



**Midlands State
University**



FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

**ASSESSING THE PRACTICABILITY OF ZIMBABWE'S GROWTH
CENTRE STRATEGY: A CASE OF GUTU-MUPANDAWANA
GROWTH POINT**

BY

BASERA FUNGAI FRANKLY (R104444Q)

**A PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS HONOURS
DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES.**

SUPERVISOR: DR J MATUNHU

DECLARATION

I BASERA FUNGAI FRANKLY declare that this research is my own work and has not been written for me by any other person(s). Quotations and paraphrases from other published and unpublished work used in this research have been clearly acknowledged. I declare that participants of this research were not compelled to participate and did so out of their own volition.

Signed:

Date:

APPROVAL FORM

The undersigned certify that they have read and recommend for acceptance to the Midlands State University; the Project: *Assessing the practicability of Zimbabwe's growth centre strategy: A case of Gutu-Mupandawana Growth Point* submitted by Basera Fungai Frankly, in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Development Studies.

.....

.....

Supervisor

Date

.....

.....

Chairperson

Date

.....

.....

RELEASE FORM

NAME OF STUDENT: BASERA FUNGAI FRANKLY
PROJECT TITLE: ASSESSING THE PRACTICABILITY OF
ZIMBABWE'S GROWTH CENTRE STRATEGY: A
CASE OF GUTU-MUPANDAWANA GROWTH
POINT
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Dedication

To God and my parents, Mr and Mrs Simbarashe and Monica Basera

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I am greatly indebted to my family, my father and mother, my lovely sister Rachael Munemo, my brothers Stephen Shereni, Takudzwa Basera, Fumisai Basera, Fredrick T Basera and Fambainashe B. Basera for their prayers and the confidence and trust they bestowed in my education. To my supervisor, Dr. J. Matunhu for his incisive commitment and selfless effort to the completion of this project cannot be understated. I am forever grateful for his fatherly love towards the fulfilment of my degree programme. I also acknowledge the efforts of fellow comrades and students who have been part of the DSH class since 2010 and the Midlands State University family.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ESAP	Economic Structural Adjustment Programme
RDC	Rural District Council
GP	Growth Point/ Growth Pole
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
FTLRP	Fast Track Land Reform Programme
CBD	Central Business District
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe
ZJC	Zimbabwe Junior Certificate
HIV	Human Immuno Virus
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBZ	Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe
SEDCO	Small Enterprises Development Corporation
ZIA	Zimbabwe Investment Authority
DDF	District Development Fund
ZB	Zimbabwe Bank
SSE	Small Scale Enterprises
TTLs	Tribal Trust Lands
AGRITEX	Agricultural Technical Extension
IPRD	Integrated Programme for Rural Development
ZIDB	Zimbabwe Infrastructure Development Bank

Abstract

This study was carried out in Gutu-Mupandawana Growth Point in Masvingo Province of Zimbabwe. The study aimed at assessing the practicability of the growth point strategy to Mupandawana Growth Point. Targeted participants were drawn from Mupandawana Growth Point's residential areas, the administrative staff from different government departments within the growth point and its sphere of influence, the informal traders and the rural community members who directly or indirectly influence the economic activities at the Growth Point. 69 respondents participated in the research and were select using non-probability sampling techniques. The research found that the growth point concept has faced challenges including, and not limited to financial shortages, infrastructure limitations, revenue shortage and little government funding. This has negatively affected the achievement of the growth point strategy's objectives in Gutu-Mupandawana growth point. Suggested solutions to these challenges were industrialisation of the area, rehabilitation of the infrastructure and capitalisation of financial institutions within the growth point.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Background to Study

Growth points, growth poles, growth centre or service centres can be defined as geographical centres or regions with the ability to begin a cumulative causation process that subsequently results in continuous and sustainable development of their surrounding areas (Manyanhaire et al 2011). In 1980, the government of Zimbabwe adopted the growth pole concept from the colonial administration's Integrated Plan for Rural Development (1978) with the aim of enhancing the rural development process and combating the challenges of rural poverty. Growth poles and rural industrialisation were seen as the most effective and efficient means of countering the increasing rural-urban migration and reducing rural poverty while enhancing economic, social and political participation of the rural folk. However, Zimbabwe has faced several challenges, including and not limited to, investment shortages, infrastructure deterioration, unemployment, emigration of productive labour force, poverty, hunger and starvation and water shortages. These challenges need an analysis and presentation of recommendations to map a way forward. These challenges can be attributed to several factors ranging from political, economic, social and environmental.

Pre-colonial Zimbabwe was characterized by racial segregation in terms of political representation, social development, and unequal access to economically productive resources such as land and other resources. This segregation was made legitimate through the passing of legal institutions which enhanced white superiority over the African race in Zimbabwe. Examples of laws that can be mentioned as the root causes of the skewed development crisis in Zimbabwe include; the Land Apportionment Act of 1930, designed after the

recommendations of the Morris Carter commission, the Native Land Husbandry Act of 1951 and the Land Tenure Act. The Land Apportionment Act reserved 51% of the most productive land for white European settlers whilst the bulk of the Africans were left with virtually no land to work on (Chirisa and Dumba 2011). These legislations determined economic production and participation of ordinary people in the mainstream economy.

Proposals to address the effects of racial exclusion and the historical imbalances between urban centres and rural areas were first mentioned in 1978 in the Integrated Plan for Rural Development with the intention of the strategy being the establishment rural service centres that were to serve as development points (Chikwanha-Dzenga 1999). The basic idea was to enhance investment in these designated centres with the hope that the development of these areas would eventually trickle down to the surrounding undeveloped areas. According to Wekwete (1988:6):

This investment estimated at Z\$60million between 1983/4-1985/6 would be directed at the following water reticulation, internal roads, sewage, electricity and other community services. The main focus was on physical development which was perceived as a basis on which private and other public capital would be attracted to the centres.

The service centres have however failed to live up to expectations with the objectives they were designed for yet to be met. One major problem in Zimbabwe that has resulted in major national projects targeting the poor and national development not meeting the intended beneficiaries and or primary stakeholders is the politicisation of the development projects. It is strongly believed that politics influenced and was the major determining factor in the location and investment of some centres and growth points. Politicisation has seen the rural populace failing to embrace the different projects designed to meet their development.

The climate change phenomenon has played a major part in the failure of local rural people to participate in the growth pole concept hence the idea has failed to meet its intended objectives of meeting the development of rural areas and subsequently reducing poverty and rural-urban migration. Continued dry spells and droughts have limited the purchasing power and income base of the rural folk. About 70% of the population of Zimbabwe resides in harsh subsistence economic and environmental conditions in the communal rural areas (Matunhu and Mago 2012). The economic background of Zimbabwe has also played a part in reducing the pace of rural industrialisation and the growth pole concept. During the first five year period of the 1990s the government of Zimbabwe adopted the World Bank's Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP). ESAP had profound negative effects on national economic progress of Zimbabwe and this subsequently stalled rural industrialisation and the growth pole concept idea since government cut its public expenditure affecting the public investment programmes and development projects. It can be seen that challenges facing the growth pole concept and rural industrial growth have taken many forms, from political, to economic, social as well as environmental.

Problem Statement

Over three decades after independence from British colonial rule in 1980, Zimbabwe's rural service centres are still to grow into meaningful industrial hubs. These rural service centres are characterised by very small scale businesses such as barber shops, retail shops, bottle stores, administration services and mostly informal sector activities. Chirisa and Dumba (2011) strongly believe that growth points or service centres have been reduced to areas that predominantly spread HIV/AIDS and the purpose these areas were supposed to serve at the initial inception has been lost. The questions then become; what could have gone wrong with this development model and where exactly did the government of Zimbabwe fail in adopting

and redesigning the growth pole concept? For Wekwete (1988:6) the questions are; “how do we make growth points grow, what should be promoted and how exactly?”

Such observations have formed the basis of this research given that the growth points in Zimbabwe are yet to meet the envisaged goals and objectives they were designed and adopted for in the first place.

Aim of Study

The study’s overall objective was to assess the practicability of the growth point strategy as a rural development mechanism in Zimbabwe. The study focused on Mupandawana Growth Point in Masvingo province of Zimbabwe to come up with the results of assessing the feasibility of this public policy as a vehicle for rural development, decentralisation and curbing the massive rural-urban migration that characterise post-1980 Zimbabwe.

Description of geographical area under study

Gutu-Mupandawana growth point falls under Gutu Central constituency. The parliament of Zimbabwe Gutu Central Constituency Profile states that Gutu Central is a constituency born out of Gutu North, and is made up of 10 wards which are 11, 17, 19, 21, 22, 33, 34, 35, 37 and 38 (Parliament of Zimbabwe Research Department 2011). Gutu Central constituency is in Natural Ecological region 4 characterised by a savannah climate predominantly with loam soil type. According to ZIMSTAT (2012) Natural Ecological Region 4 is characterized by semi-extensive communal farming. The rain in the area is in the range of 450mm to 650 mm per annum and the area experiences periodic seasonal drought and severe dry spells during the rainy season (Ibid). The majority of the rural folk in Gutu-Central survive largely on subsistence farming and livestock keeping with surplus produce being sold when felt necessary and appropriate to the nearest market in Gutu-Mupandawana Growth point and further. The farming community rely on rain-fed agriculture and focus on both small grain

and large grain production. The major crop types in this area are maize, round nuts, ground nuts, millet, sorghum and green vegetables.

A high trend of underdevelopment, poverty and unemployment is visible in this area. The economic benefits and infrastructural development are yet to reach the inaccessible communal areas where poverty has continued to define and dictate the communal people's lifestyles and living standards.

Research Objectives

1. To examine the impact of the growth centre development strategy on the development of Gutu-North constituency of Gutu District in Masvingo province
2. To examine the challenges that Gutu-Mupandawana Growth point has faced in becoming urban
3. To explore the alternatives to the challenges facing the growth centre development strategy in Zimbabwe

Research Questions

1. How has the situation been in Gutu-Mupandawana growth point and its sphere of influence?
2. How has the growth centre development strategy impacted on the development of Gutu-Mupandawana and its sphere of influence?
3. What can be done to avert the crisis of rural underdevelopment and the challenges facing the growth centre development strategy in Zimbabwe?

Significance of Study

The growth point concept and rural industrialisation are mechanisms designed to effect rural development in Zimbabwe. However the advancement of the growth points has been

characterised by the slow progress of rural industrialisation hence and investigation into the practicability of the rural growth pole model as an effective measure against rural poverty is fundamental. It is the aim of this study to produce challenges and factors that have stalled the progress of rural industrialisation and rural growth poles in Zimbabwe.

This is an evaluative research and is important in that it initiates an evaluative process of the productive and economic growth capacity of the growth points in Zimbabwe and then suggests vital possible recommendations to the slow progress that has come to characterise rural economic growth. In this regard this study is going to be helpful especially for rural and urban planners, rural district councils, the local authority of Zimbabwe (municipalities), the academia and the Zimbabwean Ministries of Economic Development and Local Authority.

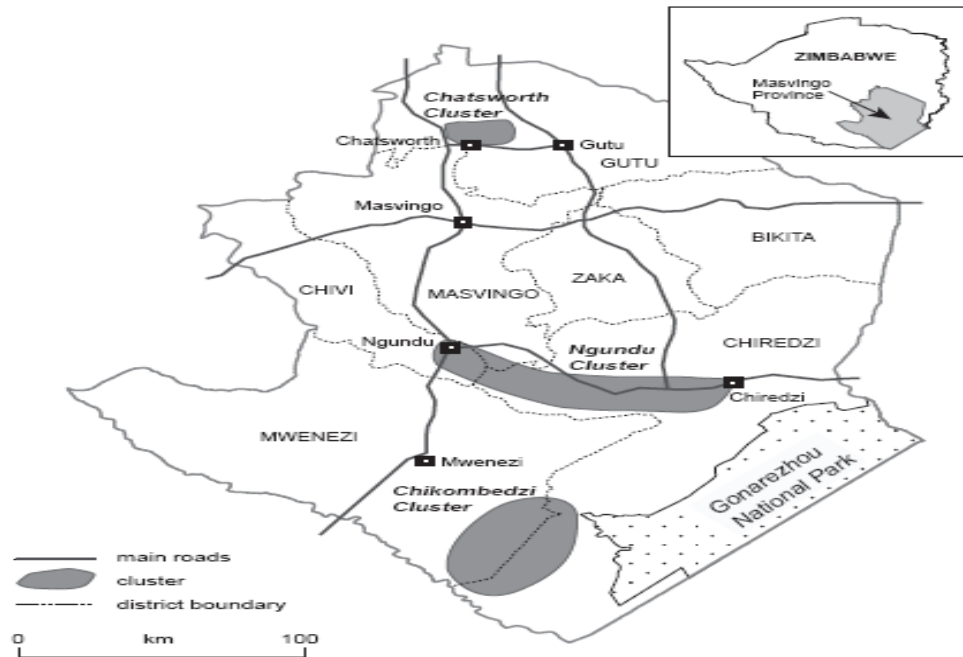
Limitations

The research was only limited by financing for conducting the interviews, the preparation of and stationery for the questionnaires.

Delimitations of the study

The study was restricted to Gutu-Mupandawana Growth point of Gutu Central constituency which are both in Gutu District in Masvingo province of Zimbabwe. Much of the focus of the study was given to issues of economic growth, urbanisation and infrastructural development and little attention was given to the political developments of the area. The major thrust of the study focused on assessing the feasibility of the growth centre strategy on Gutu-Mupandawana Growth point as well as the growth point's surrounding areas extending over 8 rural wards.

Map 1: location of Gutu District, Zimbabwe



Map taken from *The Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa* (volume 14, Number 7, 2012)

Study Rationale

The research was inspired by the observations that the growth centre strategy is yet to produce the desired results of rural industrialisation and effecting a cumulative causation in the rural areas immediately served by the established growth points in Zimbabwe. It is against such a background that the researcher applied a sampling technique. All the names of the existing growth points in Zimbabwe were put in a hat and the researcher used the lottery method and picked Gutu-Mupandawana from the names in the hat. This research hence focused on assessing the practicability of the growth centre strategy on Gutu-Mupandawana growth point in Masvingo Province.

Ethical considerations of the research

Considering the research ethics validated the research in that it enhanced confidential and full participation of respondents and also allowed for justice and respect for the participants' worth and dignity. The research applied ethical principles of honesty, objectivity, informed consent, protection of privacy, confidentiality and respect for intellectual property rights.

Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality

In a bid to protect the identities of the participants the researcher used pseudonyms (alphabetical letters) for the identification of participants. The questionnaires did not require the names of the participants and this was done with the aim of protecting the identities of the respondents.

Informed consent of the research participants

The researcher clearly explained to the respondents that their responses were going to be used for academic purposes only and no part of their responses and or participation was going to be used for any reason other than academic. By explaining this to the respondents the researcher ensured that he got the consent of the respondents before they participated in the research.

Voluntary Participation

Participants of the research were not coerced into taking part in the research. The researcher ensured and ascertained that the research participants participated voluntarily without force or fear of victimisation.

Plagiarism

The research was properly referenced and acknowledged publications other than the researcher's. Direct quotations were acknowledged so as to avoid unnecessary plagiarism of

any work. The research also highlighted the sources from where the information such as maps was obtained.

Chapter Breakdown

This research presentation indicates the background, related literature to the subject area under study, an analysis and presentation of the research findings and lastly conclusions and recommendations. All this is highlighted in five chapters with and Chapter 1 is the introduction of the study, Chapter 2 is review of literature related to the subject area under study. Chapter 3 covers the methods of research employed by the researcher in this study whilst Chapter 4 shows an analysis the data and presents the data collected from the field of study. Chapter 5 concludes the research findings and suggest possible recommendations to the challenges identified by the research findings and outlined in the research results.

CHAPTER 2

Review of related literature and work

Introduction

This chapter is going to cover the literature review of related literature that has been written on rural industrialisation in Zimbabwe and the rest of the world. This chapter attempts to define and explain the growth centre development strategy giving references to where it has been applied and how it has fared in those areas. The first part of the chapter conceptualises the development strategy under discussion by giving a general history of the strategy and the general characteristics of the strategy. The chapter further looks at the state of rural areas in Zimbabwe and where the growth centre strategy has been applied in the country, it also goes on to assess the influence of the colonial legacy on the development strategy and how as well as limitations of the strategy as stated by other researchers. The last part of the chapter gives evidence of the application of the strategy in other developed and developing countries in South America and Africa.

Literature review is a purposeful appraisal and discussion of the available written literature in a particular field of study. Literature review can be organised according to chronological order, the order influenced by dates of publication highlighting changes in certain research. It can also be organised thematically. This researcher decided to organise the literature review thematically in terms of the related themes and topics as discussed by different authors.

Conceptualising the growth centre development strategy: History and general characteristics of the strategy

The term growth point refers to designated centres that are subsidized by government to develop into urban centres primarily in rural settings. Conyers (2001) in Manyanhaire et al

(2011) asserts that the principal idea of the growth pole model is the impression of starting an accumulative process leading to an overall growth and development of both the selected area and its surroundings. Miyoshi (1997) analyses a number of academic writings on the growth pole concept and highlights that there is relatively very few writers who have given attention to the growth pole concept. However from his analysis, agglomeration of economic activities seems to be the recurring phrase that appears in the literature he reviewed.

Although Miyoshi (1997) notes that there are relatively few writers who have analysed the growth pole concept this seem to be an analysis that shies away from the truth of the matter. This research has come across a significant number of writings, critiques and analyses of the growth centre development strategy. In simpler terms growth poles can simply be defined as areas with the potential to develop themselves and their sphere of influence and hence need attention to attract public and private investment for growth.

There is a growing consensus from many writers that the growth pole concept was introduced by French economist François Perroux in the 1950s. Miyoshi (1997) states that the idea was brought about by Perroux in 1955 and it states that development has to bring about an agglomeration of economic activity in an abstract space. The growth pole concept has thus been sometimes called Perrouxian Model due to the immense contribution and influence of the French economist on the economic model. Perroux, however, defined growth poles in terms of abstract economic space and he considered an abstract economic space to be characterised by three dominant factors; an economic plan, a field of force or influences and a homogeneous aggregate (Perroux 1950). In his explanation Perroux specifically rejected that abstract economic space he stated was identical to a geographic area, a city or a town. Darwent (1969) quoted Perroux (1955) and the argument was that growth cannot appear

everywhere simultaneously; it spreads from points or poles through various channels and in various intensities (Darwent 1969).

Rural areas and the growth centre development concept in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe adopted the Growth pole concept for its rural community with the view of developing the areas into industrialised zones with the capacity of tapping excess labour in the communal areas. However a notable disagreement among scholars is the number of what were termed growth points by the government of Zimbabwe immediately after independence. Manyanhai et al (2009) argues that the Integrated Plan for Rural Development in 1978 designated 10 points as rural growth points. Chikwanha-Dzenga (1999) on the other hand argues that the 1988 IRDA policy intended to create 25 new towns in rural areas which were to serve a large rural community. Wekwete (1988) identified that in each of the 55 district councils there was a district centre which served as a growth point. According to what the different authorities observed it clearly points to the argument that the number of rural centres initially designated into growth points in Zimbabwe is questionable and has a lot of controversies surrounding the subject.

Rural areas in Zimbabwe seem to possess similar characteristics. In most cases the areas are characterised by underdevelopment, poverty and dispersed populations that depend heavily on traditional means of production, subsistence agricultural production and lack access to modern political and economic means of production. One common factor in all this is the prevailing poverty and underdevelopment in the rural areas. Matunhu and Mago (2010) claims that almost seventy percent of Zimbabwean population are confined to rural areas where most of them are poor, excluded from participating in the mainstream economy and their main concern is basic survival. This simply means that the poorest populace of Zimbabwe is found in the rural areas.

Influence of Zimbabwe's colonial background on the Growth Centre development strategy in the country

A common observation with regards to the growth point strategy as part of the post-1980 Zimbabwe institutional framework is the application of populist policies to address colonial racial segregation and imbalances. Matunhu and Mago (2013) are strongly convinced that rural poverty and underdevelopment in Zimbabwe are a result of colonialism, which was biased towards urban development neglecting rural development. Pre-independence Zimbabwe was racially divided with the white minority getting the better share of Zimbabwe's natural resources. Paradza (2012) observed that before and after independence rural areas were reserved for African natives and white commercial farmers, the whites occupying the fertile lands with access to advanced infrastructure whilst the natives were settled in TTLs later changed to Communal Farming areas.

Issues of racial segregation and imbalances remain an unchangeable fact and efforts to address racial imbalances have origins in the Ian Smith administration. Proposals to redress the historical imbalances were first introduced in the Intensive Rural Areas Development policy of 1978 through the development of growth centres (Chikwanha-Dzenga 1999). The unmistakable observation here, however, is that these efforts were directed towards solving, addressing and redressing the colonial imbalances that had existed between black Africans and the white Europeans for close to a century.

A review of the Limitations: The Zimbabwean situation

It can be seen that the issue of a lack of a natural resource base is critical in outlining the reasons and causes of the failure of the growth pole concept in Zimbabwe. Contrary to what several scholars have pointed out this researcher strongly believes that one of the reasons why the growth pole concept has failed to meet the envisaged and desired goals is because most

designated growth point areas do not have a natural resource base to attract investment and meaningful economic growth.

Manyanhaire et al (2009) suggest that the major reason why the growth points in most developing countries is connected to the lack of labour from where to ignite the process of cumulative causation and growth. The conclusion derived from the suggestions by Manyanhaire et al sends a miscalculated signal far from reality. In the case of the area under study it can be seen that though the government has tried to decentralise economic activities and human capital to Gutu district development has failed to take off because of a lack in investment. Investors are only attracted to areas endowed with meaningful natural resources that can generate enough profits like Zvishavane and Shurugwi with natural resources of gold and platinum and are both situated along the Great Dyke region of Zimbabwe.

Wekwete (1988) clearly illustrates that investment attraction is derived from any particular region's natural endowment, for example location in high productive area. She further notes that out of the 55 district centres identified as growth points it is estimated that only 10 can self-sustain themselves as the majority of them survive on various public sector investment programmes (ibid). It can be seen that the major driving force for the development of these growth points is the availability of resources, both natural and human resources and not public sector investment only as is the case in Zimbabwe.

A study carried out on Magunje Growth Point also highlighted how natural resources are important for growth and development. 10.8% of the respondents mentioned in the Magunje study stated lack in natural resources as one of the reasons why the centre has taken long to develop into a strong town (Manyanhaire et al 2009). Although 10.8% may seem like a minute figure just the mention of lack in natural resources as a major constraint clearly highlights how a sustainable natural resource base is important in the development of a

growth point. However Manyanhaire et al argues against the prospects of a natural resource base as a major influential factor as mineral resources are non-renewable and deplete with time hence they cannot be a sustainable factor of growth point development. It seems the government of Zimbabwe failed to consider the availability of natural resources in an area as a major locational factor.

Most of the development policies that were designed by the government of Zimbabwe in the first decade after independence were characterised by a one-size-fits-all approach since their main aim was to address and redress colonial imbalances. Manyanhaire et al (2009) observed that in Zimbabwe too many growth points absorbed little public investment. This has continued to hamper the progress of the growth points as the available resources and public sector expenditure cannot cope with initial demands of the areas (Wekwete 1988).

Politics has also influenced major development decisions in Zimbabwe and has continuously shaped public policy formulation not only in Zimbabwe but the world at large. Reynolds et al (1988) opposes Manyanhaire et al (2009) who argued that factors influencing the location of growth points in Zimbabwe were the national policy of decentralisation, farming activity and the centrality of the geographical area identified as a growth centre and according to Reynolds et al politics had a determining factor in the designation of growth points in Zimbabwe. It is however important to note that politics took the major decisions in determining the path taken by the growth points in Zimbabwe. The unwillingness by the government to address the plight of the rural areas has been detrimental.

The few retail outlets that sprung up at various growth points were owned by indigenous businessman politically connected figures who already owned grinding mills or bottle stores elsewhere. Rural people saw that they were divorced from the growth point development hence their failure to participate in the growth point strategy since its inception (Chikwanha-

Dzenga 1999). The political bias has seen the rural people failing to embrace the growth pole concept a development which has greatly affected the goals of the growth centre strategy and local rural industrialisation in Zimbabwe.

Urbanisation alone cannot bring an end to rural poverty and rural underdevelopment (Taori and Singh 1993). Given that urbanisation is characterised by large settlements, increased infrastructure and more industrialisation this alone cannot be an end to the problem of rural poverty and underdevelopment. However the Zimbabwean government assumed that increasing the population sizes in small sections of rural areas was going to result in attaining development which would eventually trickle down and spread to the communal areas. To the GoZ the increasing populations and infrastructural development at selected growth points were enough for urbanisation which may have been assumed to be synonymous with development at the time. Large population figures cannot be translated into meaningful development of the growth point and the surrounding communal areas as perceived by the growth centre strategy and the government of Zimbabwe.

In any development initiative or intervention, participation is an important enabling factor for the intervention to meet its desired goals. The Zimbabwean government however failed to involve the rural people who are the target population for the growth point strategy. In designating these growth points the government assumed that infrastructural development would successfully trickle down, link the rural folk and encourage growth of these centres with the idea that urbanisation would eventually filter and trickle down to the rural poor (Reynolds et al 1988). These poor and simple assumptions failed at all levels to involve the rural people leading to the failure of the strategy to meet its goals and objectives.

The growth pole concept: Evidence from the rest of the world

The growth pole development strategy has had fractional success in the areas it was adopted in the world. The practical restrictions include failure to take off, failure to control rural-urban migration and flight of productive labour, inadequate investment and infrastructure and limited funding options (Manyanhaire et al 2011). Miyoshi (1997) claims that by the late 1970s the growth pole model had been implemented in 28 developed and developing countries. The countries include Great Britain, India, Peru, Bolivia, Poland, Russia, France, Ghana, Sweden, Tanzania, Ireland, United States of America, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Spain, Cuba, Venezuela, Austria and Yugoslavia.

Conroy (1973) in Manyanhaire (2011) asserts that Bolivia, Chile and Colombia completely abandoned the idea and adopted other mechanisms of economic planning. This shift in approach casted some doubts on the applicability of the strategy in developing economies. The strategy though having good elements for planning rural development seems to have suffered the criticism of the other economic and planning theories dominated by quantitative economic growth (Manyanhaire et al 2011).

The idea of creating employment and stimulating economic growth in rural areas to curtail rural to urban migration inspired the adoption of the model in South Africa. Babelegi in Bophuthatswana, Isethebe in KwaZulu-Natal, Gcuwa in Transkei and Dimbaza in Ciskei were some of the growth points established in South Africa (Manyanhaire 2011). However Swanvelder, (1987) in Manyanhaire (2011) observed that very little employment was created in these states as the Growth Centres did not positively impact on the conditions in the sphere of influence of these centres.

Summary

The chapter mainly reviewed the literature that has been put together by different researchers and writers concerning the growth centre development strategy, its ability to foster development and evidence of its shortcomings. The chapter has conceptualised the strategy by giving a historical background, the major characteristics of the strategy and the main idea that shapes the strategy. The chapter has further highlighted the influence that the colonial legacy has on several development projects in Zimbabwe and general spatial planning in Zimbabwe as well as the situational analysis of the rural areas and the growth centre strategy in Zimbabwe. Evidence of the application of the growth centre strategy in the world was also highlighted in this chapter.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter seeks to highlight the methods and techniques that the researcher employed in collecting the data and information used in compiling this research. Research methodology and design shows the path that the research took in coming up with the research results. This

chapter contains an explanation of the data location points, the sampling procedure and the data collection techniques that brought about the results and findings of this research.

Data location sites

The study sample was located at various locations and data was collected from these different points. Each element of the sample was carefully selected after considering the nature of the research and the significant contribution that each has on the research result.

- Rural District Office
- Central Business District (Gutu-Mupandawana Growth Point)
- Farmers Market
- Bus Terminus
- Ministry of primary and education office
- District Development Fund office
- Ministry of Health and Child care
- Ministry of Local Authority
- Zimbabwe National Water Authority
- District Administrator office
- Agricultural technical extension (AGRITEX) office
- Ministry of Local Government, rural and urban development
- Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises

Sampling procedure

The core idea of the research was to get an idea of how the growth pole concept has impacted on the physical and economic growth of the centre so as to ascertain its practicability. Convenient sampling was applied in selecting the respondents for the interviews. The researcher also used his judgement to observe those he saw as the appropriate respondents as

required by purposive sampling. Convenient sampling was also used to select the ordinary residents of ward 33 and 34 which are the immediate urban wards directly served by the growth point.

A sample was conveniently taken from different government departments that are believed to be responsible for initiating and managing development projects in the area. This first set of respondents consisted of officers from the District Administrator's, the Rural District Councils', the District Development Fund's and AGRITEX offices. The second set of respondents was gathered from the business people, the informal traders, vendors, and farmers and the ordinary people who came from the surrounding rural wards (the Growth Point's sphere of influence) who were intercepted at the bus terminus on their way to and from their rural households.

Interception was done to conveniently come up with the respondents who reside in areas that the researcher failed to access due to the areas' inaccessibility and limited time and resources. This helped the researcher to get an understanding of the situation in the sphere of influence of Gutu-Mupandawana as a growth point. According to Gutu's RDC the growth point's sphere of influence is spread over the rest of the Gutu Central constituency which has 10 wards including wards 33 and 34 which are the urban wards (consisting of Hwiru and Gonview residential suburbs) whilst the remaining eight wards are communal areas. For this reason, rural community people were intercepted and interviewed at the bus terminus to get a hint of the impact that the growth point has had on its sphere of influence and the general situation in the areas where it is assumed the growth of Gutu-Mupandawana Growth Point would trickle down to and result in a cumulative causation and the general development of these areas.

The sample was divided into three subsets; Sample A, B and C. Sample A was selected using convenience sampling and consisted of government officials with 1 respondent taken from each of the 10 government offices listed in the preceding sub topic. Sample B was selected using convenient sampling and consisted of 28 respondents who were interviewed by the researcher. This sample was made up of 12 interviewees from the urban residential area of Gonview and Hwiru residential areas and 16 interviewees who consisted of 2 people from each of the 8 rural wards. Sample C was selected using a purposive sampling and consisted of 30 respondents from the business community in Gutu-Mupandawana, the informal traders and the green market vendors who were administered with questionnaires. On overall 2 sets of questionnaires were administered to 42 respondents while interviews were conducted with 28 interviewees.

Target respondents

This research targeted respondents from the Local Authority and other government departments in Gutu-Mupandawana, the local business people, residents of Hwiru and Gonview residential areas, the informal traders and the people from the local communal areas including farmers that are served by the growth point.

The government officials were targeted because it was thought they are responsible for the physical and social development of the geographical area under study, whilst the business community within the Gutu-Mupandawana area are the ones that are impacted and feel the various challenges, at first hand, that the growth point has faced. The growth point does not only serve its immediate population and the residential areas near it but also the rural community members who are in the rural wards of Gutu-Central constituency as it is believed that the benefits and developments of the growth point will eventually trickle down to these same rural areas. In this regard the research also targeted the rural community members

whose input to the research gave a clear picture of what the situation has been like, the challenges, the transformations brought by the growth point and the challenges that are facing the growth point in becoming urban.

Data collection procedures

Face-to-face interviews

Unstructured and structured interviews were made use in collecting data by the researcher. Interviews are important in that they allow respondents to expand and further explain, with clarity, their views since questionnaires may limit them in this respect. The interviews were carried out with respondents of all age groups and both men and women.

The study interviewed four different groups consisting of rural farmers from the sphere of influence, the residents from Hwiru and Gonview (the urban suburbs directly served by the growth point), the informal traders and an official from Gutu Rural District council. Interviews were also conducted on 16 communal farmers from the growth point's sphere of influence (2 from each 8 rural wards) based on the time they have spent living in the area and their knowledge of the area. Another 12 interviews were also conducted with the residents from the locations of Hwiru and Gonview suburbs selected using a convenience method. Of these respondents 6 were males whilst 6 were women. These respondents also described their lived experience of the area and the transformation and challenges that they have observed in the area. This enabled the researcher to get the idea of the lived phenomenal experience of the people of the area under study as well as those in the sphere of influence of Gutu-Mupandawana Growth Point. The researcher advised and encouraged the respondents of the interviews conducted to roll out their feelings, thoughts and memories and also to give a full description of their lived experience without fear of victimisation or restraint. The interviews also enabled the researcher to use follow up questions which continually asked for further

description of the details and responses. This was helpful in answering the questions asked by the broad subjects that formed the basis and focus of the interviews and questionnaires.

Advantages of face-to-face interviews

- Enhance a high response rate from participants
- Allow the researcher to make follow up on any issue not clearly addressed by the questionnaires and to check for reliability of data.
- Interviewer establishes a relationship with the interviewee during the interview which is helpful in catching the attention of the respondent as they become more serious in presenting, explaining and describing their cases
- Interviewer has a chance for clarification for cases and issues that seem to be deep and hidden

Disadvantages of face-to-face interviews

- Interviewer may present a lot of compassion for the respondent which might negatively affect their professional relationship
- Interviewer may end up interrupting and giving hints to the respondent which may create bias.

Questionnaires

The researcher self-administered questionnaires to 30 informal traders, business people and green market vendors and of these 15 were female and the other 15 were males. 12 questionnaires were also administered and later collected from different government officials from the different government departments operating from Gutu-Mupandawana. The respondents were not compelled to answer all the questions on the questionnaires and were asked to be as honest as possible.

Advantages of questionnaires

- Questionnaires are easy to administer and are not time consuming thereby making them convenient
- The data from questionnaires is easy to analyse
- Questionnaires are easy for respondents to answer as they have pre-coded answers

Disadvantages of questionnaires

- Some of the questionnaires may not be returned or spoiled delaying and affecting the results
- Researcher cannot assess the seriousness with which the participants answered the questionnaires

Review of secondary sources and observations

The researcher made observations during the research, observations which were applied in coming up with research results whilst secondary sources were also applied. Secondary data refers to the literature and research works that already exist in the field under study. Given that the research area is not an entirely virgin territory the researcher felt it appropriate to employ data from secondary sources which include dissertations, unpublished papers, speeches, newspapers, internet sources, journals and magazines to mention a few. This also enabled the researcher to make a peer review of the dissertations written by other writers before.

Huruva (2012) states that secondary sources or data is used to supplement the information collected primarily by the researcher, this enhances the research to come with sufficient information that can help in validating the results of the research. The researcher also collected data from written records, accounting books of the few business people that had

accounting records and minutes of meetings that were availed to him. Secondary data was predominantly influenced by the speech and report given by Member of the House of Assembly for Gutu central constituency Hon Matuke to the speaker of the Zimbabwean Parliament on 11th of February 2014. Secondary data was helpful in meeting the objectives and answering the questions of research.

Data presentation and analysis

Bar graphs and tables were used in presenting the information gathered using the questionnaires. Descriptive statistics presented an analysis of the data collected using both questionnaires and interviews.

Chapter summary

This chapter expressed the research methodology that the research followed. The chapter highlighted how the research came about with the data that the research presented. Data collection techniques, the techniques' advantages and disadvantages, sampling procedure and the data location points were all categorised in this chapter. The chapter also verbalized the target respondents, the population of the area under study and lastly highlighted the how the collected data is going to be presented.

CHAPTER 4

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Introduction

This chapter presents, analyse and discuss the findings of the research. The findings presented in this chapter respond to the research objectives and also answer the research

questions. The last part of the chapter concludes by summarizing the findings expressed in this chapter. The research based its assumptions on the three models of development Growth Pole model as presented by F Perroux, the Unbalance Growth Model as presented by A O Hirschman and the modernity model. The following data presentation and analysis is going to circulate around these models in assessing the practicability of the Zimbabwe's Growth Pole Model to the Gutu-Mupandawana area.

Situational analysis

Nature of business at Gutu-Mupandawana Growth Point

Questionnaires and interviews conducted in the growth point highlighted that most of the activities carried out in the growth point are service oriented whilst a few are growth oriented and stimulate economic production. The Growth point has a high number of retail shops and service a service centre characterised by duplication of services which are tertiary in nature. The most common economic activities within the growth point are retail shops , general dealers, bottle stores, banks, grinding mills, a post office, butcheries, a police station, primary and secondary schools, pharmacies, fuel stations, a farmers market, flea markets selling clothes and shoes, book stores, several offices of government departments, a bus terminus, a magistrate court and a traditional court, backyard factories specialising in motor mechanics and peanut butter production, church buildings and food courts. These facilities influence and constitute over 90% of all the activities that are carried out within the growth point. None of these activities can stimulate economic production as they are all service oriented and all increase rate of economic decline for the growth point.

Analysis of the situation since the growth point's inception

Interviews that were carried out in the bus terminus and with the business community and informal traders indicate that the growth point was once a hive of beneficial economic

activities with some rural folks from the growth point's sphere of influence testifying to this. 71% of the respondents described that after the establishment of the Growth Point there was a lot infrastructural development, roads, buildings, water infrastructure, schools and recreational facilities were being constructed. This helped in creating a mini town because of the infrastructure that was largely funded by the government of Zimbabwe. As highlighted by one old lady, Respondent A, from Hamandishe village which is part of the sphere of influence served by the growth point: "We were excited and happy when the growth point was established; our children were coming to work in the growth point and bringing us bread and margarine in the rural areas. Suddenly things changed especially during the ESAP period."

Both the rural and urban respondents indicated that during the early years of its inception the growth point was able to bring services that were formerly found in Harare alone. From the interviews it was also seen that the growth point also enhanced employment creation as the services and activities offered helped in this regard. Respondent B who lives in Hwiru high density suburb clearly described the situation when he said:

I have been living here for over three decades now and I have seen this place deteriorating. I first settled here from my rural home down in Basera communal area and worked as a motor mechanic at District Development Fund. During the first years I settled here things were good, the infrastructure was promising, jobs were available, the services were efficient and effective but things have since changed, we no longer have decent housing, the water infrastructure has yet to be modernised, the roads are in a sorry state and most of our youths are unemployed surely there is no such urbanisation even in the poorest country.

The two descriptions recorded from the interviews show that something really went wrong in this growth point. The grievances given by the two respondents are a clear indication that the

growth pole concept can only be practical in circumstances of investment and industrialisation which creates employment.

Impacts of the growth centre strategy on Gutu-Mupandawana and its sphere of influence

Transformations

The growth centre strategy was designed for the Gutu-Mupandawana and areas surrounding it to become more urban and especially attract private investment. The growth point concept has seen the decentralisation of government offices and authorities to the Gutu-Mupandawana area with the view of extending urbanity to the area and its surroundings. The ultimate goal of the concept is to create an urban area which can attract labour from the surrounding communal lands as well as create a modern city able to increase back and forth relationships with other areas. Evidence of urbanisation and impact of the growth centre strategy on Gutu-Mupandawana can be seen in the growing number and size of infrastructure, the increasing population as well as economic activities at the centre.

Table 1: Housing Delivery Trends: 1985 – 2014

YEAR	HOUSING UNITS	GROWTH RATE %
1985-1990	121	-
1990-1995	799	73.69
1995-2000	900	6.4
2000-2005	1000	5.26
2005-2010	1578	36.62
2010-2014	1759	5.42

Source: primary data

Analysis

The housing trends above is a clear indication of how the growth centre strategy has quantitatively led to an increase in population size due to its attraction of the agricultural labour from the surrounding communal areas and major cities. The period 1990-1995 has the highest growth rate due to the urban to rural migration that was influenced by the ESAP. Period 2005-2010 also has a high growth rate due to the government clean up exercise that was carried out in 2005 in the major cities of Zimbabwe. This exercise also resulted in a major influx of people in to the rural areas from the urban areas and Gutu-Mupandawana's population was influenced by this growth.

Observations made

The number of buildings at the growth point has steadily increased, with new buildings under construction. However it is the rate of this infrastructural growth that worries the officials in the area, pegged at 35%. The researcher also observed that the roads of the area need a facelift as the residential locations (Hwiru and Gonview) are still to have tarred roads whilst the road infrastructure within the CBD of the growth point is also in a sorry state. The housing infrastructure in Hwiru the high density suburb is very old and the water infrastructure that serves both Hwiru and Gonview is yet to be modernised to meet the demand of the growing population. House of Assembly member for Gutu-Central, Mr L Matuke reported in his presidential debate to the House of Assembly on the 11th of February 2014 that from the time that this centre was awarded growth point status, there has been slow development, in the establishment of industries and fundamental infrastructure. He further stated that the roads in the constituency are in a terrible state. The Gutu – Basera Road which links Gutu and Buhera, distending for about 130 km is tarred for only 30 km.

The educational facilities serving the Gutu-Mupandawana also need a facelift. The report of the parliamentary portfolio committee on Local Government, Rural and Urban Development

on service delivery by the local authorities of Gutu and Chiredzi of May 2012 gave evidence enough to show that the educational infrastructure in Gutu needed attention and investment as the infrastructure is no longer meeting educational standards.

In terms of service provision it was observed that the growth point has a number of buildings and services that show that the growth point has a significant growth in infrastructure, especially buildings and services. Investigations however showed that the major share of the growth point's buildings are owned by a few notable big families which questions the idea of equitable ownership of wealth and resources within the growth point and its sphere of influence.

Findings from interviews

How has the situation been in Gutu-Mupandawana growth point and its sphere of influence?

The total number of 28 people was interviewed; 12 (6male and 6female) from ward 33 and 34 served by the Growth point and 16 communal farmers, 2 from each of the 8 rural wards, (8male and 8female). 20 of the interviewees highlighted that the situation shortly after the inception of the growth point was very well and promising. This number constitutes 71% of the respondents and is a clear indication that the growth point experiment on Gutu-Mupandawana was fruitful for a time and then shifted gradually. 14 communal farmers from the 8 rural wards, representing 50% of the respondents, were quick to point that Gutu-Mupandawana had brought so much faith in the government when it was established. These communal farmers were intercepted at the bus terminus within the growth point on their way to and from their rural homes. To them the growth point meant that services formerly found in Harare, the capital city, were now readily available and accessible within the growth point. These services included birth and national registration only to mention a few. The most benefit that this 50% (the farmers) expressed was the availability of an urban market for their

market garden products as well as grain products. This was one of the major benefits that boosted their confidence in the government and the growth pole concept. As respondent C, a farmer from the Mushaviri area excitedly puts it:

The establishment of a growth point in our area gave us a market for our agricultural produce; we were beneficiaries of the first phase of land redistribution shortly after independence in 1980. Before the establishment of the growth point, and the two urban residential areas, Hwiru and Gonview we were only producing for subsistence only for the family to survive. The establishment of the growth point means that we could now sell our livestock, tomatoes, potatoes, grain and even sweet potatoes in the growth point, in Hwiru and also in Gonview. We however see and feel the negative effects of the changes that have characterised our growth point.

There is clear evidence that the growth point concept can be practical in instances where there is enough capital and investment. The growth point managed to establish an urban residency that was able to accommodate and consume agricultural products from the communal areas thereby creating a viable market for communal farmers which subsequently increased the farmers' purchasing power and participation in the mainstream cash economy.

What can be done to avert the crisis of rural underdevelopment and the challenges facing rural industrialisation in Zimbabwe?

On challenges facing the growth point 52.82% of the respondents highlighted that shortage of funding from the government was the major cause of the challenges facing the growth point. 45% stated that there was need to minimise mismanagement of government funds by the local authority as this has impacted negatively on the development of the growth point. 94% also stated that there was need to rehabilitate the road infrastructure and the capitalisation of DDF which is the sole mandated authority for road infrastructure development. The youths were also quick to point to the funding of income generating projects that can help in reducing the unemployment that the area is facing. According to the findings of the

interviews youths stated that they needed to benefit from the various government policies aimed at youth development notably Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Policy.

Responses from questionnaires

All the 42 questionnaires administered to the business people, green market vendors, government officials and the informal traders were retained. Out of the 42 questionnaires 38 were answered correctly representing 90% of the total number of questionnaires, 3 were not completed representing 7.1% of the total number of administered questionnaires and 1 was spoilt representing 2.3% of the total number of administered questionnaires. The questionnaires highlighted the challenges faced by people living in the growth point, showing the situation in the Gutu-Mupandawana area, also showed how the growth centre strategy has impacted on the development of Gutu-Mupandawana and the possible solutions to the challenges have been presented to the area. The findings of the questionnaires are presented in the following discussion.

Infrastructure limitations

Since the establishment of Gutu-Mupandawana growth point there have been efforts to encourage investment to productive sectors. These efforts are being restrained by severe infrastructure constraints. Poor state of roads has reduced the movement of goods and services between the growth point and its sphere of influence. This has also meant that cumulative growth in the nearest smaller business centres such as Chiguhune, Gonye, Basera and Nerupiri have taken a slow pace in achieving development because of inaccessibility due to poor state of road infrastructure. The urban wards (wards 33 and 34) are no exception as land; water infrastructure and electricity are all in short supply.

Company registration challenges

The findings from the questionnaires given to the business community highlighted one of the major challenges as the bottlenecks in company registration. The process has become a major deterrent to the growth of businesses in the growth point and this has also reduced the chances of the RDC to gain a revenue base that can boost the growth point. As highlighted by the respondents registering a company in terms of Chapter 190 of the Companies Act is tiresome and is only done in Harare. Coupled to this, accessing land and obtaining stands from the municipality, particularly commercial stands, can be very time consuming.

Reduced demand for goods and services by both urban and rural small population

A large population is important for the consumption of goods and services and population expansion is very vital for economic growth. In the growth point and its surrounding areas there is evidence of migration of the most economically active population to major cities (Masvingo, Gweru and Harare) where employment chances are high, whilst some are moving to far away cities like Johannesburg in South Africa. According to the 2012 National population census the average household size for the two urban wards is 3.8. The economically active proportion of the residents is considered too small to sustain a viable economic growth pattern. A review of the documents and notes revealed that only 35% of the population in the residential area of Gutu-Mupandawana is formally employed, whilst most of the population is school children. The greater part of the residents consists of unemployed youths and adults who have little economic activity and demand for goods and services due to little or no income.

Initially a growth point is not designed to serve an immediate population only but also encompass the surrounding communal areas. Gutu-Mupandawana serves the population of

Gutu Central constituency with 10 wards (8 rural and 2 urban wards). The questionnaires to the business community highlighted that there is little spending by local farmers around the growth point. Demand by the farmers surrounding the growth point has drastically reduced due to reduction on household income due to persistent droughts, unfavourable market price and shortage of a market for grains and green vegies. Reduced demand and spending by farmers as well as by the urban population has driven many of the shops and other small businesses at the centre out of business.

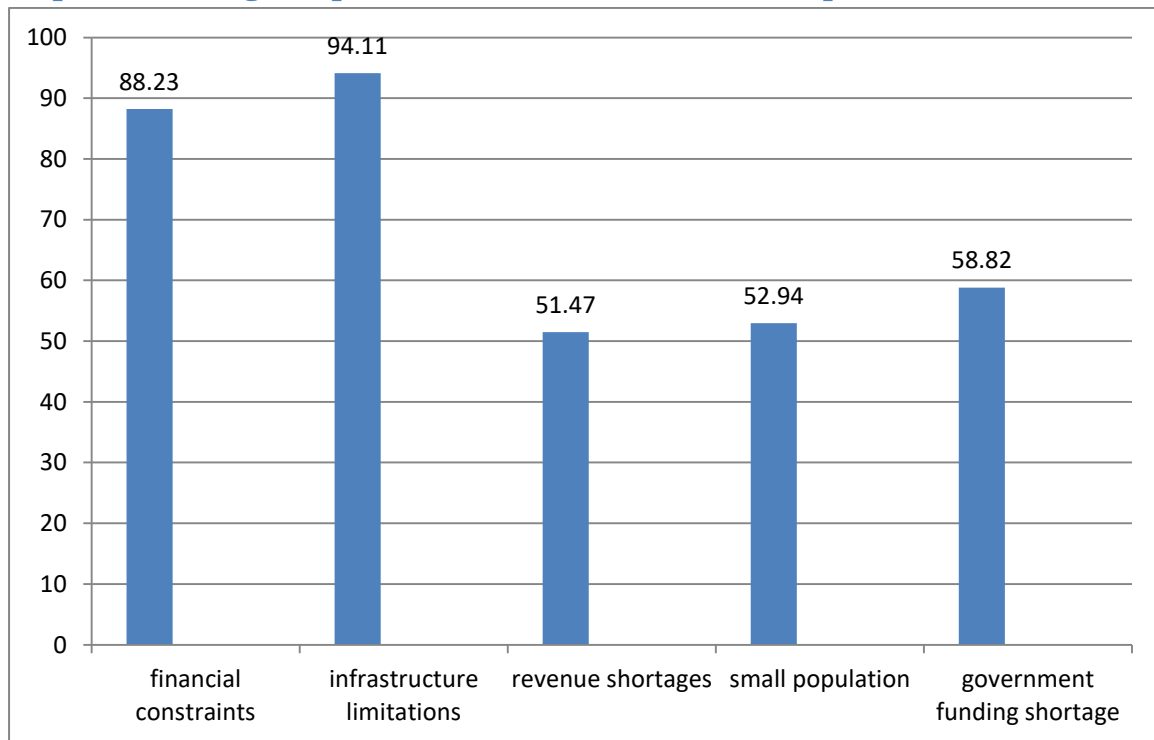
Limited revenue base for the RDC

The majority of the people are unemployed and evidence shows that there are no plans in place to contain them in meaningful income generating projects. The RDC thus suffers economically through a low income-generation and low revenue base. Other established business enterprises are defaulting in paying rates and levies. Shop owners and other service providers at the centre find it very difficult to pay rents, levies, and rate arrears with the council due to marginalised profits and business turnover.

Shortage of micro-finance lending for businesses and rural farmers

The responses on the questionnaires have shown that there is little to no visibility of these institutions such as commercial banks, building societies, development finances institutions and micro finance institutions. The questionnaires given to the informal traders and the business community showed all respondents were not aware of any institution that could offer loans to finance their businesses. Observations made by the researcher and findings on the questionnaires show that there are only three commercial banks at the growth point (Agribank, CBZ and ZB bank) and no other micro-finance institution. Some have even highlighted that they have little knowledge on the loan operations of the bank.

Graph 1: challenges expressed in interviews and on the questionnaires



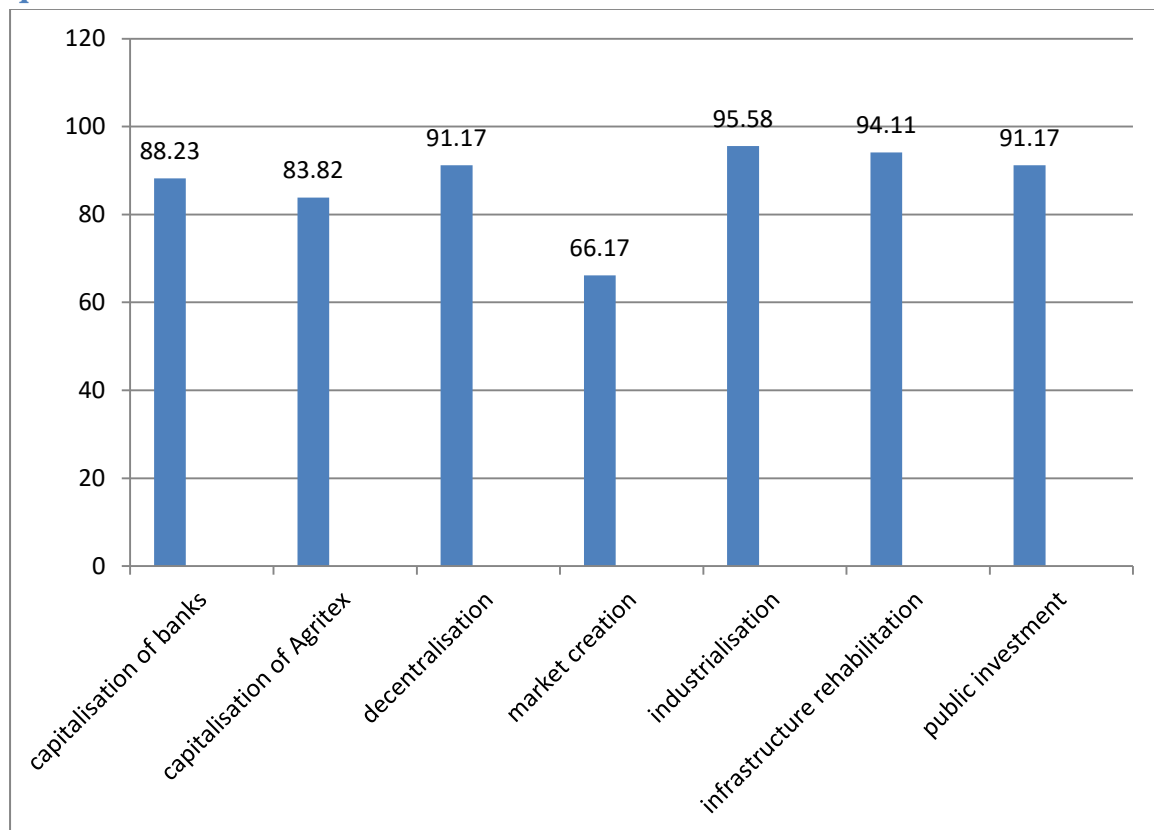
Source: primary field data

Analysis

Data illustrated on the above graph indicate the research findings on the factors that have continued to impede the growth point concept to be practical in Gutu-Mupandawana growth point. The data was collected from interview participants and questionnaire respondents. Of the 68 research participants, 60 indicated financial shortages as the major factor that has affected the practicability of the growth centre strategy to Gutu-Mupandawana growth point. This represents 88.23% of the total respondents. 64 participants highlighted lack of infrastructure was impeding the practicability of the growth centre strategy to Gutu-Mupandawana growth point. The respondents pointed out that the available infrastructure is old and insufficient for the growth of the growth point. This make up 94.11% of the total respondents. 36 participants bemoaned the small population within Gutu-Mupandawana's urban wards which has only 2 184 households. These participants represent 52.94% of the respondents. 35 of the total participants indicated that a weak revenue base was the major

contributing factor to the failure of the practicability of the growth point strategy in Gutu-Mupandawana growth point and this number represented 44.11% of the total respondents. 50 of the participants highlighted that government was neglecting the growth point leading to the impracticability of the growth centre strategy in Gutu-Mupandawana.

Graph 2: Graphical presentation of recommendations and suggestions from questionnaires and interviews



Source: primary field data

Analysis

The graph above illustrates the percentage of the suggestions that were made by the participants to the challenges that are facing Gutu-Mupandawana growth point in becoming urban and causing a cumulative causation of the surrounding rural areas as stated by the Growth pole concept, Hirschman’s Unbalanced Growth Model and Lewis Two Sector Model. The results illustrated on the graph above are inclusive of the data from questionnaires and interviews. 60 respondents out of the total 68 suggested that the 3 banks situated in the

growth point; ZB Bank, CBZ and Agribank should be capitalised for it to institute and extend loans to thriving and potential SSEs. This number represents 88.23% of the respondents. Of the 68 research participants 57 stated that there was a need to recapitalise AGRITEX as this was important in enhancing agricultural production for the area. This number represents 83.82% of the total participants of the research. 45 participants suggested a creation of market for agricultural produce which has drastically declined and this is 66.17% of the total respondents. 65 participants suggested industrialisation of the growth point for the creation of backward and forward linkages. This is a 95.58% representation of the total respondents. 64 of the respondents cited infrastructure rehabilitation as a solution to the challenge facing the growth point and this is a 94.11% representation of the total number of participants.

Summary

This chapter showed the analysis of research findings which were presented as tables, graphs and a pie chart. Part of the data was presented as description to justify the qualitative presentation of the research. Table 1 shows the housing delivery trend in Gutu-Mupandawana growth point between 1985 and 2014. Chart 1 is showing the sources of working capital for the business community of Gutu-Mupandawana. Graph 1 is a graphical presentation of the challenges expressed in the interviews and on the questionnaires administered to the respondents. Graph 2 shows the suggestions that were found on the questionnaires and the interviews. The following chapter, chapter 5, is going to summarise the research findings, conclusions and recommendations to the challenges uncovered by the research.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This chapter's focus is predominantly on the summary of findings that answered the research objectives and research questions. The second part of this chapter has recommendations to the issues and focus areas that have been showed by the research. The respondents and participants of the research came up with some of the recommendations while the researcher also institute some recommendations from the findings made and the secondary data that has been used extensively in this research. The researcher also takes the opportunity to highlight the major research findings in summary as these are significant in the improvement of Gutu-Mupandawana into an industrial hub that it was intended to be, subsequently causing cumulative development in the surrounding rural areas.

Summary of research findings

The major findings made by the research highlight that:

- The growth pole concept has made little impact on the development of Gutu-Mupandawana growth point and its sphere of influence,
- The challenges plaguing Gutu-Mupandawana Growth Point include poor and deteriorating infrastructure, especially road infrastructure, reduced rate of investment, population pressure on old and not modern water infrastructure and electricity,
- Shortage of capital has been the major impeding factor in the development of the area to serve a large rural and urban population,

- The business community, green market vendors and informal traders have also shown that they have faced difficulties due to accessibility of services and goods that enhance growth of their businesses. This is one characteristic that disqualifies the growth point as an urban setup as small services such as lines of credit from micro-finance facilities are not readily available,
- The business community bemoaned the small population as not enough for the consumption of goods and service that can sustain the business in the growth point,
- The activities undertaken within the growth point have little or no stimulating effect on economic growth. All the activities are service oriented and none is industrial oriented and lack the capacity to create meaningful economic production and avert the crisis of unemployment and rural underdevelopment.

Conclusions

This research was conducted to assess the practicability of Zimbabwe's growth pole concept on Gutu-Mupandawana. The overall conclusion that the research made is; the growth pole concept has not been practical and feasible in the Gutu-Mupandawana area and its surrounding rural constituents. Gutu-Mupandawana has not been able to accommodate the growing number of labour that is trickling in from the rural areas that surrounds the growth point. On a larger scale it was thought that the establishment of Gutu-Mupandawana would create 'back and forth' linkages with the surrounding rural areas and this would eventually lead to a cumulative development of the surrounding rural areas. It was thought the growth point would have rightly motivated the development and growth of the surrounding areas attracting the excessive labour in the rural areas. Such desirable results have failed to be

evident with the Gutu-Mupandawana case due to challenges such as lack of infrastructure, poor infrastructure, failure to attract investment and shortage of funding to urbanise the growth point. There is however a need to note that, in the Zimbabwean case, the Growth Point strategy can be a viable option for rural development only if the necessary investment and capitalisation is availed to the growth points.

Recommendations

The findings of the research have a significant contribution to the realignment of the growth pole policy in Zimbabwe hence the need to state recommendations and suggestions that can help in the outcome of the policy on a national scale. The following recommendations were made from the researcher's analysis of field data and were suggested by the researcher and the participants of the research.

Capitalisation of AGRITEX

One of the stated challenges that the business people have faced is the little or decreased demand of goods from the urban and rural population served by the growth point. The capitalisation of the AGRITEX department can help in disseminating information and institute agricultural research that can help in enhancing the purchasing power of the farmers. This establishes a farming community that can be able to consume the goods and services offered in the growth point.

Infrastructure resuscitation

One of the major challenges that the respondents highlighted was the issue of an infrastructure that cannot attract investment. The road infrastructure is in a sorry state and the major roads connecting Gutu-Mupandawana and its sphere of influence are yet to be tarred. There is a great need for the resuscitation of the infrastructure of the area to attract investment to the area.

Capitalisation of rural banks and micro financial institutions

Mupandawana Growth point has three banks only, Agribank, CBZ and ZB Bank. An empirical approach that can help in ascertaining that the growth pole concept can have impact on Gutu-Mupandawana and surrounding areas is the recapitalisation of the three banks in the growth point. Agribank is the major source of agricultural finance in the country whilst CBZ and ZB Bank can both be helpful in financing SSE growth in the growth point. The main objectives of the recapitalisation are to promote agricultural production by providing credit for the purchase of agricultural inputs and for the development of agricultural marketing as well as enhance SSE growth. There is also a need to increase the number of financial institutions in the growth points. Increasing the number of financial institutions within the rural growth centres is important as this also increases the rural folks' choice of banking and financial services and thereby availing a diversified source of financial capital for both farm and off-farm activities.

Decentralisation of goods and services from major towns

The broad idea of the growth pole concept is not only to cause cumulative development in the sphere of influence of growth centres but to also decentralise activities from the central government. Although the government of Zimbabwe has applied this idea through the passing of the Urban and Rural Councils Act and the establishment of growth centres, little has been achieved towards decentralisation. Observations showed that such institutions as the IDB which aims at promoting economic development and growth confines its operations to established urban cities. Other relevant institutions that can help in complementing the growth centre strategy and for influencing development of such centres include the ZIA. ZIA's main mission is to contribute to sustainable national economic development and growth through the timeous promotion and facilitation of value added investment.

Capitalisation of SEDCO

SEDCO was established as a way to facilitate the progress of SSE at designated growth points and district service centres. SEDCO is mandated with encouraging and assisting the establishment of cooperatives and small commercial and industrial enterprises; providing financial assistance, training and management training to cooperatives and small industrial and commercial enterprises; as well advising government on policy issues affecting industrial, commercial and cooperative enterprises. The capitalisation of a rural based SEDCO will mean that vast education and entrepreneurial skills will be given to the rural entrepreneurs. Such training and skills building results in increased professionalism and invention on the part of the rural entrepreneurs.

Creation of a market for agricultural produce and agro-based products

One of the major challenges that the farmers highlighted as the impeding factor to the development of Gutu-Mupandawana growth point is the lack of market for their agro products. The Growth Point's sphere of influence is spread over the 8 rural wards in Gutu-Central constituency. Subsistence farmers have not been able to sell their produce as a result poor road infrastructure and a lack in market. As long as the farmer's produce fails to make it into the formal supply chain the desired results of developing the rural folk will be difficult to meet.

Provision of government subsidies to communal farmers

The FTLRP has increased the number of households directly depending on agricultural production across the nation. There is a need for the government to subsidise agricultural production by timeously availing inputs to communal farmers as well as a substantive grain market for the farmers. This calls for the recapitalisation of GMB so that it establishes competitive and sustainable prices for the grain farmers. The government can also subsidise communal farmers through assisting them in water harvesting, promotion of drought tolerant crops, early planting and the use of short season varieties. This helps the communal farmers

to increase their purchasing power and create the required raw materials for the agro-based industries needed in the growth points.

Establishment of Agro-based industries

The government of Zimbabwe should create a provision for incentives that can attract investment for agro-based industries to rural service centres. The interested corporations can be charged low wage rates, low operating tax and tax exemptions. The industries that should be established and attracted to these areas should include fertiliser making, agro-chemical industries, agro-mechanical industries and agro-processing industries. Gutu district is in natural ecological region four and five receiving an annual rain fall of about 450mm to 650mm (Zimstat 2012). Over half of the farmers in the region depend directly on rain fed agriculture for survival and household income. In this age of climate variability and environmental unpredictability there is need to attract agro-mechanical industries, specifically irrigation engineering. This not only supplements the rain-fed agricultural activities but also create employment for the unemployed population within the rural areas and the urban residential areas in growth points.

Fertiliser and agro-chemical manufacturing

The growth point serves an urban and rural population that survives on agricultural activities that are carried out in the communal wards surrounding the growth point. The low demand of commodities mentioned by the business community in the research has much to do with the shortage of commodities that are essential for the farming community. Establishment of a fertiliser making industry is important in that it creates employment and an industrial hub that can be able to produce excess goods for export in the near future. This also enables the RDC to make enough revenue for the development of infrastructure and services for the growth point.

Agro-processing industries' establishment

There is need to establish an agro-processing industry that can enhance the backward and forward linkages between rural off-farm activities and the growth point. This also allows for the creation of employment and enhancing of the revenue base for the RDC. There is need to facilitate the capitalisation of small cottage industries that process peanut butter, stock feed and grain milling for the youths and unemployed population of the area. This enhances creation of employment, income generation for the youths and establishes back and forth linkages between these new established cottage industries and already existing businesses.

Conclusion

This research assessed the practicability of Zimbabwe's growth strategy. The findings of the research exposed factors impeding the development of growth points in Zimbabwe. The research realised that the growth points have been affected by financial limitations, old and sustainable infrastructure, few investments opportunities, the centralisation of essential services to major cities in Zimbabwe and the failure of agriculture to sustain rural communities. The researcher recommends that the government put in place measures to establish agro based industries in rural growth points to attract investment in these areas.

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APPENDIX 1

ASSESSING THE PRACTICABILITY OF ZIMBABWE'S GROWTH CENTRE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: A CASE OF GUTU-MUPANDAWANA GROWTH POINT

Introduction

My name is Fungai Frankly Basera and I am currently studying for a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree with the Midlands State University. I am carrying out a research on the Assessment of the practicability of the Growth Centre Strategy (also known as Growth Point, Service Centre or Growth Pole strategy) in Zimbabwe focusing on Gutu-Mupandawana Growth Point. The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information on the above topic and you are assured that your responses will be strictly confidential. Your identity particulars and contact details are not requested. You are not forced to answer questions that you feel you do not want to answer. The responses are going to be used for pursuing academic interests only and nothing else hence you are kindly asked to answer the questionnaire as honest as possible.

Section 1: Socio-demographic information (please tick where applicable)

1.1 Sex

Male (m)	
Female (f)	
Other	

1.4 Educational level attained

No schooling	
Sub-standard (during colonial period)	
Primary	
ZJC	
O' Level	
A' Level	
Tertiary	

Other (specify).....

1.6 What is your source of income?

Formally Employed	
Informal trader	
Remittances from urban cities	
Unemployed	
Business owner	

Other sources (specify).....

1.7 What is your monthly income? (In United States Dollars)

Less than 50.00	
50-100	
100-200	
200-300	
300-400	
500-600	
Above 600	
I don't want to disclose	
I am not sure	

Section 2: Economic Activities in and around Gutu growth point (please tick where applicable)

2.1 What economic activity are you engaged in for survival?

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

2.2 What is your annual income from your economic activity?

.....

Section 3: Challenges facing development of Gutu Growth point and the role that has government, the local authority and other stakeholders played.

3.1 What challenges are you facing as person living in Gutu-Mupandawana?

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

3.2 What challenges are you facing as an entrepreneur? (For the business people, farmers and informal traders)

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

3.3 What solutions do you suggest to the challenges you are facing?

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

3.4 Do you agree that the government has helped in the challenges you are facing (tick where appropriate)

I Strongly agree	
I Agree	
I Do not know	
I do not agree	

3.5 What role has the government played in solving the challenges you are facing?

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

3.6 What measures has the local authority taken in solving the challenges you are facing?

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

3.7 Has the government made progress in solving the challenges you are facing? (tick where applicable)

YES	NO

3.8 If you answered YES to the above question can you mention the successes of the government in solving the challenges you are facing

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

3.9 If you answered NO to the above question what do you see as the factors behind the slow progress in solving your challenges

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

APPENDIX 2

ASSESSING THE PRACTICABILITY OF ZIMBABWE’S GROWTH CENTRE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: A CASE OF GUTU-MUPANDAWANA GROWTH POINT

Introduction

My name is Fungai Frankly Basera and I am currently studying for a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree with the Midlands State University in partial fulfilment of the Honours in Development Studies. I am carrying out a research on the Assessment of the practicability of the Growth Centre Strategy (also known as Growth Point, Service Centre or Growth Pole strategy) in Zimbabwe focusing on Gutu-Mupandawana Growth Point. The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information on the above topic and you are assured that your responses will be strictly confidential. Your identity particulars and contact details are not requested on the questionnaire. You are not forced to answer questions that you feel you do not want to answer. The responses are going to be used for pursuing academic interests only and nothing else hence you are kindly asked to answer the questionnaire as honest as possible.

Section 1: Socio-demographic information (please tick where applicable)

1.1 Sex

Male (m)	
Female (f)	
Other	

Section 2: Challenges facing development of Gutu Growth point and the role that has government, the local authority and other stakeholders played.

2.1 What challenges are you facing as person living in Gutu-Mupandawana?

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

2.2 What challenges are you facing as a government department in achieving your objectives as a government department?

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

2.3 What solutions do you suggest to these challenges you are facing?

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

2.4 Do you agree that the government has helped in the challenges you are facing (tick where appropriate)

I Strongly agree	
I Agree	
I Do not know	
I do not agree	

2.5 What role has the government played in solving the challenges you are facing?

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

2.6 What measures have you taken as a local authority in solving the challenges that the locals are facing?

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

2.7 Has the government made progress in solving the challenges you are facing? (tick where applicable)

YES	NO

2.8 If you answered YES to the above question can you mention the successes of the government in solving the challenges you are facing

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

2.9 If you answered NO to the above question what do you see as the factors behind the slow progress in solving your challenges

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

APPENDIX 3

INTERVIEW GUIDELINE WITH OFFICIAL FROM THE GUTU RDC

1. What is the most common business activity carried out by the business people in Gutu growth point?
2. How many formal businesses are currently running at the growth point?
3. How many formal businesses have closed due to challenges they are facing?
4. How many recreational facilities serve the Gutu population?
5. What are the likely challenges that the business community in Gutu facing?
6. What is the number of residential areas/suburbs that are served by Gutu growth point?
7. What is the sphere of influence of the Gutu growth point, how many communal areas does the growth point serve?
8. How many public toilets are there at Gutu growth point?
9. What challenges have you faced as a local authority in administering your duties?
10. How many manufacturing plants are there in Gutu growth point?
11. What challenges has the manufacturing plant(s) faced, if there are any?
12. What effort has the government of Zimbabwe put towards the development of Gutu growth point?
13. What do you suggest the government of Zimbabwe should do to counter the challenges that you are facing as a local authority?