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Challenges in Integrating Population Variables into Local Government Authorities' Development Plans

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Abstract

This paper examines the challenges in integrating population variables into Local Government Authorities (LGA)' development plans in Chemba and Mpwapwa District Councils in Dodoma Region. The study intended to examine challenges faced by LGA in integrating population variables into short, medium, and long-term development plans. The target study population was LGA's Development Planning Officers. The study adopted a cross-sectional research design in which both qualitative and quantitative data were collected. Univariate analysis was done to capture the distribution of respondents in frequencies and percentages. Cross-tabulation captured the association of variables at a 95% significance level. The findings revealed that LGAs face several challenges in integrating population variables into development plans. These challenges are institutional that includes scarcity of data, lack of political commitment, limited access to computing facilities, and inadequacy of statistical data sources. The resource-based challenges are the unclear relevance of the decision among development planners, limited understanding of population variables and insufficient expertise to prepare needed projection inputs. The planning process-based challenges are the bureaucratic structures in centralized planning offices, reliance on secondary data from outdated socioeconomic profiles and too many directives from the central government. The study concludes that institutional setup, resource constraints, and the nature of the planning process prevent LGA's from devising comprehensive development plans. The findings require LGAs to exert more effort into timely reviewing and updating of reliable sources of data, improve understanding of planners on population variables and increase experts on projection inputs. Too many directives (central government priorities) order to create development plans which foster local economic growth and address the issue of youth rural-urban migration. The study recommends that LGAs improve updating all sources of data for planning purposes, and review the planning approach in an attempt to make it more equitable and egalitarian, instead of being a top-down regurgitation of central government policies. Besides, development planners need to be acquainted with methodologies for integrating population variables into development plans.

Keywords: Population Variables, Integration, Development Plans, Local Government Authorities, Dodoma

1.0. Introduction

Integrating population variables (Fertility rate, Mortality rate, Population Size, Migration, Population structure, Population distribution) into development planning can be traced far back to the Third World Population Conferences held in Bucharest in 1974, Mexico in 1984, and Cairo in 1994. There was a consensus that widespread poverty, as well as social and gender inequality, has a significant influence on,

and are in turn influenced by population parameters such as population growth, structure, and distribution. Population variables have serious implications for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as they influence poverty reduction, food security, health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, access to clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, employment opportunities, and economic growth (UN, 2022). Furthermore, population dynamics tend to influence sustainable industrialization, inequality, functional cities and communities, manageable consumption, and production patterns, addressing the impact of climate change, conservation, and ocean use; protecting, and promoting equitable use of terrestrial ecosystems, managing timber resources, and combating desertification (UNDP, 2009; URT, 2018b; UN, 2022).

According to the UN (2001), McNicoll (2003), Demena (2005), and Dutt and Ros (2008), population and development have a tendency to influence one another, and the two invariably have a close relationship. In the short run, the effects of population growth may appear marginal, but it sets into motion a cumulative process whose adverse impact on various facets of development might turn out to be very significant in the medium and longer term. This is because population variables influence the development and welfare of individuals, families, and communities at the micro-level, as well as the district, region, and nation at the macro-level. Rapid population increase in situations of low economic growth tends to raise consumption expenditure, drawing resources away from saving for productive investment. This slows growth in national output and minimizes capital formation. The strains caused by rapid population growth are felt most acutely and visibly in the public budgets for health, education, and utility services like water and energy provision (UN, 2001; Gupta *et al.,*2011; Graff and Bremner, 2014).

Development is a complex phenomenon that concerns all the structures and subsystems of society, affecting its quantitative aspects through economic growth and its qualitative aspects through social and cultural change. Planning is needed but is effective only to the extent that it is applied to a known and controllable reality. Development planning focuses on future human needs, though it should begin with an evaluation of the past and present economic, social, and demographic situation in the country and include the formulation of clear objectives. The integration of population variables into development plans simply means the explicit consideration of the relationship between socio-economics and demographics in the construction of development policies, programs, and plans aimed at achieving national development objectives. The need for integrating population variables is based on the recognition that population variables are one of the key components of a good development plan. However, such variables are influenced by the currently implemented development plans as well, and thus, population variables are an integral part of the social and economic development policies intending to improve people's quality of life.

Development planning usually involves investment in sectors such as health, education, transport, energy, and water services (URT, 2019). Therefore, the scale of development planning can range from a small area in a district or city to the whole country (Republic of Uganda, 2015; UN, 2017; IFAD, 2022). The aim of such investment is to promote the well-being of communities. Integration of

population variables into development plans involves considering issues such as fertility rates (births), mortality rates (deaths), population size, migration, composition, structure, and distribution since such variables affect nearly all facets of human life. There is a real need to integrate population variables into development plans since it is one of the objectives of the Tanzania Human Population Policy of 2006. The expectation, which runs contrary to contemporary practice, is that development planners in every sector are supposed to carefully examine the population variables in their respective sectors and consider such variables carefully in preparing their development plans.

When planning for development, the goal is to create and maintain a strong, vibrant, local economy. Development planning is broadly defined as the planning of any organized endeavour that aims to promote development. It encompasses a wide range of economic, social, and institutional fields at various levels of government (Ariyawansa, 2009; Dale, 2004; URT, 2019). LGA's development plans should address poverty, foster sustainable development, promote social cohesion, and work in unison to solve common problems (Gardiner, 2017). Dale (2004) argues that economic and social issues (human issues like social services) are clearly central to any proper development plan. Land utilization, education facilities, health care services, water services, transport and communication networks, energy services and the like are central to both rural and urban development planning.

The government of the United Republic of Tanzania recognizes that population is the most important asset of national development, in terms of personnel, internal markets, and national security (URT, 2021). The National Population Policy of 2006 had the goal of coordinating a framework and guidelines for the integration of population variables into the development planning process so that population variables are effectively considered in both short-term and long-term development plans (URT, 2021). This is essential for hastening the attainment of sustainable and equitable development in the country. Additionally, the Tanzania National Population Policy of 2006 provided guidelines to determine priorities in population and development plans. Such guidelines were designed to strengthen the preparation and implementation of socioeconomic development plans (URT, 2006). The integration of population variables into development plans is a systematic consideration of population variables in the planning process (URT, 2021). The education sector, public works, healthcare delivery, agricultural extension, and employment are all examples of planning sectors that should consider population variables in LGA development plans (URT, 2018a; URT, 2021).

As part of the government's effort to improve the delivery of social services to its population at the local level through decentralisation by devolution, LGAs were established under the Constitution of the Republic of Tanzania of 1977 under sections 145 and 146. LGAs are vested with statutory powers in line with legislation and regulations enacted by the parliament under the Local Government (Urban Authorities) Act No. 7 and 8 of 1982. The LGAs are given a wide range of functions to serve the population at lower levels. Such functions include maintaining peace, order, and good governance, promoting social welfare and the economic well-being of all persons within areas of jurisdiction subject to the national policy and plans for rural and urban development (Shadrack, 2010; URT,

2022). To achieve their mandated functions and improve service delivery to the community, LGAs are required to develop long, medium, and short-term plans (URT, 2022). The long and medium-term plans are usually translated into annual plans and budgets for execution. In this regard, the government introduced two approaches of planning to foster improved delivery of services: top-down and bottom-up (participatory) development planning. However, according to the National Population Policy of 2006, integration of population variables into development plans in Tanzania has yet to be fully realized. This study, therefore, examined the challenges encountered in integrating population variables into the LGA's development plans focusing on institutional setup, resources, technical issues, and the planning process itself.

2.0. Methodology

The study was conducted in the Dodoma region of Tanzania covering two District Councils, Chemba and Mpwapwa. The Dodoma region was purposively selected, and two out of seven councils were randomly selected. The study mainly adopted a non-experimental research design (cross-sectional research design) that enabled the collection of both qualitative and quantitative data from respondents and accessed documents. The design was adopted because it allowed for the collection of data from different participants at one (the same) point in time (Bryman, 2012). The design also provides for the opportunity to make comparisons from the data gathered from different participants. Compared to other research designs like case study, observation, or library study, cross-sectional research design generates findings quickly.

The target study population were development planning officers who are head of departments and units. According to the medium-term strategic planning and budgeting manual (2008) heads of departments and units are obliged to form a council technical team responsible for the planning process at the council level. Therefore, simple random sampling was used to select Chemba and Mpwapwa District Councils. Since the size of the target population was manageable, no sampling techniques were applied in selecting them, and participation was encouraged for everyone involved in the LGA planning process. The unit of analysis was individual participants from the study population. The number of respondents in the study was essentially determined by the total number of planning officers in the selected two LGAs. In total there were 46 planning officers; 16 from Chemba District Council, and 30 from the Mpwapwa District Council.

Primary data for this study was collected from participants and secondary data from accessed documents on the internet as well as from the selected LGAs. Primary data was collected from development planning officers. The method used for primary data collection was a face-to-face structured interview, and the main instrument was a questionnaire. Secondary data was collected through a document review by summarising the key issues found in various accessed documents on the internet and from LGAs' documents which including development plans. The validity and reliability of the methods and tools were ensured by conducting a pilot study that led to the adjustment of some questions in the questionnaire prior to the actual data collection exercise. This guaranteed the collection of relevant data based on key research questions. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected to provide a comprehensive analysis of the study variables. In this study, both forms of data were collected and then

integrated into the interpretation of the overall results (Babie, 2013; Bryman, 2016; Creswell and Creswell, 2018).

Collected primary data was processed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM-SPSS) V.25. Processing of the collected data involved reviewing filled-in questionnaires, preparing the codebook and SPSS template for data entry, entering the data from the checked and edited questionnaires, cleaning, and verification of the entered data for analysis. Univariate data analysis was done, whereby descriptive statistics (frequency and percentages) were computed to capture distributions of responses, and their variation by district was checked by the chi-square (χ^2) test.

3.0. Results and discussion

3.1. Characteristics of Respondents

Several respondents' background variables were studied including sex, marital status, education level and respondents' category. In the questionnaire, respondents presented the highest level of education they have attained, sex, marital status and category. Data in Table 1 reveal that the majority (67.4%) of the participants in the study were males compared to females who consisted of 32.6% of the total participants. More participants (65.2%) were from Mpwapwa district than those from Chemba District (34.8%). All participants were planning officers from Mpwapwa and Chemba, and in terms of marital status majority (71.7%) of them were married. Based on education level, the study observed that a large proportion (50.3%) had Bachelor Degree and 30.4% had Master degree. However, the data show no significant variation by district ($p>0.05$). Distribution of participants by their category/position had no significant variation ($p>0.05$) by district as 65.2% were from Mpwapwa and 34.8% from Chemba 37% were heads of department, 50% were heads of Unit/section and 13% were planning officers.

Table 1: Characteristics of the respondents

Distribution of Participants by Sex

Sex	**District**		**Total**
	Mpwapwa	**Chemba**	
Male	20 (43.5) *	11 (23.9)	31 (67.4)
Female	10 (21.7)	5 (10.9)	15 (32.6)
Total	**30 (65.2)**	**16 (34.8)**	**46 (100.0)**
	χ^2 = 0.021	***df=1***	***P = 0.886***

Distribution of participants by Marital status

Marital status	District		Total
	Mpwapwa	Chemba	
Not Married	6 (13.0) *	2 (4.3)	8 (17.4)
Married	20 (43.5)	13 (28.3)	33 (71.7)
Divorced	3 (6.5)	0 (0.0)	3 (6.5)
Widowed	1 (2.2)	1 (2.2)	2 (4.4)
Total	**30 (65.2)**	**16 (34.8)**	**46 (100.0)**
χ^2 = 4.655	***df = 4***	***P = 0.325***	

Distribution of participants by Category of employment

Participants' category	**District**		**Total**
	Mpwapwa	**Chemba**	
Planning officer	13 (28.3) *	5 (10.9)	18 (39.1)
Head of Department	5 (10.9)	6 (13.0)	11 (23.9)
Head of Unit/Section	12 (26.1)	5 (10.9)	17 (37.0)
Total	**30 (65.2)**	**16 (34.8)**	**46 (100.0)**
χ^2 = 2.499	***df = 2***	***P = 0.287***	

Age of participants and work experience in planning (in years)

	n	Range	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Error of the mean	Std. Deviation	Variance
Age of respondent	46	25.0	25.0	50.0	39.087	0.9883	6.7027	44.926
Respondent's work experience in planning	46	23	2	25	9.04	0.786	5.333	28.443

3.2. Institutional-based Challenges

Studying the challenges encountered in integrating population variables into the LGAs' development plans involved asking the development planners directly to specify the trials that they have faced in integrating population variables into development plans. Such challenges were categorized as either institutional-based, resources-based, planning process-based, and technical-based as described in Table 2 to Table 5. In examining institutional challenges that limit LGAs in integration of population variables into development plans. During interviews, respondents specified the challenges faced (Table 2). One development planning officer at Mpwawa District Council reported that;

> *"I usually face many challenges in the planning process and plan implementation; this has affected the output of my work. The planner can be aware of the development planning activities but confronted by lack of conceptualizations and understanding of the operations of integrating population variables into the LGAs plans",* (Interview with planning officers, Mpwapwa, September 2023)

Table 2: Institutional-based challenges in the planning process

Challenges		1=Strongly disagree	2=Disagree	3=Undecided	4=Agree	5=Strongly agree	Total
i. Data limitations (Scarcity of data)	Mpwapwa	1(2.2) *	-	-	25(54.3)	4(8.7)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	-	-	1(2.2)	10(21.7)	5(10.9)	16(34.8)
	Total	**1(2.2)**	**-**	**1(2.2)**	**35(76.1)**	**9(19.6)**	**46(100)**
		χ^2 = 4.716		***df = 3***	***p= 0.194***		
ii. Lack of political commitment to the goal	Mpwapwa	-	-	7(15.2)	16(34.8)	7(15.2)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	1(2.2)	1(2.2)	1(2.2)	10(21.7)	3(6.5)	16(34.8)
	Total	**1(2.2)**	**1(2.2)**	**8(17.4)**	**26(56.5)**	**10(21.7)**	**46(100)**
		χ^2 = 5.757		***df = 4***	***p = 0.218***		
iii. Limited access to computing facilities	Mpwapwa	-	3(6.5)	1(2.2)	19(41.3)	7(15.2)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	-	1(2.2)	3(6.5)	8(17.4	4(8.7)	16(34.8)
	Total	**-**	**4(8.7)**	**4(8.7)**	**27(58.7)**	**11(23.9)**	**46(100)**
		χ^2 = 3.349		***df = 3***	***p = 0.341***		
iv. Inadequacy of statistical data sources	Mpwapwa	-	3(6.5)	3(6.5)	16(34.8)	8(17.4)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	-	1(2.2)	1(2.2)	11(23.9)	3(6.5)	16(34.8)
	Total	**-**	**4(8.7)**	**4(8.7)**	**27(58.7)**	**11(23.9)**	**46(100)**
		χ^2 = 1.034		***df = 3***	***p = 0.793***		

**Figures in parentheses are percentages, χ^2 = Chi-square; df = degree of freedom; p = Proportion of significance level*

The findings in Table 2 reveal dimensions of institutional challenges that development planners in the LGAs experience. Such challenges include data limitations (scarcity of data), lack of political commitment to the goal, limited access to computing facilities, and inadequacy of statistical data sources. This implies that LGAs need to exert greater effort in finding reliable sources of data to plan for development more accurately. Nevertheless, the Chi-square (x^2) test revealed no significant (p>0.05) variation in the experienced institutional challenges between LGAs.

Ogunode (2018), and Musa and Ogunode (2022) observed similar findings in their studies; inadequate training for planners, political instability, lacklustre funding for the planning process, a scarcity of planning tools, low capacity of planners, political influences, and a lack of reliable data that critically affected effective planning for sustainable

development. These finding imply that designing a comprehensive LGA development plan requires reliable sources of data, competent planners, proactive planning approaches, and political commitment. The study results also conform with JICA (2013), Kiptoo and Mwirigi (20140, Nkanyanga (2014), and Nagarajan *et al* (2021), observations that the lack of accountability, inadequate management skills, and unreliable data sources are among the factors which prevent development planners from creating effective development plans in many countries, including Tanzania.

3.3. Resource-based Challenges

Regarding the resource-based challenges facing planners in their development planning process, respondents were asked to provide their views on resource-based challenges that limit the effective integration of population variables into development plans. The survey data in Table 2 shows various resource-based challenges facing planners in the development planning process including unclear relevance of the decision among development planners, and continuing discussions on the best ways to use population variables in development planning. The findings imply that LGA planning officers are experiencing low capacity on population variables integration. They need to be acquainted with knowledge, relevancy, and how to go about integrating population variables into development plans. They must be aware that what they plan is for real people, and they must consider all of the population variables in terms of their number, distribution, composition, fertility, mortality, as well as their relationship with resources and facilities. And yet, the Chi-square (x^2) test revealed no significant (p>0.05) variation in the resource-based challenges experienced by LGAs.

Table 3: Encountered resource-based challenges in the planning process

Challenges		1=Strongly disagree	2=Disagree	3=Undecided	4=Agree	5=Strongly agree	Total
i. Unclear relevance of the decision among development planners	Mpwapwa	-	1(2.2)*	2(4.3)	19(41.3)	8(17.4)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	-	-	3(6.5)	11(23.9)	2(4.3)	16(34.8)
	Total	-	1(2.2)	5(10.9)	30(65.2)	10(21.7)	46(100)
			χ^2 =2.945	*df* = 3		*p* = 0.400	
ii. Continuing discussions on the best ways to use population data in development planning	Mpwapwa	-	1(2.2)	4(8.7)	20(43.5)	5(10.9)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	-	-	3(6.5)	9(19.6)	4(8.7)	16(34.8)
	Total	-	1(2.2)	7(15.2)	29(63)	9(19.6)	46(100)
			χ^2 =1.284	*df* = 3		*p* = 0.733	
iii. Limited understanding of population variables that can be integrated into development plans in different sectors	Mpwapwa	-	-	3(6.5)	18(39.1)	9(19.6)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	-	-	3(6.5)	10(21.7)	3(6.5)	16(34.8)
	Total	-	-	6(13)	28(60.9)	12(26.1)	46(100)
			χ^2 =1.129	*df* = 2		*p* = 0.569	
iv. Inadequate conceptualization and understanding of the operation and effects of population variables	Mpwapwa	-	1(2.2)	1(2.2)	21(45.7)	7(15.2)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	-	1(2.2)	1(2.2)	12(26.1)	2(4.3)	16(34.8)
	Total	-	2(4.3)	2(4.3)	33(71.7)	9(19.6)	46(100)
			χ^2 =1.071	*df* = 3		*p* = 0.784	
v. Insufficient expertise to prepare needed projection inputs	Mpwapwa	-	1(2.2)	1(2.2)	18(39.1)	10(21.7)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	-	1(2.2)	2(4.3)	10(21.7)	3(6.5)	16(34.8)
	Total	-	2(4.3)	3(6.5)	28(60.9)	13(28.3)	46(100)
			χ^2 =2.345	*df* = 3		*p* = 0.504	

**Figures in parentheses are percentages, χ^2 = Chi-square = degree of freedom; p = Proportion of significance level*

3.4. Planning process-based Challenges

In the planning process itself, respondents reported having to contend with bureaucratic structures in centralized planning offices (which create a barrier between development planners and the public), being forced to overly rely on secondary data from socio-economic profiles including census reports, and too many directives (central government priorities), as among the planning process-based challenges that limited planners in effectively being able to integrate population variables into development plans (Table 4). These findings indicate that LGAs have weak population data management systems, which make it difficult for development planners to come up with comprehensive development plans integrating population variables. There is a need for LGAs in Tanzania to establish reliable sources of data for planning purposes, as well as improve their planning tools and approaches to design development plans that focus on fostering local economic growth. And yet, the Chi-square (x^2) test revealed no significant ($p>0.05$) variation by LGAs on the experienced planning process-based challenges in the integration of population variables into development plans.

Table 4: Encountered planning process-based challenges

Challenges		1=Strongly disagree	2=Disagree	3=Undecided	4=Agree	5=Strongly agree	Total
i. Bureaucratic structures in centralized planning offices (create a barrier between planners and the public)	Mpwapwa	1(2.2)*	1(2.2)	3(6.5)	21(45.7)	4(8.7)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	-	1(2.2)	2(4.3)	11(23.9)	2(4.3)	16(34.8)
	Total	1(2.2)	2(4.3)	5(10.9)	32(69.6)	6(13)	46(100)
		χ^2 =0.805		*df = 4*		*p = 0.938*	
ii. Relying on secondary data from socio-economic profiles	Mpwapwa	-	1(2.2)	2(4.3)	21(45.7)	6(13)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	-	-	1(2.2)	13(28.3)	2(4.3)	16(34.8)
	Total	-	1(2.2)	3(6.5)	34(73.9)	8(17.4)	46(100)
		χ^2 =1.052		*df = 3*		*p = 0.789*	
iii. Too many directives (central government priorities)	Mpwapwa	1(2.2)	4(8.7)	5(10.9)	12(26.1)	8(17.4)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	-	1(2.2)	3(6.5)	6(13)	6(13)	16(34.8)
	Total	1(2.2	5(10.9)	8(17.4)	18(39.1)	14(30.4)	46(100)
		χ^2 =1.460		*df = 4*		*p = 0.834*	

**Figures in parentheses are percentages, χ^2 = Chi-square df = degree of freedom P = Proportion of significance level*

3.5. Technical-based Challenges

Planning as a profession requires some knowledge, skills, and tools. In examining the encountered technical-based challenges in the planning process, respondents were exposed to a list of possible challenges and asked to respond to each possibility in Likert scale style questions. Data in Table 5 showed that development planners encountered

technical issues that limit their ability to integrate population variables into development plans. Such technical challenges included unclear approaches for integrating population variables into development plans, as well as the lack of appropriate methodology. These findings imply that technical variables adversely affected LGAs development planners ability to prepare effective development plans, as they were uncertain of what methodologies to use, what guidelines to follow, and what population variables to consider. The Chi-square (x^2) test revealed significant ($p<0.05$) variation by LGAs in encountering unclear approaches to the integration of population variables into development plans, and lacking appropriate methodology, while the Chi-square (x^2) test also revealed no significant ($p>0.05$) variation by LGAs in lacking planning and projection techniques, missing instructions on the methodology of integrating population variables into development plans, and inadequate research into the many facets of the population issues, as well as their relationship with other social and economic processes.

Table 5: Encountered technical-based Challenges in the Planning Process

Challenges		1=Strongly disagree	2=Disagree	3=Undecided	4=Agree	5=Strongly agree	Total
i. Unclear approaches to integrating population variables into development plans	Mpwapwa	2(4.3)*	-	1(2.2)	26(56.5)	1(2.2)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	1(2.2)	-	5(10.9)	8(17.4)	2(4.3)	16(34.8)
	Total	3(6.5)	-	6(13)	34(73.9)	3(6.5)	46(100)
		$\chi^2 = 9.480$		$df = 3$		$p = 0.024$	
ii. Lack of appropriate methodology for integrating population variables into development plans	Mpwapwa	-	3(6.5)	2(4.3)	24(52.2)	1(2.2)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	1(2.2)	2(4.3)	3(6.5)	6(13)	4(8.7)	16(34.8)
	Total	1(2.2)	5(10.9)	5(10.9)	30(65.2)	5(10.9)	46(100)
		$\chi^2 = 10.733$		$df = 4$		$p = 0.030$	
iii. Lack of planning and projection techniques for population variables	Mpwapwa	1(2.2)	9(19.6)	4(8.7)	13(28.9)	3(6.5)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	-	1(2.2)	6(13)	8(17.4)	4(8.7)	16(34.8)
	Total	1(2.2)	10(21.7)	10(21.7)	21(45.7)	4(8.7)	46(100)
		$\chi^2 = 6.315$		$df = 4$		$p = 0.177$	
iv. Missing instructions on the methodology for integrating population variables into development plans	Mpwapwa	-	3(6.5)	7(15.2)	14(30.4)	6(13)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	-	-	5(10.9)	11(23.9)	-	16(34.8)
	Total	-	3(6.5)	12(26.1)	25(54.3)	6(13)	46(100)
		$\chi^2 = 5$		$df = 3$		$p = 0.112$	
v. Inadequate research into the many facets of demographic processes and of their relationship with other social and economic processes	Mpwapwa	1(2.2)	-	2(4.3)	14(30.4)	13(28.3)	30(65.2)
	Chemba	-	1(2.2)	1(2.2)	10(21.7)	4(8.7)	16(34.8)
	Total	1(2.2)	1(2.2)	3(6.5)	24(52.2)	17(37.0)	46(100)
		$\chi^2 = 3.862$		$df = 4$		$p = 0.425$	

**Figures in parentheses are percentages, χ^2 = Chi-square; df = degree of freedom; p = Proportion of significance level*

4.0. Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1. Conclusions

Local Government Authorities (LGAs) usually face similar challenges when it comes to integrating population variables into short and long-term development plans. The LGA's institutional setup, resource constraints, nature of the planning process, and some technical issues conspire to adversely affect development planners in preparing comprehensive development plans that are appropriate with area-specific fast-changing populations. LGAs need to consider putting more effort into accessing reliable sources of data for planning, augmenting their planning knowledge and skills, acquiring superior planning tools, and improving their planning approaches to design effective development plans that foster localized economic growth that improves the living standard of real people. LGAs should have plans that promote and revitalize different aspects of people's daily lives including economic activities, culture, and traditions.

4.2. Recommendations

For the LGAs to effectively integrate population variables into short-term, medium-term, and long-term comprehensive development plans, LGAs, in collaboration with their parent Ministry, should be given the opportunity to devise solutions to resolve the many planning challenges that exist when it comes to integrating population variables into development plans. These include improving awareness of population variables and sources of data for planning purposes, providing detailed instructions for proper planning, and integrating population variables into development planning. Finally, revising the development planning approach to make it more equitable, instead of always having planning derive directly from central government policies would be ideal. Since obstacles and opportunities for development are area-specific, development planners should get acquainted with effective planning through meticulous training on methodologies in order to integrate population variables practically into development plans.

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