

GHANA INSTITUTE OF JOURNALISM

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

**EXAMINING THE STATE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL ONE;
“ERADICATION OF EXREME POVERTY”: A CASE STUDY OF
KANSAWRODO (SEKONDI TAKORADI MUNICIPALITY) IN THE WESTERN
REGION**

BY

SANDRA NANA EFUA BOISON

MADC 19103

**THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE
STUDIES AND RESEARCH OF THE GHANA INSTITUE OF JOURNALISM IN
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD
OF MASTER OF ART DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION.**

SEPTEMBER, 2020

GHANA INSTITUTE OF JOURNALISM

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH



**EXAMINING THE STATE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL ONE;
“ERADICATION OF EXREME POVERTY”: A CASE STUDY OF
KANSAWRODO (SEKONDI TAKORADI MUNICIPALITY) IN THE WESTERN
REGION**

BY

SANDRA NANA EFUA BOISON

MADC 19103

**THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE
STUDIES AND RESEARCH OF THE GHANA INSTITUE OF JOURNALISM IN
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD
OF MASTER OF ART DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION.**

SEPTEMBER, 2020

DECLARATION

Student's Declaration

I, Sandra Nana Efua Boison, hereby declare that this project work is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any University or educational institution.

NAME: **SANDRA NANA EFUA BOISON**

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

Supervisor's Declaration

I confirm that the work presented by the student mentioned above was carried out under my strict supervision, in accordance with the guidelines of action research laid down by the Graduate School of the Ghana Institute of Journalism.

NAME: **DR. EBENEZER MALCALM**

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family especially my mother Victoria Boison, you will forever remain the motivation behind my hard work and thank you for your support, encouragement and unconditional love.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I want to express my profound gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Ebenezer Malcalm for his guidance and counsel during the undertaking of this research. Through constructive criticisms, he kept my ideas within the bounds and has been patient, hardworking and good. Also, I want to appreciate Mr. Michael Attipoe, former Director of Finance and Administration at the National Commission on Culture for his awesome contribution to my work. To my friend Odehye Kwaku Owusu- Baah for his moral support and encouragement during this academic journey; I am grateful to all the Lecturers for their time and information and the Graduate School of the Ghana Institute of Journalism fraternity for the opportunity to complete my studies. My earnest gratitude to the Almighty God, the Boison family, Richard Asumah, Richardson Commey Fio, (NCC), Lawyer Kenneth Awuku, (GIJ), Dr. Ike Tandoh, (GIJ) and Prof. Cosmos Mereku, University of Education, Winneba whose effort and assistance made this study possible, finally to all participants who availed themselves for this study. I remain grateful and may God bless you all greatly. I will forever appreciate God for the care, wisdom and protection during the entire research and study process. To God be the glory.

ABSTRACT

The eradication of extreme poverty has increasingly become a topic of concern for the United Nations and many of its stakeholders on the globe especially in the wake of sustainable development. The Ghanaian circumstance is critical as various intercessions have been made by successful governments yet, Ghana has not had the option to annihilate outrageous destitution totally in any event, when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were in force and now the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) being executed worldwide since 2016 to 2030. The gap between the rich and the poor has not been connected. Despite the fact that there has been some improvement throughout the long term. The reason for this study is to analyze the "State of Sustainable Development Goal in Kansawrodo, in the Western Region of Ghana explicitly in the Takoradi Metropolis. The research was done by conducting a semi structured interview with 15 youth who are between the ages on 15 -24years; who are living under extreme poverty conditions in Kansawrodo. After the data was gathered and analyzed, some of the key findings were that poverty was caused by: lack of finance and over dependency, rapid population growth, and unequal distribution of wealth, gender disparities, and the lack of jobs for the youth, corruption and lack of commitment from successive governments. The findings also revealed that, government development agenda was in harmony with the Sustainable Development Goals. Another important finding was that, the children of the youth were involved in child labour to support their parents. Additionally, the main hinderance to the implementation of SDG1 is capital to invest in sectors that can create more jobs for the youth, healthcare and education, in order to eliminate social inequality and eradicate extreme poverty. The literature review established that many Ghanaians in both the rural and some parts of the urban areas in Ghana still live below the poverty line; while others are trapped in absolute poverty. Many of the youth of Kansawrodo face the same situation with their young children according to the findings of the research.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration.....	i
Dedication.....	ii
Acknowledgement.....	iii
Abstract.....	iv
CHAPTER ONE	
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Background.....	1
1.3 ProblemStatement.....	3
1.4 Objectives of the Study.....	5
1.4.1 General objectives.....	5
1.4.2 Specific Objectives.....	5
1.5Research Questions.....	5
1.6 Scope of the Study.....	6
1.7 Significance of the Study.....	6
1.8 Definition of Terms.....	7
1.9 Limitation of the Study.....	9
10 Organization of the Study.....	9
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Introduction.....	10
2.2 Theoretical Framework of Study.....	10
2.3 Definition of the Concept of Poverty.....	10
2.4 Measuring Poverty.....	11
2.5 Sustainable Development Goals.....	12
2.6 Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 1 in Ghana.....	15
2.7 Poverty and Inequality in Ghana.....	16
2.8 Theoretical Framework.....	17
2.9 Marxism Theory.....	17

2.10 Distributive Justice.....	18
2.11 Behavioral/Decision-Based Theory.....	21
2.12 Chapter Summary.....	23
CHAPTER THREE	
3.1 Introduction.....	24
3.2 Research Approach.....	24
3.3 Research Design and Types of Study.....	24
3.4 Population Study.....	25
3.5 Sampling Technique.....	25
3.6 Inclusion Criteria.....	26
3.7 Exclusion Criteria.....	26
3.8 Sample size.....	26
3.9 Source of Data.....	27
3.10 Data Collection Instrument.....	27
3.11 Data Collection method.....	28
3.12 Ethical consideration.....	28
3.13 Validity and Reliability.....	29
3.14 Profile of the Area.....	29
3.15 Data Presentation and Analysis.....	30
CHAPTER FOUR	
4.0 Introduction.....	31
4.1 Socio- Demographic Characteristics.....	31
4.2 Causes of Poverty among the Youth.....	33
4.2.1 Financial Problems.....	33
4.2.2 Lack of Commitment from Successive governments.....	34
4.3 Unfair Distribution of National Resources.....	35
4.4 Feminization of Poverty.....	36
4.5 High Cost of Living and Unemployment.....	37
4.6 Corruption	38

4.7 Hinderances to Achieving SDG1.....	39
4.7.1 Effects of Poverty on Healthcare.....	40
4.7.2 Effects of Poverty on Education.....	41
4.7.3 Not Regular in School.....	41
4.7.4 Lateness to School.....	42
4.7.5 Low Enrolment	42
4.7.6 School Drop Outs.....	42
4.7.7 Effects of Poverty on Academic Performance.....	43
4.7.8 Lower Concentration.....	44
4.7.9 Difficulties in Studying.....	45
4.8 Poverty and Social Vices.....	45
4.8.1 Low Aspiration.....	46
4.8.2 Effects of Poverty on Children of the Youth.....	47
4.8.3 Sustainable Development Goal 1 in harmony with Government Development Agenda...	48
4.8.4 Chapter Summary.....	48
CHAPTER FIVE	
5.1 Introduction.....	54
5.2 Summary Findings.....	54
5.2.1 Causes of Extreme poverty.....	54
5.2.2 Effects of Poverty on the Youth.....	55
5.3 Sustainable Development Goal1 and Government Development Agenda.....	57
5.4 Hindrances to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 1.....	57
5.5Conclusion.....	58
5.6 Recommendations.....	59
5.7Conclusion.....	61
5.8 References.....	62
Appendix.....	66

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Introduction

This chapter introduces the entire study and throws more light on the foundation and basis of the topic under study. It entails the background to the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, the significance of the study, Definition of terms, Limitations, Scope of the study, and the organization of the study.

1.2 Background

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were created by the United Nations as a follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals. It was set up so as to empower nations over the world work in a union to make the earth a cleaner, and have more secure condition to live on. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which went before the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were framed in the year 2000 Kenny (2015).

After 2015, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) like poverty reduction, advancing education, improving the wellbeing of individuals in developing countries have not been accomplished in all parts of the developing world. More so, many of the other goals were not accomplished Kenny (2015). Hence, introduction of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the following year. On 1st January, 2016 the SDGs was launched. It has seventeen goals, they are:(1)to eradicate poverty; (2) to end hunger; (3) to ensure health and well-being for all; (4) to ensure quality education for all; (5) to achieve gender equality; (6) to ensure clean water and sanitation; (7) to ensure affordable and clean energy; (8) to promote decent work and sustainable economic growth; (9) to build resilient and sustainable industry, innovation and

infrastructure; (10) to reduce inequalities; (11) to build sustainable cities and communities; (12) to ensure sustainable consumption and production; (13) to take climate action; (14) to protect life below water; (15) to protect life on land; (16) to promote peace, justice and inclusive institutions; and (17) to strengthen the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, Palmer (2015). The 17 goals address issues of financial development, social development and environmental protection, United Nations (2015) and are further elaborated in 169 targets. The MDGs basically focused on developing countries, while the SDGs focus on all nations over the globe Scheyvens, Banks and Hughes (2016).

The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals and its 169 targets require a variety of actors within the society to work together to achieve a better and more sustainable planet, all the goals are to be achieved by the year 2030 hence the name Agenda 2030. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), these 17 SDGs were formulated with the inclusion of civil society actors, businesses and 70 government representatives, thus portraying their universal character; Scheyvens, Banks and Hughes (2016).

The SDGs focuses on linking social, financial and natural aspects of life. There is a need to comprehend possible positive and negative connections among the SDGs as this can unveil their full potential so that maximum capacity and collaborations can be utilized appropriately; International Council for Science (ICSU) (2017).

Stafford-Smith et al. (2017) are of the view that, there should be a stronger focus on inter-linkages in three primary zones: across sectors (like the economy, energy, transport), across various actors (for example governments, local authorities, businesses) and between and among low, medium and high-income countries; as this can help in accomplishing sustainable development over the globe.

The narrative used in the SDGs mainly identifies with the transfer of technologies from “developed” to “less developed” countries; however, this framing could bring about a delay of equitable local economies or suppress opportunities to leapfrog development pathways of “developed” nations; Berkhout et al. (2010); Stafford-Smith et al. (2017).

The vision of the SDGs is to reach out to all and sundry, far and near, in either developed or developing countries for sustained equitable economic growth, with employment opportunities and decent employment for everyone, social integration, declining disparity, increasing productivity and an ideal environment by the year 2030. United Nations (2015). According to the SDGs, Goal 1 is focused on eliminating extreme poverty of all kinds by 2030 in every part of the world. The desire to eliminate poverty has become a serious world challenge because it is a core requirement to achieving sustainable development. It is seen clearly that, eradication of extreme poverty was not achieved during the Millennium Development Goals as a result, it has featured in the Sustainable Development Goals. Although world leaders strive to end poverty or extreme poverty, there are still traces of poverty and extreme poverty in Africa and Ghana is not exempted from this fact; United Nations (2015).

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Although there has been some significant effort throughout the world to eradicate poverty and extreme poverty over a long time, the United Nations in 2015 published in its report that about 10 % of the population on the globe live at or underneath \$1.90 every day. The report stated that, comparatively it was down from 16 % in 2010 and 36% in 1990. The same report indicated that,

ending extreme poverty can be achieved because of the above analysis. It however emphasized the decline has slowed United Nations (2015).

Poverty is the main issue confronting the developing nations; one billion inhabitants on the planet earth are living below one dollar a day. 2.7 billion individuals on the globe are living on under two dollars per day. Additionally, 11 million kids lose their lives each year, while 114 million kids don't accomplish essential literacy skills, and 584 million ladies are unskilled. In consistently, 6 million youngsters lose their lives because of malnutrition. On a daily bases, 800 million individuals remain hungry of which 300 million are kids. 2.6 billion individuals of the total populace (40%) on the globe are denied of essential sanitation and one billion individuals on the planet don't get to drink portable water; United Nations Millennium Project (2002).

Research has proven that more “developed countries” are better off in many sectors than highly “developing countries”. The more equal societies are, the greater the benefit from an economy that is more efficient, productive and stable, which contributes to further increasing overall economic prosperity. Social benefits of equality are enormous namely: a healthier population, higher life expectancies, higher quality relationships and societal integration, and reduced risk of conflict; Wilkinson & Pickett (2009).

In Ghana poverty levels has been classified according to regions. There a high reports of poverty levels of over 80% in the Upper-East and Upper-West regions,70% in the Northern Region, about 40% in Bono, Ahafo, Ashanti and Volta regions and below 10% in the Greater Accra .In the Western Region of Ghana, Wassa Amenfi Central (51%) have the highest poverty headcount, followed by Bodi (42%) and Mpohor (40.4%) poverty levels. The three districts also have high destitution profundity (17.1% for Wasa Amenfi Central, 13.7% for Bodi and 12.1% for Mpohor)

compared to the other districts. Suaman (6.0%), Wassa Amenfi West (6.9%) and Aowin (8.9%) districts have the lowest poverty headcounts in the region; Ghana Statistical Service (2015).

The above facts about the poverty situation in Ghana show that, disparities or inequalities continue to remain among Ghanaians in terms socio-economic activities in the various regions in Ghana. This further means that demographically, there are inequalities in the distribution of national resources and opportunities for economic growth. Therefore, ending extreme poverty and achieving sustainable development will only be a mirage if proper policies and measures are not put in place. As a result, of Ghana's effective participatory role in drafting the SDGs, the United Nations will be keenly monitoring Ghana's progress in achieving them.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1.4.1 General Objective

The main goal of the study is to examine the state of Sustainable Development Goal 1 (ending extreme poverty) at Kansawrodo in the Sekondi Takoradi Metropolis

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

The study seeks to;

- 1) Examine the extent of poverty and its disparities among the youth in Kansawrodo
- 2) Examine the extent to which Ghana's development agenda is in harmony with the aims of Sustainable Development Goal 1; in Kansawrodo
- 3) Examine the factors that may impede the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 1 in Kansawrodo.
- 4) Examine the relevant factors that determine the magnitude of extreme poverty in Kansawrodo.

1.5 Research Questions

The research questions to guide this study are as follows:

- 1) What are the causes of poverty and the relevant factors that determine the magnitude of extreme poverty in Kansawrodo?
- 2) What has been the effect of the extent of poverty and its disparities among the youth in Kansawrodo?
- 3) To what extent is Ghana's development agenda in harmony with the aims of Sustainable Development Goal 1?
- 4) What are the factors that impede the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 1 in Ghana?

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study focused on the factors that affected the eradication of extreme poverty in Ghana specifically in Kansawrodo Secondi Takoradi Municipality. It specifically paid attention to disparity in the allocation of wealth and employment opportunities which has led to the outcome of extreme poverty among the youth of Kansawrodo. SDG 1 aims at reducing or eliminating poverty and extreme poverty both within and among countries, but this study focused on Ghana's efforts at reducing extreme poverty within the country. In summary the state of SDG1 since its implementation in 2016 and how it has benefitted the youth in Kansawrodo community in the Western Region of Ghana.

1.7 Significance of the Study

The purpose of this study is to delve into the efforts towards eradicating extreme poverty in Ghana; since the inception of Sustainable Development Goals, in 2016. The findings and recommendations of this research will be available to the general public, academia, legislators, Economists, developers, political heads and policymakers for them to have a practical document to make reference to each time. This will also enable them to amend or formulate new policies either (short term, medium or long term) that can impact the lives of less privilege and vulnerable people within our societies and also propel Ghana's sustainable development by 2030. It will also educate them on how feasible Ghana's development agenda is, for them to harmonize it with the SDGs (Agenda 2030). The academic community, will find this study as a contribution to the existing body of knowledge on the subject of eradicating extreme poverty, and serve as possible reference material particularly for further research on achieving Agenda 2030 in Ghana; specifically, SDG1.

1.8 Definition of Terms

Poverty

World Bank, (1990: pg 26) defines poverty as the inability to attain minimal standard of living.

Todaro & Smith, (2012: pg 2) also define poverty and extreme poverty as “a situation of being unable to meet minimal levels of income, food, clothing, healthcare, shelter and other essentials”.

Absolute poverty: a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services; United Nations,

(1995). Concern for such absolute poverty is naturally greater where there is a risk of destitution than where all have access to means of survival Laderchi et al (2003).

Relative poverty: a standard which is measured in terms of the society in which an individual lives and which therefore differs between countries and over time; JRF (2013).

Poverty line: refers to the minimum level of income deemed adequate in a particular country Ravallion (1992). To aid in cross-country comparisons, in 2008 the World Bank reviewed the international poverty line to \$1.25/day at 2005-based purchasing-power parity; Ravallion et al. (2009).

Poverty trap: a state where poverty tends to persist due to self-reinforcing mechanisms; Azariadis and Stachurski (2005). These negative feedbacks are found between poverty and a number of circumstances such as undernourishment, lack of access to insurance, population growth, a degraded environment and even economic growth.

Sustainable Development

The World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission) Sustainable development: development that meet the needs of the present without compromising the need of future generations to meet their own needs, World Commission on Environment and Development (1987).

Shared prosperity: growth in the income or consumption of the bottom 40 % of a country's population; World Bank (2016).

Inequality: the unequal or unfair distribution of assets, resources, or opportunities, resulting in an unfair gap in economic and human development outcomes between individuals or groups within a population KNBS & SID (2013).

Youth: United Nations (2008) refer to persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years as youth.

Human Development Index (HDI) is an index that measures key dimensions of human development. The three key dimensions are: a long and healthy life, -measured by life expectancy, Access to education, and decent standard of living; United Nations Development Program (2019).

1.9 Limitation

The research encountered cost and time constraints. This is because the study was supposed to be completed within a couple of months. As a result of limited resources, it was difficult to collect many samples. The issue of time constraint made the researcher only focus on just one community in the Western Region thus Kansawrodo. This means that the results of this study cannot be generalized for the whole Western Region making it less reliable. The outcome of the research was representative of the community where the sample size was taken. Additionally, the communities were geographically generally scattered which required more resources in the moving to the other targeted communities. The outbreak of COVID-19 across the globe also made it difficult for the researcher to start the data collection on time hence the delay in the data collection.

10. Organization of the Study

The study is organized into five different chapters. The first chapter which is chapter one, presents the study by highlighting on the background of the problem, problem statement, the study objectives and questions, scope, definition of terms, limitation and the significance of the study. The next chapter is chapter two. This chapter gives a review of scholarly works that are relevant to the study. The third chapter delves into the methods used in the conduct of the study, which included the research design, target population, sampling techniques, sample size, methods of data collection, as well as instruments. The fourth chapter looks at the presentation of findings, data analysis and discussion of data obtained from the field. The final chapter which is chapter five gives a summary of findings, concludes the study and gives recommendation to relevant issues in the study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The chapter provides a detailed account of the study by going through scholarly articles, and other sources relevant to the study, or theories. It also provided a description, summary, and critical evaluation of the study.

2.2 Theoretical Framework of the study

The theoretical framework is concerned with theories which are important to the study. It therefore analyses and comments on various theories which the study is penned in.

2.3 Definition of the concept of Poverty

JRF refers to poverty as the circumstance where a person's resources (mainly their material resources) are not adequate to meet minimum needs (including social participation) JRF (2013).

Although the socio-economic conditions for defining poverty may differ from one nation to the other, the United Nations in an attempt to give a universal definition to poverty, defined poverty to include both the developing and developed countries. During the summit, (Copenhagen Declaration of the United Nations in (1995) leading to that declaration, it was concurred that poverty includes lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic

services; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also portrayed by lack of participation in decision making and in civil, social and cultural life United Nations (1995).

2.4 Measuring poverty

The poverty levels of countries differ because of many socio-economic and environmental reasons. Therefore, there is a need to have a globally accepted definition and criteria to measure the depth of poverty before we can come up with measures to eliminate or reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development in every part of the globe.

The World Bank, Ravallion and Chen (2008) opine that there should be a common method used to measure poverty which should be based on incomes or consumption levels. Therefore, a person is considered poor if his or her consumption or income level falls below some minimum level necessary to meet basic needs. This minimum level is usually called the poverty line. In an attempt to analyze the level of poverty worldwide, a similar benchmark for the poverty line has to be used, and communicated in a common unit across countries. Therefore, for the reason for global aggregation and comparison is that, the World Bank uses reference lines set at \$1.25 and \$2 per day (in 2005 Purchasing Power Parity terms). Such a basic monetary approach to measuring destitution is globally used, for example in tracking progress towards the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals. It is the same standards used for the Sustainable Development Goal. Such extremely low-income levels are usually found in the sub-Saharan Africa and Ghana cannot be exempted from this. For example, in certain cases of extreme poverty (e.g. the homeless), can depend on such levels of earnings.

Additionally, the World Bank (2004) gives more nitty gritty meaning of poverty adaptable to various nation conditions in order to measure poverty adequately. They said poverty is referred to as pronounced deprivation in well-being, comprising many dimensions. It includes low livelihoods, the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity.

Furthermore, they explained that, poverty incorporates low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of (political) voice, and insufficient capacity and chance to better one's life. Displaying both total and relative elements, this comprises a very broad definition which includes the multi-dimensional character of poverty and the somewhat elusive concept of dignity, while stressing, more than any of the other definitions discussed, the significance of political and individual freedoms.

The European Commission, likewise has a contemporary perspective of what poverty is and the yardstick that every country should use to gauge poverty. According to them, individuals are said to be living in poverty if their earnings and resources are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a way of live considered satisfactory in the society in which they live. As a result of their poverty, they may experience drawbacks through unemployment, low income, poor housing, inadequate health care and barriers to lifelong learning, culture, sport and recreation. European Commission (2004).

2.5 Sustainable Development Goals

The year 2015 denoted the end of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) era, the 15-year cycle of the United Nations' anti-poverty strategies and policies for the years spanning 2000-

2015. The eight goals were the world's time-bound, measured and globally-agreed targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions during that time frame. Among the issues member states sought to address were

reducing income poverty and hunger, preventing deadly disease, while simultaneously promoting gender equality, universal free education, and environmental sustainability. The MDGs boast of a variety of achievements since the year 2000: liberating more than 1 billion people from extreme poverty; reducing child mortality by more than half; and decreasing HIV/AIDS infections by almost 40 %, among others. However, the success of the MDGs has been uneven across the world. Those disadvantaged because of their gender, disability, poverty status, age, or geographic location have not benefitted as much or at all. Consensus at the United Nations General Assembly was that targeted efforts would be required in the next era of global development agenda, if the vulnerable groups in society were to be reached; United Nations (2015).

This universal approach, which is geared towards all states, is certainly one of the special features of the SDGs, a development plan that according to David Nabarro, UN Special Adviser on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, turns virtually all countries into “developing countries” Igoe (2016). It is not just about raising the wealth of the population from "poor and weak" countries, but also correcting the aberrations and exaggerated yields of nature and resources that are taking place, especially in industrialized countries and emerging economies such as China. Resource-intensive and emission-intensive growth, which has been the case to date and continues to do so, endangers the livelihoods of not only the poorest but also the basis of all people and future generations. Therefore, a decoupling of development and asset utilization

must occur; Hennicke and Khosla (2014). While economic growth is still seen as central “element” of the post-2015 agenda, it is framed as “inclusive economic growth” as a mean to address inequalities United Nations (2014). The SDGs, in contrast to their predecessors, which were especially designed for developing countries, explicitly address all countries in the world. However, it is not only the nation states that are called upon to contribute to sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda also explicitly addresses civil society, from non-governmental organizations to the individual, as well as science, industry and business, and thus directly private sector companies; Scheyvens, Banks and Hughes (2016).

With 17 main objectives and 169 targets of the major categories: people's well-being (“people”), protection of the earth's ecosystems (“planet”), prosperity and progress in harmony (“prosperity”), peacekeeping (“peace”) and a strengthened international partnership (“Partnership”), the SDGs are far more extensive than their predecessors, which included only eight goals UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform (2015). In spite of all this, some researchers see this universal approach of the SDGs as unlikely to represent an adequate tool for addressing structural and systemic causes contributing to global poverty Fukuda-Parr and McNeill (2015). Further, they criticize the inequalities between countries and among different levels of development that are neglected through these one-size-fits-all targets and that, this simple and concrete approach ignores issues such as stabilization of financial markets and strengthening of regulation for money laundering Fukuda-Parr and McNeill (2015).

Another school of thought outlines some of the short comings of the SDGs and what can hinder it achievement by 2020. Lomborg (2015), a think tank opine that the 17 goals and 169 targets set by the United Nations are too many compared to the 8 MDGs with their 18 associated targets. It is further stated that the goals are repetitive, often unclear, and do not offer clear guidance on

how they should be implemented, monitored or evaluated. They further argue that spreading energy and resources trying to achieve all goals and targets would reduce the overall benefit of pursuing them, hence countries should deliberately choose goals and targets that meet their specific needs; Lomborg (2015).

2.6 Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 1 in Ghana

Ghana has a record of being the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa to attain MDG target 1 by halving extreme poverty by 2006. The moderately solid and inclusive economic growth that the nation has encountered throughout the last twenty years has also resulted in the reduction of the poverty rate from 24.2 % in 2012/2013 to 23.8 per cent in 2016/2017. Nevertheless, population growth between 2013 and 2017 overwhelmed the decrease of the overall poverty rate.

To accomplish SDG1 (annihilate extraordinary destitution in all dimension by 2030), Ghana has started executing a few mediations to create occupations and grow the economy. Thus, the government of Ghana has re-composed its Infrastructure for Poverty Eradication Program (IPEP) which are being managed through three Development Authorities (for example Savannah, Coastal, and Middle Belt). The program gives the structure to dispensing a unique store of what could be compared to 1,000,000 US dollars every year to every one of the 275 voting constituencies in the nation, to be invested into their priority development projects as well as other government priority initiatives such as Free Senior High School, One Village One dam and One District One Factory, Ghana SDGs Budget Report (2019).

The report further indicates that, for the 2019 financial year, Government allocated a total amount of 383.6 million to Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) for targets in relation to SDG 1. This includes of

five main funding sources; Government of Ghana (GoG) with 273.9 million representing 71.41% of the total funds, other funds 66.75 million, Statutory 34.10 million, DP 6.54 million and Internally Generated Fund (IGF) 2.30 million. For example, under the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) programme, a total of 213,044 households received support for the year 2018. The coverage of the Ghana School Feeding Programme also increased by 54 % from 1.7 million to 2.6 million beneficiary pupils (ibid). From the above, it is evident that Ghana has prioritize SDG1 by introducing some development programs that are in harmony with Sustainable Development Goal 1 as well as the other SDGs so as to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030.

2.7 Poverty and Inequality in Ghana

Researchers and policy-makers representing the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) have continually presented a discouraging outlook on the state of poverty and inequality worldwide. The general trend was that wealth inequality within most countries continued to be on the rise, as documented in the 2016 World Social Science Forum Report, *Challenging Inequalities: Pathways to a Just World* ISSC, IDS, & UNESCO (2016).

A study conducted by the World Bank similarly concludes that income gaps since 2008 had widened in 34 of the 83 countries monitored for their study. It was further indicated that the incomes of the richest 60% in those countries increased faster than incomes of the poorest 40% World Bank (2016).

The Poverty Mapping Report by the Ghana Statistical Service in 2015 demonstrated the accompanying: the headcount rate, number of helpless people, profundity of poverty and imbalance for the 216 constituencies in Ghana shows that the three northern districts actually remain the most unfortunate in the nation. For example, the report uncovered that the Upper West overall has a poverty pace of 70.7 percent. Be that as it may, inside the locale, there is a wide variety in the headcount rate across regions. It goes from a low of around 36 percent in Wa Municipal to roughly 84 percent in Wa East and in excess of 90 percent in Wa West. The guide likewise uncovers the presence of pockets of neediness and islands of success. The poverty rate in Adaklu area (89.7%) in Volta Region is more than two and half times the local normal (33.8%). Albeit Greater Accra has the most reduced poverty rate in the nation, destitution is moved in two locale – Ningo Prampram (31.2%) and Shai Osudoku (55.1%). In the Northern locale where the headcount rate is 50.4 percent, two areas have poverty paces of under 30 percent – Tamale Metropolis (24.6%) and Sagnerigu Municipal (29.3%). Profundity of destitution gauges how much underneath the poverty line the helpless' way of life of the poor is. The lower the profundity of poverty, the closer the poor are to the poverty line, and the other way around, Ghana Statistical Service (2015).

2.8 Theoretical Framework

There are different theories that can be used to explain the subject matter in the literature review. However, the researcher selected Marxism theory, the theory of distributive justice and the Behavioral/Decision-Based Theory; alongside all their related dimensions, in order to interrogate the issue of extreme poverty.

2.9 Marxism Theory

The father of modern economics, and the First theorist of capitalism, is Adam Smith. He throws light on,” An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations” (1776). Smith is of the view that, the natural laws of a capitalist economy, which constitutes the concepts of government deregulation of the economy, voluntary exchange of goods and services, a pricing system determined by competition, surplus value, and capital accumulation. He makes it emphatically clear that, decision-making and investment are consequently determined by the owners of the factors of production Smith (1776).

In with the above, there are some advantages and disadvantages of capitalism that arise from its inherent features.

There are some schools of thought that have criticized capitalism and one of them is Karl Marx, and his views are in the three-volume work, dubbed Capital: A Critique of Political Economy (1867). According to him, capitalism gave rise to ‘commodity fetishism’- the valuation of products more in terms of their price rather and potential for profit, than their practical usefulness. Explaining that, while some people bought commodities for the purposes of consumption, others bought them in order to sell them on at a profit (Marx, 1867). Karl Marx in his analysis of capitalism brings about an understanding of one of the system’s paramount flaws: the law of capital accumulation. He further explains that the surplus value created from the system of commodities is an exploitation of the workers, but referred to as ‘profit’ by the capital owners. Motivated by the desire for more profit, capitalists invest in more productive and efficient technology and systems that replace the labor force. The workers become comparably less productive and valuable in the economy, and are either made redundant, or are paid lower wages that reflect their lower economic value.

He stresses that those at a particular risk is the unskilled workforce, as they continuously lose the ability to escape poverty. The capitalists get richer through more investment in capital, the working class whose wages do not appreciate as fast get poorer, resulting in increasing disparity between the classes (the bourgeoisies and the proletariats) if the situation is left unchecked.

Marx envisages that, the collapse of capitalism was inevitable, because it had within itself the drawbacks that would destroy it. He argued that the tension between the rich and the poor would lead to a violent uprising by the latter, in an attempt to redistribute wealth Marx (1867).

2.10 Distributive Justice

The Marxist theory has a clear limitation that other schools of thought have talked about and that is; the solution it offers to the problem of inequality is through aggressive and violent means, without taking into account, policy approaches or structural changes to capitalism. However, another author John Rawls tries to solve this same problem of inequality and distributive justice in his book *A Theory of Justice* (1971). He argues that, the concept of 'justice' is synonymous with 'fairness'. Rawls devices a thought experiment, known as 'the original position', through which he arrives at the two principles guiding of his moral philosophy. In this original position, an observer imagines themselves in a conscious intelligent state before birth, covered by what he calls a 'veil of ignorance.'

Under this veil of ignorance, the observer is to ignore all factors that would offer a person some economic advantage over others within their society, such as family background, race, religion, talent, health, among others. The next thing is that, the observer should determine what type of society they would like to be born into, not knowing which family they would end up in.

According to Rawls, (1971) the logical result of this experiment is that most observers would choose an outcome that reflects a risk-averse scenario; one that presents the most advantage to the weakest members. Such a society would have its resources and privileges distributed in a way that affords all members a fair chance at living a decent life, regardless of their race, health status, profession, or family background Rawls (1971). This natural human tendency towards a more equal society forms Rawls' distributive justice argument.

Trying to build on Rawls' theory, Armstrong (2012) explains two philosophical approaches towards distributive justice, which he defines as "...how the benefits and burdens of living together are to be shared out (among) us Armstrong (2012, p. 16)." According to the egalitarian approach, whose core assumption is that all people are inherently equal, hence socio-economic stratification of society should not exist. The approach further explains that, approach, resources and opportunities ought to be redistributed in a manner that allows all citizens to have access to them equally.

Another important tenet of the egalitarian approach that Armstrong throws light on is that, the responsibility to ensure equality is not upon the state, but instead on non-state actors: global institutions and individuals concerned with addressing inequality.

The Second approach is the minimalist approach, which Armstrong (2012) classifies as the less ambitious. Theorists using this approach advocate for a situation where all members of society have access to a decent basic minimum standard of living, and any inequality that exists thereafter is justifiable. Armstrong further gives the example that a country like Denmark, with high basic standards of living for all its citizens, is justified in having wealth inequality because everyone can have a decent life.

In line with Armstrong's approaches to distributive justice, Forsyth (2014) proposes five methods used in the distribution of wealth, resources and social goods, the choice of which depends on the norms of a particular society:

a) Equity: What a member receives is based on their inputs. An individual who has put in more time, money, or resources receives more from the group than someone contributing less. This is common in societies and groups with many members.

b) Equality: All members in a group receive an equal share of the costs or rewards, regardless of how much they contribute to the former.

c) Power: Those in an elevated position of authority, status, or control over the group receive more than those in lower positions.

d) Need: Those with the greatest needs in a group or society are provided with adequate resources to meet their needs, regardless of their input.

e) Responsibility: Those in a group possessing a larger portion of the resources share it with those possessing less Forsyths (2014).

2.11 Behavioral/Decision-Based Theory

Esping-Andersen (1990) mentions in his "three regime" classification of different welfare models currently in use in different developed nations, classical views on poverty correspond for the most part to the market-espousing, laissez-faire principle that tends to attribute responsibility for the outcomes of people, for example, their prosperity and wellbeing, depends on their own financial choices. Thus, in this view, individuals are to be considered answerable for their encounters of poverty, which are altogether connected to absolutely singular deficiencies.

Rank et al. (2003) underpins the above view that, these individual traits can run from the absence of an enterprising hard-working attitude or high-minded ethical quality to low levels of education or competitive market skills, a view which they argue has made progress since the mid-1970s. This suggests there is basically no function for the state to intercede, given that; the individual characteristics that cause destitution or poverty are either "givens" or determined by market forces.

Furthermore, the behavioral view was also pervasive during the 19th century, when it was generally believed that poverty was necessary because otherwise the laborers would not be motivated to work Townsend (1979). Policy was therefore interwoven with notions of laissez-faire, which at the time linked "virtue with work". This point of view on poverty was also highly influenced by the prevailing principle of "conditional welfare for the few" as in the Victorian Poor Law. The policy prescriptions derived from this principle focused on keeping public redistributive expenditure low and subject to means testing, while maximizing relief through charity and voluntary effort. Hence, this understanding of the issue of poverty revolves around the belief that the poor self-select into deprivation, which is not the result of market failure, but, rather, the result of shortcomings in their own effort and capabilities Townsend (1979). Broadly speaking, the only reason left to support the poor is out of morality: help or aid is not conceived of in any other way (such as, for example, as a form of investment in their skills). Given the purely ethical *raison d'être* of poverty alleviation, the preferred method of relief was charity-based assistance.

It is important to emphasize that, in this strand of classical literature, which hypothesizes that low productivity and/or non-involvement in markets is the result of conscious choice, it is believed that individuals themselves play an active part in influencing their outcomes, with little

to no role for the social and/or political environment surrounding them. The crucial underlying premise is thus that, although other options are available, they still make choices that limit their access to economic resources, thereby raising their risk of ending up in poverty Blank (2010). This leads the proponents of this approach to oppose the use of subsidies as a measure to alleviate poverty.

Kasandra and Ting (1996), among others, suggest the following alternative small-scale measures to welfare transfers in an effort to prevent a "welfare trap" where people lack an incentive to work; first, decentralize affordable housing and improve transit options, second, cut welfare benefits and increase wages through tax incentives, and third, train social service staff to assist welfare recipients in moving from welfare to work. Even if there is disagreement about the actual size of the incentive misalignment effect, the latter type of policy options have been widely promoted by classical thinkers and adopted in advanced industrial countries such as the UK. Review of Economic Theories of Poverty (2014).

The "negative-decisions" argument is most often invoked when anti-poverty programs are aimed at providing short-term income relief to the poor, rather than long-term development aid which develops capabilities and supplies opportunities in terms of jobs, education and health care. It is contended that behavioral disincentives to escape poverty may prevail as long as subsidies for the poor remain available. In most of the developed world, including the UK, this logic has generated major discussion and concern around "welfare dependence" Review of Economic Theories of Poverty (2014).

2.12Chapter Summary

Chapter 2 contains a review of different literature on inequality that exist in the society among the poor and the rich by leading scholars and institutions from old times to the current

dispensation, the chapter also gives information on the theoretical framework for the study, drawing reference from Marxist theory's explanation of inequalities resulting from exploitation inherent in capitalist economic systems. The rationale for addressing inequality is then derived from John Rawls' theory of distributive justice, and the minimalist approach that can help reduce extreme poverty and inequality in the society; such as policy approaches referred to originate from the World Bank's research and the United Nations. Finally, the Behavioral/Decision-Based Theory was used to explain the fact that, the individual within various societies or countries have a major role to play when it comes to escaping poverty based on the choices the make in line with socio-economic and environmental factors.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the type of research methodology to be used in the study. It comprises of the study design, methods of sampling, population, sample size, source of data, data collection instruments, ethics, reliability and validity, profile of the study area and analyses, data presentation.

3.2 Research Approach

The researcher used a qualitative study. This is because it gives the researcher the opportunity to observe real social life and its natural setting or habitat. The qualitative study allows the researcher to find answers to inquires through the use of efficient techniques.

Qualitative research also looks to respond to inquiries by examining various social settings and individuals who live in these settings. Qualitative research also permits the researcher to be concerned with qualitative phenomena. It allows the researcher to show enthusiasm about how human beings arrange themselves in their settlements and how inhabitants understand their environment through symbols, rituals and social roles.

3.3 Research Design and type of study

According to Brink and Wood (1998:100) the purpose of a research is fundamentally to give a plan for responding to the research question and “is a blue print for action”. It is the overall plan that explains the methodologies that the researcher uses to develop accurate objective and interpretative data.

Case study is the research design chosen by the researcher for the study. It comprises of an investigation of a phase of the problem. Case study is significant because it allows a single researcher the opportunity to study in details a part of a situation in time limit; Stake (2005) in Creswell, Hanson, Clark Plano & Morales (2007). Additionally, it gives a nitty gritty feature that make up the individualism of a social entity, a person, family, social institution, or community that is deliberately investigated. Case study through the study of aspects gets to comprehend the arrangement of the social unit.

The case study was used by the researcher because Kansawrodo is a single community located in the Sekondi Takoradi metropolis.

3.4 Population Study

De Vos & Schulze (1998), defines a population as the whole set of individuals or units of the study from which the researcher can select.

The total population of Sekondi Takoradi is 559,548; therefore, the total population of youth in Sekondi Takoradi within the age bracket of 15-24 years is estimated to be 126,106 with a growth rate of 6.08 % per annum; Ghana Statistical Service (2012) ,2010 Population and Housing Census. Kansawrodo is located in the Sekondi Takoradi Municipality. It was selected because it is one of the densely populated communities in the Sekondi Takoradi metropolis. (Ghana Statistical Service, 2012, MLGRD, 2006 and STMA, 2010).

3.5 Sampling technique

Sampling comprises a process of choosing a subsection of a population that speaks to the whole population in order to request for data regarding a phenomenon of interest. A sample is the subsection of the population, which is chosen to participate in a study. There are two techniques

of sampling, one yields probability samples in which the probability of the selection of each respondent is guaranteed. The other yields non-probability samples in which the probability of selection is unknown Polit & Hungler, (1995:279). The researcher employed the use of purposive sampling which is mostly used in a qualitative research and it is a type of non -probability sampling method. The researcher used purposive sampling because it helps to select respondents based on the purpose of the study, with the expectation that each participant will provide rich and exceptional information which will be of value to the study. As result of this, members of the accessible population are not interchangeable and sample size was determined by data saturation and not by measurable data analysis.

3.6 Inclusion criteria

Rees: (1997:134) is of the view that inclusion criteria are “the characteristics that is required are those in our sample to possess”.

3.7 Exclusion criteria

Talbot (1990) cited in Rees: (1997:134) explains exclusive criteria as” a characteristic that a member may have, that could adversely influence the exactness of the results”. In this study, youth who are graduates and gainfully employed were excluded because the researcher felt that they may most likely not have enough information on the topic.

3.8 Sample Size

This alludes to the number of items to be chosen from the universe to form the sample. Since the target population for the study will be based on young people (youth) within the age range of 15-24 years who are poor in Kansawrodo. In this study 15 poor young people comprising (8 males and 7 females) were used for the study. In total fifteen (15) people will be interviewed. The

sample size for the research was selected because sample size determination in qualitative study always adopts an alternate strategy. It is generally a subjective judgment, as the research proceeds, one of the methods is to continue to include participants until saturation is used.

3.9 Source of Data

The study depended on both secondary data and primary data, this is because huge data sets analyzed for the study are available in the public domain from the internet, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), Ministry of Finance and other web sources.

For the primary source of data, the researcher interacted and sought information from individuals using interview. This implies that, the primary source data included the various respondents from whom information was directly taken from at first hand. The source of primary data was from the sampled respondents who gave out the direct information through interview.

Also, the secondary sources which comprises of articles, reports, research, books, and research works provided information for the researcher to work with. The primary and secondary sources contributed immensely to the whole research since they serve as a major basis and background on which the research is built. Therefore, these are the two sources of data that was used in this study. In other words, responses from respondents and information from books, articles, journals, and some related searches were used.

3.10 Data Collection Instrument

The main qualitative method applied in this thesis is semi-structured qualitative interviews. An interview guide was used applying a special form of it; expert interviews; Deeke (1995) cited in Flick (2007, p. 214). In gathering information from the sampled respondents an interview guide

was employed. The researcher used semi- structured interview because it permitted the researcher to pose questions which are frequently more general in their frame of reference from what is typically found in a structured interview schedule. This also enabled the researcher to further pose questions in response to what was seen as significant responses.

3.11 Data Collection Method

In this study, the data collection exclusively depends on the researcher. The respondents were educated on the details of the interview session. Also, an affirmation of confidentiality and anonymity of information was given to permit a cooperative and responsible participation with respect to every one of the respondents. The respondents were then posed questions based on the interview guide and questions outside the interview guide prepared by the researcher and respondents answered appropriately.

3.12 Ethical Considerations

Burns and Grove (1993:762) define anonymity as when subjects cannot be connected, even by the researcher, with his or her individual responses.

As a result of the delicate nature of the research topic, the state of SDG1 (the eradication of poverty) in Kansawrodo in the Western Region of Ghana, it was important that the data furnished by the respondents was treated with confidentiality, and their identities (names) remained anonymous, and respondents were allowed to decline to partake whenever. The researcher before the interview assured the respondents that their identities will remain unknown and the information they provide will be treated with utmost confidentiality. The respondents were given prior information on the day and time of the interview.

3.13 Validity and Reliability

(a) Reliability

Polit and Hungler (1993:445) refer to reliability as the degree of consistency with which an instrument measures the attribute it is designed to measure. The interview questions that were answered by the respondents were examined by the supervisor for the necessary inputs before taking it to the field. This was done in order to ensure consistency in response when the interview is done.

(b) Validity

Polit and Hungler (1993:448) are of the view that content validity refers to the extent to which an instrument represents the factors under study. To achieve content validity, the interview guide included a variety of questions on the knowledge of the respondents about SDG1 (eradicating extreme poverty) and governments efforts to eradicate poverty.

The questions were based on the information gathered during the literature review to ensure that they were a representative of what the respondents knew about eradication of extreme poverty.

3.14 Profile of the Study Area

Sekondi-Takoradi is a twin city situated in the western part of the country along the coast. The twin city started as two separate (2) settlements, Sekondi and Takoradi in the early 17th Century that has grown into two towns. Sekondi is older and larger than Takoradi as colonial masters preferred to settle there. Takoradi grew spontaneously due to the port activities while Sekondi steadily grew mainly because of the transport of minerals via the rail infrastructure. With passage

of time and population growth the two towns merged into a twin city; CHF International Ghana (2012). It has a population size of 559,548 (273,436 males and 286,112 females) which is estimated to be (23.5% of western region's population) inhabitants and has been recently designated as the "oil city" as it hosts the off shore activities of the oil. It has a land size of 49 square kilometers and is bounded to the north by Mpohor Wassa East District, to the east by Shama District, to the southwest by Ahanta west District and the southeast by the sea (Gulf of Guinea). (Ghana Statistical Service, 2012, MLGRD, 2006 and STMA, 2010). Administratively, Sekondi -Takoradi is the capital city of Western Region as well as the metropolitan capital and managed by Sekondi -Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA). Kansawrodo is a suburb the town of Takoradi. It operates on a 4- tier local government system comprising the STMA (upper-tier), Sub-Metros, Town/Area Council and Unit Committees (lower-tier). There are 4 Sub-Metros which comprises Takoradi, Sekondi, Essikado-Ketan and Effia-Kwesiminstim (Ghana Statistical Service, 2012, MLGRD, 2006 and STMA, 2010). The city has infrastructure and services including educational facilities, road infrastructure, port infrastructure, water, waste management system, public toilets facilities, health facilities and electricity supply for inhabitants CHF International Ghana (2012).

3.15 Data Presentation and Analysis

The data that was gathered was presented on based on qualitative analysis. The raw data collected from the field was recorded, transcribed and written down in their vivid forms. The themes were then generated from the information gathered that was transcribed. In presenting the findings, tables and interpretations were used in analyzing the data obtained on the demographic features of the respondents. With regards to the findings on the objectives of the study, participants' responses were analyzed and discussed thematically.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis of data which was gathered from the study. The results of the study are further discussed along with the stated objectives of the study, situating the findings in literature with other empirical studies to conform or dismiss other findings. Additionally, in accordance with this, the study was conducted using 15 respondents. This segment deals with the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants, causes of poverty among the youth, the factors that impede the eradication of extreme poverty, the impact of poverty and its disparities among the youth.

4.1 Socio- Demographic Characteristics of Participants

The findings of the study used participants whose age bracket was between, the ages of 15 years to 24 years. Out of this, the findings of the study revealed that (2. 13) are 15 and 17 years of age, (3. 20) are between the ages of 18 and 20, whilst the rest of them (10. 6) of the participants are between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

In terms of religious affiliation, the study indicated that, majority of the participants were Christians and only few were Muslims. Furthermore, most of the participants were living with their biological parents, while few of them were living with one relative or the other. In other words, some were not living with their biological parents, while a greater number of them were living with their biological parents. Also, the study determined the educational status of the participants, and findings suggested that majority had not completed basic school and Junior High School; while few of them had not gone to any school.

The discoveries of the study utilized members whose age section was between, the ages of 15 years to 24 years. Out of this, the discoveries of the research uncovered that (2. 13) are 15 and 17 years old, (3. 20) are between the ages of 18 and 20, while most of them (10. 67) of the members are between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

Table 4.1 Socio- demographic characteristics of Participants

Participants	Age	Religion	Guardian Relationship	Educational status
P, 1	15 years	Christian	Biological Parent	Primary
P, 2	15 years	Christian	Biological Parent	Primary
P, 3	17 years	Christian	Biological Parent	Primary
P, 4	18 years	Muslim	Biological Parent	Primary
P,5	18 years	Christian	Auntie	Junior High
P,6	20 years	Christian	Biological Parent	Primary
P, 7	19 years	Christian	Uncle	Not Educated
P,8	22 years	Christian	Biological Parent	Junior High
P,9	23years	Christian	Step Parent	Not educated
P,10	24 years	Christian	Biological Parent	Primary
P,11	20years	Muslim	Biological Parent	Primary
P,12	17 years	Christian	Biological Parent	Primary
P, 13	16 years	Muslim	Grandmother	Not educated
P,14	20 years	Muslim	Step Parent	Not educated
P,15	24 years	No Religious affiliation	Biological Parent	Not educated

Source: Field data, 2020

From the above data, few of the participants were between the ages of 15-17 years others 18-20 years, and 21 -24 years. Furthermore, majority of the participants were Christians, and few were Muslims, with one person who was not affiliated to any religion. Also, majority of the participants were living with their biological parents, and few were not living with their biological parent, and most of the participants had so basic education whiles few of them had never been to schools.

4.2 Causes of Poverty among Youth

The study sought the causes of extreme poverty among the youth in Kansawrodo. In view of this, the study participants said that the reason why they are poor is because of financial problems, lack of employment, and over dependency and other external factors. According to them, the earning hand may only be one; making it tough to escape poverty as the average number of people in a household is sometimes 7 to 8. Therefore, there is a high dependency ratio which intensifies poverty. Joint family system is causing destitution. These responses are categorized into various themes that are discussed below:

4.2.1 Financial Problems and over dependency

Findings of the study revealed that poverty among the youth is as a result of lack of financial support, (i.e. financial problems). In view of this, it was established that one of the major reasons of poverty trap or absolute poverty is as a result of the poor financial situation of the guardian or parents of these youth. This was evidenced by a participant, who indicated that:

“I am poor because of the financial situation of my parents. I am unemployed so I cannot support myself and parents at home.” (Personal Communication. Respondent 9, Date of the interview: 9th September, 2020).

This was confirmed by another participant who is of the view that:

“I hawk because my parents are poor and are in the village, I live with my grandmother and six younger siblings, and because she is old and weak, I have to hawk on the streets to support myself, siblings and my grandmother... we are poor and do not get any financial support from any family member” (Personal Communication. Respondent13, Date of the interview: 10th September, 2020).

Interpretation: From the Personal Communication of Respondents 13 and 9 there is an indication that, there is a high dependency and most of them is because of their family background and dependency. Since they are not gainfully employed, they are always trapped in poverty.

4.2.2 Lack of Commitment from Successive Governments and Rapid Population Growth

Some of the participants said that they do not think that government is committed to eradicating extreme poverty from Ghana. This is because, lack of capital is the reason of lack of saving and income to invest in any business venture to earn a living. They argued that it has been 63 years since our colonial masters gave us independence yet, only a few industries have been built. The ones which were built in Dr. Nkrumah’s era have collapsed. The population of Ghana has increased tremendously, but successive governments have not built more factories to create jobs for the youth. The few jobs in the system cannot employ all the youth. If many of the youth are unemployed or do not have skills to be self-employed; the Agenda 2030 of (SDG1) eliminating extreme poverty in Ghana will only be a dream which may never see the light of day.

According to a participant:

(Responses)

“Hmmm, I am not happy that I and my family of four cannot afford 3 square meals a day and always thinking of how to survive the next day. But Madam, trust me without proper commitment by government to create more jobs and create opportunities for the youth, we can never

eradicate extreme poverty” (Personal Communication. Respondent7, Date of the interview: 9th September, 2020).”

This was supported by another participant who also said that:

“If government does not come up with short- term and long-term policies and strategies to curb the unemployment problem in Ghana, there is no way we can eliminate extreme poverty. Successive Governments must stay committed to the agenda of creating more employment and conducive environment for businesses to thrive. My parents are poor so if I do not get a job to support our home we will not survive and worse of all we will be trapped in poverty. The only government interventions we are on are the National Health Insurance Scheme and the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) which ranges from 64GH to 106GH per month depending on the number of dependents one has. Although it cushions us, the amount is too meager ((Personal Communication. Respondent 4, Date of the interview: 8th September, 2020).

Interpretation: There is a clear indication that both respondent 7 and 4 are of the view that, the without government commitment to create more jobs, there is no way extreme poverty can be eliminated. Respondent 4 is of the view that the amount for LEAP is small and needs to be increased.

4.3 Unfair Distribution of National Resources

There is inadequate infrastructure like schools, hospitals, road network, factories, electricity and access to portable water. Many of the youth as a result, want to migrate to the capital towns and cities to attend school, seek quality healthcare services and look for greener pastures. According to a participant:

“The unfair distribution of national resources in the various towns cause poverty in Ghana, if adequate infrastructure is not fairly built to serve the citizens, we can never eliminate extreme poverty from Ghana. You just look at our road network and our bad drainage system” (Personal Communication. Respondent 6, Date of the interview: September 9th,2020).

This was supported by another participant who also said that:

“Madam, this current government made promises during the 2016 elections to embark on the following projects: one district one factory, one district one dam, planting for food and jobs, free Senior High School, building of district hospitals and schools and continue the school feeding program. If they remain committed and they are able to execute the programs outlined above, then poverty can be reduced. But if they don’t stay committed; then I am afraid eliminating extreme poverty and hunger from our society can never be achieved. I have not gotten any job from the government yet as I speak....” (Personal Communication. Respondent5, Date of the interview: September, 8th 2020).

Interpretation: There is a clear indication that Respondent 5 and 6 that, government must stay committed to its development agenda and fairly distribute national resources in order to promote economic growth and eliminate poverty.

4.4 Feminization of Poverty

According to Martin (2008) women constitute 70% of the poor in the world, he further explains that about 1.5 billion women globally live on 1 dollar or less than 1 dollar a day. This distressing situation is referred to as the “feminization of poverty”. These women have very limited resources to basic services such as education, health, land, credit, capabilities, entitlement and inheritance. Their hard work and labour are not to be considered as a reward and recognized in the poor segment of society. Women most of the times have not got enough resources to empower themselves and remain dependent. Sometimes they face discrimination in the socio-cultural and political environment making them more vulnerable than men, hence the reason most women being poor or trapped in absolute poverty.

According to a participant:

Responses:

I am a single mother taking care of four children; my children are between the ages of 2 and 8 years. I don't want my children to be trapped in poverty like myself so, I take two of my children to school while I go to the market to work as a dishwasher in a chop bar with the youngest at my back and I receive 10GH a day. The elderly one who is 8 years old helps me to sell food stuffs at the market. How well can I feed myself and my kids if I don't put all these measures in place? The elderly one “dier” I don't make her go to school; she has been helping me but the other two go to school. I need help please...” (Personal Communication. (Respondent 11, Date of the interview: 10th September, 2020)

This was supported by another participant who also said that:

Madam, as you can see, I have two children that I am taking care of. I have lost my husband. But I try to fend for myself and the kids without any support from my husband's family. The truth is that I am really suffering because I live in an uncompleted building with my kids, with no water and electricity. The Department of Social welfare is giving me LEAP support but it is not enough for our up keep. I make the kids help me with my business by selling with me in the market. Oh, I will admit that if they are tired, I don't let them go to school. Tell government to come to our aid..." (Personal Communication. Respondent: 1, Date of the interview: 8th September,2020)

Interpretation: There is a clear indication that, Respondents 11 and 1 are both poor single mothers who allow their children to indulge in child labour without going to school; because of poverty. Their children's education is being affected. Government support from LEAP is not enough.

4.5 High Cost of Living and Unemployment

Inflation is also causing poverty among the citizenry. The cost of doing business in Ghana has become less attractive for the youth who want to become entrepreneurs. The cost of importing raw materials makes the cost of production rise due to the fact that the local businesses compete with multinational businesses that are also producing the same product. The local companies fold up overnight as a result of high interest rates from the banks and their inability to compete in the business environment. This makes them unemployed in no time because their businesses collapse. Others too have no jobs but have to bear this high cost of living and makes them live below the poverty line.

According to a Participant:

Responses:

"Inflation is also causing poverty. Food items are expensive, basic items such as rice; oil, fuel and transportation cost are always expensive for the poor to afford. This is because we are always importing consumables without exporting, making our currency depreciate to the foreign

currencies. We are in Ghana but we price some goods in dollars why? He asked....” (Personal Communication. Respondent 2, Date of the interview: 8th September, 2020)

This was supported by another respondent:

“You cannot do any meaningful business here without running into a debt, all because the capital you get as loans from the bank have high interest rates which is not conducive for business I tried and accessed a loan from Masloc to invest in a business but because we are many, I couldn’t pay back the loan and my capital is finished and the business has collapsed....” (Personal Communication. Respondent1, Date of the interview: 8th September, 2020)

Interpretation: There is a clear indication from Respondent1 and 2 that, unemployment and high cost of living cause extreme poverty. The high inflation rate does not create a conducive environment for doing business making them bear extreme hardship.

4.6 Corruption

When government officials use their authority for private gains, it is can be considered as corruption. Income inequality and extreme poverty is caused by corruption through different mediums such as biased tax system, growth, social program, and human capital formation, embezzlement of public funds and educational inequalities. The higher the level of corruption, the deeper the poverty level. The assets of these officials become guarantee or collateral to invest in other businesses while the poor have low ability of collateral which increases their income inequality and poverty Gupta, Davoodi, Rosa (1998). Ghana has ranked 78 out of 180 countries on the 2018 global Corruption Perception Index (CPI), according to Transparency International (Ghana web, 30th January, 2019).

According to a participant:

Response:

“Madam, there is money in Ghana papa! It is the politicians who are ‘chopping’ the money that is why there is no economic growth in the country. They do not give us value for money. They are always diverting the tax payer’s money for their personal gains....” (Personal Communication. Respondent14, Date of the interview: 10 September, 2020)

This was supported by another respondent:

“If corruption does not stop, it will be impossible to eradicate extreme poverty from Ghana by 2030. This is because only the few rich in government are enjoying while the masses are suffering in absolute poverty. They divert or embezzle public funds with impunity; as a result, they cannot implement manifesto promises to the benefit of the ordinary Ghanaian.... He lamented”. (Personal Communication. Respondent6, Date of the interview: September,9th 2020)

Interpretation: There is a clear indication from Respondent 14 and 6 that, corruption is the cause of extreme poverty; since social interventions that will help alleviate poverty are abandoned because of corruption.

4.7 Hindrances to Realizing Sustainable Development Goal 1

A variety of factors emerge, that could hinder Ghana’s quest to achieving SDG1. To answer the next research question that addresses this concern, the significant deterrents are discussed below.

One significant difference between Ghana and countries with low poverty and inequality is the massive disparity in the amount of wealth generated by the countries for its citizens and this is evident in the Gross National Income (GNI). For instance, in countries like Canada the GNI per capita income is obviously higher as compared to that of Ghana. Ghana’s GNI has been increasing marginally in comparison to the country mentioned above. In comparison, Canada’s GNI for 2019 is 1, 718, 553, 969, 420, .2600 dollars [http://fred.stlouis fed.org](http://fred.stlouisfed.org) retrieved on (16th September, 2020). While Ghana’s GNI for 2019 is 67.51 billion dollars [www.macrotrends.net>GH> Ghana](http://www.macrotrends.net/GH/Ghana) retrieved on (16th September, 2020). The disparity illustrated above has consequences to financing the sectors of education, health care, infrastructure, and social welfare. Ghana’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) being considerably lower than the advanced countries means the actual amount spent by Ghana government is significantly small as compared to the developed countries. That is why Ghana lacks the capacity to invest properly in social interventions that can help to eliminate extreme poverty. According to a participant:

“We are always going to borrow money from the developed countries to finance our annual budget, how can our economy grow? We are always owing another country” (Personal Communication. Respondent 2, Date of the interview: 8th September,2020).

Another participant supported by saying:

“If our politicians do not invest the money, they borrow well for us to have value for money we will be stuck in poverty forever. Why can't we produce and consume made in Ghana products and export some to increase our GDP”? (Personal Communication. Respondent12, Date of the interview: 10th September,2020)

Interpretation: There is a clear indication that respondent 2 and 12 share the view that improper management of resources and borrowed capital cause poverty; through good investment we can grow our economy and eliminate extreme poverty.

4.7.1 Effects of Poverty on Health Care

The quality of healthcare in Ghana though has seen some improvement because of the vast number of people that are registered on the National Health Insurance Scheme. The free maternal care given at the various hospitals is impacting positively on the health of pregnant women. Nonetheless, the quality of healthcare services can be said to be below the standard globally. This is because the capital injected into the health sector is not enough. The World Health Organization uses six dimensions in the definition of quality healthcare: accessibility, effectiveness, efficiency, patient centeredness, equitability, and safety of the services, World Health Organization (2006) to understand the above, two parameters were used. That is the infrastructure availability to facilitate healthcare services in western region in terms of distribution of and access to medical services. The following were observed doctor to patient ratio in the western region as at 2017 was 147 doctors to 20,568, for infrastructure the following data was collected: CHPS 601, Clinic 134, district hospital 16, healthcare 78, Hospital 34, and maternity 40 The Health Sector in Ghana Facts and Figures, (2018).

A participant had this to say:

“Madam, I am on National Health Insurance scheme, but the truly the quality of healthcare services provided is not the best sometimes they tell you that they don’t have the drugs so you have to buy it outside the hospital if I don’t have money for it , it means my sickness will not be cured”.(Personal Communication. Respondent 14, Date of the interview: 10th September, 2020)

Another participant also confirmed:

“Sometime the nurses maltreat me whenever I visit the hospital, some of them frown while attending to me, sometimes you have to queue for 2 hours before you see the doctor” (Personal Communication. Respondent 3, Date of the interview: 8th September, 2020)

Some of the infrastructures at the hospitals are too old; they are virtually death traps and can collapse on patients at any time” (Personal Communication. Respondent 8, Date of the interview: 9th September, 2020)

Interpretation: There is a clear indication from 3 and 8 that, the quality of health care delivery is compromised and the fact that the health infrastructure needs renovated.

4.7.2 Effects of Poverty on Education

The study also sought the views and opinions of the participants regarding the effects of poverty on education, and these were the responses that were given by some of the participants. Some of the participants gave straight answers and others too didn’t. These are the responses I got from participants:

4.7.3 Not Regular in School

Some participants said they were not always punctual in school because of the tedious nature of the work they are engaged in. According to some participants they were not always regular in school and sometimes skip school because they get very tired after a hard day’s work, and these were some of what they said are:

(Responses)

“I don’t go to school regularly because of the hard work I do. I sometimes go to school three times in a week, I am sometimes being punished but I have no other means of supporting myself

and my family....” (Personal Communication. Respondent 8, Date of the interview: 9 September, 2020).

Another participant confirmed it by saying that:

“I don’t go to school very often because of the work I do. I sometimes sell late in the night too when the sales I make are not enough, I sell extra hours, I get very tired the next day and I sometimes miss school....” (Personal Communication. Respondent 4, Date of the interview: 8thSeptember, 2020).

Interpretation: There is a clear indication from respondents 8 and 4 that, these youth who are of school going age do not go to school at all or miss school because of the work they do.

4.7.4 Lateness to school

Due to the hard work these young people are engaged in, they are sometimes late for school.

Some of these participants indicated that:

(Responses)

“Err, the thing is, I sometimes get very tired when I get home after a hard day’s work, I over sleep and then don’t wake up on time and I am late for school most of the time” (Personal Communication. Respondent10, Date of the interview: 9th September, 2020.)

Another participant too responded by saying that:

“I am sometimes late for school because I get weak and tired after the hard work I do as a young boy, so I don’t wake up early to go to school, so I am always late for school....” (Personal Communication. Respondent 2, Date of the interview: 8th September, 2020).

Interpretation: There is a clear indication that, when respondent 10 and 2 were in school they were always late for school because of the laborious work they were involved in.

4.7.5 Low School Enrolment

Further, the study established the effects of poverty on school enrolment among the youth of school going age. The study found out that some of the participants did not enroll in school because of the work they were engaged in. The findings are presented below:

One participant indicated that:

“Hmm... I know school is good but Madam, if your family is poor and you can barely fend for yourself and your family why do you have to waste your time going to school? You should rather hustle and make it. That is why I didn't enroll in school. (Personal Communication. Respondent13, Date of the interview: 10th September, 2020).

Interpretation: There is a clear indication that poverty causes low enrollment in school. This is because respondent 13 abandon school because of financial problems.

4.7.6 School Drop outs

As a result of the menace of child labour which is caused by poverty, the youth who are of school going age drop out of school. They are subjected to hard work, and it prevents them from being interested in school. Because of poverty, most young people who are enrolled in school become school drop outs because they work and go to school at the same time. Also, the hard work they are subjected to at this young age affects their interest in school, and some too are not enrolled in school because of the work they are engaged in. One participant indicated that:

“Initially I was enrolled in school, but due to the financial situation at home, I had to find something to do so that I would support myself through school and support my family. At a point, before I realized; I had become a school dropout because I was more into the work than school due to the good sales, I was making ...” (Personal Communication. Respondent 15, Date of the interview: 10th September, 2020).

It was also confirmed by another participant that:

“I was also in school, but had to drop out of school because of the poor finances of my parents, so I moved to stay with my grandmother, because she is also not financially sound to support me through school, I had to work full time to support myself and her...” (Personal Communication. Respondent15, Date of the interview: 10th September, 2020).

Interpretation: There is a clear indication that poverty is one of the main reasons why some of the youth dropped out of school.

4.7.7 Effects of Poverty on Academic Performance

Findings from the participants' quotes revealed that the work they are engaged in really affected their academic performances. Most of the youth who were engaged in laborious work at the same time schooling revealed that:

“My performance in school was always poor, I realized that because I miss class most of the time, I didn’t understand what was taught in class; hence my poor academic performance.....” (Personal Communication. Respondent 8, Date of the interview: 9th September, 2020)

Another participant re-echoed:

The tedious work made me doze in class every day, the day I don’t sleep in class I will be absent minded. This accounted for my poor performance in class.....” (Personal Communication. Respondent 5, Date of the interview: 8th September, 2020)

Interpretation: There is a clear indication that child labour is the main cause of poor academic performance among some of the youth.

4.7.8 Lower Concentration

Extracts from the interview revealed that, poverty which caused the youth of school going age to indulge in tedious work made them have less concentration in school, and also affected their academic performances. This is due to the fact that, the work load on them is too much and makes them tired and weak, so they have less concentration at school. This diminished their interest in school. The findings revealed that:

One participant said that:

“Because of the laborious work I am engaged in, I find it difficult to concentrate in school, so I don’t do well in school so I lost interest in school....” (Respondent 2).

This view was supported by another participant who said that:

“I wasn’t doing well in school because of the work I do aside school, when I’m in class I have less concentration because of the pressure from the work I do combined with school work....” (Personal Communication. Respondent 3, Date of the interview: 10th September, 2020).

Interpretation: There is a clear indication that some of the youth who were interviewed had lower concentration while in school because of the laborious work and financial problems.

4.7.9 Less Time to Study

In addition, findings of the study revealed that, these youth who are of school going age but were subjected to hard work, have less time to study, so it affected their academic performance. Here are some responses which were given by some respondents:

(Responses)

“I have less time to study, because of the laborious work I am engaged in as a young person. I waste all the time I have working so that I can support myself and family, and because of this; I don’t do well in school...” (Personal Communication. Respondent 6, Date of the interview: 8th September, 2020).

It was also confirmed by another participant that:

“The time I waste on the work I am engaged in makes me have less time for my books. Because I get very tired after a hard day’s work, anytime I sit down to study I doze off, and this makes me perform poorly in school....” ((Personal Communication. Respondent10, Date of the interview: 9th September, 2020).

Interpretation: There is a clear indication that some of the youth who were interviewed had less time to study because of the laborious work they were involved in during the time they were in school hence their poor performance in school.

4.7.9 Difficulties in studying

Based on the findings gathered from the study, the youth who are of school going age but engaged in laborious works because of poverty, have difficulties in their studies. Most of them who are enrolled in school at the same time working find it very difficult to study. And this was evident in the responses given by some of the participants of the study:

According to one participant:

“I find it very difficult to read my books, because of the hard work I am engaged in. The moment I take my books, my mind is directed somewhere else, and this affects my performances in school.” (Personal Communication. Respondent 8, Date of the interview: 9th September, 2020).

It was confirmed by another participant by stating that:

“In fact, I find it difficult reading my books, because of the tedious work I’m involved in. I don’t feel like reading my books after a hard day’s work, I feel weak and tired and because of this, I perform poorly in school....” (Personal Communication. Respondent 5, Date of the interview: 8th September, 2020).

Interpretation: There is a clear indication that; some of the youth had difficulties while studying at the time they were in school. This they blamed on the hard work they were involved in.

4.8 Poverty and Social Vices

In addition, findings from the study established that most of these young people become money conscious and therefore at a point would not like to be enrolled in school or learn a vocation or acquire any skills for the future. As a result, some of them are exposed to social vices like smoking, drunkenness, teenage pregnancy, prostitution, armed robbery and internet fraud (“Sakawa”). Their guardians or parents become happy when their wards make money from the work, they are engaged in; sometimes without asking about the source. One participant indicated that:

(Responses)

“I am not enrolled in school because of the nature of the work I do. Because there is no money at home, I have to work to support myself and my family. I make enough money so that is why I am not enrolled in school. I do any kind of business to survive....” (Personal Communication. Respondent 9, Date of the interview: 9th September, 2020).

Other participants also stated that:

“My guardians are happy with the sales I make in a day so; they don’t want me to be enrolled in school. All they are interested in is the money I bring home; and they do not care about the source of the money I bring home. When I make good money, I enjoy myself” ... (Personal Communication. Respondent14, Date of the interview: 10th September, 2020).

“I got pregnant at an early at age of 15years because of poverty. I did not have any source of livelihood, so I was influenced by my friends to become promiscuous in order to fend for myself and that made me have three children by the age of 23 years...” (Personal Communication. Respondent 9, Date of the interview: 9th September, 2020).

Interpretation: There is a clear indication that poverty exposed some of the youth to social vices at a young age.

4.8.1 Low Aspiration

From the findings of the study, it was revealed that, low aspirations on the part of parents has contributed to the non- enrollment of their wards in school. Most of the parents or guardians of these young people due to low aspirations do not enroll them in school or any vocation because they are happy, they help them in their businesses and also because their wards help them to make some money from the work they do.

One of the participants revealed that:

(Responses)

“My stepmother and father are happy with the sales I make to support them, so they don’t want me to go to school...” (Personal Communication. Respondent14, Date of the interview: 10th September, 2020).

Another participant confirmed it by saying:

“My parents are very happy that I help them in their business, and also they are excited when I make enough sales, so they don’t want me to be enrolled in school....” ((Personal Communication. Respondent 15, Date of the interview: 10th September, 2020).

Interpretation: There is a clear indication that the low aspirations of some of the parents and guardians of the youth did not make them work hard to educate their wards hence, their current situation.

4.8.2 Effects of poverty on Children of the youth (Child Labour)

The hard work young people of school going age are engaged in; sometimes prevents them from going to school. Some of the young participants made it clear that, because of the nature of the hard work they do, it prevented them from going to school. The focus is rather shifted from

education to working to support themselves and their families. These are some of the responses the participants gave:

(Responses)

“I sometimes don’t go to school at all because of the laborious work I do. When I am not satisfied with the sales I make in a day, I wake up early in the morning, at least at 6 am to go and sell, and this prevents me from going to school....” (Personal Communication. Respondent10, Date of the interview: 10th September, 2020).

Findings on the effect of poverty on the youth regarding child labour was re-emphasized by another young girl based on the fact that because of the work she is into it prevents her from going to school:

Responses:

“The hard work I do as a young person hinders me from going to school, because of the work I do; it takes much of my time, after a hard day’s work, when I come home, I have to do other house chores at home, so... I sometimes get very weak and tired so I skip school....” (Personal Communication. Respondent 6, Date of the interview: 9th September, 2020).

“I sell with my daughter in order to help me earn money for our up keep...” (Personal Communication. Respondent15, Date of the interview: 10th September, 2020).

Interpretation: There is a clear indication that poverty had serious effect on the children of the youth as most of them were indulge in child labour and this is affecting government’s smooth implementation of FCUBE.

4.8.3 Development Agenda in Harmony with Sustainable Development Goal 1

The government of Ghana is currently implementing policy initiatives in order to support its developmental agenda in line with the Sustainable Development Goals specifically ending extreme poverty by 2030. The following projects are being implemented across the country. One District one factory (1D1F) a flagship program by the government of Ghana to build more factories that can create jobs for citizens. The factories range from agricultural products to the

production or toiletries, fabrics and bottled / sachet water. Out of the 58 factories, 22 of them can be found in the Greater Accra Region, 11 in the Eastern Region and 12 in the Ashanti Region. The Northern, Western, Volta and Central Regions have two each. www.myjoyonline.com retrieved on (12 September, 2020). There is also Nation Builders Corps (NABCO) which is geared toward unemployed young graduates in the public service and health service. One Village One Dam policy for agricultural purposes, the Free Senior High School education policy, planting for food and jobs (seeds, fertilizers and warehouse) among others. All the above policies if effectively achieved will help eliminate extreme poverty by 2030.

4.8.4 Chapter Summary

It is important that Ghana generates more income to better finance important sectors like education, healthcare, social welfare (LEAP) and industrialization in order to consequently improve in incomes and outcomes. For decades, the approaches to increase incomes of the poor have revolved around entrepreneurial concept of assisting them in starting small scale enterprise. At the forefront have been the microfinance institutions that offer loans to them with high interest rates. This makes them run into a loss. As discussed by the participants this approach of poverty alleviation or reducing inequality in income levels has not yielded much result because of the keen competition that results from similar multinational companies, within the same geographical location, producing like products.

Additionally, the cost of inflation and high cost of living kill the local enterprises because of the cost of raw materials for production. This situation does not create a conducive environment for businesses to thrive.

Moreover, the findings revealed that some of the youth are unemployed and that is what is causing them to live in extreme poverty. Some of them said some educated members of the community were employed under NABCO, only a few of their community members have been employed under the One District One Factory (1D1F) intervention by government to create employment for the citizens. According to Joseph Rowntree Foundation's publication titled "Cycles of poverty, unemployment and low pay", they opined that, while personal attributes and circumstances contribute significantly to determining the risk of recurrent poverty, they are overshadowed by structural factors that shape opportunities for financial security offered by the labour market. It follows that policies that encourage people to find work that pay a little attention to the kind of jobs that are available unlikely to secure a significant reduction in recurrent poverty or a sustained fall in poverty rate www.jrf.org.uk.

Furthermore, findings of the study on the causes of poverty suggested that, poverty is caused by financial problems of the families of these young people, corroborating findings that the financial status of the youth is the reason for their children's engagement in hard work and this was identified by all the participants as a major cause of child labour, Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy II (GPRS II) stated that a priority will be given to special programmes to eliminate worst forms of child labour. Also, it was revealed that, poverty has led some the youth to engage in social vices due to the desire to help parents in their businesses, and also to make money for them, so that they can support themselves and the up keep of their families. They do anything to survive. The (LEAP) programme is a social intervention to support deprived and vulnerable families to fight against extreme poverty. They complained that it was not sufficient for their up keep.

In terms of the effect of poverty on school attendance, it was identified from the findings that most children of the youth engaged in any form of hard work, were not always regular in school, and therefore affected their school attendance, it was evident in the writings of Khanam, R. (2008). These young children who were engaged in any form of laborious work according to the study's findings were always late for school and also hindered or prevented from going to school every day, and this is in line with the Section 28 (1) of the 1992 constitution, which ensures that every child in Ghana is protected from engaging in any form of work that is harmful to his or her health, education, and development. Also, Guarcello et al. (2008) stated that economically active children between the ages of 7 -14 had lower school attendance rates than those who are economically not active.

Findings on the effect of poverty on school enrollment suggested that, child labour really has great effect on the school enrollment of young children of the youth who were participants in this study. The study revealed that children who were subjected to hard work are likely to be school drop outs (Rossati & Rossi, 2003). Also the findings of the study stated that, children who were not enrolled in school because of the work they are involved in, is as a result of the low aspirations of their parents or guardians, and this is similar to the views of (Gibbons et al., 2005; Huebler, 2008) stating that children with educated primary givers are more likely to be enrolled in school. In addition, findings on the effect of poverty on academic performance was revealed that children who engaged in hard work to support their families and are enrolled in school at the same time have lower concentration, less time to study, and also difficulties in studying are evident in the writings of Sighss (1998), Barone (1993), and Heady (2003) respectively.

The findings also revealed that many women were trapped in poverty (feminization of poverty) because of certain impediments within their socio-cultural environment hence the reason why more women are poor than men Martin (2008)

The findings also revealed that extreme poverty has not been eradicated because of lack of commitment from successive governments. The participants gave examples such as; government sometimes abandon the intervention made by previous governments an example is the Affordable Housing projects that were supposed to support the housing needs of the poor, the E blocs that were built to support the educational sector. They concluded this this was going on because there is no comprehensive national development policy plan to create more sustainable employment for the youth in line with the growing population.

The findings also revealed that corruption will not make Ghana's vision of eliminating extreme poverty by 2030 come to pass. This is because there is public perception that some politicians and public officials do not either do due diligence before awarding contracts and therefore, we do not get value for money spent on projects. Others were also of the view that some politicians also embezzle public funds without using it for the projects and that has brought inequality in income levels. This makes the few rich richer and the poor who form the masses poorer.

Another revelation from the findings of the study was that, there is unfair distribution of national resources. According to the respondents this has accounted for extreme poverty in certain parts of the country. The participants are of the view that, if government built more factories and industries, good roads, good hospitals, it will not only create jobs for the youth but it will boost the economic activities in every community. This will impact of the economic and social development and will eventually eradicate extreme poverty by 2030.

The findings also revealed that the health care system was underperforming as compared to global standards availability and accessibility and distribution of healthcare services was falling short in terms infrastructure, supply for drugs, poor relationship between some nurses and patients and the doctor patient ratio to the population.

Hindrances to achieving SDG1 the findings revealed that, the Gross National Income (GNI) of Ghana is too small as compared to the developed countries who are also implementing the sustainable development Goals globally and more specifically, SGD1 which is to eradicate extreme poverty. It will be difficult for Ghana to achieve the SDG1 by 2030 because of the disparity that exist in terms of Gross National Income (GNI) of the advanced countries and a nation like Ghana comparatively. Ghana will need support from the private sector to be able to achieve it.

It was realized from the findings that government development agenda was in harmony with the Sustainable Development Goals more importantly SDG1 to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030. The various Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) were in charge of its implementation.

Finally, the study revealed that, high cost of living, unemployment and frequent increase in commodities are also the cause of extreme poverty. They argued that inflation and the high interest rates from the banks affected small scale businesses in their community. Sometimes it is difficult for poor people to acquire loans to invest in their businesses. They also lamented about the keen competition between local businesses and foreign business that were producing in Ghana. According to them, local business collapsed mainly because of inflation as the cost of importing raw materials are high.

From the above discussions, it is evident that the government of Ghana is putting in efforts to eliminate extreme poverty, but participants are of the view that unless government pays more attention to tackling unemployment, building infrastructure, government commitment to create more jobs, fair distribution of national resources, reduce corruption, investing more in healthcare delivery, and providing education for all and making improvements in the depth of poverty and have a good social welfare system for citizens Ghana will not achieve Sustainable Development Goal 1 by 2030.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The fifth and final chapter of the study actually summarizes, and makes recommendations for stakeholders. It also highlights on the research problem, the methodology and the findings of the research. The summary will be done in respect of the specific objectives and general objective of this research. Also, after the summary has been done, a conclusion will be drawn and then further recommendations will be made to the government, as well as to prospective researchers.

5.2 Summary of Findings

This section reviews and summarizes the results and findings of the four specific objectives of the study. These objectives include; examine the state of Sustainable Development Goal 1 in Kansawrodo, causes of poverty among the youth in Kansawrodo, the effect of poverty on the youth, the Examine the extent of poverty and its disparities among the youth in Kansawrodo, and factors that may impede the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 1 in Kansawrodo.

5.2.1 Causes of Extreme Poverty

The first objective was aimed at revealing the state of Sustainable Development Goal 1 in Kansawrodo, the various causes of poverty among the youth in Kansawrodo a suburb of Sekondi Takoradi Municipality, in the Western Region of Ghana. With an intensive collection and analysis of data, the major causes of extreme poverty were identified. Financial problems, corruption, unfair distribution of national resources, rapid population growth, feminization of

poverty, high cost of living, over dependency and unemployment, lack of commitment from successive government to create jobs, were identified to be the major causes of extreme poverty. Thus, majority of the participants indicated that financial problem was the main reason why they were poor and their children engaged in such laborious work as young children (Child labour). In the case of low aspirations of parents, only few of the participants were able to talk about the fact that their parents were not literates so they did not value or see the need for them to work hard to push them through school for a better future. High cost of living and unemployment also contributed to the major cause of poverty among the youth who participated in the study. Majority of the participants who had children claim that, the cost of living was quite expensive and that they had to work with their children to support themselves. Some of the participants said corruption was the cause of extreme poverty since sometimes the projects funds are embezzled with impunity. The unfair distribution of national resources according to the participants of the study accounted for extreme poverty. Without infrastructure there will be no economic development. Majority of the respondents said lack of commitments from successive government is a major cause of poverty. This is because government interventions and projects are abandoned when a new government is elected. Feminization of poverty is also a cause of extreme poverty. Many of the women who were interviewed revealed that most women are poorer than men because of the socio-cultural restriction in the society but they have large dependents and this makes them poor. Unemployment is also a major cause of poverty. Many of the youth interviewed blamed their plight on unemployment. According to them if they were gainfully employed, they will not be having financial problems and will be living under better condition of life with their families.

5.2.2 Effects of Poverty on the youth

The second objective also aimed at examining how poverty has affected the youth in Kansawrodo. Education was one of the key things that poverty has had a negative impact on. The school attendance of the youth who were of school going age were affected including those who had children. Several questions were asked with regards to the effect of poverty on the school attendance of these young participants. Majority of the participants revealed that the work they were engaged in really affected their school attendance because sometimes they do not go to school regularly, they are always late for school, and sometimes too they are not in school at all, because they get very weak and tired after a hard day's work. With these responses given by the participants, it means that being poor and engaging in laborious work as youth of school going age really affected their school attendance. The findings show that, majority of the participants were of school going age but because of poverty, they are not enrolled in school, also few of them and their young children have become school drop outs because they attended school and work at the same time, some of them too are not enrolled in school at all because of their laborious work. Furthermore, it was revealed by few of the participants that a low aspiration on the part of their parents or guardians was the reason why they were not or never enrolled in school. So, this indicates that extreme poverty causes child labour and other social vices which had a great effect on the school enrollment of the participants and their young children. It was indicated by the participants who allowed their young children to engage in child labour that, it really affected their academic performance when they were in school and it is currently affecting their young children too. A high number of the participants identified that because of the hard work they were engaged in, they had lower concentration when they go to school, had less time to study or read their books and this affected their academic performances. again, a few of the

participants made it clear that they had difficulties in studying their books and as a result of this, they do not perform well in school so they dropped out of school. With the responses given by the participants, it can be concluded that, the menace of child labour which is caused by extreme poverty had negative effects on the academic performance of the youth and their young children; who are facing the same problems in school. In other words, if proper measures are not put in place, the young children of these youth may also be trapped in the same poverty cycle.

5.3 Sustainable Development Goal 1 and Government Development Agenda

On the objective of examining the extent to which government development agenda is in harmony with SDG 1, thus wiping out extreme poverty, government is presently executing policy initiatives so as to help its advancement plan and its development agenda in line with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) more significantly the SDG1 thus eradication extreme poverty by 2030. The following policies are being implemented by the Metropolitan Municipal Districts Assemblies (MMDAs) and the Ministries Department and Agencies (MDAs) in order to help promote development in Ghana. They are one District on factory(1D1F), Nation Builders Corps (NABCO), one village one dam, Free SHS, planting for food and jobs (seeds fertilizers and Warehouse), National School Feeding Program, Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) among others (SDG Budget Report:2019).

5.4 Hindrances to the implementation of SDG1

Ghana's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) being considerably lower than the advanced countries means the actual amount spent by Ghana government is significantly small as compared to the developed countries. That is why we lack the capacity to invest properly in social interventions that can help to eliminate extreme poverty. Ghana's level of income inequality has risen consistently according to the

country's Gross Domestic Product. However, considering the Human Development Index (HDI) score of the Ghana as of 2019 is (0.596) - the metric that tracks improvement in the quality of life in the dimensions of healthcare, education, and incomes are as follows: health(life expectancy at birth 63.8, education 11.5, gender development 0.912 and employment (employment population ratio 15 and older is 63.0) (hdr.undp.org) . Therefore, the disparity is that countries like the USA, and Canada will have better opportunities for their citizens as compared to Ghana and other African countries like Ghana. In other words, the 'one size fits all' strategy for implementing the SDGs will not work practically effectively as the developed countries have more resources to invest in sectors like education, health, and job creation than the developing countries.

5.5 Conclusion

The main goal of this study was to examine the state of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 in Kanswrodo in the Western Region of Ghana. Based on the results from the analysis of data collected, this study was able to identify the negative impact of poverty on the youth and their young children. The results indicated that primary education for their children was affected. As their children who were of school going age were involved in child labour. The impact of extreme poverty and child labour which were identified will not enhance smooth implementation primary education in Ghana. The three negative impacts that child labour has on primary education that were identified are; poor academic performances, poor school attendances, and low enrollment of young children. These negative impacts imply that the menace of child labour should not be encouraged at all in Ghana. This is because it will destroy the lives of our young children which will affect them in future as it had already affected the youth (their parents) who participated in the study. It is clear that the situation is being transferred to their young children.

Moreover, if these young children do not get basic education they will be engaged in all forms of social vices as a result of the work they do such as; hawking on the streets, working during the day and night. They can be influenced and lured into bad behaviours as young children. Also, if proper measures are not put in place, the poverty cycle that the youth in Kansawrodo are facing will be transferred to their children. This is because from the findings it is realized that most of the participants could not get the opportunity complete primary education and the same thing seems to be repeated.

5.6 Recommendations

Having gone through the stressful and demanding nature of this research on “examining the state of Sustainable Development Goal 1”, several observations were made. Based on these observations, the researcher would like to make certain recommendations on the findings of the study. In the first place, the research revealed that extreme poverty was the main cause of child labour. The fact that poverty is the main cause of child labour, gives a signal that, if basic education is made free and compulsory for every child and effectively implemented and monitored, it would reduce child labour. The researcher then recommends that the government should restructure and revise the already existing (FCUBE) Free Compulsory Basic Education, so that even though every young child will not pay tuition fees, stationeries should also be provided for every child, so that every parent or guardian would not have any excuse of letting the child be on the streets during school learning hours, and also for them to say that they have to make some monies to support themselves and their families.

It is again noticed from the research that, some of the youth who had subjected their young children who are of school going age to laborious work do so because of the extreme poverty, the researcher would like to recommend to the Metropolitan, Municipal, and District

Assemblies(MMDAs) and Department of Social Welfare that, they should sanction every child who is seen on the street or working during school learning hours, this can be achieved by assigning responsibilities to some of their municipal personnel's to move round the municipality to ensure that no child would not be seen roaming around or working during school learning hours, and any child caught working during school hours, the parents or care givers should be punished severely, (pay a fine).

The next recommendation is in line with the low aspirations of the parents or guardians of these young children. The researcher would like to recommend to the Municipal Assembly and Ghana Education Service should create counseling teams to move from house to house within the municipality to talk to some of the parents or guardians of these young children and let them know the importance of education, so that that they would be motivated to work hard to support their children through school than subjecting them to laborious work. The government should build more public primary schools in the municipality so that every child will have access to primary. The researcher noticed during the research that, there are more private schools in the municipality than public schools. The researcher believes that when more public primary schools are built and made free and compulsory for every child, their parents or guardians would not complain about the high tuition fees.

The next recommendation is that there is a need for the government to involve the private sector in the implementation of SDG1 so as to assist government to create sustainable employment for the youth.

Another recommendation is in line to the high cost of living and unemployment. Government should stay committed to implementing policies that can create jobs of the youth so as to reduce the unemployment and financial problems faced by the youth in Kansawrodo and the Takoradi Metropolis

who have many dependents. There is a need for measures to be put in place for Ghana to produce the consumables and export some and reduce the importation of consumables to boost the economy.

Additionally, under Feminization of poverty Government must work hard to educate and train more females to acquire employable skills in order to empower more women and create better opportunities for women and their dependents.

On the issue of lack of commitment from successive governments, the researcher recommends that, the state must develop a national development policy for both long- and short-term development in order to check abandonment of projects by various governments when elected.

Furthermore, the researcher recommends that, in order to address unfair distribution of national resources Government should pursue development programs in every part of the country fairly. In that, there must be good roads, hospitals, factories, houses scheme for workers, access to electricity and portable water in every part of the country to prevent the youth from migrating to the capital to look for employment and greener pastures.

Under corruption, the researcher suggests that politicians and public servants who embezzle state funds should be named and shamed, prosecuted at the law court if found guilty, the money should be retrieved, and he/she should be jailed. The government must also put in place effective monitoring team to check fraudulent deals in order to ensure that we get value for money on every contract awarded.

Last but not the least, under healthcare; I recommend that there is a need for government to improve on health care delivery. It must be patient oriented. More infrastructure and sophisticate medical equipment, availability of drugs and more doctors are required in the health sector in order to improve health care delivery. To achieve this, there is a need for supervision and effective monitoring of the health sector.

Finally, the researcher would like to recommend to other prospective researchers that, any research to be conducted on eliminating extreme poverty should not only be focused on the youth, but their guardians or parents should be focused on; as well as the children of the youth and how the private sector can be involved in the implementation of SDG1.

5.7 Conclusion

It is very significant that sustainable development is accompanied by visionary leaders that would help to conquer obstacles and implement decisions that are timely, complete and accurate to solve problems of unemployment within the society. Without good leadership, sustainable development might be hindered as the activities geared towards development would be moving too slowly, stagnate and might lose their way and not benefit the masses. If government does not stay committed to achieve SDG1 by 2030 in Kansawrodo and in the Western Region of Ghana, there are possibilities that SDG4 which is on ensuring inclusive, equitable quality and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all may be affected. SDG3 which is on health and wellbeing for all ages will be not be achieved. SDG2 which is focused on freedom from hunger may not be achieved and last but not the least, SDG 5 which is geared towards achieving gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls may also be affected. In other words, SDG1 is connected to the above-mentioned Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, failure to achieve SDG1 will mean possible failure to achieve the others. It is recommended that Government should be committed in creating more jobs for the youth, name, shame and prosecute corrupt politicians and public officials, educate and train more women with employable skills to reduce gender disparity and poverty, government must fairly develop every part of the country fairly to promote economic growth, government should involve the private sector to create sustainable jobs for the youth, there should be more investment in job creation, education and health sector as well as

effective supervision and monitoring to improve quality of service in these sectors which will eventually impact on the eradication of extreme poverty by 2030.

References

- Azariadis, C., Stachurski, J., 2005, "Poverty Traps", in eds. P Aghion and S. Durlauf "Handbook of Economic Growth" North-Holland, Elsevier
- Berkhout, F. et al., 2010 'Sustainability experiments in Asia: Innovations shaping alternative development pathways?' *Environmental Science and Policy*. Elsevier Ltd, 13(4), pp. 261–271. doi: 10.1016/j.envsci.2010.03.010.
- Blank, R., 2010, "Selecting among anti-poverty measures, can an economist be both critical and caring?", *Review of Social Economy*, 61, 447-469.
- Creswell, J.W., Hanson, W.E., Clark Plano, V.L., & Morales, A. ,2007 Qualitative Research designs: Selection and implementation. *The counseling psychologist*, 35(2), 236-264.
- CHF International Ghana, 2012 Sekondi Takoradi Citizens' report card Accra: CHF International Ghana.
- Esping-Andersen, G. 1990, "The three worlds of welfare capitalism", Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.,
- European Commission, 2004 "Joint report by the Commission and the Council on social inclusion", EC, Brussels.
- Gabay, C., 2015 Special forum on the millennium development goals: Introduction. *Globalizations*,12(4), 576–580.
- Ghana Statistical Service, 2000 Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSSS+), Statistical Service, Accra Ghana.
- Ghana Constitution, 1992
- Ghana Statistical Service, 2015 Ghana Poverty Mapping Report, Statistical Service, Accra Ghana.
- Given, L., 2008 *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Qualitative Research Methods*, The Sage Encyclopedia of Qualitative Research Methods. doi: 10.4135/9781412963909

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wpcontent/uploads/2019/07/E_Infographic_01.pdf

Retrieved, May 22, 2020

https://www.fred.stlouisfed.org/series/worldbank_grossnationalproductforcanada2019/

Retrieved September, 10, 2020

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/poverty/> Retrieved, May 22, 2020

<https://www.macrotrends.net/GH/Ghana,GrossNationalProductforGhana2019/> Retrieved, August 22, 2020

Igoe, M., 2016 ‘David Nabarro: “Every country is a developing country”’, pp. 1–6. Available at: <https://www.devex.com/news/david-nabarro-every-country-is-a-developing-country-88152> [Accessed August 17, 2020].

International Council for Science (ICSU), 2017 ‘A Guide to SDG Interactions: From Science to Implementation’, International Council for Science, pp. 127–169. doi: 10.24948/2017.01.

ISSC, IDS, & UNESCO, 2016 World Social Science Report 2016, Challenging Inequalities: Pathways to a Just World. Paris: UNESCO Publishing.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2013 “Monitoring poverty and social exclusion 2013” Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the New Policy Institute.

Kasarda, J. D., and Ting, K., 1996 "Joblessness and poverty in America’s central cities: causes and policy prescriptions", *Housing Policy Debate*, 7 (2), 387-419.

Kenny, C., 2015 ‘MDGs to SDGs: Have We Lost the Plot?’ Center for Global Development, (163).

KNBS, & SID. , 2013 Exploring Kenya’s Inequality: Pulling Apart or Pooling Together? Nairobi: KNBS & SID.

Laderchi, C. R., Saith, R., Stewart, F., 2003, "Does it matter that we do not agree on the definition of poverty? A comparison of four approaches", *Oxford Development Studies*, Volume 31, Issue 3.

Lomborg, B., 2015. *The U.N. Chose Way Too Many New Development Goals*. Copenhagen: Copenhagen Consensus Center.

- Marx, K., 1867 *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy*. Moscow: Progress Publishers
- Palmer, E., 2015 Introduction: The sustainable development goals forum. *Journal of Global Ethics*, 11(1), 3–9.
- Ravallion, M., Shaohua, C., Sangraula, P., 2009 "Dollar a day", *The World Bank Economic Review*, 23(2), 163-184
- Ravallion, M., 1992, "Poverty freak: a guide to concepts and methods", *Living Standards Measurement Papers*, The World Bank.
- Davis, P. E., Sanchez-Martin, M., 2004 "Review of Economic theories "s.n
- Scheyvens, R., Banks, G. and Hughes, E., 2016 'The Private Sector and the SDGs: The Need to Move Beyond "Business as Usual"', *Sustainable Development*, 24(6), pp. 371–382. doi: 10.1002/sd.1623.
- Stafford-Smith, M. et al. , 2017 'Integration: the key to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals', *Sustainability Science*. Springer Japan, 12(6), pp. 911–919. doi: 10.1007/s11625-016-0383-3.
- Todaro, M.P., Smith, S. C., 2012 *Economic Development*. 11th ed. Boston: Addison Wesley, Pearson Education Inc.
- Townsend, P., 1979 "Poverty in the United Kingdom", London, Allen Lane and Penguin Books.
- The Health Sector in Ghana, 2018 "Facts and Figures
- United Nations, 2000, *United Nations millennium declaration*. A/RES/55/2. New York: United Nations. Retrieved May 22, 2020, from <http://www.un-documents.net/a55r2.htm>.
- United Nations, 2015 *Transforming our world. The 2030 agenda for sustainable development*. New York: UN. Retrieved May 22, 2019, from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda>
- United Nations, 1995 "The Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action", World Summit for Social Development, New York, United Nations.

United Nations Global Compact (UN GC), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), 2015 ‘SDG Compass: The guide for business action on the SDGs’, pp. 1–30. Available at: http://sdgcompass.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/12/019104_SDG_Compass_Guide_2015.pdf%5Cnpapers3://publication/uuid/F2A2CA47-3E5B-45A8-AE9C-976E62E55DE7 [Accessed September 03, 2020].

United Nations, 2015b ‘Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development’, (1), pp. 1–5. doi: 10.1007/s13398-014-0173-7.2. Available: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld> [Accessed August 03, 2020].

United Nations Development Programme, 2019 Ghana’s Human Development Index 2019 Available at: hdr.undp.org/ Retrieved on August 20, 2020.

UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, 2017 ‘High-Level Political Forum 2017’. Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2017> [Accessed September 18, 2002].

Wilkinson, R., & Pickett, K., 2009 *The Spirit Level: why more equal societies almost always do better*. London: Allen Lane.

World Bank, 1990 *World Development Report 1990: Poverty* New York: Oxford Press pg 26

World Commission on Environment and Development. (1987) *Sustainable Development*

World Bank, 2016 *Infrastructure for Economic Growth and Shared Prosperity: Addressing Infrastructure Constraints, Promoting Economic Growth, and Reducing Inequality*. Retrieved May 20, 2020, from *The World Bank*: Available at <http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2016/07/21/infrastructure-for-economic-growth-and-shared-prosperity-in-kenya-addressing-infrastructure-constraints-promoting-economic-growth-and-reducing-inequality>

APPENDIX

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR RESPONDENTS

Dear respondent, you are kindly invited to participate in a study on “Examining the state of Sustainable Development Goal 1 “eradicating extreme poverty in Kansawrodo, Sekondi Takoradi Municipality in the Western Region of Ghana. To ensure your privacy is protected, the instrument will not collect personal information like your name, and house number. This will ensure your responses are anonymised. The data collected is purely for academic purposes.

Although I desire that you answer all the questions in the instrument should you decline to answer any of the questions or discontinue with the interview, you are allowed to do so.

How old are you?

- 15-19 years old
- 20-24 years old

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

Education: What is the highest level of school you have completed? If currently enrolled, highest degree received.

- No schooling completed
- Primary
- Junior High School,

Why did you drop out of school or why didn't your parents enroll you in school?

What problems did you encounter when you were in school that made you quit school?

Marital Status: What is your marital status?

- Single, never married
- Married or cohabitation
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated

What is your religious affiliation?

Do you know about Sustainable Development Goal 1, eradicating extreme poverty by 2030? If yes explain what you know?

Who do you live with?

Employment Status: Are you currently...?

- Out of work and looking for work
- Out of work but not currently looking for work
- A petty trader
- Unable to work

Why are you not working?

3. How much do you spend on food a day?

4. Where do you live, and what type of house do you live in?

5. To what extent do families (including extended families) support you?

6. How many children do you have? Are you able to take care of your children?

7. Are all your children enrolled in school? If not explain why?

8. What problems do your children encounter at school anytime they assist you to sell in the market?

9. Do have access to portable water, and electricity? If not explain why

Health care

10. Are you and your children able to access proper healthcare when you are sick? If yes what challenges do you have with the health care delivery system?

11. Do you have a health insurance card? If yes, is it functional?

Government intervention on poverty alleviation

12. Have you benefitted from any government intervention geared towards poverty alleviation? If yes, what evidence can you show?

13. Do you benefit from the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) program?

14. How much do you receive from LEAP?

15. What development programs has government rolled out that you think can help eradicate extreme poverty from Kansawrodo?

15. would you classify yourself as a poor person? If yes why are you poor?

16. What personal effort have you made to change your situation (current state of poverty)?

17. How many people live in your household and how many of them depend on you for survival? Is that the cause of your poverty?

18. What do you think are the causes of extreme poverty in Kansawrodo?

19. What factor hinder the realization of eliminating extreme poverty?

20. What are you expecting government to do for you for you to come out of your current situation (poverty)?

21. Do you think government is working hard enough to eradicate extreme poverty in Ghana by the year 2030?

22. What recommendations can you give to government to help eradicate extreme poverty from the Kansawrodo, Western Region and Ghana as a whole?