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FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

**THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT OF JERERA GROWTH POINT IN MASVINGO PROVINCE SINCE
1988**

BY

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The socio-economic impact of the establishment and development of Jerera growth point in Masvingo province since 1988

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Declaration of originality

I Kudzai Jeke, the undersigned hereby declare that the work contained in this dissertation is my own original work that all sources used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references and that this dissertation was not previously submitted by me or am other person at any university for a degree

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Acknowledgements

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Dedication

To those that mean the most to me.

Abstract

The research focused on the socio-economic impacts of the establishment and development of growth points in Zimbabwe. Jerera was used as a case study to depict these socio-economic impacts. The study sought to analyze to what extent the establishment of growth points have affected the rural livelihoods. A qualitative research design was used in the research and interviews and questionnaires were used as data mining tools. A review of literature was conducted with the aim of helping fill in the existing gap and getting a broader understanding of the socio-economic impacts of growth points in Zimbabwe and elsewhere. The findings show that despite the intended positive impacts, the establishment and development of Jerera growth point brought in socio-economic problems to the people of Zaka district

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INTRODUCTION

Growth points have been viewed as centers where economic activities are undertaken so as to improve the standards of living for the local or nearby dwellers. In the different parts of the world, many positive elements have been accredited to the development activities in growth points, but however, there is need to examine if this applies in the case of Jerera growth point. It is with Jerera in mind that the study seeks to investigate the role of Growth points as a driver for socio-economic development in rural zones of Zimbabwe. Hence, the dissertation seeks to trace the extent to which the establishment and development of growth points has impacted the socio-economic livelihoods of the rural dwellers, with a particular focus on Jerera growth point in Masvingo Province.

While growth centers have been viewed as sources of rural development from where development would trickle down to surrounding areas, overtime they have not so much grown as intended. Little, if any, studies have been carried out in order to investigate how the establishment of rural growth points has impacted on the rural societies. There is need to examine the reason why they have been labeled as a failed policy or strategy. It is then equally important to explore the extent to which the establishment of growth points has improved rural socio-economical livelihoods and to determine the challenges faced in trying to make growth points centers of rural development. The study shall assess the impact of Jerera Growth point by focusing on the living standards of local dwellers, accessibility and state of health services, employment creation, and availability of quality education among others. It is to this end that the dissertation examines if growth points have really been zones of rural development that cascade development to surrounding communities.

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The growth pole policy in Zimbabwe was introduced in 1978 as part of a policy document titled “Integrated Plan for Rural Development”. The plan however came to action in 1988 after independence as ten growth centers were selected namely Chisumbanje, Jerera, Gutu, Mataga, Wedza, Murewa, Nkayi, Sanyati, Mushumbi and Maphisa. The criterion for these selections was mainly on the availability of a strong resource base from where development would emanate. Areas with factors such as minerals, arable and basic raw materials were considered to be the best communities to establish these growth poles. The idea behind all this was to have a core nucleus around which households and industries would grow and be able to acquire better standards of living and progressive businesses operate. However, some scholars argue that some areas such as Colleen Bawn and West Nicholson were denied growth point statuses but they had abundant limestone and cement production industries, cattle ranching and beef canning industries.

The whole idea of establishing growth points was propounded from the growth pole theory that pushed for a policy that advocated for growth with equity in a nation. This would address regional inequalities that had to be drastically reduced within a nation. It had been noted that these areas had the potential and capacity of developing socio-economically through their own local resources. By creating such centres, it was expected that development beginning from these growth cores would cascade to the nearby rural areas until all the surrounding communal lands had benefited and developed.

The idea of the establishment of growth points had been mainly brought up by the grassroots approach which advocated that development had to start on the least developed areas of a country (rural areas) up to the better developed areas (urban areas). It also included the participatory development approach where all stakeholders including the rural dwellers had to contribute to their own development. Hence, it brought about a bottom up approach which sought to bring about development in the less developed areas.

The establishment of Jerera growth point had the impetus from the decentralization policy of the government. This policy sought to transfer authority from central to local government and was based on the idealistic approach of how decentralization would usher in sustainable development at little cost to the rural community. Decentralization led to the formation of Rural District Councils which were given the power to control, monitor and plan for the districts' development activities.

Jerera growth point was entrusted with the development of the Zaka District in which it acts as the core area as it harbors the district administration offices. The strong resource base that enabled Jerera to be selected amongst the first growth points was the availability of arable land which the government believed would attract agriculture based industries.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Jerera was established as a growth point in 1988 under the decentralization policy which mainly aimed to see an increase in rural development by rural investment and industrialization so as to

improve the economic and living conditions of the people. However, the development remains questionable. Twenty-five years down the line, it is not very clear whether the aim of the establishment of growth points has or is being met. Hence, the study seeks to examine the socio-economic impacts of the development of Jerera growth point. The major focus is on the extent to which growth points represented by Jerera have improved rural livelihoods by promoting sound economic development and bringing up the human development indicators therein.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design is the strategy, plan and the structure of conducting a research project. It is aimed at giving guidance on the methodology the researcher employed in the study and set principles to make interpretations in this study.

One of the main purposes of research methodology is to clarify the process and nature of the study in order to assist researchers to hold their own research that answers their specific study problems. The goal is attained by providing exercises, practical procedures, examples connecting to all pertinent fields of study, and activities with case studies. A methodology has several processes and these constitute a generic framework.

The researcher used a qualitative research design in this dissertation. Qualitative research is the examination, analysis and interpretation of observations for the purpose of discovering underlying meanings and patterns of relationships, including classifications of types of

phenomena and entities in a manner that does not involve mathematical models. This proves to be relevant to this study since the research at hand requires examining how people view the socio-economic impacts of the growth point based on their lived experiences.

In as such, qualitative research design concentrates on things in their natural setting, attempting to make sense of the meanings people bring to them. In this research there is a natural phenomenon that is social impact, which was being investigated for. Thus, qualitative research design was the best design to use. Qualitative research method is also based on the use of direct questions as well as analysis of data based on categories. The limitation of this approach it is subjective, impressionist and so the way in which the information is categorized and interpreted often differs from one investigator to another.

Study Population

The population is defined as the group of interest to the researcher. It is upon this group that the researcher would generalize the results of the study (Fraenkel and Wallen 1996). The population includes all individuals from whom the researcher is interested in obtaining information and making inferences. Fraenkel and Wallen (1996) state that the population can be in two categories namely: the target and the accessible populations. The target population is the actual population to which the researcher would really like to generalise. However, this population is rarely available. Therefore, the population to which the researcher is able to generalise is the accessible population (Fraenkel and Wallen 1996). In this study, the population to be studied is, individuals

that saw the establishment of the growth point and saw it develop, residents of Jerera and its surrounding communities.

The researcher used both primary and secondary methods of data collection. Primary sources refer to data collected for the first time. The data mining techniques that were used under primary sources included questionnaires and conducting interviews. Participant observation was also used as the researcher spent time observing life in the radius of Jerera.

Interview

An interview is a fixed discussion between two or more people that may involve a series of organized questions. Interview is a term used to describe a qualitative research data collection technique that seeks to describe the meanings of central themes in a study. It mainly is undertaken with individual respondents rather than groups. The interview carried out aimed at bringing forth rich and detailed information that was then analysed. In depth interviews were carried out with regular residents to analyze how the establishment of the growth point affected them.

The researcher used an unstructured type of interview which involves questions that are not prearranged. This type of interview also states that the first questions can be prepared in advance. This allows spontaneity of questions that may develop during the interview course. By using an unstructured interview, the researcher was able to get a deeper insight of how the establishment

and growth of Jerera affected the people of Jerera differently. However, the disadvantage of using interviews might have been that some respondents were uncomfortable and intimidated by the personal interview which could have led to the collection of biased data.

Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a structured data collection mechanism involving a range of question formats and completed in print .A questionnaire presents questions in writing to the respondents and requires a written down response targeting information as per the research question. Developing a questionnaire took time and effort. However, it saved time unlike an interview because the questions were self-explanatory to the extent that respondents did not spend much time completing them. In this research, the researcher distributed 25 questionnaires to different people in the community but only 15 proved to be relevant for the study because they fell under the target population requirements.

Secondary sources in the form of articles, journals, newspapers and textbooks were used in completing this study. The internet as a source of information, created some hurdles for the researcher. Firstly, the access to some relevant and up to date information proved to be challenging and almost impossible for the researcher as it required one to be a government employee.

Observation

Direct observation method was used in conducting this research. This involved systematic visits to the study area. Observation helped to compliment information gained from other methods used. The researcher got first-hand information and was able to analyse the real situation on the ground. Due to the direct contact the researcher had with the Jerera community, the researcher managed to be close and observe the socio-economic impacts that are prevalent in the area.

Purposive sampling technique

In this research, purposive sampling technique was used. The researcher used purposive non probability sampling to select the list of people and institutions that were important to the study. It is defined as a method in which the researcher selects the people to be interviewed. This is done in line with the research topic at hand. For instance, in this study, which focused on the socio-economic impacts of the establishment of Jerera growth point since 1988, the researcher had to select individuals that saw the establishment of the growth point and saw it develop, residents of Jerera and its surrounding communities. The researcher also had to hand out questionnaires to the local district administrators who have the knowledge of the development initiatives in the area.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the socio-economic impact of growth points, represented by Jerera on rural development in Zimbabwe.
2. To explore the extent to which the establishment of Jerera as a growth point has improved rural socio-economic livelihoods for the Jerera community.
3. To determine the challenges faced in trying to make Jerera and other growth points centers of rural development.
4. To recommend ways based on the case of Jerera, to ensure that growth points meet their expected role as engines of rural development.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the socio-economic effects of growth points in Zimbabwe?
2. To what extent has the establishment of growth points like Jerera improved rural socio-economic livelihoods?
3. What are the challenges faced in efforts to ensure that growth points such as Jerera fulfill their mandate as engines of rural development in Zimbabwe?
4. What recommendation can be made to improve the effort of growth points as engines of rural growth?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This research brings out the socio-economic impacts of the establishment and development of Jerera growth point. It is already twenty-five years after their establishment and there is now a need to examine if growth points have served their purpose as engines of rural development. This analysis will help the government at international and local levels, other policy making stakeholders and rural residents to find out the weakness and strengths of the growth center approach to rural development. In this way, government can also make informed adjustments to ensure maximum utilization of growth points towards improving socio-economic livelihoods of the rural people. This study also explores the extent to which growth points represented by Jerera have improved the rural socio-economic livelihood. It does not only end there but it rather digs deep to determine the challenges faced in trying to make growth points centers of rural development. Hence, this research can be helpful to the local councils, indigenous organizations and development agencies in formulating and designing better frameworks on how best to provide sustainable development at minimal cost using the growth point approach.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section focuses on reviewing literature and secondary sources that already exist in relation to the history of growth points, particularly their socio-economic impacts. According to Mutemeri (2012) “Socio-economic impact often takes a backseat to other types of impact assessment such as fiscal and environmental impacts. Some researchers consider it as more subtle and often difficult to measure than impacts on a community’s fiscal balance sheet or local natural resources like trees and rivers.” Hence many scholars have since looked at other variables

in rural development at the expense of socio-economic implications. Given the dearth of information on effects of growth points on socio-economic development in studies on growth points, the researcher seeks to specifically look at the socio-economic impacts of growth points' establishment, with specific attention on Jerera growth point of Masvingo Province.

Wekwete (1988) defined growth points as settlements (rural or urban) which central and local government consider as having potential for further development and hence need to be supported by further public and private sector investment. He focused mainly on the expected economic impact of the establishment of growth points since he was writing soon after their establishment by the government in Zimbabwe. He also examined how they could be sustained economically in the future. While building from Wekwete's foundational work, the researcher still notes that Wekwete lacked the vantage point to look back at the economic impacts of growth points to the rural communities. This therefore prompted the researcher to analyse the socio-economic impact of growth points on the rural societies.

Like Wekwete, Perroux (1950) gave the lay out of the growth pole strategy or theory and how best to implement it. He goes further to coin the whole growth pole theory with the assumption that every underdeveloped rural society would eventually develop into an urban area if the growth pole strategy was applied in the area. The present dissertation draws from Perroux to see if these theoretical expectations of growth points are applicable in the case of Zimbabwe, using the examples of Jerera growth point of Masvingo province. In addition, this dissertation goes

further than Perroux by examining a specific case study, Jerera, where Perroux's study did not fully bring in the impact of establishing growth centers in any society.

This study seeks to interrogate the feasibility of some works such as Safier and Appalraju (1976) who subscribe to the notion that "individual growth poles over time will become cumulatively more powerful engines of change, the dominating nodes from which developmental impulse spread." They stressed how growth points would become a powerful core for development in a society but omitted the specific examples of how they impacted specific societies. Thus, their work form a foundation to growth points and rural development, but actually do not exhaust or fully address all the aspects of rural socio-economic development.

The 12 September 2014 International Press Service article on growth points talked about reviving Zimbabwe's growth points. It went on to evaluate if the growth points had served their intended purpose mandated by the government. The article examined quite a number of growth points such as Zvimba and Murewa only to mention but a few. It looked at the state in which these growth centers lie at the current moment. This is quite an essential aspect in analyzing growth points. While this marks the beginnings of a grounded study of the accountability of growth points, it however does not cover the socio-economic impacts targeted by this dissertation.

Chirisa et.al (2013), researched on growth points but with a focus on analysing the most likely future of growth points in Zimbabwe and what infrastructural and related asserts need to be in

place to help stabilize these places. Therefore, focus on the future of growth points and measures to help sustain them for future development. A study by Manyanhaire et.al (2009) goes further than Chirisa et.al (2013) to examine if growth points are centers of development or just settlements that have just been formed by the government with no or little development taking place. The researches had a case study of Magunje growth point which they described as a mere settlement where development has since been stagnant, especially in the industrial sector.

In a *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa* (Volume 14, No.7, 2012), Mawere et.al researched on the same area of study, Jerera. While the researchers' work is relevant, in this dissertation's quest for socio-economic impacts of growth points, it focuses on one component that is struggle for sustainable housing in growth points. As such, this dissertation seeks to go beyond Mawere et.al, to explore the socio-economic impact of the establishment and development of Jerera and not just housing.

It can be concluded that quite a number of research has been done on rural development and growth points, but further research is needed to evaluate whether growth point have a visible impact on people's socio-economic lives. Thus this study begins to meet this need by examining the socio-economic impacts of the development of growth points with specific reference to Jerera in Zaka district of Masvingo Province.

CONCEPT OF ANALYSIS

Growth Points are centres of economic activities which are artificially created or stimulated in disadvantaged regions with the intention that they will eventually become centres of economic growth (Conyers, 2001; Helmsing, 1986; Carr, 1977; Perroux, 1958). This brings out the idea that these centres were generally to be the core zones where economic activities would be undertaken so as to enrich the surrounding communal areas. It was believed that because of the vast income generated from the growth core zones, it would also improve the economic status of the nearby rural dwellers. Hence, growth points would offer facilities that would generate economic development in the area through providing income that would have been generated from a number of economic activities such as business ventures, trading and through employment creation.

In 1976, Safier and Appalraju subscribed to the notion that “individual growth poles over time will become cumulatively more powerful engines of change, the dominating nodes from which developmental impulse spread.” This gave the idea that rural development would soon be attained as development would trickle from the growth core down to the rural periphery. It is also in the same notion that it is seen that the development stated would be in all aspects such as infrastructure, education, employment creation and so on. The term “engines of change” highlighted that it is from these growth centres that the development would be initiated, progressing to the surrounding areas that are in need of this developmental support. The whole essence would therefore mean that growth points would act as the foundation on which the local government would build the rural community’s development.

In one of his 1988 journal article, Wekwete defined growth points as settlements which were earmarked or designated for economic and physical development. He brought in the concept of physical development where it meant that the growth would also include the tangible physical components of development such as infrastructure and the technologically advanced machines. In the same journal article he also gave a different dimension where he stated that Growth points can generally be defined as settlements (rural or urban) which central and local government consider to have a potential for further development and hence need to be supported by further public and private sector investment. It was quite essential to mention investment as this would be the main impetus to the development of the area. It can be argued that development cannot be achieved or put into motion without the proper investment channeled in. The base of development would come in either through capital investment by the government or private investors or through establishing industries and other facilities that would foster in the required investment needed for rural growth.

Manyanhire et.al (2011) state that these growth points, growth poles, small towns or growth centres as they are variously named in literature are defined as centres with strong resource base that can initiate an increasing causation process that end in continuous and sustainable growth. This means that growth points are to be seen as resourceful areas that can trigger a development reaction in a rural setup so as to bring about sustainable development. They also point out that the term growth point means increasing in size both in number of facilities, building and services provided at an identified center. As defined in the quote above, it is important to note that the issue of having a “strong resource base’ was seen to be of major significance. This is so because the resource was seen as the factor that the growth and development of the area would hinge on,

hence providing a base that guarantees sustainable development. Looking at this dissertation 's area of research, Jerera, the strong resource base can be identified to be the good fertile land that is quite suitable for crop farming and agriculture, hence food production leading to the attraction of agriculture based industries such as millers and other institutions such as the Grain Marketing Board.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

This study was done at Jerera growth point focusing on its socio-economic impact to the community. The researcher focused on the central business district of Jerera because that is where most development activities can be noticed. Jerera was chosen as the study area because it was amongst the first ten growth points to be established in Zimbabwe in 1988. Hence the research looked at the period since 1988 till present.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Due to the limited resources, the coverage of a large target group was not possible and this might have compromised the data captured. The local authorities failed to release some documents with the relevant information as they classified them as confidential.

CHAPTER 1: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GROWTH POINTS IN ZIMBABWE: AN OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

This chapter will basically look into the establishment of growth points. It will also bring out the background of the formation of growth points in Zimbabwe and will explore the reasons behind this establishment in Zimbabwe.

GENERAL ORIGINS OF GROWTH POINT IN ZIMBABWE

The idea of establishing growth centers basically came from the theory of growth pole which was formulated in 1958 by Francois Perroux. His major focus was on how rural settlements could urbanize or develop. Perroux highlighted how important it was to have industrial growth in these centers so as to avoid migration and also increase the rate of development simultaneously. He appreciated that development did not appear everywhere at the same time and hence, there had to be a center area (in the underdeveloped areas) where the government would have to establish industrialization and development would commence there and later diffuse to the whole area at large. His ideas have since been adopted by many governments across the world with Zimbabwe included.

In Zimbabwe, the growth pole strategy was first introduced before independence by the white settler government. The rural development idea came in 1978 as a policy document called, ‘Integrated Plan for Rural Development’ (IPRD). This IPRD was a plan in which the white

colonial government looked at how they could develop all rural areas in Rhodesia. The reason why the white settler government sought to develop these rural areas was because of the pressure that was building up in the Chimurenga war. There was now a rising need to develop rural areas so as to gain support from the black rural dwellers that had grown bitter against the government because they were living in poverty in an underdeveloped area. Hence, they began to support the liberation fighters. The colonial government then saw the need to develop these areas so as to try and keep the rebellion on the low.

The IPRD then came in as a plan that combined all the rural areas into one entity, hence looking at how they could foster development in all rural areas at the same rate. The white settler government saw that all rural areas were facing the same challenges such as poverty, migration, and underdevelopment and hence it was seen that there had to be an integrated approach in solving or addressing these misfortunes. The IPRD was then adopted as it provided for a kind of equal participation in the nation's agenda of rural development. The government saw this policy as an initiative to sustainable rural development capacity building. It however has to be clearly noted that the whole agenda behind was not of rural development, it was that of winning the support of the black majority rural settlers through rural development so that they would not support the war since their grievances were being met.

The areas that were earmarked for this growth or development were Jerera, Wedza, Maphisa, Chisumbanje, Gutu, Gokwe, and Mataga among others. However, only three of these centers became functional. These were Gutu, Gokwe, and Chisumbanje. Other areas that were chosen remained only as mere centers that were no more different from just ordinary rural centers. Not

much activity or development transpired from 1978 to 1980 because of the focus of the guerilla warfare that was being fought by the government with the Zimbabwean black majority army. Hence, these areas remained underdeveloped with little or no activity taking place. Not much movement was seen up until the new government of Zimbabwe led by the black majority came into power.

With the attainment of independence in 1980, the new black government did not have the growth point strategy or rather rural development as an important agenda on their programs. The government had the idea of reconstruction, rehabilitation and recovering from war. This saw the idea of setting up the rural growth centers being set aside. Hence, the areas still remained as just small business centers that had no recognizable economic activities. Some scholars termed the period 1980 to 1987 a planning phase of the government. In a report by PlanAfrica Bulawayo (2000), it was highlighted that one of the other reasons why there was not much activity concerning development was that of the dissident war from 1982 to 1987. The government was still trying to get on its feet and was also trying to balance the ethnic war that had arisen between the Ndebele and the Shona. Thus rural development seemed to be not much of a big issue.

It was in 1988 that government adopted the growth pole strategy. The objective behind the formation of growth centers was to level the divided and dualistic economies between the urban and rural areas created by the colonial white settler government. The rural urban disparity had worsened over the eight years since independence. The growth pole strategy was then implemented as a regional planning policy aimed at amending colonial disparities through establishment of infrastructure to the under privileged communal sector. The government sought

to even the development across all the regions as rural areas were seen to be lagging behind. The government then decided on the growth pole strategy as a means to achieve rural development and establish even development in the country. Rural and urban migration over the period from 1980 to 1987 had risen drastically hence, it acted as a wakeup call to the government to act upon rural underdevelopment. The issue of rural to urban migration was leading to overpopulation in urban areas especially in major cities such as Harare and Bulawayo. This was putting pressure on the cities as the socio-ecological footprint of the cities could not accommodate the rising population.

Shanty and illegal settlements were on the increase in the cities. This then led the government to seek equality between the rural and the urban areas. It was noted that the migration was due to the search for jobs or employment and better standards of living. Hence, the only way to reduce this was to provide employment in the rural communities. This was seen as a strategic move to reduce rural to urban migration.

With the aim of reducing migration, the government then realized that all the aspects that were drawing or pulling rural settlers towards cities had to be brought into the communal areas. Facilities such as post offices, Grain Marketing Boards, wholesalers and industries had to be inserted in the rural areas. The government then decided to divert new investments to rural areas. A new approach termed “bottom-up” was then adopted. This was to see development arise from less developed areas to all surrounding areas of the districts.

Rural growth centers that had been earmarked during the colonial period were again adopted by the new black majority government. These and other new growth point centers became the initial growth pole centers. These were Jerera, Wedza, Maphisa, Nkayi, Mataga, Sanyati, Murewa, Chisumbanje, Mushumbi and Gutu among others. Theoretically, the growth pole needed an identifiable resource base of stimulating specific production and marketing activities (Mutizwa-Mangiza and Helmsing 1991). Most of these centers were chosen because they were seen to have a strong resource base that could trigger development and attract industries and investors to the area. However, some areas were chosen not because of availability of adequate resources but on the political expediency, (Chirisa et.al, 2013). Sadza and Hauna growth points are seen as case studies that support this argument. However, the main idea was that of investing in areas that had the potential to develop and trigger development in the surrounding areas.

The government drew up policies that would help in establishing rural growth centers. The growth point strategy coupled with the decentralization policy led to the inception of quite a number of growth points in 1988 such as Chachacha, Nemawayaya, Jerera and others. Decentralization of administrative and planning functions by the central government to the local government gave rise to the establishment of growth points in Zimbabwe. It is in this light that the government sought synergies with local government in order to strike a stable balance in the developing and monitoring off all districts in the country. The decentralization policy was then seen as a major strategic policy that saw the rural authorities gaining more power and control of their areas. It was more like defragmenting a large body into smaller units so as to easily monitor the functions and achieve a better way of governing the Zimbabwean communities.

The decentralization policy then initiated the creation of rural District Act of 1988. Rural district councils were then created and established around the country. The rural district councils were then given the mandate to develop all regions of the district. Decentralization policy together with the growth point strategy saw the adoption of rural development planning method through growth points. Development would then come to the centers since there would have been redistribution or dispersing functions, from the central authority in the cities. Government administrative offices such as education offices, registrar general's office, local government among others were put up in the districts. These would prevent rural dwellers from travelling to cities for such services. It is not only the government that had to decentralize but also companies and many other organizations. This saw the emergence of banks and industrial companies at growth points. They became more extensive business centers where economic activities took place and people got employment, thus pushing for better living standards through the income earned. Infrastructural development became a notable growth through the structures built by the companies established there.

With the decentralization policy in mind, rural district councils had to drive the main purpose behind the growth points in their districts. Each one of them had a specified catchment area that it was assigned to develop. The growth point strategy can then be seen as part of the idea of growth with equity (Manyanhire et.al 2009). The government felt that for economic development to be achieved at a national scale, regional inequalities had to be drastically dealt with. This would help initiate the process of growth with equity in Zimbabwe.

Zizwai et.al (1987) saw the growth with equity idea as a means to achieve sustainable high rate of economic growth and spell development in order to raise incomes and standards of living of

the people. Chirisa et.al (2013) also highlighted that out of the growth point strategy in Zimbabwe. The equity idea came out of the growth pole theory as enunciated by Perroux, Hirschman, Myrdal, Boudeville and many other scholars who subscribed to the theory. So this was then a contributing factor to the idea of adopting the growth strategy pole in Zimbabwe.

JERERA GROWTH POINT

Jerera growth point is found in Zaka district under Masvingo province and is approximately 105 kilometers from Masvingo City. It is one of the 5 growth points found in the districts of Masvingo province. During the colonial era, Jerera was known as an African Township that was mainly established by the Catholic Church which setup a mission. The catholic Mission had a school that drew people towards the areas. Jerera grew into a business center in the 1970s. In 1978, the white settler government earmarked Jerera as a rural growth area under the “Integrated Plan for Rural Development.”

In the 1980s, after the attainment of independence, Jerera was established as a growth point when the central government handed over authority to local government and a rural district council was set up. The main reason why Jerera was chosen as a growth center was because of this typical small holder farming area. The government saw this to be an attraction of potential investors and agriculture based industry to the area. Due to the government’s mandate to give rural areas with a strong resource base, Jerera was given on the basis of this vast arable land.

Jerera growth point now has an estimated population of 10 286 people and a total of 2568 households, this is according to the census preliminary report of the Zimbabwe National Statics Agency. It is supposed to provide services to a number of surrounding communities such as Veza, Chinorumba, Munjanja, and Devure among others. Jerera growth point is seen to have a number of income generating projects such as soap production, poultry and welding only to mention but a few. It also harbors the district's administrative offices. Jerera is the district's business activity zone with grocery shops, banks, bus terminus, hospital, schools and many other services.

Jerera growth point is mainly operated by private business people who invest in the local business. They control the economic activities of the area. The central business district of the growth pole can be viewed as an intensive business center because of the maximization of economic activities on a small business area. The growth point has thus received quite number of development initiatives since its inception in 1988. This is mainly noted by the infrastructural development in the growth center, which includes modern structured houses, supermarkets, beer halls, accommodation, lodges, banks, schools, college, fuel stations and motor car garages. Some of the structures such as the colonial established school and hospital have been extended and renovated to match the contemporary styles.

The area has also seen the refurbishment and construction of a bus terminus at the business center. Other infrastructural developments to be highlighted are the GSM boosters for all networks, construction of a tarred road at the growth point and drilling of borehole. These

infrastructural developments have been noted to be the base initiatives that have triggered a chain of development projects in other growth points. Impacts on the society's livelihood seems inevitable and therefore the next chapter will look at the socio-economic impacts of the development initiatives in the Jerera growth center

CHAPTER 2: SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF JERERA GROWTH POINT

This chapter seeks to investigate the socio-economic impact of Jerera growth point on the community. The chapter is going to bring out how the establishment of the growth point affected the livelihoods of the local dwellers of the community. It also looks at the development projects initiated in the community and their different contributions to the community. Both positive and negative impacts will be looked at in this chapter. This will then help in determining if the growth pole strategy has really been of major significance to the development of rural areas.



Diagram 1 shows the different dimensions that are brought by the establishment of a growth point. These are the sectors that are to be then looked at to investigate the social-economic impact to the community.

Positive impacts

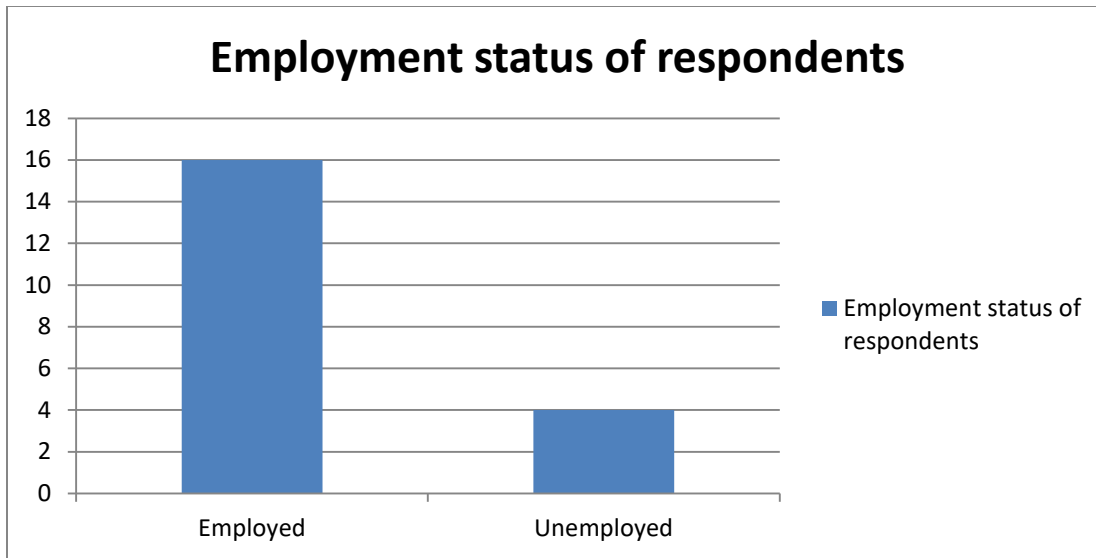


Fig 2.1 shows the number of people from my sample population that is employed in the growth point business district as compared to those that are not.

The establishment of the growth point is seen to have brought in a source of employment to the local dwellers. 80% of the people interviewed prove to be employed in the different companies, formal and informal, established and located in the growth point. One significant factor that was to be brought in by the growth points was the provision of employment. So with this, it is then important to highlight then that the growth point has managed to provide jobs to the local dwellers.

Unemployment is seen not to be critical issues in the area as most of the people are somehow employed in different sectors. With the rising of many small scale businesses, the local people have managed to secure themselves a decent daily job where they attend on a daily basis. This

then shows that the activities in the growth center have reduced the idleness of the local dwellers as most of them have got some job. Most have since left the idea of basing on agriculture as a means of survival. They now rely on the employment they get in the business center and also on the farming activities they undertake during the farming period.

The sources of employment highlighted by the respondents as per questionnaire can be noted in the chart below.

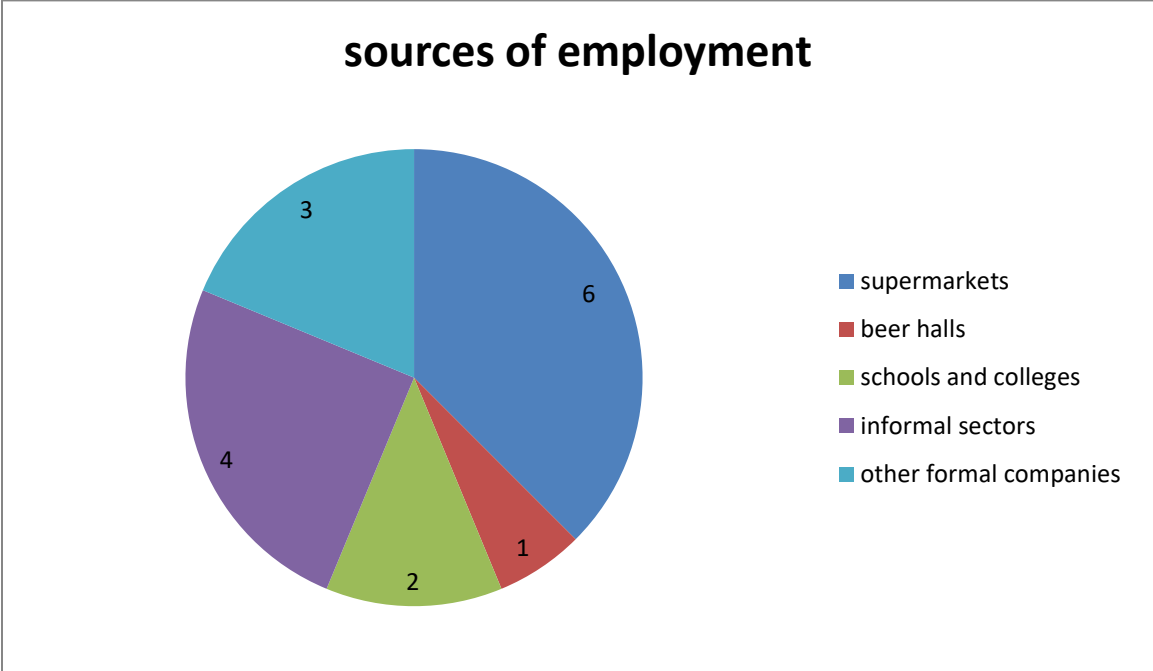


Fig 2.2 showing the different sources of employment of the respondents

The research managed to clearly identify that the levels of poverty is low in the area. This is based on the issue of food security, decent homes and stable income. This was linked to unemployment because the researcher saw that it was due to the issue of the employment and income they were receiving in the growth point's business center. The 16 employed respondents admitted to be having a stable income every month and they manage to get a decent meal every day of their lives. Hence, this shows that the employment creation has been of major importance to the society. With the stable incomes and the farming activities undertaken during the rainy seasons, most households are able to have a sustainable source of food all year round.

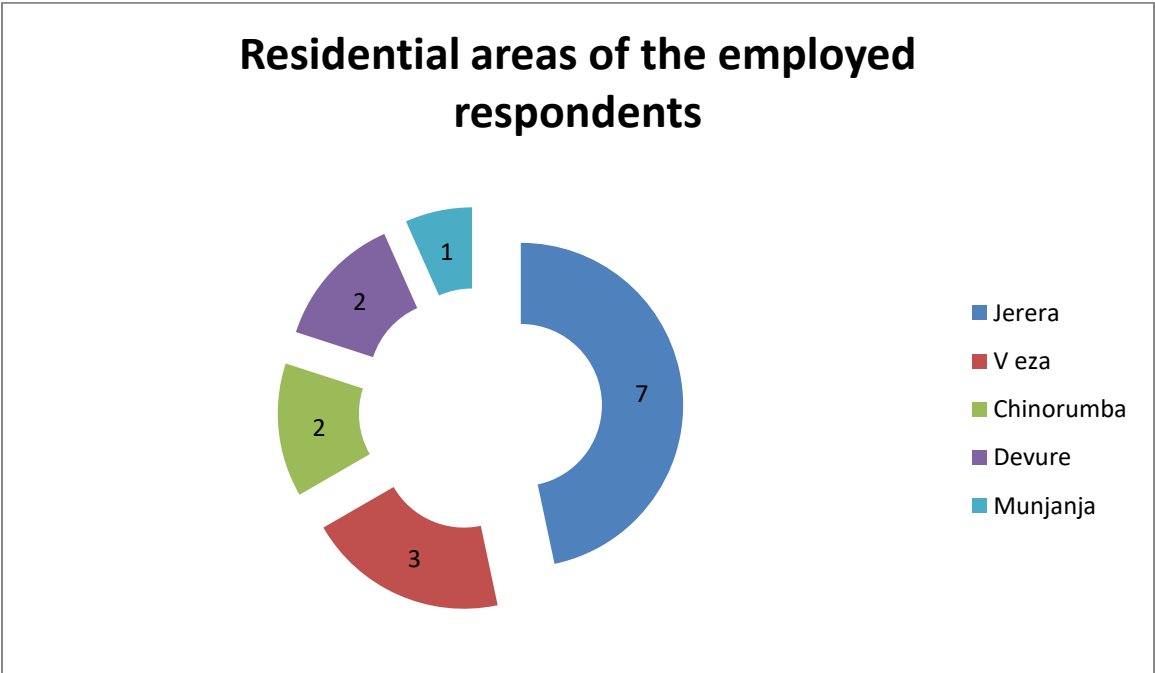
*“The setting up of supermarkets at the growth point provided me
with a job that has helped me feed my family
for a long time,”* one respondent said.

This then highlights the fact that jobs have been created in the area and now the local people are benefiting from this. With the employment creation, the people now have quite a stable source of income, hence demonstrates positive impact of the establishment of the growth point.

It then has to be noted that the establishment of the growth point has helped in the eradication of poverty to some extent. If the employed local dwellers manage to acquire income from the business in the growth point, then there becomes a reduction in the poverty levels in the area since some will be able to get a decent meal every day and purchase some assets homesteads. Therefore reduction of poverty is seen to be an impact to the society.

Although some respondents highlighted that they were employed in the informal sector, it is still on the positive angle. The major aim of the growth pole strategy was to help with employment creation that will in turn lead to a stable income generation. Then in the long run reduce the level of poverty in the community. So this also includes those who get their income from transactions they undergo in the formal sector. The business activity in the growth center enables a number of projects to be undertaken by the local residents. It is not only those in those in of Jerera that benefit from this even those from the surrounding areas. They transport to Jerera growth point every day to undertake their business activities and some for their daily jobs were they are employed. Fig 2.3 below shows the residential areas of the employed respondents.

Fig 2.3 showing the residential areas of the employed respondents



The above fig shows that Jerera business has managed to provide employment for Jerera and surrounding areas activities. This serves to show that Jerera growth point has managed to undertake its duty of providing employment for rural dwellers surrounding Jerera. This is very essential as it then in turn triggers a chain of development activities in the nearby community in form of better standards of living, eradication of poverty and infrastructural development.

Education

Jerera growth point has been viewed as attracting quite a number of schools in the area. Such schools include Jerera primary school which was established after its inception as a growth point. This has helped the children in the surrounding areas not to walk very long distances to school. However, the area seems to be in need of more primary schools to be established at some crucial points as some of the children from surrounding areas such as Veza still walk long distances.

An increase in the number of high schools has also been noted to be bringing about a state of quality of education. One respondent, teacher at St Anthony high school highlighted that it is now better that there are quite a number of schools in the area that provide schooling. This is also because the number of children in the classrooms has reduced hence if the teacher to student ratio is low, quality education is also attained. The quality of education is also brought up due to the decrease in the student book ratio. It was highlighted that now the number of students who share one book has reduced drastically in general terms. On the issue of teacher to student ratio,

the less class the more the attention the teacher delivers to the students, hence now the students do have some form of quality of education.

It is important to note the setting up of private colleges in the central business district of the growth point. These offer high and primary level classes. Although there is still one prominent private college, Pecom, the area seems to be developing in terms of educational facilities. With the emergence of such institutions the issue of walking long distances in a quest for education is reduced and also the issue of a wide choice of educational facilities increases the levels of competition as the teachers will be in a search of enrolling more students, thus also attaining quality education.

Infrastructure

Jerera growth point has since seen the setting up of new structures in their community. Just near the growth point's business district, there have been quite a number of houses that have been built there to provide accommodation for the people. Settlement stands have been allocated just near the central business district so that they do not have to live far from their jobs, supermarkets and many other services they require from the business district. This has seen the increase in size of the growth point itself hence serving the purpose why growth points were set up by the government.

The expansion of buildings and many structures at the growth center has also been of benefit to the local builders. These have since acquired a stable income as they are constantly being employed to build up different structures in the area. With this in mind it is then noted that the infrastructural development has had its own share in helping the local people in the area.

The construction of a tarred road which passes through the growth point is a positive factor towards the rural livelihoods. With the tarred road in place, the road connectivity to the area is now there, hence many investors and other service providers including the transport sector provides an easy access to the area. With easy access to the area, development is then seen to be inevitable to the fact that even those who would want to visit the area to invest can easily access it and that is seen to be a positive note.

The setting up of GSM boosters at the growth point is seen to be a good initiative brought into the society. *“Iyezvino network haichanetsi, tave kukwanisa kutaura nehama dzedu ne shamwari dziri kune dzimwe nzvimbo (network is no longer a problem in this area and we can now communicate with our relatives and friends who are not here),”* highlighted one respondent. Communication with the rest of the world is then seen to be available to the area. This helps the local areas to be in touch with the recent activities all around the world as they are able to chat to them via the different network providers. This is really a positive impact as the local dwellers are catching up with the rest of the world.

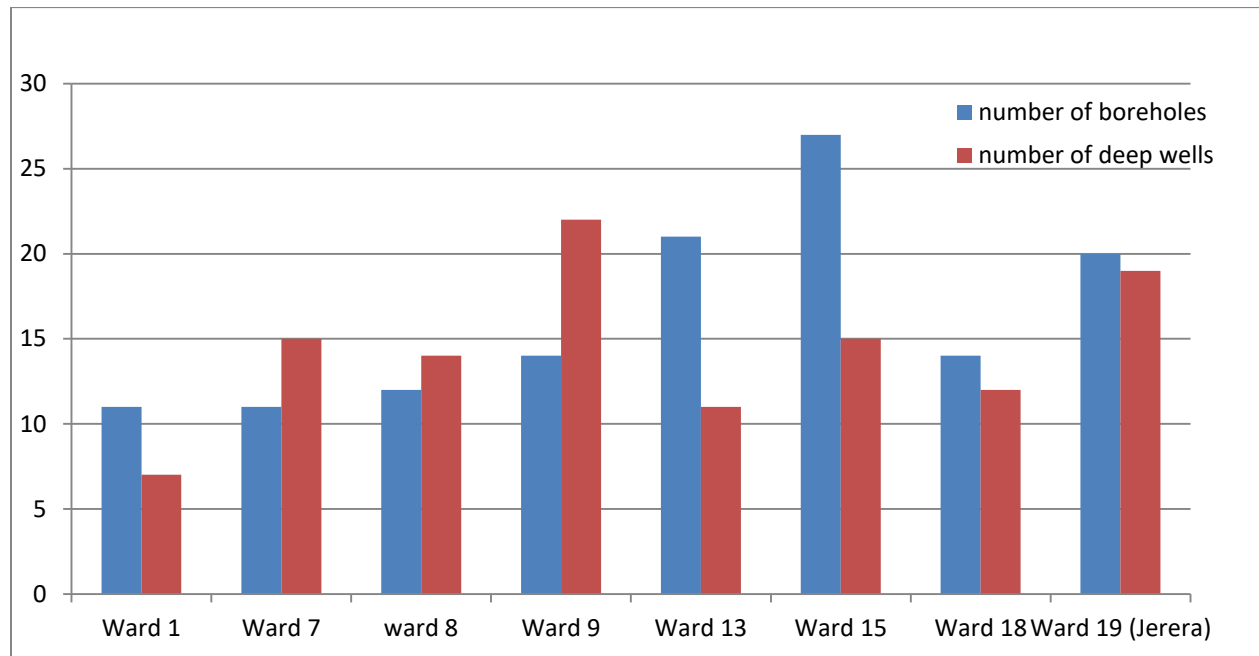
Closely linked to the point of communication is the issue of building internet cafes in the central business district of the growth point. The local dwellers and those that benefit from the growth point, are able to surf the internet and acquire the knowledge they so desire. This also helps in the issue of education where students can now surf the internet for their different research areas. This also helps in keeping them well informed on the global activities taking place. The area has two internet cafes which are located right at the heart of the business center of the growth point.

The results from the respondents proved that one major infrastructural development they are happy about is the setting up of electricity power cables and stations. The growth point is still undergoing the rural electrification project with the central business district of the growth point already having been connected to electricity power stations. This is a major move to modern societal activities that are experienced all over the urban areas. Although most of the surrounding areas have not yet been connected, the fact that that the growth center is now having electricity proves to be a major step in attaining development. The Jerera homesteads just near the center are seen to be having electricity hence the standards of living are improved as compared to those who still use the primitive methods of not having electricity. It does basically shows that development is being brought in into the area and helping the society although not at once but bit by bit, it is positively impacting the society. Facilities such as the internet cafes, filling stations and even banks are the business at the center that are directly indeed of electricity to operate.

The settlement area just beside the business district has running water. The local council is in charge of the purification of the water that is drawn from a nearby river named Nyatare. The area

seems not to have any water problems for domestic use. With the increase of the population near the growth center there was the drilling of boreholes that was seen and experienced. This move saw the local dwellers acquiring some sustainable sources of clean water. The researcher managed to identify that the local dwellers did not have to move for long distances in search of water since the area has quite a number of these boreholes. Due the social constructions, which gives women the role of fetching water, they now have a lighter burden as they do not have to carry water to their homesteads over long distances. The drilling of boreholes by the council and other private donors and even NGOs has really been a major positive impact to the society. According to the Parliament Research Department, Jerera and its seven satellites have a total of 130 boreholes and 115 deep wells.

Fig 2.4 Water points distribution by ward



Jerera growth point has also experienced the construction of a bus terminus just inside the central business district of the growth point. With this, it is seen that quite a number of busses and commuter omnibuses now consider have a fixed bus stop and scheduled times for their departure times from Jerera growth point. One respondent had this to say about the construction of the terminus, “ There is now little or no hustle in boarding busses to different areas since the busses now consider Jerera an obvious pick up and drop off point.

Health

Table 1: Health facilities in Jerera

Name	Status	Owner
St Anthony	Hospital	Mission
Siyaware	Rural Health Center	Rural District Council
Jerera	Rural Health Center	Rural District Council

Jerera is seen to have major hospital owned by the Catholic Mission. This was however built way before the place was labeled a growth point. But due to the increase in population of the area, the hospital has since been extended to have an addition in the wards. The area has also seen the emergence of two rural health centers that helps in combating diseases. These two health centers only treat patients with minor infections, injuries and so on. If anything serious they refer to the St Anthony hospital were the patients get treated better since there are doctors available and there is the adequate equipment for treating patients. The hospital has the facility of admitting patients to monitor their health. With the increase in size of the hospital, the area

benefits a lot as those who will be in need of being admitted and monitored by the health officials are kept admitted.

The health facilities, as identified by the researcher, offer HIV/AIDS testing to the community. This is a positive move as they get to know their status and try to prevent further spreading of the disease. These two health centers and the hospital, they have also raise awareness in the community about so many other diseases that are affecting the society at large. They have also managed to treat much of the diseases that affect the community.

A school for training nurses is also located at the Hospital. It was recently established and is fully functional. This development was warmly accepted by the local residents as they saw this as an initiative that would help their children to get a practical course they would use to get a job in the health centers. This was strongly welcomed by the girl child mainly as they are the ones that normally apply for nursing courses. Those who had also failed to reach university in the area can now enroll at the institution and get a decent job by the local hospital or elsewhere. This proves to be helping the society not to have idle children who have nothing to do after they finish their ordinary level at secondary school.

Other positive impacts

Growth pole strategy brought in the idea of decentralization of the central government and hence the Jerera local dwellers can now access the government administration offices in that are located in the area. They are able to acquire birth certificates in the area and so on. It is not only the

decentralization of the government that can be talked of. Some institutions have also established their offices in the area. The growth point now has a GMB depot just at the growth center. This now helps the local people not to travel long distances in search of a market for their agricultural produce

The growth point has also seen service providers such as banks, post offices and fuel filling stations being established in the area. These service providers help in the growth of the growth point. With the service providers in establishing their different offices in the area, the rural dwellers in the surrounding areas benefit from them and also the growth point grows in structure, size and population thus fulfilling the reason for the setup of the growth point.

With the provision of quality service providers in the area, the rate of migration has been noted to have decreased. One respondent actually highlighted that rate at which middle aged were moving to urban areas had drastically reduced. He pointed out that during the 80s most middle aged man would leave the rural areas in search of better living conditions, hence, leaving the young and old in the rural areas. This would increase poverty as they would basically have no stable income and could barely till the fields just for basic food consumption. But since now a bit more middle aged men are now staying in the area due to employment creation and quality service provision there can now help out on the food insecurity issues as they provide income to the family and also help with the farming activities.

The Jerera growth point has also attracted a number of churches to the area. It has to be noted that the area only had the Roman Catholic Church that established the mission back in the

colonial era. Now after the establishment of the growth point, there has been an increase in the number of churches or rather denominations in the area. Most of them are right in the heart of the growth point business district. This provides a diverse religious sect in the area where people then decide on which one suits them best.

One respondent also highlighted that when the growth point and the Rural District Council were established in the area, along came the Agritex officers who began to operate in the area. This he said, “Improved the farming methods used in the community.” This then saw an increase in the harvest of crops in some agriculture fields; hence it had helped in the agricultural basics of the community.

Women participation in the public sphere is also seen as a result of the establishment of the growth point. The availability of various jobs and projects in the growth point led to the more of women into the public sphere. The fig below shows the distribution of males and female employed respondents.

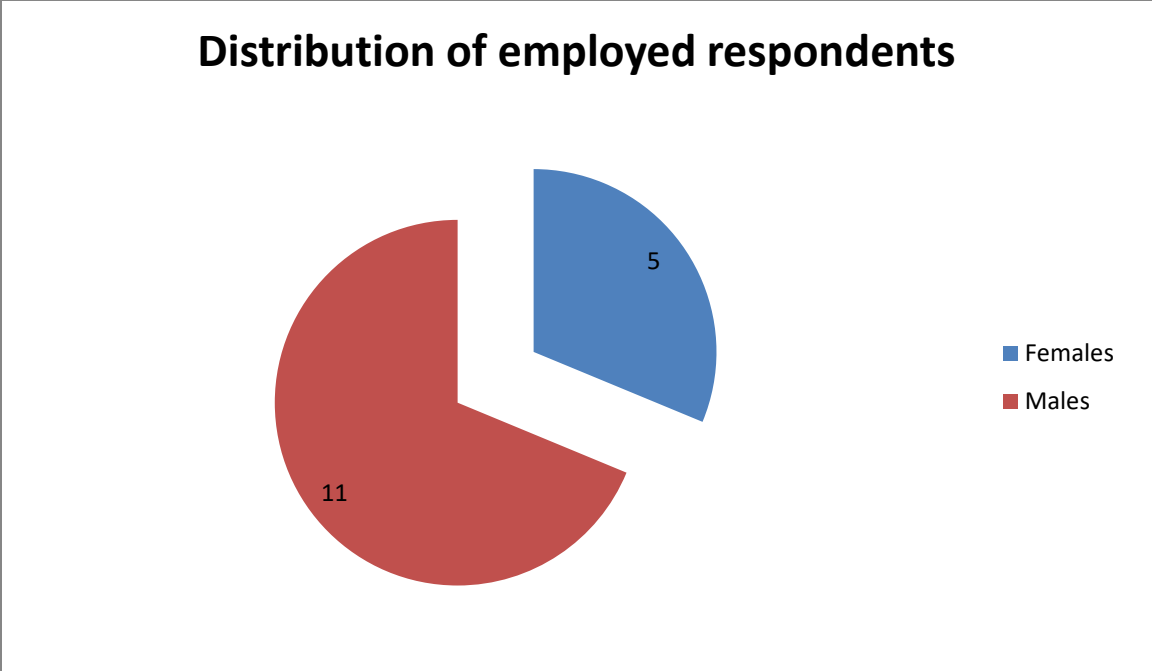


Fig 2.5 showing the distribution of male and female employed respondents

Out of the 16 employed respondents interviewed by the researcher, 5 of them are women. They are employed in the businesses in the growth centers thus the establishment of the growth center is slowly having a positive impact on the social status of the community.

Negative impacts

The establishment of Jerera growth point did not only bring socio-economic benefits but it also carried along some negative impacts with it. Although the benefits seem to be of major credibility to the local people, the negatives also need to be brought out as well.

With the growth of Jerera growth point saw the displacement of the local people who resided just close to the growth center. The expansion of the business district saw the displacement of the people who had their homesteads. This displacement is still carrying on since the growth point is continuously expanding. Little compensation is being given to those who would have been removed of their homes. In an interview, one respondent said, “I was removed off the land that had initially been owned by my father because of the growth of the growth point. They just relocated me to another piece of land were there wasn’t any home and I had to start building again.” This then shows that although it is good to have the growth point expanding, there are some negative implications to it as well.

Local dwellers are also losing their farming land as the expansion of the growth point continues. The growth of Jerera business district requires land for the building of different structures required for some businesses to operate. Some local dwellers are having their farming lands being reduced so as to provide land for the expansion of the growth point. The scenario is the same with those who would have been displaced, they are compensated elsewhere but it usually does not amount to the same area they initially had. The local dwellers now complain of losing the land that belonged to their bloodline for years and years immemorial. One respondent who had her land taken and was compensated elsewhere highlighted that the land she was given was not arable as the land she once owned. She grieved heavily over such as she relies on agriculture for her food security. This is then seen to be a major negative blow to the society’s livelihoods.

Jerera growth point now faces a challenge of a growing population. Local dwellers from the surrounding communities now migrate into Jerera. The researcher used a qualitative approach to determine that the area was facing a challenge of over population. Due to the fact that the area has little vacant space for people to build their homesteads there becomes a challenge in finding a space to settle. Many have resorted to building shanty homes near the growth point in areas that belong to someone else. It is mainly those that have some form of business in the growth center that will choose to have an illegal settlement in order to stay near their business.

The Jerera growth point business center has seen an increase in beer halls, bottle stores and night clubs. With the increase of these, the emergence of commercial sex workers has also risen. The loss of morals is seen to be brought in by these night clubs who have attracted these prostitutes. These are located just close or inside these night clubs. Examples of the night clubs include Matuda and Chademana night club. The commercial sex workers are seen to be increasing frequently and the local people are linking it to poverty as the impetus to such activities. This has really caused moral decadence in the society.

With the creation of employment in the area, some argue that there has been an increase in the rich-poor dichotomy. Creation of social classes has emerged in the society. This then becomes a negative effect as it destroys the socialism that once united the rural societies and introducing the capitalist tendencies of the society.

Criminal activities have increased in the Jerera growth center. The local dwellers are now organizing themselves into gangs in which they rob the supermarkets and other businesses. These crime rates are seen to increase as the valuable goods in the society are increasing hence the robbers now see the growth center as a good target for robbery.

The development of Jerera growth point has also had negative impacts on the community's environment. Environmental degradation is seen to be on the increase due to the fact of the development of the growth point. With the expansion of the growth point there is seen to be deforestation taking place as land is being cleared to accommodate the new infrastructures being constructed. The land hence is becoming more bare as there is lack of trees hence there is land degradation taking place.

Rivers such as Nyatare and Muzandawe are now characterized by high levels of siltation. The cause of this siltation is the fact that because people are now farming close to the river banks and some are even establishing their settlements there. This might be closely linked to the fact that there is an influx of people in the area. Now because of the expansion of the growth point's business center, there seems to be inadequate land for people to have vast land of farming as they were used to. Hence, they resort to river bank farming that will lead to siltation of rivers.

Conclusion

The growth and establishment of Jerera growth point has seen quite a number of positive socio-economic impacts to the society. However it also has to be noted that there are also quite a number of negative effects that are seen to be brought in by the development initiatives in the growth point.

CHAPTER 3: CHALLENGES FACED BY JERERA GROWTH POINT

This chapter presents the challenges faced by Jerera growth point that the researcher managed to identify. It also goes on to suggest the weaknesses present in implementing growth points as “engines of development”.

- Jerera growth point is characterized by rural to urban migration. With this migration, it is the old and very young that are left in the area. These fail to provide labor for the local businesses that have been established in the area. Even when it comes to the issue of farming practices, those that have been left fail to till and farm the land to bring in a healthy harvest that provides food security to the society. Hence, it is a major challenge seen in the case of Jerera.
- Jerera growth point is also facing closure of business due to the current economic crises or economic meltdown being experienced in the Zimbabwe. The economic crisis has resulted in the closing of businesses in the growth centers as there is lack of money to fund and operate the businesses properly. Many of the supermarkets and other small business in the growth point’s business district have gone broke and hence closed down. Another factor that has been linked to the closure of business is the emigration of people to urban centers. This gives an argument that by migration, there is shrinkage of the business market due to labor migration.

- Jerera and other rural economies are mainly backed by agriculture production. So due to the current economic crises that has affected the agriculture sector in terms of securing inputs and allocating a proper and sufficient budget to the agricultural sector, the rural communities have mainly been affected by this as the farming activities struggle to survive.
- The lack of proper investment is also a challenge being faced in Jerera growth point. The growth point has largely been turned into a residential area without meaningful capital investment. The agenda of the growth pole strategy has failed as there is lack of capital to further finance the local businesses. Little or no development is being achieved in the area due to the lack of proper investment by either private investors or the government itself.
- Cuts in government expenditure, a conditionality of the Bretton Woods institutes has also worsened the condition at the growth points. The government has failed to reach its set targets of infrastructural development and betterment of service provision. This then hinders proper development initiatives that the government sought to undertake.
- Another challenge being encountered by Jerera growth point in Masvingo is lack or limited space for expansion. Land for expansion of the growth point is proving to be a major problem being noted. The local people surrounding the centers are not eager to

release their land to cater for the expansion of growth points. The Rural District Councils have failed to acquire much land to allow the expansion is a major blow to the whole idea of rural development. The expansion is mainly in terms of infrastructural development. One reason is that the villagers the land as sacred as it has been kept in the name of the family for a lot of years.

- Jerera growth point also faces the challenge of lack of public participation. Most villagers are not that willing to participate in most projects that have been setup in the area. This can also be linked to the reason why people migrate as they are not in full participation to the development projects that are being setup in the area. An example of an income generating project is the soap manufacturing project.
- Another challenge being faced in Jerera and other growth points is the fact that most multi-national companies and even locally based big companies are failing to establish their branches in the rural areas. These companies do have the potential to help the community develop by their stable financial basis. But due to the neglect of the growth point business centers, the growth point still lag behind as they do not have the quality services needed to boost up their statuses.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations

Firstly, the government needs to provide proper funding to the rural development projects. Since there is lack of capital in the rural area projects, the government needs to pour in the required cash so as to help in the funding of these projects. The government needs to invest in the development of the rural areas at all costs. It also important that a large sum of money is allocated to the Rural District Councils so as to have them meet their required development initiatives.

The government also needs to secure private investment from donors and other international institutions to invest in the growth points. These can be done through providing good and acceptable investments packages for those that would have invested. It should also be in the mandate of the government to craft policies that attract foreign investors to the growth points. This will become a significant initiative done by the government as it will help in the development of the growth poles.

The government should also attend to the issue of lack of land for the expansion of the growth point. An acceptable package or deal should be offered to the villagers in order for them to accept to move to a different location. This might include building anew homestead for the displaced family and also giving them land that is almost similar in size to the one that they have been displaced from.

It is also important for government to liaise with multi-national and even big stable companies to set up branches at different growth point centers. This will help curb the issue of rural to urban migration. The setting up of such branches from big organizations will also drive the agenda of developing the growth centers as they would also invest in the area as the organisation will develop the area by constructing buildings in the growth center where they will operate from.

There is also need to have public participation in the development projects set up at the growth centers. It is responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure that there is an increase in public participation. The government should help facilitate the meetings between the organizations and the local villagers to discuss on the development initiatives to be undertaken in the community and also the projects to be set up.

To help address the issue of rural to urban migration, the government should also set up better living conditions for the rural dwellers. This includes building of proper modern houses, rural electrification and provision of quality grocery shops in the area. Other services like transport, GSM network should be in good working conditions so that the villagers would not have to migrate to the urban areas in search of better living conditions.

There is need to identify the strong resource base in the particular area and then set up industries that are in linkage to that. For example in Jerera, there is quite a reasonable subsistence farming activity thus it is important to setup an agro-based industry that will help and further boost the

agricultural activities in the area. By so doing, it will also help in job creation for the local villagers.

Research summary

The research was an analysis of how the establishment and development of growth points have affect the livelihoods of the rural dwellers. It examined the socio-economic impacts of growth points represented by Jerera growth point. The study gave in a deep background on the root of growth point establishment in Zimbabwe and how they became what they are now.

The research went on to examine the extent to the establishment of growth point improved rural socio-economic livelihoods. The research findings gave a deeper insight on how the establishment of the growth point affected the rural settlers' social and economic lives. The research also highlighted the challenges faced in trying to make Jerera and other growth points centers of rural development. Lastly, the study came in with recommendations that could be adopted to have growth points meet their purpose of establishment, that is, to be engines of rural development.

Conclusion

In conclusion, growth pole strategy has been one effective method that has been used to develop the rural communities. The study has noted that the establishment of growth points in Zimbabwe has had quite a number of effects on the rural dwellers' socio-economic livelihoods. The growth

point has have brought in benefits to the society which has helped in the development of the rural communities. These should not be over celebrated as the same growth points have also had a fair share of bringing in negative impacts on the socio-economic livelihoods of the rural settlers. However, it is also significant to note that the idea of having growth points as centers of rural development has encountered a reasonably number of challenges that have hindered it to reach the desired purpose.

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APPENDIX 1

QUESTIONNAIRE

My name is Kudzai Jeke a final year student at Midlands State University in the Department of Development Studies. I am carrying out a research on the following topic:

The socio-economic impact of the establishment and development of Jerera growth point in Masvingo since 1988

Please kindly respond to the following questions I assure you that the information is going to be handled with utmost confidentiality and will only be used for the purpose of the study The study being anonymous, you are not required to write your name/s or anything that you assume can lead to your personal identification so feel free to answer the questions.

Instructions

- i) Fill in the required information in the spaces provided.**
- ii) Where choices are available, please tick one applicable answer.**

1) Sex Male Female

2) Which age group do you fall under

25-30 30-40 Above 40

3) Do you stay in Jerera YES NO

4) If NO where do you stay?

5) How long have you been staying in your community

6) Are you employed YES NO

7) If yes where do you work?

8) How have you benefited from Jerera growth point
.....
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.....
.....

9) What aspects of the community have improved since the establishment of the growth point?
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.....
.....

10) What negative impacts have been brought in by the establishment of the growth point
.....
.....
.....

11) What challenges do you think Jerera growth point is facing?
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.....

THANK YOU!

APPENDIX 2

INTERVIEW GUIDE

These are the interview questions to selected respondents. The questions stand out as a guide only exploratory questions shall be determined from what the respondents would have explained.

The same following questions were asked to respondents in the same way.

1. What is your name?
2. How old are you?
3. Which community do you stay?
4. Are you employed and where are you employed?
5. What have you benefited since the establishment of Jerera Growth Point?
6. What negative impacts have been brought in by Jerera growth Point?

THANK YOU