

APPROVAL FORM

MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY

The undersigned certify that they have read and supervised the student Kudakwashe Jonah Magwenzi's dissertation entitled: **The history of church institutions. A case study of Nyahuni Adventist High School from 1987-2015**. The project has been submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements in the attainment of **Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in History**

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Declaration

I Kudakwashe Jonah Magwenzi registration number (r132052f) do hereby declare that this dissertation is purely a result of my work and no one else has written for me. I have made use of published and unpublished works and sources and they have been fully acknowledged. This dissertation has been submitted in fulfilling the requirements for the attainment of a Bachelors of Arts Honors Degree in History.

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Dedication

This work is dedicated to my wonderful family members to whom my success is highly indebted to. You gave me the reason to fight till the end.

Abstract

The study examines the history of church institutions in Zimbabwe with special reference to Nyahuni Adventist high school in Murewa Mashonaland east province. The aim of the study is to unpack the reasons for the establishment of these church institutions and how they are contributing to the development of the communities around them. The research brought out the main objectives and aims of these church institutions and the measures they are implementing in achieving their desired goals. It also revealed how they have succeeded in their quest to develop and help their communities.

ACRONYMS

ADRA

Adventist Relief Agency

SDA

Seventh Day Adventist Church

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Chapter 1

1.0. Introduction

Nyahuni Adventist high school is a church institution that was established in 1987 by the Seventh day Adventist church in Murewa district under Mashonaland East province. Its aim was to spread the word of God to the surrounding communities whilst also changing the livelihoods of the people through the provision of technical education. The school lies on land donated to the church by the late Senator Makunde who owns a farm that is next to the school. Various institutions have been established with clear objectives and they are followed for a period of time and as time passes there is a deviation from the laid objectives and leaving the beneficiaries of the services in the plain without any help coming to them. The research therefore seeks to establish the factors leading to the establishment of the institution and how the establishment of the church institution has benefited the people in the surrounding communities in any way possible. It also seeks to bring about the various measures taken to make sure that there is a sustainable provision for the provision of the services as laid in the objectives. The research has been necessitated due to the reasons that many mission centers were being criticized for neglecting their roles in community development which was their core business and shifting their attention to outsiders who have the financial backing.

1.0. Statement of the problem

Church institutions have been established in Zimbabwe since 1857 and they cover many places in almost every province in Zimbabwe. Many of these church institutions have been established with the coming of independent churches in Zimbabwe especially after the attainment of independence by Zimbabwe. The main aim of the establishment of church institutions was to cater for the provision of education in Zimbabwe and to some extent the

provision of medical facilities whilst sharing the word of god in the process and improving the lives of the people around their areas amongst other factors. However, some church

Institutions have relegated their aims and objectives to the peripheries and have followed other paths instead. This has come to light as many church institutions have been accused of shifting their sight on monetary gains and deviating from their primary goals and objectives which is the provision of education to all and also the work of evangelism. Exorbitant fees are being charged and making it difficult in the process for the locals to send their children to these schools and will have to resort to sending them to distance schools where they endure walking long distances in order to attain education. The establishment of a boarding school has seen the coming of external factors with different interests than those that have been laid out as the main objectives of the mission institution. This research therefore seeks to bring about these problems and to bring out how they have affected service delivery to the local people and how they have tackled the problems to make sure that the institutions has remained beneficial to the local people. Over the years church institutions have been castigated for neglecting their duties and followed other paths which are profiteering to themselves at the expense of their surrounding communities.

Research questions

1. What led to the establishment of Nyahuni Mission?
2. What are the objectives of church institutions?
3. What challenges are being faced by church institutions?
4. What role has church institutions played in the provision of education to Zimbabwe?

Research objectives

The study seeks to bring about the following objectives:

1. To establish the reasons why church institutions were established.
2. To bring about the populace served by the institution.
3. To know how it has succeeded as an institution in serving its people.

4. To see explore the effectiveness of church institutions in the provision of services to communities.
5. To be able to document the current activities of church institutions.

1.2. Historical background

Church institutions were established as a result of the coming of the Europeans into Zimbabwe. These church centres date back to 1858 according to Ansten¹. This therefore saw the birth of Solusi mission which was later turned into a university which is the mother institution to Nyahuni. The growth of Solusi later saw the need to establish more centres of learning that would help attain their objectives of educating the natives whilst spreading Christianity on the other hand. Nyahuni mission's establishment came as there rose the need of a technical institution that would teach technical subjects and it thus saw its birth. Its main objective was to train the local people who are mainly farmers so that they could acquire some technical knowledge in building, carpentry, agriculture and textiles. Later on the school realized the need to incorporate some academics subjects thus attracting the young ones with the establishment of a primary and a secondary school altogether.

Missionaries in the past were received with mixed feelings as many alluded to the fact that they were agents of imperialism. Grundy argued that the work of Christian missionaries signified a loss of tradition and an acceptance of the superior white faith². This assertion further alluded to the perception of the native in the way in which they regarded missionaries as colonial agents. Missionaries like Robert and John Moffat were examples of people who were working as colonial agents.

The establishment of church institutions has been happening at a high rate in the post-independence period and their aims and objectives were mainly to help and develop the communities which surround them as a whole. With these aims, they were very much welcome to their communities but with time some communities were now vying for the

acquisition of the institutions mentioning that these mission stations have not done anything that was beneficial to the communities. Thus the study seeks to elaborate on how church institutions are giving back to the communities that are surrounding them with a special case study of Nyahuni Adventist Mission which is owned by the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Zimbabwe.

1.3. Literature review

Mission institutions are centres setup by missionaries who have been sent on a mission to perform a certain duty. According to the Online Etymology Dictionary, the word mission is an origination of a Latin word *missionem* which means the act of sending². This therefore points out that on a mission there is an act of sending to perform a certain duty just like the mission institutions in Zimbabwe. Missionary institutions were setup as a means of educating the native Africans by the European settlers. Majeke also noted that the missionaries were aides to imperialism which included the provision of education to the natives and thus noting a negative perception of the reasons for the establishment of missionary institutions³. In the case of Majeke, she does not bring about the positives that were brought about with the establishment of these mission institutions and thus the research seeks to bring about the positives of the establishment of these mission stations

Missionary institutions coming into Zimbabwe was not mainly for the benefit of the local masses but it was actually for the benefit of the missionaries themselves. This has been articulated by Freund when he argued that the missionaries established strong lobbies that advocated for new political arrangements in Zimbabwe which would aid the furthering of commerce in Europe whilst on the other hand allowing their proselyte work to proceed⁴. This then shows that the missionaries had other ulterior motives with them which they hid under their garments and came in the form of people who wanted to spread the good news.

Freund also goes on to show how the mission centers were of help to the local people as he gave an example where missionaries setup their bases on areas where there was a displacement of people and protected them⁵. One example is along Lake Malawi where there were people who had suffered much raids from the Mfecane derived Ngoni groups. This then shows that missionaries executed well their duties in ensuring the safety and their wellbeing and showing therefore that they had some positive mindset within them.

Missionaries in Zimbabwe came as wolves in sheep's clothing as argued by Chakamwe. This he supports by bringing out the fact that missionaries projected themselves as Gods wonderful messengers who had come to a pagan Africa⁶. In the real context these missionaries did not come to Africa only to preach the word of God but to act as reconnaissance units who showed in the end the colonizers the juicy parts of Africa that they later on colonized. From this context, it can be seen that the writer has no kind words for the missionaries but views them as people with motives that were detrimental to the African continent as a whole. He also supports his argument by pointing out that it was these same missionaries who took part in the first of the battles which were fought between the natives and the foreign people.

Many countries located in sub Saharan Africa region have at one time come into contact with Christian missionaries. The zeal of the missionaries was originally centered on biblical principles which encouraged them to go into the whole world and teach as said in Mark *16 verse 5*⁷. This according to Maboyi is regarded as the Christian interpretation of missionaries and he further articulates that there is also another dimension which allude that missionaries were actually acting as the frontrunners in the subsequent infiltration of the African states by the colonialist who were very much eager to establish their empires in Africa.

According to Zvobgo missionary institutions were concerned with three main policies which were evangelism, medicine and education. In his writings he focused much on the activities and did not bring out whether they were beneficial or not to the African natives⁸. Therefore the researcher seeks to bring out how the activities mentioned by Zvobgo were of any help to the community surrounding Nyahuni mission and also to see whether they have managed to continue providing those services as was the aim of their pioneer institutions

These missionaries, if they were much concerned much with the welfare of the Africans, they should have aimed their activities much on the existing African traditions. All their policies of education provision and civilization should have had a respect for African tradition. In this regard the missionaries ignored the philosophy of hunhu/Ubuntu which was a major characteristic of Africans especially Zimbabwe. Even though it is undeniable that the Africans benefited from the missionaries, it is the intentions that these missionaries had with them on their way to Africa that has made the author arrive at this conclusion.

Mungazi also pointed out the benefits of the coming of the mission institutions in the provision of education to the native Africans. He noted that education was hindered by the colonial masters but the establishment of mission institutions like Nyahuni improved the education system as missionaries argued that all people were equal before God and thus all were entitled to receive a basic education⁹. This case therefore shows some positives in the coming of the mission centers.

Missionaries came with a negative view towards Africa in the establishment of their mission institutions. They considered all their efforts to be pagan, they encouraged the Africans to rebel against their native masters. The question which then arises is that how can they be of help to African society if they were so negative? This therefore shows that colonialism was a result of the betrayal by the missionaries. Despite the fact that these people managed to make

a provision for education and medical facilities, one cannot stand to forget their motives which were grossly impure and detrimental to Africa.

The missionaries were working according to the great commission which was given by the highest authority in the universe as argued by Kapolyo in Manu. The mandate as Manu articulates was to spread the gospel to all the world and this included Africa¹⁰. Even though there was a clear command, it was abused and used as a reason and explanation to instigate imperialism in Africa. In this view the author has castigated the missionaries for working in cahoots with the imperialists as their agents and making the African continent suffer at the hands of the oppressors.

Manu also brings out the fact that the coming of the missionaries saw an increase in the suffering of people. In this he argued that the welfare of the natives was not taken care of as was expected in their promises¹¹. It was seen that the missionaries were more focused on teaching rather than human suffering. With their coming it is also argued that it saw the increase in the systems like inequality and injustice. In this regard it can be seen that the author saw that the missionaries were not doing their rightful work of looking at the welfare of other people but they rather focused on the minor things which did not yield anything.

From the above paragraphs it can be noted that much work has been done on the work of missionaries during the colonial period. Less has been written on their activities in the post-independence period. It was during this period that saw many mission institutions being established with the likes of Nyahuni which is under study in the year 1987. Much work is needed to be done in evaluating the activities of these mission institutions and to see whether they are still within the confines of their objectives

Hastings also asserted that the church was also involved in the second chimurenga though the local people had criticised them for appearing on the side of oppressors. He further argued

that the churches were in real terms fighting on the side of the locals against the oppressors. This therefore shows that the main role of churches in Zimbabwe was to liberate the local populace from the bondage of the colonial masters as it was laid down in their objectives. In so doing, they worked together with traditional chiefs and mediums of the land and therefore showing their solidarity to the African people and bringing out the fact that the church leaders had an appreciation of the local culture.

Many liberation leaders have been products of church institutions as remarked by Rodney that it was only education which could lay the base for a smooth functioning of their systems of administration. This they done by translating the bible into indigenous languages so that the local people could have an understanding of what was being taught.

1.4. Research methodology

Research design

Research design refers to the methods and strategies that will be used in the research as a whole in order to bring about an argument. The research design used is a case study approach. This method is mainly targeting the people with the needed information on the subject. This method was chosen as it enabled the researcher to obtain in depth detailed information on the subject area without any limitations to either a qualitative or quantitative method.

The research is going to use a multi-dimensional process which will make use of views of various individuals and institutions. It is also going to be subjective and in this it will gather views from different angles and then analyze the acquired information. The information will also be acquired through the use of one on one interviews and inquiries. These engagements permitted the bringing in of new thoughts and ideas. Interviews through oral meetings gave the researcher the chance to have a direct contact with the people and managed to observe real reactions to the discussed issues. The use of open meetings also helped in bringing the

elderly with valuable information. Among these people taking part in the meetings were headmen and traditional chiefs amongst other elderly people.

The researcher also made use of other essential material in carrying out of the study. These included the information taken from the offices of the responsible authority of the mission institution under study. The information helped much in giving a background of the institution and more information on the required subject.

The use of desktop research information also helped much in the carrying out of the research. This helped the researcher to survey and analyze the information gathered with the oral meetings which were conducted and in the end bringing about a comprehensive research.

There was also the use gathered sources which included books, newspaper articles, e-books and diaries, journals, periodicals amongst others. This enabled the researcher to gather valuable information after being exposed to various schools of thought and enabled the researcher to have a fully detailed information and enabled him to bring out a comprehensive research with the accumulation of the important information.

In carrying out of the research, the researcher gave special care in considering the moral issues so as to keep away from aggravations which will affect the outcome of the required results. Secrecy was considered the vital component of the research. Appreciation was also key in acquiring the information as it made the informants eager to give out more information. The researcher also ensured that there was no leakages in the information attained to other parties thus removing the risk of it getting distorted and biased. There was also the use of will power and not forcing the informants to bring out information and thus giving respect to the parties involved.

1.5. Dissertation layout

The dissertation is going to comprise of five chapters and will be laid out as follows:

Chapter 1: **Introduction**

This chapter will provide the introductory analysis to the research and will include the justification of the study and the methods used to gather the required information.

Chapter 2: **Historical background of mission institutions in Zimbabwe**

This chapter is going to bring about the history of the establishment of mission institutions and special consideration going to the history of Nyahuni Adventist Mission

Chapters 3: **Church institutions activities in Zimbabwe in their communities**

The chapter will comprehensively bring about the activities being carried out by the church institutions like Nyahuni in the improvement of the livelihoods of the native people. It is also going to bring about the challenges being faced in carrying out the set out objectives. Successes and failures of the institution will also be laid down in the chapter

Chapter 4: **An analysis of the church institutions activities in Zimbabwe**

The chapter will bring in an analysis of the church institutions activities in Zimbabwe and give an in depth analysis on why they have managed to carry out their laid down objectives and also looking at the factors which have hindered the institutions from fully implementing the laid down objectives and aims altogether.

chapter 5: **conclusion**

The chapter concludes the study and provides a summary of arguments and evaluation of the research. It highlights major findings and aims of the study.

Endnotes

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Chapter 2

Historical background of church institutions in Zimbabwe

2.1. Introduction

The chapter seeks to bring about a background in the establishment of the church institutions prior to the colonial period and to also bring out the roots of the missionaries. Particular attention will be on Nyahuni Adventist mission as it is the institution under study. It is going to make an analysis of the factors which led to the establishment of church institutions by their responsible authorities. Much emphasis is going to be put in their establishment mainly after independence. The chapter is also going to bring about the need for the services of the church institutions by the local people in the areas they are situated in.

2.2. The establishment of mission institutions prior to colonization

Christian missionaries arrived in Zimbabwe in the late 19th century as pointed out by Sibanda. They started coming into Zimbabwe pioneered by the London missionary society personnel and they secured their place in the Ndebele society¹. This group of missionaries later collaborated with the colonialists and aided in the annexation of Zimbabwe. With their coming it saw the establishment of mission centers in and around Zimbabwe as they spread on with their work.

Arnstein has also argued that Christian missionaries have been there in Africa as early as the 1st century but became very much active during the 19th century when colonialism was advancing². The London missionary society being the first to open a center in Inyati close to Bulawayo in 1859 through the aid of reverend Robert Moffat who was a friend to Lobengula at that time.

In 1894 Solusi Mission was found and was under the leadership of the seventh day Adventist church. The mission center was name after chief Soluswe whose land was taken from him by

the settlers who were led by Rhodes. The mission center is presently located 30 km from Bulawayo as it was before. The mission center then gave birth to other mission centers like Nyazura mission in Manicaland which also gave birth to Nyahuni mission in Mashonaland.

2.3. Reasons for the establishment of church institutions in Zimbabwe

Various factors and reasons have been put forward in explaining the reasons for the establishment of church institutions in and around the Zimbabwean plateau. The first reason was for the spread of Christianity which was the gospel that they were preaching and spreading to the whole world with Africa included. Manu has argued that the church leaders were working in accordance to the great work that they had been commanded to do by the most high and this gospel as per their mandate was going to be spread to the whole world and thus with them coming into Zimbabwe they had to open various centers in order to achieve their desired goals³.

Missionaries also came as traders who wanted to sell their merchandise which included modern medicine according to Gatsheni⁴. This they did as they were establishing markets for their home industries back home. This shows that these groups of people also came as entrepreneurs who wanted to do business with the African people apart from the spreading of the gospel which they came hiding under. He also goes on to articulate that these missionaries came to be cultural brokers for the who were paving the way for the aggressive colonialists, their aims were encompass the Ndebele into a web of material transactions that would prepare them for the coming colonialists and make them get used to them. Form this view it can be concluded beyond reasonable doubt that these missionaries were real agencies of colonialism as they were preparing the way for the coming of the colonial masters in Zimbabwe.

Chakamwe is also of the same view that these missionaries were sent as agents of imperialism and their main work was to prepare the way for the colonialist to come to Zimbabwe this he argues in the case of the Portuguese who sent in Gonzalo da Silveira in order to replace Fernandes who had failed⁵. The sending of Silveira to the Mutapas proved successful as he managed to convert the whole royal house to Christianity. This then enabled them to come in and control the Mutapa getting their resource and benefiting themselves. It can therefore be noted that missionaries came with ulterior motives that were different from those that they laid down in their maiden appearance and further supports the assertion that missionaries came to be agents of imperialism.

Gunda is also of the view that the other reason for the coming of Christian missionaries in Zimbabwe was to become defenders of full humanity of the Africans. In this regard they wanted to protect the African race from the evils of slavery and slave trade⁶. It should however be noted that by so doing they ended up being facilitators for the colonization of the African states that they were in the process of protecting.

Missionaries also came into Africa and Zimbabwe in particular on a mission to educate the masses with what they called real civilization as pointed out by Zvobgo. This kind of education was to counter the African way of learning and replace it with the kind that was being practiced in Europe⁷. This was the kind of education they viewed as the standard was of learning and they criticized the way the Africans learned labelling it very much backward. By so doing, they removed the African way of learning and replaced it with their own standard. With this happening it is therefore argued that in this process they were actually preparing the Africans for the annexation by the colonial masters who were on their way to Africa. The example being Robert Moffat who was used as an agent by Cecil Rhodes

2.4. Effects of the coming of church institutions in Zimbabwe

The establishment of church institutions had several effects on the Zimbabwean plateau. These effects worked either to the side of the native people or to the side of the whites at the expense of the natives themselves. According to the South African history online, the church leaders manifested themselves in their involvement in local agriculture and irrigation technology making it independent of other cultural issues⁸. This helped much the African people with the knowledge of less laborious work using primitive tools and it thus helped in the improvement of African agriculture.

With the appearance of Christianity in parts of Africa, there has been a gigantic change in the measure of superstition. Customary, animist religion considered people to be being liable to the impulses of neighborhood divine beings. Individuals saw marvels, for example, climate, sickness and human destiny as subject to the impulses of various divine beings⁹. There were numerous taboos planned to impact such superstitious convictions. Under these agnostic convictions such exercises as intoxication, sexual perversion, sexual misuse and savagery were widespread.

The coming of churches with their teachings provided valuable skills to Africans. This is evident up to today as there is a development of a skilled force in the technical areas such as roof carpentry, stone masonry and bricklaying amongst other skills¹⁰. With this it can be seen that the coming of missionaries had a positive outcome as their provisions brought about the desired outcomes which were beneficial to the native people in the long run.

Church institutions in Zimbabwe have had a legacy which has lived up even up to this day in Africa with southern Africa as an example where it is seen that most of the leaders who fought for independence were but a product of missionaries with the example of the current Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe who was a student at the Roman Catholic Kutama Mission²². These African leaders who fought were enlightened by these missionaries and

therefore providing a solid base for the local people to fight for themselves and free themselves from the colonial masters who had held the natives bondage for nearly a century.

One other effect of the coming of the churches was the improvement in the health of the local people. When the church institutions were established, they setup clinics and opened medical centers which saw the local African people go there and attained medical attention which saw the improvement of their lives as a whole. Prior to the establishment of these church institutions several people were dying of unknown ailments which they could not cure with their traditional herbs and medicines¹¹. Mothers giving birth were also saved from dying due to complications at birth with the coming of experienced midwives who were trained to attend to them and this was a real blessing to the African people as they were given a new lease of life in their way of living. Diseases like malaria found their cure and they ceased to be a menace that they were previously before the missionaries entered into Africa

On the other hand, the coming of these Christian missionaries saw the rapid colonization of African states. Even though some missionaries stuck to their objectives, some of them became very much more involved in the occupation of African states as it was becoming very much profitable to them. It then became the view that Christian conversion had turned into European capitalist conversion leading to the plundering and exploitation of the African resources²⁴.

Cultural change was also a result of the coming of these churches into Africa. Some people left their cannibalistic traditional practices as civilization was brought unto them. In this regard the churches were able to stop the locals from practicing evil acts like the killing of albinos and the system of human sacrifices¹². These practices they labelled them as pagan and inhuman in nature and therefore worked hard for their abolition. In this regard it was a

welcome act from the churches which saw the preservation of the African lives which were always in danger at all times due to the traditions which were in practice.

2.5. The establishment of Nyahuni Adventist high school

The establishment of Nyahuni was a result of many factors which came into play prior to its formal establishment in 1987. Nyazura mission a sister school to Nyahuni had seen a rise in the number of enrolment and therefore they could not sustain the numbers which were coming and it therefore led to the responsible authority to look for alternative means of catering for the numbers which were growing by each year. According to Mr. Munyaka, a pioneer teacher at Nyahuni, it was then established mainly to cater for technical subjects which needed manual labor¹³. This was done so as to cater mainly for those elderly who had come out of the liberation struggle without basic qualifications that would enable them to find some work. The responsible authority which is the seventh day Adventist church then looked for some land to buy around the Mashonaland area and fortunately the late senator Makunde then donated the land to the church that they may erect and construct the school on his farmland. It was then opened in January 1987 to the public and catering mainly for the local people who were staying in the vicinity of the area. Technical subjects were taught at the school and later on it incorporated academic subjects to become a fully-fledged high school. Other than the school the institution also opened a church to further their missionary work as per their objectives to spread Christianity around to the local people. The institution then enlisted the services of some local people to perform manual labor and thus creating employment and aiding in the improvement of the lives of the local people with the income they got from the institution. This activity has continued to be followed up to this day as it is shown that all the non-teaching staff at the school are local people. With the institution developing, it later on became a boarding school and began enrolling students from other places including urban areas. With this happening, it led to the development of the institution

as they could acquire some income from outside and led to the establishment of other projects that would create employment to the local people while improving their livelihoods in the long run.

Conclusion

It can be noted that various factors have been propounded to explain the reasons for the establishment of church institutions in Africa. Some factors sympathize with the churches while some label them as traitors who were working for the colonial masters. The coming of these churches left a huge mark in Africa as it led to the development of various systems which included the education system, infrastructure amongst other changes. One negative change was the issue of cultural decay as they were preaching against the native culture as being pagan in nature. The establishment of Nyahuni mission was also a result of the growth in the demand for voluntary church services in the country soon after the colonial period had come to an end.

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CHAPTER 3

3.0 Church activities at Nyahuni Adventist High School.

3.1. Introduction

The chapter seeks to unpack the main activities of the church institutions in the areas they are situated in. activities of these church institutions include the provisions of education, Christianity, medical facilities amongst others. It also seeks to bring about the various measures being implemented by the church and the school in the implementation of the activities and services they are rendering to the local people and students enrolled at the school. The chapter will also reveal how the church institution has managed to help the community around it.

3.2. Church activities in Zimbabwe

Various activities have been carried out by missionary institutions in and around Zimbabwe. These activities have been put forward mainly for the benefit of the people living in and around the communities surrounding them. By performing these activities they are seeking to know and understand the cultures of their counterparts and to develop a knowledge and understanding of the communities they belong to¹. These activities by the mission institutions include the provision of education, provision of medical facilities, the spreading of the gospel and also the provision of employment amongst other activities. The chapter will look at the main activities carried out by Nyahuni in the provision of services to the local community as a whole.

3.3. The provision of education

Church institutions have been working towards the provision of education since the gaining of independence in Zimbabwe. This is one of the major reasons that led to the establishment of Nyahuni Adventist high school. In its establishment in 1987, it was meant mainly to cater for the people who wanted to attain technical knowledge especially the elderly but it later on incorporated other academic subjects to become a fully-fledged school². The setting up of the

school has been a welcome initiative to the surrounding communities who live in the local communities as it lightened the burden of many children who had to embark on long journeys each day to distances close to twenty kilometres.

One of the moves made by the institution was the reservation of places for the students coming from local primary schools who would have attained better results from their grade seven examinations. This helped these students by lifting the burden of looking for places in faraway places and come to learn at the schools with the much required resources to see them sail through with their studies. The establishment of the school also saw the change of lives of the students in the local community as they were able to attend the nearby school without much hassles. This has been a different case in the neighbouring boarding schools where they give places on a first come first serve base and they are in cognisant of the children around their local communities.

The school in provision of education embarked on various activities that would subsidise the school fees for some of the local students who are unable to raise the required school fees. This move has come as a welcome initiative to the beneficiary's parents as they are able to see their children finish school and be able to attain their dreams. Initiatives that have been established include the engagement of the students to do some work on the school and the earnings be channelled to the school fees³. As of 2015 the school had six students who were working in various departments including the poultry section, the dining hall, school garden and in the dormitories.

By so doing, the students have been able to attend classes and work after school thereby enabling them to pursue their dreams without much stress. In their quest to achieve their goal of educating the surrounding communities', the school has also provided provisional accommodation for the students who live in distant places so that they would no longer walk

those long distances each day to come to school. The move by the school has been welcomed with great joy by the community as it has accommodated lots of students who are not privileged and has handed them a lifetime opportunity to attain their dreams. In an interview with one parent of the students, she could not hide her joy after her son was accepted into the school under the working scheme and she went on to claim that she was confident that the future of her child was now bright now that they have been accorded with the chance to pursue their education without stress⁴. In this regard it is therefore seen that the church institution has made strides in achieving their laid down objectives in the attainment of education by the local community people.

The provisions made by the school has seen many people improving their lives with one Mr. T Musunda who is now a qualified teacher at the institution. He started working as a cook at the school dining hall and the school assisted him until he acquired his teaching qualification at Solusi University⁵. With this happening, it can therefore be seen that the school has managed to move forward with their objective of improving the local community's people's lives through the provision of educational facilities.

The school in the provision of education has made great strides as it is performing the duty on its own without any external funding from donors or even the responsible authority. This has been a norm in other church institutions where they receive grants by their responsible authorities to carry out their desired projects .With this happening, one can therefore note the great stride Nyahuni has made in providing for education in teir community.

3.4. The provision of medical facilities

Provision of medical services is one of the major objectives of the church institutions. Their work was to eradicate the diseases that had plagued African societies. With this happening the resultant church institutions which opened after independence carried out with the same aim to ensure a continued provision of medical facilities to the local people. This saw the

construction of clinics and hospitals to cater for those people⁶. With the establishment of Nyahuni Mission, it was expected that a clinic would be constructed at the institution but this has failed to happen up until this day. Medical facilities have been scarce in the rural areas thus bringing in a huge of shortage in medical care for the local people around Nyahuni area. Simmons propounded that most of the rural medical facilities belonged mainly to the early churches. They were linked to the main hospitals which were owned by mission schools also⁷. These were equipped with foreign nationals who worked in serving the people in their preparation for the Christian doctrine which they would readily accept after they had been fully treated and were feeling well. This has been the norm in the emerging church institutions which are being launched. They have come with the same objectives which are to serve people and giving them medical attention. Zvobgo also has argued that the establishment of medical centres by these mission centres was an integral part of the Christian witnessing as they saw these medical centres as one of their evangelistic agencies⁸.

The local people are still faced with the problem a distance of more than 15 kilometres to the nearest Murewa district Hospital to get treatment. With this happening many people are failing to get the necessary treatment due to a lack of money and transportation to the hospital. In an interview with one villager, Mr Tawodzerwa, he reiterated that there was a real need for the institution to make a provision for a medical center so as to cater for the local people in cases of emergencies⁹. Many other villagers have made a plea with the institution to ask the responsible authority to take part in helping out in the establishment of a medical facility at the school to alleviate the problems they are facing¹⁰.

The problem of a medical centre has not only affected the local community but also the institution itself. Some students have fallen sick at night or getting into accidents whilst at school and they have to endure the long distance to the nearest hospital which is 17 kilometres away on a rough dusty road. This has proved to be costly to the association as they

would be forced to pay money for the transportation of the students and paying the medical fees and thus showing the real need for a medical facility.

With the lack of a medical facility, the school has however devised ways to help the local people attain some medical consultations from their local communities and get some medicines though in a smaller scale. These moves include the engagement of doctors and nurses from the church which is the responsible authority and they come and attend to the people in the local community. These consultations have been inclusive to both the sick and those who are well having medical checks done on them. With this move being implemented, it has gone a long way in helping the local community people in the attainment of free drugs to those on lifetime medication like those who suffer from high blood pressure and those who are diabetic. One of the beneficiaries Mrs Rota hailed the move saying that the move has helped her very much to ease the burden of going to the hospital which is distant and has been saved from the stress of walking due to her old age¹¹.

In line with the provision of medical provisions, the school has made these consultations a regular event which is done every month end so as to accommodate the sick that need regular medication in order to make sure that they have managed to acquire the required medication and be in a safe zone. In doing so the process has been received with much appreciation as it has recorded key positive results since its inception.

The provision of medical facilities in and around the Nyahuni community falls in line with the aims and objectives of the pioneer missionaries who led to the establishment of centres like Nyahuni Mission. Eradication of diseases was their main aim as there were cases of a high mortality rate because of the lack of knowledge on how to treat the diseases.

3.5. The spreading of Christianity

Church institutions who are an offspring of missionary centres and carry with them the same mandate of spreading the word of God to the people. Manu articulates that the great commission which Jesus gave in Matthew 28vs 18-20 did not only belong to his disciples but it also meant that all his other followers were to partake in that mission of spreading the word to all nations. In following this mission it is acknowledging that they are following the message given by the highest power in the universe which is to be carried out by everyone who claims to be his disciple. This was the same mandate that led to the coming of the missionaries into Zimbabwe with the intention of spreading the gospel to all the world and convert people to Christianity. The establishment of Nyahuni Adventist mission by the Seventh day Adventist church was a step in fulfilling their goal towards the preaching and the spread of the gospel in and around the Murewa area¹². Being an offspring of Nyazura mission which is located in Manicaland, it served as a centre for growth as it would spread the gospel to other areas in and around Mashonaland province.

Nyahuni mission was then established as a centre to accelerate the spread of Christianity around Mashonaland province by the Adventist church. The school under the supervision of the responsible authority has worked towards the spread of the word in and around the communities. Much work has been done in the communities with the engagement of a pastor who has been assigned to the school. The pastor has held many evangelistic meetings teaching the people in the community about the word of God and it has seen many people accepting the word and getting baptised.

The school has also engaged the students and formed an evangelism team that goes out into the communities every weekend engaging the local people and teaching them about God. This has yielded results as the local people have welcomed the students into their homes and

have allowed them to talk with them. Students have walked distances close to 20 kilometres to and fro.



The picture above shows students on an outreach programme posing for a photo with a 90 year old man from Chigori area

The engagement of students in the work of spreading the gospel had a positive effect in the work as they were readily accepted into society. This also helped as they managed to share their beliefs with the people especially of their age groups. In doing so they have been welcomed into the villages as many elderly people want to associate themselves with the young people as they will be astonished with the depth of knowledge being imparted by the young people and such zeal they will be showing in sharing their beliefs. This strategy has been applied and seems to be useful as the pastor will make follow ups on the areas where the

young students would have visited and has resulted in many people converting to Adventism. Pastor Chinhengo who is the assigned pastor at the school said that the work of preaching the word to the people has been made easier with the engagement of the students into their work¹³.

The success in spreading the gospel has also been necessitated by the other activities that the school has been employing in serving the communities around them.

3.6 The provision of farming knowledge

Nyahuni mission in Mashonaland province falls under region 3 and the area receives normal to above normal rainfall each year. In this regard, the main economic activity of the community is farming. Various farming methods have been practiced by the local people with some of them being profitable and some of them failing to become so. This therefore saw a need to educate the people on proper farming methods and the school engaged ADRA a non-governmental organisation run by the Adventist church which has some focus on agriculture to come and train the people. When ADRA came, with the assistance of some local extension officers, people were trained and some managed to receive some seed to use in kick starting their horticultural projects which brought up cash crops that would improve their lives in a short space of time.

In doing so many people have managed to setup gardens which they grow their cash crops like cucumbers, water melons, tomatoes, onions, vegetables amongst other cash crops which take less time to grow and mature and give them quick returns thereby transforming their lives positively. One beneficiary of the project Mr W. Manjari applauded the school for such an initiative as he has become a full time producer who supplies the local market in Murewa centre with green vegetables and other supplies which has helped bring in income to the people. The initiative has therefore shown that the trainings brought positive effects on the area

3.7. The provision of employment

Mission centres prior to independence obtained their labour force from the local communities. With the establishment of Nyahuni mission after independence in 1987, it has continued with the norm. The school has managed to obtain their other non-teaching staff from the local surrounding communities.

The school has engaged the services of the local community people into various departments at the school. These departments include the school garden and the farm, the dining kitchen, maintenance, the poultry section, the physical plant, security amongst other departments. These departments have a collective labour force of more than 30 personnel who are on the school payroll. This has proved to be a huge boost to the people in the community as these people had no other access to stable employment and have been absorbed by the school.

In ensuring the welfare of the local community, the school has given a directive also to the contractors engaged by the school to do some construction work at the school to engage only locals if they needed additional manual labour force¹⁴. In doing this they wanted to make sure that all the proceeds will at least help the local people in improving their lives rather than taking the money out to other people who come from other areas which are far from the school

Employees at Nyahuni who have benefited from this scheme have commended the school for such a noble act as it has gone a long way in improving their lives. One employee, Mr Chindete who is the head at the school kitchen has expressed his joy and had this to say,

When I came to Nyahuni as a worker it helped me very much as I now have managed to acquire some assets which include a car from the savings I made. The car has been generating income for myself and family as I use it for hiring purposes to other people in and around the school¹⁵.

Another Mr Nehumba who is an office assistant and a school driver has hailed role that the school has been playing in the provision of employment as he is one beneficiary of the

system. With him getting employed by the school, he has managed to acquire some properties as well and is now able to look after his parents and siblings back home¹⁶.

3.8. Food assistance

The country in the previous years has been affected by drought in some areas and in making efforts to alleviate hunger in the communities, the school embarked on a project which saw the coming in of ADRA a non-governmental organisation which is run by the seventh day Adventist church worldwide. The NGO has been engaged by the church to help those without food with the basic food stuffs like maize meal and cowpeas so as to alleviate hunger in their areas.

Conclusion

Church institutions were established in order to cater for the needs of the people in their surrounding communities. Various initiatives have been put into place to ensure the fulfilment of these aims. Church schools like Nyahuni have ensured that everyone in the community attains education despite their challenges. This they have done by bringing in initiatives like work and learn program and the provision of free accommodation for far away students to ensure that their learning is not disturbed. The school has also provided employment for the community people as it acquires labour from around the areas of Nyahuni. By so doing improving the livelihoods of the local people. Through their medical evangelism, the school has managed to provide the people with access to mobile medical facilities which they provide to the local people and has gone a long way in improving the health of the people reducing the risk to those who are on permanent medication. This has assisted them in carrying out one of their other objectives as it has enabled them to engage the people in spreading the word as people listen to them appreciating their previous efforts.

Endnotes

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10. An interview with the Chigori community on 05/09/15
11. Interview with Mrs. Rota of Rota village on 13/09/15
12. The Adventist echo of may 2007, vol 123,16
13. Interview with pastor Chinhengo, chaplain at the school on 14/09/15
14. Interview with Mr. Hapazari, the business manager at Nyahuni high school on 22/11/15
15. Interview with Mr. Chindete, the head cook at Nyahuni high school on 10/08/15

Chapter 4

4.0. Results of church institution activities in Zimbabwe

4.1 Introduction

The chapter seeks to analyze the activities of church institutions in Zimbabwe. It also seeks to bring about the successes and failures of Nyahuni in its activities in serving the community surrounding it. Emphasis will also be given on the reasons for the successes if the programs and also the reasons for the failure to achieve their desired goals as an institution. Community responses will also be analyzed in the chapter so as to bring about the views of the community people on the activities of the school and the church.

4.2. Results of the activities of church institutions in Zimbabwe

4.2.1 The success in education provision

The establishment of church institutions in Zimbabwe had an effect on the communities surrounding them. Gallego and Woodberry articulated that church institutions have become proponents of development in former colonial Africa, many schools in present day Africa were founded by churches or were under the management of priests¹. In this regard, it can be seen that schools that were established as a result of church activities had the same prerogative with them and they had to bring out the same provisions like the former missionaries did. This is a valuable service to people these days and such provisions will open doors in the hearts of people and they will let you in.

In this regard, the establishment of Nyahuni mission was one step in reaching out to the people in the area through the provision of their service which included education, religion, medical facilities, employment and farming knowledge. The main reason for the provision of these services was to reach out to the people and make an improvement in their lives. The move recorded success as there re noticeable changes in and around the Nyahuni community as some of the students enrolled by the school have managed to attain good grades in their studies. The people around the area expressed their joys in associating with the school as it

was yielding results to them. One parent Mrs. Gutu expressed her joy after her son was accepted by the school to enroll under the work and learn program as she did not have the means to send him to school³. The child did well as he managed to attain 8 ordinary level passes and was enrolled by the school again doing his advanced level studies at the school. This shows the success by the school in their provision of education to the community around them. Another parent who enrolled her child at the school this year expressed her joy in the manner in which the school treats the local community students who come to the school. She said that other schools were charging exorbitant fees which they were unable to meet every term at Nyahuni had considered and heeded to their pleas and subsidized fees for them which has become a welcome initiative to them⁴.

Nyahuni mission has been successful in their quest to provide education for their community as it has seen many people from communities surrounding graduating with flying colors and making an improvement in their lives. In an interview with Mr. Tawodzera who was once an employee at the school, he said that he managed to attain the diploma in agriculture that he has at the moment through the efforts of the school which assisted him in supplementing his subjects until he managed to sit for his advanced level studies whilst working at the school kitchen⁴. He pointed out that he had no hope of attaining any academic qualification due to the prevailing situation back home. This therefore shows that the school has been making various efforts in making sure that people do not just come to school but they go home with something tangible at the end of the day. In line with the above findings, it can therefore be seen that there has been a record of success in the activities of the church as their efforts received much appreciation.

In view to the provision of education services to the community, Mrs. Makunde, wife to the late senator Makunde who donated the land to the church for the construction of the school

said that she does not regret ever donating the land to the church for the building of the school as it had exceeded her expectations. She went on to praise the school for providing education to the children of her farm workers who were saved from walking longer distances to attend school⁵. The success to the provision of education at the farm has been seen with the reduction in cases of hooliganism and substance abuse by the young people who have been idle without anything keeping them busy. This therefore shows the great strides made by the school in improving the lives of the people in the community. Negative elements have been eradicated with the enlightenment of the people through the provision of education.

The provision of education by the school to the vulnerable children in the community proved to be a success very much as it witnessed a rise in the day scholars who were passing their ordinary level studies. In 2014 for example there was an improvement in the passes as it recorded about 12 students out of the 21 day scholars who had sat for their national examination coming out with at least 5 ordinary level passes. Out of these 12 who managed to pass, 5 of them managed to continue with their studies by enrolling for their advanced level studies. This then shows that the school has made great strides in helping the students and their families to have a starting point in their lives through the attainment of an academic qualification.

4.22. Success in the provision of medical facilities

In this field, less success has been recorded by the institution as it has failed to provide a proper medical facility that is permanent in the form of a clinic. Headman in the Rota area Mr. Chibhanguza aired the same views that they expected the school to provide them with a nearby medical facility that would cater for their health needs⁶. The need for a clinic has been the major concern for the community as they have seen in other mission schools surrounding them who have clinics with the likes of the Roman Catholic owned S^t Pauls Musami which operates a hospital and also Nhowe mission which has a clinic that is functional. This has

therefore left Nyahuni mission in the spotlight for its lack of a medical facility that caters for the surrounding community which it aims to serve.

Despite the lack of a medical facility, the school has not neglected its people but has managed to carry out some health awareness programs where they have done medical consultations through the doctors from the church that come at the end of each month and provide some medicines to the community people. With this happening, it has gained appreciation from the community with one Mrs. Zimuto who suffers from high blood pressure praised the move saying that she has stopped going the long walk to Murewa hospital every month end but is now waiting every month for the doctors who have been providing her with her monthly supply of medicine⁷.

The health campaigns have also yielded positive results according to Mr. Banda of Chigore area where they have been intensified. During these campaigns there were lessons on the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse. After these campaigns a rehabilitation program was done to those willing to stop taking drugs and it yielded some results as some few young people managed to stop taking them effectively. Mr. Banda then praised the program as there were less cases of violence in the area due to a reduction in the uptake of alcohol especially by the youths⁸.

However despite these recorded successes there is a real need for a medical centre that is permanent which will be there to attend to some serious and emergency cases as said by chief Chamapango⁹. These cases cannot be dealt with by their mobile clinics which they carry out from time to time but need real attention in a clinical environment. The chief went on to give an example of someone who has had a heart attack or an accident that need some surgery and with those situations, mobile clinics cease to have any significance to the problem at hand. With this in view, it was shown that there is a real need for the school to establish a medical

center so as to take care of the problems they face with the lack of a proper clinic to attend to the sick.

This therefore shows that to fully succeed in providing medical services to the society surrounding the school, a medical structure is needed at the school. This will be appreciated especially by women who give birth. One of the women Mrs. Mapuranga really called for the school with the help of the responsible authority to setup a health facility that will cater for them as she lost her baby upon birth at home due to complications she faced on her way to Murewa hospital which is a long distance away¹⁰. She went on to say these kind of losses would be avoided if there was a clinic close by where they would quickly rush to so as to be attended on time.

4.2.3 The preaching of the gospel

The school in connection with the church, in their quest to spread the word of God was met with some success. This has been necessitated by the other service which they have been rendering to the communities before they embarked on the mission to spread the word. Various activities which included helping the vulnerable by providing them food and some clothing collected from the other students willing to help. According to pastor Chinhengo, this has helped open up avenues to reaching to the people as they now see the school and the church as genuine people without any ulterior motive to take advantage of the community¹¹. With this happening, it has enabled them to enter deeper into the community doing evangelical work which has led them to the conversion of many souls.

In line with the spreading and the preaching of the gospel of God the church and the school held a crusade in the Chigori area for two weeks which was held by the local pastor with the help of evangelist Manjari.W. In this crusade the church provided bibles for the people who attended the services and this was a huge step to their success as many people had the chance to read bibles on their own, some being the first time doing so. With this happening, it

managed to open the hearts of the people and as many as 15 people were baptized into the church after the crusade.

The provision of education has also helped in the preaching and the spread of the gospel. This has happened due to the bible lessons delivered to the students every day at the school. These students who live in the community then share some of the lessons with their families back home and this has led to the conversion of some people. One student confessed that it was through sharing what she had been learning at school with her mother that led her to join the church¹². With this happening, it shows that the spread of the gospel has been gaining some success.

However despite the recorded success there have been some elements of resistance by some other people and groups to the word being preached. This has been further supported by Reid when he articulated that during the missionaries' period, some people remained stubbornly resistant to the gospel being preached and also some could not convert to new religions unless they had good reasons for doing so¹³. This therefore shows that despite all the efforts made by the church and the school to preach the word of God to the people there will always be challenges that will be faced along the way as people are never the same and respond differently to every situation at hand.

4.3. Other successes of the church institution

The school had also other successes in providing for the communities through various other programs and projects they carried out at the school and around the community. In 2015 when the school was extending the school dormitories, it acquired most of the materials like bricks concrete, river and pit sand from the community people. By so doing it was providing an income to the people. According to Mr. Makamba, the school head, more than \$20 000 was channeled to the community through the provision of the services and building materials¹⁴. From this information, it can be seen that the school really contributed much to

the community people as they had no other mean of acquiring the money had it not been of the school. The provision of services like the building materials by the community has been a program that has been ongoing since the start of the school and every time it goes a long way in helping the people get something to survive on.

Minimal success has also been recorded in the provision of employment as it has managed to turn around the lives of many people in the community and their families. One of the employees who hail from the nearby Rota village, Mr. Manjari has hailed the initiative to employ the local people rather than those from other places as it has helped hugely in alleviating poverty in their families¹⁵. Through this initiative, he managed to send his young siblings to school and by so doing they managed to turn around their lives with the income coming from the school thus showing a huge contribution to society.

Through the provision of employment the people have managed to acquire some assets which are generating income to them, improving their lifestyles to the better. Some of the employees have managed to buy trucks which they use for hiring purposes and providing an easier way of harvesting their crops from the fields saving them valuable time. One of the employees Mr. Nyamajiwa has managed to send his son to university through the truck that he bought after being employed at the school and has been ushering praises to the school for the efforts which they have been making in making sure that they contribute something valuable to the community and to aid to its development¹⁶

With the help of ADRA, a non-governmental organization run by the church, the church has managed to provide some villagers with food to alleviate the problems of hunger and starvation. Even though the program did not benefit all the communities, the few selected worst cases proved to be a success as those who benefited from the scheme praised the church for intervening at a time where they had become hopeless of the situation.

4.4. The driving force in the success of Nyahuni in implementing their objectives.

The success of Nyahuni Adventist high school in the implementation of their aims and objectives can be attributed to many factors. One of the main reasons why the institution has managed to provide for the community is the spirit of ubuntuism which has been instilled in the members and leaders at the institution. Since its establishment according to Mr. Munyaka, the school has had a zeal to see the community developing. This has therefore led them to find some initiatives which would ensure that the people have an access to a basic education which would sail them through in the journey of life¹. The spirit of ubuntuism which drove the workers at Nyahuni to come up with initiatives to help the community states that people are equal and each and everyone deserves a chance in life despite the background or opportunities which we have come across through ones journey in life.

One other factor that has aided the school in achieving some of their desired goals was the moral and civilizing aspect. According to the South African history online, it is said that “Church institutions are surrounded by moral atmospheres, or have a moral and civilizing influence to a considerable distance around”². In this regard one can therefore note that the moral influence was one of the driving factors that led the school to achieve what they have achieved so far in the communities around them. The provision of education to the society was a stepping stone which they have provided the community such that the children will be prepared for the civilization that lies ahead of them in the world. In the need to prepare the students for a life in the world therefore gave the school the power to enhance their efforts in providing an education to the children of the communities and thus the efforts brought in the much needed results.

Proper planning has become one of the major drivers for the success in the implementation of the initiatives at Nyahuni. Upon the realization that the school had no medical facility, they

made a plan to counter the problem and by so doing they managed to make a provision of medical consultations to the surrounding communities and bringing a degree of success to the school in the implementation of the initiative. On the provision of education, it was not possible that the school could achieve the feat without proper planning. According to Mr. Mabika, a teacher at the school, the school saw the need in the community and with the need rising, there was a need for action and thus they put a plan into action since 2000 and the plan is still being implemented up to date as it is proving to be useful in their goals. With this one can therefore note that as a result of proper planning.

The initiatives by the school could have yielded nothing if it were not for the willing recipients in the community. People in the communities have been one of the driving forces in the success of the initiatives. With their willingness to work with the school made the task easier as it enabled the school to continue with the initiatives without major hindrances. One example is the willingness by the students to attain an education. This has led the students some of them leaving unruly behaviors which contradicts with the laws that govern the school. By so doing, this has made the task of the school very much easier as they little follow up on the students as they are goal oriented and need no much motivation to achieve their desired goals. This has been echoed by the school head, Mr. Makamba who applauded the community people for their willingness to work with the school in its initiatives and also for giving their children proper counselling before they come to school. In this view it can therefore be seen that indeed the responses from the community and the willingness by them to work with the school was a major boost in the achievement of the desired goals.

4.5. Failures of the church institution

In as much as Nyahuni Adventist high has been putting in place measures that would help the community, it has met with challenges that have hindered them from achieving their desired

goals. The institution has failed to provide some other services to the community as they have planned to achieve.

One of the failures of the institutions is mainly the failure to provide a permanent medical facility which the community is in dire need of. This has led to many people in the community criticizing the institution as it was one of the most expected activities to be provided by the institution. Mrs. Makunde said that the lack of a nearby medical facility especially at the school has negatively affected the people at her farm as they have to travel long distances to seek medical assistance which in turn affects overall production on the farm¹⁷. This in turn shows that the school actually failed to fully provide for the people as they have no permanent medical structures in place.

Even though the school has put measures to provide education for the community, it has not put measures that fully engage and help the members of the community. According to one teacher at the school, the work and learn program has no proper planning in it. Things are done haphazardly and the selection process is biased¹⁸. This therefore leaves those deserving students outside having to suffer in order to raise the funds needed to attend school. With this happening, it can therefore be seen that without proper planning measures put in place many students will be left outside without accessing the aid they deserve to access.

4.5.1 Reasons for their failure

Many factors have been put forward to explain the reasons why the church institutions in Zimbabwe are failing to achieve their desired goals in providing for the people in their communities. Some have labeled them to be anti-community as they are not fully serving their people.

According to Mr. Makamba the school head at Nyahuni, the economic situation prevailing in the country has hindered them from fully serving the community in meeting some of their needs. He also went on to say that the little money they receive from the fees is then

channeled towards the paying of services provided to them and also paying of their workers¹⁹. This has therefore left the school without the necessary funding required to carry out other projects that help the community like the construction of the clinic.

Some mission centers are becoming money oriented. This is shown mainly because of the school fees which they charge to the people. These fees drive away potential students who cannot afford the fees but have the ability to score good grades. One example is Anderson Adventist High in Gweru which charges close to a thousand dollars for school fees. This amount of money drives away potential suitors as it only accommodates the elites who are a few people who afford such kind of education. This then shows that with such kind of mentality growing in the mission schools, very soon many people in their communities will be failing to send their children to school as they would not be able to pay those exorbitant fees.

The school has also failed to fully help the students who are in need and are failing to pay for their fees to attend school. The case has been like that due to the fact that the school has no external funding which comes to them. All the expenses and projects at the school are self-funded and it therefore leaves the school tied up and resort to accepting the majority of students who come for their boarding school so as to acquire the required money for the proper running of the institution.

Community people have aired some of their reasons why they have not responded to the preaching of the people who come from the school. Some have said that the people always give empty promises which they fail to fulfill and have therefore lost trust in them. The preaching of the gospel therefore has lost its sense as the people have only concluded that the people only want to further their goals without taking care of their promises first.

4.5.2. Reasons for the failure to meet some of the laid down objectives

Though efforts have been put in place to assist the people in their communities Nyahuni saw itself lagging in some critical areas. The school failed to fully deliver to the community as expected of them through various reasons which will be explained in detail.

The school failed to fully help in the development of the community through the lack of funding from the responsible authority. Some church schools receive grants from their responsible authorities but Nyahuni has not received any aid from the responsible authority in a long time. The meagre funds that the school receive from the payment of school fees are then used for the requirements at the school and nothing is left to help the community. Though the community does not need monetary help, the services that the school wishes to provide require some money taking for example the construction of a clinic at the school which requires a huge amount of capital injection which the school is unable to provide at the moment.

Nyahuni as a boarding school has a school development council which comprises of parents that come from outside the community. These people are much concerned with the welfare of the school and their children and there is nothing that helps the communities concerns them very much. With this happening, the schools plans on helping the community is thrown down the drain as they cannot make decisions of their own. It is also seen that the councils of the parents does not even consist of any local community parents but only those that come from outside and they cannot therefore be concerned with the activities which the school would want to perform in order to help the people and therefore the school fails in its quest to provide for their communities around them.

The economic situation prevailing in the country has not spared the school at all. This is evidenced by the fact that the school even failed to pay its workers in December 2015 when

its funds were dried and had to wait for the payment of other school fees. This therefore shows that the school with the lack of funding cannot fulfil their duties to the full extent as most of the activities require money. In an interview with the school business manager Mr. Hapazari, he reiterated the fact that the dollarization process had a negative impact on the school as it had just received some funding from a non-governmental organization for the construction of a clinic due to the cholera epidemic. The funds were frozen and could not be accessed. With this happening, the school was left with a huge burden to bear as it had to recover from the loss that it had just incurred from. A shift in attention then rose as the school was focusing on its recovery and less attention was given to the community and in the process the school has failed to provide any meaningful assistance to the community.

One major factor that has made the school unable to provide for the community is the shift in attention by the school towards the boarding students who pay much money. These occurrences have left the vulnerable children with no other means of attaining of an education as their places become occupied by those students who are able to pay the required amount of money. This therefore shows that the students who are not able to pay the required fees, some of them are turned away from the school as there has been a shift in concentration by the school authorities and in the process failing to continue with their aims of providing an education to the community.

Changes in leadership at the school has been one of the major challenge in the provision of services to the community by the school. This has been evidenced by the fact that over the past six years, the school has seen more than three school coming and leaving the school. This occurrence affects the system of continuity negatively as one who comes to the school has his/her own plans which differ from the ones that were laid down by the predecessors at the school. Some of the leaderships do not have the community at heart and are very much concerned by the way they run the school whilst drifting away from the community which

makes up the school and therefore failing in their objectives of helping and developing the community at large.

4.6. Community responses to the activities of Nyahuni high school

Success by the school cannot be measured without mentioning the responses by the community to the activities of the school as it engages the surrounding community. Comments made by the people in the community determines the degree of success or failure by the school in its quest to engage and serve the community around. Various people have made different deliberations upon the school and they all come out with different responses towards the school as the expectations of the people are very much different.

Some of the community people commended very much the efforts by the school in providing a provision for education to their children at a cost where most would afford unlike the neighboring boarding schools which charged fees that have been beyond the reach of many parents. This system has been praise by many as those who do not have the means of paying the fees are also assisted in doing so by working at the school and receiving education for free. This process according to a parent whose child had been accepted into the system lessens the burden and stress of the parents who would have carried the burden of looking and pay for the required fees. In this regard it can therefore be seen that the community has been responding positively and thus showing a degree of success in the activities by the school in the service of the surrounding community.

Parents and members of the community raised some concerns over the selection process being done at the school in the selection of beneficiaries of the initiatives which are meant to help the people in the communities. Some parents cried foul as their children were denied the access for their children to attend school through the initiatives arguing that the selection process had been biased towards the people they know and leaving out those who had no connections and leaving them out in the dark without access to a sustainable way of

educating their children. With this happening, one can therefore conclude that the system did not succeed in helping the community but only managed to help a few individuals who were influential leaving out the voiceless in the peripheries as they have no one to stand up and speak for themselves.

The school also succeeded in the provision of medical facilities though not permanent. This has been the greatest gift that the school has ever given to the people according to the people of Chigori village. The people have hailed the move to bring in doctors who treat people for free as some of the villagers have no source of income which enables them to attend any hospitals. People have said that a new breath of life has been given to them as they could get some medicines which they could not afford and giving them a new lease of life in the process and therefore recording some success in their quest to provide for their surrounding communities.

In an interview with Mr. Kumire of Mukarakate village, he argued that the school has failed the community as most of the projects they do or other initiatives which they put into practice are only meant for a very few people and not the whole community. He went on to say that they perform those initiatives so as to save face when they give reports to their superiors. One example he gave was the period when the school was renovating the student's dormitories in 2015 when they had trouble with the contractors who had been hired by the school and they were filing to pay for the labor rendered by the villagers. Upon engaging the school, it did nothing to help the situation and therefore showing that the problem could not be solved and showing that the school had failed to look after the community people at large.

Overall the responses of the people in the community have shown that people differ in perspective and there has been notable changes in the relationship between the community and the church school since its inception in 1987. There has been an up and down trend in

the way the school and the community but some progress have been made in developing the communities around Nyahuni and that should be commended. From this it can therefore be seen that indeed there was some success by the school as they embarked on which comes as a very much positive development to the school.

4.7. Overall assessment of church institutions in Zimbabwe

Church institutions in Zimbabwe vary very much as they are established by different church denominations as a whole. Despite their differences, their aims and objectives remain more or less the same as they wish to provide services to their communities in different ways according to their principles and objectives.

Some church institutions have been castigated for their change in the turn of the millennium as they have started to become more inclined to the public schools in the way they operate. Exorbitant fees beyond the reach of many parents are being charged which makes it more difficult for the general worker to send their children to such schools and therefore showing that the schools are failing to maintain their aims of providing an education to all children.

However some schools like St Ignatius in Chishawasha have had some initiatives where they have been providing scholarships to worthy students but vulnerable in the payment of their fees and therefore showing that the schools are still working towards the provision of education to all the people despite their social status in the community.

Church schools have been caught up in the web of profiteering from the students as evidenced by the way they charge their fees. One example is Anderson Adventist High school in Gweru. The school charges school fees which are close to \$1000,00 per term which is a huge amount of money as compared to other schools. The amount being charged has become a thorn in the flesh of the parents and guardians who fail to raise those funds and end up sending their children to inferior school with low standards as they fail to meet the

demands of the church institutions. This therefore shows beyond reasonable doubt that the church institutions have not fully embraced the demands of serving the communities around them and still have a long way to go that they may fully serve the people in their communities.

Conclusion

It has been noted that the church institutions as they are known have carried out their activities in and around Zimbabwe in their quest to serve the people who live in the communities they live in. with this happening the centers have met success with them as positive results have been recorded. Various underprivileged people have gained access to attain free education; medical facilities have also been provided to the people improving their health lives in the process however despite all this success, it has been noted that there are some instances where they have to provide the services which they desire to provide for the people. Lack of funding has stalled their plans to continue their work as they receive no much funding from their responsible authorities thus leaving them with little to spend on their people around their community.

Endnotes

1. Gallego and Woodberry, Christian missions and education in former African colonies :how competition mattered, journal of African economies, vol 19, 3, 294-95
2. Ibid.
3. Interview with Mr. Gutu of Chamapango village. On 18/09/15
4. Interview with mr Tawodzera at Chigori village on 20/01/16
5. Interview with Mrs. Makunde of Makunde farm in Murewa on 25/11/15
6. Interview with Mr. Chibhanguza oof Chibhanguza farm in murewa on 21/10/15
7. Interview with Mrs. Zimuto of Mukararkate village on 03/09/15
8. Interview with Sekuru Banda of Chigori village on 13/09/15
9. Interview with chief Chamapango of chamapango village on 21/01/16
10. Interview with Mrs Mapuranga of st Clares on 07/07/15
11. Interview with pastor Chinhengo of Nyahuni Adventist church on 15/08/15
12. Interview with a student at the school on 21/01/16
13. Reid. R, a history of modern Africa, 1800 to the present, C.O.S printers
Singapore, 2014
14. Interview with Mr. Makamba the school head at Nyahuni on 10/09/15
15. Interview with Mr. Manjari of Rota village on 22/12/15
16. Interview with Mr. Nyamajiwa who works at the school on 16/10/15
17. Interview with Mrs. Makunde of Makunde farm in Murewa on 25/11/15
18. Interview with a teacher at the school (name withheld) on 12/08/15
19. Interview with Mr. Makamba the school head at Nyahuni on 10/09/15

Chapter 5

5.0 Conclusion

The establishment of churches in Zimbabwe saw the establishment of church institutions that worked with the local communities where they were situated. The main purpose for the establishment of these church institutions was to serve the people and to develop them. The trend has however continued even after independence with the establishment of church institutions in Zimbabwe. These institutions have been established with the same aims of serving the local communities as was before by the missionaries. Their main aims were to provide education, medical facilities and the spread of Christianity. These objectives have been the main core values of all church institutions which have been established after independence.

Churches in Zimbabwe have established many institutions around the county with the aim of helping the communities around with provisions which would lift them from the quagmires of poverty they are lavishing in.

Other church institutions have however derailed from these aims of serving the communities as they have become money oriented to the extent of neglecting their communities and serving the non-locals who come with the much sought for money. The aims of these church institutions have been to provide education, medical facilities, share the word of God with the people and to also teach the people sustainable methods of farming and provide employment to a lesser degree.

The main reason for the establishment of Nyahuni was the need of a center that would teach technical subjects in order to accommodate those that have come out from war without any qualifications and needed somewhere to start in order to continue with their lives.

The school and church have managed to carry out their laid objectives and have recorded with them some success as many children in the communities have been enrolled at the

school and are pursuing their studies at the school. Various initiatives have been put into place to assist those who are unable to pay their school fees with the introduction of the work and learn initiative. This has seen more than 20 students getting school fees assistance from the school since the inception of the program in 2011. In the provision of medical facilities, the institution has not fully succeeded as they have not provided the community with a clinic. Despite the unavailability of such facility, the institution have made some provisions for the community with the inception of mobile clinics which are carried out every month end and it has gone a long way in helping those with chronic diseases like hypertension as they are provided with medication while at home.

However, despite all the efforts which have been put into place, the institution still lacks in its quest to fully help the community as there are some other areas that are lacking. The provision of education has not been fully implemented due to the lack of proper funding of the program. The economic situation in the country has also been of great hindrance as there is no external funding coming to the school and therefore it cannot fully sustain itself implementing the program. Even though there have been medical consultations in the community, there is still a need for a clinic to be built at the school so as to fully cater for the sick people in the villages. In their quest to spread the word of God to the people, some have remained sticking to their beliefs as it is a norm with the people not to fully accept everything that people bring to them.

Overally church institutions in Zimbabwe have been applauded for the efforts that they are making in helping their communities as there are very much noticeable changes taking place in the areas. The changes have been positive and development is taking place showing how great the efforts of the people have been to the communities. This therefore shows that church institutions have gone a long way in helping their surrounding communities

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