
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	42
5.1 Summary.....	42
5.2 Conclusions.....	42
5.3 Recommendations.....	42
REFERENCES.....	44
APPENDICES.....	47
APPENDIX I: LETTER TO THE RESPONDENTS	47
APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONNAIRE	48
APPENDIX 3: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE	51

LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1: Government health care centres per sub-locations	30
Table 4.2: Main source of water in sub-locations.....	30
Table 4.3: Main cash crop grown by all households in your sub-locations.....	31
Table 4.4: Harvesting rain water for small scale irrigation	32
Table 4.5: Use of fertilizer/manure by household when planting.....	32
Table 4.6: What households do when rains are not adequate and crop fail.....	33
Table 4.7: Advice from agricultural extensions officers on the type of seed and crops to plant..	33
Table 4.8: Type of roads in sub-locations.....	34
Table 4.9: Government consultation of people at the village level on development activities required.....	35
Table 4.10: Degree of involvement of village committees in prioritizing development projects	35
Table 4.11: Training of all those involved and those to benefit as part of the project	36
Table 4.12: Discussion of what is to be achieved by a program before it starts.....	37
Table 4.13: Formation of project committees composed of the local and the project team to monitor and evaluate the project work.	37
Table 4.14: Availability of community information centres in sub locations	38
Table 4.15: Access to credit facilities	39
Table 4.16 Availability of adequate clean drinking to all house holds.....	39
Table 4.17: Whether farmers are guaranteed of minimum prices of their crops by the government.	40
Table 4.18: Planting of both food crop and cash crop by households.	41

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ASAL	-	Arid and Semi-Arid lands
CDF	-	Constituency Development Fund
DDC	-	District Development Committee.
ERS	-	Economic Recovery Strategy (for wealth and employment)
FAO	-	Food and Agricultural Organization
KANU	-	Kenya African National Union
KDHS	-	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey
KNBS	-	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
MDGs	-	Millennium Development Goals
NARC	-	National Rainbow Coalition
SMEs	-	Small and Medium Enterprises
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
WHO	-	World Health Organization

CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1. Introduction

Poverty exposes people, irrespective of their gender, to social vulnerability. Social vulnerability is one dimension of vulnerability to multiple stressors and shocks, including abuse, social exclusion and natural hazards. Social vulnerability refers to the inability of people, organizations, and societies to withstand adverse impacts from multiple stressors to which they are exposed. These impacts are due in part to characteristics inherent in social interactions, institutions, and systems of cultural values (Siegel, 2001).

Poverty is a macro problem, whose causes are as wide as they are deep. Political instability, natural disasters, corruption, socio-economic disparities and prejudice, lack of access to education and lack of infrastructure, are just a few of the key reasons that make people all over the world poor and remain poor (Alcock,1993).

While the causes of poverty might be macro, the effects are felt at a micro level, creating hardship for communities and family members of all gender. Its worst attribute is that poverty breeds even more poverty, and is virtually impossible to break free from its grasp. If one cannot afford proper nutrition or health care for one's family, children grow up at a greater risk of acquiring a life threatening or disabling disease. If one cannot afford to buy one's own land or home or livestock, there are few opportunities to build assets that will last overtime (Kimani, 2001).

The factors of poverty as a social problem are ignorance, diseases, apathy, dishonesty, and dependency, and are to be seen simply as conditions. If it is the decision of a group of people, as in a society or in a community, to reduce and remove poverty, they will have to, without value judgment, observe and identify these factors, and take action to remove them as the way to eradicate poverty (Bartle, 2008).

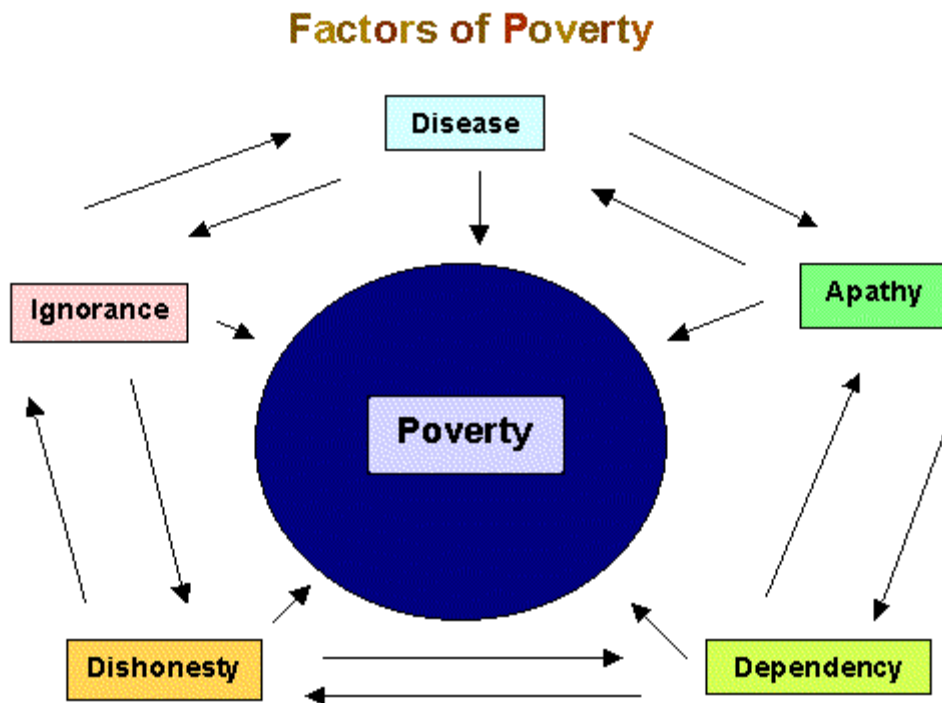


Fig.1.1 Social Factors of Poverty (Source: Bartle, 2008)

The big five, in turn, contribute to secondary factors such as lack of markets, poor infrastructure, poor leadership, and bad governance, under-employment, lack of skills, absenteeism, and lack of capital, among others. Each of these are social problems, each of them are caused by one or more of the big five, and each of them contribute to the perpetuation of poverty

Most of the world's poor are self-employed. Without the security of formal jobs, each day they work from dawn to dusk whether selling produce in markets or weaving baskets. All or most of this money goes back to basic survival and there is little or no money left to improve their quality of life or even expand their business. Thus, living in poverty almost always means that the harsh reality of today will repeat itself tomorrow. (Burbank, 2007).

According to Burbank (2007), three billion people, half of the world's population lives on less than \$ 2 per day, unable to meet their basic needs. Almost thirty thousand children under the age of five die every day from malnutrition and preventable disease. Approximately 790 million people in developing world are chronically undernourished, and nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to sign their names or read a book.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

According to the Kenya Integrated Budget Survey Report (2005), 16.5 million of 35.5 million populations in Kenya live below the poverty line. This means that 45.6% Kenyans have levels of consumption that are insufficient to meet basic food and non-good needs. Makueni County, formerly Makueni District, was ranked 52 out of the then 67 districts in Kenya by the Kenya Integrated Budget Survey 2005/6 in terms of absolute poverty. According to Makueni District Development Plan (2002 — 2008), the residents of this county suffered three types of poverty; food poverty which afflicts 71.43%, absolute poverty 73.5 1% and hardcore poverty. Poverty is severest in Mbooni, Kibwezi West, and Kathonzweni Sub-Counties.

The Kenya government has tried to tackle the poverty problem since independence without much success. Through various development plans, Sessional papers, presidential commissions and task forces, the issue of poverty and unemployment have been of major concern. Poverty reduction is a national challenge. According to National Poverty Eradication Plan 1999 -2015 (GOK, 1999), Kenya hoped to eradicate poverty through economic growth. Poverty was seen as a short term hardship which would disappear as the nation developed and grew in economic terms.

Through the Constituencies Development Fund Act 2003, the Constituency Development Fund was put into operation and more recently Youth Development Fund and Women Development Fund, was launched. Uwezo Fund was also recently launched by His Excellency the president of Kenya. Has it impacted on the Kathonzweni community? It is evident that although the Kenya Government has tried to alleviate poverty, the problem has persisted in Kathonzweni Sub-County.

This study therefore intended to find answers to the following research questions:

- (i) What measures has the government put up to reduce poverty levels in Kathonzweni sub-county?
- (ii) What gaps have these measures left out?
- (iii) What interventions can the sub-county employ to fill up these gaps?

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1. General Objectives

The general objective of the study was the evaluation of poverty situation in Kathonzwani sub-county with an aim of exploring the poverty reduction strategies employed at this sub-county and the results thereof.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study were:

- (i) To identify poverty reduction strategies which have been put in place in Kathonzwani Sub-county of Makueni County.
- (ii) To establish the gaps which have been left out by these strategies
- (iii) To determine intervention measures that could be implemented to reduce Poverty in Kathonzwani Sub-County.

1.4 Justification of the study

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the Kenya population and Housing Census Report put it that the Sub-county had a population of 224,074 people (KNBS, 2009). More than 70% of these population live below poverty line, (Planning and National Development Department, Makueni, 2008).

There was, therefore, a need to investigate poverty reduction strategies that had been put into place and identify areas that had not been addressed adequately. The study hence sought to investigate the poverty reduction strategies that had in the past, been put in place and why they had not effectively addressed poverty levels in Kathonzwani sub-county, Makueni County.

1.5 Assumptions of the Study

The assumptions of the study were that:

- i. There were measures put up by government to fight poverty.
- ii. There were gaps left out by these measures.
- iii. There were strategies that, if put in place, could reduce poverty levels in Kathonzwani Sub-County

1.6 Scope

The study focused on the poverty situation, the poverty reduction strategies employed by the policy makers, level of implementation and their impact on the economic status of the local community of Kathonzweni Sub-county, of Makueni County.

1.7 Limitations of the study

The study faced the following limitations:

Considering that the ratio of Assistant Chiefs to the population size was 1:13181, there was a likelihood that the chiefs may not perfectly articulate the economic status of every individual. This might have brought some biasness towards the extreme – the poorest hence highly vulnerable, who were the majority.

Another limitation was that, since the informants were Government employees, they could have declined from divulging information for fear of victimization and subsequent reprimand.

Due to political instability MCAs had to be excluded from informing the study.

To deal with these limitations, the researcher employed random sampling method when convening the Focus Group Discussions hence ensuring equitable community participation.

1.8 Significance of the Study

This study could be beneficial to the following: -

The Community and development policy makers: They would be able to formulate policies which are implementable and hence would significantly lower poverty levels. These include: The community and their leaders, Government and Non-Governmental Organization officials involved in planning. They could be able to plan and implement effectively, strategies on poverty reduction.

The recommended poverty reduction strategies, if implemented would empower the different gender groups, not only economically, but also socio-culturally. It meant lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society could be a thing of the past. It meant that one could have enough to feed and clothe their family. They could have good schools, clinics to go to when sick, having the land on which to grow one's food, or a job to earn one's living, and having access to

micro financing. It meant insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and certain gender, could no longer happen. It meant susceptibility to violence, and living on marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation, would also cease to exist.

Savings would be made by the state on relief food and its distribution.

This research work could also be used as a reference point by other researchers, who wished to carry out research on poverty situations or poverty reduction strategies assessment, either in the same area later, or as a comparative study with another research site.

Summary

Based on the above, it was evident that although a wide range of measures had been taken to tackle poverty in Makueni County, the problem persisted and therefore there was a need to determine appropriate measures which could be used to tackle this problem.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This part of the proposal looked at the relevant literature related to poverty, what had been done, and theories of poverty.

Chakravarti (2006) argued that the poor's daily practice of navigating the world of poverty generated a fluency in the poverty environment but a near illiteracy in the environment of the larger society. Thus, when a poor person enters into transactions and interactions with the social norm, that person's understanding of it is limited, and thus decisions revert to decisions most effective in the poverty environment. Through this a sort of cycle is born in which the “dimensions of poverty are not merely additive, but are interacting and reinforcing in nature”.

There have been several attempts since independence to solve the poverty problem. This chapter also looked at these measures and tried to identify the gaps left out by them. In 1963, the Kenya Government after independence, identified illiteracy, diseases, ignorance and poverty as the main problems facing the country. In GOK (1965), a policy on poverty reduction was stated in Sessional Paper No. 10 African Socialism and its application to planning in Kenya. This paper laid emphasis on Rapid Economic Growth necessary to achieve high and growing per capita incomes equitably distributed so that all are free from want, disease and exploitation. The first National Poverty Eradication Plan (1999-2015), which is also one of the Millennium Development Goals, was launched by the then President of Kenya in February 1999. Among other things this plan sought reduction of the poor in the total population by 20% by 2004; and by a further 30% by 2010(GOK, 2003).

The Plan for implementation was to be in three phases over the period 1999-2015: the first phase (1999 - 2004); Second Phase (2005 -2010); and final phase (2011 - 2015). There was to be a preparatory phase of 18 months, aimed at setting local poverty reduction priorities and establishing management structures and appropriate financing mechanisms. It is increasingly recognized that economic growth alone will not be sufficient to reduce poverty. Poverty is multi-

dimensional; it includes shortage of income and deprivation in other aspects like in knowledge, in life expectancy and in the standard and quality of life experienced (Njuguna, 2005).

The first two National Development Plans focused on rapid growth which would alleviate poverty and reduce unemployment problem. Although high growth rates were achieved in early years of independence, the problem of poverty and unemployment persisted. The 1970 - 1974 Development Plan shifted focus in favour of more labour intensive production, technology and promotion of small scale rural industries and crafts in an apparent attempt to generate production and adequately remunerative employment opportunities in both agricultural and non-farm activities in the rural areas.

The strategy did not achieve the desired effect due to problems associated with rapidly growing population-unemployment and income disparities. The third Development Plan 1974 - 1978 focused on greater equity and unemployment creation. Due to the oil crisis and adverse terms of trade, the plan did not work. The fourth Development Plan 1979 - 1983 adopted the basic needs approach as a strategy for combating the problems of unemployment, inequality and poverty. It emphasized on employment expansion and productivity enhancement as the avenue through which incomes of poor groups could be increased. It also encouraged Self-Help Projects, greater administrative decentralization and reliance on local units in decision making and implementation of projects. District Development Committees were strengthened. Districts were made the operational units of planning, implementation and management of rural development. The District Focus for Rural Development Strategy was officially launched in March 1983, with the following main objectives: -

- (i) Decentralize the planning functions in the country.
- (ii) Facilitate participation of the people at grass roots in project identification design and management so that their needs could be effectively incorporated.
- (iii) Improve efficiency of project implementation by reducing delays encountered in project management, due to centralization of decision-making at the top.
- (iv) Promote more equitable allocation of resources among various regions.

According to Ikiara and Tostensen (1995) the plan failed because of too much rhetoric and too little action. The following are also cited as other reasons for the failure.

Mismanagement: There was lack of professionalism by project staff that led to poor execution, delays and cost overruns. Project managers were politically appointed and lacked training.

Poor project implementation: Due to lack of competence, projects were poorly conceived and designed, unsuitable materials inputs were procured. The poor were not involved in process of planning and implementation; projects were not completed due to misappropriation of funds.

Inadequate recurrent budget: The government was ill prepared to provide adequate recurrent funding.

Lack of commitment and prioritization of poverty reducing projects: The governments input and that of local beneficiaries had been modest. Projects had to be abandoned due to the inability of the government to provide its minimal share. The government often preferred relatively large turn key projects which have little relevance to the poor.

Examples of such projects in the country include: -

Eldoret Airport: Constructed when all roads in the country needed repair; Turkwell Hydroelectric Project (Onyango, 2003): Undertaken but cannot produce sufficient power to pay back costs; Nor Turesh Water Project from Mt. Kilimanjaro: residents of Loitikitok, Kajiado, Makueni, Machakos districts have not benefited much. The water is used mainly to grow flowers for export and in Ostrich farms in Athi River and Kitengela towns.

Other problems were: - The Government was not committed to decentralization; strategy turned into an instrument for achieving political goals, strategy lacked defined criteria for allocation of resources such as population, size of area and level of poverty.

The fifth and sixth National Development Plan periods (1984 - 1988 and 1989 - 1993), the government took measures to liberalize the economy in line with structural adjustment policies. The specific measures were set out in Sessional Paper No. I of 1986: Economic Management for Renewed Growth. Greater emphasis was put on removal of structure and administrative constraints and promotion of rural development, employment creation, and agricultural expansion. The (1997- 2001) National Development Plan shifted emphasis to private sector

investment in industrial production. The aim was to transform Kenya from a largely agricultural economy to a newly industrialized country by the year 2020. Industrialization, it was argued, has the potential to create more jobs rapidly.

The strategies described in the early plans were framed within a belief in government intervention and those framed later in an environment of liberalization and greater private sector Participation. They have not been able to address adequately the problems of equity, access to economic opportunities and social problems of the poor. There is therefore a need to investigate why these strategies have failed to address the poverty problem.

2.2 Characteristics of those who are poor

Deng (1996) states that the poor are: Those households or individuals below the poverty level and whose incomes are insufficient to provide for basic needs as defined by world bank; households or individuals lacking access to basic services, political contacts and their forms of support; people in isolated rural areas who lack essential infrastructure such as basic services ; female headed Households, especially expectant and lactating mothers and infants, whose malnutrition needs are not being met adequately; persons who have lost jobs and those who are unable to find employment; refugees and internally displaced populations due to civil strife; ethnic minority who are marginalized, deprived and prosecuted economically, socially, culturally and politically.

2.3 Causes of Poverty in Makueni County

According to Makueni District PRSP Consultation Report 2001 - 2004, the following are causes of poverty in the District; unreliable, inadequate and erratic rainfall; poor infrastructure; high rates of formal and informal unemployment, leading to increased cases of idlers and dependency syndrome; poor marketing system; lack of credit facilities; long distances to health facilities; soil infertility; environmental degradation; wide spread of HIV/ AID scourge; poor agricultural practices; high levels of illiteracy which limits communities' exposure to modern technologies and the international world. Most problems in Makueni County, according to PRSP Consultation Report (2001-2004) relate to food security, water, health, basic infrastructure and education.

2.4 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

The World Bank (1999) defined PRSP as a national strategy drawn up by governments of low income countries, for targeting government expenditure, on measures to reduce poverty. It starts from a diagnosis of the causes of poverty, then identifies the poverty reduction outcomes that a country wishes to achieve and the key actions-policy changes, Institutional reforms, programmes and projects-needed to achieve these outcomes. It establishes targets, indicators and monitoring systems.

As envisaged by the World Bank, the PRSP is based on six core principles

- i. Result-oriented — Monitor able targets
- ii. Comprehensive — Integrating macroeconomic, structural, sectoral and social elements
- iii. Country-driven-owned and managed by the country concerned.
- iv. Participatory — all stakeholders should participate in formulation and implementation.
- v. Based on partnership between government and other actors.
- vi. Long term as well as short term goals

The overall goal of PRSP is “pro poor growth”. The actions needed to achieve pro poor growth can be considered as being on two levels:

- (1) Creating the microeconomic conditions to encourage growth
- (2) Measures to include support or protect the poor - Usually spending in social sectors such as education, health, infrastructure etc.

Deng, L.A et al (1996) states that for poverty reduction strategies to be effective, the poor must be sufficiently empowered to initiate, design and implement what they perceive to be good for them. This requires political, social and economic empowerment within the overall framework of sustainable development that combines growth with poverty reduction and protection of the environment.

The World Bank’s 2000- 2001 World Development Report, “Attacking Poverty “, recommended a three-pronged approach to alleviating poverty: -

Opportunity - Promoting economic opportunity for the poor.

Empowerment - making state institutions more responsive

Security – reduce the risk of and vulnerability to wars and disasters.

According to Ikiara & Tostensen (1995), a poverty reduction strategy must be designed to break the vicious circle of poverty whereby lack of education, health services and adequate diet limit both the quantity and quality of work possible and thus also reducing capacity for income or wage earning. Instead a virtuous circle should be created whereby productive capabilities are successively expanded to ensure ultimate self-reliance.

2.5 The Role of Parliament

The Kenya parliament can play a pivotal role on policy formulation. Such include changing social relations which deny scores of Kenyans the opportunity to improve their lot by getting access to productive resources such as credit, land, knowledge etc and combining them with hard work. According to Ikiara & Tostensen (1995), the first two regimes after independence were very hostile to MPs who adopted populist, egalitarian and pro-poor positions. Examples of MPs who have suffered harassment, ostracisation, detention or even mysterious deaths include Bildad Kagia, Oginga Odinga, Martin Shikuku, Mwashengu wa Mwachofi, Koigi Wa Wamwere, George Anyona, J. M. Kariuki among others. Such an intolerant atmosphere discouraged others.

Ikiara & Tostensen (1995) also state that parliament contributed to creating or perpetuating a dependency mentality on part of ordinary Kenyans by giving false impression that development is brought by the government or by political leaders instead of mobilizing the people to make use of their own capabilities in getting out of poverty.

United Nation Development Program (UNDP) Human Development Report (2003) suggests the following policies to end poverty:

Government needs an effective fiscal system to mobilize enough revenue to invest in poor peoples' basic needs. This requires more domestic revenue invested wisely.

Taxes must be paid and end politically motivated exemptions.

Invest in agricultural productivity and diversify cash crops for export market. Such efforts include developing site-specific seeds and soil nutrient strategies to generate high yields under local conditions. Government can provide financial incentives and marketing assistance to diversify crops as well as guarantee minimum prices for farmers in areas with fragile markets.

Policies must ensure poor people's access to economic assets. Without assets, poor people cannot participate in markets. They need land, finance and skills- and public action to acquire them.

Access to credit: Micro finance both micro credit and micro savings provides poor people with a way to procure and build up assets. .Microfinance is useful for channeling and generating credit for poor people. It remains an important instrument for large scale poverty reduction. UNDP Human Development Report (2003) state that: Farmers in developing countries lack roads, warehouses, electricity and communication links required to bring them closer to markets making them vulnerable to intermediaries charging high prices for inputs and to monopoly buyers squeezing their incomes.

To benefit poor farmers on marginal land, agricultural research must support promising initiatives such as multi crop systems, eco-agriculture, early maturing seed varieties and low cost methods of soil building.

Ikiara and Tostensen (1995) say that allocation of budgetary resources is one of the most powerful instruments the government possess for tackling poverty. But allocation of resources has mainly been sector based, with limited attention to poverty alleviation. Large proportions of budgeted resources have not been utilized for the stated purposes as a result of diversion of resources at various levels of bureaucracy.

Allocation among various regions was determined by political consideration rather than actual needs of the population. Kiringai (2006) makes the following recommendation, in order for national budgetary allocation to alleviate poverty: That budget process be clearly integrated in the budget, line ministries be required to present District Allocations Budgets for approval by Treasury, when parliament debates and approval both the budget as published in the printed Estimates and the District Allocation Budgets, currently counties.

There are three sets of interventions in order of priority suggested by Ikiara and Tostensen (1995) for solving the poverty problem, namely-

Primary redistribution: Enabling poor households to produce to earn more in order for them to be able to fend for themselves on a sustainable basis rather than being dependent perpetually on relief and handouts.

Secondary redistribution: Providing basic health services, safe water, nutrition and extension services to poor households to raise their present and more productive capabilities.

Tertiary redistribution: Building and reinforcing safety nets of cash or kind (particularly food) transfers to alleviate consumption short fall due to conjectural shocks such as drought, floods or other natural or man-made calamities.

2.6 A Public Management Strategy

According to Sachs (2005) a sound public management plan outlines the mechanisms of governance and public administration that will help implement public investment strategy. He states that a sound public management plan should have six components.

- Decentralization: Investment details have to be decided at the ground level, in the villages rather than in capital cities. People at the village level have to be involved in the project identification, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Decision making process should assume bottom-up approach.
- Training: Training programs (or capacity building) should be part of the strategy. Appropriate training of all stakeholders should be done to ensure success and continuity of project.
- Information Technologies: If the aid plumbing is going to carry much larger flows of aid each year we will need better meters, which will mean the use of information technologies-computers, e-mail, mobile phones, to increase dramatically the amount of information transmitted in the public sector and accessible to all parties.
- Measurable Benchmarks: Every poverty reduction strategy must be supported by quantitative benchmarks tailored to national conditions, needs and data available. Clear targets of what is to be achieved must be stated and understood clearly by all concerned right from the start. This will raise the morale of the participants because they can measure the achievements.
- Audits: Money has to be audited to ensure it reaches the intended recipients. Audits ensure funds are used as intended and also assist on monitoring and evaluation.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Right from the start, poverty reduction strategy should have the investment monitored and evaluated. Budgets and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation should be essential parts of the strategies. The process ensures achievement of the intended objectives on time and at the estimated cost. It also ensures the programme is moving on the right track.

2.7 Theories of Poverty

Theories of poverty shape anti-poverty strategies. Most community development efforts aim to relieve causes or symptoms of poverty, it makes a difference which theory of poverty is believed to be responsible for the problem being addressed. A theory is an explanation that links several concepts to factors that are thought to cause or perpetuate poverty. Poverty is a very complex social problem with many variants and different roots depending on the situation. Poverty can be explained by theories that lay the cause of poverty on individual deficiencies and theories that lay the cause on broader social phenomena.

Bradshaw (2005) has listed and discussed five commonly used theories of poverty. The various theories are divergent and each results in a different intervention strategy.

These theories are:-

1. Poverty caused by individual deficiencies
2. Poverty caused by cultural belief system that support sub cultures of poverty.
3. Poverty caused by Economic, political, and Social Distortion or Discrimination.
4. Poverty caused by geographical Disparities.
5. Poverty caused by cumulative and cyclical interdependencies

2.7.1 Poverty caused by individual deficiencies

This theory focuses on the individual as responsible for their poverty situation, and explains poverty in terms of the individual's behavior and attitudes. The poor are poor because they do not work hard. With hard work and better choices the poor could avoid their problems.

Religious doctrines equated wealth with favour of God and poverty, the destruction of the poor, Proverbs 10:15 “The wealth of the rich is their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor”. Psalms 112:3 “Wealth and riches are in his house and the righteous endures forever”. This implies that those who do not succeed must face the fact that they are themselves responsible for their failure (Bradshaw, 2005).

2.7.2 Culture of Poverty

This theory suggests that poverty is created by the transmission over generations, of a set of beliefs, values and skills that are socially generated but individually held. The culture of poverty is a subculture of poor people in ghettos, and poor regions (Bradshaw, 2005). According to Freire (1970) this theory tallies with the magic level of consciousness. At this level of consciousness people believe that any condition in life is due to God’s creation and do not strive to improve it.

2.7.3 Structural Theory of Poverty- caused by economic,

This is the theory that sets to inform this research paper. It is relevant to the situation in Kathonzwani Sub-County. This theory argues that, the individual is not the source of poverty. It blames economic, political and social distortions or discriminations, which are the system that cause people to have limited opportunities and resources with which to achieve income and well-being.

Political system is another barrier. The interests and the participation of the Poor is either impossible or is deceptive. Poor people are less involved in political discussions, their interests are more vulnerable in political process and they are excluded at many levels. (Bradshaw, 2005)

2.7.4 Poverty caused by Geographical Disparities

This theory calls attention to the fact that people institutions and cultures in certain areas lack the objective resources needed to generate well-being and income. Some of the factors that contributed to geographical poverty are: - disinvestment, proximity to natural resources, population density, diffusion of innovation, selective out-migration. The lack of infrastructure that allows development of human resources limit economic activity that might use-these

resources. People from rural areas, slum areas with the highest levels of education, the greatest skills, widest world view and most extensive opportunities migrate out to other places. These departing people also are the community's best rate model (Bradshaw, 2005)

2.7.5 Poverty caused by cumulative and cyclical interdependencies

This theory looks at the individual and their community as caught in a spiral of opportunity and problems, and that once problems dominate they close other opportunities and create cumulative set of problems that make any effort nearly impossible (Bradshaw, 2005). The cylindrical explanation explicitly looks at individual situations and community resources as a mutually dependent, with a faltering economy, creating individuals who lack resources to participate in the economy, which makes economic survival even harder for the community since people pay fewer taxes.

At community level, lack of employment opportunities lead to out migration, closing retail stores, and declining tax revenues, which then lead to deterioration of schools, which leads to poorly trained workers, leading firms not to be able to utilize cutting edge technology and hence inability to recruit new firms to the area, which leads back to greater lack of employment, (IFAD, 1993).

At individual levels, lack of employment leads to lack of consumption and spending due to inadequate incomes, and to inadequate savings, which means that individuals cannot invest in training and also individuals lack the ability to invest in business or to start their own business, which leads to lack of expansion, erosion of markets and disinvestment, all of which contribute back to more inadequate community opportunities, (Bhola, 2004).

The cycle of poverty means inability to afford preventive medicine, a goods diet, healthy living environment. It also implies lack of ample income, hence failure to invest in children's education. The children do not learn as well in poor quality schools and they fall further behind when they go to get jobs. They are also vulnerable to illness and poor medical care (KDHS, 2008-9).

The cycle of poverty incorporates many of the previous theories; it shows how people become disadvantaged in their social context which then affects psychological abilities at individual level. The various structural level and political factors in the cyclical theory reinforce each other, with economic factors linked to community, political and social variables (Bradshaw, 2005).

Figure: cyclical interdependencies diagram

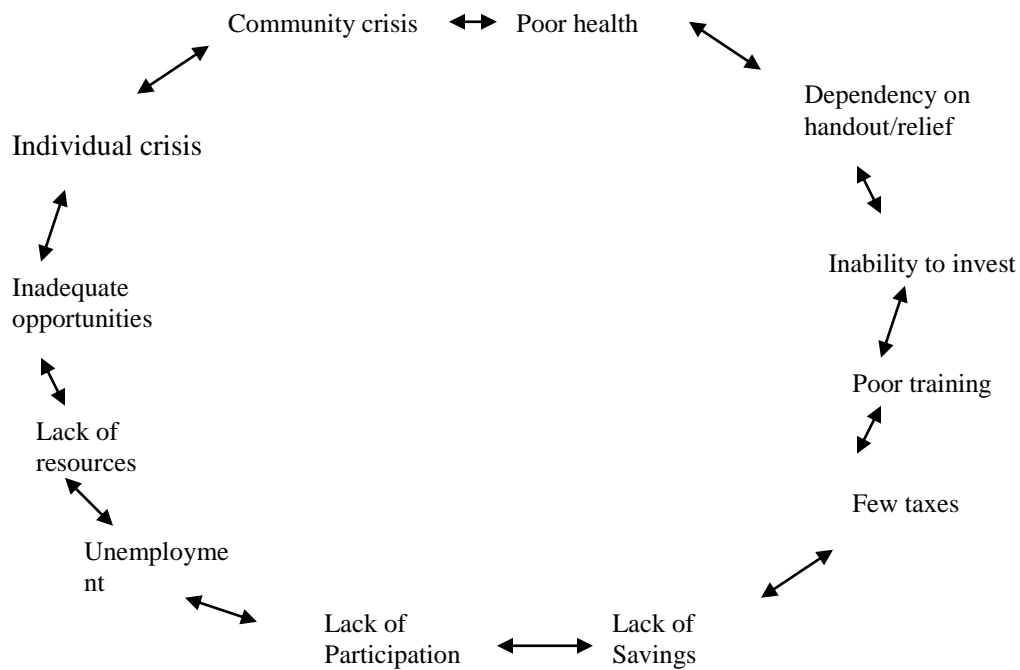


Fig.2.1: Theories of poverty (Source: Brandshaw,2005)

From Fig. 2.1 clockwise starting from unemployment, when one is unemployed; he lacks resources which include both monetary and materials and therefore lacks opportunities to improve his economic status. This leads to individual crisis which in turn leads to community crisis, poor health and dependency on handout/ relief.

Going anticlockwise and starting again from unemployment, when one is unemployed, he lacks capacity to participate in economic activity. This makes him not to have any savings and not be able to pay taxes. Government relies heavy on taxes for revenue. When taxes are not paid, the government lacks finances to run trainings for poverty reduction and, the poor cannot be able to invest due to lack of training. This leads to the poor continuing to depend on handouts and relief.

2.8 Theoretical Frame Work

This study will be guided by the Poverty Reduction Strategy Model.

Figure 2.2 shows how appropriate education and skills, income and economic assets, access to social services and networks to others affect the level of poverty and how they are inter related to each other. An increase in the level of one of them implies a decrease in poverty level and a decrease in one of them implies an increase in poverty level.

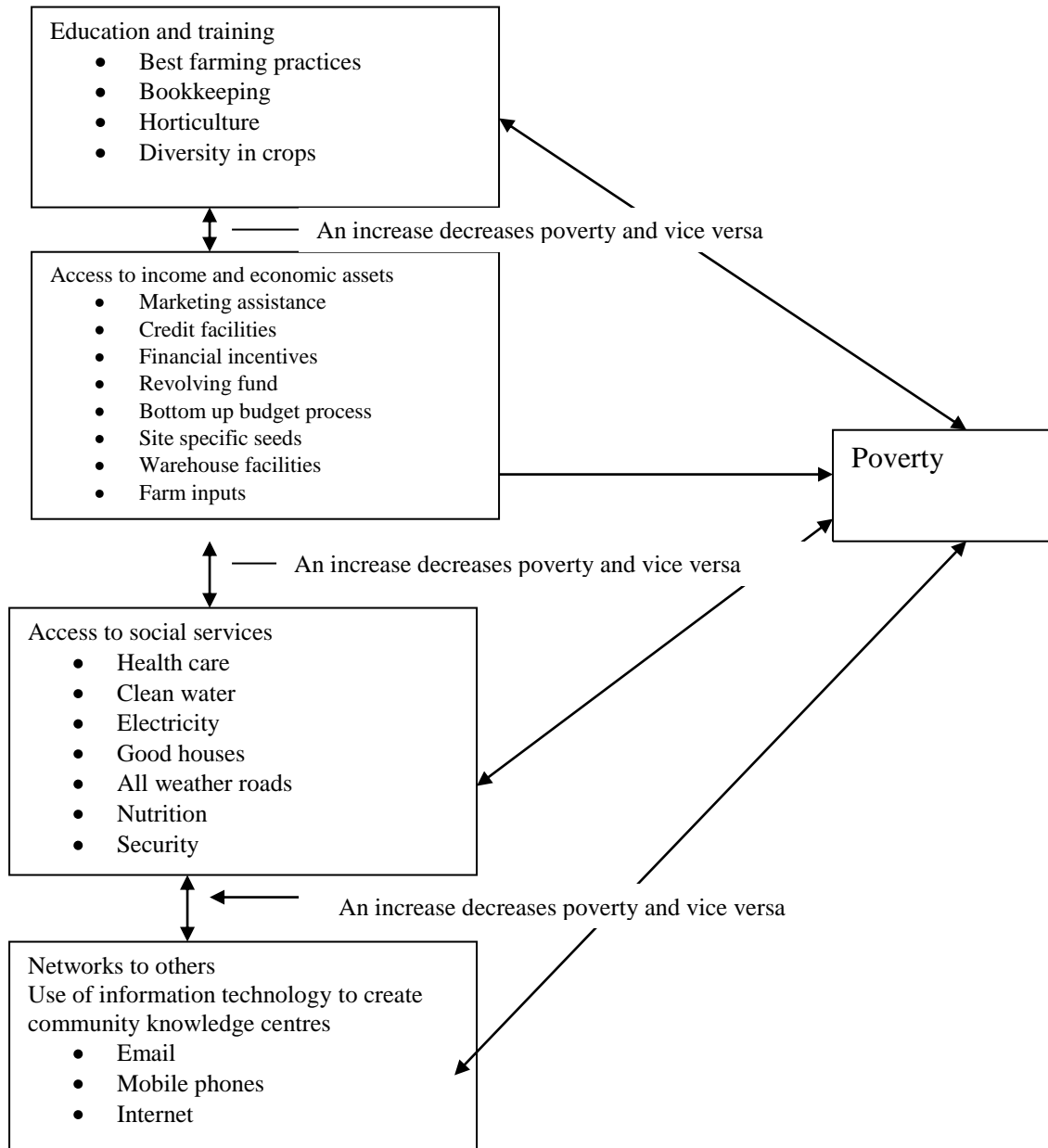


Fig. 2.2 Poverty Reduction Network Model

The fact that poverty theory addresses individuals, their culture, the social system in which they are embedded, the place in which they live and the interconnection among the different factors suggest that different theories of poverty look at community needs from different perspectives as shown in the figure 2.2. Poverty is affected by education and training. High level of education and training reduces poverty, and where poverty level is high education and training is at the minimal. A high level of access to income and economic assets, and access to social services also reduce poverty.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presented a detailed description of the selected research design. It describes in detail what was done and how it was be done. It describes the procedures and methods the researcher used to determine the population, how samples were selected, the data collection tools used and how the data collected was analyzed, and presented for useful conclusion.

3.1. Research Site

The research was carried out in Kathonzweni Sub-County in Makueni County.

Figure 3.1 shows Kathonzweni Sub-county's location in the Kenyan map, while Figure 3.2 shows the map of Kathonzweni Sub-County.

Kathonzweni Sub-County is made up of three Wards, namely: Kathonzweni, Kitise/Kithuki, and Mavindini. The Sub-County has 9 administrative locations, which are further divided into 17 Sub-Locations. These sub-locations are headed by Assistant Chiefs. These Assistant Chiefs supervise the implementation of strategies on behalf of the government.

Kathonzweni Sub-County has a population of 224,074 people, comprising 41,878 households, and covering 2648.3km² (KNBS, 2009). In terms of education, although the sub-county is home to some of the best performing primary schools in the country, like A. I. C. Vitale, it had no national or even Extra-County secondary school at the time of study. The sub-county had only a few dispensaries and health clinics which were being elevated to level hospitals, albeit with no facilities. The majority are subsistent farmers doing mixed farming. However due to low rainfall or none at all, all crops fail and most of their animals are sold off to other areas or they die of hunger. Since the Sub-County receives erratic rainfall which is unreliable, it is classified as a Semi-Arid zone. The people rely on government's relief food and handouts from non-governmental organizations and well-wishers. Poverty is real in Kathonzweni Sub-County.

3.2 Research Design

The study used a cross-sectional and descriptive design where both qualitative and quantitative approaches were employed. According to Sekaran (2006), a descriptive study is undertaken in order to ascertain and be able to describe the characteristics of the variables of interest in a situation.

The study intended to use primary data mainly. This meant that the researcher went to the field with tools for data collection. Qualitative data was presented in a descriptive manner according to themes and objectives, while Quantitative data was presented in form of tables, pie charts, and graphs.

3.3 Study Population

Kathonzweni Sub-County is made up of three Wards, headed by members of county assembly, 9 administrative locations, which are further divided into 17 Sub-Locations, headed by Assistant Chiefs. The Sub-County has a population of 224,074 people, comprising 41,878 households.

This study targeted all the 17 Assistant Chiefs, three members of Makueni county assembly, called MCAs, and 41,878 Household heads in the sub-county. The MCAs and Assistant chiefs were targeted because they are supposed to be involved in strategy formulation and supervise the implementation. This was also because Strategy formulation and facilitation for implementation is a leadership domain. The leaders at the grass root level are the best sources of the true state of affairs on the ground. The assistant chiefs were also the supervisors of all activities at the Sub location, on behalf of the government. The MCAs were to inform the study on how the devolved government was strategizing to reduce poverty in the sub-county, which they did not.

The household heads are supposed to be the beneficiaries and hence the consumers of these poverty reduction strategies, and are the sources of livelihood for their families.

3.4 Sample Population and Unit of Analysis

The sample population consisted of 17 Assistant chiefs, 3 MCAs and twenty percent (20%) of household heads, in twenty percent of the sub-locations in the Kathonzwani sub-county. Wiersma (2005) observed that due to limitation in time, funds and energy, a study can be carried out from a carefully selected sample to represent the entire population. Gay (2002) postulated that at least twenty percent (20%) of the population is good representation which works well even today.

3.5 Sampling Procedure

The sampling unit was Kathonzwani sub-county, which was purposely selected based on convenience of the researcher in terms of its poverty status ranking, time allocation for the study, available funds and other logistics. From the selected sub-county, respondents were selected using Multistage and stratified sampling method whereby, within the stratum, simple random sampling was used to select participants. The sample was drawn from a locale rich in variety of respondents from different gender groups, for instance, rural and urban origin, male and female household heads, different education levels, in religion, different socio economic and common cultural respect which therefore were envisaged to provide adequate varied socio economic developmental challenges to households.

To select the representative sample of household heads, they were be grouped according to their sub-locations.

From the 17 sub-locations, simple random sampling was used to select three sub-locations, which was 20% of the 17 sub-locations, to participate in the study. Within the selected sub-locations, simple random sampling was used to select 20% of the total household heads, to participate in the study.

3.6 Data Collection Methods

The study used primary data, which was supplemented by secondary data gathered from the then latest government of Kenya's poverty reduction intervention publications. The data was collected from Kathonzi sub-county by holding focus group discussions with, and administering questionnaires to the respondents.

Data was obtained from the Assistant chiefs as informants, and household heads organized in focus group discussions, on the measures the government had taken to tackle poverty, gaps which had been left out by these measures, and what needed to be done to improve the situation. Answers from these sections enabled the researcher to draw answers to the research questions.

3.6.1 Focus Group Discussion Guide

A Focus group discussion guide was developed. This allowed the researcher to probe further and make follow up of the respondents answers, to obtain more information on and clarify vague statements. The Focus group discussion guide allowed room for interpretation of statements to a language that the respondents could understand.

The focus groups consisted of ten people each, carefully constituted to take care of factors like age, marital status, and class, among others for ease of interaction. These FGDs enabled the researcher to collect more information from many people, even illiterate persons, within a short time.

3.6.2 Questionnaire

A questionnaire was developed for Assistant-chiefs, and MCAs. The questionnaire consisted of both open-ended and closed ended questions. The questionnaires were administered on the 'drop and pick later' method. A follow up was done via personal visits, telephone calls and e-mails to facilitate responses and also enhance the response rate.

3.6.3 Pilot Study

The data collection instruments were piloted on a small representative sample identical to, but not including the group that was to be studied in the actual study.

For Validity testing, the instruments were subjected to an analysis by the researcher, who assessed the relevance of the content used in the instruments, developed and made structured changes for the purpose of improvement before embarking on the actual data collection exercise.

Vague questions were refined in the sense that the respondents could help the researcher to rephrase the questions to convey the same meaning to all subjects. This enhanced the validity of the instruments, the deficiencies in pre-testing, for example, unclear instructions insufficient space to write responses, clustered questions and wrong phrasing of questions could be detected, and then the questions reconstructed by incorporating the changes. This enabled the researcher to have a firsthand experience in administration of the instruments.

For Reliability, the pilot study was done to ensure that the items consistently measure the variables in the study and produce reliable results, hence, ensured that the instruments yielded the same results on repeated trials.

3.7 Data Processing and Analysis

Once the questionnaires were filled and picked from the Respondents, the researcher coded the responses. Data from both the questionnaires and the focus group guide responses was sorted then edited for completeness and consistency. The data was later analyzed using one measure of central tendency and one measure of dispersion. This meant that Qualitative data was summarized and analyzed descriptively, enabling the researcher to describe a distribution of scores using a statistic, while Quantitative data was subjected to SPSS (Statistical package for Social Science).

3.8 Ethical Considerations

Previously, the proposal was presented before the Institute of Anthropology Gender development Studies Board of Postgraduate Committee Seminar then a research permit was obtained from the Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology.

The anonymity and confidentiality of the respondents was kept through codes oronyms hence no actual names was used. All respondents were free to participate willingly. They were given the freedom to abstain or withdraw their response if and when they wished not to continue.

The respondents were also informed that the information was only to be used purely for academic purposes – that is for obtaining a Master of Arts degree in Gender and Development Studies, and assisting policy makers make right decisions for the sake of eradicating poverty in Kathonzwani Sub County

Copies of the final project were deposited with the county offices for purposes of assisting policy makers and also with the University of Nairobi library for students and lecturers to refer.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.1 Introduction

The research was carried out in Kathonzweni Sub County in Makueni County. Kathonzweni Sub County is one of the areas which are hardest hit by poverty in the County, especially Kithuki/Kitise ward. All the 17 Assistant Chiefs in the sub county and twenty percent (20%) of household heads, in twenty percent of the sub-locations in the Kathonzweni sub-county were given questionnaires and organized into focus discussion groups of ten and responded to questions touching on the community relating to poverty. Due to political instability in the county during data collection, MCAs were excluded as informants to avoid extremely biased information.

The respondents were asked to respond to questions and frequency tables were contributed for each question. The randomly selected sub locations were: Thavu with 931 households, (19 focus groups) Kiumoni with 299 households (6 focus groups) and Yekanga with 523 households, (10 focus groups), totaling to 35 well organized focus groups.

On data editing, processing and analysis, the questionnaires by the informants seemed to agree with the data obtained from their respective focus groups and therefore the researcher opted to analyze and present data from the questionnaires.

However, two questionnaires translating to 11.76% were spoil. The remaining 15 were analyzed and presented as below:

4.2 Data analysis and presentation

The main food crop grown in this region is maize. This implies that when there is inadequate rainfall, the community cannot be self-reliant and lack basic needs and therefore suffer from food poverty. Addressing hunger means ensuring people have a command over the resources needed to acquire food. Other crops which can do well in the area include; beans paw paws, oranges, cowpeas, and mangoes, among others.

All the sub locations indicated that the main source of energy is firewood. Extensive use of firewood damages the environment. Degradation of the environment leads to poor food production and lack of food leads to poverty. This according to Bradshaw (2005) leads to poverty caused by cumulative and cyclical interdependences.

The respondents were asked to say the number of health care centres in their sub-locations.

The results are as shown in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Government health care centres per sub-locations

Number of health Care facilities.	Number of sub locations	Percent
One	5	33.3
None	10	66.7
Total	15	100.0

As shown in Table 4.1, 67% of sub-locations have no health facilities, while 33% have one health facility each. These facilities are too few to cater for 224074 people in Kathonzweni Sub County; meaning that people have to walk long distances to reach health facilities. According to Ikiara & Tonstensen (1995), lack of health services and inadequate diet limit both quantity and quality of work possible and thus also reducing the capacity for income earning. To break out of poverty traps requires investing in health.

The respondents were asked to indicate their main source of water. These results are shown in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Main source of water in sub-locations

Water source	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Borehole	1	6.7
Dam	2	13.3
River	12	80.0
Total	15	100.00

As shown in Table 4.2, 80% of the sub-locations have rivers as their main source of water, 13.3% have dams while 6.7% have borehole.

Water from river beds and dams if not treated or boiled can be a source of diseases for humans. People also spent long hours walking to rivers, dams and boreholes to fetch water. According to Sachs (2005), one of the Big Five development interventions to end poverty is availability of safe drinking water. With enough water points, women and children would save countless hours of toil each day fetching water.

The respondents were asked to indicate the main cash crops grown. The results are shown in table 4.3 below:

Table 4.3: Main cash crop grown by all households in your sub-locations

Cash crop	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Cotton	1	6.7
None	14	93.3
Total	15	100.0

As shown in Table 4.3, 93.3% of the sub-locations do not grow cash crops while only 6.7% do. This means that maize doubles as both a cash crop and food crop and due to poor climatical conditions affecting the area, there is hardly enough to eat and sell. Sachs (2005) writes that most governments have invested much less in marginal lands than in favoured agricultural areas. To benefit poor farmers on marginal land, agricultural research must support promising initiatives such as multi-crop system, and eco-agriculture.

The respondents were asked to indicate the frequency of harvesting rain water for small scale irrigation. The results are shown in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Harvesting rain water for small scale irrigation

Frequency	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Most times	1	6.7
Rarely	3	20.0
Very rarely	1	6.7
Never	10	66.7
Total	15	100.0

As shown in Table 4.4, 66.7% of the sub-locations never, 20% rarely, 6.7% very rarely while 6.7% most times harvest rain water for small scale irrigation. Though the rains are not reliable, harvesting rain water for small scale irrigation can increase the economic activity in the area.

The respondents were asked to indicate the rate of using fertilizer/manure by households when planting. The results are shown in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5: Use of fertilizer/manure by household when planting

Rate	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Most times	3	20.0
Rarely	7	46.7
Very rarely	1	6.7
Never	4	26.7
Total	15	100.00

As shown in Table 4.5, 46.7% rarely use fertilizer/manure when planting, 26.7% never, 20% use most times while 6.7% very rarely use.

With fertilizers, improved furrows, green manure farmers can improve the food yields per acre and end chronic hunger in the area.

The respondents were asked what households do, when rains are not adequate and crops fail. The results are shown in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6: What households do when rains are not adequate and crop fail.

Activity	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Receive relief food from government and other agencies	6	40.0
look for formal employment	5	33.3
burn charcoal	4	26.7
Total	15	100.0

As shown in Table 4.6, when rains are not adequate and crops fail, 40% receive relief food from government and other agencies, 33.3% look for formal employment and 26.7 % burn charcoal. Charcoal burning leads to deforestation and water scarcity which in turn lead to poor food yields. Receiving relief food is likely to make the community develop dependency syndrome making them remain poor.

The respondents were asked to indicate the rate at which households receive advice from the Agricultural Extension officers, on the type of seeds and crops to plant. The results are shown in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Advice from agricultural extensions officers on the type of seed and crops to plant

Rate	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Most times	1	6.7
Rarely	6	40.0
Very rarely	6	40.0
Never	2	13.3
Total	15	100.00

As shown in Table 4.7, agricultural services are not adequate. 6.7% most times receive advice from agricultural extensions officers, 40% rarely, 40% very rarely and 13.3% never Farmers are therefore not well advised on types of seeds and crop plants. Sachs (2005) reports that agricultural services, if available, mainly come from private firms selling inputs and offering advice that is often incorrect and almost always incomplete as in cases of wrong insecticides, herbicides etc.

The respondents were asked to indicate the type of major roads in their sub-locations. The results are shown in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8: Type of roads in sub-locations.

Type of roads	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Impassable during rains	12	80.00
Impassable always	3	20.0
Passable always	0	0
Total	15	100

As shown in Table 4.8, 80% of major roads in sub-locations are impassable during rains, 20% are impassable always while no single road is passable always. Good roads have multiplier effects on community. It reduces the cost of doing business. Movement of both people and goods to and from the community is enhanced; farmers access market for their produce and buy farm inputs cheaply. Absence of good roads means farmers are vulnerable to intermediaries charging high prices for inputs and to monopoly buyer's squeezing their income.

The respondents were asked to indicate the rate at which government consults people at village on developments activities required. The results are shown in Table 4.9.

Table 4.9: Government consultation of people at the village level on development activities required

Rate	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Most times	2	13.3
Rarely	8	53.5
Very rarely	5	33.3
Total	15	100.00

As shown in Table 4.9., government consultations at village level on development activities required, was 13.3% most times, 53.3% rarely, 33.3% very rarely; an indication that consultation between government and grassroots is poor. Participation of people on development activities required is central in any initiative taken by the government in this Sub County.

The respondents were asked to indicate whether they agreed or disagree that village committees discuss development projects which are again discussed and prioritized by sub-location development committees and then forwarded to the location for onward transmission to the County Assembly. The results are shown on Table 4.10.

Table 4.10: Degree of involvement of village committees in prioritizing development projects

Degree	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Strongly disagree	6	40.0
Disagree	6	40.0
indifferent	1	6.7
Agree	2	13.3
Total	15	100.00

As shown in Table 4.10, 40% strongly disagree, 40% disagree, 13.3% agree while 6.7% were indifferent. An effective development strategy should have the support of the local people.

Development is like a tree. It has to suit the local conditions, draw its support from the surrounding, has to grow from bottom upwards and cannot be imposed from above. Lack of participation of project beneficiaries leads to:-. poorly conceived and designed projects, unsuitable materials and technologies used, the poor not involved in project planning and implementation, project failure due to lack of support of beneficiaries.

The respondents were asked to indicate whether they agree with the statement that, training of all those involved and those to benefit, is done at beginning as part of the project.

The results are shown in Table 4.11.

Table 4.11: Training of all those involved and those to benefit as part of the project

Degree	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Strongly disagree	6	40.0
Disagree	6	40.0
Indifferent	1	6.7
Agee	2	13.3
Total	15	100.00

As shown in Table 4.11, 40.0% of respondents strongly disagreed with this statement, 40% disagreed, 6.7% wee indifferent and 13.3% agreed. This implies that, training is rarely done as part of the project. When training of stakeholders is done as part of a development project, it enables all those involved to understand what is expected, owns the project and also enables the beneficiaries not only to monitor the progress of the project but also to evaluate it. This makes the beneficiaries participate enthusiastically in the project and ensures its sustainability.

The respondents were asked to indicate how they agree or disagree with the statement that, before the start of a development programme, what is to be achieved by the programme is always stated and discussed at the beginning.

Table 4.12: Discussion of what is to be achieved by a program before it starts.

Degree	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Strongly disagree	7	46.7
Disagree	6	40.0
Indifferent	2	13.3
Total	15	100.00

As shown in Table 4.12, 46.7% of the respondents strongly disagreed that this happens before the start of a development program, 40% disagreed, and 13.3% were indifferent. This implies that programmes are started without discussion with the beneficiaries. Stating and discussing the goals of a project at the beginning helps all the stakeholders to understand the intended achievements of a project. This assists in marshalling all the participants to focus and work in the same direction. It also brings synergy into the project. Sachs (2005) states that every poverty reduction strategy must be supported by quantitative benchmarks tailored to conditions, needs and data available. Clear targets of what is to be achieved must be stated and understood clearly by all concerned right from the start. This will raise the moral of participants because they can measure the achievements.

The respondents were asked to indicate how they agree or disagree with statement that, a committee composed of the local and the project team is formed to evaluate the project.

Table 4.13: Formation of project committees composed of the local and the project team to monitor and evaluate the project work.

disagree	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Strongly disagree	6	40.0
Disagree	7	46.7
Indifferent	1	6.7
Agree	1	6.7
Total	15	100.00

As shown in Table 4.13, 40.0% of respondents strongly disagreed that a team composed of local people and the project are formed to monitor and evaluate the project work, 46.7% disagreed, 6.7% were indifferent, 6.7% agreed. This implies that local people are not involved in project monitoring and evaluation processes. When stakeholders are involved in project monitoring and evaluation, the processes become cheap and the stakeholders also help to set good indicators. The project team is able to understand what is being done in case of an outsider doing monitoring and evaluation.

The respondents were asked to indicate how they agree or disagree with the statement that, community information centres are available in sub-locations. The results are shown in Table 4.14.

Table 4.14: Availability of community information centres in sub locations

disagree	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Strongly disagree	14	93.3
Disagree	1	6.7
Total	15	100.0

As shown in Table 4.14, 93.3% of the respondents strongly disagreed that in their sub-locations there is a community information centre where the community members can access the internet, mobile phones and e-mail, while 6.7% disagreed. This implies that community information centres are not available. Information is power and lack of it makes one powerless and vulnerable to poverty. Community information centres are therefore necessary ingredients in an effective development strategy. Through these centres, a community can get the information concerning the latest best farming methods, trends in demands of their produce and what other people in similar situations are doing to solve their problems.

The respondents were asked to indicate whether they agree or disagree with the statement that, people have access to credit facilities. The results are shown in Table 4.15.

Table 4.15: Access to credit facilities

disagree	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Strongly disagree	7	47.7
Disagree	4	26.7
Indifferent	3	20.0
Agree	1	6.7
Total	15	100.00

As shown in Table 4.15, 46.7% of the respondents strongly disagreed that people can get loans whenever they wish, 26.7% disagreed, 20% were indifferent, 6.7% agreed. This implies that people do not have access to credit facilities and therefore cannot improve easily their economic activities. The UNDP Human Development Report (2003) makes it very clear that access to credit facility is a prerequisite for poverty reduction.

The respondents were asked to indicate how they agree or disagree with the statement that, there is adequate clean drinking water available to all household in sub-locations. The results are shown in Table 4.16.

Table 4.16 Availability of adequate clean drinking to all house holds

disagree	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Strongly disagree	13	86.7
Disagree	1	6.7
Indifferent	0	0
Agree	1	6.7
Total	15	100.00

As shown in Table 4.16, 86.7% of the respondents strongly disagreed that there is adequate clean drinking water available to all households in their sub-locations, 6.7% disagreed, 6.7% agreed. This implies that clean drinking water is not adequately available to all households. According to

UNDP Human Development Report (2006)) deprivation in access to water is a salient crisis experienced by the poor and tolerated by those with the resources, the technology and the political power to end it. Overcoming the crisis in water and sanitation is one of the great human development challenges of the 21st century. When people are denied access to clean water at home or when they lack water as a productive resource, their choices and freedoms are constrained by ill-health, poverty and vulnerability.

The respondents were asked to indicate how they agree or disagree with the statement that, farmers are guaranteed of minimum prices of their crops by the government. The results are shown in Table 4.17.

Table 4.17: Whether farmers are guaranteed of minimum prices of their crops by the government.

disagree	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Strongly disagree	9	60.0
Disagree	4	26.7
Indifferent	2	13.3
Agree	0	0
Strongly agree	0	0
Total	15	100.00

As shown in Table 4.17, 60.0% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 26.7% disagreed and 13.3% were indifferent. This implies that farmers are not guaranteed of minimum prices of their crops by the government. The UNDP Human Development Report (2003) states that government can provide financial incentives and marketing assistance to diversify crops as well as guarantee minimum prices for farmers in areas with fragile markets.

The respondents were asked to indicate whether they agree or disagree with the households planting both food and cash crops. The results are shown in Table 4.18.

Table 4.18: Planting of both food crop and cash crop by households.

disagree	Number of sub-locations	Percent
Strongly disagree	6	40.0
Disagree	5	33.3
Indifferent	2	13.3
Agree	2	13.3
Strongly agree	0	0
Total	15	100.00

As shown in Table 4.18, 40% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 33.3% disagreed, and 13.3% were indifferent while 13.3% agreed. This implies that households rarely plant both food and cash crops. UNDP (2003) in Human Development Report says that agricultural research must support promising initiatives such as multi crop systems and eco agriculture, in order to benefit poor farmers on marginal land.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The study found that 80% of the roads are impassable during rains, 20% are impassable always and no single road is passable always. Health care facilities are not adequate because 41.6% of the sub locations do not have any health care facilities while 33% have only one. The main source of water are 80% rivers, 13.3% dams while 6.7 boreholes. 93.3% of household do not grow cash while 6.7% do. Access to credit facilities is not available because 46.7% of the respondents strongly disagreed that there is access to credit facilities, 26.7% disagreed while 6.7% were indifferent. Lastly the area is not networked to others.

5.2 Conclusions

The study found that there are several factors that have been an impediment to the fight against poverty in Kenya since independence. These among others include; the poor are rarely consulted in development planning and usually have no active role in development activities, training and capacity building through learning by doing, which should be part of the project, the poor lack access to credit facilities which they can use to improve on their economic activities.

Others are; reliance on wood fuel means more destruction of forests, environmental degradation and lower rainfall. Lower rainfall means generation of hydroelectricity may be a problem and food production. Water is a basic need. The community in the area under study lacks clean drinking water and there are no community information centres. Community knowledge centres will enable people to be networked to others and allow flow of information and knowledge.

5.3 Recommendations

Arising from the findings of this study, the researcher makes the following recommendations:

First, development processes should assume bottom up approach. This implies that the poor should always be consulted and involved in poverty reduction programmes.

Further, Parliament and county assembly should make the necessary legislation to create the legal structures to allow the rural poor have organizations to make proposals which are effected, on both budgetary and development needs of their areas.

Secondly, a consortium of government, the private sector and the rural poor is formed to run poverty reduction projects. The government will ensure security, both the government and private sector provide funds for the projects, and the community will run the project.

Thirdly, community should be guaranteed of minimum prices of their produce and access to credit facility.

Fourthly, training and capacity building be part of development projects, scientific and technological methods of harvesting rain water for both domestic and small scale irrigation be done in all rural households, that health centres be constructed in all sub locations, community information centres be set up in every village and that all whether roads be constructed in all sub locations.

Finally, research should he carried out on locally available resources which can be used to fight poverty and how education can be used empower the community to be self-reliant.

REFERENCES

- Alcock, P. (1993): *Understanding Poverty*. London: Macmillan
- Asen, R. (2002): *Visions of Poverty: Welfare policy and political imagination*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press
- Bartle P. (2008): *Factors of Poverty*. A PhD Publication
- Bhola, S.H. (2004): *Adult Education for Poverty Reduction: Political Economy Analysis from a Systems Theory perspective*. A Journal of German Adult Education and Development.
- Bradshaw, T.K (2005): *Theories of Poverty and Anti- Poverty Programs in Community Development*: University of California.
- Burbank, J. P (2007): *Innovative Solutions to Global Poverty: Poverty: a Global Problem*. Retrieved December 25, 2013 from: <http://www.unitus.com/sections/poverty-popmain.asp>.
- Chakravarti, D. (2006): "Voices Unheard: *The Psychology of Consumption in Poverty and Development*", Journal of Consumer Psychology **16** (4)
- Deng, L.A and Tjonneland, E.N (1996): *South Africa Wealth and Resolutions*: Michelsen Institute, University of Western Cape, South Africa.
- Deng, LA (1996): *Poverty Reduction: Lessons and experiences from sub-Saharan Africa*: University of Western Cape, South Africa.
- Duke, C (2004): *Adult Education and Poverty Reduction - A Global priority*. A Journal of German Adult Education and Development; 63.
- Fraire, P. (1970): *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*: England; Penguin Books
- Gay, S.N, (2002): Home office research studies, unpublished paper, London
- Government of Kenya (2003): *Kenya Millennium Development Goals Progress Report*. Nairobi: Government Printers
- Government of Kenya (2008): *Makueni District Development plan 2002- 2008*. Nairobi: Government Printer.
- IFAD (1993): *State of World Rural Poverty: An Inquiry into its causes and Consequences*.

- Ikiara, G .K. and Tostensen, A. (1965): *The Political Economy of Poverty Reduction in Kenya*. Michelsen Institute Norway.
- KNBS. (2008-09): *Kenya Demographic and Health Survey Report*. Nairobi. Government Printer
- KNBS. (2009): *Kenya Population and Housing Census, Volume 1A*. Nairobi. Government Printer
- Kimani. D.N (2001): *The role of community Based Organization in Poverty Reduction with special reference to Yatta South Women groups in Katangi, Machakos District*; (Unpublished Master of Arts Dissertation), University of Nairobi.
- Kiringai, J (2006): *Public spending in Kenya An inequality perspective. Readings on inequality in Kenya. Sectoral Dynamics and perspectives vol.1* 1 Society for International Development. East Africa.
- Njunguna, F. M (2005): *Poverty and inequality in Kenya: A stochastic dominance Approach*: Unpublished Master of Arts Dissertation, University of Nairobi.
- Onyango, E.A (2003): *Poverty reduction Strategies utilized by NGOs: The case of Kisumu District; Kenya*. Unpublished Master of Arts dissertation, University of Nairobi.
- Government of Kenya (1965): *Sessional Paper No: 10 of 1965 on African Socialization and its application in planning in Kenya*. Nairobi, Government Printer.
- Government of Kenya (1969): *Development Plan 1970 – 1974*. Nairobi; Government Printer.
- Government of Kenya (1974): *Development Plan 1974- 1978*, Nairobi, Government Printer.
- Government of Kenya (1979): *Development Plan 1979- 1983, part I & II*, Nairobi Government Printer.
- Government of Kenya (2001): *Makueni District PRSP Consult IOU Report 2001- 2004*, Nairobi, Government Printer.
- Government of Kenya (2005): *Sessional Paper No. 2 of 2005 on Micro and Small Enterprises for wealth and employment creation for poverty reduction*. Nairobi: Government Printer.
- Riessman, F. (1969): *Strategies against Poverty*. New York: Random House.
- Sachs, J.D (2005): *The End of Poverty*: London, Penguin Books.

- Sekaran, U. (2006): *Research Methods for Business. A Skill- Building Approach*, 4th Edition:
New Delhi, John Wiley & Sons.
- Sen, A. (1999): *Development as Freedom*: New York: Anchor.
- UNDP (2003): *Human Development Report*. New York
- UNDP (2006): *Human Development Report*. New York
- Wambugu, N.M (2002): *Status of Poverty in Rural Kenya. A case study of Nyeri District*:
Unpublished Master of Arts Dissertation, University of Nairobi.
- Weber, M. (2001): *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. New York: Rentelege.
- Wiersma, N.S, (2005). *Research and Statistics an Elementary approach to learning*. Houghton,
Mafflin, Boston.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: LETTER TO THE RESPONDENTS



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER AND AFRICAN STUDIES

Your Ref:

Main Campus Gandhi Wing, Ground Floor

Our Ref:

P.O. Box 30197

Telephone: 318262

NAIROBI

REF: RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent

My name is Ruciah Wanza Ngila, currently undertaking a Master of Arts degree in Gender and Development Studies at the University of Nairobi. A research project is part of the requirements towards the fulfillment of the course. I am glad to let you know that you are selected to be part of the sample respondent for the study.

This research study is solely for academic purposes and recommendations put forward will only aim at advising policy makers on the effective poverty reduction strategies that can be implemented in Kathonzwani sub-county and similar localities.

It is worth noting that the study will not infringe on your confidentiality in any way through malicious use of information given. Your cooperation is therefore highly appreciated.

Yours

Signed

RUCIAH WANZA NGILA

REGISTRATION NO. N69/82559/2012

APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire seeks to obtain information that will help to formulate effective Poverty Reduction Strategies in Kathonzweni Sub-County, Makueni County.

You are invited to participate and answer the questions as honestly as possible. The information you provide will only be for research and will be kept confidential, therefore do not write your name on this paper. As a leader and a member of this sub-county, your contribution is key and highly appreciated.

Please note that there are no wrong answers to these questions, but only what is appropriate to you.

Section A

1. What is the main food crop grown in your sub-location?
 - a. Maize (b) Sorghum (c) Millet (d) Others (Specify)
2. How many Government Health Care Centres are there in your sub-location?
 - a. One (b) Two (c) Three (d) None
3. What is the main source of energy in your sub-location?
 - a. Firewood (b) Electricity (c) Biogas (d) Others (Specify)
4. What is the main source of water in your sub-location?
 - a. Spring-well (b) Borehole (c) Dam (d) River (e) Others (Specify)

Section B

1. What is the main cash crop grown by all households in your sub-location?
 - (a) Cotton (b) Mangoes (c) Paw paws (d) None (e) Others (Specify)
2. How often do households in your sub-location harvest rain water for small scale irrigation?
 - (a) Always (b) Most times (c) Rarely (d) Very rarely (e) Never
3. What do households do when rains are not adequate and crops fail?
 - a) Receive relief food from government and other agencies (b) Look for formal employment (c) Burn charcoal (d) Others (Specify)
4. How often do households in your sub-location, use fertilizer/manure when planting?
 - (a) Always (b) Most times (c) Rarely (d) Very rarely (e) Never

5. How often do households in your sub-location receive advice from Agricultural extension officers on the type of seeds and crops to plant?
 (a) Always (b) Most times (c) Rarely (d) very rarely (e) Never
6. What is the type of the major roads in your sub-location?
 (a) All weather (b) Impassable during rains (c) Impassable always
7. How often does the government consult people at the village level on development activities required?
 (a) Always (b) Most times (c) Rarely (d) Very rarely (e) Never
8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
 Select by putting a tick (√) to one of the given answers which best fits the statement
 sd -Strongly disagree, d - disagree, hid - indifferent, a - agree, sa - strongly agree
- Statement

Statement	sd	d	ind	a	sa
1. In my sub-location, village committees discuss development projects which are again discussed and prioritized by the sub-location development committee and then forwarded to the location for onward transmission to the Sub-County Development Committee					
2. Whenever a development project is undertaken in my sub-location, training of all those involved and those to benefit is done as part of the project					
3. Before the start of a development program, what is to be achieved by the program is always stated and discussed at the beginning					
4. When development projects are initiated in my sub-location, a team composed of the local people and the					

project people are formed to monitor and evaluate the project work					
5. In my sub-location, we have a community information centre, where the community members can access the internet, mobile phones and e-mail services.					

9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Select by putting a tick (✓) to one of the given answers which best fits the statement sd -Strongly disagree, d - disagree, ind - indifferent, a - agree, sa - strongly agree

Statement	sd	d	ind	a	sa
1. People in my sub-location have access to credit facilities (can get loans whenever they wish) to improve their farms.					
2. All households in my area always plant both food crops and cash crops.					
3. There is adequate clean drinking water available to all households in my sub-location.					
4. There are committees at village, sub-location and location levels to address issues affecting the community like health, nutrition, water and income generating programs in my sub-location.					
5. Farmers are guaranteed of minimum prices of their crops by the Government in our locality					

APPENDIX 3: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Introduction

This Focus group discussion aims at obtaining information that will help to formulate effective Poverty Reduction Strategies in Kathonzweni Sub-County, Makueni County.

You are invited to participate in the discussion freely and answer the questions as honestly as possible. The information you provide will mainly be for academic research and will be kept confidential, therefore do not give your name in this discussion. However, as a household head and a member of this sub-county, your contribution and resourcefulness will be very important.

Please note that there are no wrong answers to these questions, but only what is appropriate to you.

Section A: Demographic information

1. Please indicate your gender (Tick)

1) Males = () 11) Females =()

b) Please state your occupation(s).....

d) Group age bracket (Tick)

Below 30 ()
31-40 ()
41-50 ()
51-60 ()
61 and above ()

2. Level of education? (Tick)

Primary school education ()
Secondary school level ()
Certificate ()
Diploma ()
Bachelors ()

Any other specify.....

3. State your marital status (tick)

- Married ()
- Single ()
- Divorced ()
- Widowed ()
- Separated ()

4. Number of family members:

- Less than three ()
- 3-5 ()
- 6-8 ()
- 9 -11 ()
- 12 and above ()

Section B (Members to individually give their responses)

- 5. What is the main food crop grown in your sub-location?
 - a. Maize (b) Sorghum (c) Millet (d) Others (Specify)
- 6. How many Government Health Care Centres are there in your sub-location?
 - a. One (b) Two (c) Three (d) None
- 7. What is the main source of energy in your sub-location?
 - a. Firewood (b) Electricity (c) Biogas (d) Others (Specify)
- 8. What is the main source of water in your sub-location?
 - a. Spring-well (b) Borehole (c) Dam (d) River (e) Others (Specify)

Section C

- 9. What is the main cash crop grown by all households in your sub-location?
 - (a) Cotton (b) Mangoes (c) Paw paws (d) None (e) Others (Specify)
- 10. How often do households in your sub-location harvest rain water for small scale irrigation?
 - (a) Always (b) Most times (c) Rarely (d) Very rarely (e) Never

11. What do households do when rains are not adequate and crops fail?
 a) Receive relief food from government and other agencies (b) Look for formal employment
 (c) Burn charcoal (d) Others (Specify)
12. How often do households in your sub-location, use fertilizer/manure when planting?
 (a) Always (b) Most times (c) Rarely (d) Very rarely (e) Never
13. How often do households in your sub-location receive advice from Agricultural extension officers on the type of seeds and crops to plant?
 (a) Always (b) Most times (c) Rarely (d) very rarely (e) Never
14. What is the type of the major roads in your sub-location?
 (a) All weather (b) Impassable during rains (c) Impassable always
15. How often does the government consult people at the village level on development activities required?
 (a) Always (b) Most times (c) Rarely (d) Very rarely (e) Never
16. As a group, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
 Select by putting a tick (√) to one of the given answers which best fits the statement
 sd -Strongly disagree, d - disagree, hid - indifferent, a - agree, sa - strongly agree
 Statement

Statement	sd	d	ind	a	sa
1. In my sub-location, village committees discuss development projects which are again discussed and prioritized by the sub-location development committee and then forwarded to the location for onward transmission to the Sub-County Development Committee					
2. Whenever a development project is undertaken in my sub-location, training of all those involved and those to benefit is done as part of the project					
3. Before the start of a development program, what is to be achieved by the program is always stated and discussed at the beginning					

4. When development projects are initiated in my sub-location, a team composed of the local people and the project people are formed to monitor and evaluate the project work					
5. In my sub-location, we have a community information centre, where the community members can access the internet, mobile phones and e-mail services.					

17. To what extend do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Discus and Select by putting a tick (√) to one of the given answers which best fits the statement
sd -Strongly disagree, d - disagree, ind - indifferent, a - agree, sa - strongly agree

Statement	sd	d	ind	a	sa
1. People in my sub-location have access to credit facilities (can get loans whenever they wish) to improve their farms.					
2. All households in my area always plant both food crops and cash crops.					
3. There is adequate clean drinking water available to all households in my sub-location.					
4. There are committees at village, sub-location and location levels to address issues affecting the community like health, nutrition, water and income generating programs in my sub-location.					
5. Farmers are guaranteed of minimum prices of their crops by the Government in our locality					