



ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES (LGAS) IN PROMOTING LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE DELIVERY TO LOCAL COMMUNITY IN TANZANIA

Rugeiyamu, R., Shayo, A., Mohamed, B and Kashonda, E.

Local Government Training Institute, P.O Box 1125, Dodoma-Tanzania.

Authors correspondence: E-mail: rogerruge@gmail.com

Abstract: Local Government Authorities (LGAs) possess traditional roles of securing a stable business and service delivery environment at the community level. Despite the aforesaid roles to be known, but still the actual contribution to local economic development (LED) remain inconclusive in Tanzania. This paper aims to explore the role of Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in promoting local economic development and service delivery to local community in Tanzania. The study is built along Community Economic Development Support Approach proposed by Rugeiyamu, Shayo, Kashonda and Mohamed (2019) to be used in measuring the role of Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in promoting local economic development at the community level. The approach provides an outstanding guideline to LGAs to where to focus in order to become active in playing their role. The study uses documentary review including reports, books, articles and newspapers in data collection. The collected data were analysed through content analysis. The findings revealed that, LGAs are in a good move towards playing its role by striking their efforts in business empowerment support including provision of soft loans, business infrastructure and local investment support. Also, LGAs makes progress in social service support through ensuring supply of water, electricity and schools that trigger economic development and service delivery facilitation. Some challenges towards playing full role were also identified including weaknesses in soft loans provision and lack of provision of entrepreneurial skills. The study urge LGAs to put efforts towards solving challenges identified like addressing non-performing loans, completing business infrastructure and become innovative towards service delivery and liberating local community economically.

Keywords: *Economic development, Local community, LGAs, Service delivery.*



1.0 Introduction.

Local Government Authorities (LGAs) are established under the constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977 Articles 145 and 146. The purpose of LGAs is to transfer authority to the people, power to participate and involve them in the planning and implementation of development programs within their respective areas. LGAs in Tanzania have the functions of social development and public service delivery, facilitation of maintenance of law and order and promotion of local development under participatory process. They are administered through local councils responsible for overseeing local government activities (Rugeiyamu *et al.*, 2018).

It can be said that, the current political and economic reforms and the renewed interest in decentralization policies and its implementation provide local governments with increased opportunities to become actively involved in local economic development (Ofori, 2011). The involvement of local governments in local economic development in recent times has been a major issue of discussion and specifically in Tanzania (PORALG, 2019). Local economic development (LED) is anticipated to be a gear towards liberating the community economically and improving the service delivery at the local level. Local economic development can be defined as a positive social, economic and political change in a community (Deyana, 2006). In this aspect, it is regarded as a process in which community members maximize their potentials and institutional capacities to mobilize and manage resources to produce sustainable and justly distributed improvements in their quality of life consistent with their own aspirations (Deyana, 2006). The local economic development promotes increased opportunities for better economic performance and sustained community livelihoods. It empowers the poor, strengthens their participation in the local capital life and decision making, reduces poverty and fosters economic growth. This is the role that the LGAs are supposed to play to the local community to achieve economic development (PORALG, 2019).

Local economic development is supposed to be participative. It is in most cases based on the partnerships between local authorities and community members, private sector and civil society to promote economic development. This study focuses on the partnerships between LGAs and local community members in fostering their economic development and particularly on the role played by the LGAs in liberating people economically and efforts put towards the service delivery to the community at the local level (The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2014).



There are several reasons why LGAs matter in the process of economic development at the local level. One of the reasons their traditional roles of securing a stable environment in which business can flourish at the community level. LGAs are responsible for physical infrastructure such as roads, water supply, electrical supply, soft loans, and education and transportation services. The other reason is due to the fact that, LGAs provide leadership in the economic development to their jurisdictions. As public institutions closest to people, they are the most appropriate agencies to convene all of the local economy stakeholders including community groups and other community members. They are the best initiators, catalysts, and drivers of processes that engage the stakeholders in visioning the future, designing strategies, empowerment and implementing economic development initiatives (The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2014).

From the foregoing, it is clear now that LGAs are to take a lead in liberating community members economically and ensuring service delivery at the local level. Despite the fact that LGAs possess traditional roles of securing a stable business environment but still the actual contribution to local economic development remain inconclusive in Tanzania. This study, uses the Community Economic Development Support Approach to explore the role of LGAs in promoting economic development and service delivery to the local community in Tanzania mainland in which up to 2019 there were 185 LGAs (PORALG, 2019). The study using a new proposed community economic development support approach aimed at examining the economic empowerment role of LGAs to the local community in Tanzania and identifying the social services support of LGAs to the local community in Tanzania as strategies of promoting local economic development.

2.0 Literature review on the role of LGAS in promoting led and service delivery

LGAs has to play a significant role to achieve a full local economic development to the local community in Tanzania. The following empirical studies shows what they have been doing so far and the issues they have been facing towards achieving local economic development and service delivery as below.

Mgigi, (2013) citing Kigoma and Coastal regions as a case study revealed that LED strategy was introduced in 2009 under partnership modalities between the governments of Tanzania and Belgium under Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC). The later provided technical and financial



support while District Councils in the said regions being the project implementers. The District Councils implementing the Project were selected due to high incidences of poverty among the communities in Kigoma and Coast regions. These include Kibondo, Kigoma Ujiji and Kigoma District in Kigoma region. For Coastal region the selected district includes Rufiji, Mafia and Mkuranga. The strategy through capacity building and awareness creation has been having good progress, it is confronted by challenges including; inexistence of effective institutional arrangements for partnership in service delivery to the communities, minimal competencies (both by the service providers and consequently the community) on the processes for establishment and utilizing projects as facilities and opportunities for establishing enterprises that can create employment while managing production resources in a sustainable manner, service provisions to communities that mostly are supply driven, uncoordinated with minimal team work (even within the district council extension system), and stand alone, competitive and parallel between the public and civil society organizations/private sector.

Yatta (2015) provides that in Tanzania 36% of the local economic development projects integrate an economic governance dimension (capacity building of the local actors, the institutional development of local governments and the establishment of platforms for dialogue between the various actors in LED including community members and central government). 32% of the LED projects focus on locality development which involves mainly infrastructural development, natural resources management, housing and hygiene etc. Livelihoods development is found in only 23% of the projects (support to marginalised groups and assisting communities in managing natural resources) and enterprise development is treated only by 9% of the LED projects. Most of these projects are implemented by and in collaboration with the LGAs. Considering the pace of LED in Tanzania, the revealed data are promising towards achievement though requiring grater efforts by the LGAs specifically in supporting the marginalized groups to attain economic development and improve service delivery to the local community.

President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG) (2018) in its best practice hand book, several examples were cited as efforts by councils as efforts towards achieving local economic development. One of the cited example is that of Missenyi district council initiative about producers' empowerment, market linkage and rural financing in Kilimilile and Mushasha wards to liberate people economically. Before the implementation of



this initiative, people of Kilimilile and Mushasha wards experienced poverty and vicious development circle due to lack of formal, reliable, credible and coordinated markets of various farm and handcraft products. The council initiative aimed at achieving producers' empowerment, market linkage and rural financing ultimately leading to poverty reduction and economic empowerment. To implement this, the council in collaboration with Market Infrastructure Value Addition and Rural Financing (MIVRAF) and GEODATA Consultant Limited created farmers' groups, conducted training, linked farmers with micro-finance institutions, assisted farmers in preparation of simplified business plans and marketing strategies and organized groups for collective marketing. The implementation of this initiative led to increased production and guaranteed food security, introduced reliable markets, increased individual and group incomes and linked farmers with financial institutions (PORALG, 2018).

Another notable example by PORALG (2018) is that of Ukerewe District council local economic initiative on cassava production and value addition. The initiative was implemented after realizing decrease in production of cassava caused by infertility of soil, occurrence of cassava diseases, poor processing techniques, poor markets and food insecurity. The council aimed at improving livelihoods of farmers through income generation and increased food security at household level by supporting value chain and addressing major production, processing and marketing bottlenecks. The council in collaboration with stakeholders carried research to identify best cassava varieties, promote and organize farmers into groups for easy production, processing and marketing. The initiative resulted into increased production and processing of quality cassava products, expansion of cassava markets and increased incomes and food security.

Arguably, the above revealed examples by PORALG (2018) are good towards achieving full local community economic empowerment. However, the challenge to be focused by the LGAs is to ensure the continuation of such efforts and ensuring that all of the communities are reached by the assistance. This will ensure that there is equal balance in terms of economic development to the local people.

Dijk, (2019) citing Mbulu and Karatu districts in Manyara region revealed that, in the process of ensuring economic development and service delivery, LGAs at the village level, leaving aside three standing committees; the committee for finance and planning of economic affairs, the



social committee and the security committee there were committees overseeing delivery of specific services, like primary and secondary education, rural health care and drinking water. While the committees overseeing delivery of such services were independent, reporting on their functioning made up part of the local government reporting structure. Further, there were committees that carried out specific economic functions. These included those operating the *mnaada* (monthly market), cattle dipping, and the irrigation system and tree nursery. Committees sometimes organised joint input supply as well, like *mbegu bora* (a programme to introduce improved agricultural practices and inputs), and joint production, for example, in beekeeping and honey production. On matters of socio-economic infrastructure, such as roads, agricultural storage facilities (godowns), irrigation canals, cattle dipping, schools, health dispensaries and water supply, quality depended largely on leaders' vocational and technical capacities and insight, for example, in veterinary service supply, agricultural extension and raising tree seedlings. It was revealed that, capacity was significant for economic related committees. Capacity was also required in governance of social services, for example, in parent-teacher associations, village water committees or water boards and rural health centre boards.

2.1 Review of community support approaches

These are approaches that channel assistance, including funding and capacity building to communities in order to increase economic empowerment, improve responsiveness to citizens' demands and priorities, accelerate service delivery, and improve the quality of life of poor, marginalized social groups and households targeted by support to communities. It is the community driven development approaches which treats individuals and community groups as assets and partners in the development processes. Individuals and community groups work in partnership with Local Government Authorities (LGAs) to fasten development (Dongieret *al.*, 2003). In the context of Improved Opportunities and Obstacles to Development approach, community support (empowerment) entails the process of strengthening organizational capability of communities in development which enables them to identify challenges and potentials, proactively unite and collectively tackle challenges as community development initiatives through support and empowerment by the LGAs (PORALG, 2019).

Community support approaches are employed to meet complex interrelated social and economic development needs at the local level, for which the functional specialization of public sector



organizations impedes an effective response. The LGAs linked to particular disadvantaged groups such as ethnic minorities, residents of remote regions, and women or youth often employ community support methods to promote economic development (Binswanger *et al.*, 2003). Community support approaches have evolved considerably in recent years. Many have increased the decision making role of communities in allocating and managing resources. Some have enhanced upstream links to sectoral systems by promoting policies and procedures that explicitly acknowledge community roles. Others have introduced local governments into their management systems as intermediaries between community organizations and central government agencies (PORALG, 2019).

Proponent of community support approaches centers their ideas on participatory processes and capacity building specifically in social and economic capital. In this aspect, it is contended LGAs to provide resources and technical assistance at the community level to enable people to organize and to address their needs. Community support approaches also promises to improve the performance of local governments through enabling communities to better economic development. Moreover, Community support programs can build community capacity through collective problem solving and collective action, supported by externally provided incentives, material inputs, and technical assistance for the aim of advancing the economic level development and service delivery (World Bank, 2004).

The World Bank (2004) on local development discussion paper, demonstrate the following assumptions about these approaches. Firstly, through providing support, including financial resources and training directly to communities, also community support approaches empower people by enhancing opportunities for choice and voice. The approaches provide purchasing power to people without access to other resources that influences public decision making as well as capabilities to resolve problems. Resource transfers to community organizations can also stimulate participation in collective decision making, economic development and accountability processes at the community level.

Again, community support approaches is the supply of resources to community-based organizations and voluntary associations in order to finance or co-finance service provision. In order to link resource allocation to national policy priorities and to local demand, direct



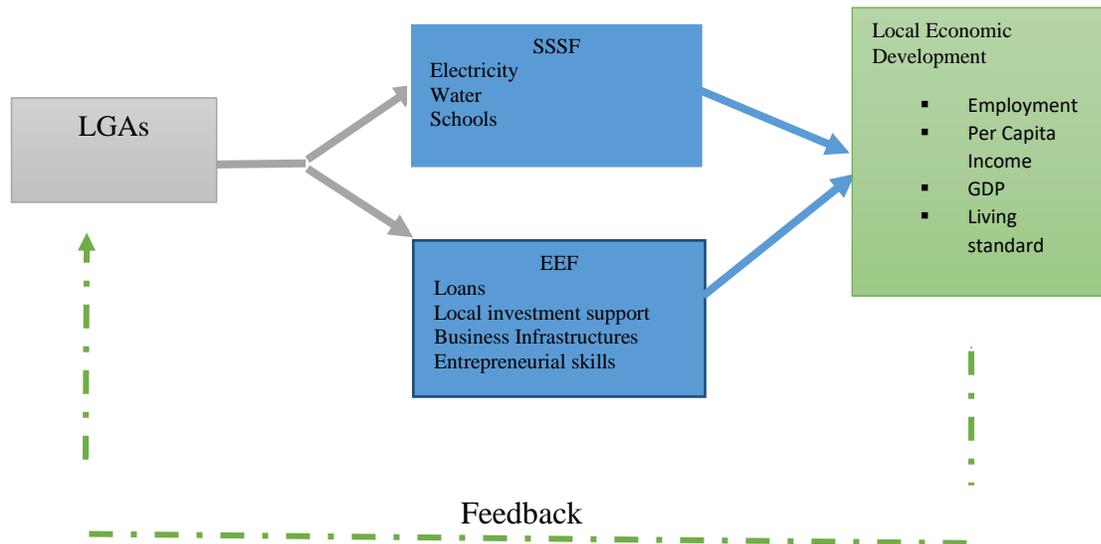
community support programs typically define detailed rules for budgeting, targeting, and appraisal of proposals for community investments. Considerable effort goes into detailing strategic options and operational procedures for resource allocation and management (area-based planning and allocation or first-come first-served project financing, need-based or demand-based appraisal criteria, level and type of community contributions, financial reporting requirements).

Also, Community support approaches typically employ dedicated organizations (often social funds) and individuals to support participating community organizations, either directly or via local government intermediation, to ensure compliance with procedures of resource allocation. Moreover, community support approaches often involve communities in producing or coproducing facilities and services. To participate effectively, community members may need to improve their practical skills and knowledge and their organizational skills for solving the problems that motivate community collective action: whether to maintain a water pump, oversee a primary school, sustainably harvest fisheries and forest resources, or build a bridge on a track linking a village to a feeder road. Enhancing these capacities is thus another feature of direct community support approaches.

At this juncture, the study develops and proposes one of the community support approach called “**Community Economic Development Support Approach**” to be used as a base of the study in exploring the role of LGAs in promoting local economic development and service delivery at the local community level. The approach demonstrates that, the LGAs need to empower individuals and community groups at the local level to achieve economic development through two categories of factors. One of the categories is named Economic Empowerment Factors (EEF) including entrepreneurial skills (education), loans, supporting local investment and business infrastructure for the aim of promoting economic development. The other category is Social Services Support Factors (SSSF) which entails local government to ensure the provision and support of important social services including electricity, water and schools which can trigger economic development. The approach demonstrates that when these factors are ensured by LGAs, it will be in a position of empowering community development economically as provided in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Community Economic Development Support Approach



Source: Authors (2019)

In this aspect, this approach was employed to explore the role of LGAs in promoting economic development and social service delivery.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Study Approach

The study uses the Community Economic Development Support Approach to explore the LGAs mentioned role. This is an approach proposed by Rugeiyamu, Shayo, Kashonda and Mohamed to study the role of LGAs in promoting economic development and service delivery to local community. The approach belongs to the family of Community Support Approaches which focuses on the funding, capacity building, investments and increase empowerment to the local communities thereby fostering economic development (Clay and Jones, 2009).

3.2 Data collection methods and Analysis

3.2.2 Data collection methods

The study through documentary review, documents including the Controller and Auditor General Report for the financial year 2018/2019, the Bank of Tanzania report (2018), Newspapers' of The Citizen, The Guardian and Daily news, and guidelines including Guideline for Improved Opportunities and Obstacles to Development (O and OD) (2019) were reviewed to explore the role of LGAS in promoting economic development and service delivery to the local community. The reason for using this method was to ensure that the study access the information covering all



of LGAs on the role being discussed.

3.3 Data Analysis

The collected data were analysed through content analysis in which information belonging to the same themes are classified and summarized in to the same category. Content analysis is a research method used to determine the presence of certain words, themes, or concepts within some given qualitative data. In content analysis, researchers can then make inferences about the messages within the texts, the writer(s), the audience, and even the culture and time of surrounding the text (Elo *et al.*, 2014). The analysis method was preferred due to its power of allowing researchers to get detailed data from different documents and classify them to get the desired information and at some point developing arguments and making inferences.

4.0 Findings and Discussion

4.1 Economic Empowerment Factors (EEF)

These are factors expected to be supported by LGAs to empower individuals and community groups to trigger economic development at the local community level. They include loans provision, local investment support, business infrastructures and entrepreneurial skills provision. These factors were tested to measure the role of LGAs in promoting economic development and service delivery and their results are presented below:

4.2 Provision of Loans

The approach insists on the provision of loans by the LGAs to the community for the aim of boosting the economic development at the community level. The results revealed that, LGAs are providing soft loans to community groups. For instance, on the aspect of youth and women, LGAS in Tanzania under Women and Youths Development Fund Guideline and Directives issued by the Government, each LGA is required to contribute 10 percent of its own source of revenue to women and youths revolving fund for the aim of enabling women and youths to access loan and engage themselves in various economic activities (Mmari and Katera, 2018).

The result of the study revealed that, LGAs are trying to contribute 10 percent of their own sources for women and youth development fund. Table 1 which has been extracted from the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report of LGAs for 2017/2018 shows data for LGAs with outstanding contributions to women and youth from 2014/2015 to 2017/2018. In this aspect, it can be argued that, this is a good move for LGAs towards playing its role on the economic



development of community groups especially women and youth as they have been able to use loans to engage in entrepreneurial activities to raise their income, living standards and contributing to the GDP.

Table 1. Outstanding Contributions to Women and Youths

Year	No of LGAs tested	Outstanding (10%)Amounts (TZS)
2017/2018	142	40,377,882,284
2016/2017	143	53,222,719,138
2015/2016	151	28,521,878,199
2014/2015	112	17,690,754,651

Source: CAG General report of LGAs for 2017/2018 (2019, pp. 66)

However, The CAG General report of LGAs for 2017/2018 revealed some weaknesses of LGAs on the aspect of contributing 10 percent to the development of women and youth. The CAG after assessing the implementation of women and Youth development fund directives, it was found that, 143 LGAs did not contribute 10 percent of their own source revenue to the women and youth development fund aggregating to TZS 40, 377,882, 284. In this aspect, it can be argued that, the issue of LGAs not contributing 10 percent of own sources to the women and youth development fund so that they can access soft loans, retards the efforts towards liberating community groups economically.

Also the CAG General report of LGAs for 2017/2018 revealed that, in ninety (90) LGAs, the loans issued to women and youth were not recovered. It was revealed that, loans were not recovered due to ineffective control over loans' management. It was revealed that, out of TZS 17,009,608,283 loaned, only TZS 6,965,154,627 were recovered leaving a balance of TZS 10,044,453,656 equivalent to 59 percent. Table 2 as extracted from CAG General Report of LGAs for 2017/2018 shows the trend of unrecoverable women and youth loans for four consecutive years.



Table 2. Trend of Unrecoverable Women and Youth Loans for Four Consecutive Years

Financial Year	No. of Councils tested	Unrecovered Amount (TZS)	Percent (%)
2017/2018	90	10,044,453,656	59
2016/2017	84	5,809,326,477	63
2015/2016	76	4,746,008,627	50
2014/2015	52	2,003,235,125	21

Source: CAG General report of LGAs for 2017/2018 (2019, pp. 67)

Debatably, the non-recovery loans may lead to the failure of the fund intentions of liberating community groups economically. The study is of the view that, the fund has good intentions of improving the economic performance of community groups. However, proper management of these funds from LGAs need to insisted to ensure that they can help individuals at the community level to develop economically as they will be able to use the provided funds to open new business.

4.3 Local Investment Support

The approach urge for LGAs to support individuals and community groups on investment. This includes creating conducive environment for community members to invest for instance in agriculture and small factories that can help to boost their economy. It can also involve providing support through grants or land to groups, a thing that can catalyse economic development. In assessing the implementation of this factor to the LGAs, the study revealed that, the government through LGAs has set aside the total of 200,000 acres of land for youth to practice commercial farming. This was revealed by the Deputy Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities in 2018 on the two-day workshop on market linkages in Dodoma, organized by Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO). The Deputy Minister revealed that, the government have been insisting each municipality (LGAs) to have special places where youth can engage in economic activities and be given land to cultivate cash crops (The Guardian, 2018).

Arguably, the move of LGAs to set aside land for youth to engage in cultivation of cash crops is essential for economic development of youths and community at large as it raises the living standards and income. This is due to the fact that, youths in their groups will be able to cultivate cash crops that when sold will help them to invest to other areas like factories, a move which will



boost their economic development and the country at large. However, the study demonstrate that, LGAs should ensure flexibility in the provision of land to youths in a sense that youths will be motivated to invest instead of complicating the process a thing which can retard the morale of youths to engage in Agriculture.

4.4 Business Infrastructure

The business infrastructures entail the basic facilities, structures and services including transportation, water, electricity and markets. It is argued that, these infrastructures trigger the economic development. In this aspect, the approach contends that, LGAs need to ensure that such infrastructures are accessed by the local community for the aim of boosting their economy. The study revealed that, the LGAs have been playing a role in the construction of infrastructures to fasten the economic development of people at the local level. On the side of markets, it was revealed that LGAs have been operating and establishing new markets such as the ongoing construction of modern commercial market at Namtumbo District Council and construction of Luganga market at Kilolo District Council (DC). Also, there is the ongoing construction of Bus stand in Iringa DC among other infrastructure projects. (CAG General Report of LGAs for 2017/2018). It is argued that, when these and the like projects will be completed, it will boost the economic development of the local community as individuals will get a chance to establish business in the completed markets and also some can be employed or self-employed in the being of constructed bus stand. This will boost the economic development of the local community. Again, it is a good move towards service delivery because community members will get access to bus stand service and market services in which they will be able to purchase home utilities.

On the aspect of infrastructure for transportation, the study revealed that, LGAs are in a good position towards improving the transportation infrastructure. This is due to the government establishment of Tanzania Rural-Urban Road Agency (TARURA) to be used in addressing the rural and urban road challenges. TARURA operating under the Ministry in the President Office Regional Administration and Local Government was established and announced in the Government Gazette No. 211 of June 2017 to trigger the roads construction and renovations in the LGAs (The Citizen, 2017).

In responding to the challenge of roads in the LGAs, TARURA has started the initiatives to safeguard the rural roads. For instance, The Citizen (2018) reported that, TARURA officials



made a visit to seven district councils of Singida region with the aim of mobilizing groups to safeguard rural roads so that they can last long and reminding executive of TARURA in the councils to make proper supervision of road funds and focus on keeping the constructed roads passable for long time (The Citizen, 2018).

In connection to that, The Citizen (2018) reported TARURA to spend Tsh1.08 billion for infrastructure projects in Mbozi DC in Songwe region. It was revealed that, the money will include the construction of nine roads, 10 bridges and 18 culverts. Again, revealed that, the TARURA manager in Mbozi District identified that roads to be upgraded with their lengths in brackets include Tacri-Ilembo (2km), Ukinga-CCM (1.5km), Ilasi-Iloilo Secondary (2km), Lutheran- Sifika (1.3km), Iloilo-Ndolezi (2km) and Ihanda-Gharani (600km) (The Citizen, 2018).

Moreover, The Guardian (2019) reported that, the Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government revealed that, the Government has set aside additional budget of 33bn for TARURA to enable implementation of its projects across the country. The minister revealed that, this was made due to the fact that members of the parliament were complaining that roads in the constituencies were not constructed and therefore, TARURA is expected to construct more tarmac roads as the agency budget have been increased to 496.5bn/ from previous 463.5bnl.

Based on the above provided examples, it is demonstrated that through TARURA, LGAs will be able to boost the road construction which will improve movement of good and people. It will necessitate persons at the community level to start new business as the roads will be sufficient. Also, it will necessitate the service delivery as individuals will be able to use the constructed roads to engage in service oriented businesses. However, the effectiveness of TARURA depends on the ability of the government, LGAs and development partners to fund and support the construction of roads and the ethical upholding by the agency personnel.

4.5 Entrepreneurial Skills

This approach insist on LGAs to provide and to ensure that people at the community level are informed of the essential skills of entrepreneurship so that they can be innovative in establishing new businesses to boost their economy. In this aspect, it can be demonstrated that despite the fact that, the LGAs have the role to play to ensure individuals and community groups are equipped



with such skills, still they depend much on the Non- Governmental Organizations(NGOs) to play the role. The Guardian (2019) reported that SUGECO teaming up with United Nations' Food and Agriculture organization (FAO) to provide training on agribusiness skills to entrepreneurs from Morogoro, Singida, Coast and Dodoma regions. It was revealed that trainees were to be informed of theory and practice on drip system installation, fertilizer application, soil preparation techniques, seed sowing, value addition and business acquisition skills. It also intended that the training to incorporate the government's Agriculture Strategy 2016-2020 and the broader Agriculture Sector Development Program and country's Vision 2025 (The Guardian, 2019).

Due to this, significant efforts need to be made by LGAs to ensure that training to a large extent is accessed by community groups so that they can fasten the increase of entrepreneurs to boost the economic development. They should not depend only on NGOs rather to have self-initiatives to ensure skills are imparted to community members. Collaboration can be a good thing towards achieving this factor as Missenyi district did at collaborated with Market Infrastructure Value Addition and Rural Financing (MIVRAF) and GEODATA Consultant Limited to provide training to citizens and ensure market linkages.

4.6 Social Service Support Factors (SSSF)

These are factors that are expected to be supported and provided by the LGAs to ensure service delivery but with significant effects to economic development. They include electricity, water and schools. These factors were tested to find out the role of LGAs in promoting economic development and service delivery and there results are as presented below.

4.5 Provision and Support of Electrical Supply

Under this factor, it is expected LGAs to support and ensure the supply of electricity to community members and groups as part of electrical service delivery. Also, the supplied electricity used to boost economic development of the community members by using the service to engage in business activities that will improve their economy including opening haircut shops, charging the mobile phones services, shops, welding, and furniture's. The study found the existence of Rural Energy Agency (REA) established under the Act. No. 8 of 2005 as the autonomous under the Ministry of Energy and Minerals to promote and facilitate access to modern energy services in the rural areas of mainland Tanzania. REA activities are implemented under the Rural Energy Fund which provides capital subsidies for the development of rural



energy projects. REA is supposed to work closely with LGAs to ensure the sufficiency of its activities. The central government through the parent ministry where REA emanates, need to work closely and support LGAs in ensuring the electrical supply to the rural areas (Rural Energy Agency Report, 2015).

REA have proved to have success by ensuring the supply of electricity to the rural areas. For instance in its report for the financial year ended in June, 2015, it was revealed that, their Turnkey phase II project covering all regions of Mainland Tanzania involving supply and installation of six (6) step up substations (11/33kV) in isolated thermal power stations of Kasulu, Kibondo, Kigoma, Mbinga, Ngara and Tunduru; medium and low voltage lines; distribution transformers and connection to customers. Further, the projects covered electrification of 13 un-electrified District Headquarters of Buhigwe, Busega, Chemba, Itilima, Kakonko, Kalambo, Kyerwa, Mkalama, Mlele, Momba, Nyasa, Nanyumbu and Uvinza and as of June, 2015 the overall project completion stood at 66% (Rural Energy Agency Report, 2015).

Again, The Citizen (2017) reported that, a total of 3,753,615 households in mainland Tanzania are electrified with any form of electricity out of 11,454,818. This is equivalent to 32.8% of all households of mainland Tanzania and it's an increase from 18% of all households connected to electricity in 2011/2012. It was again reported by REA that urban areas have access to electricity by 65.3% compared to rural areas by 16.3%.

The electrical supply has been contributing to the GDP of the country. For instance, Bank of Tanzania (BOT) in its annual report for the financial year 2017/2018 reported the growth of the GDP to 7.1 percent for the year 2017 compared to 7.0 percent of 2016 and one of the factors that had great contribution was power supply. This shows that, even the power supply in the rural areas through REA probably have great contribution to the Tanzania GDP (BOT, 2018).

Here, it can be demonstrated that, as people in the rural areas have access to electricity they are able to use electricity to generate income by engaging in shaving shops, welding, charging mobile phones services among others. This is very significant towards the economic development, electrical service delivery and has been improving of the living standards of local community.



In this aspect, it can be demonstrated that, Tanzania in general is on a good move towards electrification of households. However, as REA is implementing the electrification projects, it requires supports from LGAs especially in identifying areas to be supplied with electric power, electrification awareness to local community people and ensuring the electricity facilities are maintained properly.

4.6 Water Supply Support

This factor entails the LGAs to ensure the supply of water at the community level to enable individuals and community groups to access water to be used as service and for economic development. On the aspect of economic development, it gives the opportunity for some individuals to generate income by helping others to access water for those away from the water source. Also, it can be used by community groups for various economic activities such as bricks making and irrigation activities.

The result of the findings revealed LGAs to have efforts towards the supply of water at the community level which is debated by the study a good thing towards liberating the community economically. The CAG General report of LGAs for the financial year 2017/2018 reported ongoing water projects including construction of water project scheme in Iringa DC and water projects in Mtwara DC. The study anticipates that, when these new water projects will be implemented effectively, LGAs will be in a good position to play its role on economic development where people will be able to use water for economic development such as engaging in irrigation or bricks making related business hence improving the income of local community.

Moreover, the government has established the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) responsible for construction of dams and deep water wells in the villages. The agency is established under Water Supply and Sanitation Act No.5 of 2019 which is expected that, it will address water problems in the rural areas. The agency will help in the extended water access in the rural areas which will help people at the community level to use water supplied for business activities. The study contends that, the agency needs to work closely with the LGAs in order to identify the water need and ensuring security of the new made water infrastructures (The Guardian, 2019). If the agency works collaboratively with LGAs, it will be able to help villages to create the irrigation canals as done in Mbulu and Karatu districts as revealed by Dijk



(2019). This will improve the agricultural system and water supply hence the local community generating income, raising living standards and contributing to the GDP of a country.

4.7 Schools Service

Schools are one of the education facilities when accessed by people; they can be able to learn and improve skills that can help to boost the economy through employment. Since 2008, the administration of primary and secondary education were transferred to former Prime Minister Office Regional Administration and Local Government currently re-named as Ministry in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (URT, 2011). In this aspect, LGAs assumed the role of administration of education in their localities by ensuring the availability of schools, teachers and other relevant facilities to enable Tanzanians access education easily.

So far, the progress of school construction in the LGAs is impressive whereby currently almost each ward has one primary and one secondary school. The LGAs have been putting efforts towards easier access to primary and secondary education. The Tanzania's Standard Newspapers (2019) reported Serengeti District Council had opened nine new public secondary schools for the aim of easing learning and reducing congestion of students in classes in the schools. It was reported that, the District Council have been spending part of its revenue to invest on the construction of secondary school's facilities. The newly constructed schools in this district include Makundusi, Robanda, Mara Somacho, Maji Moto, Sedeko and Kyambahi. Citing Serengeti District council, LGAs are showing efforts towards the construction and maintenance of the schools so that students can have a chance to learn and improve their knowledge in sufficient environment. Again, this have increased the employment opportunities to teachers and income.

In connection, to the construction of schools, the enrolment and performance of students have been increasing. This has been due to the improvement of the learning facilities specifically schools. For example, at least 110, 505 candidates who sat for form four examination in the year 2018 scored division one to three, with which 108,642 of them were selected for form five education in public schools, the data were revealed by the Minister of State in President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government when he was addressing the status of form five selection. The Minister revealed that, a total of 1,676 students were selected for the second batch



making a total of 110,318 of students who have secured slots in public schools, reported as a record of 99.8 per cent of all passed candidates (Daily News, 2019).

The result provided above shows great efforts of LGAs towards liberating individuals economically and service delivery. This is because access to school gives one ability to be liberated and innovative. It necessitates self-employment, hence achieve the economic development. Nevertheless, LGAs have to carry on with efforts to ensure other facilities are provided in schools including books, teachers and laboratories.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

Using community economic development support approach, the revealed roles of LGAs in promoting local economic development and service delivery includes providing loans, investment support, electrical supply, school services and business infrastructure. The said roles have been contributing to the per capital income, employment and living standards of local community. Despite the promising progress, still LGAs have the long way to go in achieving the full economic development and service delivery to the local community. This is because the effort is still striking against some challenges towards playing their full role. The issues such as un-recoverable loans, water projects collaborations between RUWASA and LGAs, business infrastructures and entrepreneurship education need to be addressed clearly to overcome the revealed challenges in order for LGAs to improve their role towards economic development and service delivery.

It is recommended that, LGAs have to insist on providing education on entrepreneurship to community members so that the issue of non-performing loans can be solved and being recovered to help others. Again, LGAs should continue to create supportive environment for investment to community members. Also, efforts need to be put on implementation of socio-economic projects with delays so that they can be used for economic development and delivery service to community members. Moreover, LGAs and scholars should consider using the Community Economic Support Approach to assess LGAs role in local economic development.



References

- Bank of Tanzania, [BOT], (2018). Annual report 2017/2018. Dar es Salaam: BOT.
- Binswanger, H. B. and Swaminathan S. A., 2003. *Scaling up Community-Driven Development. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3039*. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Controller and Auditor General, (2019). Annual general report on the audit of Local Government Authorities (LGAs) for the financial year 2017/2018. Dar es Salaam: National Audit Office. 66-461 pp.
- Clay, R.A., Jr., and Jones, S. R. (2009). A Brief History of Community Economic Development. *Journal of Affordable Housing*, 18(3); 257-267.
- Daily News. (2019). Tanzania: second Batch of 1,700 students join form five education. 29th August.
- Deyana, N. I. (2006). Evaluating local Economic Development in the City of Cape Town. University of Stellenbosch.
- Dijk, T. V. (2019). Pathways in Local Economic Development in Tanzania Institutionalisation of Collective Action: The Case of Mbulu and Karatu Districts. Thesis to obtain the degree of Doctor from the Erasmus University Rotterdam.
- Dongier, P., Domelen, J. V., Ostrom, E., Rizvi, A., Wakeman, W., Bebbington, A., Alkire, S., Esmail, T. and Polski, M. (2003). *Community Driven Development. PRSP Sourcebook. Chapter 9*. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Elo S., Kaarianinen M., Kanste O., Polkki R., Utriainen K., and Kyngas, H. (2014). Qualitative Content Analysis: A focus on trustworthiness. *Sage Open* 4:1-10.
- Ofori, E. O. (2011). The Role of Local Government in Local Economic Development Promotion at the District Level in Ghana: A Study of the Ejisu-Juaben Municipal Assembly.
- Magigi, W. (2013). Local Economic Development Strategy Preparation and Implementation modalities for Sustainable Urban Development in Sub-Saharan Africa Cities: Lessons from Kigoma, Tanzania. *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*. 3 (15): 171-180.
- Mmari, D. and Katera, L. (2018). Financial discretion in LGAs and its effects on delivery of financial services through special funds for women and youth. *Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA)*.
- PORALG. (2019). Guideline for improved opportunities and obstacles to development (O and OD). 1-50 pp.
- PORALG. (2018). Best practice. Hand book 5. Tanzania Osaka alumni. pp. 3-120.
- Rugeiyamu, R., Masanyiwa, C. and Nziku, P. (2018). An assessment on the implementation of local government financial decentralization in Tanzania: A discrepancy between theory and practice. *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications* 8 (12), pp. 243-244.
- Rural Energy Agency. (2015). Annual report for the financial year ended June, 30th 2015.
- Tanzania Standard Newspapers. (2019). August Friday. Serengeti district council opens 9 new schools.
- The Citizen. (2017). July Monday. Prime Minister launches TARURA, new agency to improve rural roads.
- The Citizen. (2018). February Thursday. Agency comes up with strategy to safeguard rural roads. Thursday.
- The Citizen. (2018). February Wednesday. Sh1bn road projects to start in Songwe.



-
- The Citizen. (2017). April Sunday. 33pc of Tanzania have access to electricity: report.
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities. (2014). The role of local governments in economic development. United Cities and Local Government Policy Paper,
- The Guardian. (2018). May Wednesday. 200,000 acres for youth's commercial farming.
- The Guardian. (2019). April Wednesday. Government avails 33bn/- for implementation of TARURA projects.
- The Guardian. (2019). March Monday. SUA graduates, FAO team up to dole agribusiness skills to entrepreneurs.
- UNCDF. (2005). The role of local governments in local development: pro-poor provision of infrastructure services. Leadership Capacity Building for Decentralized Governance and Poverty Reduction for Sub-Saharan Africa. Kigali, Rwanda. p. 5.
- URT. (2011). The functions of the organizational structure of Prime Minister's Office- Regional Administration and Local Government (OMO-RALG), Dar es Salaam: Presidents Office Public Service Management.
- Yatta, F. (2015). Local economic development in Africa: Implementation, constraints and prospects. "Seminar for Dialogue and Capacity building of local and regional authorities in Africa in the development and local governance fields, Kampala, Uganda.
- World Bank. (2004). Human development, social development and public sector management networks. Discussion paper for international local development conference. Washington, DC. 16-18, June 2004. pp. 46-54.