

PIGGERY PRODUCTION AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL PEOPLE IN WARD 21 OF GUTU DISTRICT, MASVINGO PROVINCE, ZIMBABWE

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ABSTRACT

Realizing social exclusion at its peak in Masvingo, Gutu district, Non Governmental Organizations intervened through the provision of piggery project as an attempt to empower the rural communities. This paper sought to evaluate the contribution of piggery production project to the empowerment of rural people in ward 21 of Gutu District. Quantitatively; questionnaires were used while interviews and field observations were done in collecting qualitative data. The findings revealed that different benefits were derived from the project and these included meat (human capital), manure and infrastructures (physical capital), and financial capital. These benefits brought empowerment through human capital enhancement, increased income from financial capital, broadening livelihood portfolios through Rotating Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCAS), chicken rearing, rural trade and garden farming from manure. Although the project achieved economic empowerment to some extent, little was done to social empowerment since women, children, the old aged, the HIV and AIDS victims were secluded while the economically active group empowered. Therefore, for such projects to succeed, there should be inclusion of all the people in the village willing to participate regardless of the age, sex, marital status and health; training and marketing of products be strengthened for the sustainability of the empowerment projects.

Keywords: Empowerment, Poverty, Piggery Production, Rural Livelihood

BACKGROUND

In region 4 of Zimbabwe's Agro ecological Regions, crop farming ceased to be a viable source of livelihood to many households. Climatic conditions have left the environment not conducive for bump harvest, coupled with this was government inability to provide inputs, social welfare services and reduced commitment to rural development projects and programmes (Makumbe, 1996). They pointed out that the government's inability due to economic hardships had given rise to the operation of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in many rural areas. Economic hardships had influenced the operation of Action Faim through implementation of piggery project. Reports from Rural Development Ministry are convincing that NGOs are vital in as far as rural empowerment is concerned (Makumbe, 1996). With regard to the above information this paper therefore seeks to assess the contribution of NGOs, (Action Faim) in particular in ward 21 of Gutu District on empowering the rural communities through piggery production.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The prevalence of poverty in the ward have not changed since the operation of NGOs in the ward and nothing has been done to assess their contribution in empowering rural communities since the government has shown reduced commitment to rural development projects and programmes. This form of exclusion has deeply affected the livelihoods of Gutu Ward 21 residents. Therefore; this gave rise to an evaluation into the contribution of piggery production in the empowerment of the rural people in ward 21 of Gutu District.

OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the benefits derived from piggery production.
2. To assess how these benefits empowered the people in the projects.
3. To assess the opportunities and constraints in the project of empowerment.
4. To recommend the contribution of piggery production in empowering rural communities.

JUSTIFICATION

The research is of paramount importance to various institutions like Rural District Councils, research institutions and other government ministries, which focus on empowering the rural communities. The research plays a crucial role in assessing the benefits by the community derived from piggery production. This paper also provides the capability of NGOs in empowering rural communities, with piggery production. It also gives information about pig breeds, which are of commercial value to those who are willing to undertake the project. Ignoring information from this research will lead to increasing people's vulnerability to shocks and stresses on their livelihoods and left them without capacity to recover from them.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The Rationale behind Operation of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Rural Areas

Makumbe (1996) asserts that operation of NGOs in developing countries is an outcome of diversified factors. He further argued that among the factors lies the most important one of empowerment. Eade (2000) also echoes the same sentiments about NGOs and rural empowerment that the main focus of NGOs in rural areas is to improve rural livelihoods through implementation of projects. With regard to the above Eade (2000) posits that, through implementation of rural projects,

NGOs are providing shock absorbers to rural livelihoods, examples of these NGOs are CARE, Action Faim and Christian CARE. Smith (1994) argues that, the Brettonwoods Projects reveal some interesting insights that it gets far from its agenda of economic growth and empowerment of livelihoods. He further argues that the World Bank has often came under criticism for its development projects not actually helping society that they claimed they will, for instance on the issue of Economic Structural Adjustment programme (ESAP), people have not seen the benefits promised while at the same time the environment has degraded and crucial arable land has been flooded thus affecting rural livelihoods.

Empowerment

Eade (2000) eludes that, empowerment is more than simply opening up access to decision making. It include the process that lead people to perceive themselves as able and entitled to occupy that decision making space and so overlaps with other

categories of “power to” and “power within” (Eade ,2000). He further argues that empowerment must be about bringing people who are outside decision making process into it, thus empowerment put a strong emphasis on access to political structures, formal decision making and in the economic sphere. Mc Whitter (1991) cited in Eade (2000) echoes the same sentiments about empowerment, he notes that empowerment is a process by which people, organization or groups who are powerless become aware of power dynamics at work in their life context and develop the skills and capacity for gaining some reasonable control over their lives.

Levels of Empowerment

Eade (2000) posits that, empowerment has four levels, which is family, individual, organization and community. He argues that at an individual level empowerment is about developing a sense of self and individual confidence, and undoing the effects of internalized oppression. Eade (2000) also pointed out that at organization and community levels individuals work together thus these levels show that concentration on individual alone is not sufficient hence there is need for collective abilities.

Types of Empowerment

Eade (2000) notes five types of empowerment which are economic, political, cultural, societal and national. He further argues that all these kinds of empowerment work together and influence each other. Eade and Williams (1995) allude that economic empowerment comes from having enough wealth to take care of your needs, political empowerment comes from having a say in how things are organized and how decisions are made, and cultural empowerment comes from being free to practice your culture. He further noted that societal empowerment comes from all members of the society being treated fairly and equally. Eade and Williams (1995) further reiterated that national empowerment comes from a nation having power to make decisions for itself. They posit that the final activity of empowerment should bring about positive changes in people’s situation.

Types of Pig Breeds

Bellis (1982) asserts that there are two types of pig breeds that exists in Zimbabwe namely the indigenous “Mukota” and the more sophisticated exotic pig, (large white land race, Duroc and Hampshire). Large white land race is sometimes called Yorkshire and is preferred by many farmers for its growth and superior reproductive performance. The four pig breeds are explained below.

Land Race

The land race falls into two quite different varieties, that is the original Scandinavian land race. Dutch and Germany land race typify the other type. They are stress susceptible, grow rather slowly and produce modestly sized litters (Bellis, 1982).

Duroc

It is a coloured breed ranging from gold to rusty, red to dark brown in color. It is a robust and heavy boned breed. Mpofu and Makuza (2003) allude that duroc has excellent reputation for performances well in tough conditions. They also argued that

duroc provide improved meat quality than other breeds. It is also disease resistance in case of outdoor and extensive pig keeping system (Bellis, 1982).

Hampshire

Hampshire is black in colour and has white belt or collar on the fore-quarters. Whittemore (1998) argues that Hampshire has the reputation of meatiness rather than reproductive performance. In Zimbabwe the Hampshire has the reputation of meatiness. The Hampshire and the duroc are not many in Zimbabwe because the processors discriminated against due their coloured hair follicles, which render the carcasses inappropriate for bacon production (Whettemore, 1998).

Mukota

It is normally black although others might have white spots. The mukota can survive under harsh conditions as a result of poor resource, communal farmers mainly keep them. Bellis (1982) alludes that the mukota have poor growth rate and in order to meet consumer requirement for lean meat, the mukota pig should be slaughtered earlier than exotic pigs.

Management of Pig Breeds

Whittemore (1998) asserts that, the genotype of a pig sets ceiling can be improved by environmental factors such as housing, nutrition and management. There are also three ways of altering the genotype of pigs and these are the use of hybrid vigor, that is cooperation of new genes from pigs of different breeds and positive selection for a given character or character within a breeding population(Whittemore;1998).He further eludes that increasing the frequency of favourable gene or gene combination means one has to first identify individual animal with the highest frequency of the favourable genes through selection and they use them as the next generation to improve the population.

Disease Control in Piggery Production

Whittemore (1998) asserts that successive farming rest on the ability to keep levels free from diseases. It is well established that it is cost effective to maintain the herd free of diseases by preventing rather than by curing (Bellis, 1982). He also argues that for prevention of diseases one need to take into cognisant the following points:

- Vaccination helps to control spread of diseases.
- Keep many infectious agents out of the unit. This can be done through strict adherence to bio-security measures. Foot bath can be placed at entry points in different sections of the unit for instance farrowing, mating, gestation and nursery.
- Boundary fence should be placed to stop other animals that might spread diseases.
- Quarantine, limitation of animal movement. Close attention should be paid to the emergence of signs of diseases.
- Dead pigs should be burnt or buried to prevent spread of diseases.
- Hygiene helps to prevent outbreak of diseases. Through cleaning of pens helps to reduce the bacteria in the site.
- Needles and syringes that are used to treat sick animals should be sterilized.
- Provide good nutrition to the infected.
- Avoid overcrowdings.
- Proper pen design reduces the problem of leg problems and wet floors help in the proliferation bacteria causing disease.

- Isolated sick animals should be confined in sick bays and should be the last to be cleaned and equipment should be the last to be cleaned.

Whittemore (1998) alludes that there are common diseases and notifiable diseases in pig breeds. These include mastitis, Galactic, smedi, mange cystitis, abscesses, anemia, arthritis and foot and mouth, African swine, fever, anthrax, rabies respectively.

Feeding Management

Mpofu and Makuza (2003) assert that a good farmer should strive to minimize feed wastage in order to maximize returns not only that but should ensure that the feeds being offered to the pigs is appropriate for the class of the pig. They argued that different classes of pigs respond differently to different diets hence one has to know nutrient requirement of the pigs. Bellis (1982) postulates that pigs are monogastric or simple stomach animals and as such their ability to effectively utilize fibrous material is limited. He further argued that nutrients required by pigs are energy, vitamins and water. He also noted that the major nutrients that incur the highest cost in pig feeding are energy and protein. Mpofu and Makuza (2003) allude that if, we feed the animal with an exact amount of feed that will exactly balance its losses of energy, and this is called feeding the animal and maintenance its requirement. It is only those nutrients that are surplus to maintenance requirement that can be used for growth, reproduction and lactation (Mpofu and Makuza, 2003). Bellis (1982) asserts that recommended energy sources include maize, sorghum, millet cassava, wheat, barley and animal fat. Protein sources include sorghum meal, cotton meal, fish meal, skimmed milk, meat and bone meal, blood meal, sunflower meal and ground nut meal.

Table 1: Summary on Feeding of Different Classes of Pigs

Seed type	Class fed	Period fed	Level and mode of feeding	Remarks
Snow feed	Boars	From 7 months until culling	2-2, 5 per head per day. Can be fed wet or dry.	Adjust ration according to boar condition.
Snow feed	Gifts	From approximately 6 months until farrowing	2kg per head per day. Can be wet or dry feeding.	Adjust ration during flushing.
Snow feed	Dry sows	Between weaning and service.	2kg per head per day. Wet or dry feeding	Level of feeding helps the sow to quickly come in heat.
Snow feed	Pregnant sows	Between service and farrowing	2kg per head per day. Wet or dry feeding	Overfeeding causes farrowing problems.
Snow feeding	Lactation sows	During lactation	2kg + half a kg per piglet being nursed, wet feeding.	Frequent feeding is recommended to encourage intake.
Colostrums and	Suckling piglets and weaners	Week 1 to week 8	Ad libitum	Creep feeding during suckling reduces digestive problems at weaning
Creep feed	Suckling piglets	Birth to weaning	Ad libitum	Creep feeding during suckling reduces digestive problems at weaning.
Grower feed	Growers	8 weeks to 60kg	Ad libitum or restricted.	If restricted the pig should be fed twice per day. Pigs should feed for about 30 minutes at each feeding time.
Finisher feed	Finishers	From 60kg to slaughter weight	Ad libitum or restricted	Same as the above.
Grower feed	Growers and flattens	From 5 weeks to slaughter	Ad libitum or restricted	Same as for the grower
Water	All classes	Throughout life	Ad libitum	Water must be cool and clean

(Whittemore, 1998)

Whittemore (1998) asserts that a well established weaned pig can eat about four times as much as it required to maintain itself when the pig reaches 50kg live weight the intake will have reduced about 3,5 times and at 90kg 3 times or less. Bellis (1982) echoes the same sentiments about feeding requirement at different levels. Firstly he noted that the feeds required for the growing pigs are explained below.

Grower feed: Protein and energy sources are needed for growing pigs. Lysine and crude protein should be 0, 95% and 18% respectively. Energy is required for maximum lean deposition (Whittemore, 1998).

Gestation diet: Gestation diet should have low digestible energy and protein. Digestible energy should be 12, 5 mj/kg, protein ratio 1, 9 and vary with weight (Whittemore; 1998).

Lactation: Ellis (1982) alludes that because of the need to produce milk for piglets, digestible energy content should be 13mj/kg since content should be between 0, 9 – 1, 0% and crude protein should be between 17, 5 – 19%.

FACTORS INFLUENCING EMPOWERMENTS PROGRAMMES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Gender Difference

Narayan (2000) argues due to patriarchy nature of the Zimbabwean nation, a woman who has lost a husband is the most vulnerable to social exclusion. Bourdillion (1998) postulates that those women could no longer possess' productive assets. Rural areas are too primitive and conservative to the culture and in many societies women are socially excluded from ownership of assets and participation in the public. In many societies, women's traditional subordinate position limits themselves from access to factors of production and in many cases management of developmental activities are for men while excluding women. In Nigeria, this group is often harassed and insulted by young men and they are considered responsible for their own fate.

Children

Narayan (2000) posits that when there is rural empowerment by the developmental agencies, the most targeted group is the economically active group while excluding the children. He notes that children are the most vulnerable group in the society. They have little power to influence over social, economic and political process that governs their lives (Narayan, 2000). According to Jackson (2002) the prevalence of HIV and AIDs in Sub-Saharan Africa had left many child headed families. In Togo customary law considers children as property of the parents and gives them no individual rights to assets. Narayan, (2000) allude that most NGOs seems not to consider those who are not economically active like children. Most orphans and child headed families are sidelined from developmental activities.

Elderly

Sweetman (2000) postulates that NGOs seemed to have done little to include the old aged. In Peru, poverty still persists among the elderly people (Narayan, 2000). He further alludes that due to the fact that elderly people are less economically active they are excluded from many activities. Sweetman (2000) argued that the inability of the state social security systems to satisfy the growing old age population had created a large proportions poorer group. In addition to that, most NGOs regard elderly as passive and dependants hence active participants are needed for the progress of the projects.

Poor

Narayan (2000) alludes that, poor members seems to be an invisible group when it comes to participation in the developmental activities. He further argues that the poor remain poor because they are excluded from access to the resources,

opportunities, and information connection. Thus in many developing countries this lead to intergenerational poverty. Sweetman (2000) argues that being disconnected from powerful institutions limits information that the poor have about entitlements, scholarship for children and their earning. He further pointed out that in Macedonia poverty excludes the poor from access to scholarship, credits to start developmental projects. Makumbe (1996) echoes the same sentiments that the poor are poor because they lack knowledge and they are weak when it comes to decision-making hence they are excluded when it comes to participation of developmental projects. Thus the poor are vulnerable to exclusion from NGOs projects.

Ethnicity

Social exclusion on the grounds of ethnicity is a common theme among many societies thus power relations in interogenous societies always favour some groups at the expense of others (Narayan, 2000). He also alludes that in India; exclusion is perpetuated by the rigidities of the caste system and in Philippine indigenous people has benefited the least from the government rural development programs. With regard to the above, Narayan (2000) posits that discrimination in terms of ethnicity can thus exclude a certain group from enjoying the benefits.

People with HIV and AIDs

Myths and stereotype that surround AIDs have caused infected person to be cut off from social networks which is the critical survival asset of the poor (Narayan, 2000). Jackson (2002) alludes that it needs much labour to take care of HIV infected person. He further notes that it needs forty litres of water after an hour to clean sheets and wash the body hence empowerment of such person through projects may place an extra burden to the care giver. With regard to the above thus care givers and HIV infected person are excluded from many projects.

Challenges to Empowerment Projects in Rural Areas

Makumbe (1996) postulates that, NGOs are well known for their failure to empower the rural communities due to a diversity of factors, which are mentioned below:

Unsustainability of Funds

Makumbe (1996) alludes that NGOs do not always deliver sustainable benefits to the intended beneficiaries. He argues that many of the NGOs' projects falls after the withdrawals of the NGO funds, expertise and other personnel. Beneficiaries tend to be the losers as the situation returns to the original state of poverty. In most cases NGOs supplies the expertise, starting capital and after withdrawal other participants could no longer manage to improve the projects on their own (Makumbe; 1996). However due to market failure and un-sustainability of funds many projects had failed to meet their goal.

Lack of Knowledge

Narayan (2000) alludes that the rural people are poor because they lack knowledge. Whittemore (1998) echoes the same sentiments about the poor, he argued that projects like piggery production needs a lot of skills and knowledge hence the poor can not effectively manage these projects, since proper nutrition intake, good hygiene, calculations in vaccination and other

project management will be required. With regard to the above, Whittemore (1998) envisages that projects implemented in rural communities are thus vulnerable to failure because the rural people seem to be less skilled and lack knowledge.

Markets Accessibility

Whittemore (1998) postulates that, many of the developing nations, Zimbabwe in particular, have poor access to markets for many farmers. Coupled with the problem of lack of knowledge to manage pigs, poor farmers are thus likely to produce poor meat products, which will face the challenge of competition in the market. (Whittemore, 1998). Apart from that, he notes that markets for the farm products are only a few such as that the rural people can not access them as they are situated in the midst of cities and towns thus, most farmers found it costly to engage in activities that do not have markets since the NGOs themselves only implement projects without providing markets (Makumbe; 1996).

Labour Demanding

Makumbe (1996) asserts that many developing nations depend on farming as a source of livelihood. Thus income-generating activities will only act as a measure to broaden the livelihood portfolio. Due to dependence on farming, engaging in other activities will create an overload to the farmers. Whittemore (1998) envisages that for piggery production needs much attention in feeding, monitoring, vaccination and cleaning the pens hence most farmers found it labour demanding to an extent that many farmers decide to abandon it (Whittemore, 1998). NGO projects are labour demanding; thereby give pressure to the participants who will finally choose to withdraw from the projects.

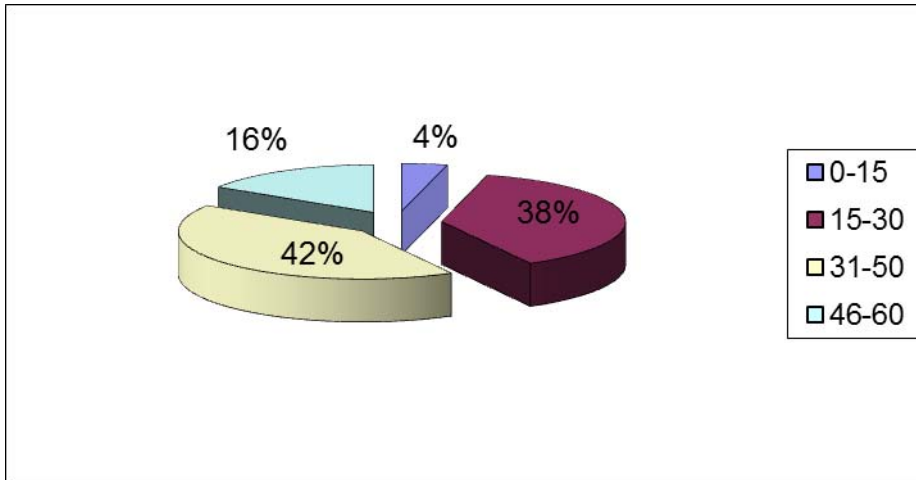
METHODOLOGY

The research used both qualitative and quantitative methodology. Descriptive survey design was used through the application of the methodology matrix. The research used questionnaires, interview and field observation. The researcher had a face-to-face interview. The research used random sampling which according to Frankel and Wallen (1996) enables each member of the population to have equal chance of being selected. The sample was selected from six villages of Mutambara which had a total population of 300 people. The sample size was based entirely on rural men and women regardless of their status. Data collected from interviews field observation and questionnaires were combined and represented qualitatively and quantitatively on graphs, tables and pie charts.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Socio Demographic profile

Age Composition for Respondents

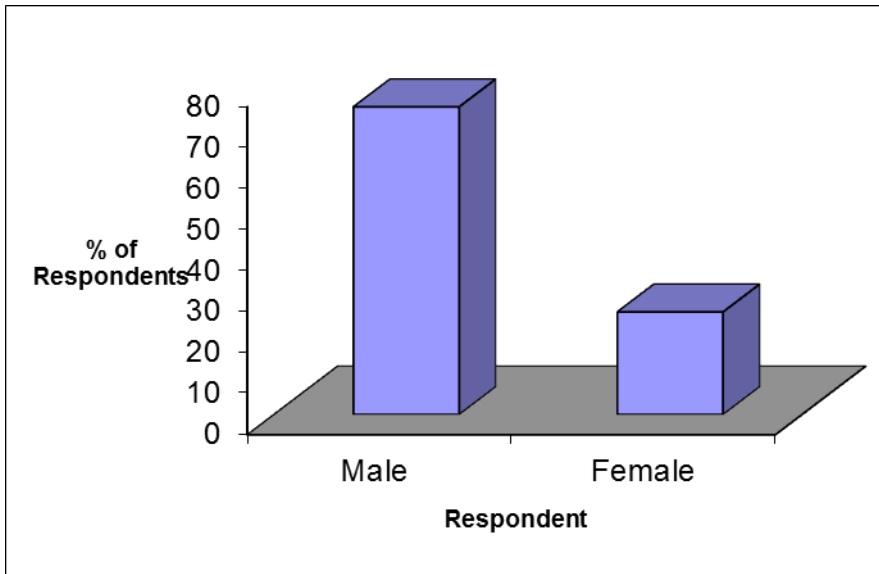


Source Survey 2011

Figure 1: Age composition for respondents in Mutambara

Figure 1 shows that, the majority of respondents were in the age group of 31years to 45 years and this was the modal age group which constituted 42% of the total sample followed by 16 years to 30 years constituting 38% respondents and 4% constituted the third respectively. The old aged and children are very few hence secluded. These results concurs with Narayan, (2000) alluding that most NGOs seems not to consider those who are not economically active like children thus most orphans , child headed families and the aged, are sidelined from developmental activities but are the vulnerable groups.

Sex Distribution of Respondents



Source: Field Survey, 2011

Figure 2: Sex distribution of respondents

From Figure 2, it was shown that the majority of the respondents were men constituting 75% and women 25% respectively. This showed gender imbalance due to the fact that Mutambara community has patriarchal culture that does not allow women

to participate in the public and there are viewed as subordinates. Rural areas are too primitive and conservative to the culture and in many societies women are socially excluded from ownership of assets and participation in the public (Narayan, 2000). In many societies, thus women's traditional subordinate position limits themselves from access to factors of production and in many cases management of developmental activities are for men while excluding women.

Marital status of the respondents

Respondents from ward 21 of Mutambara were composed of the single, married, widows and divorced.

Table 2: Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital Status	Percentage of respondents
Married	79
Single	13
Divorced	4
Widows	4
Total	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 2 envisages that the majority were couples with 79% followed by singles 13%, divorced and widows constituting 4% respectively. This suggests that married couples are the major participants and beneficiaries when it comes to community activities. It also shows that others are socially excluded due to inferiority complex. Narayan (2000) supported this by arguing that due to patriarchy nature of the Zimbabwean nation, a woman who has lost a husband is the most vulnerable to social exclusion. They cannot possess productive assets according to Bourdillion (1998).

Level of Education

Table 3: Educational Level of the Respondents

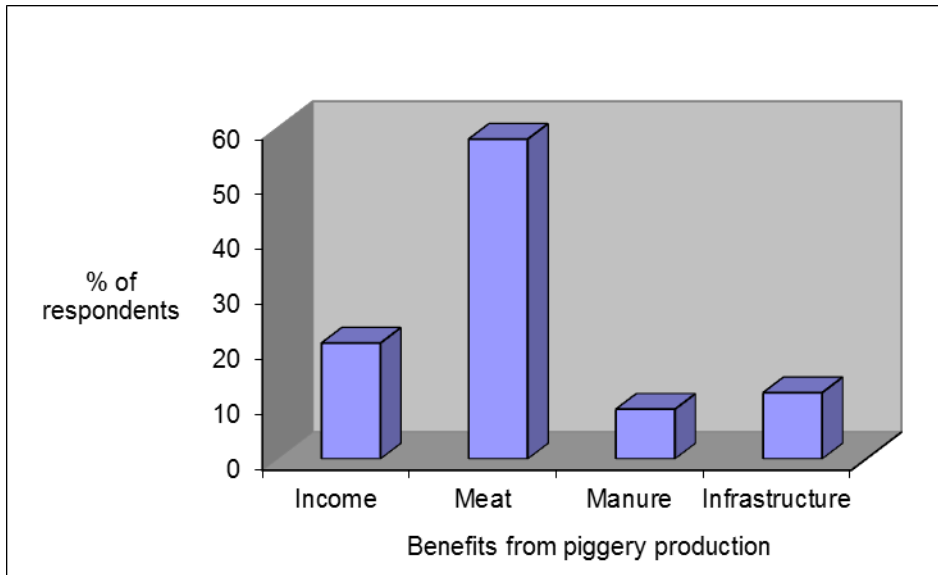
Educational level	Percentage of respondents
Illiterate	0
ZJC	8
Ordinary level	25
Advanced level	42
Tertiary level	25
Total	100

Source: Field Survey: 2011

Data on education levels revealed that the majority constituting 42% have attained 'A' level and 25% tertiary and 'O' level respectively and lastly 8% had attained ZJC. It is clearly shown that the majority of the respondents were educated. This revealed that when people are less educated or illiterate chances of participating in community activities are slim such that

some would exclude themselves from participating. If they are to participate, they play a secondary fiddle role due to inferiority complex.

Benefits Derived from Piggery Production



Source: Field Survey, 2011

Figure 3: Benefits from piggery production project

Figure 3 shows that the majority 58% of respondents mentioned meat as one of the benefits from piggery production which is human capital, 21% benefited income. This implied that after selling the pigs, people could earn financial capital. It is revealed that operation of piggery production in Mutambara community had brought about little infrastructure development of about 12%. Benefits like manure and income had created more opportunities for empowerment like broadening of livelihood portfolio. The community was now aware of how to breed, feed and general management of Yorkshire pig breed to ensure its growth and superior reproductive performance. This was a capacity building strategy that would empower the Mutambara community.

Ability of the Benefits to Empower Rural Communities

About 58% of the respondents pointed out that piggery production in the community provided meat thus acting as food source. Pork provides meat as a benefit thus providing a form of human capital. Human capital such as good health ensures that, community has capacity to do other developmental activities thus empowering the community. Respondents acknowledged that income from the project had led to economic empowerment of the community probably because of opportunities it creates. Income from the project contributed to broadening of livelihood portfolio. Projects like chicken rearing; Rotating Savings Credit Association (ROSCAS) has been a result of piggery production. The percentage of respondents on income is smaller than that of meat and this is attributed to the problem of markets for pigs (meat) hence participants of the project end up selling pigs among themselves in the community in return for a smaller amount hence minimal ability to empower the community. Ability of manure to empower community may be minimal as indicated by

percentage of respondents. 12% of the respondents indicated that manure increases garden productivity. Manure played a crucial role in providing fertility and conservation of the soil. Given the harsh climatic conditions of Gutu region, respondents pointed out that the benefit of manure had little or no capacity to empower the rural community since minimal rainfall patterns in the area is a limiting factor. Organic fertilizer contributed to rise of soil temperatures thus affecting plant life negatively. 9% respondents pointed out that infrastructure like boreholes had led to garden farming thus contributing to community empowerment. Bucket irrigation was in practice .Crops like vegetables, maize and sugarcane were grown. This supported the importance of gardening as a source of food and income. Infrastructure like boreholes had influenced garden farming however due to climatic conditions of the region, the water table was far away from the ground surface which makes it difficult for bucket irrigation to be effective.

Forms of Empowerment from Piggery Production

Table 4: Forms of empowerment from the project

Forms of Empowerment	No of Respondents (%)
Economic	60
Societal	40
Total	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The majority of respondents constituting 60% indicated that they benefited the economic form of empowerment through increased income, children school fees from the sale of meat, Improve nutrition (household consumption), more savings (cash), 40% indicated societal empowerment citing most of the members of the society being treated unfairly by excluded in the project on the basis of age, sex and level of wealth. Hence the project had failed to achieve societal empowerment.

Table 5: Types of crops grown by communal farmers

Crop Type	Total Percentage of Respondents
Vegetables	33
Maize	17
Potatoes	25
Sugarcane	8
Beans	17
Total	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 5 envisages that the majority of respondents acknowledged that piggery production had contributed to cultivation of cash crops. 33% highlighted that they cultivated vegetables, 28% potatoes, 17% maize and beans, 8% sugarcane respectively. This shows that cash crop farming had contributed to economic form of empowerment. Having seen the importance of piggery production in as far as food production and income are concerned, it can be noted that the piggery production is of much importance to peoples' livelihoods. Respondents also highlighted that financial capital from piggery production

enabled them to broaden their livelihood portfolio. Capital from the project was used to engage in other projects like chicken rearing, RASCOS and rural trading.

Level of Empowerment from the Project

Table 6: Level of empowerment from piggery production

Level of empowerment	Percentage of respondents
Individual level	17
Family level	42
Community level	41
Total	100

Source Field Survey, 2011

The majority of the respondents 42% from table 5 acknowledged that piggery production had brought about empowerment at family level, indicating that the project benefits trickled down to family members. 41% led to empowerment at community level and 17% at an individual level respectively. This is attributed to the fact that empowerment by NGOs is mainly focused on the empowerment at community and family levels other than individuals.

Opportunities and Constraints in Empowerment

The findings envisage that there are more constraints than opportunities as attributed by majority of the respondents pointed out those factors such as lack of knowledge, institutional sustainability and markets accessibility among others had contributed to ineffectiveness of the project on empowerment of the rural folks. They indicated that they lacked knowledge on how best to manage the projects due to inadequate training. NGOs officers are more like rural tourists. They carry out their field works only two days per week which makes it difficult to deliver adequate skills and knowledge to project participants. This makes it difficult for participants to produce high quality products thus affecting their empowerment. They also pointed out lack of sustainable institutions. Lack of institutional support in terms finance to continue the project led to ineffectiveness of project on empowerment of the rural folks. This is probably so because NGOs are well known for providing initial funding to the projects and leave the rest on handover take over to be done by participants. This makes it difficult for the project to operate sustainably given the problem of markets accessibility. Coupled with that, was competition with products in the city. Their products were regarded as of poor quality and less value. However, piggery production broadened rural people's livelihoods portfolio through diversifying to other income generating projects like chicken rearing, rural trade, ROSCAs and gardening. Piggery production provides manure, which played a crucial role in adding soil fertility and conserving soil under conservation farming. The knowledge accrued by the community members on feeding management, disease control in piggery production and reproductive performance is an apprenticeship that would empower them economically, socially and financially for sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

Role played by piggery production project on empowerment can be realized in many ways. It led to the availability of food through garden farming and support of non agricultural activities like Rotating Savings Credit Association (ROSCAs), rural

trade, through increased income, children school fees from the sale of meat, improve nutrition (household consumption), more savings (cash), and chicken rearing. However though the project impacted positively to the economic empowerment, benefits from the project had no ability to effectively empower the community. The project impacted negatively by socially excluding 60% of the members in the society especially children, the aged and women. Inclusion into the project was based on age thus children and old age were sidelined while the economically active group was involved. Women were secluded in participation on the bases of patriarchal culture hence resulting in failure to attain societal empowerment. As noted in table 3, the illiterate and the Zimbabwe Junior Certificates (ZJC) group are secluded from the projects. Future projects should target this group for a resounding empowerment. Increased number of piggery improves the benefits as noted in the table 3. Various forms of capital are enjoyed due to piggery production. Locally grown and brewed feeds should be prioritised to avoid shortages which would derail empowerment programmes as revealed by the specifications in table 6 for sustainability and sustainable development. Therefore all groups of people should be involved when it comes to development activities thus contributing to sustainable empowerment. Agencies must give themselves more time to deliver knowledge, skills and management and leave their practice of being rural tourists. Training service must be offered to participants before implementation of project. However though the project was ineffective in the attaining all forms of empowerment it created opportunities, like ROSCAS, garden farming, chicken rearing and rural trade. The study also revealed that for effective empowerment in piggery production project there is need for improvement on the sustainability of benefits through providing markets, consideration of all groups in the society, offer training service among them.

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