ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN KENYA

BY

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MAY, 2008
DECLARATION

This project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university for academic credit.

Signed ___________________________ Date 05/06/2008

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This project has been submitted with my approval as University supervisor.

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the performance of community based organizations (CBOs) in Kenya by using Tumaini Oasis and Marurui United Youths Group, as examples. These CBOs were located in Kasarani division, Nairobi and were founded in 2003.

The study’s statement of the problem was derived from the fact that CBOs had been found to play a great role in community development activities (Mulwa and Nguluu, 2003). And in this regard, unemployed youths had coalesced and formed CBOs to address their poverty. However, with all this credit being paid to the CBOs, it was apparent that concrete studies on their performance to credit or debunk this contention were few and far apart. It was in this respect, that a need existed for further study to solidify this position, as the status quo became clearer.

This was a survey design. The study objectives included identification of motivational factors behind formation of the CBOs and the causes of poverty among the members. Others were identification of the income generating activities, achievements made and factors that affected the performance of the CBOs.

Data was collected using a questionnaire from a sample of 52 respondents from the two CBOs. It was then edited, coded and entered into an Access data base that had been prepared prior to data collection. The next step was to analyse the data using descriptive statistics aided by computer software - Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS). The resultant information was then presented through frequency tables, graphs and pie charts for easy understanding. From these presentations it was easy to do a descriptive analysis of the results and make inferences about the findings.
The findings indicated that the respondents were influenced to form or join the CBOs by many factors, among them being a desire to improve the socio-economic statuses of their communities and the need to fight idleness by utilizing their skills and talents. Causes of poverty on the other hand, among the respondents, included unemployment and lack of or low education, among others.

On the issue of income generating activities, the CBOs were engaged in many that were equally diversified. They included cyber café, computer/language college/secretarial services and garbage collection, among others. In the area of achievements, the CBOs had made modest gains in the provision of employment to their members, establishment of computer college/cyber café and transformation of many youths from drug takers to volunteer workers in the community, among others.

The above achievements notwithstanding, there were some factors that affected the performance of the CBOs. These included inadequate funds, inadequate knowledge and skills to run the CBOs and inadequate commitment and motivation among some members, among others.

To overcome these constraining factors the respondents suggested some solutions. These included the need to build the capacity of the members in leadership, organization and financial management and the need to solicit more donor funds to initiate more income generating activities, among others. Finally, the respondents advised the unemployed youths to engage in self employment by starting small enterprises and to form or join CBOs or youth groups to attract government and donor funds, among others.
It was recommended therefore, that the government should take advantage of the youths desire to alleviate poverty and unemployment by legislating policies that would make it easy for the youths to access business education and business start-up funds through the CBOs. In addition, the government should address all the bottlenecks inherent in starting small enterprises to encourage the youths to venture into them, as a way of creating self employment.
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DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Community Based Organisation** - this is a group of people with common background within society, who have come together to address shared interest or purpose and they form a centre from which activities start or are coordinated.

**Performance** - this is accomplishment of something: the act of carrying out or accomplishing such a task or action. In this context, performance is the ability of the CBOs to engage the members socio-economically in such way that their poverty is addressed.

**Poverty** - it has been defined as the inability to meet one’s basic needs. In this respect, it is associated with features such as lack of land, unemployment, inability to feed oneself and one’s family, lack of proper housing, poor health and inability to educate children and pay for medical care. Thus all definitions of poverty will invariably be associated with the inability to meet certain basic needs (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, 2004).

**Community participation** - the community takes part in an event or activity and in this case; in its development. Here people make their own decisions and assume responsibility and consequences over them. In addition, there is a regular consultation among stakeholders involved and there is a relationship of equals characterised by respect, trust and responsibilities.

**Extractionist model of participation** - this model involves the central government development planners whose blue print plans are executed through extension networks. In this model participation is seen as a process of drawing in people into the implementation of
pre-determined development goals where people are seen as a resource potential that needs mobilization. They have already available free labour for community programs and also involves people’s material and financial contribution towards public projects which is often involuntary. This is a “top-down” model of development.

**Vertical model of participation** - this model occurs when the community power-brokers develop mutual beneficial relations with individual elites or government officials as the basis for people’s mobilization for participation such as patron-client networks and political alliances. The power-brokers benefit individually from such relationships of vertical linkage while the community receives peanuts from the linkage. Thus people are kept under illusionary expectation of security in times of hardships with some beneficiary materials trickling from the top. This is a “top-down” model of development.

**Handout-Induced model of participation** - this model is understood in-terms of handouts receivable from a development activity. Thus, it tends to maintain the supremacy of professional knowledge and expertise which leads to bureaucratization of professional services. It therefore stifles people’s initiatives as people have to wait for professional guidance and approval to make any progress thus dependence develops and leads to paternalism. This is a “top-down” model of development.

**Authentic Model of Participation** - this is the ideal model which seeks to empower the powerless to assuming full responsibility over their own destiny within the framework of their cultural and social-economic realities. This is a “down-top” model that is cited as the best, as it recognizes the active role that a community can play in developing itself.
CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1: Background of the study

Poverty exists in Kenya, like in most developing countries, but it can be reduced and even eradicated. This would call for involvement of communities and particularly the poor in the design and implementation of strategies that focus on poverty. In doing this the government will be recognizing that it is the poor who understand at first hand the causes, nature and extent of poverty (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper for the period 2001-2004, 2001). Similarly, it means listening to the poor and learning from them, enlisting their participation in projects from design stage through to evaluation (Jazairy et al., 1992).

So what are the causes of poverty in Kenya? Poverty has been attributed to several causes which include: low agricultural productivity and poor marketing, insecurity, unemployment and low wages, bad governance, land issues, inadequate roads, HIV/AIDS, gender imbalance and disability and cost of social services (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, 2001). Other causes of poverty include: dualism (a post-independence development strategy that focuses on urban areas and the rural areas); population pressure; state superstructure and policy, legal, institutional and resource allocation bias; poor natural resource base and mismanagement of the environment; natural cycles and disasters; exploitative intermediaries; and international processes (Ayako and Katumanga, 1997).

Consequently, three quarters of the poor live in rural areas with the urban poor living in peri-urban and slum settlements which have inadequate or low quality infrastructure. Further, the poor tends to cluster into certain social categories such as: the landless, people with
disabilities, female headed households and households headed by people without formal education, pastoralists in drought prone Arid and Semi Arid Land districts, unskilled and semi-skilled casual labourers, AIDS orphans, street children and beggars, subsistence farmers, urban slum dwellers and unemployed youths.

In its attempt to address poverty, the government, in concert with friendly foreign governments and other stakeholders has put in place programmes such as Growth Promotion, Rural Development, Land Resettlement Schemes and District Focus for Rural Development, among others since independence. However, in spite of all these efforts, Kenya's development record has not been impressive. This has been mainly because of a failure to sustain prudent macroeconomic policies, slow progress in structural reform and pervasive governance policies, among others (Cheserem and Okemo, 2000).

Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) are some of the other development partners that the government has worked with over the years, but their impact on the national policies and programmes to combat the spread of poverty has been limited. This can be addressed if the people are enabled to seek solutions to their development problems and exploit the opportunities. Hence, the government should therefore, create conducive political, social, economic and legal environment for the poor to mobilize their resources and potentials and build sustainable livelihoods and self-reliance (UNDP Kenya Human Development Report 1999, 2000).

In addition, Ayako and Katumanga (1997), observed that poverty reduction strategies should recognise that the poor are not passive to their predicament but have time-tested coping and survival strategies and institutions. Thus, embracing community-based development is the
way to go in addressing poverty. The same suggestion is made by Mulwa and Nguluu (2003), who roots for community participation through formation of CBOs, to address poverty. They identify four types of participation models that have been in use over the years. These include: Extractionist, Vertical, Handout-Induced (collectively referred to as “Top-Down” Models of Participation) and the Authentic Model of Participation. The latter, which is a “Down-Top” Model, is cited as the best, as it recognizes the active role that a community can play in developing itself.

1.2: Statement of the problem

CBOs have been found to play a great role in community development activities (Mulwa and Nguluu, 2003). Consequently, unemployed youths had coalesced and formed CBOs to address their poverty. However, with all this credit being paid to the CBOs, it was apparent that concrete studies on their performance to credit or debunk this contention were few and far apart. It was in that regard, that a need existed for further study to solidify that position, as the status quo became clearer.

1.3: Objectives of the study

1.3.1: General objective

The general objective of the study was to:

Assess the Performance of Community Based Organizations in Kenya.

1.3.2: Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study were to:

a) Determine the factors that motivated the respondents to form the CBOs.

b) Determine the causes of poverty among the respondents.
c) Identify the income generating activities engaged in by the CBOs.

d) Identify the achievements made by the CBOs.

e) Determine the factors that affected the performance of the CBOs.

1.4: Research questions

The research questions for the study were:

a) What influenced the respondents to form the CBO?

b) What were the causes of poverty among the respondents?

c) What were the income generating activities engaged in by the respondents?

d) What achievements had the CBOs made?

e) What were the factors that affected the performance of the CBOs?

1.5: Significance of the study

The findings of the study are useful to the government and its development partners in addressing the existing problem of youths' unemployment in the country. Moreover, microfinance institutions and individual investors will find the results appealing, as they may help them to reduce loan defaulting. Besides, these findings can also be replicated by leaders in areas with similar socio-economic problems. Similarly, the CBOs under study will also benefit. Finally, the results will add to the body of knowledge and will benefit anyone interested in this area of study.

1.6: Scope of the study

The study was conducted in Kasarani division in Nairobi, Kenya. Specifically, the Estates that were covered were Githurai 45, Kahawa Wendani and Marurui, where the members of Tumaini Oasis and Marurui United Youth Group (MUYOG) resided and operated.
CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1: Overview of the literature

Since independence Kenyans have experienced poverty in various dimensions. And this is understandable as Kenya’s economic growth rate has been inconsistent since independence. For example, at independence it was 6.6% and this was sustained until 1972 when it started to decline, so that from 1974 to 1979 it was 5.2%. This decline dipped to 4% from 1980 to 1989 and 2.4% from 1990 to 2000. This trend has been reversed, as the country recorded economic growth rate of 7.1% in 2007 and is projected to grow further in 2008, if all the factors remain constant.

This notwithstanding, the extent and magnitude of poverty in Kenya is large. This is demonstrated by the fact that in 1997 the overall national incidence of absolute poverty was estimated at 52% (Welfare Monitoring Survey III). Similarly, the number of poor increased from 3.7 million in 1972 to 11.5 million in 1994 and 14.4 million in 1997 and is now estimated to have reached some 17.1 million. The poor constitute more than half the population of Kenya – at least one in every two Kenyans is poor (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, 2001). This is further amplified by a study of seven realms of human security, namely: economic, health, food, community, political, personal and environment that found Kenya wanting in all of them! Moreover, 56% of the population was reeling in poverty (UNDP Human development Survey report, 2007).

These results were however disputed by the government, which went on to conduct its own survey with support from its development partners. The findings vindicated it, as poverty
levels have gone down. Specifically, the survey findings revealed that 4 people in 10 live in abject poverty. This amounts to 46% (16.5 million of the total population of 35.5 million) unlike the previous figure of 56%.

This implies that 19 million live on more than a dollar a day unlike 16.5 million who live below poverty line - less than a dollar a day. Thus more Kenyans are living generally a better life today than six years ago. Poverty has also reduced in towns, from 51.5% to 33.7% and 59.9% to 49.1% in the rural areas. Hard core poverty on the other hand reduced from 29.6% to 19.1% (Basic Report on Well-being in Kenya/Based on Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey-2005-2006, 2007).

Poverty alleviation on the other hand, has and continues to be a catch phrase in development literature and for a good measure, as no nation can wish away poverty and continue to enjoy internal security and a pride-of-place in the nations of the world. But despite all the efforts the government has put in addressing poverty, the citizenly are still suffering from its effects.

Thus, there is need to involve the poor as bona fide participants in addressing poverty. This should be a departure from the traditional mentality that often views the poor as outsiders in relation to system development. It is assumed they have to be "integrated" into the mainstream of the economy. Yet, the poor are already deeply involved in economic production. Any effort to address them in a top-down manner should be discouraged. Instead the central aim should be to recognise the contribution the poor make to economic production, savings and growth, and to help foster conditions in which their contribution can be upgraded, made more productive and sustainable (Jazairy et al., 1992).
Moreover, it is imperative that people must participate in their development. For it is only by this means can there be a move away from the narrowly defined interests of the stronger and richer elements of their societies, to orient growth along the path of sustainable and equitable development. People's participation expresses the phenomenon of people organising to shape the terms of their insertion into social, political and economic processes, and is fundamental to the efficacy of international, government and private activities alike (Kimani, 2001).

So, how then can the poor be helped to help themselves? Obviously, the traditional ‘solution’ of pumping investment into infrastructures will not work on its own. Development and poverty alleviation have to start with people, who must be persuaded of the validity of a new idea and involved in making it work. Often the poor themselves have innovative ideas for solving day-to-day problems. Indeed a major strength of participatory development lies in taking advantage of the innate wisdom of the poor. Such an approach not only reduces project development and implementation costs, but also improves maintenance and follow-up since the project becomes the people's project - not something imposed on them, which they are careful to sustain. Participation becomes a learning process, building self-reliance that is fundamental for the survival of the poor (Jazairy et al., 1992).

Fourie et al. (2004) describe Municipal-Community Partnership for alleviation of poverty in South Africa and observe that the strengths of communities and Community Based Organisations lie in their people, their motivation and their local knowledge. Thus, communities contribute to partnership by taking ownership through participation and finding solutions on their own. This benefits the community as the workers are drawn from their midst and they reap the economic benefits.
In a paper on the roles of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in an American-urban redevelopment programme, Branchman (2004) sees CBOs as essential redevelopment partners, for external developers. Further, she notes that CBOs can play many unique roles that draw upon their strengths and capacities as community-oriented institutions.

This notwithstanding, the participatory approach to development can be a delicate matter for an external agent. For one thing, to achieve people's participation is to empower them, a concept with which many are still ill at ease (Alamgir, 1989). For another, the participation of the poor is often characterised by their physical isolation and their alienation from the mainstream of economic and political life.

Participation can be a means of moving the poor from a state of dependence to one of greater self-reliance, but if it is imposed from outside there is a danger that it will lead to other forms of dependence - hardly the goal of development. True participatory development must transcend the artificial bounds of the externally-aided programme and find its roots in democratic values. Only through developing grassroot democratic institutions can participation truly succeed.

In this respect, community participation helps to create a sense of local ownership and local responsibility and this ensures relevance to the local context and sustainability. People take active responsibility in decision making, identification of development priorities, implementation and its evaluation. The outcome is self-esteem, self-actualization, sense of dignity and sense of self-worth among the people. People break out of their powerlessness. Sustainable process of development is assured. People take responsibility for maintenance and continued use of facilities (Mulwa and Nguluu, 2003).
2.2: Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of the study was based on Abraham Maslow’s Motivational theory. Maslow proposed a theory of motivation based on categorization of needs, suggesting that individual progressed from satisfying basic needs such as those for food and sex to satisfying the highest need for what he called self-actualization or the fulfilment of one’s potential.

Maslow believed that self-actualization could only be attained once basic needs had been met. This implies that these needs must be there to provide human beings with their ‘natural drive’. He classified the needs in five progressive levels in the order of priority. These are: survival needs, security needs, social needs, self esteem needs and self-actualisation needs. As soon as needs at one level were satisfied, energy would immediately be directed towards achieving the next level (Source: Maslow A. H. (1970). Motivation and personality. 2nd Ed.).

The study attempted to find out whether existence of these unmet needs due to poverty had any influence in motivating the individual members to coalesce to form the CBOs and further continue engaging in their activities. Based on this theory, it was hoped that CBOs’ ability to address poverty would be elicited.

2.2.1: Conceptual Framework

Even with the theory in place, the study sought to use a conceptual framework in a view to understanding the subject more. In this regard, CBOs were the independent variable, as in the study it was seen as enabling people to coalesce to address their common problems, using the power of synergy. In addition, individuals brought into the CBOs new experiences,
knowledge and skills. Similarly, they were also able to attract readily available resources from the State, Non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. Other factors that may have been at play here included the environment, cultural beliefs and attitude, internal and external forces within and without the CBO, among others.

The dependent variable on the other hand was the individual members' behaviours, which would have manifested in their seeking and getting employment or venturing into self employment or even initiating development projects that would also benefit their communities, among others. This way, this active relationship improved their individual lives, through alleviation of poverty, as demonstrated in Figure 1, below.

Fig. 1: Relationship between independent and dependent variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDEPENDENT VARIABLES</th>
<th>DEPENDENT VARIABLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
<td>-Youths motivated to seek employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity to coalesce and use power of synergy.</td>
<td>-Youths could venture into self employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity to gain new experiences, knowledge and skills from individual members.</td>
<td>-Youths could initiate development projects that could help them and their communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity to attract resources from State, Non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.</td>
<td>Alleviation of poverty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Researcher (June, 2007)
2.3: Main Review of Past Studies Done in the Area

2.3.1: International studies

A study by Ali and Baas (2003), focused on fifty Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that operated in 10 districts in Yemen since 1999. These CBOs were initiated with the support of Community Based Regional Development Programme and funded by UNDP and Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). The programme’s principal objective was to strengthen CBOs as key actors in and partners in the context of decentralization and poverty alleviation. It intervened in five inter-related components: i) institutional building, ii) human capacity building and training, iii) community-based financial services, iv) gender perspective and v) institution-based coordination. The basic criteria used to establish CBOs were: that they i) had emerged from the targeted communities, ii) development-oriented and iii) were registered with the ministry of social services and labour.

They found them successful in several areas regarding: i) empowerment of local communities through self-owned and managed community-driven organizations, ii) responsiveness to the demands and aspirations of the local people, particularly the poor in both processes and results, iii) pro-poor inclusiveness and structures and mechanisms, iv) interactions with traditional power structure, and v) coordination of local poverty alleviation initiatives through various means.

They further observed that CBOs have good potential and comparative advantages—although some were not yet used—in the following aspects: i) institutionalized coordination with the local councils, and ii) tendencies to influence pro-poor policies and to contribute to good governance within the decentralized context. In addition, to service provision, CBOs are also seen as pivotal actors through advocacy, in contributing to local policy development and in
holding local governments to account for their actions. Both issues required competent CBO coalitions, alliance building and a strong advocacy. Finally, they cited the structural characteristics of the CBOs, which match the global shift towards participatory development and good governance.

On the other hand, Adato and Haddad (2001) studied a government initiative in South Africa that targeted poverty through community-based public programmes. The communities were given the opportunity to choose workers, among them, to participate in these programmes. They concluded that though this system may run the risk of nepotism, it did "not necessarily occur" in the eight cases they studied. Moreover, they cited several advantages to allowing communities to handle or participate in selecting workers: (1) although their perspectives may not have statistical precision, local people often know who in their communities are very poor and who might be suffering a crisis or have the least income earning potential in their households; (2) they may take into account other considerations that reflect community priorities; (3) if community members are excluded from hiring decisions and are dissatisfied with the outcomes, they can disrupt the projects; and (4) there is an educational process that takes place as community members struggle with tough decisions about allocation of scarce resources that have alternative uses, and learn how to manage a decision making forum.

2.3.2: Local studies
Locally, Kimani (2001), studied Yatta South Women Groups and observed that the project had made remarkable achievements over the years as a result of members initiative, their numerical figure of 31 groups composed of 2033 members and the supportive hand of the MS-Kenya. Moreover, the study demonstrated that by coming together, local people could utilize locally available resources and jump-start both their individual and community
development. Finally, the study demonstrated that provision of support (infrastructure, institutional and financial services) as well as utilization of local resources, through mobilization of local savings, play crucial role in ensuring sustainability of the poverty alleviation activities.

An earlier local study was done by B.J. Linquist and David Adolph (1992), while working on Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) project among the Gabra people of Marsabit district. They developed an approach to working alongside indigenous pastoral institutions. This approach would allow the institution to identify and articulate its own priorities and thus to manage its own development. ITDG was interested in exploring a variety of methods of technology transfer in development work with communities. The Yaa (Gabra) people, who are nomadic herders, set the first priority as animal health, the second as water resources development, and the third as livestock marketing. Work was begun on the first priority, using the participative techniques such as ranking, mapping and group discussion. As a result, an animal health project was set up, training was initiated and a drug store was established. ITDG, a British Charity and the Yaa Galbo, an indigenous Gabra institution, had been working in partnership since 1990.

2.4: Critical Review of Major Issue – Performance of poverty alleviation by CBOs

The study by Ali and Baas (2003) in Yemen assessed institutional building, human capacity building and training, community-based financial services, gender perspective and institution-based coordination. While successes were recorded in these areas, the initiative to form these CBOs were initiated, funded and midwived by external agents (and not by the community) with the above assessed areas as their focus.
The other study by Adato and Haddad (2001) in South Africa looked at the effects of
government partnership with the poor communities. The results indicated that some benefits
accrued from this partnership, but did not demonstrate the performance in poverty alleviation
by the CBOs.

The Kenyan study by Kimani (2001) in Yatta, Machakos district focused on women groups
and successes in poverty alleviation were noted. However, it did not address groups
composed of both gender, as CBOs are constituted, nor address those that are driven by
unemployed youths. In addition, the initiative was by MS-Kenya, an outside agent and not
the community.

The last Kenyan study cited was by B.J. Linquist and David Adolph (1992) that sought to
assess a particular participatory method of working with the Gabra people of Marsabit
district, where they chose their development priorities. The findings were positive; that an
empowered community is able to address its poverty problems. Similarly, the initiative was
from outside agents and not the community.

2.5: Summary and Gaps filled by the Study
Most of the literature reviewed had tended to focus on community involvement or partnership
with either governments or external agents to address poverty but with set conditions. In
addition, most studies were carried out in other developing countries and the few that were
done in Kenya did not focus specifically on the performance of youths-led CBOs. However,
the study by Kimani (2001) in Yatta was close as it focused on women groups. This study
Assessed the Performance of CBOs in Kenya by using Tumaini Oasis and Marurui United
Youth Group, as examples. It specifically determined the motivation behind formation of the
CBOs, the causes of poverty among the members, the income generating activities engaged
in, achievements made and the factors that affected their performance.
CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0: Introduction

This study Assessed the Performance of Community Based Organizations in Kenya. The study was carried out using the following methods and tools.

3.1: Study Design

This was a survey design. The study collected information from individual members of Tumaini Oasis and Marurui United Youth Group (MUYOG), two youths-led Community Based Organizations in Kasarani division, Nairobi.

3.2: Target population

The study targeted members of Tumaini Oasis and Marurui United Youth Group (MUYOG). Tumaini Oasis was composed of youths, of both sexes, in their 20s and were 32 in total. Males represented the majority with 18 members and females accounted for the remaining 14 members. MUYOG on the other hand, comprised 12 males and 8 females that brought the total to 20, as shown in Table 1 below. Their level of education varied from primary to university. Majority of the youths are from female-headed households. They resided in Guthurai 45, Kahawa Wendani, and Marurui Estates in Kasarani division.

Tab. 1: CBOs Membership and Sex distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of CBO</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tumaini Oasis</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marurui United Youth Group</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.3: Sampling Design

Purposive sampling, a non-probability design, was used to select Tumaini Oasis and Marurui United Youth Group (MUYOG) for the study. But given the fact that the membership of the two Community Based Organizations was 52, the study therefore involved the whole population, thus conducting a census.

3.4: Data collection Procedure

The study collected both primary and secondary data. The quantitative primary data were collected using a self-administered structured questionnaire. During the administration of the questionnaire, subjects who were not, for any unforeseen reason, unable to fill the questionnaire, were assisted. And for those who were unable to fill the questionnaires immediately, they were left with them and collection made at a later time and date agreed upon.

Secondary data on the other hand, were obtained from books, journals, internet, theses and projects. These were collected from the following institutions, among others: Kenyatta University Library, National Council for Population and Development, Ministry of Gender, Sports, Culture and Social services, Ministry of Planning and Development and Central Bureau of Statistics.

3.5: Data analysis

The data collected were edited, coded and entered into an Access data base that had been prepared prior to data collection. The next step was to analyse the data using descriptive statistics aided by computer software - Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS). The resultant information was then presented through frequency tables, graphs and pie charts for
easy understanding. From these presentations it was easy to do a descriptive analysis of the results and make inferences about the findings.

3.6: Expected Output

The study was expected to identify the motivation behind formation of the CBOs as well as determining the causes of poverty among the respondents. In addition, the study identified the income generating activities engaged in by the CBOs as well as the achievements made. Finally, the study was to determine the factors that affected the CBOs’ performance.
CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

The findings discussed here are views expressed by the 52 respondents who constituted the membership of Tumaini Oasis and MUYOG, the two youths-based CBOs in Kasarani division, Nairobi. The research tool used was a questionnaire. The data was analysed using statistical methods of data analysis and the findings are presented by use of frequency tables, bar graphs and pie charts. The study as shown in chapter one was guided by the following research questions.

a) What influenced the respondents to form the CBO?

b) What were the causes of poverty among the respondents?

c) What were the income generating activities engaged in by the respondents?

d) What achievements had the CBOs made?

e) What were the factors that affected the performance of the CBOs?

4.1 Demographic statistics of the respondents

As cited above, the study interviewed 52 respondents who constituted total membership of both Tumaini Oasis and MUYOG, youths-based CBOs. Tables and Figures one to five below, illustrate their demographic characteristics.

4.1.1 Age

As cited above these CBOs were formed and are managed by young people. This is vindicated by Table 2 and Figure 2 below which indicate that the majority of the respondents (50.0%) were in the 21-26 years age bracket. They were followed by those in 15-20 years age bracket (46.2%), with those in the 27-32 years age bracket constituting a paltry 3.8 percent.
4.1.2 Sex

The sex distribution of the respondents indicated that males were the majority (58%) with the females accounting for the rest (42%), as shown in Table 3 and Figure 3 below.

Table 3 - Sex distribution of the respondents (N=52)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.1.3 Level of education

Education is important in any organization development. Thus, it was useful to gauge the education of the respondents. In this regard, Table 4 and Figure 4 below show that the majority of the respondents (38.5%) had attained secondary education followed by those with college education (34.6%). A notable number had primary education (23.1%) with a modest 3.8% of the respondents being university students.

Table 4 – Level of Education (N=52)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education level</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University (students)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.1.4 Marital status

According to Table 5 and Figure 5 below, 90% of the respondents were single by choice, while 10% were married.

Table 5 – Marital status (N=52)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital status</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.1.5 Respondents way of living

The respondents were engaged in various modes of living, as indicated on Table 6 and Figure 6 below.

Table 6 – Respondents way of living (N=52)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Way of living</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self employed</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual worker</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers at the CBOs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specifically, Table 6 and Figure 6 above, indicate that majority of the respondents (31%) were unemployed while 23% were self employed. On the other hand, 17% were employed, while 15% volunteered their services in their respective CBOs. A significant 10% constituted casual workers while a modest 4% were students cum volunteers.
4.6- Causes of youths' poverty in Kenya

To identify the causes of poverty among the youths the questionnaire asked the respondents to tick among several choices given besides adding theirs. In this respect, they were allowed to give multiple responses, as here cited. In this regard, Table 7 and Figure 7 below, reveal that unemployment was the major cause (32.3%) followed by lack of or low education (27.7%). Other causes were HIV/AIDS and population pressure which tied at 12.3% while gender imbalance and other factors also tied at 7.7%. The other factors cited were lack of training for the youths, lack of motivation and chance to exploit ones potential. Others cited were ignorance, lack of resources, knowledge and opportunities.

Table 7 - Causes of youths’ poverty in Kenya

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes of youths’ poverty</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of or low education</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population pressure</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender imbalance</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other, specify</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>65 (responses)</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.8- Factors that motivated the respondents to form or join their respective CBO

The reasons cited by the respondents for forming or joining the CBOs were diverse, as cited below.

Table 8- Factors that motivated the respondents to form or join their respective CBO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors for CBO formation</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desire to improve the socio-economic statuses of their communities</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To acquire knowledge and skills on business</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To create employment</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fight idleness by utilizing ones skills and talents</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To contribute in the fight against HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8 and Figure 8 above indicate that the majority of the respondents (28.8%) were motivated to join or form their respective CBO by the desire to improve the socio-economic statuses of their communities. In addition, 27% were driven by the need to fight idleness by utilizing their skills and talents, while 19.2% were motivated by the desire to acquire...
knowledge and skills on business. The remaining 13.5% and 11.5% were motivated by the desire to create employment and contribute in the fight against HIV/AIDS, respectively.

4.9- Income Generating Activities engaged in by the CBOs

The two CBOs had more or less similar activities, which included cyber café (32.7%), computer/ language college/ secretarial services (28.8%) and garbage collection (15.4%). The others were community library at 11.5% with bakery and HIV/AIDS and life skills training tying at 5.8%, as demonstrated on Table 9 and Figure 9 below.

Table 9- Income Generating Activities engaged in by the CBOs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Generating Activities</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cyber café</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer/ language college/ secretarial services</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community library</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bakery</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage collection</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS and Life skills training</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 9 Income Generating Activities engaged in by the CBOs

- Cyber café: 32.7%
- Computer/ language college/ secretarial services: 28.8%
- Community library: 11.5%
- Bakery: 5.8%
- Garbage collection: 15.4%
- HIV/AIDS and Life skills training: 5.8%
4.10- Achievements made by the CBOs

In their own humble way the CBOs have made modest achievements as shown below.

Table 10- Achievements made by the CBOs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievements made the CBOS</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduced illiteracy by establishment of a community library</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established computer college and cyber café</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved environmental sanitation through garbage collection</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raised the level of life skills and HIV/AIDS awareness</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondents served as good role models to the youths</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provided employment to the youths</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformed many youths from drug takers to volunteer workers in the community</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attracted attention of the donors like World Vision and Christian Children’s Fund, among others</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to Table 10 and Figure 10 above, the greatest achievement made by the CBOs was to provide employment to the youths (28.8%). This was followed by establishment of computer college/cyber café and transformation of many youths from drug takers to volunteer workers in the community, which tied at 13.5%. Other achievements were improvement of environmental sanitation through garbage collection (11.5%) and raising the level of life...
skills and HIV/AIDS awareness as well as serving as good role models to the youths, which tied at 7.7%. Lastly, the CBOs had attracted the attention of several donors like World Vision Kenya and Christian Children’s Fund, among others (5.8%).

4.11(a) Factors that affected the performance of the CBOs

Like other organizations, these CBOs had issues that affected their performance. These factors were many as indicated on Table 11(a) and Figure 11 (a), below respectively. In this regard, inadequate funds (32.8%) and inadequate knowledge and skills to run CBOs (28.8%) were the biggest culprits. In addition, inadequate commitment and motivation among the members took substantial 19.2%. The others were poor management of funds (5.9%), reliance on donors and inadequate support by them and government’s refusal to grant land for expansion in garbage collection, which tied at 3.8%. Lastly, lack of fundraising skills, negative perception that society had towards young people and the government policies on taxation of some donor funds tied at 1.9%.

Table 11 (a)- Factors that affected the performance of the CBOs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors that affected the performance of the CBOs</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate knowledge and skills to run CBOs</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate commitment and motivation among members</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate funds</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of fundraising skills</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor management of funds</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliance on donors and inadequate support from them</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative perception that society have towards young people</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government’s policies on taxation of some donor funds</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government’s refusal to grant land for expansion in garbage collection</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.11(b) Ways of overcoming the factors that affected the CBOs

To overcome the above factors that affected the CBOs, several suggestions were cited, as shown here below.

Table 11 (b)- Ways of overcoming the factors that affected the CBOs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ways of overcoming the factors that affected the CBOs</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Build the capacity of the members in leadership, organization and financial management</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network with other relevant institutions</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Induction of committed and dedicated members to the CBOs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solicit donor funds to initiate more income generating activities</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exemption from taxation on donor project funds by the government</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation of funds to the CBOs, as a way of addressing poverty among the youths</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
According to Table 4.11 (b) and Figure 4.11 (b) above, the majority of the respondents (36.5%) cited the need to build the capacity of the members in leadership, organization and financial management. This was followed by 28.8% who suggested soliciting of donor funds to initiate more income generating activities. On their part 15.4% of the respondents recommended networking with other relevant institutions while 7.7% cited the duty of the government to allocate funds to the CBOs, as a way of addressing poverty among the youths. The rest, who tied at 5.8%, suggested induction of committed and dedicated members to the CBOs and exemption from taxation of donor project funds by the government.

4.12- Advice given to the unemployed youths in Kenya
To address the issue of unemployed youths in Kenya, the respondents gave several suggestions, as shown on Table 12 and Figure 12 below. In this respect, 28.8% cited the need for the youths to engage in self employment by starting small enterprises. This was followed by 25% who advised them to form or join CBOs or youth groups to attract government and donor funds. On their part 19.2% of the respondents suggested that the youths should be innovative, identify and utilize available resources. In addition, 15.5% of the respondents advised the youths to avoid idleness, keep off drugs and bad company by engaging in voluntary services. Lastly, 11.5% advised the youths to never give up in search for financial independence.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advice to the unemployed youths</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be innovative, identify and utilize available resources</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never give up in search for financial independence</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage in self employment by starting small enterprises</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form or join CBOs or youth groups to attract government and donor funds</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoid idleness, keep off drugs and bad company by engaging in voluntary services</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Diagram illustrating the advice given to the unemployed youths in Kenya]
CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Discussion of findings

The study elicited several factors that motivated the respondents to form the CBOs, the major ones being the desire to improve the socio-economic statuses of their communities, banish idleness and the need to acquire business knowledge and skills. This vindicated earlier findings (Kimani, 2001). In addition, the study identified unemployment, lack of or low education, HIV/AIDS and population pressure as the key culprits in the causation of poverty, among the respondents. These findings are in synchrony with earlier studies (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, 2001 and Ayako and Katumanga, 1997).

Further, the study identified several income generating activities, the principal being cyber café, computer/language college and garbage collection. Similarly, the study elicited some achievements, the prominent one being providing employment to the youths. These findings vindicated earlier studies (UNDP Kenya Human Development Report 1999, 2000, Ayako and Katumanga, 1997 and Mulwa and Nguluu, 2003).

The above achievements notwithstanding, the study identified hiccups in the performance of the CBOs, the most fundamental being inadequate funds, knowledge and skills to run them. To address these shortcomings, the study suggested the need for capacity building in leadership, organization and financial management. In addition, the study identified the need for the unemployed youths to engage in self employment by starting small enterprises or forming or joining CBOs or youth groups to attract government and donor funds. These findings are in synchrony with earlier studies (Ali and Baas 2003, Adato and Haddad, 2001).
Overall, the study findings indicated the need for the government and its development partners to seriously recognise CBOs as worthy partners in social economic development and specifically in poverty eradication. Wishing them away therefore, will not change their status quo, as amply demonstrated by the findings of the study.

5.1 Conclusion

As cited above, the CBOs were formed in 2003 by unemployed youths of Kasarani division, Nairobi district. The results from the research questions as shown above and discussed here below, indicate socio-economic viability in formation of the CBOs by the unemployed youths.

5.1.1 Research question One: The influence for the respondents to form the CBO

The data collected from the respondents indicated that the majority (28.8%) were motivated to join or form their respective CBOs by the desire to improve the socio-economic statuses of their communities. In addition, 27% were driven by the need to fight idleness by utilizing their skills and talents, while 19.2% were motivated by the desire to acquire knowledge and skills on business. Others were desirous to create employment and contribute in the fight against HIV/AIDS (13.5% and 11.5%) respectively.

5.1.2 Research question Two: Causes of poverty among the respondents

The respondents’ responses showed that there were several causes of poverty among the youths. On top of the list was unemployment (32.3%) followed by lack of or low education (27.7%). The others cited were HIV/AIDS and population pressure which tied at 12.3% while gender imbalance and other factors also tied at 7.7%. These other factors cited were ignorance, lack of motivation, resources and opportunities to exploit their potentials.
5.1.3 Research question three: Income generating activities engaged in by the respondents

The data from the respondents indicated that the CBOs engaged in diverse income generating activities. The ones that were highly established included cyber café (32.7%), computer/ language college/ secretarial services (28.8%) and garbage collection (15.4%). The other activities cited were community library (11.5%) with bakery and HIV/AIDS and life skills training tying at 5.8%.

5.1.4 Research question four: Achievements made by the CBOs

The findings from the data showed that the CBOs had made achievements in several areas. The greatest among the achievements was providing employment to the youths (28.8%). This was followed by establishment of computer college/cyber café and transformation of many youths from drug takers to volunteer workers in the community, which tied at 13.5%. Other achievements were improvement of environmental sanitation through garbage collection (11.5%) and raising the level of life skills and HIV/AIDS awareness as well as serving as good role models to the youths, which tied at 7.7%. Lastly, the CBOs had been able to attract the attention of several donors like World Vision Kenya and Christian Children’s Fund, among others (5.8%).

5.1.5 Research question five: The factors that affected the performance of CBOs

Several factors that affected the performance of the CBOs were elicited from the data collected. The key among them were inadequate funds (32.8%) and inadequate knowledge and skills to run CBOs (28.8%). The other issue was inadequate commitment and motivation among the members (19.2%). The issue of poor management of funds was also cited (5.9%). Other factors affecting the performance, though not cited by a significant percentage of the
respondents, were lack of fundraising skills and negative perception that society had towards young people. In addition, reliance on donors and government’s refusal to grant tax exemption on donor project funds contributed to the poor performance.

5.1.6 Ways of overcoming the factors that affected the CBOs performance

The respondents suggested several ways of overcoming the factors that affected the performance of the CBOs. Key among them was the need to build the capacity of the members in leadership, organization and financial management (36.5%). In addition, the need to solicit more donor funds to initiate more income generating activities was cited (28.8%). Similarly, the need to network with other relevant institutions was suggested (15.4%). Other suggestions were the need for the government to allocate funds to the CBOs, as a way of addressing poverty among the youths, besides exempting them from taxation on donor project funds.

5.1.7 Advice given to the unemployed youths in Kenya

The respondents gave several suggestions, which include the need for the youths to engage in self employment by starting small enterprises (28.8%). Alternatively, the youths may form or join CBOs or youth groups to attract government and donor funds (25%). In addition, the youths were advised to be innovative, identify and utilize available resources (19.2%). In this respect, the respondents advised the youths to avoid idleness, keep off drugs and bad company by engaging in voluntary services (15.5%). Lastly, the youths were advised to never give up in search for financial independence (11.5%).

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 Introduction

CBOs, as observed in this study play an important socio-economic role in the lives of the members and indirectly that of the communities where they are domiciled. It is important, therefore, that critical attention is given to them as one avenue of addressing poverty by the society, government and its development partners. This is already happening in HIV/AIDS
sector. The study therefore recommends that the same attention be given to poverty using this already-trodden path. In this regard, the study made the following recommendations.

5.2.2- RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY

5.2.2.1 The influence for the respondents to form the CBOs

Unemployed youths have demonstrated that they have enormous motivation that has driven them to improve their lives and by extension those of others in their communities. Similarly, they have a desire for business knowledge and skills to enable them venture into small enterprises.

Bearing this in mind, it is therefore prudent that the state should take this advantage by acknowledging the development role that CBOs play in developing their members, as already done by its development partners like the NGOs. Once this is done, the necessary policies should be put in place. Such policies will enable the youths to access business education and funds like the one set aside for youth development by the Ministry of Youths Affairs or any other ministry. The funds can then be channeled through the CBOs throughout the country, as is the case with HIV/AIDS funds, to alleviate their poverty.

5.2.2.2 Causes of poverty among the respondents

According to the respondents, their poverty was consequent upon unemployment and lack of or low education. While the former may be caused by population pressure, according to them, the latter may be caused by a combination of several factors which include poor policies on poverty alleviation, among others.

The causes notwithstanding, it is evident that this may have contributed to the youths' declared ignorance and lack of motivation, which in turn leads to unemployment and
consequent vicious cycle of poverty being replayed by their offspring. In addition, HIV/AIDS has also contributed, as communities have to care for the orphans. Such state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue as this may impact on security and development.

It is incumbent on the government therefore, to mobilize its resources and those of its partners to address the issue of low education through functional training and access to business advisory services. In doing this, it will also be addressing the issue of unemployment that was cited as the major cause of poverty among the youths.

This can be done by having a legislative policy that apports a percentage of its gross national product annually to go to the youths, as is the case with constituency development fund, which is doing development wonders in some constituencies. Similarly, the state should continue with HIV/AIDS services and consider also setting some funds for the orphans to alleviate poverty among the youths affected.

5.2.2.3 Income generating activities engaged in by the respondents

According to the data derived from the respondents, the CBOs are engaged in mundane but low-cost income generating activities. These activities include cyber café, computer college, secretarial services, garbage collection and community library, among others. Looking at these income generating activities, one cannot fail to appreciate the development/service-role they are playing to these communities.

In this regard, this interaction is a win-win relationship-completely symbiotic. Thus, any thrust from the government and its development partners will sit well with these CBOs, as they have captive market inform of their communities. This thrust need not come in form of
grants but in form of discounted loans. However, at the initial stages of forming the CBOs, an injection of seed money would be welcome, accompanied by business advisory services.

5.2.2.4 Achievements made by the CBOs

From the findings it was evident that the CBOs had made achievements in several areas. Most prominent among them was the ability to create employment for the youths. In addition, the CBOs had brought services closer to their communities by establishing computer college and cyber café, among others. Similarly, the CBOs had managed to transform many youths from drug takers to volunteer workers in the community. In the same breath, they had managed to improve environmental sanitation through garbage collection, among others.

With such CBOs, the government should find its financial support or support in kind, falling in good hands. Consequently, such support will enable the CBOs to grow their income generating activities. Such interaction would therefore benefit the youths socio-economically, while the government would gain by replicating lessons learnt from these youths-based CBOs to other parts of the country, besides alleviating poverty and insecurity.

5.2.2.5 The factors that affect the performance of CBOs and how to address them

Several factors that affect the performance of the CBOs were elicited from the data collected. The key among them were inadequate funds and inadequate knowledge and skills to run CBOs. The society was also blamed for having negative perception about the youths' abilities to lead in development. In addition, the government was also criticized for refusal to grant tax exemption to donor project funds.

In this respect, the government as cited above has a role to support the CBOs with funds
through legislative policies. In addition, it should also, through its wide civil service network use the social development officers to build the capacity of the CBOs membership on management. Similarly, the negative community perception of the youths should be addressed through gender equity and equality campaigns or programmes through the Ministry of Culture and Social Services or any other mandated by the law. Finally, the government should find it easy to vet genuine donor project funds and exempt them from taxation, as it is 'equally' a beneficially.

5.2.2.6 Advice given to the unemployed youths in Kenya
The respondents gave several suggestions, which include the need for the youths to be creative and initiate small enterprises. Further, they were advised to form or join CBOs or youth groups to attract funds from the government and its development partners. In addition, they should also avoid idleness; keep off drugs and bad company by engaging in voluntary services.

In this regard and in view of the fact that such suggestions are feasible, the government needs to come out with policies that are youth-friendly to start small businesses. Such policies should exempt the youths from paying the start-up cost for registration and local authority trade licences. In addition, as suggested above, the government should make it easy for these youths to access credit at discounted rates and given a grace period, say of three years, before repayment is commenced. This would therefore mean that, as a stakeholder in such enterprises, the government must assist the youth entrepreneurs with business advisory services, by attaching officers in all locations where such businesses will be set.

In doing this, the state will not only be reducing poverty through employment creation but also reducing insecurity in the country caused by unemployed youth gangs. This is an issue that the state must address, as wishing it away will not solve the problem. The time to act is now!

Similarly, the issue of opportunities for youths to offer services on voluntary basis is another
area of concern that needs to be addressed. In the past it was easy for youths to get such opportunities after graduating from educational institutions. The state needs to legislate a law that makes it mandatory for organizations both private and government to have provisions for such youths. Such law would enable the youths to gain practical knowledge and skills that would put them in a better position to get employment in the event an opening arose. This way the issue of employers discriminating youths under the guise of inexperience will not arise.

5.2.3 RECOMMENDATION FOR THEORY

Motivational theory which was relied on as a driver for the initiation of these CBOs was vindicated by the respondents' responses. However, one is left wondering why their leaders do not seek knowledge and skills to effectively manage these CBOs, yet they are a source of livelihood to most of them. The conceptual framework was equally vindicated as some youths were motivated to seek employment, with others venturing into self employment, which not only benefited them but also their communities by bringing services closer to them. However, one wonders why a small percentage of the respondents showed inadequate commitment and motivation in the CBOs.

5.2.4 RECOMMENDATION FOR RESEARCH

Arising from the study there is need for further study as to whether CBOs in other regions of the country mirror the successes and shortcomings elicited by these two CBOs. In addition, it would be good to know why government policies on poverty eradication through entrepreneurship development, sidelines CBOs in allocation of funds, yet the opposite happens with HIV/AIDS eradication funds. Further, it would be useful to know why the CBOs leadership does not seek management skills yet this was their best chance to generate income. In addition, it would enlarge the body of knowledge to know why some respondents showed inadequate commitment and motivation in the CBOs.
5.3 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

There were some constraints in conducting the study, which included the following:

i. The study area and respondents constraints

Though the areas of study; Marurui, Githurai 45 and Kahawa Wendani are within Kasarani division they are a distance far apart. In addition, the roads inside the estates were muddy and pot-holed. Further, the sites where these CBOs are domiciled were like slums. In this regard, one took long to collect the questionnaires and particularly because they were not able to fill them at once. Thus, one had to make several visits. Similarly, there was this feeling of insecurity due to the slum nature of the areas; too many idle people some drunk.

ii. Time and financial constraints

As alluded above, much time was taken to collect the questionnaires and also explaining the questions to the members whose significant percentage were of primary level education. In addition, substantial amount of money was spent to access these sites, sometimes by use of taxis, thus forcing the researcher to dig deeper than budgeted for.
REFERENCES


APPENDIX

STUDY QUESTIONNAIRE

Introduction

This study is meant to Assess the Performance of Community Based Organizations in Kenya. It is being carried out as a requirement to be awarded a Degree of Master of Science in Entrepreneurship Development by Kenyatta University.

INSTRUCTIONS:

♦ Kindly assist in answering the questions below.
♦ Please tick the box on the right that closely indicates your correct answer.
♦ Do not write your name.
♦ Any information you give will be held in secret.
♦ Thank you for agreeing to be part of this study.

1. Indicate your CBO:
   a) Tumaini Oasis
   b) MUYOG

2. Age in years: 15-20  21-26  27-32  33 years and above

3. Sex: Male  Female

4. Education: Primary  Secondary  College  University

5. Marital status:
   a) Single
   b) Married
   c) Divorced
   d) Widowed
   e) Separated

6. What do you do for living?

   i. Lack of or low education
   ii. Unemployment
   iii. HIV/AIDS
   iv. Population pressure
   v. Gender imbalance
   vi. Any other, specify
   }


8. What motivated you to form or join this CBO?

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9. Name the Income Generating Activities that this CBO is engaged in.

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10. What achievements have this CBO made so far?

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11. (a) What are the factors that affect the performance of this CBO?

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11. (b) How can these factors be overcome?

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12. What advice would you give to the unemployed youths in Kenya?

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