

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECENTRALIZATION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN
GAL-MUDUG STATE, SOMALIA**

BY

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND
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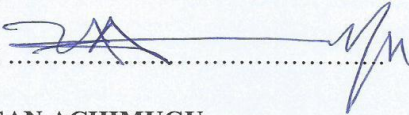
DECLARATION

I, Abdinasir Abdullahi Farah with the registration number **1163-06266-08008**, hereby warrant and declare in this statement that this thesis which is titled as “Local government decentralization and poverty alleviation in Gal-Mudug state, Somalia: A Study of Selected Gal-Mudug State, Somalia” is my original research and has not been presented for any other academic award purposes at Kampala International University (KIU).

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APPROVAL

This thesis has been conducted under my supervision and is now ready to be submitted for further examination to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences of Kampala International University.

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Dr. HASSAN ACHIMUGU

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

I.V Independent variable

D,V dependent variables

GDP Growth Domestic Product

NGO – Non-governmental Organisation

PSC – Public Service Commission

FGD – Focus Group Discussion

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ABSTRACT

Somalia has been confronted with the challenge of object poverty that lasted well over two centuries. Local government decentralization is one of the strategies adopted by its government in the hope that its implementation could engenders a downward review of the nation's poverty profile. This study is aimed at investigating the role of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia. The objectives of the study were; to determine the nature of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia, to assess the role of local government decentralization in Galmudug-Somalia, to establish the relationship between decentralization of local government and poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia and to investigate the challenges against local government in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia. The research was a descriptive research with a cross-sectional design. It is a descriptive because it examined the relationship between local government decentralization and poverty alleviation in Galmudug in Somalia. It is of a cross-sectional design because the data was collected once and presented. The research was carried out in Galmudug central Somalia. The researcher employed questionnaire and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) to gather primary data for the purpose of achieving the study's objectives. The study findings indicated that local government decentralization has a significant impact on poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia by 48.2% ($R^2=0.482$). The descriptive analysis of local government decentralization and poverty alleviation also confirmed the positive significant impact between these two variables. The mean of local government decentralization and Poverty alleviation both showed low rate (mean= 3.23; 2.779). This interprets the low involvement of the social leaders in the local government and therefore leads to low poverty alleviation. Hence, the significant effect of local government decentralization on poverty alleviation indicates their positive relationship. The study suggested the government of Somalia to develop collaborative network that bring together diverse people in the local government, including the young, middle-aged and elderly, minorities and the physically challenged people in partnership in order to improve their livelihood for the purpose of poverty alleviation.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the background to the study, the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study and its objectives, the research questions, the study scope, significance and justification and operational definitions of key terms and concepts of study.

1.1 Background to the study

1.1.1 Historical background

Globally, the fight against poverty and economic development has been debated for centuries. Socio-economic development is the process of social and economic development in a society. Socio-economic development is measured with indicators, such as GDP, life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment. Changes in less-tangible factors are also considered, such as personal dignity, freedom of association, personal safety and freedom from fear of physical harm, and the extent of participation in civil society (Kessler, 2013).

Industrialization had brought forth permanent changes in the economic and human activity. After depression of 1929- 1933 spans, the importance of these processes increases. Overcoming any economic difficulties, whether we speak about decreasing of the unemployment rate or about the external equilibrium, a correlation was made with the economic development and development. Any decision made at a state or sub state level aimed at reaching these two objectives. Today more than anytime, in recessionary, liberalized economy, in a world marked by strong demographic increase, by the depletion of natural resources, by changes of climate and ecosystem destruction we are more preoccupied than ever by the problems of socio-economic development (Khan, 2006).

In Africa, between 1980-1990s' there has been little empirical research on developing countries with regard to the argument that decentralization promotes demand responsiveness of government services. The existing research tends to focus on the effect of decentralization on expenditure allocation or on the impact of public services provided, and tends not to address whether the resource allocation is tailored to local demand. The results of this research are mixed. For example, Bird, Ebel, and Wallich (1995) examined decentralization in Eastern and

Central Africa. Their results suggest that public services can suffer as a result of decentralization, at least in the short run. By contrast, Matheson and Azfar (1999) explored the impact of decentralization on education outcomes in Mali. In South Africa, where national minorities formed local majorities after decentralization, decentralization improved service delivery outcomes. In 1988 the Provisional National Defence Council of Ghana put in place an administrative and political structure that aimed to support a greater degree of popular participation in rural development. Power has been devolved to District Assemblies to enhance service delivery for poverty alleviation, and since 1992 it has channelled not less than 5% of national revenue to these Assemblies for development. The District Assemblies (Local Government bodies in Ghana) are now the fulcrum of political and administrative authority in Ghana.

In 1951, the Local Government Ordinance was passed towards self-government status, but not independence of the Gold Coast. It was a transition period, with the main objectives being to broaden participation in government decision-making and to provide a training ground for the people about the realities of democracy. Under the 1951 Local Government Ordinance, a more modern, more democratic system of local government was introduced. The ordinance created a two-tier system of local government - District Councils and, below them, Urban and Local Councils. Two-thirds of the members of the Urban and Local Councils were democratically elected and one-third represented the traditional authorities. A total of 26 multi-purpose district councils and 252 urban and local councils were established. The first local government elections were held on 1st April 1952 and the Convention People's Party of Kwame Nkrumah captured over 90% of the seats throughout the country (Asibuo, 1992). The need, as revealed by the various commissions, was for democratic and representative government and so very little consideration was given to efficiency and economic viability of the various local units established.

The issue of decentralization has been hotly debated in countries like Somalia for the past decade. Following the collapse of the military dictatorship in 1991, few Somalis openly advocate for the return to a centralized authoritarian state that monopolizes power in Mogadishu. For many Somalis, some form of decentralization is necessary. However, the most suitable model of

decentralization for Somalia remains a matter of contention. The Provisional Constitution of Somalia is clear on the issue, prescribing federalism as the most appropriate system of governance for the country. It stipulates, "Somalia is a federal, sovereign, and democratic republic founded on inclusive representation of the people and a multiparty system and social justice". Federal member states, according to the Provisional Constitution, must be formed of two or more of the 18 administrative regions "as they existed before 1991". With slow progress on the implementation of federalism, however, the debate continues (Waldo, 2010).

Somalia's political class appears to lack consensus and a comprehensive understanding of the concepts of 'federalism' and 'decentralization'. Federalism is commonly understood to represent the only alternative to unitarism. Interestingly, many Somalis, following past experience, broadly associate the unitary state system with authoritarianism. There is little acknowledgement of alternative models of decentralization, including those within a unitary framework. Somali and non-Somali experts have debated the suitable governance model for the country for many years. Various media outlets carry these discussions on a regular basis (Cabral, 2017).

In Galmudug state, decentralization is widely considered to offer the local government decentralization greater participation and representation in government. Previous governments appointed governors to each region, and mayors and police commissioners to each city. There is strong demand for democratic participation people want to elect their local, regional, and national local government. Greater local democratic participation will act, it is commonly held, as a safeguard against under-representation in national politics. Aspiring politicians have proven apt at exploiting the common desire for greater local participation and representation by conceptualizing clan-based fiefdoms before declaring themselves president. In the State, people have to still travel to Mogadishu to acquire a passport or other vital services. The desire for greater access to government services is often cited in the argument for greater decentralization in Somalia. Somali citizens should not be required to travel long distances to gain access to basic services that could be offered locally. Attempts to limit access to basic services are commonly viewed as further evidence of central government's desire to consolidate control over the country (Afyare, 2014).

1.1.2 Theoretical Perspective

The study was guided by three theories that is the Marxian theory of poverty and the economic theory/public choice theory and the Marxist theory. The theories have informed much of contemporary academic, practitioner and political argument about local government issues. The theory found to be most relevant by this study is the liberal theory as it directly advocates for the goodness of personnel decentralization for better performance. In support of the above, Lubanga (1998, p. 70-71) quotes Vincent Ostrom and also adds that; local government decentralization has its origin from the liberal school of political thought. Under local government decentralization, because of the proximity of the employer and the employee and given their mutual interest, effective attachment is likely to develop and, along with it, reciprocal accountability – i.e. improving performance and eliminating organizational failure.

1.1.2.1 Marxian theory of poverty

This is a theory based on the fact that poverty comes about as a result of the situation a poor person finds himself or herself in. The poor person is therefore a victim of circumstances resulting from a number of factors, critical of which is the production system. Karl Marx points out that the entrepreneurial practices of the owners of means of production (capitalists) to move away from labour to capital intensive means of production in order to boost production and increase profits lead to massive unemployment.

Marxism builds on a materialist understanding of societal development, taking as its starting point the necessary economic activities required to satisfy the material needs of human society. The form of economic organization or mode of production is understood to give rise to, or at least directly influences, most other social phenomena including social relations, political and legal systems, morality and ideology. Thus, the economic system and social relations are called a base and superstructure. As the forces of production (most notably technology) improve, existing forms of social organization become inefficient and stifle further progress. These inefficiencies manifest themselves as social contradictions in the form of class struggle (Maag, Elaine; Rogers, Diane Lim, 2015).

1.1.2.1 Public-choice theory

The assumption is that decentralization, as a mode of governance will enhance speedy delivery of social services. Public-Choice theory is built on the proposition that individual preferences for

local public services vary from place to place, because tastes and willingness to pay differ for geographic, cultural and historical reasons (and that preferences within each locality are reasonably homogenous). For this reason, it is argued that central provision of local public good, (if it tends to be uniform across the country), is likely to please nobody. It therefore is argued, that States should only offer those services that correspond to local needs (Klugman, 2014). It is also argued that Information is an important factor bearing on social service delivery. When there is insufficient or asymmetrical information, it is difficult for government decision-makers' to predict the consequences of their decisions. The probability of disparities between decision-makers ideas and the actual local impact of the decision is much greater in a centralized context. This problem can be alleviated; it is argued, by virtue of having autonomous centres of decision-making which function independently of the central authority (Litvack, Jennie; Ahmad, Junaid Kamal; Bird, Richard, 2012).

Economists who explore the issues of efficiency and decentralization in neo-classical theoretical terms raise another theoretical justification for decentralization. It is argued that decentralization reduced the unit cost of providing public goods and services. That it tends to lower unit costs, through simpler delivery procedures and building upon existing local resources, knowledge, technology and institutional capacities (Allen, 1987; Klugman, 2014). Therefore, from a 'public-choice' angle, decentralization is a situation in which public goods and services are provided through the revealed preferences of individuals by market mechanisms. "Public-choice' theorists contend that under conditions of reasonably free choice, the provision some public goods is more economically efficient when a large number of local institutions are involved than when the central government is the provider. The argument here is that a larger number of providers of goods and services offer citizens more options and choices that they need.

1.1.2 Conceptual Perspective

Larson, (2017), defined Decentralization is referred to as the process by which the activities of an organization, particularly those regarding planning and decision-making, are distributed or delegated away from a central, authoritative location or group.

According to Mawhood (2013), deconcentration means, "The sharing of power between members of the same ruling group having authority respectively in different areas of the state." It

is, according to Hyden (2013), a power relationship within the same organization. The fundamental goal is to relieve the centrally positioned officials of the administrative onus by transferring some of this load to their colleagues in the periphery as a way of adapting central directives to the local conditions (Rondinelli et al, 2013). This allows the central government to penetrate the grassroots without necessarily relinquishing authority.

According to Siddiqui, (2012), Local government is a form of public administration which, in a majority of contexts, exists as the lowest tier of administration within a given state. The term is used to contrast with offices at state level, which are referred to as the central government, national government, or (where appropriate) federal government and also to supranational government which deals with governing institutions between states (Siddiqui, 2012).

Poverty alleviation is a set of measures, both economic and humanitarian, that are intended to permanently lift people out of poverty (Klein, 2017).

According to Fields (2014), poverty is an inability of an individual or a family to command sufficient resources to satisfy basic needs. Absolute poverty is the situation where the house hold is unable to feed, clothe or house itself (a situation where people are unable to meet their survival needs and basic requirements). And Relative poverty is the situation of unequal distribution of income and other valued goods and services in a society. The people feel deprived when they compare themselves with others who may be better off although they may not be living in absolute poverty.

According to the World Bank, 'Poverty is not just measured by income and consumption. Health, life expectancy, access to clean water, and so on are (also) central dimensions of welfare' (World Bank, 1992, cited in Askwith, 2014:9). Although, to some extent, certain government programmes attempt to take account of these indices of well-being, vulnerability and powerlessness remain neglected (Chambers, 1988:8). An alternative approach relies on a "participation" standard for poverty, taking account of 'the many roles people play as citizens, workers, parents, householders, neighbours and members of the local government decentralization ' (Cripps et.al ., cited in Gaiha, 1993:21). This alternative approach emphasises the multi-dimensional nature of poverty by taking into account the various and different aspects of people's lives. Poverty is, then, seen as a whole - social, economic, psychological and political (Friedman, 1996:164).

Poverty alleviation programmes have been vigorously pursued in recent years, following recognition of the adverse impacts of Structural Adjustment Programmes introduced by 11 the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. International donors, NGOs and governments have introduced a wide range of poverty programmes in low-income countries. In order to understand the poverty alleviation programmes introduced in Ghana, and more widely in Africa, it is necessary to first gain an understanding of the various concepts of poverty. What is perceived as poverty provides the basis on which policies are designed to meet poverty alleviation goals (Greeley, 2014:50). It is important to recognise that poverty defies precise definition. It is a portmanteau term which has different meanings to different people. 'The words 'destitution', 'ill-being', 'powerlessness' and 'vulnerability' are so frequently used in conjunction with poverty that the conceptual differences between them have become blurred' (Baulch, 1996:2). There have been many attempts at coherent definition within numerous poverty studies (see for example, Chambers, 1997,1995; Baulch, 1996; Oppenheim and Harker, 1996; Shaffer, 1996; Askwith, 2014; and Ravallion, 1992). However, perhaps inevitably, no single accepted definition exists reflecting the variety of approaches available to the social scientist. Nonetheless, unless local-level authorities have some criteria to delineate or identify the poor, the design and administration of programmes for enhancing the wellbeing of the poor will be extremely difficult (Prasad, 1985:3). A general view held in most perceptions of poverty remains the notion of 'lack of' or 'deficiency'. But beyond that, there is hardly any unanimity as to what constitutes poverty. 'The notion reflects only the basic relativity of the concept, for a utopian 'complete man' would not be lacking anything. When the poor are defined as lacking a number of things necessary to life, the question could be asked; what is necessary and for whom? And who is qualified to define the basic standard?' (Rahnema 1996:159).

Under this definition individuals, families and groups in the population can be said to be in poverty when they lack, or are denied, the resources to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged or approved, in the societies to which they belong (Townsend, 1993:36). This points particularly to the lack of opportunity to meet basic human needs. 12 People are considered poor when they lack the resources to satisfy their basic needs for food, clothing, shelter and health

(Yapa, 1996). A person may be poor in a monetised economy because he or she has a low income and therefore cannot afford particular amenities, even if they are available. A person may have low income because he or she is unemployed, under-employed, has low productivity or because the tasks they do are not paid in that society. Low productivity can result from low skills or poor health. There may be low skills because educational services are poor. Poor health may result from poor poverty alleviation, poor sanitation, poor housing, use of unsafe water or malnutrition and associated diseases. When people are faced with food shortages they may be malnourished. Food insecurity may also arise from low household incomes and, or, an inadequate food supply (Okyere et al., 1992:1). This feeds into a circle of poverty. Poverty arises when people do not have the productive assets - skills, land, capital or labour power - needed to generate adequate income. This is frequently associated with lack of political power to participate in the development process (Donkor, 1997:213). Poverty is seen not as monetary deprivation but multi-dimensional. What is required, therefore, is a characterization of the poor in a dynamic and multidimensional framework (Ramprakesh, 1992:37).

1.1.4 Contextual Perspective

In African political and administrative history, decentralization is not new. From the colonial period until the last decades of the 20th century, decentralizations prevailed in the form of deconcentration almost without exemption. According to de Valk (1990), a wave of such ‘decentralization’ hit Southern Africa in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Zambia, in the one party rule, had decentralization reforms in 1969, 1971 and 1980 in which the party’s political control over district administration gradually increased (Therkildsen, 1993). Equally, Kenya decentralized in 1964, 1970, 1974 and 1982 reducing the importance of local government (Therkildsen, 1993). Kenya’s last decentralization was in 1983 called ‘district focus’, which according to Conyers (1993) was “intended to increase efficiency of central government administration rather than promote local autonomy or popular participation.” In Malawi decentralization occurred in the early 1960s until the one-party regime reversed the process as from 1967. New attempts to decentralization were made again in 1993 in form of the ‘district focus’, which was based on the Kenyan model (Kaunda, 1999).

In the 1990s poverty alleviation became the overriding development priority. The World Development Report 1990 took poverty as its theme and increased the momentum for poverty

alleviation. Based on its conception of poverty, the World Bank (2017) focused on the following core elements as a part of its strategy to reduce poverty: broad-based economic growth, developing human capital, and creating social safety nets for vulnerable groups. The United Nations declared 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and established the 'First United Nations Decade for Eradication of Poverty, 1997- 2006' (World Bank, 1996a; UNDP, 1997). The intention was to create awareness and draw attention to the urgency of the poverty situation, to study seriously the possible strategies to escape from poverty and to act decisively to diminish its extent (Makinson: 2016). According to the United Nations Human Development Report 2017, "eradicating poverty everywhere is more than a moral imperative - it is a practical possibility".

Where the state comprises a geographically uneven area with scattered population spread over a substantial area of land this may lead to the formation of more or less localized systems of administration and service delivery - some degree of decentralization will be required. Part of the local apparatus of the state may include local elections and decision-making about the provision and co-ordination of certain state activities at the local level by local politicians (Painter, 2015). Decentralization involves spatially and politically demarcating the 'collective wholeness' which is the territorial base of the state's power so that "dividing up the state is not a neutral technical exercise but an essentially political policy for all territorial states" (Taylor, 2012).

At the most obvious and general level, poverty is the outcome of the lack of economic, social, and political power of the poor (Goetz and O'Brien, 2015). The sustained interest in decentralization (not withstanding its varied problems), since independence in Africa, is an indication that, in principle, it holds promise to involve local people in the development process. So, for example, problems of neglected areas or of diverse ethnic groups can be better addressed. Decentralization may empower minorities and vulnerable groups to get involved in the development process at the local level (De Wit, 2017). Rondinelli (2010), for example, argues that: by creating alternative means of decision-making, decentralization can offset the influence or control over development activities by entrenched local elites who are often unsympathetic to national policies and insensitive to the needs of the poor groups in rural communities. There are significant arguments against this, however. Conyers (2015) has noted that decentralization may not alleviate rural poverty, especially if captured by local elites. Smith similarly argues that

decentralization will not necessarily lead to poverty alleviation and that the main issues of relevance to the poor (and often neglected) are low incomes, poor housing, planning blight and high unemployment: group mobilisation, self-help approaches and increased political power and awareness will not lift the poor out of poverty (Smith, 2015).

In Somalia, the central government manages the macro level economic policies for economic growth, and provide infrastructure for development, but there is the need for further provision for the poor to enhance their well-being such as in Galmudug. Smith (2015) maintains that 'participation designed to alleviate multiple deprivation and poverty in a decentralised context is limited to the ballot box which benefits the politicians'. The people's involvement may be seen in terms of voting, with limited 'voice' and 40 involvements afterwards. Smith is not optimistic about combating poverty through decentralised development. The ambiguity around whether decentralization helps the rural poor is due to the fact that policy makers and bureaucrats continue to exercise control and dominate the development agenda. There is little inclination towards involvement of the rural poor in the development process. However, 'there is reason to expect that, over time, poor groups may become better able to exert political leverage within democratic authorities at lower levels' (Afyare, 2014). Manor is of the opinion that 'when it works well, decentralization has much to recommend it' and points to its particular value in assisting remote, underdeveloped and under-represented sub-regions.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The rhetoric of decentralization in Somalia does not match the results on the ground. The government has already shown some elements of fatigue with the whole process even before actual devolution has started. Lack of adequate funding to the district assemblies and visible reluctance to devolve essential functions to the district assemblies are some of the indicators. (Azfar, Omar; Kähkönen, Satu; Meagher, Patrick, 2017). In addition, the government still manifests overt tendencies of centralization reminiscent of the one-party regime, which gave district assemblies powers to appoint senior officials would serve as one such example. As such, the district assemblies are now dominated by government appointees who are not directly accountable to it and which it has neither the mandate nor the influence to hire or fire let alone discipline.

In Galmudug, matters are exacerbated by the fact that the Assemblies have failed to promote good local governance and therefore jeopardized any opportunities of poverty alleviation. Though both the Local Government Act and The Decentralization Policy, emphasize on participation and accountability (both vertical and horizontal), there is no real participation at the grassroots, instead a top-down approach in different guise is in operation; again there is lack of accountability at both local and district levels. Local and district elites have usurped the decentralization initiatives to their advantage. The design of decentralization has concentrated more on building the capacity of the District Assemblies in neglect of the capacity of local areas and local institutions (the focal point of service delivery) where there is greater need of it (Bahl, Bardhan, Pranab; Mookherjee, Dilip, 2010). The constitution and the Local Government Act are silent on what type of local institutions should be established; instead, the same inefficient Area and Village Development Committees are being used by the Assemblies as institutions of development, instead of the wards which are legally constituted and where elected representative were selected specifically to represent people. However, when governments are unaccountable and corrupt poverty alleviation programmes have little success in targeting the benefits (Smoke, 2013). The poor cannot gain a hearing for their view from authoritarian political regimes. The poverty levels in Somalia is 73% according to the UNEDP report 2016. They cannot gain access to public services from unresponsive central bureaucracy or know whether the services exist if they do not have information. Even if services are decentralized, poor people cannot have access to them if local elites divert the resources for their own interests. In such an environment, reforms of governance institutions should be moved front and center to provide minimum conditions for getting poverty alleviation programmes.

Therefore, against this background, this study hypothesizes that decentralization in Somalia has so far not managed to effectively promote good local governance and since the potential of decentralization to have impact on poverty alleviation depends on good local governance, poverty alleviation was not achieved unless governance is improved.

As already discussed, good local governance embraces such elements as participation, transparency and accountability, efficiency, equity and gender sensitivity all of which are instrumental in poverty alleviation strategies. Therefore, if these elements are missing due to flawed implementation of decentralization and its impact on poverty alleviation.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study investigated on the role of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia.

1.4 Research objectives

- i. To determine the nature of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia.
- ii. To assess the role of local government decentralization in Galmudug-Somalia.
- iii. To investigate the challenges against local government in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia.
- iv. To establish the relationship between decentralization of local government and poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia.

1.5 Research questions

- i. What is the nature of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation?
- ii. What is the role of local government decentralization in Galmudug-Somalia?
- iii. What are the challenges against local government in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia?
- iv. What is the relationship between local decentralization and poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia?

1.6 Scope of the study

Geographical scope

This research was carried out in Galmudug Somalia. Galmudug's name is derived from a conflation of the names of the Galgaduud and Mudug regions. Galmudug consists of the region of Galgaduud and southern half of Mudug region. (Northern Mudug is part of Puntland.) Galmudug is an autonomous state within the larger Federal Republic of Somalia, as defined by the provisional constitution of Somalia. The researcher chosen Galmudug Somalia because of inefficiencies and challenges that are affecting local government decentralization due to high levels poverty in the region.

Content scope

The study aimed at examining the factors contributing to poverty alleviation, it further assesses the role of local government decentralization, and establish the relationship between local government decentralization and poverty alleviation and lastly it investigated the challenges against local government in poverty alleviation in Somalia.

Time scope

The research was carried out in a period of five (5) years from (2013-2017). This time period was chosen because of the transformation of the Somalia government and adopting of the decentralized policy into local governments. This is basically a review of the opportunities and weaknesses of the decentralization policy goals in Somalia.

1.7 Significance of the study

This study is of great importance to the following people:

To the government

This study will be significant to the government by assessing the impact of local government decentralization reforms on the development in the district assemblies. The promotion of good local governance is important for the country because it has implication on poverty alleviation, which is the country's ultimate goal in the promulgation of decentralization reforms. It is therefore necessary to critically examine how the decentralization reforms are being implemented and point out issues, which need to be addressed before the situation get out of hand.

The local government

The study will also enlighten the government and the local government decentralization on the possibility and outcomes of good governance and economic development in the Somalia, since decentralization is not a new concept it had been tried previously, but its goals were not achieved. Equally, it will be possible that the current initiatives may also lead to nothing if mistakes are not checked or brought to public attention.

Academia

Lessons by academicians will be learnt from other countries emerging from conflict to rebuild government but the Somali context is unique and, ultimately, sustainable solutions to its problems will also be unique. A major challenge is how to balance the contradictory trends

within Somali society as both centrifugal and centripetal tendencies are strongly present in Somalia. The research will be of help to the researcher attain by attaining a Master's Degree in Public Administration of Kampala International University.

Nongovernmental Organization (NGOs) and Community Based Organization (CBOs)

This study fully equips to the nongovernmental organization (NGOs) and local government decentralization based organizations (CBOs) who are very much concerned with economic development and good governance in Somalia. By working with sub-national actors, donors have gained significantly greater access to parts of Somalia not under the authority of the FGS. Still, and for better or worse, by working with regional administrations by-passing the government in Mogadishu donors have arguably legitimized the authority of sub-national actors at the expense of the FGS.

1.8 Operational definition of key terms

Decentralization: Decentralization entails the sharing of central government powers with other institutions, especially those geographically separated or responsible for specific functions, or those given jurisdiction over specific physical locations (Makumbe, 2017). Mawhood (2013) defines decentralization as the “sharing of part of governmental power by a central ruling group with other groups, each having authority within a specific area of the state”. Fundamental areas in the decentralization process according to Mawhood are power, authority and responsibility, which start from the centre and are then diffused to the periphery. Kasfir (2013), while adhering to Mawhood's spatial aspect of a decentralised power structure, argues, "Decentralization means distributing authority and power horizontally rather than hierarchically

Deconcentration, is the term referring to “the process by which the agents of central government control are relocated and geographically dispersed” (Sayer et al, 2012).

Delegation; According to Work (2002), “Delegation redistributes authority and responsibility to local units of government or agencies that are not always necessarily branches of local offices of the delegating authority.” It concerns the shifting of managerial responsibilities for specific functions from central government to the statutory corporations or parastatals, which are normally “...outside the regular bureaucratic structure” (Osmani, 2006).

Privatisation/Divestment; Divestment or privatization occurs when planning and administrative responsibility or other public functions are transferred from government to voluntary private or nongovernmental institutions for the benefit of the public, (Work, 2002). Manor (2009), however argues that this type of decentralization transfers power from one bureaucratic machinery to another in that it usually involves the transfer of power between two colossal entities therefore it cannot be regarded as authentic decentralization as it does not devolve decision-making powers to the people.

Devolution: Crook and Manor (1991) as well as Work, 2002) define devolution as the transfer of legalised 'elements of political power' to local government institutions or to specialized or functional authorities. These bodies are therefore vested with political powers to discharge certain functions and responsibilities within their areas of jurisdiction such as the provision of social services. However, Osmani (2006) argues that in addition to political authority, also devolved, is local government authority. He maintains that 'devolution entails the reorganization efforts that approximate classic decentralization' in view of the autonomy that the sub national governments acquire in the process.

Poverty: The OECD (2016) defined poverty in terms of lack of capabilities in five areas namely economic, human, political, socio-cultural and protective mechanisms. Economically, it is defined as inability to earn income, to consume, to have assets and access to food, security, material wellbeing and social status.

Poverty Alleviation: Poverty Alleviation is one of the world's most important challenges, and it is proposed the private sector has an important role to play in creating the economic growth, employment and purchasing options needed for significant poverty alleviation.

Local Government Decentralization: Local Government decentralization is seen as agents for effective management as they are able to solve problems effectively. Their key role is seen in identification of problems, setting priorities, resource mobilization, implementation of programs, evaluation of results as well as maintenance of popular legitimacy with the authority and resources within the available institutional framework. Accountability to the population,

widespread participation and set rules to organize the local affairs are important elements for any local government in order to be considered functional (Olowu and Wunsch, 2004:7)

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the assessment of main theories and concepts underlying this study. The discussion includes definitions of the concepts of decentralization, poverty and local governance on the one hand; and theories of public choice and path dependency on the other hand. The analysis of these theories and concepts intends to provide a general framework for understanding and analysing the results of the research. In addition, the chapter provides justifications for using these theories and concepts by proving their relevance and applicability to the current inquiry.

2.1. Theoretical review

The theories of local government decentralisation include; Marxian theory of poverty and the economic theory/public choice theory. The theories have informed much of contemporary academic, practitioner and political argument about local government issues. The theory found to be most relevant by this study is the liberal theory as it directly advocates for the goodness of personnel decentralization for better performance. In support of the above, Lubanga (1998) quotes Vincent Ostrom and also adds that; local government decentralisation has its origin from the liberal school of political thought. Under local government decentralisation, because of the proximity of the employer and the employee and given their mutual interest, effective attachment is likely to develop and, along with it, reciprocal accountability – i.e. improving performance and eliminating organizational failure.

2.1.1 Marxian theory of poverty

This is a theory based on the fact that poverty comes about as a result of the situation a poor person finds himself or herself in. The poor person is therefore a victim of circumstances resulting from a number of factors, critical of which is the production system. Karl Marx points out that the entrepreneurial practices of the owners of means of production (capitalists) to move away from labour to capital intensive means of production in order to boost production and increase profits lead to massive unemployment. Capital intensive production forces the capitalist to retrench workers in order to increase profitability. Retrenchments lead to massive unemployment. The retrenched persons can either migrate to reengineer themselves in urban areas or change professions. Those who fail to reengineer end up at home as paupers and form what Karl Marx calls a reserve army of labourers (Harvey). These paupers finally end up poor. Continued retrenchments lead to increased number of paupers in the economy and in the long run increases poverty levels.

A series of structural failures give rise to an increase in the number of the poor. Gordon et.al (1982:1) identify these structural failures as racial and gender discrimination and nepotism resulting in deprivation of certain groups of peoples' opportunities for jobs, education and social assistance.

Albrecht and Milford (2001:67) contribute to this theory by pointing out that massive restructuring of economic systems leads to increased economic and social marginalization of an entire group of people. Such groups end up poorer due to the lack of access to opportunities. The Marxist theory recommends poverty alleviation through improved structures of production and increased education and training to those rendered irrelevant by technological improvement to adapt through change of environment to change of profession. Education also ensures that the retrenched persons embrace change and adapt (Winch, 1987:32-35). The theory also advocates for a kind of government welfare programme to aid those who are unable to reengineer themselves through

education so that they can access basic requirement for upkeep such as food rations, health programmes and subsidies (Reed, 1992).

This theory does not apply in our specific case of Gorongosa rural communities as it is more concerned with the production and retrenchments due to the intensive use of capital at the expense of labour.

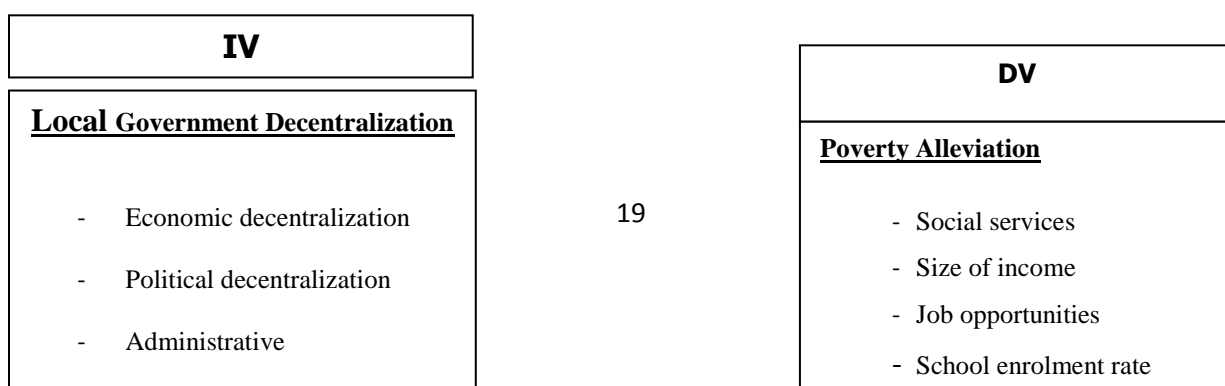
2.1.2 Public-choice theory

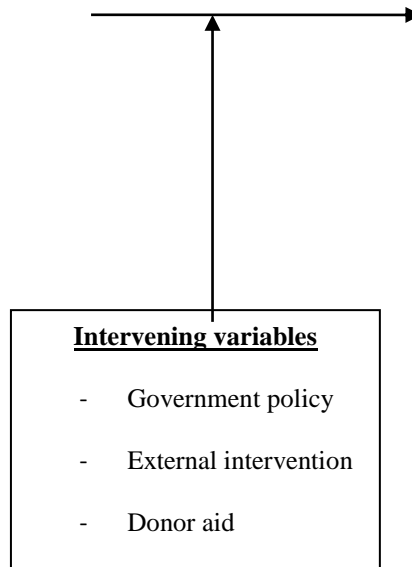
The assumption is that decentralization, as a mode of governance will enhance speedy delivery of social services. Public-Choice theory is built on the proposition that individual preferences for local public services vary from place to place, because tastes and willingness to pay differ for geographic, cultural and historical reasons (and that preferences within each locality are reasonably homogenous). For this reason, it is argued that central provision of local public good, (if it tends to be uniform across the country), is likely to please nobody. It therefore is argued, that States should only offer those services that correspond to local needs (Klugman, 2014). It is also argued that Information is an important factor bearing on social service delivery. When there is insufficient or asymmetrical information, it is difficult for government decision-makers' to predict the consequences of their decisions. The probability of disparities between decision-makers ideas and the actual local impact of the decision is much greater in a centralized context. This problem can be alleviated; it is argued, by virtue of having autonomous centres of decision-making which function independently of the central authority (Litvack, Jennie; Ahmad, Junaid Kamal; Bird, Richard, 2012).

Economists who explore the issues of efficiency and decentralization in neo-classical theoretical terms raise another theoretical justification for decentralization. It is argued that decentralization reduced the unit cost of providing public goods and services. That it tends to lower unit costs, through simpler delivery procedures and building upon existing local resources, knowledge, technology and institutional capacities (Allen, 1987; Klugman, 2014). Therefore, from a ‘public-choice’ angle, decentralization is a situation in which public goods and services are provided through the revealed preferences of individuals by market mechanisms. “Public-choice’ theorists contend that under conditions of reasonably free choice, the provision some public goods is more economically efficient when a large number of local institutions are involved than when the central government is the provider. The argument here is that a larger number of providers of goods and services offer citizens more options and choices that they need.

2.2 Conceptual Framework

Figure: 1 Conceptual Framework





Source: Researcher modified from Ahmed, (2019)

The conceptual framework shows the independent variable which is local government decentralization with the various attributes including economic, political, administrative and local government decentralization whereas poverty alleviation indicators include stability in security, social services, size of income and human rights protection, the intervening variables include government policy, external intervention and donor aid.

2.3 Review of related literature

2.3.1 The Relevance of economic factors on Poverty Alleviation

In relation to poverty alleviation, decentralization has political and economic dimensions through which the poor can benefit (OECD, 2014). Politically, decentralization will enhance popular participation in local decision-making processes, from which they have hitherto usually been excluded through lack of adequate representation or organisation. Thus, enhanced representation of previously excluded people in local municipalities, sequentially, could provide better access to local public services and social security schemes, thereby reducing vulnerability and insecurity of poor people. In addition, a secure political system offers requisite conditions for the poor to uplift their life and to start investing.

Moreover, an acquisition of a better economic status can also contribute to alleviation in their vulnerability to shocks. Economically, decentralization has strenuous positive correlation on poverty through increased efficiency and better targeting of services. Improved efficiency in service provision could directly enhance poor people's access to education, health, water, and sanitation facilities e.t.c, while devolution of power and resources to the local level may also lead to better targeting of the poor.

A more decentralised framework will facilitate the monitoring of programmes and projects in a cost-effect way and will help to direct resources to those most in need. In addition, it would enable greater responsiveness to local needs. However, there is no direct link between poverty alleviation and decentralization (Crook & Sverrisson, 2016; Hadingham, 2013). Its appeal is because decentralization lead to good local governance which in turn spur development and thus eventually lead to poverty alleviation (Larry, 2014).

Reducing poverty and inequality are two important socioeconomic policy objectives for most countries. While some can kill two birds with one stone, others may achieve either or none of these (Patrick, 2017). In China's special case, poverty alleviation goes together with an increase in income inequality for at least the past 20 years. Ankomah, (2013), addressed some of the underling factors in this mismatched trajectory (Dilip, 2010). For quite a long time, economic growth, increase in income inequality and alleviation of poverty concurred in China. Since 1980, the country has made remarkable progress in reducing poverty (Alderman, 2013).

In contrast, the Gini coefficient of income distribution among rural residents in China rose from 0.241 in 1980 to 0.39 in 2017 or by 62% according to the official estimation, though it once declined between 1980 and 1985 and was said to decline slightly after 2012 (Larry, 2014).

But how did the bottom 60% of households in rural China increase their income at a considerably high rate over such a long period? There are at least four factors underlying the income growth of the poor (Mookherjee, Dilip, 2010).

First, the benefits of China's sustained economic growth have really trickled down. Accelerating industrialization and urbanization in a country of over one billion people has transformed a large number of the agricultural surplus labor in the countryside into urban employment in China (Stephen, 2013).

Between 1978 and 2015, the number of people in nonfarm jobs as a percentage of total employment increased from 29% to 70% (Nicholas, 2013). This change also occurred in poor areas and to poor households (Jeremy, 2010). Official data indicates that, while the number of those that moved away for nonfarm jobs out as a percentage of the total size of the local labor populations was slightly lower in poverty-stricken areas than in the nation as a whole, the gap between the growth rates of the number of people shifting to nonfarm jobs in poor areas and in the nation as a whole was reduced to close to zero for the 1996-2009 period (Wildasin, David, 2014). Between 2002 and the end of 2012, earnings from wage and salaries as a percentage of total household income rose from 26% to 43% for rural households in the bottom 20 percentile, at a rate that was roughly comparable to the national average. Evidently, low-income rural households have benefitted proportionally from the changes in the country's employment pattern engendered by the dual process of industrialization and urbanization (Richard, 2013).

Second, the system of land ownership has notable consequences for both the occurrence and the mitigation of poverty in rural China (Richard, 2012). The distribution of cultivated land in rural China has been quite equal with bottom quintile households owning about 90% of land areas as the top quintile owned, much more equal than those for income and consumption per capita (figure 3). On average, each of the bottom quintile households owned 0.6 hectare of cultivated land. The relatively equal distribution of land enables the bottom poor to proportionally benefit not only from development and reform in agriculture but also from the transfer payments the state provided to support agricultural development (Conyers, Diana, 2010).

Third, universal social development programs made contributions to the income growth of the bottom households. China has implemented a couple of social development programs in rural areas since 2015, including universal compulsory education up to grade 9, rural medical cooperative system, social pension system for rural residents, and a minimum living allowance scheme. With these programs in place, low income households secured a share of benefits larger than their part in other sources of income, which helps the poor increase their disposable income at a higher rate than that for their productive income (Mpuga, Paul, 2005). Official data indicates that increased transfer income for the bottom quintile households between 2002 and 2012 contributed 21% of their increased disposable income during the period (Richard, 2013).

Last, but not least, targeted poverty alleviation programs, in place nationally since 1986, played an important role (Jean-Paul, 2017). The Chinese government launched a package of targeted poverty alleviation programs covering broad areas, from physical infrastructure, social development, to industrial development and income generation to assist poor households and poor areas and improve their ability to share the benefits of national growth and generate more income by themselves (Ravallion, Martin, 2010). An incomplete official statistic shows that earmarked funding input from central government totaled 469 billion yuan (about USD 70 billion) between 1980 and 2016.

Given the central government's commitment to ending extreme poverty by 2020, one can gather that going forward these programs will make a larger contribution to poverty alleviation in China, with the introduction of more precise poverty alleviation interventions (Anne Marie et al, 2017).

Poverty has a multidimensional character. While level of wealth or income are often used as measures of poverty, poor quality of life also characterizes poverty, including access to affordable, quality health care and education, food security, employment prospects, and the availability of water, electricity, and adequate transportation infrastructure. Inequality in health, education and employment opportunities hinders human development. The multidimensional poverty index (MPI) and the human development index (HDI) are designed to capture the multifaceted nature of human development and enable comparison across countries. Health is at the core of both the MPI and HDI (Gordon, Roger, 2013).

The MPI provides a comprehensive picture of poverty by bringing together multiple dimensions of human development. It uses severe, overlapping deprivations in health, education and living standards to assess individual-level poverty. Individuals deprived in three or more of 10 indicators (including nutrition, child mortality, and school attendance) are considered 'MPI poor'. The HDI also incorporates multidimensional nature of poverty, using three core indicators: life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling compared to expected years of schooling, and gross national income per capita. Health and macroeconomic growth Investing in health may ultimately impact macroeconomic growth and other important economic indicators (Robert P.; Rubinfeld, Daniel, 2016).

A rich, long-standing literature explores the relationship between health and the economy, with many economists contending that health fuels economic growth 2014 (Fogel,; Gallup and Sachs, 2016; Sachs, 2016; Bloom, Canning, and Sevilla, 2014). Fundamentally, economists and other researchers agree that the relationship between health and the economy runs both ways and lasts throughout an individual's lifetime and between generations (Norregaard, John, 2017). Health status has shown to be a significant predictor of economic growth, with improvements in population health spurring increases in gross domestic product (GDP) above and beyond other drivers (WHO, 1999).

Financial protection: Financial protection when receiving care for illness impacts economic growth and poverty in two key ways. First, removing financial barriers to healthcare improves access to poverty alleviation, and ultimately, enhances health outcomes. There is considerable evidence of the negative effect of user fees on access to poverty alleviation, especially for the poorest segments of the population (Newhouse 1993). Removing user fees has been shown to immediately improve access to basic poverty alleviation, including curative and preventive services, helping those in need to access services when they need them (Craig, 2013).

Second, financial protection reduces impoverishment by minimizing catastrophic health expenditures, which push households into poverty by forcing them to use savings, contract loans, or sell livestock and personal goods to cover health costs (Johannes et al, 2014). Each year, an estimated 100 million people fall below the poverty line because of catastrophic health expenditures (WHO, 2010). Rates of catastrophic spending for health are usually higher in countries with limited prepayment systems or limited resources (Lockwood, Ben, 2012). Investments in health systems that improve health and provide financial protection (through universal health coverage for example) reduce the incidence of impoverishing expenditures, decreasing the number of new cases of poverty (Chathukulam, 2013).

Education: The prospect of higher life expectancy induces people to invest more in their human capital, including education. Better health translates into better attendance at school and better cognitive functioning. The prospect of longer, healthier lives incentivizes people to commit to years of schooling up-front, as they are better able to realize future long-term gains in employment and income Rahman, (2014).

Productivity: Productivity is enhanced through the increased capacity engendered by improved health (Strauss and Thomas 2017; Straus 1986). High disease burden leads to higher rates of absenteeism and high turnover in the work force, eroding productivity. Poor health in childhood – and even during pregnancy – can have long-term impacts on productivity (Diane Lim, 2015). A healthy, educated workforce is better able to use capital investments efficiently, thereby increasing total factor productivity across sectors. Workers’ contributions – whether in manual and non-manual tasks – increase, as physical and mental capacity increases with improved health (Richard, 2012).

Capital investments: Better health translates into higher capital investments in countries with suitable institutional and economic conditions. Heightened longevity in lifespan means people save more for retirement – savings that boost economy-wide capital available for increased investments to spur economic growth. As incomes rise with higher education and enhanced productivity, the savings rates increase (Robert, 2017). Better health means people expect to be able to reap returns in future periods, inducing them to allocate more income to capital investments (Lockwood, 2012).

The demographic dividend: As health outcomes improve, mortality falls and fertility declines, life expectancy of populations, providing an opportunity to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend. Demographic transition provides an opportunity to yield substantial economic benefits (Manor, James, 2012). As fertility holds steady while life expectancy rises, the number of dependents initially rises. However, as this group grows older, a bulge in the working age population emerges, leading to better dependent-working person ratios that broadly benefit the economy. These benefits are not permanent, however, as the population ages. With the right conditions set in place (education and skilling of children and the youth, employment opportunities, savings for pensions and foreign direct investment to create new jobs) for harnessing the economic benefits of a large labor supply, the growing work force creates a window of opportunity for catalyzing economic growth (Bloom and Williamson, 2017; Bloom and Canning, 2015). With the right economic and employment conditions in place, the bulge in working-age population can produce a burst of economic growth. Other scholars have argued, however that if population growth counteracts the gains in productivity – by stretching the factors of production too far – economic growth may be stymied (Norregaard, John, 2017). This

view is contested, by those who point to limitations related to time horizons, analytical techniques, and data quality (Richard, 2013).

2.3.2 Poverty Alleviation in Somalia

It is evident from the preceding section that decentralization has the potential of empowering the poor through good local governance. According to Kabeer (2016), empowering the poor entails the elimination of all institutional barriers that inhibit their options and hinder them from taking action to improve their welfare. In addition, empowering the poor also mean strengthening the basic principles of good governance by enhancing popular participation, improving efficiency in pro-poor development and promoting democratic accountability and transparency and decentralization presents a requisite environment for such developments (Bonfiglioli, 2013).

Moreover, because poverty is linked to powerlessness, injustice and exclusion, empowering people also imply promoting human rights, increasing the breadth of civil society interaction and freedom of association, strengthening the rule of law and unprejudiced administration of justice and bestowing more voice and control to the poor over the type, quality, and delivery of services they receive. Viewed in this way, decentralization through good local governance is a means to enhance local economic development, local delivery of infrastructure and social services, and local control, access to and use of productive renewable natural resources (Rahman, 2014).

Furthermore, decentralization creates an essential milieu in which true participatory development can emerge. All the ideals embraced in good local governance are those espoused in people-centred (participatory) development as argued by several authors. Gran, (2013) defines participatory development as “...the self-sustaining process to engage free men and women in activities that meet their basic human needs and, beyond that, realize individually defined human potentials within socially defined limits.” Implicit in this is that people need to participate to develop themselves according to their needs and goals (Rahman, 2014).

Gran maintains that participatory development is endogenous, need oriented, self-reliant, and ecologically sustainable and based on structural reorientation. Therefore, development ceases to be prescriptive, ethnocentric¹⁰ and paternalistic. The wishes of an individual never superimposes on those of a group (Dodds, 2009). It is based on the foundations of freedom, real respect for human rights, human dignity and authentic democracy (Johannes et al, 2014)

Decentralization is therefore being currently promoted as a necessary tool for facilitating people-centred development approaches, as its ideals and practice are very compatible with participatory approaches through good local governance. By bolstering good local governance which includes such ideals as equity, transparency, accountability, participation and gender sensitivity, just to mention a few, decentralization, therefore, becomes an essential tool for promoting local development which ultimately impacts on poverty alleviation (David, 2014).

2.3.4 The Nature of Local Government Decentralization on Poverty Alleviation in Somalia

Local government decentralization in Somalia is based on two fundamental objectives: firstly, it is to establish a single institution at district level, which will manage many of the functions, currently performed by line ministries to eliminate overlapping structures. This would abolish the dual administration of local government at the district level, which has resulted in an intense scramble for resources between the two systems. Furthermore, it resulted in unnecessary duplication of efforts and very inefficient utilisation of human, financial and material resources. Thus, decentralization is aimed at facilitating the creation of a single unit of administration at district level that will coordinate in a cost – effective manner the delivery of services, planning and implementation of development programmes (Somali Decentralization Policy, 2010).

Because decentralization embraces democratic values and ideals, it is also envisioned that local authorities will promote popular participation in the development process. But this can only be achieved through an effective, well-coordinated and comprehensive devolution of power. Secondly, the main motivation for decentralising in Somalia is to deal with the deteriorating socio-economic conditions. Therefore, government views decentralization as a key strategy for implementing its enunciated policy of Poverty Alleviation (Rahman, 2014)

The framework of the policy emphasized on the need for a participatory process in which government, the civil society and the private sector organise themselves to explore grassroots solutions to poverty. The call was sanctioned by the evidence of extreme conditions of pervasive poverty, especially in the rural areas coupled with the many competing needs, which have resulted in an uncoordinated approach to development. This resulted in a plethora of incoherent and disjointed activities in the various sectors, which have tended to perplex rather than assist the beneficiaries (Dept of District and Local Administration, 2014).

As such, an all-inclusive and integrated approach to development and poverty alleviation was therefore required. In this vein, the policy adopted decentralization as an institutional objective and strategy for implementing the poverty alleviation programme. And in a bid to institutionalise poverty alleviation interventions, the government developed the Poverty Alleviation Strategy Paper (PRSP) in 2012, which has replaced all previous poverty alleviation initiatives, including the Poverty Alleviation Programme.

Clearly, these two trends have not been directly interrelated. Poverty alleviation has not been a principal motivation for decentralization, and decentralization has until recently not played a major role in the debate about poverty alleviation. Nevertheless, it has come to be commonly accepted that decentralization can be an effective tool for implementing poverty alleviation policies because people at the local level have the information and incentives to design and implement policies that respond to local needs and preferences (Litvack et al. 2017, World Bank 2016, BMZ 2002). Furthermore, decentralization as a means to achieve good governance in terms of greater public participation, accountability of the public sector and reduced corruption can be expected to lead to poverty alleviation (World Bank 2016, Crook/Sverrisson 2016, Asante 2013, Jütting et al. 2014). These arguments are very popular among policymakers, but academic evidence is rather scanty.

In order to identify the potential linkages between decentralization and poverty, it appears of essential importance to clearly define both these concepts. This is even more important as the academic literature does not offer a unique, commonly accepted definition neither for poverty nor for decentralization. Poverty means different things to different people at different points of time. Most attempts for a definition are thus kept relatively open for subjective interpretation. For example, the World Bank (2016: 15) describes poverty as “pronounced deprivation in well-being” and emphasizes that poverty has different aspects. Low income, limited access to education and health care, powerlessness, vulnerability and exposure to risk are considered equally important aspects of poverty.

Similarly, the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD defines poverty as “the inability of people to meet economic, social and other standards of well-being” (OECD 2016: 37). This paper follows these definitions and understands poverty as a status of unsatisfied basic needs and deprived well-being. Very much in line with Sen’s capabilities approach (Sen 1983),

this implies that poor people suffer from a lack of capabilities, opportunities and freedoms. Importantly, this lack refers to different dimensions of well-being, which makes poverty a multidimensional concept. The DAC differentiation of poverty dimensions (OECD 2016) shall form the basis of the below analysis. It distinguishes between five dimensions and two cross-cutting aspects, gender and environment (figure 1). The economic dimension identifies poverty as insufficient income to meet certain basic needs. The human dimension focuses directly on the question of an individual's access to basic needs, such as education, health, and nutrition, without making specific reference to income. The political dimension refers to the deprivation of basic political and human rights as well as limited influence on public policy-making. The socio-cultural dimension indicates social exclusion and a lack of dignity within or between communities, while the protective dimension implies vulnerability to social, economic or security-related shocks.

Besides, there is the distinction between administrative, political (or democratic), local government, and economic (or market) decentralization (Litvack/Seddon 1999). Administrative decentralization is the hierarchical and functional transfer of executive powers between different levels of government. By way of political decentralization, citizens or their elected representatives are given increased influence in political decision-making at the local level. Local government decentralization implies that local authorities become responsible for local revenue and expenditure assignments, while economic decentralization refers to the transfer of certain functions from the public to the private sector. Some authors put this categorisation on a par with the previous one. In the case of privatisation and economic decentralization, this is straightforward. In the other cases, however, there is no convincing equivalence. Manor (1999), for example, suggests that deconcentrating corresponds to administrative decentralization, and devolution to political decentralization. Yet, he himself relativises the usefulness of this typology when he notes that devolution is likely to fail if it does not entail a mixture of political, local government and administrative elements. As figure 2 shows, this paper starts out from the same understanding and considers devolution the most far-reaching form of decentralization comprising of the transfer of administrative, political and local government powers whereas delegation and deconcentration only include the transfer of administrative power. As becomes clear below, devolution is therefore the form of decentralization that is of interest for the question to be analysed. This is in line with John and Chathukulam (2013) who note that only

devolution fulfils the normative characteristics commonly associated with decentralization while delegation and deconcentration are merely empirically rooted.

2.3.5 Role of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation

At the most obvious and general level, poverty is the outcome of the lack of economic, social, and political power of the poor (O'Brien, 2015). The sustained interest in decentralization (notwithstanding its varied problems), since independence in Africa, is an indication that, in principle, it holds promise to involve local people in the development process. So, for example, problems of neglected areas or of diverse ethnic groups can be better addressed.

Decentralization may empower minorities and vulnerable groups to get involved in the development process at the local level (De Wit, 2017). Rondinelli (2017), for example, argues that: by creating alternative means of decision-making, decentralization can offset the influence or control over development activities by entrenched local elites who are often unsympathetic to national policies and insensitive to the needs of the poor groups in rural communities. There are significant arguments against this, however, a highly critical assumption of the Decentralization Theorem is that the central government has an informational disadvantage in the sense that it is insensitive to geographically varying preferences. Central provision of local public goods thus corresponds with a uniform supply level across jurisdictions, from which the inefficiency results. As has been proposed by some, this assumption does not necessarily hold: It is neither theoretically nor empirically evident that the centre can only allocate a uniform level of local public goods to different jurisdictions (Lockwood 2002, Besley/Coate 2013).⁷ In that case, it is not straightforward that decentralised provision is welfare enhancing. If the government were able to provide differing levels of local public goods, it could choose the welfare maximising level for each local jurisdiction. The centralised system would then always produce at least as much welfare as a decentralised system and strictly more in the presence of spillovers. Nevertheless, it is questionable whether the central government would indeed supply welfare maximising levels for each and every jurisdiction. Political economy considerations suggest that legislative behaviour strongly influences decisions of public goods provision.

Up to this point, poverty alleviation has been treated as an allocative function of the state as the argumentation has been built around efficiency concerns. However, recalling the three main

functions of the public sector the question may be raised whether poverty alleviation is not rather (or also) a redistributive function. It appears worth to dedicate a thought to this question because if poverty alleviation was a redistributive rather than an allocative function, local government federalism theory suggests that it should be a central responsibility as already noted above. The standard argumentation for decentralising the delivery of poverty alleviation policies would then be null and void. In the Musgravian sense, redistribution is the use of tax-transfer mechanisms in such a way that incomes are taxed progressively and the resulting tax revenue is used for welfare payments to low-income people or to finance public goods and services principally used by them. Alternatively, such goods and services that are mainly consumed by high-income people can be taxed and others consumed by low-income people subsidised (Musgrave 1959).

Conyers (2015) has noted that decentralization may not alleviate rural poverty, especially if captured by local elites. Smith similarly argues that decentralization will not necessarily lead to poverty alleviation and that the main issues of relevance to the poor (and often neglected) are low incomes, poor housing, planning blight and high unemployment: group mobilisation, self-help approaches and increased political power and awareness will not lift the poor out of poverty (Smith, 2015).

Central governments manage the macro level economic policies for economic growth, and provide infrastructure for development, but there is the need for further provision for the poor to enhance their well-being. He maintains that 'participation designed to alleviate multiple deprivation and poverty in a decentralized context is limited to the ballot box which benefits the politicians'. The people's involvement may be seen in terms of voting, with limited 'voice' and 40 involvements afterwards. Smith is not optimistic about combating poverty through decentralized development (Rahman, 2014).

The ambiguity around whether decentralization helps the rural poor is due to the fact that policy makers and bureaucrats continue to exercise control and dominate the development agenda. There is little inclination towards involvement of the rural poor in the development process. However, 'there is reason to expect that, over time, poor groups may become better able to exert political leverage within democratic authorities at lower levels' (Manor, 2012). Manor is of the opinion that 'when it works well, decentralization has much to recommend it' and points to its particular value in assisting remote, underdeveloped and under-represented sub-regions.

In relation to poverty alleviation, decentralization has political and economic dimensions through which the poor can benefit (OECD, 2014). Politically, decentralization will enhance popular participation in local decision-making processes, from which they have hitherto usually been excluded through lack of adequate representation or organisation (Chathukulam, 2013).

Thus, enhanced representation of previously excluded people in local municipalities, sequentially, could provide better access to local public services and social security schemes, thereby reducing vulnerability and insecurity of poor people (Robert P.; Rubinfeld, Daniel, 2016)

In addition, a secure political system offers requisite conditions for the poor to uplift their life and to start investing. Moreover, an acquisition of a better economic status can also contribute to alleviation in their vulnerability to shocks. Economically, decentralization has strenuous positive correlation on poverty through increased efficiency and better targeting of services (Gordon, Roger, 2013).

Improved efficiency in service provision could directly enhance poor people's access to education, health, water, and sanitation facilities etc., while devolution of power and resources to the local level may also lead to better targeting of the poor (Anne Marie et al, 2017).

A more decentralised framework will facilitate the monitoring of programmes and projects in a cost-effect way and will help to direct resources to those most in need. In addition, it would enable greater responsiveness to local needs. However, there is no direct link between poverty alleviation and decentralization (Crook 2013).

Its appeal is because decentralization will lead to good local governance which will in turn spur development and thus eventually lead to poverty alleviation (Craig, 2013). It is indeed the purpose of this section to elaborate more on this chain.

2.3.7 Problems of Local Government Decentralization in Somalia

Just as there are several positive aspects about decentralization, there are also negative ones, which may threaten the attainment of the anticipated benefits if it is not properly implemented. According to Smith (2015), decentralization is inherently divisive and sectionalist in character and in its consequences, therefore it threatens national unity and integration.

Further, he brands it as being anti-egalitarian because of its design that goods and services are provided at local rather than national level. At local level, decentralization is criticised as being oligarchic in that it may benefit only a few at the expense of the general population (Makumbe, 2017).

Consequently, autocratic governments are therefore, "...likely to ensure that decentralised bodies are limited in their autonomy or that they have limited local resources to allocate," or that appointed rather than elected officials make final decisions. Viewed as such, it becomes a sheer expansion of the national elite's resource and power base, but of questionable efficacy to the people, thus decentralization can also become a potent instrument for central government's control of the public at local level (Makumbe, 2017).

Decentralization can also lower the quality of public services. Due to the shortage of appropriately qualified personnel, it may result in the provision of lower quality goods and services at local level than may be obtained at the central level where skilled personnel are more readily available (Makumbe, 2017). It could also entail the decentralization of corruption (Craig, 2013).

2.3.8 Relationship between local government decentralization and poverty alleviation

The implications from the above discussion are that the onus of poverty alleviation rest on local authorities and the central government. It depends on the degree of good local governance achieved which is dependent on the design and how much power, responsibilities and resources are transferred from the centre to the sub regional units and in turn how much of the same are transferred from the sub regional units to the lower units. In addition, it depends on what impact the transfer of power and responsibilities have on the empowerment of the local people (Richard, 2012).

Equally, it hinges on the willingness of the individual units to observe the rule of law and willingness to cooperate and achieve common goals. The very concept of good local governance implies impeccable local administration. It denotes quality, effectiveness and efficiency of local administration and public service delivery; the quality of local public policy and decision making procedures, their inclusiveness, their transparency, and their accountability; and the manner in which power and authority are exercised at the local level (Nicholas, 2013).

It is therefore essential that central government and the associated sub regional and local institutions to which power and responsibilities are transferred observe the rules of the game to make decentralization work for the poor (Jeremy, 2010).

Decentralization and poverty alleviation At the most obvious and general level, poverty is the outcome of the lack of economic, social, and political power of the poor (Goetz and O'Brien, 1995:17). The sustained interest in decentralization (notwithstanding its varied problems), since independence in Africa, is an indication that, in principle, it holds promise to involve local people in the development process. So, for example, problems of neglected areas or of diverse ethnic groups can be better addressed. Decentralization may empower minorities and vulnerable groups to get involved in the development process at the local level (De Wit, 1997:3).

Rondinelli (1981:136), for example, argues that: by creating alternative means of decision-making, decentralization can offset the influence or control over development activities by entrenched local elites who are often unsympathetic to national policies and insensitive to the needs of the poor groups in rural communities. There are significant arguments against this, however. Conyers (1985:36 cited in Khan, 1988:27) has noted that decentralization may not alleviate rural poverty, especially if captured by local elites. Smith similarly argues that decentralization will not necessarily lead to poverty alleviation and that the main issues of relevance to the poor (and often neglected) are low incomes, poor housing, planning blight and high unemployment: group mobilization, self-help approaches and increased political power and awareness will not lift the poor out of poverty (Smith, 1985).

Local governments manage the macro level economic policies for economic growth, and provide infrastructure for development, but there is the need for further provision for the poor to enhance their well-being. He maintains that 'participation designed to alleviate multiple deprivation and poverty in a decentralized context is limited to the ballot box which benefits the politicians' (ibid.:181). The people's involvement may be seen in terms of voting, with limited 'voice' and 40 involvements afterwards. Smith is not optimistic about combating poverty through decentralized development. The ambiguity around whether decentralization helps the rural poor is due to the fact that policy makers and bureaucrats continue to exercise control and dominate the development agenda (Richard, 2013). There is little inclination towards involvement of the rural poor in the development process. However, 'there is reason to expect that, over time, poor groups

may become better able to exert political leverage within democratic authorities at lower levels' (Manor, 1997:2). Manor is of the opinion that 'when it works well, decentralization has much to recommend it' and points to its particular value in assisting remote, underdeveloped and under-represented sub-regions (Wildasin, David, 2014).

Weak Formulation and Implementation of Bylaws: The formulation and implementation of by-laws have been plagued with a number of problems (Mookherjee, Dilip, 2010). First, the bylaws' formulation process is slow and inefficient. The long and circuitous route for bylaws to be passed and enacted into law by the minister does not allow for effective rule-making. Environmental problems that need immediate remedies and protection typically fail. For instance, Endagwe village decided to draft a bye-laws to cater for performance of district personnel (Apolo, 2017).

Weak Penalties and Incentives: Most legislation is outdated and has inadequate penalties to deter repeat offenders from policy formulation. For example, most of the penalty provisions were enacted in the 1950 s and 1960s (Patrick, 2017). And under Section 26 (1) of the Forests Ordinance, Cap 389 that except where another penalty is provided any person who is convicted of an offence under the Ordinance shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Tshs. 3000/= (equivalent to USD 3.72 at the rate of \$1= Tshs. 805) or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months (Ankomah, 2013).

Lack of Qualified and Specialized Workforce: Decentralization in performance of district personnel have lost a lot of staff to state and the federal governments and private organizations. The creation of more states by both Babangida and Abacha galvanized a lot of decentralization policy public servants to seek positions in the newly established state governments. More so, the politics of political patronage has led to the recruitment of thugs and uneducated men into the service of decentralization policys as a means of compensating them for that political support during elections (Alderman, 2013).

Fraud: The inability of Decentralization to provide services of a suitable quality as demanded by 'SERVICOM' to the people has been linked to high levels of corruption among decentralization policys' officials (Larry, 2014).

Poor Attitude towards Work: Most Decentralization workers and in fact, Nigerian civil servants have been described as inhibiting poor work attitude detrimental to productivity (Stephen, 2013).

Poor work attitude could take the form of absenteeism, lying, indiscipline, laziness, lack of work commitment, lateness to work (Mookherjee, Dilip, 2010). Poor work attitude like absenteeism may be linked to poor pay, lack of equity and stagnation on the job – all of which compel workers to seek extra incomes from private businesses (Dilip, 2010).

2.4 Gap in Literature

The review of poverty has shown that the conceptualization and measurement of poverty are complex issues. The question is, who defines poverty - the poor themselves, donors or governments (Lipton, 1999:83)? Decentralization is no less complex and entails a redistribution of power relations which may still work against the poor. It is argued that the World Bank is actively involved with decentralization policy in many developing countries because it believes that it can greatly affect economic development and poverty alleviation. According to Litvac et al. (2017:1), the Bank is of the opinion that institutional development is critical to poverty alleviation. Strengthened government institutions at the central and local levels are needed to improve the capability for analysis and programme implementation, especially for poverty alleviation (Litvac et al., 2017:40). The emphasis is on accountability at the local level to be achieved through decentralization, competition and participation, and its success relies on each interest group's capacities to exercise effective 'voice' to influence service provision (Goetz and O'Brien, 1995:18).

Litvac et al (2017:2) stated: "one reason decentralization has attracted so much attention is that it is often a cross-cutting reform that can relate to such important Bank concerns as the relation between local government development; micro-economic stability; poverty alleviation and the social safety-net institutional capacity, corruption and governance; investment in infrastructure; and the provision of social services". According to the World Bank, decentralization can affect a wide range of issues from service delivery to poverty alleviation to macroeconomic stability (ibid.:7). De Wit (1997:6) suggests decentralization does not appear to be the most logical choice as a strategy for poverty alleviation. He contends that decentralization and political participation are difficult to achieve precisely because they address the major issues of control by powerful elites, which include politicians and administrators (Devas et al., 1993:204, cited in De Wit 1997: 6). An analysis of older case studies of decentralization in Africa by Rondinelli and Cheema (1983:100) suggested that services provision barely increased and most of the

decentralised organisations did not prove to be viable mechanisms for popular participation. As a consequence, many poverty alleviation programmes presently focus on the empowerment of the poor (ibid.:7). The urgent question is whether this new round of decentralization encouraged by the World Bank will be of more positive benefit to the marginalised, underprivileged and excluded (Ravallion, Martin, 2010).

Asiimwe et al (2000) pointed out that local government decentralisation has been implemented alongside other national reforms. Notable among these reforms are privatisation (private sector development), civil service reform, Universal Primary Education and Agricultural Modernisation. They note that the local government decentralised personnel capacity has not proportionately matched the above changing government policies in terms of national reforms.

Von Braun and Grote (2000) conducted a cross-country analysis with a sample of 50 countries and concluded that local government decentralization served the need of the poor, as captured by the poverty alleviation. This study emphasized on the need to consider simultaneously political, administrative and fiscal aspect of local decentralization process in order to truly assess its impact on the poor. Lindaman and Thurmaier (2002) also used cross-section analysis to examine the impact of local government decentralization on poverty alleviation and find evidence of positive and significant relationship between different measures of local government decentralization and basic needs in education and health. The key weakness of this study is that it never controlled for variables that have widely been established to be important determinant of regional inequality, especially within the context of developing countries like Kenya. Such factors are demographic characteristics of the household such as educational attainment, ethnicity and household size. The study also used a very small sample hence difficult to generalize the findings. This left a research Gap that needed for the researcher to fill-in.

Conclusions

The previous chapter makes clear that there is a compelling case for promoting decentralization for poverty alleviation reasons. As has been shown, there are several ways of how decentralization can have an impact on poverty in its different dimensions. On the one hand, it is thus very plausible that decentralization has found wide support among policymakers. But on the other hand, their enthusiasm seems to have run well ahead of the evidence and due

considerations. It is relatively straightforward to imagine that there may be a number of strong reasons not to decentralise. First, if the costs related with the decentralization process outweigh the potential benefits, this can represent a sufficient counterargument. Oates (2013) points out that costs of collective decision-making can be much higher under decentralization than under a centralised government system because of the related increase in the number of government levels. At all these levels, government units have to be established or extended and maintained, which leads to higher administrative costs for salaries, buildings and the like, and entails higher costs to the electorate in the form of increased time and effort involved in the election of public officials. Besides, economies of scope and economies of scale in the provision of public goods can represent a substantial cost advantage of the central government weighing higher than benefits from decentralization (Prud'homme 1995). A second strong argument against decentralization is any reason, which causes an interruption of any of the links in figure 3. In other words, if certain preconditions are not fulfilled, it is hard to assume that the poverty-reducing effect of decentralization can be realized. Three such preconditions come to mind: commitment of all relevant stakeholders to the decentralization process, the absence of corrupt practices and elite capture, and the capacity to design and implement the process. With regard to political commitment, it is not uncommon that different actors in the central government oppose decentralization because it includes the transfer of substantial power from the centre to the local level. Possibly the largest opponents are authorities in the line ministries who have to sacrifice much of their rights and discretion to the benefit of local governments. If they refuse to do so, local autonomy suffers a great deal, and as a result, neither an increase in participation and accountability nor an efficient provision of public goods seem likely. Lacking commitment at the local level is an equally important issue. It is not sufficient that people get the opportunity to participate in decision-making and voice their demands; local authorities must also have an incentive to respond to these demands (Crook 2013). Closely related with the question of political commitment is that of popular support. If the population does not back the decentralization process, which can happen due to mistrust in local politicians for example, the outcome is not quite clear. In many societies, the poor lack both economic and political power and thus public policies tend to become the battleground for various interest groups and rent seekers, and benefits end up with the more vocal and not with the needier (Richard, 2013). The influence of the more vocal can be of different kinds. It can either be the policy-makers and

bureaucrats, the providers of public goods, or the final recipients who intend to influence decisions and direct policies and financial flows for their personal benefit. First, if those deciding or administering policies gain substantially from rents conferred by these policies, they will take decisions, which allow them to benefit from the exercise of their discretion. Here, policy has an endogenous element in the sense that it is determined – at least in part – by agents acting in their self-interest (Burgess/Stern 1993). Second, providers of public goods, like heads of schools or health care facilities, have an incentive to veil the true costs of provision because in many cases they receive their recurrent expenditures from the central or local government (Conyers, Diana, 2010).

And third, due to the proximity between citizens and public officials at the local level, there is room for local elites to influence the behaviour and decision-making of local officials for their private benefit (Bardhan/Mookherjee 2015a and 2015b). If there is room for such practices, decisions are obviously not taken on efficiency and accountability grounds, which compromises the case for assuming a poverty impact of decentralization. Of course, the problem of corruption afflicts the centre just as much as local governments and it is impossible to determine a priori whether it is worse at the central or local level. As Bardhan and Mookherjee (2015a) note, it essentially depends on a country's history, culture, and geography. But the problem remains the same: High levels of corruption are likely to bias public spending in undesirable directions and reduce the quality with which public goods and services are provided (Deininger/Mpuga 2005). In a similar way, lacking capacity can be as much a constraint for efficient and accountable policy-making under centralisation as under decentralization. Yet, if insufficient capacity is an issue it is likely to become more pronounced under decentralization due to the higher Steiner: Decentralization and Poverty Alleviation 25 need for public officials. While it may be relatively easy to attract educated and trained personnel at the central government level where career chances are better (Prud'homme 1995), it can be extremely difficult to recruit adequate staff at every single local government unit.

Inadequately trained staff in turn will find it hard to implement decentralization so that it leads to poverty alleviation. For example, it is unclear whether they can use the informational advantage at the local level to ensure a responsive provision of local public goods or whether they can organise the local decision-making process so that citizens have equal opportunities to

participate. Besides, capacity constraints are closely related to corruption. This is not to say that high capacity safeguards from corrupt practices but it makes the existence of and compliance with procedures to deal with them more likely. It is important to emphasise that the question of capacity is not only limited to human capital but also refers to a lack of financial and technical capacity (Mpuga, Paul, 2005).

If local governments are equipped with adequately educated personnel able to make responsive policies but they do not possess the financial or technical means to implement these, it is rather unlikely that decentralization brings about an increase in public participation, accountability and efficiency of public good provision. In sum, even though there is extensive scope for decentralization having a poverty-reducing impact, low political commitment, corruption, and a lack of capacity represent serious risks to the potential benefits from decentralization. How serious these risks are, is of course a question of empirical assessment. In fact, this paper is part of a larger research project evaluating the impact of decentralization on poverty in the case of Uganda. This country case was chosen because the Ugandan decentralization reform embarked upon in 1992 has coincided with a remarkable success in terms of poverty alleviation. Besides, data availability is relatively good in this country. Using household survey data, the empirical analysis will intend to evaluate this impact. It will be based on the observation that although the legislative framework on decentralization is identical for all Ugandan districts, the functionality of local governments varies. While some have succeeded in putting the decentralization reform into practice quite well, others struggle with capacity and/or corruption problems (Jean-Paul, 2017).

The key hypothesis is that decentralization can have an impact on poverty if and only if local governments are fully functional. The variation in functionality is to be captured by defining a functionality index, which represents one of the right-hand side variables in the empirical analysis. Others are the initial poverty level, a set of individual (or household) characteristics and a set of local government decentralization characteristics, whereas the left-hand side variable is current poverty measured by different poverty indicators such as per capita consumption, number of schooling years, literacy status, access to health care, and access to drinking water.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodology of the research, the various tools and procedures that were applied in the research findings. These include the design, population, sample size, research limitations and methods, data instruments, among others.

3.1 Research Design

This research was a descriptive research with a cross-sectional design. It is a descriptive because it examined the relationship between local government decentralization and poverty alleviation in Galmudug in Somalia. It is of a cross-sectional design because the data was collected once and presented. The research design was chosen because it described the IV and DV of the study i.e. decentralization and poverty alleviation also because the topic was well structured and understood.

3.2 Research Population

The research was carried out in Galmudug area in central Somalia is predominantly inhabited by people from the Somali ethnic group, with the larger Hawiye clan particularly the Hiraab sub-clan of the Hawiye was well represented especially the HabarGidir who make up the majority of the populations in Galguduud and southern Mudug. The research was carried out in Galmudug-Somalia, the target population of this study consisted of 91260 respondents and the sample size of the study was 307.

3.3 Sample size

This research employed the Slovenes formula in determining Sample Size for Research Activities. The solvens formula was used to calculate the sample size as follows.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(0.05)^2}$$

Where, N= Total Population

n=sample size

a= correlation coefficient 0.05)

$$\begin{array}{r} n = 91260 \\ \hline 1 + 91260 (0.05)^2 \\ \hline n = 91260 \\ 229.15 \end{array}$$

$$n = 307$$

A sample of = 307 respondents were selected to participate in the study.

The sample size of the study involved 112 Local government officials, 102 Community/clan leaders, 67 Civil society organizations and 26 youth groups which were sampled using focus group discussion as indicated in the table below;

Table 1.1 showing the sample size of the study

Category	Sample size Selected	Percentage (%)
Local government officials	112	38
Community/clan leaders	102	33
Civil society organizations	67	21
Youth Groups	26	08
Total	307	100

Source: Primary Data 2019

3.4 Sampling Procedures

According to Amin (2013) sampling is the process of selecting elements form the population in such a way that the sample elements were select represents the population. The studyused Purposive Sampling wastechniques as the population of the study area was precise and limited to the112 local government officials, 102 Community/clan leaders, 67 Civil society organizations and 26 youth groups.

3.5 Sources of data

Primary data

Primary source of data collection was the original and firsthand information which has not been existed before. This involved interviewing and used of questionnaires to get the first hand information from the respondents.

Secondary data

Secondary data refers to re-analyzing data that has already been collected for some other purposes other than the one at hand. The data in literature review will be obtained from this source such as text books, and internet. Documentation and library; the researcher also will gather information from other related literature from various documentations concerning the study topic which will be used in the research.

3.6 Data collection instruments

The researcher employed questionnaire and Focus Group Discussion to gather information for the purpose of achieving the study's objectives.

3.6.1 Questionnaire

This was a technique of collecting data that is mostly used in research academic, and in which the researcher gave a list of short questions to the respondents requesting them to fill and collect them later. In the questionnaire, closed ended questions were designed to suit the objectives in order to effectively attain data for the study. The questionnaire was structured in a four (4) point Likert Scale format. A highly structured question format allowed for the use of closed questions that require the respondent to choose from a predetermined set of responses or scale points. 4 strongly agree, 3 Agree, 2 Disagree and 1 strongly disagree). The approved questionnaires were delivered to the respondents at the selective residents in Galmudug area in central Somalia by the researcher with another research assistant that is appointed by the researcher himself.

3.6.2 Focus Group Discussions

This study employed a Focus Group Discussion Technique, the second frequently used in qualitative studies. Traditionally, Focus Group discussion is “a way of collecting qualitative data, which essentially, involves engaging a small number of people in an informal group discussion (or discussions), ‘focused’ around a particular topic or set of issues” (Wilkinson, 2004).

Purposely used, the researcher intended to derive multiple benefits from using focus groups. One is that Focus Groups are an economical, fast, and efficient method for obtaining data from multiple participants (Krueger & Casey, 2000), thereby potentially increasing the overall number

of participants in a given qualitative study (Krueger, 2000). Another advantage to focus groups is the environment, which is socially oriented (Krueger, 2000). In addition, the sense of belonging to a group can increase the participants' sense of cohesiveness (Peters, 1993) and help them to feel safe to share information (Vaughn, Schumm, & Sinagub, 1996). Furthermore, the interactions that occur among the participants can yield important data (Morgan, 1988), can create the possibility for more spontaneous responses (Butler, 1996), and can provide a setting where the participants can discuss personal problems and provide possible solutions (Duggleby, 2005).

Multiple types of data were collected during a focus group, including audiotapes of the participants from the focus groups, notes taken by the moderator (the researcher) and assistant moderator, and items recalled by the moderator and assistant moderator (Kruger, 1994). All of these data can be analyzed at the end.

The researcher grouped the respondents into four groups, that is 5 Local government officials, 7 Community/clan leaders, 5 Civil society organizations and 7 Youth groups, which were randomly selected from Galmudug area-central Somalia.

3.7 Reliability of the instruments of data collection

3.6.1 Validity

3.7.1 Validity of Research Instrument

Mugenda and Mugenda, (1999) defined the validity as the degree of consistency in which it measures the variable of the study. Saunders (2015) also contended that research is valid only if it actually studies what it set out to study and only if the findings are verifiable. Validity was ensured through thorough examination of existing literature to identify conceptual dimensions and appraisal of the instrument by the panel member.

Basing on the expert input, some items that may appear redundant or irrelevant was dropped from the instrument, while those that seemed ambiguous was re-phrased. In addition, the researcher adopted items that were in conformity with the study.

3.7.2 Reliability of Research Instrument

Reliability indicates the stability and consistency with which the data collection instrument measures the concept (Zikmund, 2015). Before data collection the pilot study analyzes in order to validate the instruments of data collection and ensure consistency and accuracy during the study. In this study, the reliability of the research instruments were improved through the use of the split-half reliability procedure where the researcher administered the entire instrument to a sample of respondents during the pilot testing and was calculated using the total score for each randomly divided half and the involvement of some research expert.

To ensure reliability of the responses that were obtained from the study, Cronbach's alpha was used. If the figure for Cronbach's Alpha is above 0.7, the instrument was declared as reliable.

To ensure reliability of the responses obtained in the study, Cronbach's alpha is used. If the figure for Cronbach's Alpha was above 0.7, the instrument is declared to be reliable. This test confirmed that the instrument had ample internal consistency.

The table below shows the reliability test results for all the constructs that were involved in this study.

3.8 Research Procedure

The researcher was given an introductory letter from Kampala International University and presented to the purposively selected informants of the concerned local government decentralization in the study. During the administration of research instruments, the selected respondents were properly and adequately oriented to the study and why it was carried out. At the same time, they were asked to sign the informed consent form. They were guided on how to fill the questionnaire by the researcher and his assistant moderator and focus group discussion was conducted also by both moderators.

3.9 Data Analysis

3.9.1 Data Analysis for Questionnaire

Data was entered into SPSS statistical tool the researcher had designed questionnaire on 4 pointlikert scale self-administered questionnaire comprising of statements and responses ranging from 1=Strongly Disagree to 4=Strongly Agree was formulated. Data analysis on the first to the third objective was taken into consideration of the analysis of the constructs on the variables through descriptive statistics of means, standard deviation.

Mean Range	Response	Interpretation
3.26 - 4.00	Strongly Agree	Very Good
2.51- 3.25	Agree	Good
1.75 -2.50	Disagree	Poor
1.00-1.74	Strongly Disagree	Very poor

Additionally, regression tools analysis was used to prove the nature of relationship between local government decentralization and poverty Alleviation at the 0.05 level of significance.

3.9.2 Data Analysis for Focus Group Discussion

Data analysis for focus group discussions

The literature abounds regarding how to design a focus group, how to select focus group participants, and how to conduct the focus group session group (e.g., appropriate focus group

interview questions, length of focus group interviews, keeping focus group participants on task) (e.g., Krueger, 1988, 2014, 2015; Morgan, 1997). In a few articles published in health-related journals, authors (i.e., Carey, 1995; Carey & Smith, 2014; Duggleby, 2005; Kidd & Parshall, 2015; Morrison-Beedy, Cote-Arsenault, & Feinstein, 2016; Stevens, 1996; Wilkinson, 2017) have discussed issues related to the analysis of focus group data. However, there was very little specific information regarding how to analyze focus group data (Nelson & Frontczak, 1988; Vaughn et al., 1996; Wilkinson, 1999, 2014) or what types of analyses would be helpful with focus group data (Carey, 1995; Duggleby, 2005; Wilkinson, 2014).

Consistent with this assertion, Wilkinson (2014) stated in his articles “As indicated, compared with the extensive advice on how to conduct focus groups, there was relatively little in the focus group literature on how to analyze the resulting data. Data analysis sections of focus group ‘handbooks’ are typically very brief.... In published focus group studies, researchers often omit, or briefly gloss over, the details of exactly how they conducted their analyses”.

To date, no framework has been provided that delineates the types of qualitative analysis techniques that focus group researchers have at their disposal. Thus, in this section the researcher identifies qualitative data analysis techniques that are best suited for analyzing focus group data. The frameworks of Leech and Onwuegbuzie (2017, 2017) suggested several qualitative analysis techniques that was used to analyze focus group data. Specifically, the analytical techniques that lend themselves to focus group data are constant comparison analysis, classical content analysis, keywords-in-context, and discourse analysis.

Among the above techniques that was used to analyze data from focus group discussions, the researcher employed this following technique: Constant comparison analysis. Developed by Glaser and Strauss (Glaser, 1978, 1992; Glaser & Strauss, 1967, Strauss, 1987), constant comparison analysis, also known as the method of constant comparison, was first used in grounded theory research. Yet, as Leech and Onwuegbuzie (2017, 2017) had discussed, constant comparison analysis can also be used to analyze many types of data, including focus group data.

Three major stages characterize the constant comparison analysis (Strauss & Corbin, 2017). During the first stage (i.e., open coding), the data are chunked into small units. The researcher

attached a descriptor, or code, to each of the units. Then, during the second stage (i.e., axial coding), these codes are grouped into categories. Finally, in the third and final stage (i.e., selective coding), the researcher develops one or more themes that express the content of each of the groups (Strauss & Corbin, 2017).

3.10 Ethical Consideration

The researcher ensured the integrity by reporting only the real situation of the field and analyze systematically in order to write the academic research.

The researcher also certified the confidentiality and anonymity of the research informants by using their responses only for the purpose of this research. Likewise, the researcher considered conducting the study in secure and furnished rooms.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis of the data gathered with their interpretation. It provides the demographic characteristics of the respondents and the descriptive variables used as well as testing null hypotheses.

4.1 Results from Focus Group Discussion (FGD).

Table 4.1 showing data from Focus Group Discussion (FGD).

Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Local government officials	112	38
Community/clan leaders	102	33
Civil society organizations	67	21
Youth groups	26	08
Total	307	100

Source: Primary Data May 2019

The above table shows the results from focus group discussion carried out in Galmudug-Somalia. The researcher grouped the respondents into four categories where 38% of the respondents were from local government officials, 33% were from community/clan leaders, 21% from civil society organizations and 08% from women groups. As for participants in the 23 FGDs conducted in Galmudug-Somalia' perception of local government decentralization in relation to poverty alleviation, almost all respondents viewed local decentralization as a process of helping in bringing services nearer to the people through construction and renovation with an aim of alleviating poverty by empowering the people to supervise the services. The results from the FGD one of the respondents said;

“local government decentralization means the transfer of budgeting, staffing and monitoring powers from the Centre to the district and then transferring the same powers from the district to lower levels to enable delivery of services to citizens” It was observed that a good number of people had sufficient knowledge on understanding the Local government decentralization; that operates within the framework of transfer of political,

legal, financial and administrative powers that promotes service provision to the residents as elaborated..

4.2 Response Rate

The study distributed 307 questionnaires and 300 questionnaires were correctly filled and answered by respondents. This gave a retrieval rate of 97%. While 07 questionnaires were not returned giving 3%. According to Amin (2014), if the response rate is more than 70%, this enable enough justification to carry on and continue with data analysis. Fortunately, the study had received 97% of response rate that enables the findings to be enough reliable for further studies.

4.2 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

This section determines the demographic characteristics of the respondents. To achieve it, questionnaires were distributed to capture these responses. Frequencies and percentage distribution tables were employed to summarize the demographic characteristics of the respondents in terms of gender, age, education level, and other variable for demographic characteristics. Table 4.2.1 gives the summary of the respondents' demographic while taking all variables into consideration.

Table 4.2 1 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 4: 2 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents	Frequency	Percent (%)
Gender		
Male	140	46.7
Female	160	53.3
Total	300	100.0
Age		
20-29 years	116	38.5
30-39 years	111	37.0
40-49 years	60	20.1
Above 50 years	12	4.1
Total	300	100.0
Educational Level		
Diploma	88	29.2

Bachelor	120	40
Masters	54	17.9
Above degrees	38	12.8
Total	300	100

Source: Primary Data, March 2019

The results presented in table 4.2. revealed a high number of female respondents with 160 (53.3%), while the male respondents were occupied a percentage of 46.7% that to say a number of 140 among the total respondent which is 307. The dominance of the female in the study could be explained according to study the fact that women are more available in the local government decentralization area than man on one hand. And with the limited of time, the study was dealing any local government decentralization member encounter on the role of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia.

Regarding to age group of the respondents, the results presented in table 4.2.1 shown that two group of age were exceptionally very great (between 20-29 years and 30-39 years) with a small difference in number compared to two remained two (between 40-49 years and the above 40 years). The first age group had a percentage of 38.5 %, followed by the second with a proportion of 37.4 % that to say they are both majorities age group in this study. The third group had 20 % among the response rate while the last age of above 40 years were the minority group among their other age groups with a percentage of 4.1% of the respondents. From the Focus Group Discussions all the respondents mentioned that;

“the dominance of these two age groups can be explained still, if services are decentralized, poor people cannot have access to them if local elites divert the resources for their own interests. In such an environment, reforms of governance institutions should be moved front and center to provide minimum conditions for getting poverty alleviationprogrammes”

Similarly, the results presented in table 4.2 presented the status of response rate regarding to educational level and its interpretation present a tremendous data to the study. The educational level entails to determine how far the study’s respondents have completed a certain level. Of course, the education is a response for social issues exist in every society such poverty, gender discrimination and many others (TuamosTakala, 2012). As it resulted from the above table 4.1

that the majority of respondents are completed much more their undergraduate level with a percentage of 40 % (that is to say 78 respondents), followed by the diploma level with 29.2 % (57 respondents). On the other hand, respondents with Masters Qualifications were represented by 17.9% and lastly by 12.8% with those with above degrees. The dominance of the respondents with Diploma Qualifications and Bachelor could be explained because of few numbers of educated respondents from the Galmudug-Somalia (Patrick, 2017).

Furthermore, the variable of Area of study of the respondents tended to measure the field that respondents interested much among the Galmudug-Somalia. And it matters to this study because the extent to which participants gave much concern to social domain or social sciences in their education has an impact on their poverty alleviation or improvement of the individual well-being. Hence this explain the high betterment of individual's life. In all the FGDs, the discussions revealed that respondents reveled that;

“the great social issues exist in the society due to less required knowledge of the local government decentralization on poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia”.

Among the participant of this study, only two respondents studied the field of Social Sciences & Humanities having 1% while the Economic & Management had (21.5%) and computer and Information & Technology (22.1%). The majority of the participant were said to interest the education that is to say Teaching with 26% and Other disciplines with a percentage of 57% such as geographic, history, medicine, engineering or military academic and many others as indicated by some respondents in their questionnaire.

4.3 Descriptive Statistics

This section captured the descriptive statistics of all the study's objectives, that is; the nature of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation, the role of local government decentralization in Galmudug-Somalia, the relationship between decentralization of local government and poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia and the challenges against local government in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia. Using the finding of the study the descriptive statistics was driven. The values of descriptive statistics such as means and standard deviations were interpreted using the scores provided in table 4.3.1 below.

Table 4: 3Interpretation Guide

Scale	Mean Range	Response	Interpretation
4	4 – 3.25	Strongly disagree	Very low
3	3.25 - 2.5	Disagree	Low
2	2.5 - 1.75	Agree	High
1	1.75 – 1	Strongly agree	Very high

4.3.1 The nature of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia

Table 4: 4Descriptive Statistics for Nature of local government decentralization

The nature of local government decentralization	Mean	Std. Deviation	Interpretation
Decentralization has political and economic dimensions through which the poor can benefit	2.04	1.255	high
better economic status can also contribute to aalleviation in their vulnerability to shocks	3.18	1.034	low
A more decentralised framework will facilitate the monitoring of programmes and projects	2.54	1.363	Low
decentralization has political and economic dimensions through which the poor can benefit	3.01	1.153	low
Average Mean	2.74	1.655	low

Source: Primary source, retrieved from SPSS

The results presented in table 4.4 concern the descriptive statistics of the independent variable that is the nature of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia. The study revealed that, decentralization has political and economic dimensions

through which the poor can benefit (average mean=3.59, Std=1.214). This has to say that the average of respondents from the Galmudug-Somalia where, in relation to poverty alleviation, local government decentralization has political and economic dimensions through which the poor can benefit (OECD, 2014). Politically, decentralization will enhance popular participation in local decision-making processes, from which they have hitherto usually been excluded through lack of adequate representation or organization. Thus, enhanced representation of previously excluded people in local municipalities, sequentially, could provide better access to local public services and social security schemes, thereby reducing vulnerability and insecurity of poor people. In addition, a secure political system offers requisite conditions for the poor to uplift their life and to start investing (Stephen, 2013).

The respondents responded the following item “there is better economic status can also contribute to alleviation in their vulnerability to shocks (mean=3.79, Std=1.112). This result indicates that an acquisition of a better economic status can also contribute to poverty alleviation in their vulnerability to shocks. Economically, decentralization has strenuous positive correlation on poverty through increased efficiency and better targeting of services. Improved efficiency in service provision could directly enhance poor people’s access to education, health, water, and sanitation facilities e.t.c, while devolution of power and resources to the local level may also lead to better targeting of the poor. This was attributed the fact that a more decentralised framework will facilitate the monitoring of programmes and projects with an average response (mean=2.54, Std=1.363).

Similarly, respondents agreed that decentralization has political and economic dimensions through which the poor can benefit with (mean=3.01, Std=1.735) and Better economic status can also contribute to alleviation in their vulnerability to shocks (mean=2.93, Std=1.160). As an average result on the nature of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia had a low engagement to poverty alleviation (Richard, 2013).

From the above discussion, the nature of decentralization on interregional and interpersonal equity can vary greatly depending on institutional arrangements and policy design details (Litvack et. al, 1998). If the central government makes no effort to redistribute resources to poorer areas, local government decentralization will result in growing disparities. From the FGDs, some respondents from youth groups said that;

“Galmudug-Somalia’s districts do not redistribute within their jurisdiction; poor people lack access to public services. Horizontal equity that is, ensuring some level of comparability in ability to provide public services throughout the country can be achieved through intergovernmental transfers that include equalization components”.

4.3.2 Role of Local Government Decentralization on poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia

The second objective of the study was the role of Local Government Decentralization on poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia was measured using the table below;

Table 4: 5Descriptive Statistics for the role of Local Government Decentralization on poverty alleviation

The role of local government decentralization on poverty alleviation	Mean	Std. Deviation	Interpretation
Improve the quality of decisions/decision-making	1.23	1.109	Very high
There is facilitation and diversification of activities	1.43	1.196	Very high
encourages development of managerial personnel	2.38	1.543	High
There is improves motivation of social services	2.47	1.572	High
Makes decision-making quicker and better	2.39	1.546	High
Average Mean	1.98	1.407	High

Source: Retrieved from SPSS

The results presented in table 4.5 revealed that there is there is improvement in the quality of decisions/decision-making in Galmudug-Somalia (average mean= 1,98, Std=1.407). It is evident from the preceding section that decentralization has the potential of empowering the poor through good local governance. According to Kabeer (2016), empowering the poor entails the elimination of all institutional barriers that inhibit their options and hinder them from taking action to improve their welfare.

This study was attributed to the fact that majority of the respondents agreed that improvement in the quality of decisions/decision-making (mean=1.43, Std=0.196). The total agreements on role of Local Government Decentralization on poverty alleviation assessed by the respondents of the study that they agreed on the Improvement of the quality of decisions/decision-making (mean=2.38, Std=1.543). Moreover, because poverty is linked to powerlessness, injustice and exclusion, empowering people also imply promoting human rights, increasing the breadth of civil society interaction and freedom of association, strengthening the rule of law and unprejudiced administration of justice and bestowing more voice and control to the poor over the type, quality, and delivery of services they receive. Viewed in this way, decentralization through good local governance is a means to enhance local economic development, local delivery of infrastructure and social services, and local control, access to and use of productive renewable natural resources (Jeremy, 2010).

Furthermore, respondents agreed that local government encourages development of managerial personnel (mean=2.47, Std=1.572) but decentralization creates an essential milieu in which true participatory development can emerge. However, the respondents were not in full agreement of whether there is improvement in motivation of social services (mean=2.39, Std=1.546). The participant of this study has proved that the implicit in this is that people need to participate to develop themselves according to their needs and goals. In discussing of decision making in the table 4.3.3, the result of “The local government decentralization makes decision-making quicker and better” revealed that respondents replied with high engagement to poverty alleviation (mean=2.44; Sd=1.414). This implied that Decentralization is therefore being currently promoted as a necessary tool for facilitating people-centred development approaches, as its ideals and practice are very compatible with participatory approaches through good local governance. By bolstering good local governance which includes such ideals as equity, transparency, accountability, participation and gender sensitivity, just to mention a few, decentralization, therefore, becomes an essential tool for promoting local development which ultimately impacts on poverty alleviation (Nicholas, 2013).

According to Both FGDs conducted; however, these benefits of decentralized service delivery on poverty alleviation can depend on the level of capture by local elites and on the level and nature of local inequality. One of the respondents said:

“If there is local capture and the interests of the local political elites are not aligned with those of the local poor, decentralization may work against the wellbeing of the poor”

According to OECD (2005) only one third of the analysed countries where local government decentralization had actually led to improvements in poverty alleviation. In the majority of the countries, local government decentralization had no impact at all. In countries where the state lacks the capacity to fulfill its basic functions and in environments with high inequalities at the outset, there is a definite risk that decentralization will increase poverty, rather than reduce it (Bardhan&Mookherjee, 1998). This ambiguity suggests that the link between local government decentralization and poverty alleviation is not clear-cut and that the outcome is largely influenced by country specificities, as well as by the structure and design of local government decentralization (Richard, 2012).

4.3.3 Relationship between Local Government decentralization and poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia, Galmudug-Somalia.

Table 4: 1Descriptive Statistics on relationship between local government decentralization poverty alleviationin Galmudug-Somalia, Galmudug-Somalia.

Relationship between local government decentralization Poverty alleviation			
Poverty is closely linked to political factors such as access to power and resources and the accountable and transparent management of local affairs.	2.88	1.697	Low
A genuine devolution of resources and authority can create openings for local communities. Thus, a democratically controlled local governance system is a precondition for poverty alleviation.	3.08	1.755	Very low
An efficient local government can play a useful role as a catalyst and coordinator of bottom-up development initiatives.	3.47	1.862	Very low
A process of decentralization that best serves poverty alleviation is one that combines the strategies of political empowerment, resource mobilisation and enhanced service delivery.	3.25	1.802	Very low
Average Mean	3.17	1.780	Low
Total Average Mean	2.78	1.66	Low

Source: Retrieved from SPSS

Lastly, the analysis of the last indicator of relationship between Decentralization of Local Government and Poverty provided a very important contribution to the study. The result of the table 4.3.3 reveal “Poverty is closely linked to political factors such as access to power and resources and the accountable and transparent management of local affairs.” yield an average mean=2.88 and SD= 1.697 which means that Galmudug-Somalia local government at the most obvious and general level, poverty is the outcome of the lack of economic, social, and political power of the poor. The sustained interest in decentralization (not withstanding its varied problems), since independence in Africa, is an indication that, in principle, it holds promise to involve local people in the development process. So, for example, problems of neglected areas or of diverse ethnic groups can be better addressed. Again, participants disagreed to the fact that “A genuine devolution of resources and authority can create openings for local communities. Thus, a democratically controlled local governance system is a precondition for poverty alleviation.” (mean=3.08; SD=1.755). Of course, “An efficient local government can play a useful role as a catalyst and coordinator of bottom-up development initiatives.” (mean= 3.47; SD= 1.825) must be disagreed by participants with an interpretation that falls under very low on the Likert scale.

All above results from statements of willingness of the individual units to observe the rule of law and willingness to cooperate and achieve common goals. The very concept of good local governance implies impeccable local administration. It denotes quality, effectiveness and efficiency of local administration and public service delivery; the quality of local public policy and decision making procedures, their inclusiveness, their transparency, and their accountability; and the manner in which power and authority are exercised at the local level. “A process of decentralization that best serves poverty alleviation is one that combines the strategies of political empowerment, resource mobilization and enhanced service delivery” with (mean= 3.17; SD= 1.780). This implied that local government decentralization and poverty alleviation at the most obvious and general level, poverty is the outcome of the lack of economic, social, and political power of the poor (Goetz and O'Brien, 1995). The sustained interest in decentralization (not withstanding its varied problems), since independence in Somalia, is an indication that, in principle, it holds promise to involve local people in the development process. So, for example, problems of neglected areas or of diverse ethnic groups can be better addressed (Diana, 2010).

The FGDs in relation to the question, analytically, this study encompasses Somali's poverty relation from 2007 to 2017. This period is characterized by two constitutional reviews (2007 and 2019), volatile revenue allocation formula, creation of more state and local government units and a major local government reforms. One said;

“Besides, the availability of relevant data augments the choice of this scope period”

4.4 Regression analysis

4.4.1 Simple linear regression

The nature of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia.

Table 4: 2**The nature of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia**

Model Summary^b

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.729 ^a	.531	.529	.23071	.531	217.535	1	192	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Poverty alleviation

b. Dependent Variable: **local government decentralization**

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	12.510	1	12.510	217.535	.000 ^b
	Residual	11.042	192	.058		
	Total	23.552	193			

a. Dependent Variable: Poverty alleviation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Local government decentralization

Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	1.999	.052		38.813	.000
Poverty alleviation	.262	.018	.729	14.749	.000

a. Dependent Variable:: Poverty alleviation

The result presented in table 4.4.1.1 revealed that nature of local government decentralization can explain up to 53. 1% variance in poverty alleviation (R Square = 0.531). This implies that Nature of local government decentralization affects Poverty alleviation by 53/1%. Furthermore, the study found that there is positive significant relationship between the nature of local government decentralization on poverty alleviation ($p=0.000$ than less than 0.05). Hence, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative that stating that nature of local government decentralization which is an aspect of poverty alleviation. Similarly, a study conducted by Jutting et al. (2004) show that Somalia has been grouped in those countries which registered negative impact of decentralization in which decentralization relatively brings little impact on poverty alleviation. This is true because the objective of decentralization (in the first wave) is to ensure political stability and preserve national unity than addressing issues of poverty. There is no clear pattern as to where decentralization has functioned better or worse at national or sub-national levels in Somalia (Mpuga, Paul, 2005).

Rather, many scholars seem to characterize Somalian decentralization as a “big brush” meaning identifying its achievements or failures from a national perspective. Hence, there is confusion whether local decentralization is in place at present or whether it is hindered by the current structure of politics in which the EPDRF regime has undertaken decentralization for partisan purpose. From the focus group discussions, one of the respondents said,

“The other important divergent is that there is a conflicting evidence on the extent of the expenditure autonomy of the local units of government. In one hand, the transferred revenues are granted to regional government in the form of block grants and on the other hand, there is a high dependence upon these funds for recurrent expenditures. In terms of

fiscal decentralization, there is devolution of tax authority as relative to the intergovernmental transfers. Again, here the paradox, Somalia is quite fiscally decentralized with high levels of government expenditures taking place at the sub-national level and intergovernmental transfers providing resources for this. However, the country's fiscal decentralization is limited by low levels of own-source revenue at sub-national levels; hence, they rely on the federal government"

4.4.2 The role of local government decentralization in Galmudug-Somalia.

Table 4: 3The role of local government decentralization in Galmudug-Somalia

Model Summary^b

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.694 ^a	.482	.479	.25205	.482	178.718	1	192	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), (role of local government decentralization)

b. Dependent Variable: (Poverty alleviation)

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	11.354	1	11.354	178.718	.000 ^b
	Residual	12.198	192	.064		
	Total	23.552	193			

a. Dependent Variable: (Poverty alleviation)

b. Predictors: (Constant), (role of local government decentralization)

Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	1.825	.069		26.465	.000
Poverty alleviation	.276	.021	.694	13.369	.000

a. Dependent Variable: poverty alleviation

The result displayed in the table 4.4.1.2 yield that Nature of local government decentralization can be explained up to 53. 1% variance in Poverty alleviation (R Square = 0.48.2). This indicates that local government decentralization leads to Poverty alleviation by 48.2%. Furthermore, the study's findings showed that there is positive significant effect of Local government decentralization on poverty alleviation ($p=0.000$ than less than 0.05). Hence, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative that assumed that Local government decentralization has a significant effect on poverty alleviation. For local government decentralization to have a positive impact on poverty alleviation, certain pre-conditions have to be fulfilled (World Bank, 2012).

According to World Development Report (2000), poverty may reduce when decentralization is set in such a way that; firstly, if it promotes the opportunities for the poor by providing access to employment, markets, financial services, social infrastructure and social services (education, health care, water, etc). From the FGDs one of the respondent said;

“It creates a favorable environment for the poor people to take part actively in policy and decision making process; and secondly, if it reduces to an extent, the vulnerability of the poor from economic shocks, natural disasters, ill health, disability, personal violence, etc”.

4.4.2 The relationship between decentralization of local government and poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia.

Table 4: 4The relationship between decentralization of local government and poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia

Model Summary^b

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.560 ^a	.314	.310	.29008	.314	87.898	1	192	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Local Government Decentralization

b. Dependent Variable: poverty alleviation

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	7.396	1	7.396	87.898	.000 ^b
	Residual	16.156	192	.084		
	Total	23.552	193			

a. Dependent Variable: Poverty Alleviation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Local Government Decentralization

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.236	.055		40.518	.000
	Local Government Decentralization	.184	.020	.560	9.375	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Poverty Alleviation

The result revealed in table 4.4.1.2 yield that Local government decentralization Building (or Third Places in the government of Somalias) create can be explained up to 31.4% variance in Poverty alleviation (R Square = 0.48.2). This indicates that Local government decentralization BuildingAffects Poverty alleviation by 32.4%. Furthermore, the study found that there is positive

significant effect of Local government decentralization on poverty alleviation ($p=0.00$ than less than 0.05). Hence, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative that assumed that Local government decentralization which is an aspect of local government decentralization contributes the poverty alleviation. From the analysis, the practical linkage between local government decentralization and poverty alleviation remains debatable among scholars. Some argued that decentralization can have a positive impact on poverty alleviation. To them, decentralization yields to efficiency enhancement. Centrally concentrated authorities usually lack the adequate time and necessary knowledge to implement policies and programmes that reflect the actual needs and preferences of the people (Ostrom et al., 1993). According to Musgrave (1989) and UN (2004), decentralization is a means to advance allocative efficiency if it is appropriately planned and managed. Moreover, Jutting et al. (2004), also explored that decentralization can bring improved governance via increasing accountability and examining of government officials, by boosting citizen's participation in politics and by discouraging opportunities for corrupt behavior. However, such a positive impact of decentralization on poverty alleviation is not inevitable. In other words, a simple existence of or a mere putting in place of decentralization does not have a role in assuring poverty alleviation efforts. Hence, an empirical study on the relationship between decentralization and poverty alleviation do not always show a positive correlation between the two. There are many instances of decentralization, which do not lead to poverty alleviation (Zee, Howell, 2012).

On the contrary, some others argued that, decentralization may sometimes exacerbate poverty and destabilize macroeconomic. At a time when the assignment of revenue resources granted to local government is meager and if the central government has unequal share of revenue, even if it undertakes transfers to the sub-national level, decentralization leads to inefficiency in public services and bring no positive impact on poverty alleviation. Unconstrained borrowing and unmanaged financial use of local government may destabilize macroeconomic stability. Inability of one region to repay indeed yields spillover effect on the other regions. Besides, in the absence of genuine decentralization but with deconcentrating, delegation could not empower local people to have say in their local affairs and hence, it has insignificant role in poverty alleviation efforts (Tanzi, 2012).

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 Introduction

This chapter five presents the findings, the conclusions as well as the recommendations of the study while they are based according to the objectives of the study as well as further research suggestion

5.1 Discussion of findings

The study was set to investigate the relationship between of local government decentralization on poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia, Galmudug-Somalia with three set objectives that were; 1) to determine the nature of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia, 2) to assess the role of local government decentralization in Galmudug-Somalia and 3) to establish the relationship between decentralization of local government and poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia

5.1.1 The nature of local government decentralization and poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia.

Data analysis using mean indicated that nature of local government decentralization was rated at low commitment for advancing nature of local government decentralization (mean= 2.758 as table 4.3.2 displayed). The result interpret that Galmudug-Somalia were less engagement to the poverty alleviation at the local government levels. Thus, poverty alleviation was seen to be low (mean= 2.779 Table 4.3.3). The less advanced of sharing visions lead less or low poverty alleviation. Furthermore, the finding of the study also attributed the effect of nature of local government decentralization on poverty alleviation by 53.4%.

According to Boyatzis (2015), a local government decentralization or dream has become a legitimate antecedent of lasting change. Though there exists lack of empirical work on the local government decentralization but is surprising that exists a long history in the literature of management and psychology (Cebula, Richard, 2012).

To analyze the nature of local government decentralization on poverty alleviation incidence, the study regressed poverty headcount index on the local government decentralization indicators one at time and other independent variables. In the first empirical specification, local government decentralization was captured by the share of intergovernmental transfers to county government, in the second, it was captured by the share of county own revenue and in the third, it was captured by the share of county expenditure in total government expenditure. The first, indicator of local government decentralization the share of intergovernmental transfers to sub-national government was used to capture the effects of central government grants to counties. The transfers are designed to play an equalizing role and to reduce differences in local government capacity across jurisdictions (OECD, 2009). However, they reduce the sub-national government policy autonomy (Conyers, 2010).

The second indicator the share of county own revenue in total county revenue captured the degree of autonomy and discretion of county governments in revenue and expenditure responsibilities, and finally the share of county expenditure in total government expenditure captured the spending responsibilities of county governments. The three local government decentralization indicators were used in this manner because no single indicator is able to adequately capture the real level of local government decentralization of a country (Sacchi&Salotti, 2011). In addition, the three dimensions of local government decentralization are implemented simultaneously in Galmudug-Somalia.

To account for the effects that other socio-economic factors might have on poverty the study included per capita income, total dependency ratio, fertility rate, education, household size, population density, access to improved water source, number of constituencies in a county and dummy for marginalized counties as control variables as derived from the literature review(Mpuga, Paul, 2005).

“It is worth noting that channeling donor support through NGO’s is not necessarily equivalent to strengthening civil society. Funding a service-delivery NGO in isolation from local government decentralisation is not promote dialogue, but rather competition and even confrontation between local authorities and civic groups. The challenge is to support civic actions at the local level while ensuring that their autonomous activities are linked, to the extent possible, with broader development processes and

institutional dynamics in a given territory. This has major implications for the future of NGO co-financing systems. The rationale for supporting initiatives stemming directly from civil organisations remains valid (especially in countries that do not pursue a serious decentralisation policy), yet ways need to be found to ensure that these activities are properly integrated in sectoral or local development plans”

5.1.2 The role of local government decentralization on poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia.

The study found that local government decentralization has a significant impact on poverty alleviation by 48.2% (R Square=0.482). The descriptive analysis of local government decentralization and poverty alleviation also confirmed the positive significant impact between these two variables. The mean of local government decentralization and Poverty alleviation both showed low rate (mean= 3.23; 2.779). This interprets the low involvement of the social leader in the local government decentralization also lead to low poverty alleviation or slow change. Hence, the significant effect of local government decentralization on poverty alleviation indicates their positive relationship. Of course, local government play an important role in any form of local government decentralization development because they are responsible for defining a local government decentralization orientation, listening to people's needs, making important decisions for the benefit of the local government decentralization, promoting equitable treatment of people, and of local government decentralization (Goetz, Anne Marie et al, 2017).

According to Ozar, N (2017), to help bring a local government decentralization to action, it is necessary for individuals and groups to provide good local government. When good local government is provided, the people participate voluntarily in the accomplishment of stated objectives. He stated also that many approaches to local government decentralization development is always through local government who not only act as pioneers of projects but also help in influencing and motivating their people to action. For any rural local government decentralization development to be successful, influential local government must be involved else they might undermine the progress of such program (Mpuga, 2005).

Anwar's (2012) study was limited to the "KattiGharhi" trade union council of Madran district. Local elected officials of the KattiGharhi Trade Union Council have fulfilled many functions. The results showed that local elected local government played an important role in various

activities for the local government decentralization. The most notable are the street pavements, the supply of drinking water, the cleaning of streets and canals, the public lighting, the technical training of the members of the local government decentralization , the establishment and the mobilization of the local government decentralization organizations, the coordination of the local government decentralization development agencies, social services; sanitation, local government decentralization clinic, adult education program, organization of hujjra rally, sporting events for members of the local government decentralization and some more others. In his study, the three aspects of poverty alleviation (education, sanitation and local government decentralization clinic) are found among the leader's roles at the local level; hence we understand their effect on each other (Emanuela; Ravallion, Martin, 2010).

“One of the respondent said raised the concern of public gathering places, however there are lack of current empirical studies that yields knowledge of their great relationship and their impact on each other”

5.1.3 The relationship between local government decentralization and poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia, Galmudug-Somalia.

Finding on local government decentralization buildings on poverty alleviation showed a positive significant effect by 431.2% (R Square=0.312). Data analysis of local government decentralization and poverty alleviation also confirmed the positive significant impact between these two variables. The mean of local government decentralization Building and Poverty alleviation both showed low rate (mean= 2.624; 2.779). This interprets the low commitment to improve public sphere that promote the social interaction among local government decentralization members. Similarly, this led to low poverty alleviation or slow change.

According to Tory Parish (2010), These local government decentralization buildings' benefit the communities in many ways including, not only limited to, rejuvenating the spirit, relieving stress, uniting the government of Somalia, promoting equality, providing neutral ground, fostering friendships, and playing host but promote to intellectual or political discussions. Hence, the emphasis of communities places for the government of Somalia to promote interaction of the members.

Cathryn Harris (2017) also noted that the kind of public gatherings such as libraries that promote the change of the quality's individual person as well as the poverty alleviation.

According to Putnam (2015), social interaction and the use of local government decentralization buildings builds communities, enables people to commit to each other and creates a social network, interact and discuss more about their common problems and this benefits the entire society as a whole. The findings from the FGD,

“Promoting stronger linkages between decentralization and poverty alleviation is a complex task. No donor agency is in a position to provide comprehensive and coherent support on its own. Their challenge is to share expertise and to strive towards a functional coordination and division of labour among themselves and with NGO's, based on the principle of comparative advantage”.

5.2 Conclusion

Based on the above findings, the study drawn the followings points: -

5.2.1 The nature of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia.

Nature of local government decentralization and poverty alleviation was both rated low and a positive significant effect in contributing to poverty alleviation of the Galmudug-Somalia. The implication is that nature of local government decentralization among local government decentralization members play a crucial role. And without clearer of common visualizations of the local government decentralization, change cannot take place Zee, Howell H. (2012).

A much stronger commitment from nature of local government decentralization - in terms of power-sharing and financial provision - will be required, if Somalia's rural poor are to experience the benefits which devolution, in theory, promises.

Local government decentralisation during the colonial period in Somalia was characterized by mere deconcentration of central administrative structure. It was a means which the colonial government employed to consolidate its control over the entire nation. There was no conscious effort at devolution of power and involvement of the rural people in the decision-making process. Post-independence governments have never deviated from the practice of central control

and use of local government for their political advantage. The respondents from the FGD affirms that;

“The review has shown that there has been a lack of real political commitment to decentralize and successive governments have 'subordinated administrative efficiency to political expediency as a means of consolidating their own power base”.

5.2.2 The role of local government decentralization on poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia.

It has been concluded that; local government decentralization must be critically and realistically designed and implemented; it is not, by itself, a panacea for the numerous socio-economic problems of low-income countries. The World Bank (1999/2000:107) maintains that the success of decentralization depends on its design 'but decentralization is often implemented haphazardly.

Given a voice, resources, awareness of government commitment to poverty alleviation, and transparency and responsiveness of Galmudug-Somalia to their felt needs, the rural poor could wage a relentless war against poverty under the governmental programs. The seriousness in their voices testifies to this, as a middle aged man at Galmudug-Somalia summed up:

"if they listen to us, provide us with inputs, support our economic activities in the village, and offer help in marketing our products, we could finance and build our own schools, clinics, good drinking water and maintain them better and we could live better lives".

5.2.3 The relationship between local government decentralization and poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia, Galmudug-Somalia.

Local government decentralization and poverty alleviation was both rated low and show a positive significant effect in contributing to poverty alleviation of the Galmudug-Somalia. This implies that good local government in the local government decentralization for a desired change.

Local government decentralization building and poverty alleviation were both rated low and a positive significant effect in contributing to poverty alleviation of the Galmudug-Somalia. As David Mathew noted, Third Places or Great Good Places are the core setting of informal public life of the local government decentralization and they provide a relaxed forum for citizens to

interact and discuss common issues. Thus, it promotes local government decentralization members to engage in to collective efforts of poverty alleviation.

The relationship between local government decentralization and poverty alleviation in Somalia context has divergent viewpoints. In spite of the fact that decentralization notably, the second waves of decentralization was aimed at alleviating poverty with the cumulative efforts of various stakeholders including the local government and population, at grass root level, they took the lion share of responsibility so as to ensure sustainable development. To realize these novel objectives, the government empowers lower echelons of government with adequate political and administrative power to plan, finance and evaluate local developmental activities. The practice that is now occurring however, is not as per the promise of decentralization.

Local government, especially district level governments are not in a position to formulate and implement anti-poverty policy because of multitudes of problems such as shortage of financial and technical skills, limited resources available, heavy hand intervention of upper tier of government (including regional and federal) over local affairs making them an implementing agents of upper government policy, lack of the culture of accountability, transparency and commitment of local officials to the electorate but for upper officials among others, many impediment factors exist at the local level.

In addition, alarming rate of population growth, limited scope of literacy (little know-how of technology) and sluggish growth of economic development with high rate of inflation accompanied by high degree of corruption at all levels, insignificant infrastructure development (although now it shows some improvement), etc. are also factors responsible for decentralization not bringing positive impact on poverty alleviation.

Some of the respondents summed up that;

“Consequently, whatever the poverty alleviation policy and strategies devised at national level, it could not help Somalia to rise from the poverty trap and hence, it remains one of the poorest country both in Africa and at world level. It is recommended that unless important policy, political measures and commitment are taken by the government as well as the people in Somalia as per the beliefs of the constitution in general and

decentralization in particular, there might not be meaningful development in all aspects and hence impracticable to reduce the widespread poverty of the country”

5.3 Recommendation

5.3.1 The nature of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia.

The study suggested that, the government of Somalia should develop collaborative network that bring together diverse people in the local government, including the young, middle-aged and elderly, minorities and the physical challenged people in partnership in order to improve their livelihood for the purpose of poverty alleviation.

Local government decentralization members should find out benefits of their extreme diversity. And a good leader is essential to promote fair treatment for all, regardless of their position or position.

And finally, to develop the most change promoter that is Vision and the effective follow-up strategies on goals, and plans for the advancement of the local government decentralization.

5.3.2 The role of local government decentralization on poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia.

The study recommended the government of Somalia's to critically elect local leader that enhance their collective interests of the local government decentralization, and that foresight the outcome of decisions and the actions towards poverty alleviation for the rest of the groups within the community. Good foresight means understanding the past and evaluating the present to produce a good future of poverty alleviation.

5.3.3 The relationship between local government decentralization and poverty alleviation in Galmudug-Somalia, Galmudug-Somalia.

The researcher recommended the Government to build the capacity of the local government decentralization members in the government of Somalia in order to achieve social transformation at local government decentralization -level.

5.5 Areas for further studies

The study looked only at the three Galmudug-Somalia.s with a small portion of the targeted population, with the ultimate aim to generalize, the findings may be challenging given the limited coverage. Future studies are suggested to cover a large portion of the residents in a given Galmudug-Somalia that enable the findings to be reliable.

Furthermore, the study suggested future researchers to undertake the followings are area:

- Nature of local government decentralization and poverty alleviation.
- Local government decentralization buildings and poverty alleviation.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: TRANSMITTAL LETTER

I am master candidate for masters of public administration, at Kampala International University, undertaking a thesis on “**Local Government Decentralization and Poverty Alleviation in: A Study of Selected Gal-Mudug State, Somalia**”. For this purpose, I request your participation in my study. Kindly answer this questionnaire without leaving any question behind unanswered. I assure that your provided information was treated with utmost confidentiality and will be purposely used for the academic reasons only.

Before you proceed to answer, please kindly read and sign the attached informant consent.

Thank you very much in advance.

Yours faithfully

.....

ABDINASIR ABDULLAHI FARAH

1163-06266-08008

APPENDIX II: INFORMANT CONSENT

I am giving my consent to be part of the research study of Abdinasir Abdullahi Farah on “Local Government Decentralization and Poverty Alleviation in: A Study of Selected Gal-Mudug State, Somalia” I have been assured of privacy, anonymity and confidentiality which matter for my personal safety and as well I was given an option to refuse participation and right to withdraw my participation at any time.

Besides, I have been informed that the research result was given to me if I ask for it

Initial

Date

APPENDIX III: QUESTIONNAIRE

Section A: General information

1. Results from Focus Group Discussion (FGD).

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| a) Local government officials | <input type="text"/> |
| b) Community/clan leaders | <input type="text"/> |
| c) Civil society organizations | <input type="text"/> |
| d) Women groups | <input type="text"/> |

2. GENDER

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|----------------------|
| a) Male | b) Female | <input type="text"/> |
|---------|-----------|----------------------|

3. AGE

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| a) 20-29 years | <input type="text"/> | c) 40-49 | <input type="text"/> |
| b) 30-31 years | <input type="text"/> | d) above years | <input type="text"/> |

4. EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|
| a) Diploma | <input type="text"/> | c) Masters | <input type="text"/> |
| b) Bachelor | <input type="text"/> | d) Above | <input type="text"/> |

SECTION B: THE NATURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECENTRALIZATION IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Instruction: please indicate to the extent you agree and disagree with each of the following statement about the factors contributing to poverty alleviation in your local government decentralization by ticking (✓) the appropriate number in each statement. Where 1= you strong disagree, 2= you disagree, 3= you agree and 4= you strong agree.

#	The nature of local government decentralization in poverty alleviation	1	2	3	4
A	Decentralization has political and economic dimensions through which the poor can benefit				
1	better economic status can also contribute to aalleviation in their vulnerability to shocks				
2	A more decentralised framework will facilitate the monitoring of programmes and projects				
3	decentralization has political and economic dimensions through which the poor can benefit				
4	Better economic status can also contribute to aalleviation in their vulnerability to shocks				

SECTION C: ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECENTRALIZATION

Instruction: please indicate to the extent you agree and disagree with each of the following statement about role of local government decentralization in your local government decentralization by ticking (√) the appropriate number in each statement. Where 1= you strong disagree, 2= you disagree, 3= you agree and 4= you strong agree.

#	ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECENTRALIZATION	1	2	3	4
1.	Improve the quality of decisions/decision-making				
2.	There is facilitation and diversification of activities				
3.	encourages development of managerial personnel				
4.	There is improves motivation of social services				
5.	Makes decision-making quicker and better				
6.	Provides opportunity to learn by doing				

**SECTION: D RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DECENTRALIZATION OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AND POVERTY**

#	RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DECENTRALIZATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND POVERTY	1	2	3	4
	Poverty is closely linked to political factors such as access to power and resources and the accountable and transparent management of local affairs.				
	A genuine devolution of resources and authority can create openings for local communities. Thus, a democratically controlled local governance system is a precondition for poverty alleviation.				
	An efficient local government can play a useful role as a catalyst and coordinator of bottom-up development initiatives.				
	A process of decentralization that best serves poverty alleviation is one that combines the strategies of political empowerment, resource mobilisation and enhanced service delivery.				
	The degree of responsiveness to the poor and the extent to which decentralization impacts on poverty are largely dependent on the relationship between central and local governments and the commitment of the central government to poverty alleviation.				
	Removing social barriers and building social institutions for poverty alleviation can only be addressed if government has the political commitment to pursue decentralization irrespective of its political and technical risks and trade offs.				

SECTION: E THE CHALLENGES AGAINST LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

#	THE CHALLENGES AGAINST LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION	1	2	3	4
	Earmarked funds reduce the flexibility of the local level to respond to the demands of the local government decentralization				
	Local government transfers from the centre often require excessive reporting from lower to central government levels, at the expense of local authorities' accountability to their own local government decentralization				
	Clear roles and responsibilities are often lacking, as is capacity at the different levels of government, making it difficult for an effective transfer of responsibilities and resources				
	Channelling resources through central ministries strengthens their control over the entire sector				
	The lack of incentives for the centre to involve lower levels of government or civil society reinforces top-down planning and budgeting and reduces the influence of local governments in the formulation of sector strategies.				
	Earmarked funds reduce the flexibility of the local level to respond to the demands of the local government decentralization				

Appendix II:
Interview question from Focus Group Discussion

Exit interview questionnaire

This interview seeks to understand the performance of personnel at health units. Help me by telling me how you liked your visit today to this health center by answering the questions below. Be informed that the information you give will be strictly for research purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Please circle the number preceding the right answer for closed questions below.

Focus Group Discussion guide (For adult women 20yrs++, female youth 10-19yrs, male youth 10-19yrs, adult men 20yrs++ and community leaders)

This interview seeks to obtain information on the above very important topic of national importance. You have been purposively chosen as a respondent because you fall within the group of possible consumers of poverty alleviation and the information you could possibly have regarding the said topic. Be informed that the information you give will be strictly for research purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Date:(dd mm yyyy)	Group:
Moderator:.....	Recorder:
Names of participants	Venue of discussion
Start time	End time

Q1. What do you understand by the term local government decentralization? (Especially in provision of poverty alleviation.) Q2. Which is the nearest health unit to this area?

Q3. What is the distance to the nearest the local government?

Q4. Are there qualified staff, equipment, supplies and workspace at the above health unit?

Q5. When you visit the health unit, does the health care provider handle your complaints in a polite manner?

Q6. Are you satisfied with the way you are treated? (Probe for:

In what ways are you satisfied?

In what ways are you dissatisfied?

Q10. Would you like to tell us more information about performance of health workers in the health unit? _____.

Thank you.