

Title: Ghana : structural adjustment and its impact on the incidence of mass poverty
Author: Donkor, Kwabena
Awarded: 1995

Abstract:

Ghana's Structural Adjustment has been promoted as the most comprehensive and far reaching by the twin Bretton Woods institutions. Gross Domestic Product growth rates have average about 5% per annum over the whole of the adjustment period. This has inevitably, been pedestalsed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund as confirming the efficacy of their prescriptions for not just the Ghanaian, but the African economy malaise. The thesis examines the Ghanaian economy, particularly in its adjustment phase, both from a broad developmental perspective and a specific poverty viewpoint. This work is conscious of the fact that the ultimate aim of development in the African context is the elimination or at the very least, the minimisation of mass poverty. The thesis is divided into three parts. Part 1, made up of three chapters, is a historical tour of the genesis of the Ghanaian economic collapse that takes in both the colonial and the post-colonial period up to the adoption of the adjustment programme dubbed the Economic Recovery Programme. The second part is made up of four chapters generally devoted to the structural adjustment experience. Chapter 4, which is the first, attempts to set out a general theory of structural adjustment in a way that is consistent with the African experience. Chapter 5 examines the stages in the management of Ghana's adjustment programme. The next chapter looks at the critical sectors of agriculture, mining and industry in their relationships with the adjustment thrust of the Ghanaian government. Chapter seven then follows up with a critique of the adjustment experience. Part three of the thesis is devoted to poverty both within the broad Ghanaian situation and specifically to the impact of adjustment on mass poverty in Ghana. The concluding chapter, which is also incidentally, the conclusion of the thesis, draws apt judgements from the preceding chapters and also puts forward some suggestions towards improving both the macro economic efficiency of the Ghanaian economy and more importantly, accelerating the economic and social development of the country.