

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES TO LIVELIHOOD OF WOMEN IN THE SHEA BUTTER INDUSTRY IN THE WA MUNICIPALITY

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Abstract

The Shea tree, which is now referred to as 'Vitellaria Paradoxa', has enormous economic, medicinal, cultural benefits and as a food source. Yet it seems the mechanisms put in place to support the Shea butter industry are either not existing or they are inadequate in Ghana. Even though this is the general situation, the quantum of the industry's contribution to women livelihood, the specific social and economic effects and the mechanisms created to support women in the industry are yet to be empirically investigated in the Wa Municipality of the Upper West Region. The study therefore sought to address what the contribution of the Shea butter processing industry in promoting the socio-economic development of women and their livelihood has been in the Wa Municipality, the nature of the social and economic effects on the livelihood of women; the specific mechanisms put in place as support for women in the industry as well as the nature of the industry's prospects and challenges in Wa Municipal area. A case study approach was adopted. The research revealed that only women are employed in the Shea butter processing industry. The study also revealed that there are few organizations providing financial and technical support to the women in Shea butter production in the Wa Municipality. Through Shea butter

processing, the women have secure employment which provided them with income for the satisfaction of their basic needs. Ready market was identified as a major constraint. The intensive use of firewood produced wood smoke which caused respiratory infections such as severe cough, lung infections, running nose, nasal congestion, headaches, low-grade fever, sneezing, and optical disorders among the women.

Keywords: Land Access and Poverty Reduction

General introduction

1.1 Background of Study

There is no single, uniformly acceptable, definition of a small firm (Storey, 1994). Firms differ in their levels of capitalization, sales and employment. Hence, definitions which employ measures of size (number of employees, turnover, profitability, net worth, etc), when applied to one sector could lead to all firms being classified as small, while the same definition when applied to a different sector could lead to a different result (Storey, 1994).

The dynamic role of small-scale industries in developing countries as engines through which their growth objectives can be achieved has long been recognized. It is estimated that small scale industries employ 22% of the adult population in developing countries (Daniels, 1994; Gallagher & Robson, 1995).

Worldwide, Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have been accepted as the engine of economic growth for promoting equitable development. The major advantage of the sector is its employment potential at low capital cost. The MSMEs constitute over 90% of total enterprises in most economies and are credited with generating the highest rates of employment growth and account for a major share of industrial production and export (MMSMEs India, 2006).

Small scale industries in Africa account for 95% of employment and about 43% of the value added of the entire industrial sector. In Africa, small scale industries are mostly traditional and generate both a higher output and a large amount of employment per unit of scarce capital than large scale industries (Liedholm, et al., 2010:150).

In Ghana, the sector employs about 15.5% of the labor force (Parker et al, 1994), and has experienced higher employment growth than micro and large-scale enterprises as their employment rate stands at 5%. In Ghana, the small scale sector's output as a percentage of GDP was 6% in 1998. The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) considers firms with less than 10 employees as Small Scale Enterprises.

In Northern Ghana, there are various small-scale industries such as Pito brewing, smock weaving, basketry, soap making, Shea butter processing and among others.

In the Upper West region of Ghana, one cannot talk of the contribution of small scale industries without making mention of the Shea butter industry as it appears to be a major livelihood source.

According to Chambers and Conway (1992:7-8), a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living. A resilient livelihood is one that can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable opportunities for the next generation as well as contribute net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels in the short to long term.

The assets that are generally recognized within sustainable livelihoods theory, as summarized by McLeod (2001a), are natural (Environmental) capital: natural resources (land, water, wildlife, biodiversity, environmental resources), physical capital: basic infrastructure (water, sanitation, energy, transport, communications), housing and the means and equipment of production; human capital: health, knowledge, skills, information, and ability to labor, social capital: social resources (relationships of trust, membership of groups, networks, access to wider institutions) and financial capital: financial resources available (regular remittances or pensions, savings, supplies of credit).

The adoption of the concept of resilient and sustainable livelihoods is very much in line with efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), (especially goal one which aims at eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and goal three which seeks to promote gender equality and empowerment of women); which cannot be achieved in Sub-Saharan Africa if adequate attention is not given to the Shea butter industry and all other such occupations with a high propensity of ensuring women economic empowerment..

Nevertheless, there are challenges affecting the Shea butter industry in Wa. Low level of technology and low accessibility to and inadequacy of available credit facilities serve as teething issues militating against the development of the industry.

Development is not just about improvement in structures, but it must happen where it is most needed and especially where its benefits can easily spread among the poorest of the poor and the most vulnerable. It is our avowed believe that the development of the Shea butter processing industry in the Wa Municipality would positively affect the fortunes of very poor women, who strive on a daily basis to put food on the tables of their families and to create opportunities for their children to have an education; an asset

that they themselves may have missed. It is in this regard that this study is tenable.

1.2 Problem Statement

Many women in Northern Ghana depend mostly on small scale industries as their main source of livelihood. Shea butter processing is one of the areas where most women engage in. According to the UNDP Ghana (2000), one third of women in the Upper West Region depend on income from sales from Shea butter and other Shea related products as a means of their daily sustenance. Yet the mechanism put in place to support women in Shea butter processing seems to be inadequate in Ghana.

In addition to its importance as a key income source for rural women, Shea butter production can significantly contribute to increasing the possibility of income generated being used for improving the living standards of local women and their households. Not only can it provide income to alleviate the poverty level of women, but could potentially evolve into a viable avenue for job creation, while slowing down the rural urban drift in Ghana. Even though this is the general situation the specific social and economic effects are yet to be investigated, it is in this regard that this study sought to address the following questions:

1.3 Research Questions

What is the contribution of the Shea butter processing industry in promoting the socio-economic development of women and their livelihood in Wa Municipality?

1.3.1 Specific Questions

1. What are the social and economic effects of the Shea butter processing industry on the livelihood of women in Wa Municipality?
2. What is the mechanism in place to provide support for women in the Shea butter processing industry in the Wa Municipal area?
3. What are the prospects and challenges of the industry in the Wa Municipal area?

1.5 Scope

The study focused on the contribution of the Shea butter processing industry to the livelihood of women in Wa Municipality. The Wa Municipality was chosen for the study because of its degree of centrality and its sphere of influence as it provides services which are necessary for promoting general industrial development not only in the Municipality but throughout the Upper West Region.

1.7 Research Methodology

1.7.1 Research Approach

A case study approach was adopted in order to have an in-depth empirical knowledge of Shea butter processing industry's contribution to women's livelihood in the Wa Municipality.

1.7.3.3 Sample size determination

The sample size was 26 Shea butter processing firms out of a sample frame of 28 using 95% as the confidence level.

The sampling methods used for data collection were purposive sampling and simple random sampling.

The data collection methods used was interview and observation and the data collection tool used was a questionnaire and interviews while the data collected was analysed through the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS).

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Shea tree, is scientifically known as 'Vitellaria paradoxa'. The Shea nut is locally known as "kpaanh". In Ghana, it grows in almost half of the country. It occurs over almost the entire area of Northern Ghana, covering a land area of over 77,670 square. In Africa, Ghana is the 4th and 3rd Producer and Exporter Respectively (FAOSTAT 2008).

The most widely recognized and accepted definition is based on the view of Chambers and Conway (1991) in Hilson and Banchirigah, 2007: 175. According to them, a livelihood "encompasses the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living: a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the long and short term.

Small-scale industry is used to refer to a small self-help industry that is carried out in the home, community centre, parish hall or some other convenient place.

Small scale industries develop mainly out of the need for an additional source of income, because of the need to use one's spare time gainfully and because of the relative ease of acquiring the necessary raw materials to set up such industries. It is estimated that small-scale industries employ 22% of the adult population in developing countries (Daniels, 1994; Gallagher & Robson, 1995). In Ghana the sector employs about 15.5% of the labor force (Parker et al, 1994), and has experienced higher employment growth than micro and large scale enterprises as their employment rate stands at 5%, accounting for 6% of GDP in 1998.

For purpose of this study small-scale industry is defined as an organization employing less than 10 individuals who adapts to the use of traditional technologies and records minimal output.

2.3 Challenges of the Small Scale Industries

After independence, the driving forces of neo-colonial economic relationships between most African countries and their western counterparts have been counterproductive to the development of small-scale industries particularly in rural regions (Derbile et al, 2012: 1).

Kayanula and Quartey, (2000) identified certain constraints to the development of SMEs in Ghana: Access to finance remained a dominant constraint to small-scale enterprises in Ghana (Ibid, 2000). SMEs have difficulty with gaining access to appropriate technology and information on available techniques. Distribution channels, which are not efficient and are often dominated by larger firms, pose important limitations to market access for SMEs. In Ghana, demand constraints limited the growth of SMEs.

Trade liberalization has made SMEs face greater external competition and the need to expand market share. The problem of regulatory constraints was also cited with issues of high cost of business registration and long bureaucratic administrative constraints. SMEs have inadequate Entrepreneurial & Business Management Skills.

THE STUDY COMMUNITY

3.1 Introduction

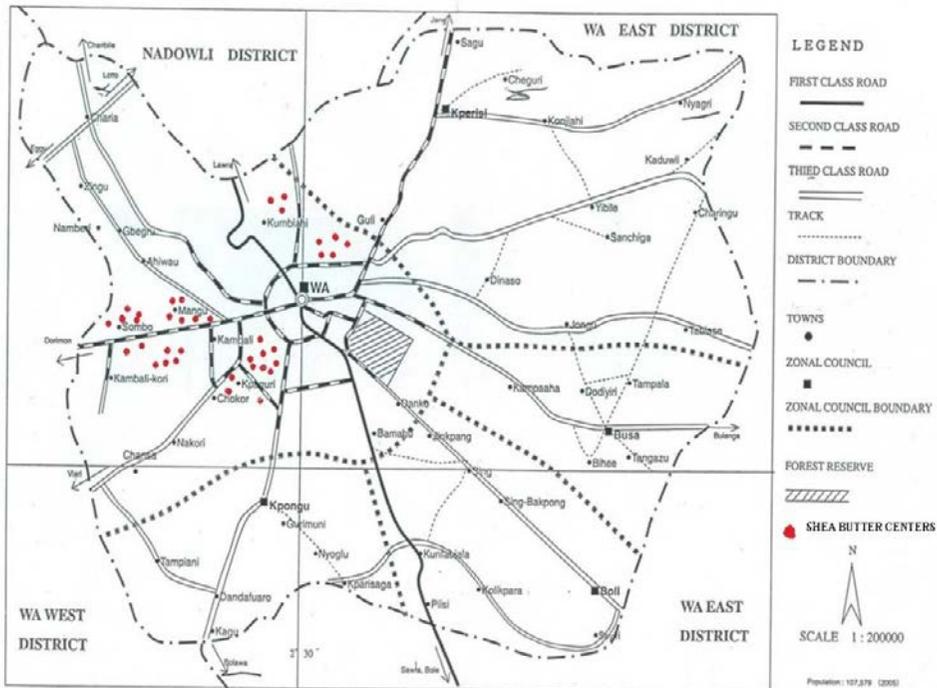
The profile of the Wa municipality in relation to Shea butter industries on women's livelihood and small-scale industries is as follows:

3.2 Location and Size

The Wa Municipality is one of the nine Districts and Municipal Assemblies in the Upper West Region (UWR) of Ghana. The UWR is located in the North – Western part of Ghana and shares borders with the L'A Cote D'Ivoire to the North – West, Burkina Faso to the North, the Upper East Region to the East and the Northern Region to the South.

The Wa Municipal Assembly shares administrative boundaries with the Nadowli District to the North, the Wa East District to the South-East and the Wa West District to South-West. The Municipality lies within latitudes 1°40N to 2°45N and longitudes 9°32 to 10°20W. It has a landmass of approximately 234.74 square kilo meters, which is about 6.4% of the region. It is within this area that the shea butter processing industry is found (see figure 1).

Figure 1: Location of the Shea butter industry in the Wa Municipal Area



Wa Municipal Assembly, (2006)

3.8 Population Size, Growth Rate and Density

The 2010 population and housing census indicates that the population of the municipality stands at 107,214, of which male are 57,985 and females 61,402 representing 49% and 51% respectively. This implies that there has been a percentage change of 8% as compared to 2000.

By implication, there is a growing population density and consequently pressure on land and socio-economic infrastructure. This raises the issue of population management, specifically, streetism, conflict management, land-use planning are issues to be addressed.

3.13 Literacy Rate

Literacy rate in the Municipality is generally lower than the national average. There are more literate among men than women. The reason is not only socio-cultural but also biological because females tend to drop out of school due to pregnancy and early marriages. Wa town has a larger literate population compared to the rural hinterland. Whilst about 7 out of every 10 males can be said to be literate only about 4 out of every 10 females are literates.

FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This section brings to light research findings and analysis of data from field survey. It emphasis on the socio-demographic and economic characteristics, major sources of income, Average monthly income, savings level, Sources of Shea nut for production, sources of finance and mechanisms in place for providing support for women in Shea butter production and the prospects and challenges of the production systems and among other finding will be discussed in this chapter.

4.2 Socio-Demographic and Economic Characteristics

4.2.1 Age Distribution

All 160 respondents interviewed were women. Thirteen (13) of the respondents fall within the ages of 15-24, sixty-seven (67) of them fall within the age range of 25-34, sixty-five (65) within 35-44, seven (7) fall within the range of 45-49, and the remaining eight (8) are women who fall above 50 plus. It could be deduced that majority of the women fall within the active labor force that is from ages 15-44 representing about 90.6% of the total population as in table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age cohort	Number	Percentage (%)
15-19	2	1.2
20-24	11	6.9
25-29	31	19.4
30-34	36	22.5
35-39	35	21.9
40-44	30	18.8
45-49	7	4.4
50+	8	5.0
Total	160	100.0

Field survey, June 2013.

4.2.5 Educational level

The research revealed that one hundred and twenty five (125) representing 78.1% are women who have never had any form of education, twenty two (22) representing 13.8% are women with primary education, 5.6% and 2.4% attended JHS and SHS respectively. This implies that the illiteracy rate is high among women engage in Shea butter production within the Wa Municipality. This has a trickle-down effect on the Shea butter industry as women will be unable to keep simple records to determine the profit and loss of their activities. This is evident on the ground as most women interviewed were unable to give accurate records of their monetary

flows. It is therefore imperative to initiate non formal educational programs to help the women keep simple records and as well respond to accounting demands of their economic activities (see table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Educational Level of Respondents

Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Never	125	78.1
Primary	22	13.8
JHS	9	5.6
SHS	4	2.4
Tertiary	0	0
Total	160	100.0

Source: Field Survey, June2013.

4.2.7 Sources of Income

Shea butter is the major source of income for women in the study area. Out of 160 women interviewed, 153 representing 95.6% engage in Shea butter production as full time occupation, the remaining 7 representing 4.4% engage in trading and other economic activities as indicated in 4.3.

Table 4.3 Sources of Income of Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Shea Butter	153	95.6
Trading	4	2.5
Others	3	1.9
Total	160	100.0

Field Survey, June 2013.

4.2.8 Access to Shea Nuts

The respondents have varied sources of the Shea nuts for butter production in the Municipality. One hundred and forty-five(145) out of one hundred and sixty women buy the Shea nuts from suppliers, 8.8% buy the Shea fruit and process them into nuts and 0.6% of the remaining pick the Shea fruits from the wild and process them into nuts. This implies that most of the women incur additional production cost through buying of the nuts including having to contend the risks of snake bites in the picking process. See table 4.4.

Table 1.4: Sources of Shea Nut

Source of Nuts	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Pick the Shea fruit and process into nut	1	0.6
Buy the Shea fruit and process into nut	14	8.8
Buy the Shea nut from supplier	145	90.6
Total	160	100.0

Field Survey, June 2013.

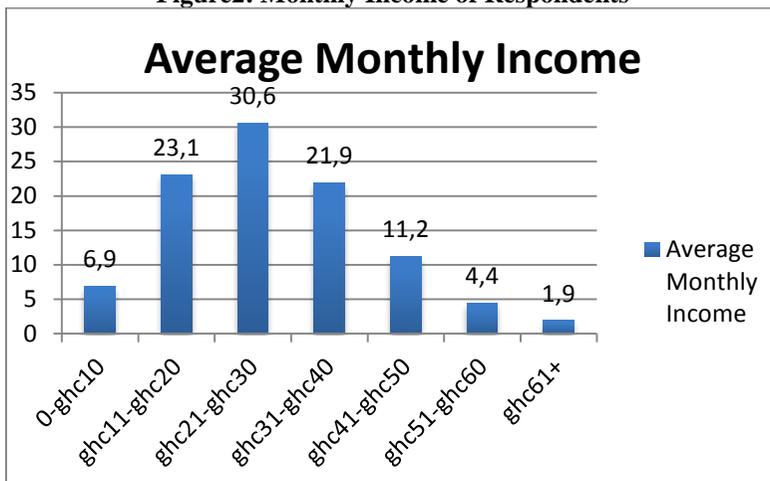
4.3 Production Process of Shea Butter

Shea butter processing is predominately the work of women in Northern Ghana of which the WA Municipality is not an exception. The process of extracting the butter from the Shea nut is regarded by most women as a laborious activity. The Shea butter extraction process involves twelvemain stages; Buying of nuts, De-husking, Drying of nuts, selection/sorting of nuts, washing, Grinding, Roasting, cooling, Kneading and water mixing and Filtration and Solidification.

4.4 Average Monthly Income

based on the data collected, it was realized that on an average, each woman earns about GHC31.46p, which falls below the minimum wage of GHC 104.80p (GHC5.24p per day) of the national level minimum wage rateindicated by the Ghana Trade Union Congress in2013. This has resulted in low savings among the women constituting as high as 76.2% of the respondents. See figure 2.

Figure2: Monthly Income of Respondents



From our analysis, it was realized that women in the Municipality earn GHC 1.57 a day which is far below the national wage rate of GHC 5.24.as outlined by Trade Union Congress, (2013).

4.5 Savings of Respondents

Todaro (2003) statedthat every economy must save a certain portion of its national income, if only to replace worn-out or impaired capital goods (building, equipment and materials). From the field survey, one hundred and twenty two (122) women representing 76.2% of the respondents do not save part of their profit and the remaining thirty-eight (38) representing 23.8% save portion of their profit. Due to the inability of the women to save, this

has made it barely impossible for the women to replace worn-out equipment and unable to expand their business which is clearly evident on the ground.

Table 4.5: Savings of Respondents

Savings	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	38	23.8
No	122	76.2
Total	160	100.0

Field Survey, June2013

From the above levels of savings of the women, it is clear that it will be impossible to replace worn-out capital goods unless external financial support is provided.

4.6 Marketing of Shea Butter

Shea butter produced in the Wa Municipality is mainly sold in the municipal market. As indicated in table 4.6, as many as 72.5% of the women use this means to market their produce while 6.2% of the women produce for agents on demand bases. The rest of the 21.2% of them sell their wares in smaller community markets in the municipality.

Table 4.6: Marketing of Shea Butter

Point of Sale	Frequency	Percentage
Community Market	34	21.2
Agent	10	6.2
Municipal Market	116	72.5
Total	160	100.0

Source: Field Survey, June 2013.

The implication is that nothing is exported even though there is a huge potential demand for Shea butter in the export market.

4.6.1 Challenges of Marketing

One of the major problems relates to ready market for the Shea butter produced by the women, based on data analyzed 93.8% of the extractors do not have ready market for their produce; causing a long recoupment period on their investment capital.

Over exposure to the sun due to insufficient structures at their market center causes melting of the butter as well as causing a situation where these women cannot stay for long hours under the direct sun.

Again, these women have low bargaining power in the determination of the prices for their produce, hence are mostly exploited.

4.7 Mechanism for Providing Support

The National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) in the municipality does not financially support the women but however, provides an advisory service to the women in Shea butter business. This is done by

giving guidelines on how to secure loans from financial institutions and other NGOs by forming women groups.

On the other hand, Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA), StichtingNederlandseVrijwilligers (SNV) Netherlands Development Organization and Microfinance and Small Loan Centre (MASLOC) are the few organizations providing financial support to the women in Shea butter production in the municipality. However, these loans are subject to group formation for easy access and collection.

4.7.1 Source of Finance

Most women in the Shea butter business in the municipality dip deep into their own pockets and to enable them start up. It was realized that 91.2% of the women personally fund their own business, 8.1% are supported financially by their families and the rest of the 0.63% receive support from organizations. See table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Sources of Financing

Source	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	146	91.2
Family	13	8.1
Savings and loan	1	0.63
Total	160	100.0

Field Survey, June 2013

4.8 Socio- Economic Implication of Shea Butter to Women's Livelihood

In the Wa Municipality, Shea butter production is solely the business of women. It contributes a significant proportion of their income and serves as a basis for their empowerment socially and economically.

The extracted butter is a veritable source of cooking oil and is used for preparing traditional foods. The Shea butter also has medicinal values. It is used in the preparation of traditional medicines for managing fractured bones, sprains, boils. It has also been widely utilized in the cosmetic industry to reduce hair loss, as a moisturizer capable for the hair and a body cream, which reduces cracking skin. Above all, shea butter is a lot cheaper in the domestic cosmetic industry as compared to other creams. It has thus helped to reduce the expenditure that women incur in order to beautify themselves thereby improving their living standard and that of their households through the savings they make.

Shea butter has proven to be a significant source of employment venture for prospective income generation for the women in the Municipality. The study noted that most women in the industry were within the active age group (15-45) representing 90% of the total number of

respondents and this has helped curb rural urban drift among women in the area.

Also the Shea butter produced by the women is sold to raise funds to cater for food, utility, paying of fees, health and other expenses to improve on the welfare of the family.

The Shea butter industry in the municipality has also contributed in empowering the women. This creates a sense of ownership since the women supplement the family budget of their households and given them the opportunity to make decision on their own without or little consultation from the men. The Shea butter centers has also created an avenue for the women to share ideas relating to home management, assist each other financially, expand their business and other aspects of their life.

4.9 Challenges of Shea Butter Production

Our study revealed that despite the fact that Shea butter production serves as a lucrative employment for women, there are several challenges that militate against the growth of the industry in the municipality. These challenges have been discussed below.

4.9.1 Challenges Related to the Production Process

From the research, it was realized that one of the major challenge faced by the women in connection with production is the time frame within which a significant amount of Shea butter can be extracted as a result of the use of mainly the traditional method of processing. Respondents asserted that it takes at least five days to obtain a sizeable amount of 1.5 liter bowl which is even only possible with the help of other colleagues. Again this method of processing is time consuming, requires excessive energy exertion and is highly fuel intensive. This excessive use of energy, especially during the kneading stage, makes the women tired and stressed which in effect affects their total output. The intensive use of fired wood which is associated with the traditional method of processing increases their cost of production which in turn affects their profit margins adversely and makes it very difficult for them to expand their production.

4.9.2 Health Related Challenges

According to the World Development report (2004: 1-3), “Good health has a positive, sizeable, and statistical significant effect on aggregate output”. For this reason, the group investigated into the health complications associated with Shea butter production among the women. The study revealed that the intensive use of firewood burning which produces wood smoke is known to contain such compounds as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, aldehydes, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and fine

respirable particulate matter (Western Journal of Medicine, 1989: v151 (3); 339-342). All of these have been shown to cause respiratory infection such as severe cough, lung infections, running nose, nasal congestion, headache, low-grade fever, sneezing, and optical disorders, which was evident among the women.

Also the women complain of excessive burns as a result of exposure to naked flames, which was glaring on their skin. Furthermore, the women made it known to the group of the level of body pain they go through especially during the kneading process associated with the traditional method.

4.9.3. Challenges Associated with Support Service

As revealed by the study, the prime problem which hinders the expansion of production is inadequate funds. As many as 91.2% of the women observed that funding was secured through plough backprofits from their own businesses through personal saving which most often is inadequate to support expansion. Out of the total number of twenty-six (26) centers visited, only one (1) center had received financial support from Microfinance and Small Loan Center (MASLOC). This is as a result of the bureaucratic nature of the process involved in assessing the loan. Again most of the women see the 2% interest rate as high because their profit margin does not encourage the acquisition of such loans.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Discussion of Major Findings

It was revealed that only women are employed in the Shea butter industry. This is an indication that the Small Scale Enterprises serves as a source of employment for the vulnerable in society such as women, majority of whom are from a poor background and have never had access to any formal education. With the income generated from the shea butter activities, these women have begun ensuring that their children do not suffer as far as their education is concerned. This is in line with local development as postulated by Hart Mark and Murray (2000), which gave a strong indication that local development is multi-dimensional. Apart from dealing with job creation, business growth and connecting people to jobs within the locality, local development also covers a wide range of social actions; where Shea butter centers have also created an avenue for the women to share ideas relating to home management, assist each other financially, expand their businesses and other aspects of their lives. Development in that regard does not only mean a higher income but the tendency of that higher income level becoming the first step in achieving improved human conditions of the whole family. It is inspiring to note that most women in the industry fall

within the active age group (15-45) representing 90% of the total number of respondents. Coincidentally, it is girls in this same age group from many northern communities who have the tendency of migrating to the urban areas in southern Ghana in search of menial jobs including head portage. Shea butter processing could therefore be a more promising business venture for these porters and provided the requisite technical and financial support is given them, it could help to curb rural urban drift among women in the Wa Municipality.

The research showed that the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA), StichtingNederlandseVrijwilligers (SNV) Netherlands Development Organization and Microfinance and Small Loan Centre (MASLOC) are the few organizations providing financial support to the women in Shea butter production in the municipality. Taking into consideration the fact that unemployment, season unemployment and under employment among adult women in the Upper West Region is phenomenal as against the low capital requirement to enter the shea butter processing industry as well as its the export potential, it is necessary that many more support agencies (both governmental and non-governmental) came in to provide better empowerment to the women in the industry as well as many new potential operators in order to boost the sector. These operators would then grow and hold a veritable position as foreign exchange earners and tax payers.

The data suggested that Shea butter processing secured employment which provided the women with income that aided them in meeting their basic needs, which in effect has helped to enhance their livelihood and the lives of their families. Notwithstanding, there are impediments that limits operations in the industry. One of such problems is lack of ready market. On the data analyzed suggested that 93.8% of the Shea butter extractors have no ready market for their output. In addition, the intensive use of firewood produces wood smoke which causes respiratory infections such as severe cough, lung infections, running nose, nasal congestion, headache, low-grade fever, sneezing, and optical disorders among the women. This had the tendency of reducing effective work hours. It implies that efforts to get the women to move away from the use of fuel wood and to adopt liquefied petroleum gas could increase effective work hours and drastically reduce the scale of deforestation for the purpose of generating wood fuel.

5.4 Conclusion

It is obvious that constructive development can take place in the Municipality as well as the entire country if critical attention is given to Shea butter processing and its related activities. This fact is based on the economic contributions of the Shea butter industry and how it has enhanced the lives of

women in the Municipality. It is therefore of great importance to the entire country to identify this opportunity and direct national resources towards attracting more investors into the sector.

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