

The Role of Local Government Administration on Social Development in Ghana: the Case Study of Atwima Kwanwoma District Assembly

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ABSTRACT: *This study investigates the role of local Government Administration on Social Development in Atwima Kwanwoma District Assembly Ashanti, Ghana. Despite the existence of these huge number of such institutions with their primary motives of ensuring the social development of these poor rural dwellers, rural dwellers in Ghana still faces social developmental problems. The study identified the determinants of social development at the local level, role of local government administration on social development and finally the challenges associated with local government administration in delivering their mandate. Both primary and secondary data were used for the study. The secondary data was extracted from reports of the institution whereas the primary data was obtained from administering questionnaire. A total of 400 respondents from the District were administered questionnaires to and a total of 10 Local Government officials to know the problems they encounter in delivering their mandate. It was found out that availability of social amenities, availability of portable drinking water, quality healthcare delivery and availability of streetlights symbolizes social development. With the provision of these social development, respondents reported that the local Government administration has not provided them with social amenities and good portable drinking water. The rest have been duly provided. The Ten (10) reported that inadequate resources and low decentralization are the major challenges facing the Local Government administration. It is recommended that Local Government Administration in Atwima Kwanwoma District should be well resourced and much attention should be paid to provision of social amenities and portable drinking to its rural dwellers and finally, future work should consider conducting a quantitative analysis by running bivariate correlation between the dependent and independent variables and also check for endogeneity of the variables.*

I. Introduction

In Ghana, since the implementation of the 1960 civil service reform, the local government system has undergone considerable change. Direct payment of its legislative allocations is one of the reforms adopted by the local government. Furthermore, each regional minister has set up a local government auditor to ensure that financial services are used properly at the local level to avoid misappropriation of public funds. All local councils now have a shared framework that separates them from the department of service. At any level, there are certain responsibilities for local government, such as upholding law and order, fostering economic and social growth, etc. With considerable freedom for the interest of the local society, they are left to real will. The numerous local government laws are not in plain language. Again, getting access to the different rules of the local government is complicated.

The government as a development agent is well positioned to assist the rural areas to develop, forming the administrative point of view. This can be achieved by investing in social and economic infrastructure such as roads, hospitals, bridges, schools, energy and telecommunications. Other important tasks inherited by indigenous authorities include the provision of water, markets and libraries. In general, we consider the list of conveniences to include those extra facilities that make life easier in communities other than those listed. These include the development of bus and lorry parks, street land card control, community recreation centres, parks and open spaces, grazing areas and fuel plantations, street naming and numbering of homes that are automatically recognised as the responsibility of the local government. They also assist in providing facilities for the management of parks and the supply of water, electricity and gas, road transport and any other commercial undertaking approved by the state government.

The local government also assumes responsibility for health orientation and medication supplies, health visit arrangement for midwifery services, and home nursing to provide the District Health Directorate with facilities. A holistic approach to the decentralisation process is facilitated by the Local Government; different mechanisms have been established at sub-national level with the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) as the coordinating body. The Metropolitan or Regional or District Assemblies (MMDAs) and the Sub-district structures are situated below the RCC. Introduction 9 A Guide to District Assemblies in Ghana Despite the praiseworthy concept behind the Decentralization Strategy, local practitioners and decision-makers do not have sufficient awareness and information on the duties and obligations of the MMDAs.

In addition, in order to engage effectively in the decision-making process, certain stakeholders do not have enough knowledge to grasp the workings of the District Assembly. Therefore, it is important to provide realistic, easily accessible and user-friendly information to help local government officials and practitioners understand how decisions are taken at the level of MMDAs. In addition, it is also intended to assist the functionaries of district assemblies to consider their positions and obligations to ensure efficient local administration.

One of the core values of Local Government is commitment to the social livelihood of the poor rural Ghana. There exists local governance in rural areas of Ghana that are geared towards the socio-economic development of these rural dwellers. Despite the existence of these huge number of such institutions with their primary motives of ensuring the social development of these poor rural dwellers, rural dwellers in Ghana still faces social developmental problems (IFAD, 2011). The United Nations development index which is responsible for classifying countries as being underdeveloped socially and poor has ranked Ghana 138th out of 187th in poverty (United Nations, 2014).

In promoting social and economic growth at the grassroots level, the local government is expected to become more involved. A possible social and economic booster if well-equipped is the local government. While some factors, such as insufficient finance, lack of technical manpower, denial of autonomy, at the local level, battle against efficient administration. Despite these challenges, the local government is struggling to maintain a high level of socio-economic growth. Using Atwima Kwanwoma District Assembly of Ashanti Region as a case study the researchers want to recognise those areas (roles) that the local government has excelled in social and economic growth.

II. Theoretical Review

Social development theory

This theory seeks to understand qualitative shifts in society's structure and framework, which enable society to better realise goals and objectives. Development may be characterized as an increase in energy, production, quality, productivity, sophistication, understanding, creativeness, mastery, delight and achievement, applicable to all societies in all historical periods. Development is not just a collection of policies and programmes that have been designed to achieve such concrete results. This mechanism has evolved rapidly and strongly over the last five centuries and has seen a significant increase in acceleration over the last five years.

The fundamental mechanism driving social change is increasing awareness that contributes to better organisation. In order to efficiently exploit these new opportunities, new ways of organisation are developed as society senses new and enhanced opportunities for growth. The new organisational models are better able to exploit the available social energies and skills and tools to take advantage of the opportunities to achieve the desired results.

Many factors that affect the effects of developmental efforts are regulated by growth. There needs to be a justification for social reform and significant preconditions for the change to take place. The motive must be strong enough in order to resolve challenges that prevent the change from occurring. Growth is also required by resources such as capital, technology, and infrastructure support.

Creation is the result of the ability of society to mobilize resources to meet challenges and possibilities. In the course of its growth, society passes through well-defined phases. These include nomadic hunting and gathering, agriculture, urban, commercial, manufacturing and rural post-industrial societies. Pioneers incorporate new concepts, methods, and behaviours that are initially opposed by traditional elements. Innovations are embraced, imitated, coordinated, and used by other group members at a later level. Organizational changes implemented to support innovations will take place at four distinct physical, social, emotional and psychological levels at the same time. In addition, in promoting growth, four different types of resources are involved. Physical resources are the most noticeable of these four, but the least capable of expansion. As the standard of organisation and level of information inputs increase, resource efficiency grows enormously.

The speed and scale of development differ depending on the scene of the society. The three primary phases are physical, vital (the vital refers to the humanity's complex and anxious social energies to accomplish), and mental.

Human Development Theory

Klingemann et al. (2003) postulated that human development means being influenced by socio-economic factors such as income, health and education. These factors positively impact on the quality of life of individuals, families, communities or nations. The theory further considers one's freedom to choose, one's involvement in decision making process as a major factor in human development theory. The theory also argues for good democratic principles, that is collective involvement in decision making and governing processes. According to Landman (2007), collective governance affects the quality of life so collectivism should be the underlying when making decisions that affect human life. Ahwoi (2010), defines democratic principles as popular participation

Approaches to development and related theories

Postulations by (Afrane, 1997; Burgress and Rohini, 2005; Schuler et al. 1996) state that poverty in rural areas can be effectively eradicated or managed by embarking on social developmental projects. Over the period, a lot of approaches have been adopted to propel growth in the rural areas. Prominent among these approaches are the social amenities approach, improved agricultural approach and the integrated approach.

The social amenities approach argues that the provision of social amenities like education, health, water, transportation and other historical sites for the rural communities open up tourism and investment which in turn leads to rural development. However, researchers have criticized this approach and prominent among them is Nwosu&Agaben (2008). According to them, this approach is limited because it is expensive to run and that rural development is much more than the provision of social amenities.

The next approach is the improved agricultural approach. This approach emphasizes on the improvement of agriculture through the provision of credit and use of technology in rural areas (Anti, 2012). This approach argues that with agriculture being the major source of income in rural areas and has the potential to transform rural economies, the backward and forward linkages along the food chain should be strengthened. It further explains that the provision and existence of well-functioning agricultural markets will connect the rural households as either buyers or sellers of agricultural produce. This will in turn enable households that farm to

commercialize the production system and increase their farm income which will improve rural development. This approach too has been criticized by stakeholders. The Asian Development Bank (2010) argues that factors like food price volatility, climate change, lack of access to rural finance and stagnation of food productivity and production generally pose a challenge for poor rural dwellers to seize the rewarding opportunities.

The integrated rural development approach also aims at improving the standard of living in rural areas as well as maintaining and advancing rural values by redistributing central resources, thereby helping to reduce comparative disadvantage for competition and finding new ways to strengthen and make use of rural resources. This approach is an ongoing process which involves outside intervention and local aspiration and it is viewed as integrative in the sense that as opposed to central development, all developmental activities are controlled and managed locally with financial support from the centre. However, the integrated approach has a challenge of being expensive to practice and also delays developmental activities.

Among these approaches, the need for finance stands out since all the approaches requires funding. King and Levine, (1993) assert that it is financial development that facilitates development. They justified that improved access to finance and financial services are “critical pillars supporting poverty alleviation, wealth creation and socio-economic growth” which in turn reduces income gaps between the rich and the poor. Undoubtedly, it can be concluded that being able to increase production capacity in the rural communities directly affect poverty reduction because majority of people in these rural areas engage in farming.

Conceptualizing

Social Development

Social Development has become a well-known phenomenon due to efforts to alleviate it by researchers, international organizations, institutions, government and non-governmental organizations. This implies that many scholars have defined development in diverse ways. According to Rostow (1961) “development is synonymous with technological improvement and rapid socio-economic growth”. In recent years there has been an expansion in attempts to find the meaning of development (Okonjo, 1986). According to Okonjo (1986) Development occurs when people living in isolated and separately populated areas experience an improvement in their social and economic well-being.

Development of an economy is an important tool for fighting social rejection and rural development. According to Clark (1997) social development has no comprehensive definition, but there can be a process that will intend to identify the social needs. In an attempt to achieve the social development aspect of the objective, the study therefore explored the extent to which respondents agree with the statements on social contributions provided by the local government administration as suggested by literature. According to literature, social development includes provision of social amenities such as Schools, Hospitals, toilet facilities etc.

The Concept of Rural

There have been several explanations to the concept “Rural” by many scholars. Per their definition, there seems to be a huge disagreement in its meaning and how these authors arrive by their concepts. According to Dibartolo (2003), rural is defined as “a subjective state of mind” while others see it as an objective qualitative measure. According to Ghana statistical service, rural is defined as “a village of 5000 inhabitants or less” (Ghana statistical service, 2005). The explanation adopts the use of population in conceptualizing rural. It should be noted however that, anyhow authors define rural, they should not leave out high levels of illiteracy, traditionalism, isolationism, over dependence on agricultural, lack of social amenities and infrastructures. All the authors in their attempt of conceptualizing poverty on the other hand are base their arguments on their background and understanding.

Rural Development Efforts in Ghana

Anti (2012) postulated that, many efforts are underway to help bring development in rural areas since 1943. This idea started with the development of communities and the establishment of the Department of Social Welfare. Since the creation of this department in 1946, it concentrated on the construction of community and youth centres. The main approach for rural development then was the social amenities approach. Policy makers and governments then made various interventions on the provision of social amenities but rural areas were always discriminated against.

The Improved Agricultural Approach was employed in 1943 with emphasis on the need to develop the agricultural sector. Boards and corporations were set up to develop the sector and find solutions to problems affecting the sector. However, it has been noted that these problems such as lack of technology, storage facilities, transportation, market, post-harvest losses and availability of affordable credit still exist in the sector therefore this strategy as a means to facilitate rural development has not been successful.

Many other approaches like the Accelerated Project Approach and the Growth Pole Strategy have all been implemented in Ghana (Anti 2012) but have not fully yielded the expected results. The recent attempt was the establishment of Rural Banking Scheme to ensure that adequate institutional credit was made available to the rural dwellers do enable them expand their operations, increase their incomes which will lead to decent living standards to help in the development of rural areas.

III. Methodology

Methodology is the selection of a research design hypothesis about knowledge claims that provides particular guidelines for procedure in research method (Creswell, 2003). This chapter focuses primarily on the procedures that were followed to come up with this study, target population, data source, research approach, sample size, technique used in sampling, the instruments used in the collection of data, instruments used for the data analysis, profile of the study area and finally the how the dataset was analysed.

Research Design

The study further employed a descriptive research approach, since the study adopted a mixed method (combination of both qualitative and quantitative). Descriptive research is mainly carried out when mixed methods are employed in a single study (Signer, 1991). The prime aim of this section is to achieve the following goals: give an unbiased profile of a subject matter; describe a process and provision of clear picture of the topic or a situation (Mireku, 2015). This research also used the case study approach. This approach was adopted as it is the best approach for the study of contemporary issues and in situation where the boundaries between the phenomena and context are not clearly evident as in the case of investigating the role of local government administration on social development in rural Ghana. The case study approach is an approach in which in-depth data is collected from the sample with the intention of generalizing the results to the whole population. The case study helped the researcher in the economic use of the resources because it would have been difficult if the researcher had collected data from the whole population. Case study and survey methods are usually used in collecting descriptive data (Borg and Gall, 1989).

The study again adopted a combination of the quantitative and qualitative methods in order to provide a comprehensive analysis of the research problem. The mixed method seems superior due to its ability to harness the strength of both qualitative and quantitative methods in both the collection and analysis of data. This means a combination of numerical and descriptive forms of data were used simultaneously during the study which was analyzed for interpretation. (Creswell, 2010).

Sampling strategies and Population

According to Crowl 1996 a population in research methods is defined as “the entire group of people to whom the researchers wish to generalise the findings of a study including persons who did not participate in the study”

(Crowl, 1996:76). In this case, the residents of Atwima Kwanwoma Constituency constitute the population. A total of 400 respondents were interviewed.

Both purposive and convenient sampling techniques were used in the study since the research was being constrained with time and resources. Purposive sampling technique is a non-random sampling technique which was used to select residents of Atwima Kwanwoma Constituency. This method was employed since it is the sampling technique that maximizes information and does not concentrate on generalization (Guba, 1985).

The convenient sampling technique was also used to select respondents who were ready and in the position to respond to the questionnaire. This was also employed in other to get a reliable dataset from respondents who are ready to response to the questionnaire (Kuzel 1991). With regards to the purposive and convenient sampling technique, the questionnaire was administered approximately for a period of two weeks to the customers.

Data source

This study employed both secondary and primary data. Secondary data was from reports from Local government administrator that was regarded as relevant for the study. Primary data was also collected from the respondents of this study through the questionnaires administration. Both closed and open ended questionnaires were used in collection of the data set from the respondents. The questionnaire employed was in four sections. The first section of the questionnaire requested for the demographical information of the respondents whiles the second section focused on the services of the institution. The third section examined the social contribution of the local government administration and the final section investigated the challenges facing the local government administration.

Data Collection Method

The instruments that were used in the first data collection were questionnaires, interview, and observation. Primarily, the collection of data for the study was through an administered questionnaire to the participants. The questionnaires administered were both open and closed-ended questions. With the data collection, the researcher started from Winsa to Nweneso 1, 2 and other rural communities.

The Questionnaire

The questionnaire employed was in four sections. The first section of the questionnaire requested for the demographical information of the respondents whiles the second section focused on the services of the institution. The third section examined the social contribution of the local government administration and the final section investigated the challenges facing the local government administration.

The interview

In some parts, interviews were conducted, recorded and later transcribed to obtain the needed data for the study. areas where interviews were conducted were areas that respondents were in a hurry to go to their various farms.

Data Analysis

The data was analysed using thematic analysis. Before the data was analyzed, the collected data was edited, codes were assigned to each theme and the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze the pre-coded data in order to bring order, structure and meaning to the data collected. The software was used to analyze the data from the field using percentages and frequency charts together with other qualitative responses which gave a comprehensive picture of the role of local government administration on social development in Rural Ghana.

Reliability and Validity

According to Joppe (2000:1), reliability measures the consistency of results over time and can give the same results when similar methodology is employed. In conducting qualitative one cannot overlook reliability (Patton,

2001). Stenbacka (2001) postulated that reliability can at times be misleading in the sense that when a study uses reliability as a criterion, the consequence is that the study is no good. The reliability of the results was assessed by employing the Cronbach’s alpha in SPSS. According to Nunually (1978) and Murphy and Davidshofer (1988), a score of Cronbach’s alpha more than 0.7 is usually enough in predicting consistency of the results.

Validity

Validity of a study is the rate at which a study is believed, accurate or exact (Seale, 2004). This research was conducted under a short period of time; however, cleaning of the data exercise was undertaken to be sure of how authentic the data is. To ensure the validity of this study, a pre-test was conducted using few residents in Trede before administering the questionnaire. This was done to identify questions that do not make sense and questions that might lead to biasness of the results. All such questions were removed after the pre-test to ensure validity of the results.

Results and Discussions

This Chapter presents the results of the study. Tables and charts were used to present these findings. The findings entail the role of local government administration in providing social development projects in rural areas. Social developmental projects that were considered include provision of social amenities, portable drinking water, improvement in healthcare delivery, provision of streetlights, Building of schools, scholarships for brilliant students in Atwima Kwanwoma District. Even though the sample size were made up of 400 respondents, 450 questionnaires were printed and carried to the field. The researcher manage to have all the 400 respondents responding to the overall 450 questionnaire printed. This shows that 89% of the printed questionnaire were used to achieve the research objectives. Thirty (30) questionnaires representing 7% got spoilt whilst administering the questionnaire with the remaining being untouched.

Background information of the respondents

This section presents the basic characteristics of the respondents. It gives details of the demographic and personal details such as gender, age educational and occupational background.

Descriptive statistics of background of the study

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Age	400	36.7175	11.15319	17	80
Availability of social amenities	400	4.2375	2.071672		
Availability of portable drinking water	400	526.175	485.1314		
Availability of quality health care	400	104.665	115.7117		

Availability and access to quality education	400	25.0125	13.81247
Availability of quality education	400	43.875	31.09706
Provision of social development	400	7.171362	6.427203
Provision of social amenities	400	29.52	15.07025
Provision of drinking water	400	110.1725	57.38768
Provision of quality and accessible education	400	135.9249	119.6405
Provision of streetlights	400	538.074	807.5209

Table 4.1 reports the summary statistics of some basic characteristics of the study. Out of the 400 participants that were interviewed, the minimum age of the respondents was 17 years with the maximum age being 80 years. The mean age was reported to be 36.72 years with a standard deviation of 11.15 years. The availability of social amenities the average number of respondents and standard deviation being 4 people and 2 people respectively. Out of the 400 respondents the average of respondents who responded to the availability of portable drinking water was recorded to be 526 with the standard deviation of 485. The 400 respondents were asked about the quality and access to quality healthcare. Upon answering, it was observed that the mean and standard deviation

were 104.7 and 115.7 respectively. The 400 respondents were further asked about availability and access to quality education. The respondents who responded had a mean of 139.9 and a standard deviation of 119.6

With respect to the provision of social development, out of the respondents who responded, it was observed that their mean was 7.171 with their standard deviation being 6.427. Again with provision of social amenities, mean and standard deviation were recorded to be 29.52 and 15.070 respectively. It was recorded that provision of drinking water had 110.172 and 57.39 mean and standard deviation respectively with provision of quality accessible education being 135.92 and 119.840 as mean and standard deviation respectively.

Background information of respondents

Sex of Respondents

Out of the 400 respondents that the questionnaires were administered to, 62% representing (n=) were female whereas the remaining 38% representing (n=) were males. This is a clear indication that females were available and in position to respond to the questionnaire. A tabular representation can be seen in the table 4.1 below

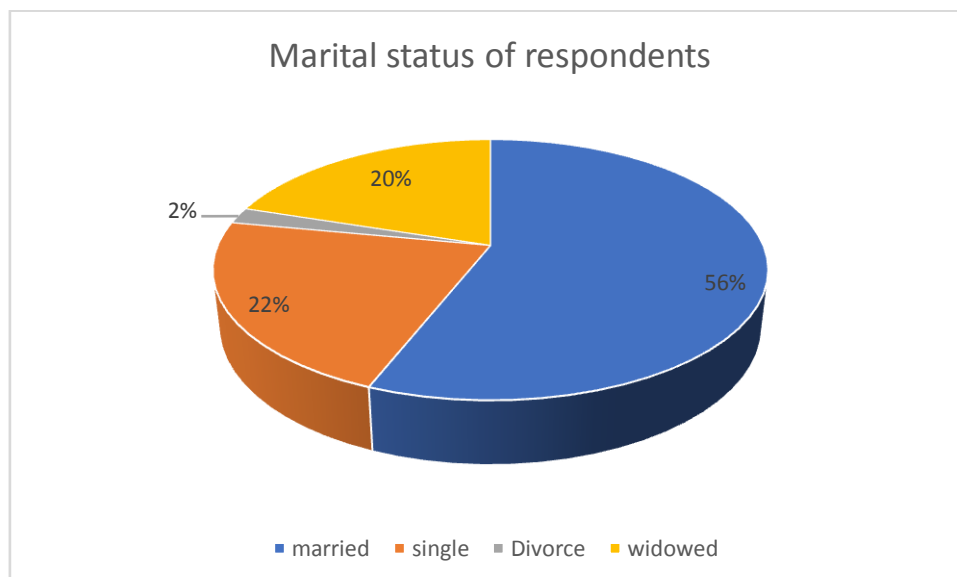
Table 4.1: Distribution of Respondents by Sex.

Sex	Frequency	percentage
Male	152	38%
Female	248	62%

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Marital status of Respondents

Out of the 400 respondents 56% representing (n=224) were married, 22% representing (n=88) were single, 20% representing (n=80) were widowed whereas 2% representing (n=8) are divorced. This is an indication that majority of the respondents were married as shown in figure 4.1 below.

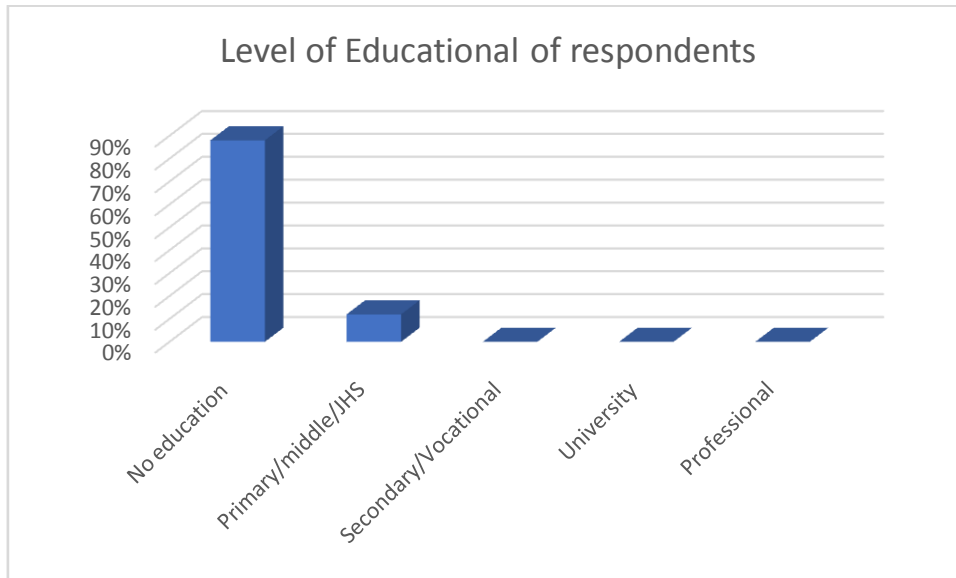


Source: field survey, 2020

Figure 4.1 Marital status of respondents

Level of Educational

Out of the 400 respondents, 88% representing (n=352) had no formal education, 12% representing (n=48) had primary/middle/JHS education. None of the respondents had secondary/vocational, HND/Diploma, University or professional degree. This indicates that majority of the respondents had no formal education. This can be seen in the figure 4.2 below.

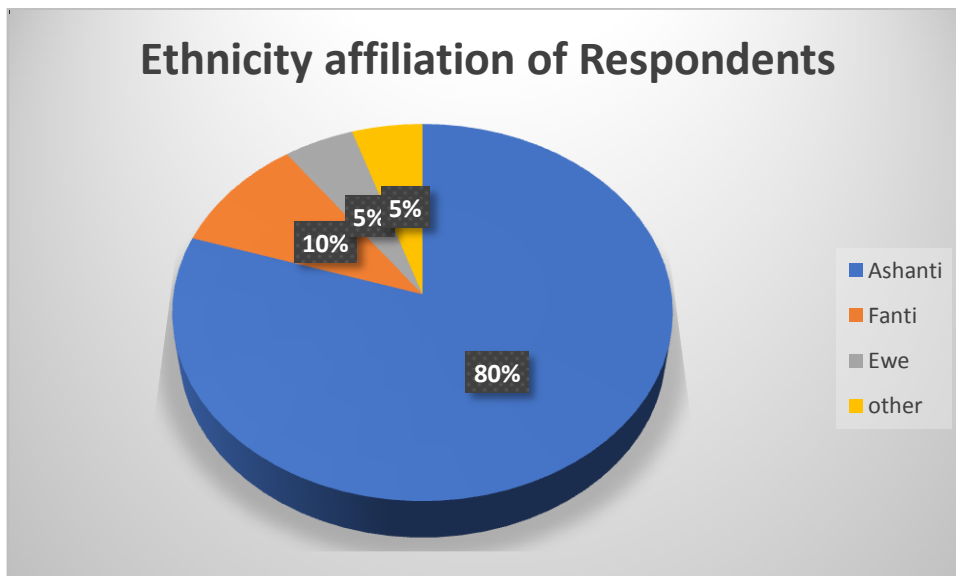


Source: field survey, 2020

Figure 4.2 Educational background of Respondents

Ethnicity Affiliation of Respondents

Out of the 400 respondents, 80% representing (n=320) were Ashanti's, 10% representing (n=40) were Fantis, 5% representing (n=20) were Ewe and the remaining 5% representing (n=20) selected others. This is an indication that most of the respondents who were available and willing to answer the questionnaire were Ashantis. This can be seen in figure 4.3 below.

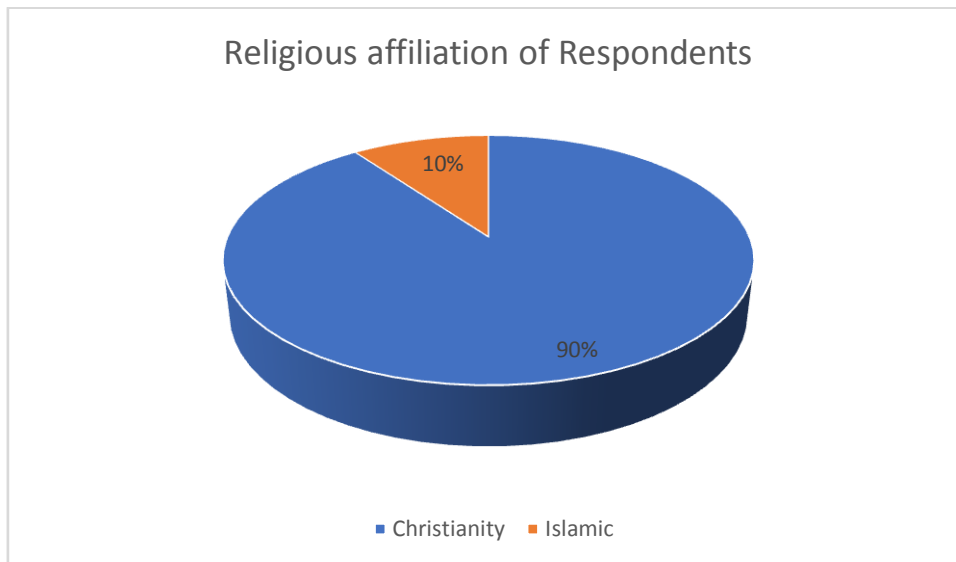


Source: field survey, 2020

Figure 4.3 Ethnicity affiliation of respondents

Religious Affiliation of Respondents

Respondents were asked what their Religious affiliations were. Out of 400 respondents, 90% of the respondents representing (n=360) reported that they are Christians, whereas the remaining 10% representing (n=40) reported that they were Muslims. None of the respondents were affiliated to the traditional religion. Figure 4.4 below clearly shows the Religious affiliation of respondents.

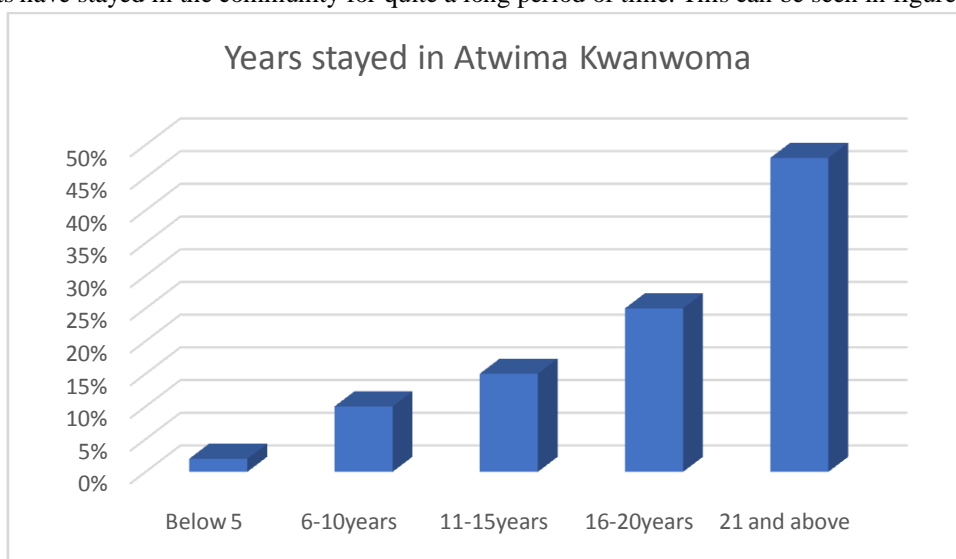


Source: Field survey, 2020

Figure 4.4 Religious affiliation of Respondents

Number of Years respondents have stayed in community

Respondents were asked how many years they have stayed in the Atwima Kwanwoma District. 2% representing (n=8) reported that the number of years they have stayed in the district is less than 5years, 10% representing (n=40) have stayed there between 6-10 years, 15% representing (n=60) reported that they have been in the District between 11-15 years, 25% (n=100) have stayed in the area between 16-20 years, with the remaining 48% representing (n=192) have been in the district for over 21years. This is an indication that, majority of the respondents have stayed in the community for quite a long period of time. This can be seen in figure 4.5 below.



Source: field survey, 2020

Figure 4.5 Number of years stayed in Atwima Kwanwoma

Objective one: To identify the determinants of social development

In view of knowing what respondents really think is actually a social development in their community, they were asked to strongly agree, agree, be neutral, strongly disagree and disagree to the following statements; availability of social amenities, availability of portable drinking water, availability of quality healthcare delivery, availability of assessable road network, availability of streetlights, availability schools and availability of scholarships to brilliant students.

Availability of social amenities

Table 4.2 below shows that, out of the 400 respondents 69.2% strongly agree to the statement “availability of social amenities determines social development in their community” whereas the remaining 30.8% agree to the statement. This is an implication that all the respondents’ saw that availability of social amenities in their communities symbolizes social development. This confirms the assertion by Awortwi (2011) that availability of social amenities symbolizes social development.

Availability of portable drinking water

Table 4.2 below shows that, out of the 400 respondents 70% strongly agree to the statement that availability of portable drinking water determines social development in their community, whereas the remaining 30% agree to the statement. This is an indication that rural areas in Atwima Kwanwoma District beliefs that availability of portable drinking water is an indication of social development. This confirms the assertion by Awortwi (2011) that availability of portable drinking water is a symbol of social development.

Availability of quality healthcare delivery

Table 4.2 below confirms that availability of quality healthcare delivery is a determinant of social development in rural communities. Out of the 400 respondents 64% strongly agree to the statement, 26% also agree to the statement whereas the remaining 10% were neutral to the statement. This is an indication that proximity to quality health care in rural areas in Atwima Kwanwoma District is a determinant of social development.

Availability and access to quality education

Table 4.2 shows that out of the 400 respondents, 82% strongly agree that availability and access to quality education is a determinant of social development in rural communities, 12% on the other hand agreed to the statement whereas the remaining 6% were neutral to the statement. This indicates that availability and access to quality education is a determinant of social development.

Availability of streetlights

Table 4.2 further shows that 78% of the respondents strongly agree to the statement availability of streetlights as a symbol of social development in rural communities. Whereas the remaining 22% agree to the statement. No respondent disagree, or strongly disagree to the statement. This is an indication that availability of streetlight is a determinant of social development.

Table 4.2 Pattern of Responses to determinants of social development

Statements	SA(%)	AG(%)	UN(%)	DA(%)	SD(%)	Total (%)
Availability of social Amenities	69.2%	30.8%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Availability of portable drinking water	70%	30%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Availability of quality healthcare delivery	64%	26%	10%	0%	0%	100%
Availability and access to quality education	82%	12%	6%	0%	0%	100%
Availability of streetlight	78%	22%	0%	0%	0%	100%

NB: SA-Strongly Agree, AG-Agree, UN-Neutral, DA-Disagree, SD-Strongly Disagree

Source: field survey, 2020

Summary of findings

In summary, majority of the respondents agreed to the statement relating to availability of social amenities, availability of portable drinking water, quality healthcare delivery and availability of streetlights as a determinant of social development in the community.

Objective Two: Provision of social development in Respondents communities

In view of knowing what respondents really think their local government administration has provided them in terms of social development, they were asked to strongly agree, agree, be neutral, strongly disagree and disagree to the following statements; provision of social amenities, provision of portable drinking water, provision of quality healthcare delivery, provision of assessable road network, provision of streetlights, provision of quality education.

4.3.1 Provision of social amenities

Table 4.3 below shows that, out of the 400 respondents 68% strongly disagree that the local government administration had provide them with social amenities whereas the remaining 32% disagree to the statement. None of the respondents were neutral, agree or strongly agree to the statement. It was further found that some of these rural communities had no social amenities at all, and whereas some existed respondents didn't have any idea where the amenities came from. Some respondents reported that Members of Parliament lobbied for such amenities. This is an indication that local government administration in Atwima Kwanwoma has not delivery their mandate of providing social amenities in their rural communities.

Provision of drinking water

Respondents were further asked if their local government provides them good portable drinking water. 56% of these rural dwellers in Atwima Kwanwoma District Disagree to the statement, 24% of the respondents strongly disagree, whereas the remaining 20% reported that they are neutral to the statement. They further explained that most of their drinking water is from the streams. And where there existed a portable drinking water were not attributed to the local Government administration. This is an indication that local government administration in Atwima Kwanwoma do not provide portable drinking water for their rural dwellers. This can be seen in table 4.3 below.

Provision of quality healthcare delivery

Table 4.3 below shows that 90% of the respondents reported that they strongly agree to the statement relating to quality health care delivery. Whereas the remaining 10% reported that they agree to the statement. They further made an emphasis that there are a number of CHIPS compounds in their rural areas which give them quality healthcare delivery. These healthcare delivery was attributed to the local government administration in Atwima Kwanwoma District. This give an indication that Atwima Kwanwoma local government administration has duly deliver in terms of healthcare delivery.

Provision of quality and accessible education

Table 4.3 below shows that 82% of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement that their local government administration has provide them with quality and accessible education. 8% of these respondents agreed to the statement whereas the remaining 10% were neutral to the statement. This is an indication that Local government administration in Atwima Kwanwoma District has given their rural communities quality and accessibility to education.

Provision of streetlights

Table 4.3 further shows that all the 400 respondents strongly agree to the statement that their local Government administration has duly provide them with streetlights. This is an indication that the local government administration has duly provide its community of good lighting system.

Summary of findings

In summary, majority of the respondents disagree to the statement that local government administration has provided them social amenities and portable drinking water. However, with quality healthcare delivery, provision and access to quality education and provision of streetlights were highly agreed by many of the respondents.

Discussion of Results

The study focused on the local government administration on social development in Rural Ghana, with an evidence from Atwima Kwanwoma District. A total of 400 respondents from the District were administered questionnaires to and a total of 10 Local Government officials to know to problems they encounter in delivering their mandate.

The descriptive statistics of the study depicts that female respondents constitutes the highest percentage. Most of the respondents were married. It was also found that most respondents had no formal education whereas respondents were mainly Ashantis and at the same Christians constituted a majority of the total respondents. Again, many of the respondents have stayed in the District for between 16-20 years.

Again in an attempt to find the determinate of social development, some social developments were administered to the respondents as statement. In this case, availability of existence of such development gives an evidence of social development in communities. Out of the 400 respondents, 69.2% responded that they strongly agree to statement relating to availability of social amenities in communities as a symbol of social development, whereas the remaining 30.8% agreed to the statement. Further, 70% strongly agreed that availability of portable drinking water is a determinant of social development, whereas the remaining 30% agreed. 64% of the respondents on the other hand strongly agreed that quality healthcare delivery is a determinant of social development, 26% agreed with the remaining 10% being neutral to the statement. Majority of the respondents' responded that availability and access to quality healthcare delivery is a determinant of social development. And finally, 78% responded that availability of streetlights is a symbol of social development.

In other to find provision of these social developments in Atwima Kwanwoma District, statements such as provision of social amenities by the local Government administration as an evidence of social development. 68% responded that disagree to the statement that the local government administration has provided them with social amenities, the remaining 32% strongly disagree to the statement as well. Again, with provision of drinking water by the Local government administration, 56% of the respondents strongly disagree to the statement, 24% disagree whereas the remaining 20% were neutral to the statement. They went further and made an additional comment by saying that, their major source of water is from the stream. 90% of the respondents strongly agree that their Local Government administration has provide them with quality healthcare delivery whereas the remaining 10% agree. With provision and access to quality education, 82% strongly agree, 8% agreed and the remaining 10% were neutral. Finally, with the provision of street lighting, 100% of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement.

The study went further to analyse problems that Local Government encounter in delivering their mandate. Ten (10) local government officials were administered to. Out of the ten, all of them reported that the administration faces problems. All the ten (10) official strongly agree to the statement that Local Government in Atwima Kwanwoma has inadequate resources. All the ten (10) respondents strongly disagree to the statements of inadequate personnel and low decentralization.