

THE PERFORMANCE OF POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES IN KWANZA SUB-COUNTY IN TRANS NZOIA COUNTY, KENYA

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Abstract: Poverty is a wide-reaching phenomenon that affects almost all countries of the world, both developed and developing countries. However, poverty is much more prevalent in developing countries like Kenya and women are the worse affected due to their susceptibility. Assessing the performance of poverty reduction strategies is indispensable to know which strategies are effective and efficient in reducing poverty. Therefore, this study will assess the performance of poverty reduction strategies in Kwanza sub-county. The study aimed at achieving the following objectives: to determine the limitations of poverty reduction strategies being used in to Kwanza Sub-county, to identify the main poverty reduction strategies that are in use in Kwanza sub-county, and, to identify the causes of poverty in Kwanza sub- county. The study employed both primary and secondary sources of data. Sample of 100 respondents were selected, and Descriptive statistics and chi square was used to analyze the data and test the hypotheses. Pilot study was conducted in hospital ward in Kiminini sub-county ward to test the reliability of the research instruments prior to the study. Data was collected was presented in tables and pie charts. From the findings of the study it was established that people in Kwanza sub-county have access to public utilities. Also, people have access to electricity and to water supply. But the condition of the roads is not good. In addition people lack access to financial resources the study further revealed that security is good in Kwanza sub-county and there is enough market for people to sell their products. However the study noted that people lack access to quality inputs in agriculture. The study found out that bursary funds are provided to the needy students. But majority of the people doubt on whether people are supported by the sub-county to practice agribusiness. The study further established that markets have been constructed for people to sell their products easily. But health facilities are not enough to residents of Kwanza sub-county. On the other hand, the roads have been improved to ease transportation and clean water is provided to people by the sub-county. Security is also provided by the sub-county. And enough schools have been built for people and the non-governmental organizations help in reducing poverty. However, the study found out that poverty reduction initiatives have not been successful and poverty reduction strategies are inadequate. Finally the study established that poverty reduction initiatives have failed and there is no effective governance that can reduce poverty. The study found out that non-participation of citizens in development projects promotes poverty and that corruption leads to increase in poverty while agribusiness can reduce poverty. The study further revealed that people developing skills in art and craft can and improved security can reduce poverty. Finally, access to financial resources and to education can reduce poverty.

Keywords: Manifestations of poverty, poverty reduction and measures taken to reduce poverty.

I. INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

Though global poverty seems to decline but most of the countries around the world are still trapped in poverty. For instance, according to Koira (2014) it is estimated that Africa which forms 12 percent of the world's population, but just contributes one percent of worldwide gross domestic product and 2 percent of world trade. He identified four leading

challenges that are in the world namely: energy prices rapid climatic changes, persistent poverty and the problem of food. Elevated prices of food which results from a high population augmentation, low agricultural productivity, and inadequate access to technology and high transportation costs all contribute to Africa's economic picture. In addition, the creation and retention of the capacity for development remains a significant challenge, and technical and vocational training is poorly funded and managed. Consequently, African countries face high youth unemployment, combined with a shortage and a mismatch of skills (World Bank, 2007). To end this rising levels of poverty particularly in most regions of sub-saharani Africa, Koira (2014) suggests that an agribusiness development can contribute substantially to poverty reduction and improved social outcomes, forming part of a socially-inclusive development strategy. On the other hand, Yumkella (2011) also agrees with agribusiness strategy as well as agricultural performance in alleviating poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is based on the fact that efficient agribusinesses forms a basis for agricultural growth and it has the potentiality to establish strong interrelationship with agribusinesses and smallholders that shape and reduce rural poverty (Yumkella et al, 2011).

A number of issues are associated with poverty such environmental degradation. These environmental related problems expose the poor to harsh climatic conditions that is characterized by poverty, lack of basic needs, safe water for drinking as well as to spread of diseases. Todaro (2012) established that living in less productive polluted lands usually expose poor people to less opportunity to work their way out of poverty. In some cases, he notes that they are also become the agents of poverty since they are trapped in it making it hard for them to come out. In various occasions people have tended to associate poverty with rapid population increase that results from high fertility rate hence constraining the available resources (Todaro and Smith, 2012).

Global Perspective of Poverty of Reduction

Among the countries that are doing well in reducing poverty is China. The economic growth of China has baffled the world particularly in this modern world. This rapid development is conversely proportional to its high population which in other cases we would have associated it with poverty. China has reached where it is in terms of development and struggle to reduce poverty based on the strategies that it put forward to guide it on her voyage towards reducing poverty both in rural and urban areas. For instance, China puts its priority on development by augmenting employment opportunities which constantly absorbs new entrants into the labour market (World Bank, 2015). Subsequently China also ensures there is an increase in formal and high rural opportunities by initiating special enterprise zones (UNDP, 2015). Besides, China also adopted a structural change approach which is responsible for incorporating a majority of the workforce in the informal sector (UNDP, 2014).

The structural approach is solely responsible for movement in and out of the primary sector into secondary sector and tertiary sector. By primary sector simply we refer to the agriculture sector while secondary sector refers to the manufacturing and construction sector. While by tertiary sector we mean industry and services. Available data indicate that there is a decrease in the number of persons employed in the primary sector from approximately 84% in 1952, to 37% in the year 2010 (World Bank, 2015). Another country that has surprised many in terms of her rapid development is Singapore. According to UNDP (2014), Singapore places high premiums on job stability especially in the times of economic crisis. This helps her to increase wages and also to respond to poverty in time. This strategy basically focuses on ensuring individuals are employed rather than giving out unemployment benefits to individuals.

Regional Perspective of Poverty Reduction

Africa is known to be a continent with the high number of poor people. This poverty is associated with the weak contribution that the continent makes especially in the international trade. As Koira (2014) had indicated Africa only accounts for one percent of the global gross domestic product and two percent of the world trade. Though the poverty levels in Africa have reduced since independence due to a number of strategies that some countries have adopted, a lot still needs to be done. The suggestion that Koira had made regarding focusing on agribusiness can be a good avenue for Africa to create job opportunities as well as enable improve on food security.

Todaro and Smith (2012) pointed out that extreme poverty is very uneven around the developing world, Africa included. They estimated that Africa is below the poverty line by 51 percent. This means based on these findings that Africa is the poorest of all continents' since South Asia is slightly above Africa by 41 percent. This means for Africa, to eradicate poverty maybe by 2030, commitment of resources, skills, and good will in fighting poverty have to prevail. If there is a committed leadership and proper management of resources, then Africa can be part of the richest continents in the world.

Local Perspective of Poverty Reduction

Though Kenya has been striving to reduce poverty levels since independence, this has not been fruitful. Many Kenyans are still experiencing poverty that is characterized by lack of basic needs such as water and food. According to 17th Edition of Kenya Economic Update (2018), though the levels of poverty are estimated to have reduced in Kenya, this report however casts doubt on the possibility of Kenya of eradicating poverty by 2030 as it is anticipated. This report further estimates that the proportion of Kenyans living below the poverty line declined from 43.6% in 2005 to 35.6% in 2015/2016 (World Bank, 2018). This implies that poverty in Kenya has decreased by around 8% in more than ten years period. A study by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS, 2018) has shown that Nairobi and Kiambu Counties host the highest number of rich people living in Kenya. The two counties have a poverty incidence rate of 21.8 per cent for Nairobi and 24.2 per cent for Kiambu which is significantly low compared to that of Turkana which has the highest percent of poor people at 87.5 per cent. Trans Nzoia County is among the 47 counties in Kenya that are striving in tackling poverty. This is according to County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP, 2013-2017) Trans Nzoia County.

Statement of the Problem

Globally it is estimated that more than 2.8 billion people live below the poverty line. The findings indicated women form the larger percentage of poor people around the world. According to the UNEP Report (2000) it is estimated that South Asia and Africa particularly the sub-Saharan region has the largest number of poor people who are estimated to be 46.3 percent nearly half of the continent's population (Nyamboga, 2014). In Kenya, the number of poor people has been on the increase. This is characterized by large numbers of unemployed population that do not contribute towards development. According to Trans Nzoia County Integrated Development plans (2013-2017) the county has only 7 hospitals when sub-district hospitals and private hospitals are included despite having a very large population. These inadequate health facilities interfere with the provision of services in the health sector. Subsequently, a number of educational facilities in the county are in dilapidated state leading to lack of motivation and poor performance in national examinations. Over 70 percent of both primary and secondary schools going pupils walk between 1.1km and 5 km to the nearest school. Though the CDF and other devolved funds have invested heavily in these sectors infrastructural facilities remain inadequate and in a poor state. The recreational facilities in the county are also inadequate such as social halls and sports grounds (CIDP, 2013-2017).

As a consequence the county is rated 32nd in terms of poverty eradicated, rated 37th in terms of development initiatives and also has been rated as having a 41.2% poverty indices. The lack of studies to investigate effects of poverty reduction strategies in the county have worsened the problem. It is because of the persistent increase of poverty in Trans Nzoia County that this study sought to assess the performance of poverty reduction strategies in Kwanza sub-county, Trans Nzoia County.

The Objectives of the Study

General objective

The general objective of this study was to assess the performance of poverty reduction strategies in Kwanza sub-county, Trans Nzoia County.

Specific objectives

- i. To establish manifestations of poverty in Kwanza Sub-county
- ii. To assess the effects of measures taken to reduce poverty in Kwanza Sub-County.
- iii. To examine alternative approaches in tackling poverty in Kwanza sub-county.

Research Questions

- i. What are the manifestation effects of poverty in Kwanza Sub-county?
- ii. What are the effects of measures taken to reduce poverty in Kwanza Sub-County?
- iii. What are the alternative optional approaches in tackling poverty in Kwanza sub-county?

Study Hypotheses

HO1: Manifestations of poverty has got no statistical significance effect on the performance of poverty reduction strategies in Kwanza sub-county.

HO2: measures taken to reduce poverty have got no statistical significance on effect on the performance of poverty reduction strategies in Kwanza sub-county.

HO3: optional actions in tackling poverty have got no statistical significance effect on the performance of poverty reduction strategies in Kwanza sub-county.

Significance of the study

The study is very vital in enabling the government and other stakeholder to know which strategy works better in reducing poverty, and in case one does not work, it can be easy for them to make the right interventions. The study will also contribute to expanding and widening knowledge in the area of poverty and also expose more areas that need further research for academicians and researchers. The study expected to help the policymakers to understand more about the poverty scenarios in Kwanza sub-county so that they can make responsive policies. Therefore this study is an attempt to respond to these shortcomings. The study will be useful in providing insight into the success of the project in reducing poverty. The study will also add to the existing literature on the impacts of poverty reduction strategies implemented in Kenya. Besides, the study will be useful to further project designs after learning the perceived benefits by the residents. Upon understanding the trends in poverty, the subsequent follow-up to ensure formulation of remedies can be recommended.

Scope of the study

The study determined the performance of poverty reduction strategies in Kwanza sub-county. Though there are many dimensions of poverty reduction strategies the study only dealt with three dimension of poverty reduction. The study was carried out in Kwanza Sub-county since it provided well established people both the urban and rural setup hence capable of providing reliable responses for this study. The study was carried with limited time; the study was required to be carried between June 2019 and July 2019.

Limitations of the study

The study faced a number of challenges that the researcher had to intervene in order to mitigate their effects on the study. First limitation was with regard to the vast area that a researcher had to cover. To mitigate this limitation the researcher employed research assistants to help him reach some areas where it could have been difficult for him to reach personally.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW**Introduction:**

This chapter will focus on discussing the theories that are relevant to this study. The study will also identify the research gaps and critique the existing literature.

Theoretical review

According to Kneller (1964), a hypothesis is a regularizing standard which indicates how a proposition ought to be. It gives "objectives, values, and models" (Dolhenty, 2010). Hypothesis can likewise be a collection of information, which might be related with specific logical models. To estimate is to build up this collection of information (Thomas, 2007). Dorin et al (1990) argue that theory provides a general explanation for observations over time. It attempts to explain and predict behavior based on observations, and conclusions are basing on data that is systematically collected, analyzed and interpreted. These definitions imply that theories are based on findings and observations that have stood the test of time and conditions and thus beyond all doubt.

This notwithstanding, a theory may be modified depending on new observations. Kirkpatrick (2001) links the theories of monitoring to different learning theories arguing that the goal of monitoring is learning. This study will look at the theories that are relevant to poverty reduction and these theories will include; Human capital theory, Structural change theory.

Human Capital Theory and Poverty Reduction

The Human Capital theory is linked to the independent variable of measures taken to reduce poverty. According to this tenet, education creates skills which facilitate higher levels of productivity amongst those who possess them in comparison with those who do not (SIDA, 2001).

According to this theory formal education is highly instrumental and necessary to improve the productive capacity of a population. An educated population is a productive population. It emphasizes how education increases the productivity and efficiency of workers by augmenting the level of thinking stock of economically productive human capability which results from inert abilities and investment in human beings (Almendarez, 2011).

The proponents of this theory consider education as equally or even more worthwhile than that of physical capital (Woodhall, 1997). Investment in human capital results into greater economic output, but the validity of this tenet is sometimes strenuous to prove and somehow contradictory (Almendarez, 2011). Modern economists are of the agreement that education and health are crucial in improving human capital and ultimately increasing economic output of the nation (Becker, 1992).

Human capital theory is the most influential economic theory of western education setting the framework of government policies since the 1960s. It is a key determinant of economic performance. A key strategy in determining economic performance has been to employ a conception of individuals as human capital and various economic metaphors i.e. technological change, research, innovation, productivity, education and competitiveness (Almendarez, 2011).

Structural Change Theory and Poverty Reduction

Structural-change theory P. (2002), is to the independent variable of optional actions taken to reduce poverty. This theory focuses on the mechanism by which underdeveloped economies transform their domestic economic structures from a heavy emphasis on traditional subsistence agriculture to a more modern, more urbanized, and more industrially diverse manufacturing and service economy. It employs the tools of neoclassical price and resource allocation theory and modern econometrics to describe how this transformation process takes place. Two well-known representative examples of the structural-change approach are the “two-sector surplus labor” theoretical model of W. Arthur Lewis and the “patterns of development” empirical analysis of Hollis B. Chenery and his coauthors (Todaro and Smith, 2012). Aradhna and kumar (2012) holds that structural change is at the core of economic development, and a heavy dependence on agriculture leads to vicious circle of low productivity and poverty. To overcome this, industrialization is necessary since it breaks the vicious circle and it augments the incomes to the levels where saving and investment is possible (Lewis, 1954, Kaldor, 1966, 1967; Fei and Renis, 1964).

In that respect, poverty reduction is combated through structural change in this order: shift from agriculture to industry, and then to services (Kuznets, 1966, 1971). Structural transformation describes the process by which low-income societies in which agriculture absorbs most labour and generates most economic output; become high-income societies characterized by a relatively smaller but more productive agricultural sector (Worldbank, 2017). According to Lewis (1954), the underdeveloped economy consists of two sectors: a traditional, overpopulated rural subsistence sector characterized by zero marginal labor productivity characterized by surplus labor in the sense that it can be withdrawn from the traditional agricultural sector without any loss of output and a high-productivity modern urban industrial sector into which labor from the subsistence sector is gradually transferred. The primary focus of the model is on both the process of labor transfer and the growth of output and employment in the modern sector. Both labor transfer and modern-sector employment growth are brought about by output expansion in that sector. The speed with which this expansion occurs is determined by the rate of industrial investment and capital accumulation in the modern sector. Such investment is made possible by the excess of modern-sector profits over wages on the assumption that capitalists reinvest all their profits (Todaro & Smith, 2012).

Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework is a theorized display recognizing the model under investigation and the connections between the needy variable and the autonomous factors (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2006). At the point when unmistakably verbalized, a theoretical system has potential convenience as an instrument to platform inquire about and, consequently, to help an examination to make importance of resulting discoveries (Smyth, 2002). Such a structure ought to be expected as a

beginning stage for reflection about the examination and its setting as an instrument intended to help an investigation to create mindfulness and comprehension of the circumstance under investigation; by comprising of Independent and Dependent factors. As per Kothari (2003), a variable is an idea, which can go up against characteristics of quantitative values.

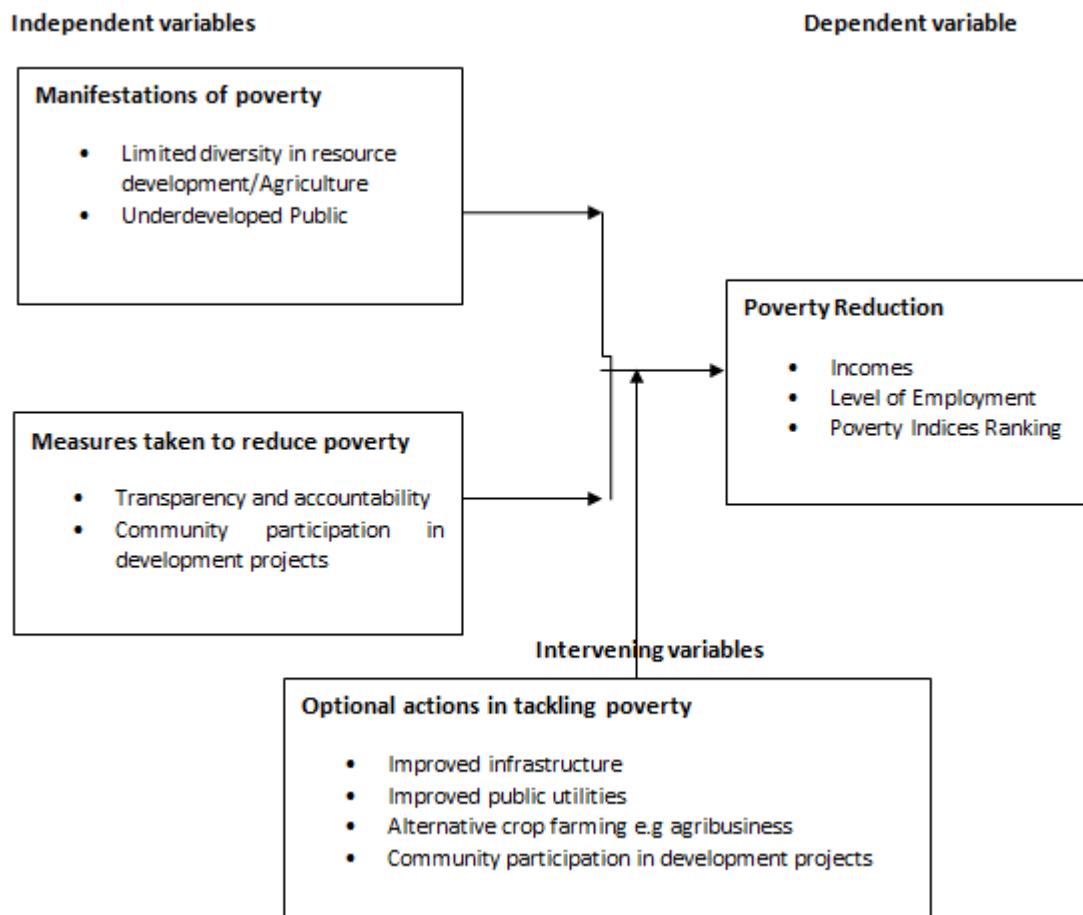


Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework

Review of variables

Manifestations of poverty

According to Shaohua and Ravallion, (2008) Poverty results from economic, social and political processes that converge and reinforce each other to exacerbate the state of deprivation. Rising poverty is driven by Kenya's dismal economic performance. Kenya's population has been on the increase over the past thirty years putting pressure on the natural resources, increasing income gap, rising poverty levels that erode gains in education, health, food security, employment and incomes. Large inequalities have accentuated poverty, and women suffer disproportionately as cultural and traditional practices often restrain equal access to economic resources and opportunities (Wambui, 2011). The poor are usually the main victims of environmental degradation. The poor suffer more from environmental decay because they must often live on degraded lands that are less expensive because the rich avoid them. Moreover, people living in poverty have less political clout to reduce pollution where they live. And living in less productive polluted lands gives the poor less opportunity to work their way out of poverty. But in some cases they are also its agents, typically as a result of the constraints of their poverty. Too often, again, unplanned spirally population growth is blamed for problems that are attributable to poverty itself (Todaro and Smith, 2012).

For example, China's population density per acre of arable land is twice that of India, yet yields are also twice as high. Though it is clear that environmental destruction and high fertility go hand in hand, they are both direct outgrowths of a third factor, absolute poverty. For environmental policies to succeed in developing countries, they must first address the

issues of landlessness, poverty, and lack of access to institutional resources. Insecure land tenure rights, lack of credit and inputs, and absence of information often prevent the poor from making resource-augmenting investments that would help preserve the environmental assets from which they derive their livelihood. Hence preventing environmental degradation includes as a key component the provision of institutional support to the poor, rather than fighting an inevitable process of decay (Todaro and Smith, 2012). Prevalence of poverty has also resulted from too little or poor quality inputs in agriculture, especially lack of detailed scientific knowledge, locality by locality of climates, soils, biotic factors, crop plant materials and animals; management skills; agrochemicals; capital; credit and weak supportive infrastructure. Farmers have poor access to well-functioning communication and transport facilities to facilitate inflow of inputs and outflow of products, or post-harvest processing and handling systems (for value addition). Companies continue to focus on more profitable crops/varieties rather than the wide range of crop species which constitute the backbone of resource poor farmers' food security. The result is low output (Tripp, 2003). New avenues are needed, therefore, to provide seeds of improved varieties that respond to the choices and demands for poorer farmers. Climate change as evidenced by disasters such as droughts, floods, typhoons have become frequent and unpredictable. The semi-arid areas of Sub Saharan Africa are characterized by low rainfall with one or two short rains.

Policy bias that generally work against the rural poor are exemplified by: bias in favor of large land owners and commercial producers with respect to rights of land ownership and tenancy, publicly provided extension services and access to (subsidized) credit; favoring export over food crops; implicit taxation of agricultural products; urban bias in public investment for infrastructure and provision of safety nets insecure land tenure; weak influence on global markets and trade and farmers disempowerment. Weak coordination of agriculture with other related sectors has had a negative input on the levels of development, (Pretty, 2005). In general, reviews of policies targeting poverty reduction indicate that the country is not short of the right policies. However, the increasing poverty levels create a worrying trend. Lack of political will to implement the policies: Non-implementation of policies has been blamed on lack of political will to implement the grand ideas contained in the Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1965. Once it had accomplished the goal of silencing critics of the first KANU government, the document was subsequently shelved (Kenya government, 1965). The donor influence is inherent in most of the state programs. Policies have been forced on the country to qualify for development assistance, both multilateral and bilateral. Such policies have never given the role of local institutions, community and the people to benefit from the program any serious consideration to date. Such policies have partially been successful or miserably failed. The donors influence the PRSP process through funding, advisory and capacity building. There is direct participation of some donors while others enter the PRSP process through their NGO partners. The implication of this arrangement has made some Kenyans to view the participatory aspect of PRSP as mere cosmetic participation of the Kenyan CSO that is engaged to satisfy the donors' interests rather than new approach of addressing poverty (Omiti, et al 2002).

There is weak resource base among the institutions: A number of institutions, starting with the government, are seriously cash strapped with collapsed infrastructure. Poverty alleviation is a gigantic national undertaking requiring colossal amounts of resources. More fundraising would be required to pool funds for poverty alleviation programs if the trend is to be reversed (Kenya government, 1995) A number of policies are neither serious nor authentic. Some policies are intended to appease the public at crucial times, mostly during elections. This is particularly true of the political manifestoes, which indeed are public relations exercises for political parties whenever elections are about to be held rather than addressing real issues such as initiating sustainable poverty alleviation program. The exclusion of institutions involved in poverty alleviation programs: The role of institutions in poverty reduction programs has not been well appreciated. Further, the policies that govern the operations of most of the non-state operations are formulated without soliciting their input until recently.

The state and measures taken to reduce poverty

Both the national government and the county governments in Kenya have embarked on reducing poverty. This section will focus on examining these strategies in detail.

Education

Education for sustainable development has the potential to equip people with skills needed to improve their livelihoods and by building a skilled workforce, education can promote a country from one economic bracket to the next. If all students in low income countries left school with basic reading skills, we could eradicate 12% of world poverty and as

such, it is an essential investment (UNESCO 2013). Skills are the key way in which education reduces poverty. Education makes it more likely for men and women not just to be employed, but to hold jobs that are more secure and provide good working conditions and decent pay. In so doing, education can not only help lift households out of poverty, but also guard them against falling back into poverty. And, just as education plays its role in helping alleviate poverty, progress in fighting poverty is inextricably linked with progress in achieving education for all. The direct costs of sending children to school, as well as the indirect costs of losing a source of labor, can be formidable for poor parents and as a consequence, not only are poor children less likely to enroll in primary school, but those who do so are more likely to drop out. This disadvantage results in children from poor households being over three times more likely to be out of school than children from rich households. Low quality education reinforces this problem, as parents are less willing to bear those costs if they cannot see the benefits of education and there is no better moment to realize education's role in helping households escape poverty than today (UNESCO 2013). Education has been confirmed to work in many situations and there is empirical evidence in literature on the same, but in Kenya this link seems to be missing. This relationship in some instances does not seem to bear the required fruits and sometimes its outcomes have been blurred. For example, in Kenya poverty levels still remain high. From the HDR report of 2013, Kenya is ranked at 145 which were the same as the rank of 2012, with a HDI of 0.519 which has been rated as low human development (UNDP, 2013). This is a clear indication that despite the efforts that have been put in place to increase the rate of access to education and with over ten years of free primary school education (FPE), this is not translating to poverty reduction measures as would be expected and millions continue to suffer and live below the poverty line.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

PRSP is a national strategy drawn up by governments of low income countries, for targeting government expenditure, on measures to reduce poverty (World Bank, 1999). It begins from a diagnosis of the causes of poverty, then identifies the poverty reduction outcomes that a country wishes to achieve and the key actions-policy changes, Institutional reforms, programmes and projects-needed to achieve these outcomes. It establishes targets, indicators and monitoring systems. PRSP is based on six core principles namely: Result-oriented which Monitors able targets, Comprehensive which integrates macroeconomic, structural, sectoral and social elements, Country-driven-owned and managed by the country concerned, Participatory this ensures all stakeholders participate in formulation and implementation based on partnership between government and other actors, and finally, Long term as well as short term goals (World Bank, 1999).

The overall goal of PRSP is to support the poor to move out of poverty. The actions needed to achieve pro poor growth can be considered as being on two levels: (1) Creating the microeconomic conditions to encourage growth (2) Measures to include support or protect the poor - Usually spending in social sectors such as education, health, infrastructure etc. For poverty reduction strategies to be responsive, the poor must be sufficiently empowered to initiate, design and implement what they perceive to be good for them. This requires political, social and economic empowerment within the overall framework of sustainable development that combines growth with poverty reduction and protection of the environment (Deng, L.A et al, 1996).

The World Bank's 2000- 2001 World Development Report, —Attacking Poverty recommended a three-pronged approach to alleviating poverty: - Opportunity - Promoting economic opportunity for the poor. Empowerment, making state institutions more responsive Security – reduce the risk of and vulnerability to wars and disasters. According to a poverty reduction strategy, education must be designed to break the vicious circle of poverty whereby lack of education, health services and adequate diet limit both the quantity and quality of work possible and thus also reducing capacity for income or wage earning. Instead a virtuous circle should be created whereby productive capabilities are successively expanded to ensure ultimate self-reliance (Ikiara & Tostensen, 1995).According to the World Bank, (2001) major reductions in poverty are possible but achieving them will require a more comprehensive approach that directly addresses the needs of the poor people in three important areas: opportunity, empowerment and security. Sustainable Agriculture cannot succeed without the full participation and collective action of rural people and land managers. This is for two reasons. First are the external costs of resource degradation that are transferred from one farmer to another. Secondly the attempts of one farmer alone to conserve scarce resources may be threatened if they are situated in resource degrading farms. Studies have shown that farmers and farming households that have worked together on resource management, labor sharing, marketing, nutrient management have been able to maintain landscape value that would be too costly or even impossible if done alone. Local groups and indigenous institutions have therefore long been important in rural and agricultural development.

These may be formal or informal groups such as traditional leadership structures, water management committees, water users groups, neighborhood groups, youth and women groups and tree growing associations. These initiatives provide basis for collective action, for building consensus, for undertaking coordination of responsibility and for collecting, analyzing and evaluating information, (Thompson et al, 2007). Poverty alleviation in Kenya has become a major challenge since independence where in addition to elimination of ignorance and disease, poverty alleviation was identified as a major policy objective (Republic of Kenya, 1965). Over the years the Kenyan Government has through its decentralized antipoverty programs targeted the distribution of assets, food, funds and services to individuals, households and communities. Through these funds the government aims at improving poverty targeting and project implementation by using local information and encouraging community participation especially in project identification, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Recently there has been an increase in resources devoted for Constituency and Community based development programs that include the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF), Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF), Constituency Education Bursary Fund, and Roads Fund. The government in recent years has published a number of policy and strategy papers geared towards achieving broad based sustainable improvement welfare of all Kenyans (Robb, 2002).

Agribusiness

According to World Bank (2008) the transformation of subsistence agriculture in Africa holds tremendous promise for catalyzing economic growth and creating employment opportunities for the world's large youth population. Furthermore, various African poverty reduction strategy papers stress that growth in the agricultural sector contributes proportionally more to poverty reduction than any other economic sector. In our view, this means focusing businesses that work in agriculture, and ensuring that the systems and human resources are in place (Koira, 2014). The need for agribusiness development in Africa is undeniable, especially for its largely young and rural population. Over 63 percent of the total population in Sub-Saharan Africa live in rural areas where agriculture remains the single largest source of employment and income (World Bank, 2008). The transformation of subsistence agriculture and embarking on an agribusiness development path will drive economic growth, while providing increased employment opportunities and enhanced livelihoods for people living in poverty. In addition to stimulating economic growth, an agribusiness development path can contribute substantially to poverty reduction and improved social outcomes, forming part of a socially-inclusive development strategy.

Koira (2014) suggests that addressing these challenges requires that agribusiness development needs to be context-specific, by addressing issues of supply and demand. More agribusiness workers need skills and training to increase the value of products, develop businesses and build the capacity to adapt with change. Networks are needed to link farmers to new technical ideas and markets. This can be done by strengthening linkages with industry through agro-processing and value addition to agricultural products, as well as improved post-harvest operations, storage, distribution and logistics. Finally, young people need to be engaged and trained in agribusiness to ensure the sector is successfully developed for the coming bulge of young people in the population. Some field-based practical experiences and lessons now show promise for improving the employment opportunities of young people through agribusiness. From the point of view of farmers, producers and other actors in the value chain, there are opportunities to build agribusinesses through skills and training, technology and finance in order to improve productivity and add value to products. It is now possible to use evidence-based results to inform future action plans and propose measures to help young people make the transition into the labour market (Koira, 2014).

Increasing access to financial resources

Evidence from microfinance clients in developing countries has demonstrated that access to financial services enables poor people to increase their incomes and build assets, offers the potential for growth and helps safeguard poor households against vulnerability. MFIs have been credited with addressing the structural determinants of poverty, the economic and social status of women, and other sources of vulnerability. In general, MFIs offer a range of financial services, including credit, savings and insurance to poor enterprises and households, often helping to even out income fluctuations and maintaining consumption levels during lean periods. Typically, MFIs are located near their clients, and utilize lending technologies that are simple and inexpensive for both the client and lender (UN, 2004). Access to financial services enables clients to reduce their vulnerability by smoothing their consumption, building assets, and receiving services during natural disasters. A study of SHARE in India revealed that three fourths of the clients saw improvements

in their economic well-being and half the clients graduated out of poverty. Participation in the Zambuko trust had a positive impact on the consumption of high protein foods in extremely poor client households. In general, experiences from an increasing number of successful MFIs show that with new methods of lending, often involving small loans without collateral and at full-cost interest rates (repayable in frequent instalments), the vast majority of clients repaid on time (UNDP, 1999).

Optional actions approaches in tackling poverty

Transparency and accountability is yet another critical factor in determining the effectiveness of institutions in addressing poverty. Research findings reveal that most of the institutions are not transparent and accountable to the people. Programs as well as opinions of other stakeholders are used to rank institutions according to perceived levels of accountability and transparency. Communities should be involved in planning for poverty alleviation. The communities should be trained on how to monitor and evaluate projects. The beneficiaries should also be trained on measurement and evaluation to empower them to undertake these activities; incorporate the local elders and administrators e.g. chiefs in their program committees; and use opinion leaders to sensitize the community on the importance of poverty programs. For effective and popular community participation in development, there is need to create a political space where people and their organizations can flourish and actively seek people's input into the decision making process. There should a working relationship between the people and their representatives in formulating development strategies with the aim of achieving self-reliant and people centered development. There is need for devolving power from the centre to the people, adapting government efforts to people's initiatives, and creating an enabling environment which makes genuine empowerment of people a reality. People should therefore be enabled to direct their own socio-economic transformation by giving recognition to their institutions and grassroots initiatives and developing cooperative partnership that reflect African priorities. Enabling communities to identify with poverty alleviation policies, programs and projects will in the long run ensure their sustainability.

For efficient and more effective poverty reduction efforts there is need to develop creative and mutually beneficial partnerships between public Institutions, Private sector and NGOs Effective governance is a pre-requisite for efficient implementation of poverty alleviation programs. Arguably, responsive governance structures guarantee the full enjoyment of human and economic rights. In the end, it allows the various actors to participate effectively in poverty reduction. When citizens are aware and defensive of their rights, they are more assertive and are able to promote their own interests. There should be effective and efficient co-ordination between state and non-state players to avoid duplication; creating an enabling environment that allows non-state actors to influence poverty alleviation policies; reforming existing government institutions and structures such as decentralized planning; and establishing County Poverty Alleviation secretariats to harmonize the activities of institutions involved in poverty alleviation at the local/grassroots level. In order to successfully implement poverty alleviation programs, it is critical for the government to improve governance and make government institutions work for the poor. It is suggested that the government develop a clearer vision, develop stable and representative constitutional arrangements; decentralize through devolution of power; develop and enforce the rule of law; secure property rights and adjudicate disputes; invest in a healthy and knowledgeable citizenry; encourage private sector investment in infrastructure and production; manage resources transparently; and, deliver goods and services effectively to communities and firms. The poor should have capacity to understand the operation of institutions involved in poverty alleviation.

Subsequently, effective civil society development organizations should be supported by the public and private sectors. CBOs, NGOs and religious organizations should remain supportive in facilitating delivery of goods and services. However, they have not been able to reach out to all the needy people. This could be achieved by strengthening their capacities— financial, logistical and human to enable them adequately handle challenges of poverty alleviation. The stakeholders in poverty alleviation should embrace bottom-up approach where communities are involved at every stage in the project cycle: conceptualization, planning and budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. To enhance project sustainability, communities should be sensitized to own and maintain development projects. Ideally, the community should formulate the objectives of the new projects before embarking on the actual implementation. Thereafter, the communities together with stakeholders should conceptualize the project and assess the needs in the context of possible alternatives. This would stimulate the mobilization of local resources, and final implementation of various programs. Regular reviews by lead institutions, local CBOs and the government in consultation with communities would ensure successful implementation and sustainability of projects. The development partners should be encouraged to initiative pro

Empirical Review

Considering the literature on poverty in Bangladesh, there is a difference of opinion concerning the impact of economic growth on poverty situation in the country. Osmani et al. (2003) infer from the study of poverty trends that economic growth has been helpful to the poor in Bangladesh. According to them economic growth stimulated small scale manufacturing that directly benefitted in improving job and income opportunities. Another significant study by Sen, Mujeri and Shahabuddin (2007) ratifies that poverty reduction in Bangladesh was faster in the decade of 1990s as compared to the decade of 1980 due to higher economic growth in the former as compared to the latter. Inchauste et al (2013) calculate that more than 90% of the changes in poverty in Bangladesh are explained by growth in mean income. They give largest credit to growth in farm incomes in 1990s as responsible for poverty reduction and lesser importance to non-farm income improvements. The study by Ahmad and Ehsan (2005) indicated that economic growth alone has been of little benefit to the poor in Bangladesh. As far as economic liberalization is concerned, Mujeri and Khondker (2002) and Osmani (2003) have similar views. Klytchnikova and Diop (2010) too ascribe importance to trade liberalization for helping Bangladesh improve the life and livelihoods of the extremely poor who became relatively better-off. The importance of State interventions has not been sidelined in case of Bangladesh as Khan (2004) and Ahmad and Ehsan (2005) suggest direct and indirect interventions and reforms to help poverty alleviation. In addition to these, the role of NGOs in assisting the poor through a variety of welfare measures cannot be ignored. In this connection, Habib and Jubb (2015) proved that microfinance helped the poor overcome a number of constraints through small amount funding. Schemes funded by the government to help the poor have been a part of the various five years plans put into action since the formation of the country and its administration. However, the resultant changes in the condition of the poor have been much below expectation due to poor implementation and monitoring setup at the local level. Qayum and Samadder (2013) report that weak implementation was responsible for heavy leakages and poor poverty reduction outcomes. Indonesia's experience with poverty too dates to its colonial roots but it has experienced wide-ranging swings in the incidence of poverty as some external uncontrolled factors have also been responsible for causing transient poverty and rebound to normalcy for a considerable number of citizens. Indonesia too has attempted at managing poverty consciously - through various welfare schemes and unconsciously - the impact of economic growth. Many scholarly studies bear evidence to the notion that economic growth has helped Indonesia lower its poverty. Cornia and Kiiski (2001) prove this for the period mid 1970s to late 1980s. Hofman et al. (2004) and Martin (2002) have made similar findings that economic growth has been poor friendly. Sectoral composition of growth too has significant implications for poverty reduction. In case of Indonesia, the service sector growth has been the most crucial in helping lower poverty. Warr (2006) asserts that service sector growth has had the maximum contribution to poverty alleviation. Similar findings by Suryahadi et al. (2012) have been made who in addition to analyzing poverty trends in Indonesia, empirically proved poverty reduction in both rural and urban areas on account of economic growth and income increases. In light of the financial crisis of mid 1990s, many people plunged into poverty. Notably, the longer term impact of the crisis on poverty was alarming as almost one-half of the total number of poor in 2002 were on account of the 1998 financial crisis (Ravallion, 2008). Warr (2001) and Papnek (2005) contend that macro-economic conditions are extremely crucial for the poor and through indirect linkages impact their earnings and consumption expenditures. As a response to the impact of the crisis on the level of prices, unemployment and poverty, the Government introduced generalized subsidies and then targeted subsidies.

Critique of Existing Literature

Very little research has focused on assessment of the performance of poverty reduction strategies employed particularly by the county governments. The literature that has been reviewed also does not show if there are strategies such as promoting manufacturing industries at the county level to aid in poverty alleviation. With a focus only on what the government is supposed to do for people to reduce poverty, it is somehow difficult to reduce the poverty levels in Trans Nzoia County. Therefore it is necessary for the county government and national governments to focus more on making people to understand and play their role well as agents of poverty reduction efforts.

Summary of the reviewed literature

The literature review focused on analysing the literature related to poverty reduction strategies. The study was built on the theory of Human Capital (Almendarez L. (2011), which emphasizes the need for education in reducing poverty. The literature review then focused on discussing the concept of poverty from the causes of poverty to the limitations of poverty reduction strategies that are in use. The literature indicated that there are still challenges that need to be addressed such as policies and strategies in order to bring about expected poverty reduction. The literature concluded by the empirical review in which we reviewed the study related to poverty reduction.

Research gaps

There have been a number of valuable studies on poverty reduction in Africa both by the African scholars and even the outside scholars. However the focus of this research has not been assessing the effectiveness of poverty reduction strategies hence making it hard to know which strategy is effective in reducing poverty. Furthermore since the adoption of the new constitution, many counties have focused on reducing poverty in their respective regions but so far, very few scholars have carried out the study to assess the efficiency of those studies. Neither has been any research carried out in Kwanza sub-county to assess the same.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**Introduction**

This chapter provides a description of how the research was carried out to meet objectives of the study. The study employed quantitative methodology as it emphasizes standardization, precision, objectivity, and reliability of measurement as well as explicability and generalizability of findings. Therefore, it presents research design, target population, sample size and sampling procedure, research instruments, data collection procedure, and data analysis techniques and presentation.

Research Design

A research design is used to structure a research, to show how all major parts of the project, which include samples or groups, measures, treatments or programs, and methods of assignment that work together to address the central research questions. Research design is important because it's a conceptual structure within which arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose (Kothari, 2004). It is the adhesive that is used to join the whole study to come up with a beautiful pattern (meaningful and coherent study). This study utilized a descriptive research design because it comprises surveys and fact-finding enquiries of different types. Mugenda & Mugenda (1999) elucidates that descriptive survey research determines and reports the way things are and also it attempts to describe such things as possible behavior, values and characteristics (Best *et al.*, 2004). It is concerned with how, what is or what exists is related to some preceding event that has influenced or affected a present condition or event (Best, *et al.*, 2004) and also involves hypothesis formulation and testing.

Target Population

Mugenda & Mugenda (2003) describes population as a complete set of individuals, cases or objects with some common observable characteristics. It is the total collection of elements about which the study wishes to make some inferences (Cooper & Schindler, 2008). The survey targeted a population of Households who are living in selected wards in Kwanza sub-County (KNBS, 2013).

Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

This section describes sample size and sampling procedures that was used in sampling target population. More technical considerations suggest that the required sample size is a function of the precision of the estimates one wishes to achieve, the variability or variance, one expects to find in the population and the statistical level of confidence one wishes to use, Salant & Dillman (1994).

Sample Size

Brinker (2006) defines sampling as a systematic selection of representative cases from the larger population. To get information about population of interest and draw inferences about it, a sample which is a subgroup of the population is used (Lind *et al.*, 2008). Sample size depends on the nature of the analysis to be performed, the desired precision of the estimates one wishes to achieve, the kind and number of comparisons that will be made, the number of variables that have to be examined simultaneously and how heterogeneous a universe is sampled. A sample of 100 Households was drawn.

Sampling Procedure

This involves how the respondents were chosen. To avoid sampling and bias errors, the researcher strove to obtain an appropriate and large enough sample. A stratified random sampling technique was used to obtain 140 Households in Cherangany Sub-County. Additionally, a stratum is homogenous from within but heterogeneous with other strata. This is

because of the different factors such as life stages, income levels, management level, group composition etc. (Sekaran & Bougie, 2010). Stratified random sampling is done when the sample to be drawn does not constitute a homogenous group (Kothari, 2004).

Data Collection Instruments

The research employed questionnaires and interview schedules to collect data. In researching human beings, no single source of information can be trusted to provide a comprehensive perspective in any study program. As a result it is imperative to use several methods of data collection to improve on reliability and validity of data collected (Smith, 1975). Schofield (1996) reported that using a combination of data sources and collection methods is a validating aspect which cross-checks data. This use of combined data collection methods and sources such as interviews and questionnaires increases the validity and reliability of information since the strength of one approach compensates for the weakness of another approach (Cohen *et al.*, 2007).

Validity and Reliability of the Research Instrument

Validity of Research Instrument

Validity of an instrument is the success of a scale in measuring what it sets out to measure so that differences in individual scores can be taken as representing true differences on the characteristics under study (Koul, 2002). Predictive validity of scores was employed to test the validity of the research instruments. This was examined to determine the extent to which a particular measure is a good predictor of another variable. Content validity was ensured by doing a thorough literature review study on which the content of the questionnaire was based. Face validity was ensured by: pretesting of the data collection tool and scrutiny of the instruments by the research supervisor. External validity of a study is said to exist when the results obtained in a study can be generalized to other people and other settings. Generalization is made considering the degree of confidence with which the sample findings can be conferred on the population and whether similar findings would be obtained at other times and places.

Reliability of Research Instrument

Reliability refers to the consistency of measurement and it was enhanced through a pilot study before the actual study took place. Orodho (2004) notes that reliability of research instruments concerns with the degree to which a particular measuring procedure gives similar results of a number of repeated trials. The study employed the Cronbachs test to determine whether the values were above 0.7 or below 0.7 after which factor analysis and reliability results were conducted. To do this, piloting was done in Endebess Sub County, with using a sample of 30 questionnaires which was about 30% the sampled population. This provided the basis for amending the questionnaire data to ensure consistency in the instruments.

Data Collection Procedure

The researcher obtained letter of introduction from the JKUAT to get a research permit from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation was obtained. In addition, an introduction letter from the Local government was similarly obtained. The researcher then sought appointment with local leader's in the community. The researcher was aided by research assistants by visiting the sampled respondents and administers the questionnaires. The respondents will be guided on how to respond to the questions and will also be assured of their confidentiality after which they will be given the questionnaires to fill within seven days.

Pilot Testing

A pilot study is essential in shaping future research instruments. Pilot study can reveal deficiencies in the design of proposed research instruments (Kothari (2004). The purpose of carrying out a pilot study was to find out if the instrument was appropriate, unambiguous and practical. From the pilot survey, improvements will be made on the research instrument. Pilot study will involve 40 respondents from Bidii ward, being obtained from 10% of Mugenda & Mugenda (2003) of the sample size. Piloting will aid to reveal the validity and reliability of the instrument to locate ambiguities and reveal flaws in the questions so that data collected can be relevant to the objectives of the study. Lloyd, P.A (1994) asserted that even the most carefully constructed instrument cannot guarantee to obtain a hundred per cent reliable data. It assisted the researcher to improve on the skills of using the instruments before the main study.

Data Analysis and Presentation

After data collection from the field, a master codebook was designed to ensure duly filled questionnaires are coded uniformly. Wilcox (1982) noted that analysis of qualitative data depends on nature of data and conceptual framework employed from the Theory. Data was collected both quantitatively and qualitatively. Then it was processed and analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentages, frequencies and tables. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to aid in analysis. SPSS was preferred because it is very systematic and covers a wide range of most common statistical and graphical data analysis which makes a mass of research material easier to read. By reducing a large set of data into a few statistics, or into some picture such as a graph or table, the results of research will be clearly and concisely presented. The multiple linear regression model that will be used is as follows:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon$$

Where

Y= performance of poverty reduction strategies

β_i = Regression coefficient, $i=0,1,2,3$

ε = Error term

X_1 =manifestations of poverty

X_2 =state and measures taken to reduce poverty

X_3 = optional actions in tackling poverty

4. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study on the performance of poverty reduction strategies in Kwanza sub-county, Trans Nzoia County, Kenya.

Response Rate

In this study, a total of one hundred questionnaires were distributed across Kwanza sub-county. Out of the 100 questionnaires that were distributed, 90 were completed and returned for analysis yielding a return rate of 90 percent. This questionnaire return rate yields a very reliable response rate to enable generalizations of the study findings. This agrees with Zikmund et al., (2010) who noted that a response rate of 70 percent and above is a reliable response rate.

Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Age Group

The study established that the majority of the respondents were between the ages 20-25 percent at 24.4 percent, those between the ages of 26-30 formed 15.6 percent, while those of the ages between 31-35 represented 17.8 percent of the respondents. Those of the age between 36-40 formed 24.4 percent of the respondents. Finally, those of the age above 40 years represented 17.8 percent of the respondents. Table 4.1 below presents a summary of the age of the respondents.

Table 4.1: Age of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
20-25	22	24.4
26-30	14	15.6
31-35	16	17.8
36-40	22	24.4
Above 40	16	17.8
Total	90	100

Marital status

The study established that 42.31 percent were single while 57.69 percent were married. From the study findings it was revealed that none of the respondents was either divorced or separated.

Education Level

The study also was interested in establishing the highest education level of the respondents. The study findings revealed that majority of the respondents 36.4 percent of them had college education, 35.5 percent of them had professional education, 17.3 percent of them had Secondary school and only 10.9 percent of them had some form of University education respectively.

Presentation of Findings**Manifestation of poverty in Kwanza sub-county**

The study sought to determine the manifestations of poverty in Kwanza Sub-County in Trans Nzoia County. The findings are presented in a five point Likerts scale where SA=strongly agree, A=agree, N=no idea, D=disagree, SD=strongly disagree T=Total. To get the opinion of the respondents on manifestations of poverty in Kwanza sub-county, the respondents were asked to respond to the statements as summarized on table 4.2 below. First the respondents were asked whether people have access to public utilities. From the findings it was established that 13.24 percent strongly agreed, 64.71 percent agreed, 10.29 had no idea, 11.76 percent disagreed, and none of the respondents strongly disagreed. These findings therefore mean, that people in Kwanza sub-county have access to public utilities.

The respondents were also asked whether people have access to electricity. The findings revealed that 26.47 percent strongly agreed, 57.35 percent agreed, 7.35 percent had no idea, 7.35 percent disagreed and 1.47 percent strongly disagreed. These findings therefore imply that people have access to electricity in kwanza sub-county. The respondents were further asked whether people have access to water supply. The study findings showed that 23.53 percent strongly agreed, 48.53 percent agreed, 4.41 percent had no idea, 19.12 percent disagreed and 4.41 percent strongly disagreed. This study findings shows that people have access to water supply. In addition the respondents were asked whether people have access to health facilities. The results of the study showed that 17.65 percent of the respondents strongly agreed, 58.82 percent agreed, 4.41 percent had no idea, 13.24 percent disagreed, and 5.88 percent strongly disagreed.

The respondents were also asked on their opinion on whether the condition of the roads is good. The study established that 16.18 percent strongly agreed, 39.71 percent agreed, 2.94 percent had no idea, 23.47 percent disagreed, and 17.65 percent strongly disagreed. These findings therefore imply that the respondents doubt that the condition of the roads is good.

The respondents were also asked on whether people have access to financial resources. The findings of the study indicated that 17.65 percent strongly agreed, 32.35 percent agreed, 17.65 percent had no idea, 26.47 percent disagreed, and 5.88 percent strongly disagreed. These findings show that the respondents also doubt whether people have access to financial resources in Kwanza sub-county. The respondents were also asked to give their opinion on whether security is good in Kwanza sub-county. The findings showed that 16.18 percent strongly agreed, 52.94 percent agreed, 5.88 percent had no idea, 17.65 percent disagreed, and 7.35 percent strongly disagreed. This findings therefore reveals that security is good in Kwanza sub-county. The respondents were asked whether there is enough market for people of kwanza sub-county. From the findings, 14.71 percent strongly agreed, 50.0 percent agreed, 11.76 percent had no idea, 14.71 percent disagreed, and 8.82 percent agreed. The findings showed that there is enough market for people of Kwanza sub-county. The respondents also were asked whether the physical transport is good in Kwanza sub-county. The findings showed that 54.4 percent strongly agreed, 5.88 percent agreed, 13.24 percent had no idea, 10.29 percent disagreed, and 11.76 percent strongly disagreed. These findings therefore showed that generally the physical transport is good in Kwanza sub-county. The respondents were further asked whether people have access to quality inputs in agriculture. The following were the responses; 11.76 percent strongly agreed, 38.24 percent agreed, 8.82 percent had no idea, 36.78 percent disagreed, and 4.41 percent strongly disagreed. These findings mean that people doubt that they have access to quality inputs in agriculture.

The respondents also were asked on whether people have access to credit facilities. The distribution of the findings showed that 14.71 percent strongly agreed, 51.47 percent agreed, 8.82 had no idea, 23.51 percent disagreed, and 1.47 percent strongly disagreed. These findings therefore show that people have access to credit facilities in Kwanza sub-county. Finally the respondents were asked whether people have access to institutional resources. The distribution of the study findings showed that 16.18 strongly agreed, 52.94 percent agreed, 8.82 percent had no idea, 17.65 percent disagreed, and 4.41 percent strongly disagreed. These findings show that people have access to institutional resources.

Table 4.2: manifestations of poverty in Kwanza Sub-county

Statements		SA	A	N	D	SD
people have access to public utilities	%	13.24	64.71	10.29	11.76	0
People have access to electricity	%	26.47	57.35	7.35	7.35	7.35
People have access to water supply	%	23.53	48.53	4.41	19.12	4.41
People have access to health facilities	%	17.65	58.82	4.41	13.24	5.88
The condition of the roads is good	%	16.18	39.71	2.94	23.47	17.65
People have access to financial resources	%	17.65	32.35	17.65	26.47	5.88
Security is good	%	16.18	52.94	5.88	17.76	17.35
There is enough market for people of Kwanza sub-county	%	14.71	50.0	11.76	14.71	8.82
People have access to credit facilities	%	54.41	5.88	13.24	10.29	11.76
People have access to quality inputs in agriculture	%	11.76	38.24	8.82	36.78	4.41
People have access to credit facilities	%	14.71	51.47	8.82	23.51	1.47
People have access to institutional resources	%	16.18	52.94	8.82	17.65	4.41

Measures, limitations and challenges taken to reduce poverty in Kwanza Sub-county

The study sought to establish the measures, limitations and challenges taken to reduce poverty in Kwanza sub-county, Trans Nzoia County. The findings are presented in a five point Likerts scale where SA=strongly agree, A=agree, N=no idea, D=disagree, SD=strongly disagree and T=total. To get the opinion of the respondents, the respondents were asked to give their opinion on the following statements. First the respondents were asked whether bursary funds are provided to the needy students. From the findings of the study it was established that 35.29 percent strongly agreed, 54.41 percent agreed, 1.47 percent had no idea, 7.35 percent disagreed, and 1.47 percent strongly disagreed. This means that bursary funds are provided to the needy students. The respondents were also asked whether people are supported by the sub-county to practice agribusiness. The following is the distribution of the findings; 14.71 percent strongly agreed, 38.29 percent agreed, 23.53 percent had no idea, 23.53 percent disagreed and 2.94 percent strongly disagreed. This implies that there are some doubts on whether people are supported by the sub-county to practice agribusiness. The respondents were further asked whether markets have been constructed for people to sell their products easily. The following are the results; 17.65 percent strongly agreed, 38.29 percent agreed, 7.35 percent had no idea, 33.82 percent disagreed, and 5.88 percent strongly disagreed. These findings of the study therefore mean that markets have been constructed for people to sell their products easily. Subsequently the respondents were asked whether health facilities are enough to residents of Kwanza sub-county. The following are the results; 8.82 percent strongly agreed, 36.76 percent agreed, 7.35 percent had no idea, 39.71 percent disagreed and 7.35 percent strongly disagreed. These findings therefore mean that health facilities are not enough to residents of Kwanza sub-county. The respondents were asked whether the roads have been improved to ease transportation. The results indicated that 13.24 percent strongly agreed, 58.82 percent agreed, 2.94 percent had no idea, 17.65 percent disagreed, and 7.35 percent strongly disagreed. These findings showed that the roads have been improved to

ease transportation. The respondents were asked whether clean water is provided to people by the sub-county. In this, 17.65 percent strongly agreed, 48.51 percent agreed, 2.94 percent had no idea, 22.06 percent disagreed and 8.82 percent strongly disagreed. This means that clean water is provided to people by the sub-county.

The respondents were asked whether security is provided by the sub-county. The results indicated that 14.71 percent strongly agreed, 72.06 percent agreed, 4.41 percent had no idea, 7.35 percent disagreed, and 1.47 percent strongly disagreed. This means security is provided by the sub-county. In addition, the respondents were asked whether enough schools have been built for people of Kwanza Sub-county. The results showed that 38.29 percent strongly agreed, 55.88 percent agreed, 1.47 percent had no idea, 4.41 percent disagreed, and 2.94 percent strongly disagreed. This means enough schools have been built for people of Kwanza sub-county. Further the respondents were asked whether non-governmental organizations help in reducing poverty. The distribution of the findings showed that 14.71 percent strongly agreed, 44.12 percent agreed, 27.94 percent had no idea, 8.82 percent disagreed, and 4.41 percent strongly disagreed. This means non-governmental organizations help in reducing poverty.

The respondents also were asked to give their opinion whether poverty reduction initiatives have been successful. The findings of the study showed that 10.29 percent strongly agreed, 39.71 percent agreed, 11.76 percent had no idea, 36.76 percent disagreed, and 1.47 percent strongly disagreed. These findings imply that poverty reduction initiatives have not been successful. The respondents were also asked whether poverty reduction strategies are inadequate. The findings showed that 25.0 percent strongly agreed, 48.5 percent agreed, 11.76 percent had no idea, 10.29 percent disagreed, and 4.41 percent strongly disagreed. This findings therefore mean poverty reduction strategies are inadequate. The study also was interested in knowing whether the poverty reduction initiatives have failed or not. The results revealed that 19.12 percent strongly agreed, 38.24 percent agreed, 14.71 percent had no idea, 19.12 percent disagreed, and 8.82 percent strongly disagreed. The findings therefore means that poverty reduction initiatives have failed. The study also sought to know whether corruption affects the performance of poverty reduction strategies. The findings revealed that 61.76 percent strongly agreed, 29.41 percent agreed, 4.41 percent had no idea, 1.47 percent disagreed, and 2.94 percent strongly disagreed. This implies that corruption affects the performance of poverty reduction strategies. Finally the study was interested in knowing whether there is no effective governance that can reduce poverty. From the findings 29.41 percent strongly agreed, 36.76 percent agreed, 14.71 percent had no idea, 16.18 percent disagreed, and 7.35 percent strongly disagreed. These findings therefore mean that there is no effective governance that can reduce poverty. The results of these findings are summarized in table 4.3 below.

Table 4.3: measures, limitations and challenges taken to reduce poverty in Kwanza sub-county.

Statements		SA	A	N	D	SD
Bursary funds are provided to the needy students	%	35.2	54.41	1.47	7.35	1.47
People are supported by the sub-county to practice agribusiness	%	14.7	38.29	23.53	23.53	2.94
Markets have been constructed for people to sell their products easily	%	17.6	38.29	7.35	33.82	5.88
Health facilities are enough to residents of Kwanza sub-county	%	8.82	36.76	7.35	39.71	7.35

ethnic language is discouraged to enhance diversity	%	13.2	58.82	2.94	17.65	7.35
Roads have been improved to ease transportation						
Clean Water is provided to people by the sub-county	%	17.6	48.51	2.94	22.06	8.82
Security is provided in the sub-county						
	%	14.7	72.06	4.41	7.35	1.47
Enough Schools have been built for people of Kwanza sub-county	%	38.2	55.88	1.47	4.41	2.94
Non-governmental organizations help in reducing poverty.	%	14.7	44.12	27.94	8.82	4.41
poverty reduction initiatives have been successful	%	10.2	39.71	11.76	36.76	1.47
poverty reduction strategies are inadequate						
	%	25.0	48.5	11.76	10.29	4.41
Poverty reduction initiatives have failed						
Corruption affects the performance of poverty reduction strategies	%	19.1	38.24	14.71	19.12	8.82
There is no effective governance that can reduce poverty	%	61.7	29.41	4.41	1.47	2.94
	%	29.4	36.76	14.71	16.81	7.35

Coefficient of Determination (R^2)

Table 4.4 shows that the coefficient of correlation (R) is positive 0.847. This means that there is a positive correlation between manifestations of poverty on and the poverty reduction in Kwanza sub-county. The coefficient of determination R-Square 0.717 of measures taken to reduce poverty reduction in Kwanza sub-county is influenced by the measures taken to reduce poverty. The adjusted R^2 0.705 of poverty reduction in Kwanza sub-county is influenced by the optional actions in tackling poverty. 75.7% to be influenced by other factors that were not captured in this study.

Table 4.4: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.847	.717	.705	.6409

a. Predictors: (Constant), manifestations of poverty, measures taken to reduce poverty, optional actions in tackling poverty.

Analysis of Variance

Table 4.5 shows the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The p-value is 0.000 which is < 0.05 indicates that the model is statistically significant in predicting the effect of manifestations of poverty on poverty reduction in Kwanza sub-county. The results further show that the dependent variables are predictors of the independent variable.

Table 4.5: ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	9.585	3	2.396	7.100	.000b
	Residual	30.373	90	.337		
	Total	39.958	93			

5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This chapter presents discussion of findings, conclusion as well as recommendations based on the objectives of the study.

Discussion of Findings

Manifestation of poverty in Kwanza sub-county

The study sought to determine the manifestations of poverty in kwanza sub-county in Trans Nzoia County. From the findings of the study it was established that people in Kwanza sub-county have access to public utilities. Also, people have access to electricity and to water supply. But the condition of the roads is not good. In addition people lack access to financial resources the study further revealed that security is good in Kwanza sub-county and there is enough market for people to sell their products. However the study noted that people lack access to quality inputs in agriculture.

Conclusion

From the findings of this study it was established that all the independent variables have a significant positive effect on poverty reduction in Kwanza sub-county. The most influential variable is measures taken to reduce poverty with a regression coefficient of 0.218 (p-value = 0.160), followed by manifestations of poverty with a coefficient of 0.111 (p-value = 0.036) then finally optional actions in tackling poverty with a coefficient of 0.17 (p-value = 0.016). Accordingly, when all the independent variables values are zero, poverty reduction in Kwanza sub-county will have a score of 7.000.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study recommended the following:

The condition of the roads in Kwanza sub-county is poor, that means the condition of those roads needs to be improved to ease transportation in the sub-county. To tackle poverty, people should have access to financial resources. This mean the sub-county should come up with a way of helping people to get access to financial resources which can be used as capital to start business. Though some people have access to farm inputs, the results revealed that there are still many poor people who do not have access to financial resources. This means the sub-county must make sure it provides inputs to farmers to enable them improve their agriculture. The study further established that health facilities are not enough to the people of Kwanza sub-county. Therefore the sub-county should construct and equip more hospitals to enable them meet the needs of all the people in the sub-county. The study also established that poverty reduction initiatives have not been successful due to factors such as corruption. Thus, it is necessary to put all the necessary measures in curbing against poverty so that the poverty reduction initiative plans can be implemented as planned. Finally, the study also noted that poverty reduction strategies are inadequate. Therefore, there is necessary to come up with more comprehensive poverty reduction strategies that are responsive to poverty.

Areas for further Research

This study focused on assessing the performance of poverty reduction strategies in Kwanza sub-county. The study recommends that another study on the role the citizens can play in reducing poverty so that there can be a complement between what the government is doing and what the people are doing in respect to poverty reduction. Furthermore, conducting a replication study in another sub-County is necessary in establishing sufficient and conclusive results in relation to study.

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