

AN INVESTIGATION ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MARSHALL PLAN IN ALLEVIATING POVERTY IN MAURITIUS

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores the promise of the poverty-reducing approaches put in place under the Marshall Plan in Mauritius and measures the effectiveness of the government's poverty alleviation program with regard to the beneficiaries. The study revealed information and identify gaps that could be used in the development of strategies by the policy and decision-makers to improve the implementation of the Plan. This paper also shows the effect of the poverty alleviation program on different households in the government. The analysis of the poverty alleviation programs is very crucial as it contributes hugely by providing solutions to problems concerning management, the organization, and business as well as the exploitation of income-generating opportunities. This study deals with two aspects, the first concerns the beneficiaries of the Marshall Plan, the perception of poverty and what according to them could be the best way to engage them and help them to help themselves in getting exit from the poverty trap they are. The second level of analysis looks at the performance of the Marshall plan from the point of view of the Case Management officers specifically recruited to do case the management of the beneficiaries of the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan is a new development program and is now commonly acknowledged to be an important approach to reducing poverty in Mauritius. The Plan has succeeded, in reaching the poorest of the poor through the use of the SRM and the PMT devised by the experts of UNDP. The study has demonstrated that the Marshall Plan has not been able to meet the promise of reducing poverty in a sustainable manner. The analysis of the data and lessons learned reveal that just providing income support has never led toward the alleviation of poverty rather it has created a dependency situation on the income support that it provides. The Marshall Plan in Mauritius started in 2016, hence although it is not performing well presently, yet with constant evaluation, monitoring, and by adopting new innovative approaches, it might just become the magic potion in reducing poverty in Mauritius.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Eradication of poverty has become the priority and challenge of almost all the countries affected by poverty. Different approaches are adopted by different experts in the field to

address the issue. Many poverty alleviation programs have been established in different parts of the world in an effort to overcome poverty but has had very limited success. The slogan of poverty alleviation has been given special attention by international organizations like United Nations Organisation. This study aims to investigate the effectiveness of the Marshall Plan but in order to understand the multifaceted nature of poverty, it is essential to listen to the poor themselves. When they are given the opportunity to express their experience of poverty, the concept that emerges is clearer and starker than the one espoused by development professionals (Chambers, 1997).

Poor people have their own understanding and interpretation of their social reality, and this is often different from the outsider's perspective and the jargon sometimes used by academics, politicians, and consultants whose knowledge of poverty often comes from books, television, documentaries, newspapers, and questionnaire interviews with the poor (Davids, Maphunye, & Theron, 2005:37). Admittedly the poorest of the poor do not possess the overview of their condition or of the strategies to remedy them that development professionals are trained to have. However, until the 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, the poor were not asked where their poverty hurt most. Now the poorest of the poor are beginning to be heard as clients of growing members of development efforts, and it is important when they say: "we are nearly always hungry; we have no water; we need land; we are often ill; even when our needs are listened to, we have no way of ensuring that our real priorities will be met, and no power to ensure that our village receives a fair share of development resources". It is this dimension of popular participation which crucially adds to the understanding of poverty and hence to the development process (UN, 1999; OECD, 2001)

What is essential both for success and the promotion of true human development is the need for donor organizations to trust the poor when they seek to assist, and to do so by being prepared to "work with the poor" as opposed to "for the poor". The distinction is subtle but fundamental (Remedy, 1991: 16-17). Poverty is definitely an obstacle to economic growth but the poor are not a liability. They are assets in the fight against poverty so far neglected by development professionals. There is no evidence that the poor want to be poor. The poor deserve the development professionals' trust and respect as business experts in their own environment. They do not need their charity patronizing advice. Yet, the unconditional social biases and prejudices that underlie the poverty cringe are real and primary reasons why it is so easy to fall into the trap of working "for the poor" rather than "with the poor" (Remedy, 1991). It is therefore important to question why poverty is worsening, despite all the efforts and energy being put into projects.

1.1 Background of the Study

Mauritius maintained its position as the most competitive economy in sub-Saharan Africa (African Economic Outlook and UNDP, 2015) and consistently maintained its position as a strong performer in global indices: The Mo Ibrahim Index of African governance (1st in 2015), the World Bank ease of doing business index (28th out of 189 countries in 2015), the Global Competitiveness Index (1st in Sub-Saharan Africa), and the UNDP Human Development Index (63rd out of 188 countries in 2014). Mauritius has achieved 82 percent of the targets for Millennium Development Goals 1-7 (Mauritius National MDG Report, 2015). It has a comprehensive social protection system made up mainly of universal pensions and

social assistance to the needy, which has been instrumental in reducing poverty by more than half, from 19 percent without transfers to 9.8 percent with transfers (2012 Poverty Analysis Report, statistics Mauritius, 2015). Despite these successes, several important challenges remain residual but significant relative poverty of 9.8 percent, up from 7.8 percent in 2001-2012, and increasing inequality, with the Gini coefficient moving from 0.37 in 2007 to 0.44 in 2014(UNDP,2015), due largely to the widening differences in remuneration, including between the formal and informal sectors, and increased demand for high-skill labor. Most notably, the income of the bottom 40 percent of the population has been growing at an annual rate of 1.8 percent compared to 3.1 percent for the rest of the population, indicating that prosperity is not equally shared as growth dynamics are tilted toward high-skilled services sectors and against the most vulnerable and uneducated. Wage income is the main driver of prosperity in Mauritius, yet the most vulnerable struggle to reap the benefits of economic growth, as not enough employment is created and many workers lack adequate skills for the current labor market. Consequently, extreme poverty(measured by the number of people living on less than \$1.90 purchasing power parity day), though still low, is rising: 0.4 percent in 2007 and 1.4 percent in 2014. The trends raise concerns and signal that a proportion of the population risks falling back into poverty.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

This study intends to investigate the effectiveness of the Marshall Plan in the alleviation of poverty in Mauritius. Marshall Plan the last fifty years has been replicated as an important instrument for poverty alleviation in different parts of the world. Many people have directly or indirectly benefited from the different aspects of the MarshallPlan since its inception in Mauritius, in 2016. There has always been controversy about the real aim and objective of the Marshall Plan, whether it is just a political stunt or it being a genuine action to alleviate poverty. Lima et al. (2011) reported that poverty eradication is the first of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals(MDGs). The study will focus on one district from the rural and one from the urban area due to its representativeness, the size, and also owing to its diversity and class strata of the society

1.3 Significance of the statement

The war on poverty alleviation is a challenge, many poverty alleviation programs have been established in different parts of the world in an effort to overcome poverty, but with very limited impact (Gathiram, 2005). Poverty continues to be pervasive, intractable, and inexcusable in almost every part of the world. It is, therefore, important to question:

1. Why poverty is worsening, despite all the efforts and energy being put into projects?
2. Do we understand the problem of poverty enough?
3. How can the commitments of the government achieve greater results in the war on poverty?

In this study, the focus will be to investigate the effectiveness of the Marshall Plan adopted by the Mauritian government in view to eradicating poverty.

This study aims to provide a clear identification of the effectiveness of interrelationships between poverty alleviation and the Marshall Plan. The result will be of great help for the

government to be able to identify where they are doing right or wrong and if possible come up with necessary measures and amendments. The study is also significant to the government as a lot of resources are involved in the project. Finally, the study will serve as an important reference for further research (study) and academic institutions in this dynamic area of poverty alleviation.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1. To investigate the effectiveness of the Marshall Plan in alleviating poverty
2. To evaluate the challenges faced by the Marshall Plan initiatives in poverty alleviation.
3. To identify actions in view to reduce the challenges faced by the Marshall Plan in poverty alleviation in Mauritius.

1.5 Research Questions

Based on the issues presented above, this study aims to address several questions of relevance, they are as follows:

- 1) What impact has the Marshall Plan had on the lives of the poor?
- 2) How far do the beneficiaries understand the importance of the Marshall Plan?
- 3) How can the beneficiaries contribute to the success of the Marshall Plan?
- 4) Are the aim and objectives of the Marshall Plan well understood by the beneficiaries of the Marshall Plan?
- 5) How can the commitments of the national government achieve greater results in the war on poverty?

1.6 Hypothesis

- I. The Marshall Plan leads to poverty alleviation
- II. The Marshall Plan leads to poverty alleviation when it is applied accordingly.
- III. The Marshall Plan will bring about poverty alleviation when the plan is customised accordingly in the Mauritian context.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Poverty is associated with the undermining of a range of key human attributes, including health. The poor are exposed to greater personal and environmental health risks, are less well nourished, have less information, and are less able to access healthcare; they thus have a higher risk of illness and disability. Conversely, illness can reduce household savings, lower learning ability, reduce productivity, and lead to diminished quality of life, thereby perpetuating or even increasing poverty.

Although most often poverty is defined in absolute terms of low income, in reality, the consequences of poverty exist on a relative scale. The poorest of the poor, around the world, have the worst health. Within countries, the evidence shows that in general lower an individual's socio-economic position the worse their health. There is a social gradient in health that runs from the top to the bottom of the socio-economic spectrum.

This is a global phenomenon, seen in low, middle- and high-income countries. Policy makers are trying to come up with different ways and means to tackle the plague that is poverty.

2.1 The Marshall Plan

There has been a never-ending debate on the actual contribution of the Marshall Plan of 1947 in the post-war growth and prosperity of Western Europe as well as the degree to which the Marshall Plan was an unprecedented act of the state of the altruism just an example of American imperialism. Alan Milward, (1984, the revisionist in his counter-factual analysis challenged the Marshall Plan as the major cause of post-war recovery. In their econometric analysis, Barry Eichengreen and Marc Uzan (1992)questioned the conclusions of A. Milward (1984) and reasserted the positive impact of the plan through its critical and timely support of the basic market systems in fragile European national economies. Issues like the amount of aid received are still a matter of continual argument and reassessment due to interpretive disagreements.

2.2 Challenges of the Marshall Plan

Despite considerable improvements, poverty does still exist in Mauritius. Rapid modernization and industrialization have led to income inequality in the population, leading to an increase in the number of pockets of poverty. This is a common phenomenon experienced by most developing countries. One of the major challenges of the Marshall Plan in poverty alleviation in Mauritius is the precedence of MarshallPlan in African countries. Although the plan has worked for Europe it has lamentably failed in African countries. More than \$500 billion in foreign aid equivalent to four Marshall Aid Plans was pumped into Africa between 1960 and1997, but instead of increasing development, it has created dependence. Poor coordination among different departments of the government as well as the inadequacy of awareness and appreciation may lead to the failure of the plan.

2.3 Importance of Poverty Reduction

When people are excluded within a society, when they are not well-educated and when they have a higher incidence of illness, there are negative consequences for society. We all pay the price for poverty. The increased cost of the health system, the justice system, and other systems that provide support to those living in poverty has an impact on our economy.

2.3.1 The Effects of poverty

Impoverished communities often suffer from discrimination and end up caught in cycles of poverty for instance Life in the slums in Brazil fuels violence between gangs. It is unquestionable that crime ranks high among the effects of poverty, and those impoverished neighborhoods or entire cities show the same problems with uneducated adults and kids that nurture more unemployment and crime and then lead to chronic, long-lasting poverty. Studies have shown very different effects of poverty, for different types of poverty: from income inequalities to social exclusion and unemployment. Poverty can lead to tensions, unrest, and social divide in society. Consequently, creating a vicious cycle whereby lifelong handicaps and troubles, like school or education, child labor to help parents, lack of hygiene, and diffusion of diseases are passed on from one generation to another. Unemployment and very

low income create an environment where kids can not simply go to school, and even if they can, they do not see how hard work can improve their life as they see their parents fail at the task every day. Many plagues are associated with poverty, such as:

- a. Alcohol and substance abuse, a very common self-destructing habit often taken as a way to cope with huge amounts of stress and despair.
- b. Poor housing and living conditions, a classic causes of diseases.
- c. Water and food-related diseases, simply because the poor cannot afford “safe” foods.

2.3.2 Effects of poverty on society as a whole

Consequently, poverty affects society as a whole as it is a major cause of social tensions and has the capacity to divide a nation due to the inequalities it creates, in particular income inequality. Poverty is a very dangerous factor that can destabilize an entire country. The Arab Spring is one example, in all of the countries concerned, the revolts started because of the lack of jobs and high level of poverty, which led to most governments being overthrown.

2.3.3 Effects of poverty on the powerless victims

Poverty has a tremendous effect on its powerless victims, the children. Children are those who have the least choice and ability to change what happens to them, there is not much they can do to help their families nor should they have to. One of the effects of poverty on children’s development is it lead them to build antisocial behaviour that acts as psychological protection against their hostile environment. Discrimination and social exclusion often push them to more aggressiveness and less self-control and nuance in reaction to stressful events.

2.3.4 Poverty and Unemployment

It has become very common in the newspapers to blame poverty for fuelling terrorism by creating a state of misery and frustration that pushes people to join terrorist organizations. It is important to note that terrorists mostly do come from poorer countries with a high levels of unemployment.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

This chapter details the research methodology and the data collection techniques that have been used to investigate the investigation of the implementation of the Marshall Plan to eradicate poverty in Mauritius. The important aspect of this study is the survey done with 90 recipients of the service under the Plan. The other element is the second survey done with the CMOs employed by NEF to do the case management. In this chapter, the methodological issues of the thesis are discussed and understood as the logic that links the data to be collected and the conclusions to be drawn to the initial questions of the study (Yin R.K, 1994.18). It also describes the approaches used in the study and the justification for using them and it concludes with the different limitations experienced by the researcher during the process.

3.1 Research design

According to Trochim (2005), research design "provides the glue that holds the research project together. A design is used to structure the research, to show how all of the major parts of the research project work together to try to address the central research questions." The research design is like a recipe. Just as a recipe provides a list of ingredients and the instructions for preparing a dish, the research design provides the components and the plan for successfully carrying out the study. The research design is the "backbone" of the research protocol. Research studies are designed in a particular way to increase the chances of collecting the information needed to answer a particular question. The information collected during research is only useful if the research design is sound and follows the research protocol.

3.2 Population sample

The term population refers to the total number or the aggregate of concerns, which by virtue of the common characteristics, may lead to the gathering of relevant information. The research population in this study refers to the beneficiaries of the Marshall Plan. The effort will be geared toward administering questionnaires across one rural and one urban district of the country.

3.2.1 Target Population

We have over 7000 people in the 10 districts of Mauritius who are actually provided assistance under the Marshall Plan and all of them qualify as respondents for the research.

3.2.2 Sample Size

A sample is a group of items taken from the population so that the needed information can be obtained for the purpose of analysis. The question of how large a sample must be, to be considered adequate is not a simple one; because each situation presents its own problems. According to E.C Osuala, "if the phenomena under study are vary, as many phenomena in the social sciences are, a much larger sample is needed. The greater the variability of the phenomena, the greater the difficulty of obtaining an adequate sample. However, increasing the sample size is of little value if units are not chosen to ensure representativeness." Continuing, E.C Osuala stated "Three factors determine the size of an adequate sample:

- 1) nature of the population,
- 2) type of sampling design and
- 3) degree of precision desired.

3.3 Data Collection Method & Techniques

The research was conducted through the use of two structured questionnaires;

(A) For the beneficiaries of NEF under the Marshall Plan, which were administered to 100 systematically selected participants representing a wide spectrum of the society. The researcher went around the two districts of the country. Some volunteers assisted the researcher to conduct the survey. A total of 100 questionnaires were distributed for administration.

(B) For the 35 CMOs working under a two-year contract with NEF for the implementation of the Marshall Plan.

3.4 Secondary Data

Secondary data from different research studies, University Library, reports and statistics of the government and internet sources are also sought and used apart from the primary data collected.

4.0 RESULTS

Schemes under the Marshall Plan in alleviating poverty in Mauritius.

- Subsistence Allowance
- Social Housing or Upgrading of present housing unit
- School Materials
- Child Allowance
- Medical Facilities
- Employment
- Training and Development
- Other services- Poultry, Life skills, Psychological Support, and /or Referral to other Departments/ Ministries/organizations.

Poverty by Age

Table 1: Poverty share by age category

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
20-30	22	24.4	24.4	24.4
31-40	39	43.3	43.3	67.8
41-50	18	20.0	20.0	87.8
Valid 51-60	7	7.8	7.8	95.6
>60	4	4.4	4.4	100.0
Total	90	100.0	100.0	

Occupation status of beneficiaries

Table 2: Occupation status of Beneficiaries

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Permanent worker		3	3.3	3.3	3.3
casual worker		33	36.7	36.7	40.0
Valid	Self employed	11	12.2	12.2	52.2
Unemployed		43	47.8	47.8	100.0
Total		90	100.0	100.0	

Poverty by Religion

Table 3: Poverty share by religion

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Christian		42	46.7	46.7	46.7
Hindu		31	34.4	34.4	81.1
Valid	Muslim	17	18.9	18.9	100.0
Total		90	100.0	100.0	

Poverty by Gender

Table 4: Poverty share by gender

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male		38	42.2	42.2	42.2
Valid	Female	52	57.8	57.8	100.0
Total		90	100.0	100.0	

Poverty shares by region

Table 5: Poverty share by region

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Urban		54	60.0	60.0	60.0
Valid Rural		36	40.0	40.0	100.0
Total		90	100.0	100.0	

Poverty share by occupation

Table 6: Poverty share by region

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Permanent worker		3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Valid casual worker		33	36.7	36.7	40.0
Valid Self employed		11	12.2	12.2	52.2
Valid unemployed		43	47.8	47.8	100.0
Total		90	100.0	100.0	

Poverty by Educational Level

Table 7: Poverty share by region

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid primary		44	48.9	48.9	48.9
Valid secondary		46	51.1	51.1	100.0
Total		90	100.0	100.0	

Poverty by Income level

Table 8: Poverty share by region

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	<2500	9	10.0	10.0	10.0
	2501-5000	26	28.9	28.9	38.9
Valid	5001-7500	46	51.1	51.1	90.0
	7501-10000	9	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	90	100.0	100.0	

Definition of poverty by beneficiaries

Table 9: Poverty share by region

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	have no money	37	41.1	41.1	41.1
	begging	14	15.6	15.6	56.7
Valid	unemployment	25	27.8	27.8	84.4
	no house	14	15.6	15.6	100.0
	Total	90	100.0	100.0	

Who are the poor by the beneficiaries?

Table 10: Poverty share by region

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	those who beg on the street	5	5.6	5.6	5.6
	no shelter and leave on the street	13	14.4	14.4	20.0
	no job and cannot financially support family	34	37.8	37.8	57.8
Valid	no education	23	25.6	25.6	83.3
	lack of skill to work	5	5.6	5.6	88.9
	leaving in squatter settlement	10	11.1	11.1	100.0
	Total	90	100.0	100.0	

Causes of poverty by Beneficiaries

Table 11: Poverty share by region

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	unemployment	35	38.9	38.9	38.9
	lack of education	5	5.6	5.6	44.4
	high cost of living	14	15.6	15.6	60.0
	less income	16	17.8	17.8	77.8
	poor health	3	3.3	3.3	81.1
	alcohol abuse	17	18.9	18.9	100.0
	Total	90	100.0	100.0	

Consequences of Poverty by respondents

Table 12: Poverty share by region

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	indulging in crime because of no money	40	44.4	44.4	44.4
	ill health due to not being able to afford good meal	4	4.4	4.4	48.9
	snubbed and discrimination	21	23.3	23.3	72.2
	low self-morale	15	16.7	16.7	88.9
	lack of education, knowledge and skills	10	11.1	11.1	100.0
	Total	90	100.0	100.0	

Reasons of the beneficiaries for seeking assistance

Table 13: Poverty share by region

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
			Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
					Cumulative Percent
	to have better standard of living		21	23.3	23.3
V	need increase in income		15	16.7	40.0
a	to provide better education for		33	36.7	76.7
l	children				
i	to be able to meet expenses at the		21	23.3	100.0
d	end of the month				
	Total		90	100.0	100.0

Assistance rated by respondents

Table 14: Poverty share by region

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
			Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
					Cumulative Percent
	fair		13	14.4	14.4
Valid	good		62	68.9	83.3
	very good		15	16.7	100.0
	Total		90	100.0	100.0

Advice sought by the Beneficiaries

Table 15: Poverty share by region

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
			Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
					Cumulative Percent
	case management officer		16	17.8	17.8
	friends		26	28.9	46.7
Valid	relatives		25	27.8	74.4
	pastor		17	18.9	93.3
	none		6	6.7	100.0
	Total		90	100.0	100.0

Recommendation by the beneficiaries to help them become independent-Entrepreneurial skills

Table 16: Poverty share by region

N	Valid	90			
	Missing	0			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	yes	62	68.9	68.9	68.9
Valid	no	28	31.1	31.1	100.0
	Total	90	100.0	100.0	

5.0 DISCUSSION

Poverty has become the priority of the government of Mauritius which has led to the inception of the Marshall Plan. Income-generating projects should be implemented through participatory approaches which will in turn promote the involvement of the beneficiaries. The Marshall plan should create opportunities and help in the capacity building of all the beneficiaries. Poverty reduction should be dealt with as a national social problem. One of the most crucial steps will be to involve all the beneficiaries in planning and implementing actions to remove them from the dependency situation they are in. The challenge is to improve the way Marshall Plan is implemented to become a more balanced and sustainable strategy for poverty reduction.

Based upon the survey conducted by the beneficiaries for the Marshall Plan to be successful and lead to a reduction of poverty there has to be more creation of jobs, provision of training and placements also provision of entrepreneurial skills for the beneficiaries to be able to get out of the poverty trap and become independent. The beneficiaries stated being dependent on the income support provided to them, and that there is nothing done to reduce that dependency. If the situation remains as it is at present then the Marshall plan will not be able to achieve what it was set to achieve due to the wrong implementation. Poverty alleviation is impossible solely through income transfers, there has to be a focus on different other aspects like education, training, and placements as well as the creation of employment so as to reduce the poverty level in Mauritius. For Marshall Plan to succeed it will need;

- A positive development through the creation of better governance, accountability, and transparency
- To guide the beneficiaries to recognize their potential to help themselves to exit the poverty trap
- Organising beneficiaries into self-help groups and providing them with the required assistance in setting up their self-help groups

- Support the beneficiaries in creating their own social enterprises with the help of SMEDA along with having a hand-holding process to help the beneficiaries self-sustainably.
- Develop a comprehensive program with a view to bridging the gap between education and skills, Under the Marshall Plan, the School completion premium is one such program that enables young people from poor families to pursue further studies or to start a business for themselves. The school completion premium could have been in other forms rather than only monetary terms, plus there is also no follow-up of the service provided, thus it is impossible to evaluate how the beneficiaries of the school completion premium are actually doing with the fund allotted to them. Appropriate monitoring of all the services provided under the Marshall Plan is crucial for the success of the Plan.
- There should be considerable focus on the empowerment of women. The analysis showed that female-headed household experiences higher level of poverty as compared to male-headed households. As they have to care as well as cater to their family, they should be empowered, assisted, and supported to start their own enterprises for which they should have to the opportunity to get access to specialized training.
- To put in place training and placements programs and back-to-school as well as back-to-work programs for the beneficiaries as shown in the survey the employment prospects of the poor are very limited due to lack of training and low level of education.

6.0 CONCLUSION

This paper concludes with the evaluation of the main objectives of the study as compared to the results and conclusions implied from the research. It discusses the

findings obtained from both surveys. Over the last decade reduction of poverty has become a more explicit objective of global development. According to certain economists, households that start poor, remain poor, thus future poverty is caused by poverty today. Bourguignon andMorrisson (2002). Short-term interventions with lasting effects are sought by many governments around the world in the hope to reduce poverty. Although this is not an easy task as it has a substantial cost yet it is not impossible. There is evidence of such a multifaceted program that resulted in lasting progress. The multifaceted program consisted of;

- (a) A productive asset grant
- (b) Temporary cash consumption support
- (c) Technical skills training
- (d) High-frequency home visits
- (e) A saving program
- (f) Health education and services (Banerjee et al. (2015).

Programs, especially of an educational, training and skills, and rehabilitative nature Tailored programs or projects to empower and benefit beneficiaries in a progressive and evolutionary

manner, are some of the pro-poor strategies adopted by different governments in view to reduce poverty. Despite the various attempts through different policy approaches and programs, extreme poverty although reduced is still very much prevalent in Mauritius. The pro-poor strategy, the Marshall Plan adopted by the Mauritian government scored very good results when it improved the lives of some of the poor through the provision of extra income in the name of subsistence allowance, school materials, and child allowance. Thus, this has resulted in an improved income among beneficiaries.

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