



EFFECTIVENESS OF THE METHODS USED BY ANGLICAN CHURCH OF KENYA IN ALLEVIATING POVERTY IN CHOGORIA ARCHDEACONRY, MERU DIOCESE

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ABSTRACT

Poverty continues to be the main challenge of human existence in many parts of the world. In Africa it is the main source of agony among individuals and communities. In Kenya it continues to influence people's lives negatively as the majority lacks the basic essentials including food, clothing, shelter, education and healthcare. In Chogoria Archdeaconry, poverty has continued to affect people, who continue to struggle for survival. In response to this, the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK), has endeavored to fight the scourge as part of her mission to the society. This study examined the effectiveness of the methods used by ACK to alleviate poverty. The ACK has been involved in the fight against poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry using various methods since it was incepted in 1974. The study investigated reasons for the persistence of poverty; determined the effectiveness of methods used; and established ways of making the methods more effective. The study will benefit researchers in future by adding to the existing knowledge in the field of religion and development. It will help the church leaders get the real picture of the community they serve; the church to realize the reasons why poverty persist in spite of efforts to alleviate it; and establish ways of making the methods more effective. The study was guided by the broad theory of psycho-social approach that emphasize that development should be seen as an improvement of quality of life of an individual, community and country. The study was conducted in Chogoria Archdeaconry, Maara Sub-County in Tharaka Nithi County that has a population of 107,125 people and 8 parishes with a population of 712 followers, 8 priests, 30 Archdeaconry leaders and 674 Christians. Data was collected from a sample size of 384 respondents. The study used descriptive research design and the sampling method used was simple random sampling for community members and purposive sampling technique for church members and archdeaconry leaders. The instruments for data collection were questionnaires, interviews and observation. Data was analyzed and findings presented using descriptive statistics. The study found that there are various reasons for persistent of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry which includes: wealth acquisition rather than quality of life, leadership prospecting and corruption, gap between the rich and the poor, unequal distribution of resources, agricultural condition, lack of education, unemployment, dependency, laziness and drunkenness. The methods used to alleviate poverty included: education, establishment of ADS, capacity building, CCMP and microfinance. It further revealed that some of the methods used by ACK to alleviate poverty are not effective and that all methods need to be improved so as to alleviate poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry.

Keywords:

INTRODUCTION

Poverty is one of the greatest challenges faced by humanity in the world. According to United Nations Development Program (2006), out of a total of 6,575 million human beings, 830 million are chronically undernourished, 1100 million lack access to safe drinking water and 2600 million lack access to basic sanitation. About 2000 million lack access to essential drugs, 1000 million have no adequate shelter and they also lack electricity (UNDP: 1998). According to United Nations Children's Fund (2005), around one third of all human deaths are due to poverty-related causes. According to Argumedo (2008), majority of African people live in a state of want for basic needs and services. Kinoti (1997) observes that poverty, hunger, diseases and oppression are so common in Africa that we accept them as a normal part of life. According to O'Donovan (2006), many of the communities in Africa are filled with wretchedly

poor people who lack basic essentials of human life and most of her cities are overcrowded with homeless and displaced people, war refugees, handicapped people, beggars and abandoned street children.

According to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2001), the challenge facing Kenya today is to reduce poverty and achieve sustained economic growth for healthy national development. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (2018) avers that poverty in Kenya is mainly a rural phenomenon and that the pace (1% per year) at which poverty reduction is achieved cannot be eradicated by 2030. This is supported by the report released by Ministry of Planning and National Development (2005), which shows that in Kenya, millions of people live under less than a US dollar per day and are classified as poor and food insecure. According to Kenya National Bureau of statistics (KNBS) and Society for International Development (SID) report (2013), Tharaka Nithi County is rated one of the most Rural Counties in Kenya. The County has only 25% of her residents with secondary education and above and this is possibly the percentage working for pay. Chogoria Archdeaconry covers the administrative jurisdiction of Maara sub County in Tharaka Nithi County and this sub county has a share of 28% of her residents with secondary education and above. Maara has 21.1% of her residents who work for pay, 9.2% are involved in family businesses and 54.2% are in family Agricultural holdings and that they rely on natural rains for farming (KNBS, SID 2013). The report highlights that people who cannot access productive work are unable to generate adequate income to take care of their basic needs.

According to African Ecclesial review (2011), the mission of the church is to penetrate the most abandoned sectors in human life. Alongside preaching the gospel, the church should majorly aim at engaging in all aspects of people's lives whether social, political or economic in order to address the causes and remedies of people's sufferings (Nwaigbo, 2011). Historically, Anglican Church can be identified with war against poverty since her inception. Globally, Anglican Church has communicated her concern for society through schools, hospitals and other educational trainings which aim at empowering people leave quality and dignified life. Okullu (1984) admits that in Kenya, the church has a tremendous influence because of the churches' service through schools, medical care and agricultural programs. He further admits that the church has been instrumental in addressing poverty issues since human beings are created in God's image and no one would imagine of a God who is poor, ignorant, fearful, oppressed, wretched hence this is what majority of those He created in His image and likeness are left to be. In his presentation during 'All African Bishop's Conference' held in Uganda, the council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA) General Secretary, Kaiso (2010) noted that right from the beginning especially in Africa, wherever the Anglican Church started, they established a mission centre which consisted of a church, school and health center. This ensured that alongside the preaching of the gospel, the church provided for health services and also taught people on different life skills which helped them raise their standards of living. The church saw education, health care and socio-economic engagement as part of her mission in the world since all these are meant to free the people from the shackles of poverty, ignorance and physical debility so that they may enjoy wholesome life (Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa Report, 2010).

As recorded in the book, 'Ministry of abundant life' (2005), the Anglican Church coupled the preaching of the gospel with building and running of schools and hospitals. She later initiated community-based agriculture, water and health projects at times coupled with microfinance and cottage industry programs. To reach out and empower communities, the ACK established the Anglican Development Services (ADS), formerly known as Christian Community Services (CCS), which is a development arm of the Church. This trickle down to the regions and dioceses to enable the Church reach and empower more communities in a better way. The church has also been offering employment opportunities through sustainability program to members of community as a way of helping to minimize poverty (Anglican Church of Kenya, 2000). According to Chogoria Archdeaconry Report (2006), mostly through Anglican Development Services of Mt. Kenya East, the Church has been running various programs aiming at empowering people and ensuring poverty alleviation in this area. Some of these programs include: Agricultural programs which train people on improved dairy, poultry farming and sustainable agriculture aiming at improving food security in the area. Church and Community Mobilization process (CCMP) program which aims at facilitating people towards realization of their own situation and needs so that they can desire to change their lives by utilizing God given resources that are locally available to meet their needs. The church aims at that through this process, communities will realize transformative development that is self-facilitated by the community people (CCMP Review 2013). Nkonge (2004) denotes that Anglican Church has existed in Meru since 1969. It started in an area called Kiriribu which is currently in Chuka Igambang'ombe Constituency. From there it went to Kanoro and this was the first congregation in Chogoria archdeaconry and was planted in 1974 and from here the Church spread to Twamikua, Gichure, Chogoria, Mbironi, Kiiga, kaathi and Makutano. Though the church has been involved in the war against poverty, people of Chogoria Archdeaconry are faced with immense poverty manifested through hunger, poor living standards, illiteracy, lack of mean for educating children and inadequate health facilities and services.

Statement of the Problem

The Anglican Church of Kenya has participated in the fight against poverty in Chogoria archdeaconry since her inception. In spite of the church's effort to alleviate poverty through various methods the scourge has persisted among the people of Chogoria Archdeaconry. Though the problem is prevalent in this area, it has not been given scholarly attention since not much has been done to establish why poverty is persistent among the people of this area. It is within this background that this study sought to determine the effectiveness of the methods used by ACK in alleviating poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry and why poverty has persisted in spite of Church's efforts to alleviate it. By so doing, the study contributed data on why poverty is persistent in Chogoria Archdeaconry and the effectiveness of the methods used in poverty alleviation by the Church and suggested possible ways of making these methods more effective in alleviating poverty.

Objective

Guided by the study objectives, this article aims at investigating reasons for persistence of poverty in Chogoria archdeaconry, examining the effectiveness of the methods used by the ACK in alleviating poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry, and finally suggesting possible ways of making the methods more effective to ensure poverty alleviation in Chogoria archdeaconry.

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in ACK Chogoria Archdeaconry, Diocese of Meru. Chogoria Archdeaconry is situated in Maara Sub-county, Tharaka Nithi County. The Archdeaconry covers the current administrative jurisdiction of Maara Sub-county. Maara constituency has a population of 107,125 people (KNBS, 2017)) and this forms the target population for this study among which 712 are Christians of the Anglican Church in Chogoria Archdeaconry. The study targeted the entire population because the projects and programs run by the Anglican Church aiming at alleviating poverty benefits the entire community and not Anglicans only.

Kathuri & Pal (1993), suggest that from a population of 100,000, the recommended sample size is 384 respondents (appendix F) and therefore, this forms the sample size for this study. The 30% of the sample size was Anglican members totaling to 115 this comprising of 38 archdeaconry leaders and 77 Christians. The 30% of Anglicans was considered because they are directly involved with the project and it was hoped that they had vital information needed for this study. The rest 269 (70%) were community representatives.

FINDINGS

Reasons for the persistence of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry

There are several reasons which have led to persistence of poverty in this community. This section presents a discussion on reasons why poverty is persistent in Chogoria Archdeaconry despite Church's efforts to alleviate it.

To discover why poverty is persistent in Chogoria Archdeaconry, the study sought to know from respondents some of the economic activities undertaken by the people of this Archdeaconry. 318 (88.8%) of all respondents said that the majority of the people in this community are small scale farmers who practice subsistence farming. They revealed that these people rely on natural rain which is mostly inadequate for farming. The findings established that people of this community prefer growing food crop instead of cash crop, that is, tea and coffee because the latter does not help them much since it is poorly paid. They attributed persistence of poverty to this factor of farming relying on rains which is erratic and lack of well paid cash crop.

The findings further revealed that there are a few people who do small businesses. 129 (36%) of all respondents agreed with this while 229 (64%) of all respondents explained that most of the businesses operated in Chogoria Archdeaconry are not reliable and cannot bring any economic impact in the community since they are seasonal and they target the local people who are not economically stable. From the observation done during the visits, most of the businesses are operated in Kiosks and the stock is very small especially in the rural areas of the archdeaconry. The findings revealed that these businesses are just casual occupations. 288 (80.4%) of all respondents said that the majority of residents in Chogoria Archdeaconry do casual jobs to meet their daily needs. 25 (75.8%) of all Church leaders further expounded that around 90% of their Christians do casual jobs for their sustenance. 35 (81.4%) of the interviewees informed that these jobs are not readily available because they are seasonal and are poorly paid. With these low wages it is difficult for people to fully meet their daily needs. Gikundi (2020) added that the Church has not been addressing the issue of low wages and that it is important for the Church to encourage the rich people who give these casual jobs to the needy to at least increase the pay so that after working the whole day they are able to cater for their families.

The findings also indicated that people of Chogoria Archdeaconry brew local beer to raise money to enable them meet their needs and this idea was held by 198 (55.3%) of all respondent. They further explained that people have resulted to this not because it is the best option but because life has become very difficult and they must provide for their families. Mwiti (2020) explained that due to this readily available local beer, there are very many drunkards in the area and children are adapting immoral behavior. He added that children are also engaging in sexual immorality at a very early age and some have dropped out of school due to pregnancies. Karimi (2020) added that many men have been lost to the local beer and they no longer do any productive work to support their families hence

persistence of poverty. These responses revealed that there are no reliable jobs to enable people earn good money or develop resources to help them meet their daily needs. They further revealed that the church has not been addressing the issue of exploitation of the poor who are poorly paid. Focusing on wealth acquisition rather than quality of life is one factor that has led to the persistence of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry. 198 (77%) community and 63 (62.4%) church respondents said that many people focus on acquiring and accumulating wealth for their families without minding the kind of life they live or even about the people around them. They indicated that everyone struggles to gather wealth for their loved ones without minding the poor who are the majority in this community.

They added that people do not focus on improving their living conditions, educating their children or empowering the poor so as to be able to live sustainable lives though they have a lot of resources. 268 (74.9%) of all respondents said that many people think development and wellbeing means having a lot of wealth and as a result, they struggle to gather and accumulate material wealth. This makes people act selfishly this leading to the disadvantaged becoming more vulnerable. The results revealed that the poor people in the community have been robbed of their resources like land by the rich as they struggle to accumulate wealth. This has led to the rich continuing becoming richer while the poor are pushed to worst levels of poverty. Okullu (1974) advises that quality of life refers to the way people make use of wealth and not how much they possess or how much they can acquire. This study observes that if people can focus on how they can live quality life rather than how they can accumulate wealth the situation can change since they may consider participating in improving other people's life as well in order to grow together as a community and this can lead to effective poverty alleviation.

For poverty to be effectively alleviated, people should be facilitated towards discovering their needs and utilizing their potential to transform their lives in all aspects. This is supported by Kagema (2020) who holds that people must be helped to grow to their maximum. This growth can only be realized through facilitating and empowering people to realize their full potential. But the danger is that poor people mostly lack someone to facilitate and assist them realize their potentials. As a result, they continue being exploited by the economically empowered who continually accumulate wealth as they push the poor to the periphery. True development is the one that seeks to develop human beings and minds about how the poorest can be uplifted in life. 197 (76.7%) of community respondents claimed that the church has not helped people to realize that they have the potential to transform their lives.

The study acknowledges that the church ought to major in developing people's potentials since this is key to poverty alleviation and management. 199 (77.4%) of all community respondents explained that focusing on wealth acquisition has also led to individualistic approach to wealth even at the family level. This idea was supported by 23 (69.7%) of all church leaders who indicated that in the families, spouses are fighting over resources and this has led to unhealthy competition among some spouses and this has crippled some families. This is because some are not able to develop their resources together but instead are fighting over the few resources that they have and this has made it difficult for them to educate children, invest and develop their resources together as a family. Due to this, poverty has continued to persist in Chogoria Archdeaconry.

287 (80.2 %) of all community respondents commented that this aspect has made it difficult for people to come together and think of what they can do to improve their living standards as a community. They added that it is very difficult to bring people of Chogoria together to collectively think and work towards improving their lives. The study revealed that people who are endowed with resources live individualistic and very private lives with each trying to gather more wealth for their family. Jacinta (2020) sighted that the well to do people in this community do not see the sense in working with others since they want to dominate and do not think about uplifting the lowly in the community. All this shows that the spirit of wealth acquisition has made people more selfish and this makes it difficult to alleviate poverty among the people of this community since each struggle to accumulate more wealth without thinking about others hence the persistence of poverty. Corruption and leadership aspect was identified as factor that has led to the persistence of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry. 240 (67 %) respondents claimed that corruption and style of leadership in this community has crippled the growth of Chogoria Archdeaconry. They indicated that corruption is practiced by most leaders in this community. The development of this community has retarded since leaders are the ones who benefit as they exploit the poor and with corruption it is those who have who continue benefiting because they have the capacity to influence both human and material resources.

A total of 229 (64%) respondents explained that the political leaders whom they have been electing have not been thinking about them and when they get to the offices they only think about accumulate wealth for their families. They added that immediately they enter their offices their lifestyles change and they start buying big cars, building

big houses and doing a lot of investments and they completely forget the people who gave them those positions. This may be the reason why Kagema (2020) claims that those with no concern for other people should not seek leadership positions and that a leader who progresses while his people are backtracking is a weak leader.

A total of 219 (61.2%) of all respondents claimed that resources meant to assist the needy to develop their economic capacity have been ending up in the pockets of corrupt and greedy leaders who start projects which serve as leeway to getting money into their pockets in pretence that they are doing them to assist the people. They all indicated that leaders do not like the people of this community to grow because they use their poverty as the ladder to get to their positions. Unfortunately, the church has been silent and people of this community continue suffering in the hands of their corrupt leaders. The study revealed that there is need for the church to educate people the need to elect visionary leaders and not those who give them money during campaigns and steal public resources once they get to the office. The church should also urge the leaders to serve the people and stop stealing public resources which are meant to uplift the poor.

A total of 179 (75.5%) of the community respondents commented that their leaders do not advocate for programs and policies which may deliver this community from poverty and that they do not involve them in the process of policy and decision making. Kathomi (2020) claimed that their leaders do not involve the people of this community in the process of deciding what the community needs most but they just bring policies, programs and projects which add no value to the lives of the people. She further commented that people do not own them because they are done to benefit the leaders who make a lot of money from them.

This study indicates that the most dangerous thing that leaders do is to avoid the targeted group representation during the process of policy and decision making on what people want since this hinders ownership this making implementation very difficult. This may be the reason why Mugerwa (2015) the president of African Development Bank urges that leaders and development partners should be opening dialogue for people to identify and decide what they want since this will make it possible for people to own and support the implementation of the agreed policies and projects and this way they will bring transformation to people's lives since people will own and support them.

In conclusion, corruption and leadership aspect has led to the persistence of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry. With corruption public resources meant to uplift the poor has been misappropriated hence the persistence of poverty. People must be careful when electing leaders because if they continue to elect corrupt and greedy leaders this community will never get out of poverty since they will continue stealing and accumulating public resources for their families without minding the wellbeing of the people they lead. The gap between the rich and the poor is another reason that has led to the persistence of poverty in Chogoria archdeaconry and this idea was held by 238 (64.5%) respondents. They indicated that this is because the rich are the ones with ability to access most of resources and instead of aiming at assisting the economically disadvantaged with some of these resources, they continue accumulating it for their families. They added that they even steal what is meant to assist the poor and continue to enrich themselves. This way the poor continue becoming poorer while the rich continue being richer hence the persistence of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry.

The results established that poor people rely on casual jobs given by the rich who pay them very poorly for their sustenance. They work for long hours under conditions which expose them to health risks and what they take home is not enough to feed their families. The findings revealed that the rich are able to educate their children but the poor are not. This idea was supported by 252 (70.4%) respondents who indicated that the poor are the majority and they are not able to educate their children this denying them a chance of acquiring knowledge and skills necessary to transform their lives and be self-reliant. As a result, the number of the poor people continues increasing making it difficult to alleviate poverty. A total of 233 (65.1%) of all respondents said the rich continue to be the policy makers in the society without the participation of the poor and their needs are never considered as these policies and decisions are made.

The results revealed that unequal distribution of resources has led to persistence of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry and this was held by 306 (85.5%) respondents. Unequal distribution of resources means that resources are available to some people and not all. Resources play a key role when it comes to poverty alleviation in a society. According to Curtis (2006), poor people mostly lack resources like economic and social resources like education, skills and financial capital which help in reducing poverty. Due to their poverty they mostly remain in a state of poverty in their life. They held that wealth has been concentrated by a few families as noted by Piketty (2006) that wealth concentration can significantly lead to the persistence of poverty. This has led to the same in Chogoria Archdeaconry as the rich continue to accumulate wealth while the poor continue struggling for survival.

Other factors leading to the persistence of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry included Farming and Agricultural conditions where 269 (75.1%) respondents explained that many people in this community practice farming for their sustenance relying on natural rain which is mostly fail them. Kristjanson (2010) denotes that people in the rural areas mostly face food insecurity because they rely on natural rain which is erratic hence low production. 253 (70.7%) respondents revealed that the issue of land subdivision and the declining soil quality has also affected farming. This idea is held by Shorter (1999) who claims that population growth is accompanied by a growing number of landless people. Muyanga (2014) argues that though agriculture has been the best option to help people in the rural areas out of poverty, agriculture these days suffers from climate shocks, diseases and pest prevalence, declining soil quality and volatile agricultural market.

Lack of well paying cash crop is another factor that respondent noted as a challenge that has led to persistent of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry. 254 (70.9%) of all respondents claimed that though there is coffee, tea and tobacco which ought to serve as cash crops in this community, it is planted by a small percentage of Chogoria Archdeaconry residents because they are poorly paid. They claimed that they plant food crop which they also use as cash crop and that many people sell their crops during harvest time to meet various needs for their children especially school fees and other needs and they are left without food to feed their families. This expressed the need for the government to consider increasing the prices at which coffee and tea is bought for farmers to be motivated to plant them since they uprooted them due to low prices.

A total of 270 (75.4%) of all respondents claimed that lack of education is another factor that has contributed to persistence of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry. As noted earlier, education is key to poverty alleviation and management and as claimed by Eugene (1999), education raises income and promotes growth because it helps to unleash the productivity potential of the poor. This is because it opens opportunities for one to get a well-paying job or knowledge and skills necessary to enable one venture in to self-employment and live self-reliant life.

Table 5: Summary of respondents levels of education.

Representation	Primary level	Secondary level	Beyond secondary level	Total
Anglican Christians	56 (86.8%)	9 (13.2%)	3 (4.4%)	68 (100%)
ACK Leaders	19 (57.6%)	9 (27.3%)	5 (15.2%)	33 (100%)
Community Respondents.	210 (81.7%)	36 (14%)	11(4.3%)	257 (100%)
Total	285 (79.6%)	54 (15.1%)	19 (5.3%)	358 (100%)

Source: Self

The findings confirm that majority of the people in this community do casual jobs because with basic education, this is what they qualify for since they lack knowledge and skills required for jobs with good and regular income. This idea is in line with Garry (2013) who claims that lack of education leads to lower income hence lower aggregate savings and investments. Unemployment is another factor that respondents raised as a reason that has led to persistence of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry. 323 (90.2%) of all respondents claimed that level of employment in formal sectors in Chogoria Archdeaconry is very low. Majority of the people in this community are in informal employment which include small-scale farming, small businesses and casual labor to meet their basic needs.

Though Chen (2006) claims that people who are in informal employment which includes self-employment such as domestic work, agriculture and petty vending, the jobs are insecure and savings are also very limited are ever in danger of remaining in poverty. However, this study suggests that every employment, be it formal or informal, ensures flow of income which helps people to meet their needs hence managing poverty in a sustainable way. 216 (60.3%) community respondents said that many people in Chogoria archdeaconry cling to the belief that for one to escape poverty, they must be in formal employment. This idea is misleading since there are many people who are economically stable and they are in self-employment. All what is needed is to empower the people of this community with necessary skills so that they may be able to operate and manage their businesses. The church should consider organizing trainings for people to impact them with required knowledge and skills to enable them do their businesses professionally for them to succeed.

Laziness and idleness among the people of Chogoria Archdeaconry and especially men who are in productive age was also cited as another reason that has led to persistence of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry. 219 (61.2%) of all respondents indicated that many people who are in productive age are lazy and they spend most of their time idle by the road sides and in the nearby canteens and these are people with families to feed, children to educate and other responsibilities and that all these are left to women alone. This was confirmed during the observation visit because in the most parts of Chogoria Archdeaconry it was observed that many people who are middle aged were just lying by road side in groups, others in the village canteens just telling stories.

In conclusion, the study establishes that there is persistence of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry. Several reasons which have led to the persistence of poverty in this community includes; focusing on wealth acquisition rather than quality of life, corruption and leadership aspect, the gap between the rich and the poor and unequal distribution of resources, agricultural condition, lack of education, unemployment, laziness and idleness. The responses have further revealed that the church has not been able to do much to mitigate poverty among the people of this community by addressing these factors.

Effectiveness of the Methods Used by ACK to Alleviate Poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry

Though poverty has been persistent in Chogoria Archdeaconry, the Anglican Church of Kenya has been trying to address this challenge using various including; Education, establishment of ADS, Initiation of capacity building programs, Church and Community Mobilization Process, Creation of job opportunities and microfinance. This chapter examines the effectiveness of these methods in alleviating poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry.

From the findings, it was established that Education is one of the methods used by the church to alleviate poverty in this community. According to United Nations Decade for Poverty Alleviation (2006) there are clear linkages between education and poverty reduction since education contributes to sustainable poverty alleviation and management. According to Nkonge (2016), as the ACK evangelized, this went hand in hand with establishment of schools. This is also supported by ACK diocese of Meru Education department (2018) which indicates that the Church has established five primary schools in this community and one vocational training center. This idea was supported by 168 (70.9%) community respondents since they indicated that the church has been supporting education which is a strongest tool that can be used to transform life. Upon inquiring from respondents how effective this method of education is in alleviating poverty, the responses were as indicated in table 2.

Table 2: Effectiveness of Education in Alleviating Poverty

Effectiveness	Frequency	Percentage
Very Effective	0	0%
Effective	38	10.6%
Fairly Effective	24	6.7%
Not effective	296	82.7%
Total	358	100%

The findings revealed that the method is not effective as the majority of respondents 296 (82.7%) indicated so. They claimed that the schools under the sponsorship of ACK in this community have been posting poor performance. The study agrees with these respondents since during the interview, Nyaga (2020) who is the head of education department in the diocese said that NCK through the education department could not get a single student who had scored 350 marks for scholarship. It was noted that the church has neglected key areas like monitoring their schools, offering moral and financial support to schools, supporting the needy children to pursue their education and motivating the teachers and pupils to encourage them work harder. The church has not been advising people to go for education which may enable them to venture into informal employment though this is the route to be followed since the government and other formal sectors cannot be able to offer formal employment to all people.

Establishment of Anglican Development Services (ADS) is another method raised by the respondents as a method used by the Anglican Church of Kenya to alleviate poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry. According to the respondents, this method is not effective in alleviating poverty among the people of Chogoria Archdeaconry. This is because out of all respondents, 288 (80.4%) rated it as not effective and only 65 (18.2%) rated it as effective and 5 (1.4%) had no opinion. 219 (61.2%) respondents claimed that the method is not effective because ADS is no longer active in undertaking their projects and programs in this community. A station which was established at Kanoro and served as a demonstration center in Chogoria Archdeaconry disappeared due to poor management and corruption

among leaders. They added that there are no people from this community who are working with ADS since employments are given through corruption and favoritism.

Capacity building is another method raised by respondents that is used by ACK in addressing issues of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry. Ngunjiri (2020) claimed that this method aims at empowering people through trainings so that they may gain knowledge and skills which may help them take life positively to be able to face life challenges positively. Capacity building was rated as an effective method of alleviating poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry since 315 (88%) of all respondents indicated so.

54 (79.4%) of the ACK followers claimed that through the church seminars, their mind set has been changed and they see life from a positive perspective. 176 (68.5%) of the community representatives said that it is through these church seminars that they were able to stop drinking beer which had affected their families negatively because they were wasting a lot of family resources. They claimed that through these trainings they were also encouraged to start small investments to enable them to meet their daily needs. Gikundi (2020) indicated that though this method is effective, it has not been implemented in all parishes within this archdeaconry. Gitonga (2020) added that the attendance of men in these trainings is very poor and they need to be encouraged to be attending so that they may not be left behind in the empowerment process.

Church and Community Mobilization Process (CCMP) is another method that ACK is using to assist people out of poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry. Micheni (2020) who is the diocesan coordinator of this program confirmed that this program aims at facilitating people towards self-realization so that they can discover their current situation, potentials, God given resources and desire to transform their situation using locally available resources.

The study established that this method is effective and the idea was held by 304 (84.9%) respondents. 216 (60.3%) respondents claimed that the projects that come up through this program are community initiated and they empower people economically. This communicates the importance of public participation in the process of deciding the projects and programs that needs to be initiated to help people out of poverty. Gichure parish was cited as an example of a place which has been transformed through this program since they were able to start irrigation project and dairy farming and both projects ensures that they are food secure and financially stable. These projects cover a small part of this archdeaconry, that is, Gichure and part of Mbironi area and the people who benefit from them are very few. Creation of job opportunities is another method that ACK use in alleviating poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry. The majority of respondents, 296 (82.7%) indicated that the method is not effective. This is because there are no people from this community who are employed by ACK because jobs are given through corruption and favoritism. They added that the church has not been able create more jobs to be able to employ many people. A total of 279 (77.9%) respondents claimed that the Church has not been able to empower people of Chogoria Archdeaconry for informal employment though this is key to alleviating poverty since all people cannot be employed by the government or other formal sectors. The church has not encouraged people of this community to go for training which will help them gain skills which can enable them join informal employment to be able to live self-reliant lives. She has also not advocated for government to invest in infrastructure so as to improve transportation and service delivery though this creates job opportunities especially in informal sector. This can ensure remarkable progress in poverty alleviation since it will attract more investments as investments translates to more job opportunities (<https://blogs.worldbank.org>).

Microfinance is another method that the church has been using to fight poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry. Through this method, the church has embarked on trainings and initiation of self support groups. 303 (84.6%) respondents rated the method effective. They explained that the church has been actively training people on how to grow holistically. She has been training and encouraging people to start self support groups and to pull their resources together and start giving soft loans to members an idea that has helped people to grow economically. Wilbur (2006) advises that people need to be trained to assist themselves with what they have and this way they will be able to own the process and sustain it. The study revealed that from the small savings people have been able to start small projects like poultry and goat farming which has assisted them in meeting their day to day needs. Karimi (2020) claimed that the Church through ADS trained them on starting these groups and after they raised up to fifty thousand, ADS supported them with non-refundable fifty thousand and this money was meant to boost their savings so as to give reasonable amount of loans to members. She informed the researcher that these groups were not formed of ACK members only but included other community members.

In conclusion, all these responses reveal that there are only three methods among the six methods used by the church to alleviate poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry which are effective. These includes; Capacity building program which was rated effective by 315 (88%) respondents, church and Community Mobilization Process rated effective by 304 (84.9%) respondents and Microfinance which was rated effective by 303 (84.6%) respondents.

Ways of Making the Methods Used by ACK in Alleviating Poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry More Effective

This section aimed at establishing ways of improving the methods used by ACK to make them more effective in alleviating poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry.

The study established that to make education more effective in alleviating poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry, the church has to create awareness on the importance of education and trainings which will impact people with knowledge and skills to enable them venture into self-employment for them to be self-reliant. The church should advise the government and policy makers to invest in facilitating the growth of businesses since this will create job opportunities where after people gain these skills they will utilize them to earn a living and this will assist in alleviating poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry. In support of this, Khotkina (2007) claims that the informal sector has become major provider of employment in developing economies. This way, the method will be more effective.

A total of 259 (72.3%) respondents claimed that parents need to be encouraged to take their children to secondary schools because we have day schools all over where the fees is affordable in order to raise the number of people with secondary education in this community. The church should continue creating awareness among people on the importance of education so that they may be motivated to educate their children. Gikundi (2020) added that people need to know that secondary education is important since it opens doors for one to further his/her education to become a professional and secure job in the formal sector. A total of 261 (72.9%) respondents suggested that the church should offer moral support to both teachers and pupils and encourage them to work hard in order to improve the performance especially in the Anglican sponsored schools. They claimed that the education department coordinator should be visiting the schools regularly to monitor the progress in these schools. They also suggested that the heads of these schools should be submitting their results to the education department and be meeting to analyze them and do rating of their schools. By so doing, every head teacher will work hard to ensure that their school is doing well. The schools that perform well should also be rewarded. They further added that the Church can as well have a prize giving program for pupils and teachers who perform well. This will motivate them to work hard and consequently, the performance will improve.

A total of 213 (59.5%) respondents said that through the diocesan education department, the church ought to establish scholarship kitty from which they can support learners at all levels from needy families. With such support, the few who will be lucky to benefit may be successful and later support others to pursue education after establishing themselves. This way, the number of people with ability to sustain their lives will continue increasing and at the end poverty will be alleviated in Chogoria Archdeaconry.

A total of 224 (62.6%) respondents claimed that for ADS to be effective in alleviating poverty in this community, the sub-station which was at Kanoro should be re-opened to be able to take their services closer to people in this community. 184 (51.4 %) respondents revealed that the church should ensure that corruption and favoritism in ADS is restrained so that the available opportunities are fairly offered and justly obtained. They further added that the church should ensure that the people who are entrusted with leadership role are not corrupt since corruption in ADS is perpetuated through the corrupt leaders. 149 (58%) community respondents urged that the church should consider electing leaders who are visionary so as to stir the development of this community through ADS. They further added that ADS programs must be implemented in the whole Archdeaconry to ensure no part is left out.

A total of 54 (53.5%) of the Church leaders said that as ADS implement her agricultural programs, they should consider assisting farmers with input like quality seeds and fertilizers. This will help needy people in this community to realize good harvest since they are mostly not able to buy fertilizer and quality seeds hence poor harvest. The church should link people with other partners like food for the hungry and other organizations which can support farmers by training and supporting them with inputs. To ensure that capacity building programs is more effective in alleviating poverty, Sarah (2020) suggested that the Church should be aggressive in conducting seminars addressing areas on entrepreneurship and agriculture to encourage people to venture into informal employment so that they may live self-sustaining lives.

A total of 182 (50.8%) of all respondents suggested that the church should ensure that this program is implemented in the whole archdeaconry. Karimi (2020) added that they should also mobilize men so that they may be participating in these seminars to ensure that they are not left behind since they mostly ignore these seminars.

To make Church and Community Mobilization Process (CCMP) more effective, 233 (65.1%) respondents said that the Church should ensure that the program is implemented in the whole Archdeaconry. 174 (52.7%) community respondents suggested that CCMP department should come up with monitoring and evaluation tools since this will assist them to know whether they are achieving their objectives or not. This will help the implementers to be serious and do the work of empowering people so as to come out of poverty. They further added that when communities start projects, the CCMP leaders should always be checking how the projects are fairing to ensure that they are properly managed so that they may not collapse.

A total of 167 (65%) community respondents said that through this program, the church should link people with market for their produce to ensure that they make good profit out of the horticultural farming since market has been a challenge. For creation of job opportunities to be effective in alleviating poverty in Chogoria Archdeaconry, 215 (60.1 %) respondents said that the Church has to consider increase job opportunities especially for youths by establishing more programs and projects that may need workers. 182 (50.8%) respondents claimed that the church has to focus on encouraging people to go for informal employment since the government and other formal sectors may not be able to employ all people. This is because informal sector can accommodate more people and it is the direction to be followed since with the new technologies, jobs are diminishing. A total of 266 (74.3 %) respondents suggested that the church ought to end corruption in their institutions to ensure that they are well managed and stable and that jobs are offered indisputably to the qualified people but not through corruption and favoritism.

To make microfinance more effectively in alleviating poverty, 192 (53.6%) respondents said that microfinance program should be implemented in the whole Archdeaconry. 231 (64.5%) respondents suggested that the self- support groups which retarded should be revived and members who disappeared with unpaid loans be followed to repay their loan balance and this will assure members the security of their money. The church should major on building leadership capacity for the leaders through trainings so that they may gain more knowledge on how to lead and manage these groups. From those who were interviewed, 36 (83.7%) of them suggested that the group members should be trained so that they may know the importance of these groups, own and support the leaders. They should also be encouraged to be electing leaders who are trustworthy and visionary so that these groups may serve members effectively. This way the groups will be saved from financial wrangles since this will ensure that leaders are accountable hence the method being more effective.

CONCLUSION

Poverty is real among people of Chogoria community as many struggle for their survival. Poverty has persisted due to various reasons which if well addressed poverty can be minimized to the levels that people of this community can live dignified life. Though the church has been engaging in war against poverty in this community, the methods that she has been using are not effective and that is why she has not been able to alleviate poverty among the people of Chogoria Archdeaconry. The church ought to urge the government to be committed to serve the people of this community by investing in improving the infrastructure, initiating projects like irrigation since people of this community are farmers who are mostly frustrated due to insufficient rains and other projects which may help these people out of poverty.

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