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**ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LIVELIHOOD EMPOWERMENT
AGAINST POVERTY (LEAP) IN ALLEVIATING RURAL POVERTY IN THE
EJURA MUNICIPALITY**

FRANCIS DABUO

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EJURA MUNICIPALITY**

BY

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**A DISSERTATION PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT
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DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF MASTER OF
ARTS DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION STUDIES**

MARCH, 2018



DECLARATION

Student


I hereby declare that this submission is my own work towards the award of Masters in Education Training and Development and that, to the best of my knowledge it contains no materials previously published by another person nor material which has been presented for the award of any degree of the University, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Candidate Signature:Date:

Name:

Supervisor

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of the dissertation/thesis was supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of dissertation/thesis laid down by the University for Development Studies

Principal Supervisor's signature:  Date: March 21, 2018

Name: Mr. Shani Mahama



ABSTRACT

This study assessed the effectiveness of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) in alleviating rural poverty using the Ejura Municipality as a case study. The descriptive cross sectional survey design was used to conduct the study with the Simple Random Sampling technique used to sample the respondents from the study area. The category of respondents sampled included beneficiaries of LEAP, Programme Officers of LEAP and non-beneficiaries of LEAP. The data was collected using a structured questionnaire. The results indicate that, the benefits of LEAP included reduction of poverty (66.7%), payment of children school fees (20%) and payment of utility bills (13.3%). Absence of baseline surveys (60%) and lack of means of transport (60%) were the major challenges affecting LEAP in the study area. The study concluded that, LEAP in Ejura municipality has contributed to reduction of poverty especially among the poor households who were direct beneficiaries. The study recommended that, in the selection of beneficiaries of LEAP at the study area, it should be free from political interference.



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Lastly, my thanks go to my colleagues in the course for their constant support and words of encouragement especially, my best friends who provided me with material and intellectual support. Above all, I thank the almighty God for the gift of life, knowledge and wisdom to do this research.



DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to the Almighty God, my family; especially my beloved wife, Mavis Donkor and my supervisor, Mr. Shani Mahama.



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
GLSS	Ghana living Standard Survey
GPRS	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty
LOC	Local Organizing Committee
MASLOC	Microfinance and Small Loans Scheme
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NKV	New King James Version
NYEP	National Youth Employment Programme
OVC	Orphan and Vulnerable Childrens
RCBs	Rural and Community Banks
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter focuses on the background of the study, problem statement, research objectives, research questions, significance of the study, delimitations of the study, definition of key terms, conceptual framework of the study and the structure of the dissertation.

1.2 Background of Study

Poverty is a complex phenomenon and can be defined from various perspectives. The World Bank (2011) defines poverty in terms of whether individuals in society have enough resources to meet their needs. The human conditions which might be classified as poor have a long history with a variety of interpretations; these conditions are influenced by a number of factors including resources, contemporary standards and public perceptions of what is minimally acceptable (Zaman, 2012). The history of poverty is extraordinarily long, including many well-known quotes in the Holy Christian Book-The Holy Bible: “The poor will always be with you” (Matthew 26: verse 11, NKV). The persisting theme is that those living in poverty have a standard of living that is “unacceptable” because it is unjust (Mwinga, 2012).

To this day, poverty remains a social problem in the world (World Bank, 2011; Mwinga, 2012). Notions of acceptability and standards of living remain contentions (Townsend & Gordon, 2012).

As the processes of global interaction among economic agents gather pace, there is increasing interaction among institutions that either facilitate the growing production



interdependence and capital flows or seek to mitigate the consequences of such activity in various communities.

Thus, for example, while there has been significant growth in the presence of multinational firms in developing countries, there have also developed a significant number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), decentralized public institutions as well as indigenous structures for social capital formation in rural communities, largely intended to make life more bearable for groups that may have been adversely affected by growth in international and domestic economies (Mills, 2012). In both the above cases, poverty reduction is meant to increase resource levels of poor individuals in society (Moore, Choudhary & Singh, 2012). In some cases, however, it is a matter of reducing gross inequality in society (Mills, 2012). Often poverty is seen in terms of the percentage of income spent on food, the higher the percentage the poorer the individual. Poor individuals are also vulnerable and they can fall deeper into poverty for example in cases of drought or floods which have destroyed their subsistence agricultural and livelihood base (Mwinga, 2012).

According to the Ghana Statistical Service report on poverty (2015), the poverty level of the Ejura municipality was estimated to be 47.00% and the Municipality was ranked second in terms of poorest in the Ashanti region after the Sekyere Afram Plains North which recorded 59.6%, the highest in the region. It is therefore important to note that, poverty is endemic within the Ejura sekyedumase municipality and therefore there is the need to address this menace to empower (Starling and Simon, 2012) its citizenry to enjoy the various economic livelihoods within the municipality. This situation if not reduce will continue to have serious repercussion on the individuals within the municipality and the



community at large as it stands now on page 28 of the same report indicating the poverty incidence and estimated number of poor persons in maps in the Ashanti region (GSS,2015).

1.3 Problem statement

Worldwide poverty is to a large extent a rural phenomenon and hence the potential contribution of the rural productive sectors to poverty reduction is quite significant (Moore, Choudhary& Singh, 2012). According to the World Bank (2011), 75 percent of the world's poor (people living on less than one dollar a day) live in rural areas. Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa, including Ghana, is predominantly a rural phenomenon. About 51 percent of the poor in Ghana live in rural areas where they have limited or no access to basic social services including financial services (UNDP, 2012). Throughout Ghana, rural folks manage poverty in various ways by finding individual solutions to the problems: men are moving away from the farms to take up non-existent city jobs while women and children carry on small scale trading and families reduce cash spending which may lead to the withdrawal of their wards from school (GSS, 2008).

Even though, the government of Ghana has been working with other development partners such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to reduce poverty in Ghana there is still extreme poverty in the rural areas (GSS, 2008).

In Ghana, day in and day out, a significant number of people continue to battle with issues of poverty, social exclusion and vulnerability. According to the report on the fifth round of the Ghana living Standard Survey (GLSS 5), approximately 18.2% of the Ghanaian population live under extreme poverty, meaning they are unable to cater for their basic human needs such as food, health, education, shelter and clothing, hence suffer from intergenerational poverty (GSS, 2008).The poverty situation in Ghana is a cyclical one that



the Government, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the Rural and Community Banks (RCBs) by their various intervention strategies are helping to reduce.

Poverty reduction strategies being followed by the Government include: The Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP), National Youth Employment Programme (NYEP), and The Microfinance and Small Loans Scheme (MASLOC). An interview with key informants revealed that, there is no sensitization programme to propagate the impact and promote the essence of social protection programme of such kind (Key Informant, 2016).

Apparently, this will not give them the opportunity to be selected in order to break the cycle of poverty within their families. The increased magnitude of poverty problems in the rural settings of the country demands community-based studies that will facilitate a better understanding of the issues and influence policy and decision-making at the community, town, regional and national level. Therefore, this study was designed to address this important information gap in the literature.

1.4 Research questions

1. What is the knowledge and perception of people towards LEAP in Ejura Municipality?
2. What are the benefits of LEAP to the people of Ejura Municipality?
3. What are the challenges confronting LEAP in implementing its social interventions at Ejura municipality?



1.5 Research objectives

1.5.1 Main objective

The main objective of this study is to assess the effectiveness of LEAP in alleviating rural poverty in the Ejura Municipality.

1.5.2 Specific objectives

1. To determine the knowledge and perception of people towards LEAP in Ejura Municipality
2. To examine the importance of LEAP to the people of Ejura Municipality
3. To determine the challenges confronting LEAP in implementing its social interventions at Ejura municipality

1.6 Significance of the study

For any research to be useful it must contribute to the volume of existing knowledge of the field under investigation. In view of this, it is the conviction of the researcher, that information that would be obtained from this study would help address some of the challenges that confront the effectiveness of LEAP in implementing its activities at the study area. The study conducted in the Ejura Municipality would serve as a reference material and provide opportunity for further study into this area. Governmental organizations such as Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and non-governmental organizations would hopefully find information emanating from this research useful for policy intervention. It is expected that the findings of this study would address issues of misconceptions that people have, that seek to deter other beneficiaries' people from approaching the corridors of LEAP to take advantage of the system to develop their families and communities.



Leap office in Ejura municipality would also use the findings to guide and improve their scope of practice in areas of their operations. Additionally, the findings would augment the pool of data required by other social researchers in their bid to design interventions to solve poverty problems in rural and urban areas of Ghana.

1.7 Delimitation of the study

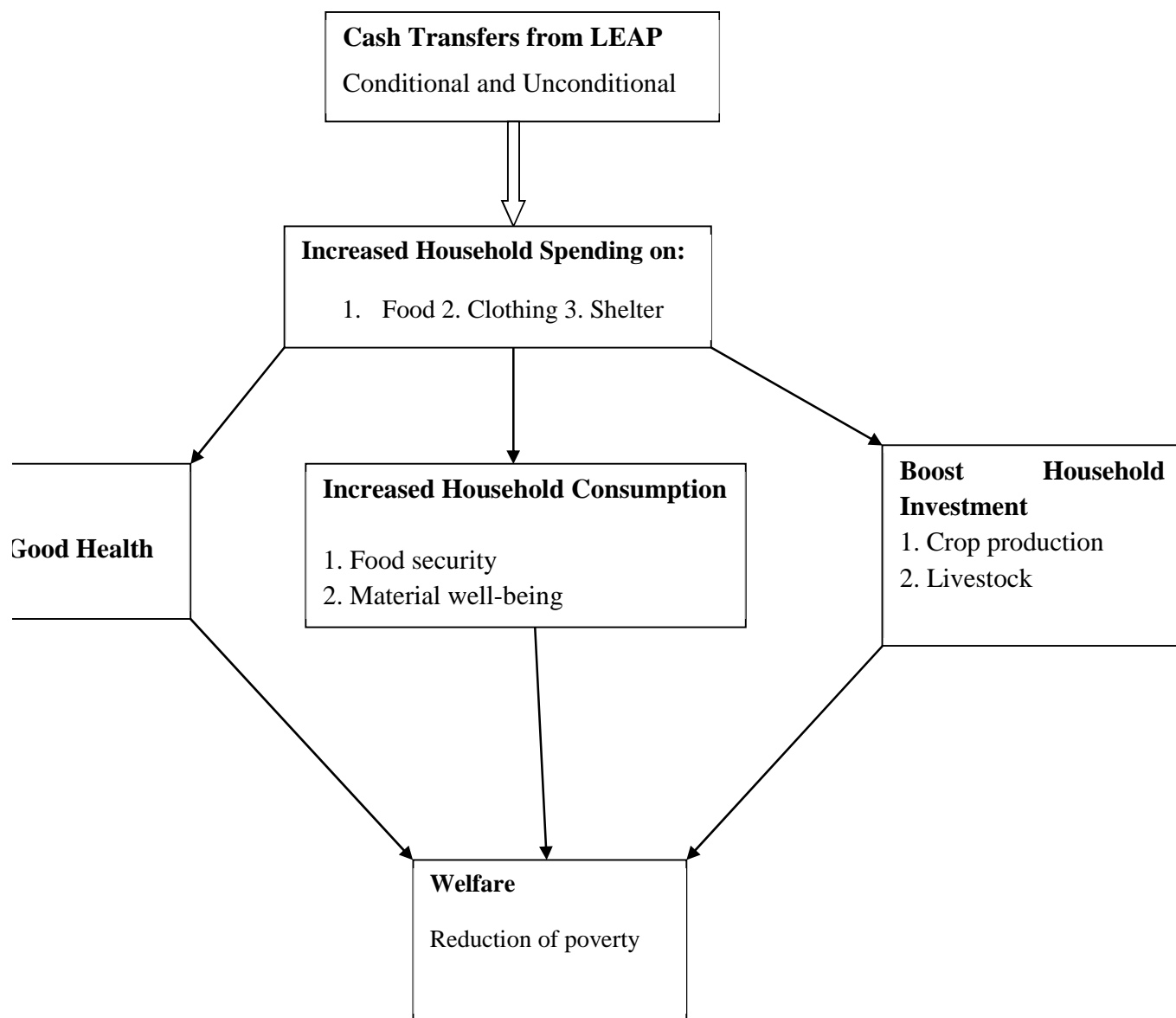
In order to work successfully within the limited time and available resources, the study only focused on the use of advocacy to sensitize the people of Ejura Municipality about the effectiveness of LEAP in alleviating rural poverty. This delimitation of the study was done to manage the data collection considering the time and the resources of the researcher.

1.8 The Conceptual Framework of the study

A conceptual framework is a visual or written presentation that: “explains either graphically, or in narrative form, the main issues to be studied thus the key factors, variables or concepts and the presumed relationship among them” (Miles and Huberman, 1994; p18). It is a theoretical structure of assumptions, principles, and rules that holds together the ideas comprising a broad concept. This study is built on the following conceptual framework.



Figure 1.1: Conceptual framework



Source: Adopted from Canagarajah and Pörtner, 2013

Figure 1.1 is a typical conceptual framework on which this study is built upon. Cash transfers from LEAP would lead to increased household spending on food, clothing, shelter etc. These would lead to increased nutrition, decreased morbidity thus resulting in good health. Also, cash transfers from LEAP would lead to food security and well-being thereby

leading to increase household spending on food which would lead to good household food consumption. Lastly, cash transfers from LEAP would boost household investment through increased in production, livestock as well as household assets. The overall effect would lead to reduction of poverty.

1.9 Background of LEAP

LEAP programme is a Government of Ghana National Social Protection Strategy (GNSPS) which seeks to provide direct cash transfers to the extremely poor or the poorest of the poor, vulnerable and excluded sections of the population. It is a social protection intervention which seeks to reduce the incidence of poverty in Ghana. Since its launch in March 2008 as Ghana's flagship programme of the National Social Protection Strategy, the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme has enabled the poorest families in the country to meet their basic needs (food, clothing and shelter), be healthier, enroll their children in school as well as improve their attendance, and adopt strategies to pull themselves out of poverty. LEAP, with the influx of cash in the community, also enhances the local economy by increasing demand and boosting economic activity.

The Ghana Statistical Service in Ghana Living Standard Survey (GLSS, 2007) estimated that about 40 percent of Ghanaians are poor. It also indicated that about 14.7 percent of the population are extremely poor and are unable to access basic human needs and suffer from inter-generational or cyclical poverty. This type of poverty needs to be reduced through the direct infusion of money and hence the introduction of the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) programme by the government. This strategy is premised on the concept that where poverty is extreme as happens in rural Ghana the poor lack the ability to get out of the poverty cycle by themselves. The various poverty reduction strategies



outlined aim to end extreme poverty, not to end all poverty and to close the gap between the rich and the poor.

1.10 Definition of terms

- **Advocacy:** Speaking up for oneself or for others
- **Livelihood:** Comprises capabilities, the assets (natural, physical, human, financial and social capital), the activities, and the access to these (mediated by institutions and social relations) that together determine the living gained by the individual or household.
- **Empowerment:** A multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives.
- **Poverty:** A lack of opportunities, powerlessness, and vulnerability.
- **Social protection:** The set of public measures that a society provides for its members to protect them against economic and social distress that would be caused by the absence or a substantial reduction of income from work as a result of various contingencies (sickness, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, invalidity, old age, and death of the breadwinner).
- **Cash Transfer:** A regular noncontributory payment of money made available by government or non-governmental organizations to individuals or households of a defined characteristics, with the sole objective of reducing chronic or shock-induced poverty, while addressing social risk and reducing economic vulnerability

1.11 Organizations of the research work

This study is organized into five chapters. Chapter one contains the introduction and background to the study and its relevance in social discourse. The objectives of the study,



research questions, significance of the research and delimitation of the study are included in this chapter. The second chapter discusses the literature review in relation to the issue under investigation possibly putting key issues and concepts under headings and sub-headings for easy reading. The third chapter establishes a clear research methodology for conducting the study. Sub-sections such as; profile of study area, research design, study population, sampling technique, sample size determination, data collection procedures, sources of data collection, data validity and reliability, limitations of the study, data processing and analysis and ethical considerations are found in the chapter. The fourth chapter deals with the data analysis and discussions of the data from the respondents with specific references to the reviewed literature. Chapter five contains the summary of the findings, conclusion and recommendations of the research work.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This aspect of the study looks at related works or studies done by other people. It examines the dimension, causes and measures to reduce poverty including social intervention programmes in other parts of the world and Ghana. Literature review focuses on areas relevant to the research topic. This results in development of a comprehensive picture on what is known on the topic. This research proceeds accordingly to review literature that is relevant to the research topic by putting them under headings and sub-headings in relation to the research objectives.

This makes it possible for the researcher to combine different works together in order to have ideas and to find out the existing body of knowledge related to this study. Going through literature acquaints the researcher with the methodologies that have been used by others to find answers to research questions similar to the research being undertaken. This review examines authors like Jaha and Sika-Bright (2015), Abebrese (2011), and Canagarajah and Pörtner (2013) and Sudhanshu and Michael (2013).

These authors were specifically reviewed to provide a crucial pathway for conceptual innovation in the research on the basis of empirical data reviewed in their studies. This assisted the researcher to look at a way that provides better traction for understanding observations with their work and possibly anticipate similarly findings in this study.

2.2 Concept of poverty explained

Poverty is a widely used and meaningful concept in all countries in the world (Serumaga-Zake, Philip and Arnab, 2012). In September 2000, governments of 189 countries adopted



the United Nations Millennium Declaration and resolved to “spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty” (UNDP, 2012; p 43). Although poverty is a universal concept, its definition is often contested. The term ‘poverty’ can be considered to have a cluster of different overlapping meanings depending on the subject area or discourse (Jaha and Sika-Bright, 2015).

Poverty in its most general sense is the lack of necessities. Basic food, shelter, medical care, and safety are generally thought necessary based on shared values of human dignity (Jaha and Sika-Bright, 2015). However, what is a necessity to one person is not uniformly a necessity to others. Poverty affects different aspects of people’s lives, existing when people are denied opportunities to work, to learn, to live healthy and fulfilling lives, and to live out their retirement years in security (Abebrese, 2011; Darko, 2011). Lack of income, access to good quality health, education and housing, and the quality of the local environment all affect people’s well-being. The researcher view of poverty covers all these aspects.

A consequence of this lack of ‘resources’ is that a ‘poor’ person/household will eventually become deprived, they will be forced to live like the ‘poor’ that is, they will not be able “to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged or approved, in the society to which they belong” (Canagarajah and Pörtner, 2013; p 42).



2.3 Types of poverty

The following are types of poverty that this study has considered

- a. **Situational poverty:** Is generally caused by a sudden crisis or loss and often temporary. Events causing situational poverty includes environmental disasters, divorce or severe health problem (Canagarajah and Pörtner, 2003; Handa and Park, 2012).
- b. **Generational poverty:** This occurs in families where at least two generations have been born into poverty. Families living in this type of poverty are not equipped with the tools to move out of their situations (Handa and Park, 2012).
- c. **Absolute poverty:** This is a level of poverty defined in terms of the minimal requirements necessary to afford minimal standards of foods, clothing, health care and shelter (Handa and Park, 2012).
- d. **Relative poverty:** Refers to the economic status of a family whose income is insufficient to meet its society's average standard of living (Abebrese, 2011; Agbaam and Dinbabo, 2014).
- e. **Urban poverty:** The urban poor deal with a complex aggregate of chronic and acute stressors including limited access to employment opportunities and income, inadequate and secure housing and services, violent and unhealthy environments, little or no social protection mechanisms and education opportunities (Abebrese, 2011; Agbaam and Dinbabo, 2014).
- f. **Rural poverty:** This refers to poverty found in rural areas, including factors of rural society, rural economy and rural political systems that give rise to the poverty found there. Poverty remains a predominantly rural problem with a majority of the world's poor located in rural areas (Darko, 2011).



2.4 Advocacy explained

The term Advocacy comes from the Latin word ‘ad voce’ meaning ‘towards a voice.’ Advocacy is any attempt to influence public policy and practice or any other decisions of institutional elite. It involves the active espousal of a point of view or a course of action and can include high profile legal challenges and other openly political actions, as well as less visible, more subtle processes of influence (Salamon and Lester, 2002). Advocacy activities may be aimed directly at the decision makers or they may seek to influence indirectly through shaping public opinion and voter intentions or by disseminating alternative models of policy and practices (Salamon and Lester, 2002; Jenkins and Craig, 2012). Advocacy is made up of two components: self-advocacy and representative advocacy. Self-advocacy occurs when a group or an individual are capable of speaking up for themselves. Examples of self-advocacy include; citizenship advocacy and group advocacy whereas representative advocacy involves an advocate speaking up on behalf of a group or individual (Jenkins and Craig, 2012). Examples of representative advocacy include; peer advocacy, family advocacy and legal advocacy.

2.4.1 Principles of advocacy

- Empowerment
- Autonomy
- Inclusion
- Citizenship

2.5 Knowledge and perception of people towards LEAP

Since independence in 1957, various governments in Ghana have adopted several policies, plans, programmes, projects and strategies aimed at accelerating growth and development



and reducing poverty. For instance, the Operation Feed Your Self during the Achempong's regime in the late 1970s, Vision 2020 during the Rawlings' regime, the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS I), Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II) both under the Kofour's regime and the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA I) under the Atta Mills led administration all have policies, plans, programmes and strategies that are all geared at ameliorating poverty and vulnerable groups in Ghana (Darko, 2011; Agbaam and Dinbabo, 2014).

The eradication of poverty is a principal concern of all in seeking the betterment of least and developing nations, and this gives the main rationalization for promoting economic growth and development in these countries (Handa and Park, 2012). Several factors and variables have to be taken into consideration in the definition and measurement of vulnerability especially in least and developing countries. One dimension cannot be used to define and measure poverty that apply to all environment, approaches and situations. This makes the conceptualization of poverty and classification of the vulnerable groups difficult.

The concept of poverty has been viewed in many ways base on the circumstance, who defines it and the purpose of which it is defined. The causes of poverty inform measures to tackle or minimise it. In other words, it is the causes of poverty that inform appropriate and suitable measures for its prevention. Apart from the cultural and structural perspective of causes of poverty, Jaha and Sika-Bright (2015) identified five related causes of poverty.

These include: individual deficiencies; cultural belief systems that support sub-cultures of poverty and vulnerability; economic, political, and social distortions or discrimination; geographical disparities cumulative and cyclical interdependencies. The individual



incapabilities as a cause of poverty attribute poverty and vulnerability to lack of inherited qualities such as intellect and skills that are not so easily upturned. Proponents of this blame the individuals in poverty and destitution for creating their own tribulations, and argue that with hard work, ingenuity and improved choices the poor could contain their predicaments (Jaha and Sika-Bright, 2015).

There are various arguments related to the alleviation and eradication of poverty and vulnerable groups because poverty is an intricate matter in terms of ideological orientations, theoretical issues, causation and its scope (Jaha and Sika-Bright, 2015). The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty programme (LEAP) is one of the social protection tools of the Government of Ghana to alleviate poverty especially among the poorest of the poor considered as the extreme poor. It is part of the Ghana National Social Protection Strategy which was launched in 2008. The broad objectives of the National Social Protection Strategy were to establish a new social grant scheme to provide a basic and secure income for the most vulnerable households.

The strategy also aims to target poverty better so as to inform other existing social protection programmes and lastly provide a package of complementary services for beneficiaries of Social Protection programmes (Handa and Park, 2012). The LEAP is therefore one of the social protection programmes implemented by the government to address poverty particularly of the extreme poor in society.

In a cross sectional study conducted by Pikos (2014) on people knowledge concerning LEAP in Ghana, findings revealed that 87% of the sampled population stated that they have ever heard of LEAP, 10% of the study population claimed they have never heard of LEAP before whilst 3% were neutral in their responses. Among the study population that claimed



they have ever heard of LEAP, majority of them mentioned the media (34%), 60% of the study population identified their friends whilst 6% of the study population mentioned school as their sources of information. In a similar study conducted among beneficiary of LEAP on how much they are supposed to earn as beneficiaries, findings revealed that, 80% of the beneficiaries have no knowledge of the amount due them whilst 20% of the beneficiaries were fully aware of the amount due them (Jaha and Sika-Bright, 2015).

Furthermore, respondents were asked whether they knew the number of times they were to receive the cash transfers within a year. In response, 85% said they were not aware of the number of times they should receive transfer whilst 15% said they knew how often they were supposed to receive the transfer in a year (Jaha and Sika-Bright, 2015). Out of those who had knowledge on frequency of payments, 8.33% said 4 times in year and 6.67% said 3 times in a year.

In a related development, majority of people representing 89% in a survey in the Central region of Ghana stated that LEAP was a very good programme since it was used as a tool in reducing poverty among poor people in the region whilst 11% respondents stated that LEAP was good because people who were beneficiaries could now buy certain things of their own (Sudhanshu and Michael, 2013).

In an evaluation study on how people perceive LEAP in Ghana, majority (90%) of the respondents stated that people perceive LEAP to be only for the poor in society whilst 10% respondents stated that LEAP was for everybody (Jaha and Sika-Bright, 2015). In an evaluation study concerning programme officers' assessment of LEAP, finding revealed that, Programme officers explained that due to the level of illiteracy among beneficiaries they easily misplace their identity cards which entitle them to access health.



Therefore, any time they intended to visit a health facility it became difficult since they did not have identification cards. Couple with the identity cards was also an issue of transportation. Beneficiaries were equally unable to access health services because they could not afford the cost of transport to health facilities especially for those who live far away from health facilities (Sudhanshu and Michael, 2013).

According to Handa, Park and Darko (2013) most Ghanaians who were assessed in a descriptive cross sectional study, concerning their knowledge on the complementary services of LEAP stated that they were aware of these services of LEAP whilst a relatively fewer number stated that they were not aware of the complementary services of LEAP. In that report, findings revealed that most of the people stated that LEAP provided a safety net for the poorest and most marginalized groups in Ghanaian society, especially the bottom 20% of the extreme poor in Ghana.

The programme therefore seeks to protect and empower extremely poor families consisting of the elderly (aged 65 and above), the disabled who are unable to work, and caregivers of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) by providing them financial support (cash grants), as well as access to complementary services such as the National Health Insurance Scheme and enrollment of children in school.

In a study to examine the impact of LEAP on the people and what people use the cash grants from LEAP to do, most of the people stated that they use the cash grant for their personal needs whilst the rest said they use it for others businesses (Pikos, 2014). The study revealed that 36.67%, 25%, 21.67%, and 16.67% of the respondents used the cash transfer received on feeding, medicals, education, and investing in their farm/trade activities respectively (Pikos, 2014)



The above figures show that majority of the LEAP beneficiaries spent much of the cash received on nutrition, health, and on education. Agbaam and Dinbabo (2014) previous monitoring report on LEAP, showed none of the respondents utilizing some portion of the funds for any trading / business activity. However, the above information gives a significant percentage of the sampled beneficiaries using some portion of the cash transfer received on the farm activities and for trading.

2.6 Benefits of LEAP to the people

Ghana since independence in 1957 has traversed the development path with various development programmes and policies aimed at raising the standard of living and alleviating poverty. Since independence various development strategies and programmes were embarked upon with the aim of reducing poverty and moving the country into a desired prosperous nation. Though initial successes were recorded making Ghana a beacon of hope in Africa these successes did not stand the test of time. Poverty reduction programmes in Ghana became much popular in the 1980s with the introduction of Structural Adjustment programmes among others (Agbaam and Dinbabo, 2014).

For instance, Darko (2011) investigated the extent to which LEAP and other possible social grant policies would impact on poverty, inequality and government fiscals in Ghana. The major finding of this research was on the impact of LEAP on household economy. Also in 2013 the Food and Agriculture organization conducted a research into the economic impact of cash transfer programmes in sub Saharan Africa using the LEAP as Ghana's case study. The study revealed that the LEAP programme enabled households to invest in a number of economic activities and also increase economic activities within the localities (FAO, 2013; Darko, 2011).



Before LEAP, many beneficiary households had few reliable sources of stable household income. Household income analysis with beneficiaries in Agona Abrim in the Central region in Komenda district; for instance, confirmed the importance of LEAP transfer to filling safety net gaps created by a meagre household income (Darko, 2011).

The beneficiaries were elderly women (65+) living with dependents but without an independent source of household income. Before LEAP, they relied for their daily survival mainly on cash and in-kind transfers from neighbours and relatives and on children's remittances. Focus group discussions with beneficiaries confirmed that many were not physically fit to work and had limited opportunities for borrowing but could not also benefit from the few social networks that existed within their community (Darko, 2011)

The poorest households in Komenda district experienced poor nutrition, poor health, poor housing, a struggle to send children to school and indebtedness. One beneficiary in AgonaAbrim community commented: 'before LEAP it was all about survival (Sudhanshu and Michael, 2013). The introduction of a small but predictable flow of cash income improves livelihood choices and productive investments, although vulnerable households would be more highly constrained in their decision making on how to use the additional cash (Serumaga-Zake, Philip and Arnab, 2012).

Cumulative findings from global research on cash transfer impacts in different countries have confirmed that small but reliable cash transfers can help poor households to diversify livelihoods and increase income by avoiding short-term distress sales of labour or assets and by supporting longer term investment in assets (Agbaam and Dinbabo, 2014).

Cash transfer experiences, for example from Maharashtra, India and from Ethiopia, provide evidence that transfers allow households to make small investments; and in some cases



take greater risks for higher returns (Soares, Ribas and Osório, 2010; Sudhanshu and Michael, 2013). Over the past decade, social cash transfer programmes have increasingly become widespread in the developing world. Soares, Ribas and Osório (2010) noted that this phenomenon is largely as a result of the wide developmental impacts of social cash transfers on the lives of beneficiaries and their communities.

Empirical evidence from Latin America, Asia and Africa show that social cash transfers reduce poverty and inequality, reduce hunger and improve nutrition, stimulate school enrolment, improve access to and use of healthcare facilities, reduce child labour and promote wider economic growth amongst others (Sudhanshu and Michael, 2013). UNICEF (2012) contended that in Mozambique the social cash transfer programme is estimated to have contributed to a reduction in the poverty headcount by 6%, and reductions in the poverty gap and poverty severity by 27% and 44% respectively. In Ecuador and Bolivia, social pension schemes have also reduced the poverty rate of older people by 36% and 44% respectively (World Bank, 2011).

Additionally, Handa, Park and Darko (2013) argue that in Zambia an evaluation of the Kalomo social cash transfer scheme revealed an increase in satiation levels after meals for beneficiaries with the percentage of households complaining of not being satisfied after each meal decreasing from 56.3% to 34.8%. Furthermore, beneficiary households also recorded a high intake of balanced diets with more households consuming vitamins and proteins such as vegetables fruits, fish and meat.

Interestingly, evidence from Malawi's social cash transfer programme also showed that administering the transfer to households with children resulted in a 5% increase in school



enrolment, whilst targeting households with orphans resulted in a 4.2% increase in school enrolment (Sudhanshu and Michael, 2013).

For Abebrese (2011) an evaluation of the Punjab Educational Sector Reform Programme in Pakistan by the World Bank in 2008 also revealed that school enrolment rates for girls aged 10-14 years increased by 11 percentage points from the baseline figure of 29%. Likewise, in Namibia, Darko (2011) discovered that 14 out of 16 grade 12 pupils attended school regularly because their grandparents are in the receipt of social cash transfer.

Also, a review of specific cash transfer schemes in Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Nicaragua, Honduras and Malawi revealed that beneficiary households frequently utilize health care services than non-beneficiary households (Soares, Ribas and Osório, 2010). Evidence from Mexico indicates that maternal health visits were 18% higher in areas where the Progresa/Oportunidades cash transfer programme is operational in comparison to areas where the programme is non-operational (Serumaga-Zake, Philip and Arnab, 2012).

In Peru, Abebrese (2011) contended that, within just a year of the implementation of the Juntos programme, immunizations of children under one year increased by 30% whilst home deliveries reduce by approximately 65%. Furthermore, Food and Agriculture Organization (2013) argues that the Bono de Desarrollo Humano cash transfer programme in Ecuador reduced the incidence of child labour by 17% in participating households.

There was a widespread consensus that LEAP transfer had enabled those beneficiary households with school age children (including but not only OVC beneficiaries) to be better able to send the children in their households to school. In Dompoase in the Central Region, there was unanimity amongst both beneficiaries and key informants that school attendance



had increased due to the LEAP transfer, with beneficiary households able to keep up with add-on fees and spend more on school books and clothes.

This prioritization of school spending was reflected in household expenditure analysis amongst beneficiary households with school age children. The impact of the LEAP ‘conditionality’ on household spending priorities and school attendance was less clear, but there were indications, particularly in Dompouse, that the conditionality attached to OVC household transfers had a positive effect on OVC school attendance (Jaha and Sika-Bright, 2015).

An associated reported impact of the LEAP transfer was that it had brought about a reduction in child labour as children from beneficiary households who used to work all day now worked on farms and stalls only after school and on weekends. This reinforced strongly expressed views amongst beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries that children’s education was highly valued and that only under extreme distress would they put their children into labour rather than into school. Many low socio-economic students face emotional and social instability. Typically, the weak or anxious attachments formed by infants in poverty become the basis for full-blown insecurity during the early child-hood years. Very young children require healthy learning and exploration for optimal brain development (Handa and Park, 2012).

Unfortunately, impoverished families tend to be a higher prevalence of such adverse factors as teen motherhood, depression and inadequate health care all of which lead to decreased sensitivity toward the infant (Janvry et al., 2002) and later, poor school performance. A strong reliable primary caregiver who provides consistent and unconditional love, guidance and support, safe, predictable, stable environments, ten to 20 hours each week of



harmonious, reciprocal interactions is most crucial during the 6-24 months of infants' lives and helps them to develop a wider range of healthy emotions, including gratitude, forgiveness and empathy could improve academic performance of their children (Abebrese, 2011).

Children raised in poverty are much less likely to have these crucial needs met than their more affluent peers and as a result are subject to some grave consequences in terms of academic performances (Abebrese, 2011). The LEAP transfer had reduced borrowing and financial risk and asset disinvestment amongst beneficiary households while increasing their capacity to cope on a day-to-day basis through risk-averse coping strategies.

LEAP households were less likely to have to go into debt (borrowing money from extended family) when they need money to survive. Now the beneficiaries had a more secure base. For some beneficiaries, LEAP had given them more financial credibility and financial trustworthiness, so that they could more easily access goods on credit if needed, pay these advances later or directly pay at the time of purchase reducing need for credit (Handa and Park, 2012).

In a context of seasonal food insecurity in the North, because the cash transfer typically arrived in lump sums, beneficiaries in the Northern region were better able to buy grains in bulk for storage and draw on these during the hungry season. This was important particularly for the elderly who were no longer able to work.

In both Northern and Central regions, the LEAP transfer also enabled beneficiary household members to maintain their health, paying for ongoing prescription medicines and even for major operations. Many beneficiaries were elderly and infirm, so that health spending was a significant concern. For example, an elderly male in Dompoase mentioned



that he underwent a long-awaited eye surgery and now was able to visit the doctor as required and to purchase necessary medicines.

In addition to having more to eat, the LEAP transfer also enabled beneficiaries to eat better quality and more nutritious food. In both the Central and Northern regions, LEAP beneficiaries reported a significant improvement in their diets, being able to have a more diverse diet and serve sizable portions (Jaha and Sika-Bright, 2015). Most impoverished children may not be fed well and would lack the needed food nutrients for their brain development.

Deficits in these areas inhibit the production of new brain cells, alter the path of maturation and rework the healthy neural circuitry in children's brains, thereby undermining emotional and social development and predisposing them to emotional dysfunctions. Social dysfunction may inhibit students' ability to work well in cooperative groups, quite possibly leading to their exclusion by group members who believe they aren't "doing their part" or "pulling their share of load".

This exclusion and the accompanying decrease in collaboration and exchange of information exacerbate at risk students' already shaky academic achievement and behaviour (Serumaga-Zake, Philip and Arnab, 2012; Pikos, 2014).

Despite this, the research elicited evidence of a significant increase in the investment of LEAP transfers in household economic activity. The context for this investment was that the LEAP cash transfer in the prevailing rural household context was often considered and pooled as a household, rather than an individual, benefit or income.

Hence in the absence of basic needs spending or priority welfare expenditures, such as an operation or medical expenses, the transfer tended to become part of the household's



working capital. This took the form of petty trading activity, increased investment in farm productivity, or even diversification of livelihoods through investments in livestock (Government of Ghana, 2015).

2.7 Challenges confronting LEAP in implementing its social interventions programme

There are various perspectives and explanations to the causes of poverty. The argument among theorists and policy makers about the causes of poverty is mainly separated between those who support cultural/behavioral opinions and those who are of the view point that poverty and the existence of vulnerable groups emanate from the structural/economic system (Jordan, 2004). Thus, the culture and the structural setups are the key causes of poverty.

The cultural perspectives are of the opinion that the existence of poverty is fundamentally the consequence of social and behavioral or attitudinal deficiency in individuals that apparently make them less productive within the conventional society. Thus individuals or people in society create, uphold, and pass on to future generations a culture that reinforces the various social and behavioral deficiencies (Sudhanshu and Michael, 2013).

The cultural perspectives view the deficient character of the poor or the vulnerable group along with their abnormal behavior and the consequential self-reinforcing background that confine their access to economic viability and success. In a recent study by Agbaam and Dinbabo (2014) on the impact of LEAP in Ghana the study uncovered that the insufficient nature of the cash transfer, irregular payment periods, lack of access to complimentary services and limited staff capacity pose serious challenges to the programme. Agbaam and



Dinbabo study mentions these only as challenges however their research concentrated on the impact of the programme on poverty reduction at the household level.

One of the key challenges facing the programme is the lack of a grievance and complaints mechanism and limited data on beneficiary feedback to drive evidenced-based programme improvements and design (Canagarajah and Pörtner, 2003). Demand-side accountability, involving citizens assessing performance and holding service providers and public officials accountable, has been weak or ignored so far.

Darko (2011) asserted that civil society organizations also have vital roles to play in the governance and accountability of a society's social protection system if it is to function coherently and effectively. These include assisting powerless and marginalized groups to make claims effectively against their defined levels of entitlement; and applying pressure on public sector providers of social assistance and social insurance in order to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of schemes.

In a comprehensive evaluation study on the impact of LEAP in Ghana by Abebrese (2011), the study revealed that implementation of LEAP has been inconsistent. For instance, for the 24-month evaluation period of the study households received only 20 months' worth of payments. This was followed by a long gap in cash payments to households in 2011, followed by a triple payment in February 2012 to settle arrears.

Thus, LEAP households did not receive a steady flow of predictable cash with which to smooth their consumption. The study further revealed that for the 24 month of the evaluation there was no impact on consumption possible due to the gaps in payments. In a focus group discussion among programme officers of LEAP to identify challenges



confronting them, a major issue revealed was the unavailability of official means of transportation for programme officers (Abebrese, 2011; Handa and Park, 2012).

The programme officers complained they do not have official means of transportation to go round their districts. The interviews unearthed that the duties of the programme officers were varied and numerous. Programme officers were in-charge of mobilising beneficiaries for payments, they also organize beneficiary fora in the communities, it was also their duty to do house to house visits to monitor the actual usage of the money.

All these duties involve extensive travels and therefore demands that programme officers have reliable means of transport to enable them carry out these duties. What makes their situation particularly difficult was that during payment they were supposed to transport the official of the Ghana Post in-charge of the payment to the pay points. However, due to unavailability of official means of transport they were compelled to use their own means of transport which added to their cost of running the programme (Handa and Park, 2012).

In addition to the unavailability of official means of transport and the difficulty eliminating deceased beneficiaries, the interviews revealed that the financial support that the LEAP programme gave to these programme officers was inadequate. Cash transfer programmes were not supposed to be profit oriented and for these programme officers it was not a form of payment to them. However, as part of this administrative running cost programme officers were given some amount of money to enable them organised and mobilised people (Handa and Park, 2012). This amount was termed by the programme officers as “mobilisation”. The complaint however that was this mobilization was inadequate as it was unable to suffice the basic function of running the programme administratively (Darko, 2011).



They intimated that these monies were supposed to be used to maintain offices by providing office materials such as stationary amount others, they also rely on that money to buy fuel and to maintain their motorbikes, additionally some amount of that money was used to pay the community LEAP implementation committee members whose number ranges from two to five members in each beneficiary community as a means of motivating them to disseminate information (Hand and Park, 2012).

This obviously made the money inadequate for them and this could over the long run demotivate them in carrying out their duties as programme officers (Handa and Park, 2012). In another research conducted by Park and Handa (2012) on the operations of LEAP in Ghana the study found that over 95 percent of households felt that how they received information regarding payment was appropriate.

The report indicated that 43 percent of the households received information from a community leader and 14 percent received information from a Local Organizing Committee (LOC) member. Seventy-six percent of households were informed publicly of their payment, while 24 percent were told in private.

This shows that the mode of giving information to beneficiaries about payment dates is not conducive to beneficiaries and there some beneficiaries can miss payment or may be dubbed. As underscored in the overall impact evaluation results for the LEAP programme, delays and irregularities in payments have challenged consumption smoothing for many households and limited the potential for investment and expenditure planning (Handa and Park, 2012).

In the case of Ghana funds come from government budgets and from donor sources and therefore delays may come from these two sources given that the country is experiencing



fiscal deficit and the currency is equally not stable coupled with the external financial crisis delays in releasing such funds one could say is expected. However, for the programme to succeed and for people to jump out from the extreme poverty bracket to another level then regular flow of funds is necessary (Handa and Park, 2012).

The issue of political influences in the running of LEAP was also a challenge. Some district officers maintained they were not under influence or pressure from any political authority. Whiles other districts complained of political interference. They complained that politician in the district attempted to use the programme to their advantage. They also tried to influence the selection of communities to favour their political interests. This poses problems for the programme as this can result in the poor targeting of beneficiaries (Serumaga-Zake, Philip and Arnab, 2012).

However, after more than thirty years of implementing pro-poor programmes and policies to reduce poverty the results have been minimal in the country marked by widespread regional disparities (Sudhanshu and Michael, 2013). The high poverty levels also results in further social exclusion of citizens thereby widening the gap between the rich and poor. The increased levels of poverty over the years, further question the nature and manner in which pro-poor programmes have been implemented and whether they yield the desired results. From a local development view, if the sources of poverty are embedded in values, norms, customs and beliefs that are passed on and entrenched in sub-cultures of deprived people, then local policies and programmes need to address to help change the cultural traits (Serumaga-Zake, Philip and Arnab, 2012). This could be done through a concerted advocacy.



2.8 Evaluation of LEAP

To ensure effective implementation of social protection interventions, the National Protection Policy has instituted a monitoring and evaluation system to measure the extent to which the interventions impacted on lives as required and to holistically track developments in the system (Thome et al. 2013).

The assessment is expected to provide an opportunity to look at the progress made, successes chalked, weaknesses identified, lessons learnt and issues that need to be addressed to ensure the sustainability of the interventions (Handa et al. 2013).

The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programme provides cash transfers to extremely poor households with the goal of alleviating short-term poverty and encouraging long-term human capital development (Thome et al. 2013). LEAP eligibility is based on poverty and having a household member in at least one of three demographic categories: having orphans or vulnerable children, elderly poor, or person with extreme disability unable to work (Starling and Simon, 2012). A unique feature of LEAP is that beneficiaries are also provided free health insurance through the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) (Thome et al. 2013).

Funded from both general revenues of the Government of Ghana and the U.K. Department of International Development (DFID), LEAP is managed by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and implemented by the Department of Social Welfare (Blackburn, 2000)

The programme had positive impacts on children's schooling. The qualitative study found widespread consensus that the LEAP transfer had enabled beneficiary households with school age children to send their children to school (Jaha and Sika-Bright, 2015). LEAP



increased school enrolment among secondary school aged children by 7 percentage points, and reduced grade repetition among both primary and secondary aged children (Soares, Ribas and Osório, 2010).

Among primary aged children LEAP reduced absenteeism by 10 percentage points. Programme impact varies by gender: the increase in secondary school enrolment was limited to boys, while the increase in attendance was bigger for girls (Jenkins and Craig, 2006). The perception of beneficiaries and programme operators was that child labour was reduced as children's enrolment and retention in school increased (Starling and Simon, 2012).

LEAP beneficiaries experienced a 10.8 percentage point increase in the likelihood of holding savings. Moreover, LEAP led to increased debt repayments and reduced loan holdings among smaller households findings corroborated by the qualitative field work (Starling and Simon, 2012). The LEAP transfer reduced borrowing and financial risk and asset disinvestment amongst beneficiary households while increasing their capacity to cope on a day-to-day basis. LEAP households reported that they were less likely to have to go in to debt when they need money to survive, but also more credit worthy since viewed as more financially reliable (Salamon and Lester, 2002).

LEAP has a positive impact on some aspects of productive activity, particularly among smaller households, supplied both more own male farm labour, as well as hired in more male farm labouran impact evident in the qualitative work as well. The qualitative work also found that the transfer in some cases provided working capital for income earning activities, ranging from petty trading to increase on-farm productivity. The use of negative



livelihood coping strategies, such as working as *kaaya-yei* porters in the south, was also reported to have been reduced (Handa et al. 2013).

Qualitative findings indicate some increased economic empowerment, among female-headed household beneficiaries. The pattern of impacts of LEAP suggests that the programme is allowing beneficiaries to re-establish or strengthen social networks. LEAP had a positive impact on both transfers received and non-food gifts (Starling and Simon, 2012).

The programme enabled many beneficiaries to 're-enter' contribution-based social networks including extended family risk sharing arrangements, livelihood/labour farming groups and savings groups. LEAP has had an important impact on psychological well-being. LEAP household heads are 16 percentage points more likely to feel happy about their life and this effect is even larger among female headed households (Thome et al. 2013)

Moreover, if land and capital constraints limit the supply response, higher demand for local commodities may put upward pressure on prices (Handa et al. 2013). Higher prices would raise consumption costs for all households and result in a real income multiplier that is lower than the nominal multiplier. This real income multiplier of the programme could be as low as GHS 1.50 (Sudhanshu, Handa and Michael, 2013).

2.9 Empowerment theory

The study adopted the Empowerment theory to support the study variables. According to Gibbon, Labonte and Laverack (2002) empowerment basically encompasses a diversity and commonality of people or a community. Zuba (1999) also explained empowerment to include a person or group of persons or community capable of fighting for one's right or



to make one own decision in accordance with one own values. In its broadest sense, empowerment is the expansion of freedom of choice and action; it involves increasing one's authority and control over the resources and decisions that affect one's life.

As people exercise real choice, they gain increased control over their lives (Zimmerman, 2000). The idea of empowerment is to motivate people or communities to control over their own decisions and resources that determine the quality of one's life. In most explanations of empowerment, the central idea is how vulnerable people could have power over certain things that affect their lives in every day.

It is expedient to state that attainment of economic or social empowerment in any community, state or nation depends strongly on the extent to which the masses are psychologically, financially, morally, socially and physically empowered. The study adopted this theory because, if vulnerable people in Ejura municipality are empowered through the assistance of LEAP to set up their own businesses, then they would have the power to make the right choices and the right decisions in life leading to better and improved life (Handa et al. 2013)



CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research methodology that was used to conduct the study. The outline includes; brief profile of the study area, study design, study population, sample size and sampling procedure, research instruments, data collection procedure, quality control, data analysis and ethical considerations.

3.2 Profile of study area

The Ejura Municipality is located within Longitudes $1^{\circ}5' W$ and $1^{\circ}39' W$ and Latitudes $7^{\circ}9' N$ and $7^{\circ}36' N$. It is located in the Northern part of the Ashanti region and it shares boundaries with Atebubu-Amantin District to the Northwest, Mampong Municipality to the East, Sekyere South District to the South and the Offinso Municipality to the West. It has a large land area of about 1340.1 square kilometers and constitutes about 7.3 percent of the region's total land area. The district was upgraded to a Municipal status by L.I 2098 in 2012. The vegetation of the Municipality is to a large extent dictated by the topography and climatic condition of the area. The northern part is covered with sparse derived deciduous forest vegetation. The growth of the savannah vegetation in the northern part of the Municipality is largely attributable to the practice of shifting cultivation and bush fallow system of farming methods (GSS, 2010).

The Municipality has two rainfall patterns; the bi-modal pattern in the south and the uni-modal pattern in the north. The main rainy season is between April and November. Annual rainfall varies between 1,200mm and 1,500mm. Relative humidity is very high during the rainy season, recording 90% in its peak in June and 55% in February. Solar radiation is



very high in the Municipality during the dry season. The northeast trade winds blow dry and dusty winds across the entire Municipality during this period. The Ejura Municipality is predominantly inhabited by the Akan ethnic group but there are other ethnic groups such as, Komkomba, Ewe, Dagomba, Dagarti, Bimoba, Fulani among others in the Municipality (GSS, 2010).

There are three traditional areas in the Municipality i.e. Ejura, Sekyedumase, and Anyinasu. The traditional authorities in the Municipality are committed to the development of their traditional areas and the education and enlightenment of their people by providing land and materials for infrastructure projects, mobilization of the people for communal labour and arbitration of disputes for peaceful coexistence. The population of Ejura Municipality according to the 2010 Population and Housing Census, is 85,446 representing 1.8 percent of the region's total population. Males constitute 50.2 percent and females represent 49.8 percent. About fifty (49.7) percent of the population is rural. The total age dependency ratio for the Municipality is 83.6, the age dependency ratio for males is higher (88.0) than that of females (79.37) (GSS, 2010).

The Total Fertility Rate for the Municipality is 3.8 which is slightly higher than the Regional average of (3.26). The General Fertility Rate is 111.5 births per 1000 women aged 15-49 years which is considerably higher for others in the region. The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is 27.4 per 1000 population. The crude death rate for the Municipality is 8.2 per 1000. The proportion of literate males is higher (66.5 %) than that of females (33.5%).

3.3 Research designs

A cross-sectional descriptive study design was used for the study. This study design provides a comprehensive summary of a phenomenon in everyday language and is ideal



when direct descriptions of the phenomenon are desired (Creswell, 2003). It is used as a needs assessment tool to provide information on which to base sound decisions and to prepare the background for more constructive programme of health research.

3.4 Research population and sample size determination

The research population involved 5 beneficiaries of LEAP, 5 non-beneficiaries of LEAP and 5 Programme Officers who were available in the Ejura Municipality. This category of study participants was considered because of the research topic. This was due to the fact that the number of Programme Officers were only few, only few beneficiaries were identified and the rest who were not beneficiaries of the programme were also sampled from the study area.

3.5 Sampling technique

The study employed simple random sampling technique to sample respondents at the study area. This sampling technique was used in order to avoid bias and to ensure that each person has an equal chance of being selected for the study. The Programme Officers were contacted at the LEAP office, beneficiaries of LEAP were contacted through a focal person of LEAP (Programme Officer) and the rest were simply randomly picked in the study area. Threats on internal validity were reduced by interviewing the subjects at one point in time and in the morning only. The number that was interviewed per day was from one to 15. The researcher took 0 to 30 minutes per subject during 4 hours of interviewing subjects per day. The interview lasted for one week.

3.6 Data collection tool

A self-designed structured questionnaire with both closed and open-ended questions were used in this study to collect the primary data. The questionnaire consisted of a set of 20



questions in four sections (A to D). Section A was made up of 5 questions on socio-demographic characteristics of respondents and were mainly closed ended questions. Section B comprised 6 questions on knowledge and perception of respondents about LEAP. Section C contains 4 questions on the importance of LEAP to the people whilst section D was made up of 5 questions on the challenges confronting LEAP in the study area. The idea of using questionnaire was considered because it can be administered to a number of study participants concurrently with uniform instructions and explanations. The questionnaire was designed in line with the study objectives. Too much information was not demanded to prevent attrition that would possible introduce bias. Study subjects selected may drop out of the study becoming impatience if too much information is sought.

3.7 Sources of data collection methods

Data was gathered from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data was obtained using a structured questionnaire. Respondents that were literate filled the questionnaire themselves whilst the non-educated were assisted to answer the questions and the results tick as in the questionnaire. Secondary data was obtained from reliable records and related literature, such as books, journals and internet articles.

3.8 Quality control

All questionnaires were cross checked to ensure that all questions applicable to the study participants were answered and appropriately recorded or ticked. The questionnaires were put in secured places after entry into SPSS windows version 21.0 for analysis for the sake of cross-checks and confidentiality. Data privacy was ensured as names of respondents were not written on the questionnaires.



3.9 Validity and reliability of the study

Validity and reliability of any research study are important aspects of all research designs. The validity of the data is the quality of the data that indicates authenticity, which implies that the data were in fact what they were purported to be. The reliability of the data is an index of the consistency of the data. Establishing validity and reliability of a study enhances its authenticity thereby making it a useful document for policy formulations, programme designing and other intervention.

To establish reliability and validity of this research, the researcher adopted steps such as:

- Establishing objectives that truly reflected the focus and purpose of the study
- Reviewing relevant literatures to make for realistic discussion
- The instruments were subjected to critiquing by the study supervisor

3.10 Study limitations

This research work is not without limitations. The process of selecting respondents randomly from a sample was challenging. Also, some selected study participants were very reluctant to respond to the questionnaire. The survey relied upon respondents' self-assessment of LEAP. The reliance on self-recall of how study participants responded to certain questions could be problematic. There was also inadequate data on the study topic especially at the study area. There were also limited time and resources constraints which could otherwise have extended the coverage of the study. Nonetheless, these limitations did not affect the results of the study.

3.11 Data analysis and presentation

The data was edited in order to address questions that have been answered partially or not answered by respondents. After editing, the open-ended questions were manually analysed.



The edited data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) window version 21.0. The data was analyzed using basically descriptive statistics involving mainly frequency distributions and cross tabulations. To guard against drawing unjustified conclusions in some stages, Chi-square (χ^2) statistical tests was carried out to consider whether the relationship between the respondents and certain given variables were statistically significant or not.

3.12 Ethical considerations

Ethical clearance was obtained from the University for Development Studies before the commencement of the research work. The researcher also sought permission from the Manager of LEAP at Ejura Municipality before the commencement of the data collection. Research involving human subjects should always be guided by good social practice and human right principles to ensure protection of study participants.

Some of the ethical responsibilities of the researcher were to maintain privacy, informed consent-ensuring that there is voluntary participation, protection of study participants, informing study participants what the study is for, how information would be used and whether there is any potential risk expected. Participants were provided with sufficient and understandable information about participation in the study.



CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the study results. It is presented largely descriptively in the form of tables and graphs. Data was entered and analyzed with SPSS for windows version 21.0. All qualitative data was manually analyzed and put into common themes. Texts in terms of narratives were adopted to support the results obtained from the qualitative data.

This approach was adopted because it allows for in-depth analysis of the dynamics of respondents and the sentiments of respondents that might not be easily obtained using other approaches such as statistical methods. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and cross tabulations were used to compare the results obtained. All statistical tests were performed using two-sided tests at the 0.05 level of significance. P values less than 0.05 was considered significant.



4.2: Demographic characteristics of respondents

The socio-demographic background of the respondents is shown in Table 4.1 with the following variables; age, sex, marital status, occupation and education.

Table 4.1: Demographic characteristics of respondents

Variable		Frequency	Percent (%)
Age	20-35	2	13.3
	36-40	4	26.7
	41+	9	60.0
Sex	Male	5	33.3
	Female	10	66.7
Marital	Single	4	26.7
	Married	5	33.3
	Widowed	6	40.0
Occupation	Salaried worker	3	20.0
	Petty trading	5	33.0
	Farming	3	20.0
	Unemployed	4	27.0
Education	No formal education	5	33.0
	Middle school	3	20.0
	SHS	2	14.0
	Tertiary	5	33.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The mean age of the respondents was 23.4 ± 12.49 (mean \pm SD). From the results, 41+ years constituted the modal group whilst 4 (26.7%) and 2 (13.3%) respondents were within the ages of 20-35 and 36-40 years respectively. Including the age variable in the demographic data of the respondents was to assist the researcher to know the level of maturity of respondents in the provision of their responses therefore making the research



findings reliable. From the results, 6 (40%) of the respondents were widows, 5 (33.3%) respondents were married and 4(26.7%) respondents were single or in consensual relationship. In terms of the sex composition of the respondents, 66.7% respondents were females whilst 33.3% respondents were males.

Having a fair knowledge of the sex composition of the respondents who participated in the study would provide a balance in terms of gender. And more importantly, it would also provide an information concerning estimation of the number of male and female beneficiaries of the Project particularly in the study area.

On the issue of educational status of respondents, analyses revealed that 5 (33%) had no formal education, 3 (20%) respondents said they had Middle School education, 2 (14%) respondents had Senior High School (SHS) education and also 5 (33%) respondents having tertiary education but out of this number, 2 respondents were students doing their national service at the office.

Most of the respondents (33%) were involved in petty trading, 20% respondents were involved in farming, and 20% respondents were salaried workers whilst 27% respondents were unemployed. The respondents were drawn from 5 beneficiaries, 5 programme officers and 5 non-beneficiaries at the study area. The results are presented in Table 4.1

4.3 Knowledge and perception of the people towards LEAP

From the results, 80% of the respondents said they have ever heard of LEAP before at the study area whilst 20% said they have never heard of LEAP before at the study area. Among the former, their sources of information were identified as follows; the media, friends, school and through workshops.





This high number of respondents who have ever heard of LEAP before confirms the study done by Handa and Park (2012) where people knowledge concerning LEAP in Ghana was high with most of them identifying their friends as their sources of information concerning LEAP. From the analyses, 66.7% respondents said they have ever benefited from LEAP whilst 33.3% respondents said they have never benefited from LEAP before. The former were already beneficiaries of LEAP and some were also programme officers of LEAP whilst the latter were the non-beneficiaries of LEAP who were sampled at the study area. Both beneficiary of LEAP and non-beneficiaries were emphatic that LEAP is a good social intervention programme at the study area. They were particularly about the “vulnerable people” who but for LEAP would not have been able to make a meaning life out of themselves. They stated for instance some of the disabled people who were part of the programme and wondered what work some of them would have been doing without any level of education in today’s world. From the results also, 55% respondents said most people are not aware of LEAP, whilst 45% respondents said people were aware of LEAP. Among the former, they identified few reasons to include;

- There is no enough education of what LEAP is in the study area
- There is too much political interference in the activities of LEAP making it difficult for some people to have equally benefited

However, among the latter, 38% respondents said that it is the beneficiaries of LEAP that inform people about LEAP at the study area, 23% respondents said programme officers are also telling people about LEAP and 39% said political parties also used it as part of their campaign message making the people to be aware of it. In both scenarios, respondents were not impressed with the state of awareness of LEAP in the study area and stated that, more

advocacy on the benefits of LEAP by programme officers could increase awareness of LEAP at the study area.

Table 4.2: Education and knowledge of LEAP cross tabulation

Variable		Know		Total	
		Yes	No		
Education	No formal education	Count	5	0	5
		Expected Count	4.3	0.7	5.0
		% within Education	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
		% within Know	38.5%	0.0%	33.3%
		% of Total	33.3%	0.0%	33.3%
	Middle school	Count	2	1	3
		Expected Count	2.6	.4	3.0
		% within Education	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%
		% within Know	15.4%	50.0%	20.0%
		% of Total	13.3%	6.7%	20.0%
	SHS	Count	2	0	2
		Expected Count	1.7	0.3	2.0
		% within Education	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
		% within Know	15.4%	0.0%	13.3%
		% of Total	13.3%	0.0%	13.3%
	Tertiary	Count	4 _a	1 _a	5
Expected Count		4.3	0.7	5.0	
% within Education		80.0%	20.0%	100.0%	
% within Know		30.8%	50.0%	33.3%	
% of Total		26.7%	6.7%	33.3%	

Source: Field data, 2017



From Table 4.2, there was no statistical association between educational status of respondents and being aware of LEAP at the study area ($\chi^2=5.194$; $P > 0.15$). In the non-educational status category, 100% of the respondents knew or perhaps were beneficiaries of LEAP and this perhaps could have informed their knowledge on LEAP whereas, only 80% of respondents in the tertiary category knew about LEAP. The lack of adequate knowledge of the nature of the programme by both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of the programme at the study area level could lead to various perceptions of LEAP. The research observed that majority of the beneficiaries perceived the programme to be very good even though they did not have enough knowledge on it. It was marked as 'very good' on the questionnaires.

In essence it is viewed as a charity as opposed to a right. By this the beneficiaries are unable to make any impute into the programme planning and implementation to make it more beneficial for them. Perceiving the programme as a form of charity without any known minimum standards to meet implies that, beneficiaries may not make any efforts at putting the money into the intended purpose.



Table 4.3: Occupation and knowledge of benefits of LEAP

Variable		Benefit			Total	
		Poverty reduction	Payment of bills	Improvement in nutritional status		
Occupation	Petty trading	Count	5	0	0	5
		Expected count	3.3	1.0	0.7	5.0
		% within occupation	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
		% within Benefit	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%
		% of Total	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%
	Farming	Count	3	0	0 _a	3
		Expected Count	2.0	.6	.4	3.0
		% within Occupation	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
		% within Benefit	30.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%
		% of Total	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%
	Unemployed	Count	2	2	0	4
		Expected Count	2.7	.8	.5	4.0
		% within Occupation	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	100.0%
		% within Benefit	20.0%	66.7%	0.0%	26.7%
		% of Total	13.3%	13.3%	0.0%	26.7%
	Salaried worker	Count	0	1	2	3
Expected Count		2.0	.6	.4	3.0	
% within Occupation		0.0%	33.3%	66.7%	100.0%	
% within Benefit		0.0%	33.3%	100.0%	20.0%	
% of Total		0.0%	6.7%	13.3%	20.0%	

Source: Field data, 2017

From Table 4.3, there was a statistical relationship between respondents occupation and knowledge of benefits of LEAP ($\chi^2=5.194$; $P < 0.02$). From the results, 100% of those who were unemployed all knew the benefits of LEAP. This could be due to the fact that the



programme has assisted them to now have an occupation. Since the research did not seek to assess beneficiaries retrospectively on their occupation before being a beneficiary of LEAP one could possibly on the basis of the findings predict that respondents were unemployed and are now having some form of employment by being beneficiaries of the programme. From the results also, 100% of the respondents who were petty traders knew the benefits of LEAP at the study area. This is not surprising as those who were engaged in petty trading admitted that they were now able to expand their businesses by being beneficiaries of the programme. The rest of the results are shown in the table.

4.4 Importance of LEAP

The success of every programme requires feedback from its beneficiaries. Respondents despite the inadequate knowledge of LEAP were very positive in terms of their scores for LEAP as being very beneficial to people. The benefits of LEAP have been identified by respondents and few have been put into categories and presented in the form of tables and charts whilst others are expressed in terms of how they were presented by respondents to avoid altering their responses since the analyses was to record them as such.

Table 4.4: Importance of LEAP

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Poverty reduction	10	66.7
Payment of school fees	3	20.0
Payment of utility bills	2	13.3
Total	15	100

Source: Field survey, 2017



From Table 4.4, respondents were asked to mention the importance of LEAP. From the results, 66.7% said that one importance of LEAP to the beneficiaries was to assist them come out of their poverty level. According to these respondents, most of the people who are normally beneficiaries of the programme are usually people society describes as being “poor”. Explaining further, by societal definition of “poor” is to have less of the things in society including having to struggle for their basic needs.

They stated that, by being beneficiaries of the programme, most of them could now have a decent living by being able to afford to buy food and even buy clothing to cover themselves. Analyses also showed that, 13.3% respondents said LEAP has assisted them to now pay their utility bills. These were beneficiaries of the programme who perhaps before being part of the programme could not afford to pay their utility bills and now could pay the utility bills and 20% said LEAP has assisted them to pay their children school fees.

This finding from the study is similar to the findings made by Sudhanshu and Michael (2013) where people in the Central region stated that LEAP was a good programme for people. And similar to the report presented by the World Bank (2011). These results and others stated below are not surprising as most of them were beneficiaries and programme officers of LEAP except few who were also sampled to assess their knowledge on LEAP.

This result could be viewed in the positive sense as LEAP assisting beneficiaries to be able to integrate themselves well in their communities. One of the complementary services of LEAP all the beneficiaries admitted to have benefited from was the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). All they beneficiaries (100%) stated that their previous experiences in assessing such a service was just easy for them at the health centres. This



result is not surprising as most of the beneficiaries were weak and needed not to be treated as a usually patient at any health care facility.

Others importance of LEAP identified by respondents are expressed below.

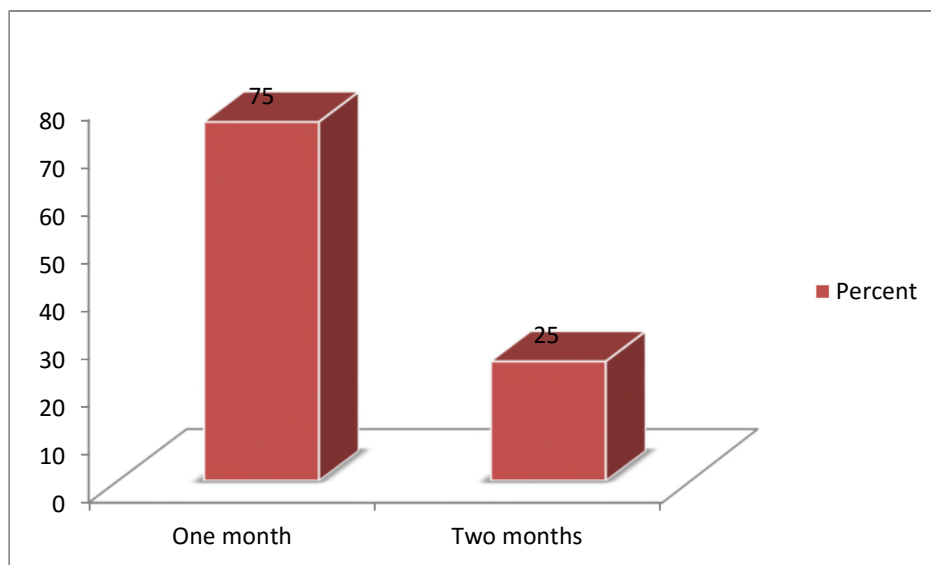
- *I think the importance of LEAP especially to beneficiaries is the ability to improve their petty trading activities at the local markets in the beneficiary communities.*

Programme officer

- *As a beneficiary of LEAP, I can now buy animals and rear for income even if I want I can use it for soup. **Beneficiary of LEAP***
- *LEAP has improved the nutritional status of beneficiary households by giving them adequate funds to be able to buy basic ingredients to use in the family. **Programme officer***
- *I think LEAP has also assisted people to improve their lifestyle now as compared to when they were not beneficiaries. **Programme officer***
- *LEAP has also complemented the household income of beneficiaries. **Programme officer***
- *At the community level, it also assisted to reduce rural poverty. **Programme officer***



Figure 4.1: Frequency of grant payment



Source: Field data, 2017

From Figure 4.1, beneficiaries were asked to state how frequent they wanted their grants to be paid to them and 75% said the grant should be paid in one-month interval whilst 25% said the grant should be paid in two months interval. All the respondents (100%), said the way grants were paid to them at the time of the research was not bad. This was possible due to the fact that no one complained of not having to receive the grant the previous months.



Table 4.5: Marital status and knowledge of benefits of LEAP

Variable		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	Benefit	4.900	2	2.450	10.376	.002
		3.267	1	3.267	13.835	.003
		3.781	1	3.781	16.015	.002
		1.119	1	1.119	4.738	.050
Within Groups		2.833	12	.236		
Total		7.733	14			

Source: Field survey, 2017

From Table 4.6 one way ANOVA showed that there was a statistical significant association knowledge score for respondents in terms of marital status and knowledge of benefits of LEAP (ANOVA=0.05). This could suggest that respondents who were widowed and were benefitting from the programme knew the benefits of the programme. And those who were married and possible their partners were not working also knew the importance of the programme since they could get an assistance from the programme.

4.5 Challenges confronting LEAP in implementing it social interventions

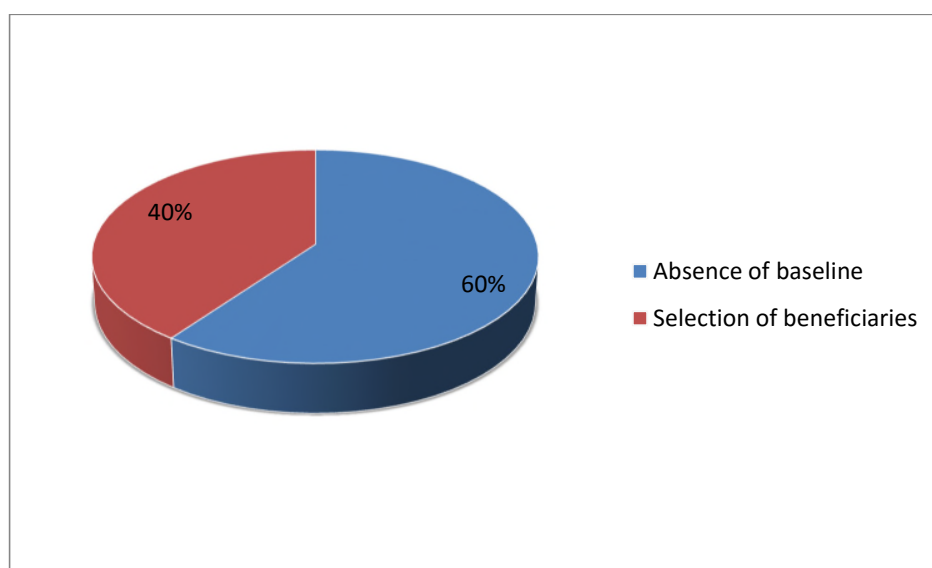
programmes

The study targeted all LEAP programme officers in the study area. These officers were selected purposively for this study. This is because they are directly involved in the implementation of LEAP and can have in-depth knowledge of the challenges of the programme. They are also the main focal persons of LEAP in the study area. The programme officers were constantly in touch with beneficiaries and also carry out house to



house visits to monitor and evaluate the running and usage of funds among beneficiaries. The officers also keep records of beneficiaries and document as well as intervene to tackle some challenges that beneficiaries face. Therefore, the choice to target and select these people was to enable the researcher have in-depth explanations of the challenges that the programme faces from the perspectives of these officers.

Figure 4.2: Challenges identified by respondents



Source: Field survey, 2017

Respondents were asked on the challenges confronting LEAP at the study area. All the respondents said they knew at least one challenge confronting LEAP at the study area. From Figure 4.2, 60% of the respondents specifically the programme officers stated that absence of appropriate baseline for monitoring makes it difficult to determine the success or failure of the programme. This is true in the view of the programme officers because not measuring the performance of an activity against a gold standard and even without a clear cut monitoring guidelines of LEAP can be challenging to the programme officers whilst



40% respondents said that selection of beneficiaries at the study area is always challenging as the criteria is not well stated. This finding from the study is at variance with the findings made by Agbaam and Dinbabo (2014) where programme officers of LEAP mentioned lack of staff and lack of access to complementary services as major challenges confronting LEAP. The finding also disagrees with Abebrese (2011); Handa and Park (2012) where lack of transport for programme officers of LEAP was identified in a focus group discussion with programme officers as a major challenge. The expressions of most respondents on the challenges confronting LEAP are shown below in the manner they were collected.

- *Lack of logistics for monitoring. In explaining lack of logistics for monitoring as a challenge confronting LEAP, one programme officer put it succinctly: “sometimes we the programme officers do not even have the means to reach out to the beneficiaries communities and households which are located a distance from the Municipality. If we are not able to reach out to the beneficiaries to assess the performance of the programme then it is a problem. Programme officer*
- *To me, the problem I have identified is the issue of some funds not always accredited to beneficiaries sometimes which they have to complain before they have access to those one. Programme officer*
- *Look some of the roads in this place is not motorable and this makes transportation on them difficult as a beneficiary to get to the office to lay the complain. Programme officer*



- *There is also inadequate fund in the programme. This has affected the operation of the programme especially at the study area. Programme officer*
- *I think in this area too, people are not aware of LEAP or they are simply not interested in the activities of LEAP. Either way is a problem. Programme officer*

The unavailability of official means of transport to most of these officers was further echoed by one programmes officer.

The issue of transportation is serious. Take me for instance a district programme officer but I do not have a means of transport. When I want to go round the district I have to use my own motor bike and sometimes providing fuel is a problem. The LEAP management unit has not given me any means of transport. This makes the work tedious. But we do not want to complain because we are helping our people. Programme officer

The unavailability of means of transport makes the implementation of the programme difficult since programme officers do not have the necessary logistics to work with and ensure that the programme run smoothly. The catchment areas of the programme as revealed from the interviews were basically rural areas. These rural areas were mostly characterized by bad roads. This makes movement difficult. Sometime the use of vehicles is impossible due to the nature of the roads. Another challenge that was identified was the issue of beneficiaries not knowing how to complain their grievance and even where to lay those grievances. Beneficiaries do not make any efforts at giving feedback because they do not know it is a right.

Neither do they know what channels to go through if they had feedback to give. One responded remarked “no one from the LEAP office has ever come to ask us anything about how we see the programme “except today you are doing”. The issue of transportation as a



challenge cannot be glossed over as many programme officers have difficulty performing their duties as LEAP officers due to the unavailability of official means of transportation for them. Similar challenges were raised by Abebrese (2011) on the impact of LEAP in Ghana. Therefore, the results of this study further confirm the persistence and existence of this challenge.

4.5.1 Suggested ways of reducing the challenges

Respondents were asked to suggest ways those mentioned challenges could be reduced or minimize. The responses are illustrated below;

- *I think government should intervene to supply logistics to LEAP and those logistics should be used for the intended purposes and not for personal purposes.*

Programme officer

- *I think the selection of beneficiaries communities and households should be done by district officers.*

Programme officer

- *Effective advocacy on the importance of LEAP at the study area will enlighten the people about the scope of activities of LEAP and the importance of LEAP.*

Programme officer

- *There should also be the need to establish an appropriate baseline for monitoring of beneficiaries especially at the communities level.*

Programme officer

- *Provision of funds to assist in running the programme at the study area could be an ideal thing to consider.*

Programme officer



Table 4.6: Occupation and identification of challenges facing LEAP

Variable		Challenges		Total	
		Absence of baseline	Lack of logistics and funds		
Occupation	Petty trading	Count	5	0	5
		% within occu.	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
		% within challenge	55.6%	0.0%	33.3%
		% of Total	33.3%	0.0%	33.3%
	Farming	Count	3	0	3
		% within occu.	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
		% within challenge	33.3%	0.0%	20.0%
		% of Total	20.0%	0.0%	20.0%
	Unemployed	Count	1	3	4
		% within occu.	25.0%	75.0%	100.0%
		% within challenge	11.1%	50.0%	26.7%
		% of Total	6.7%	20.0%	26.7%
Salaried worker	Count	0	3	3	
	% within occu.	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
	% within challenge	0.0%	50.0%	20.0%	
	% of Total	0.0%	20.0%	20.0%	

Source: Field survey, 2017

There was a statistical relationship between occupational status and knowledge of challenges confronting LEAP at the study area ($\chi^2=5.194$; $P = 0.018$). From Table 4.7, respondents in each category could mention at least one challenges confronting LEAP in the analysis irrespective of the occupational status. This result could suggest that all the



respondents as they go about doing their normal work, knew the challenges confronting LEAP.

4.5.2 Importance of using information dissemination to sensitize people about LEAP

Respondents were also probed to gain insight into how advocacy could be used to improve the knowledge of people on LEAP. Some respondents shared their thoughts as shown;

- *Using advocacy especially the media advocacy will serve as a sensitization tool in the study area and most people will get to know about it especially if it is aired in the local dialect (Twi). Programme officer*
- *LEAP authorities will also get to know the problem beneficiaries encounter and this could assist them identify pragmatic solutions to those identified problems. Programme officer*
- *Advocacy could also assist people to be informed on the right processes to follow in applying as a beneficiary. Programme officer*
- *Interested partners and organizations could assist LEAP to extent their scope of activities and the number of beneficiaries could be increased. Programme officer*



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary, conclusions of the study findings as well as the recommendations for considerations by key policy makers.

5.2 Summary of findings

The study was conducted to assess the effectiveness of LEAP in alleviating rural poverty in the Ejura Municipality. From the results, 41+ years constituted the modal group whilst 4 (26.7%) and 2 (13.3%) respondents were within the ages of 20-35 and 36-40 years respectively, 5 (33.3%) respondents were married, 66.7% respondents were females, 5 (33%) had no formal education, 3 (20%) respondents said they had Middle School education and 20% respondents were involved in farming. From the results, 80% of the respondents said they have ever heard of LEAP before at the study area whilst 20% said they have never heard of LEAP before at the study area. Among the former, their sources of information were identified as follows; the media, friends, school and through workshops. The following were challenges identified as confronting LEAP in the study area; there is no enough education of what LEAP is in the study area, most people are not just interested in knowing the activities of LEAP and there is too much political interference in the activities of LEAP making it difficult for some people to have equally benefited.

5.2 Conclusion

The evidence revealed in this research on LEAP suggest that the programme is helping poor people in the study area as it has improved their food intake, health status and also



helped them educate their children. This implies that the programme has positive benefits for the people and should be maintained. However, to make the programme more beneficial the challenges that programme officers are saddled with should be addressed proactively. These challenges are largely administrative, and beneficiaries related as revealed from the interviews. The issue of transportation runs through most of the officers interviewed. This underscores the desire and need for official means of transportation to be provided to these programme officers if the programme is to achieve the desired result.

It can further be concluded that there is an over centralization of funds for the programme. Funds for LEAP beneficiaries come from the national office to the district levels and therefore any delays from the top equally affect the timely and prompt disbursement of funds. Much as it is appreciated that sources of funds to run the programme come from government budget and donor countries efforts should be made to make such funds regular and sustainable by identifying options of investment and collaborations that can guarantee regular funds flow. This would help to decentralize the funds to the districts which would make it easy to access.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings from the study, the following recommendations are made to assist authorities interested in reducing the challenges of LEAP to implement.

- **To the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection**

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection the umbrella ministry under which LEAP is implemented should argue the administrative resources of district officers of LEAP. This would help with the efficient and effective administration of the programme especially at the Ejura Municipality



- **To the Politicians**

Making LEAP free from political interference is also crucial to the success of the programme. The situation where some politicians attempt to use LEAP for their political ends should be stopped.

- **To the LEAP authorities**

Complementary services should be expanded to cover other areas that can enhance the human capacity of beneficiaries. Access to loans and credits can be given to beneficiaries who have demonstrated ability of success by creating jobs and employment.

- **To the District Assemblies**

The district assemblies of various districts should also support LEAP in similar areas of need

- **The Mass Media**

The mass media should sensitize and advocate on the importance of LEAP in the local language in the study area to increase awareness of the people.

- **To major stakeholders of LEAP**

Aside the financial decentralization other aspect of LEAP such as data management and performance appraisals should be decentralize to enable for prompt response to some challenges and close supervision from the district level.



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APPENDIX I

UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Department of Master of Education in Training and Development

Tamale Campus

**Questionnaire on using advocacy to sensitize people about the effectiveness of LEAP
in alleviating rural poverty in the Ejura Municipality**

Introduction

The researcher is happy that you have been chosen and are willing to assist in this study. It is a pleasure to interact with you all. The accuracy of the results of this study depends largely on the sincerity of your responses to the items. You are assured of confidentiality in the responses to the questionnaire. You are asked to respond to these questions by supplying the specific information required, by ticking what may be applicable or freely share an opinion as may be necessary. Thanks for your co-operation.

Section A: Bio-data of respondents

1. Indicate age (years) a. 20-25 () b. 26-30 () c. 31-35 () d. 36-40 () e. 41 and above ()
2. Indicate gender a. Male () b. Female ()
3. Marital status a. Single () b. Married () c. Co-habiting () d. Widow () e. Divorced () f. Others (specify).....
4. Indicate highest educational level a. SHS () b. Tertiary () c. No formal education () d. others (specify).....
5. Occupation a. Farming () b. Salaried worker () c. Petty trading () d. others (specify).....



Section B: knowledge, attitude and perception about LEAP

6. Have you ever heard of LEAP before? a. yes () b. no () c. donot know ()
7. If yes where? a. media () b. friend () c. School () d. others (specify).....
8. Have you ever benefited from LEAP before? a. yes () b. no () c. do not ()
9. Do you think LEAP is a good idea? a. yes () b. no () c. donot know ()
10. Do you think people in this area are aware of LEAP? a. yes () b. no () c. do ()
11. How can people be made to understand LEAP well in this area? a. via advocacy () b. others (specify).....

Section C: Importance of LEAP to the people

12. Have you ever benefited from any of the complementary services of LEAP? a. yes () b. no () c. do not know ()
13. If yes which of the complementary services?
14. What were your experiences in accessing these services?.....
15. What are the benefits of LEAP to the people in this community?.....

Section D: Challenges confronting LEAP

16. Do you know the challenges confronting LEAP in this area? a. yes () b. no () c. do not know ()
17. If yes mention them.....
18. How can these challenges be solved?.....
19. Do these challenges affect the people directly from benefiting from LEAP? a. yes () b. no () c. Do not know ()
20. If any explain.....



APPENDIX II

Questionnaire for beneficiary

1. What are the benefits of being a beneficiary of LEAP in this community (at least five points)
2. Are the grants paid at regular specific intervals.....
3. How often do you receive this grant?.....
4. How do you see the way grants are paid?
5. At what frequency would you prefer the grants to be paid?.....
6. Can you say LEAP has improved your live? Explain.....

Thank you



APPENDIX III

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PROGRAMME OFFICERS

1. Mention the challenges confronting programme officers in running the programme here
2. Mention the challenges beneficiaries of LEAP face in this place
3. What are the importance of LEAP
 - a. At the individual level
 - b. At the household level
 - c. At the community level
4. How can the problems of LEAP in this community be solved?
5. Do you think advocacy as a tool can be used to improve people knowledge of LEAP in this area? Explain

Thank you

