

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

**POLITICS OF ABANDONED PROJECTS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN
GHANA: A CASE OF TWIFU ATTI-MORKWA DISTRICT**

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MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

2024

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

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GHANA: A CASE OF TWIFU ATTI-MORKWA DISTRICT**

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**A thesis in the Department of Political Science Education,
Faculty of Social Sciences Education, submitted to the School of
Graduate Studies, in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the award of degree of
Master of Philosophy
(Political Science)
in the University of Education, Winneba**

JUNE, 2024

DECLARATION

Student's Declaration

I, Solomon Akwaboah, declare that this thesis, with the exception of quotations and references contained in published works which have all been identified and duly acknowledged, is entirely my original work and has not been submitted either in part or whole, for another degree in this university or elsewhere.

Signature:

Date:

Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this study were supervised in accordance with the guidelines for supervision of thesis as laid down by the University of Education, Winneba.

Supervisor's Name: Dr. Ezekiel A. Clottey

Signature:

Date:

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my lovely mother, Mrs. Veronica Yeboah, my supportive father Mr. Lawrence Akwaboah, Rev. Father Anthony Amponsah, and Chief Inspector Dominic Akwaboah, and the entire Akwaboah family. I know the good Lord will bless and keep you all safe for the great support, advice, and sacrifices you've made on my behalf. God bless you all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I thank the Almighty God for the protection he has ushered on me throughout my life and this journey too. I would not have come far if not for your grace, Lord.

I again express my gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Ezekiel Clottey for his guidelines, advice, support, and encouragement during my research. I appreciate your effort and constant feedback, Sir. May God bless and keep you.

Now to Dr. Ebenezer Teye Amanor-Lartey, Dr. George Asekere, Dr. Thomas Prehi Botchway and Mr. Augustine Arko-Blay, I say thank you for the guidance and love you showed me. God bless you all.

Finally, to Mr. Alfred of Twifu Atti-Morkwa District Assembly, I am most grateful, Sir, for the assistance you offered during my data collection, thank you. Now to everyone who inspired and supported me, it will never go unnoticed. Thank you.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AfDB	African Development Bank
AHP	Abandoned Housing Project
CODA	Coastal Development Agency
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DCEs	District Chief Executives
EAF	East Asia Forum
ESIA	Environment and Social Impact Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GCI	Ghanaian Construction Industry
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHA	Ghana Highway Authority
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
I.T	Information Technology
LED	Local Economic Development
MCEs	Municipal Chief Executives
MIS	Ministry of Special Initiative
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoT	Ministry of Trade
NET	Kenya's National Environment Tribunal
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PHC	Population and Housing Census
PMBOK	Project Management Body of Knowledge

PMI	Project Management Institute
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRI	Stanford Research Institute
TAMDA	Twifo/Ati-Morkwa District Assembly
TAs	Traditional Authorities
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UK	United Kingdom
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USA	United States of America

ABSTRACT

The implementation and delivery of projects absorb immense investment and play a significant role as a major driving force in the growth of several sectors in the economies of many countries. The successful completion of projects contributes to the socio-economic development of states and boosts the construction industry as well. However, countries around the globe face project abandonment, and within sub-Saharan Africa, Ghana is not an exception. This thesis, therefore, uses the qualitative approach to probe into the nature and prevalence of abandoned projects, the causes, and the effects in Ghana, using the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district as a case study. Fourteen (14) elite interviews were conducted, and data were collated and analyzed. After the data has been analyzed, it was however ascertained that there are many abandoned projects in the districts, and these are mostly educational and road projects, even though there are others such as abandoned sanitation, water, economic, health, and agriculture projects. With the causes of the abandoned projects, the study revealed that they were political, economic, social, physical, and technological in nature, with some examples such as political interference, delay in the release of funds, social unrest, natural and man-made disasters, and the use of obsolete technological tools and equipment. Also, the study revealed that these abandoned projects slow down economic growth and also account for financial loss to the state. There is also the loss of trust in the government by the citizens, and also some negative impacts on the environment as well, loss of tax revenue, and the decline in foreign investors in the country. The study concludes that the negative antecedents of projects being abandoned have poorly impacted on the development of the district and the country at large. Also, the persistence of abandoned projects stems from a political culture that prioritizes new projects over older ones, which is driven by the political credit dynamics. Based on the above, the study therefore recommended the early release of funds, effective monitoring and supervision of project sites, non-interference in project implementation process by political appointees, scrutinizing contractors very keenly before given them contracts, and also for contracts to be given to contractors based on qualifications and merits and not on party lines or political affiliations to help curb such menace within our communities.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background to the Study

Governments in developing countries undertake projects with the aim of boosting the economies of the state and promoting better standards of living of the citizenry. Developmental projects and infrastructure are at the center of development of a country and such failure of any project may have devastating results on the nation as a whole. There is growing evidence in literature that shows that economic infrastructure plays a critical role in economic growth and development (World Bank, 1994; AfDB, 2013; Biau et al., 2008). Undertaking projects in a state is of greater significance to the development of the country and helps to bring the livelihoods of citizens to a very comforting zone. Countries that ensure the provision of good infrastructure improve upon the economic development in many sectors of their economy. The PMI (Project Management Institute) PMBOK (Project Management Body of Knowledge) guide (2013) defines a project as a short-term undertaking with the goal of producing a special outcome. Note (2015) also defines a project as a collection of distinct and connected tasks with a goal that needs to be accomplished within budgetary restrictions, on schedule, and in compliance with predetermined requirements.

However, according to Amoatey et al. (2015), Ghana's construction sector is huge and is regarded as one of the main economic engines. The construction industry in Ghana is therefore multifaceted, spread geographically and cuts across all sectors of the economy including buildings, roads, dams and bridges (Ofori, 2012). Being able to successfully complete projects according to Hanachor (2013), serves as an indicator of massive development in a country. The causes of project failure are numerous both in developed and developing nations, and studies have indicated that large amounts of

funds have been lost by governments as a result of failed projects (Fabian and Amir, 2011; Damoah, 2015). There is no doubt that the Ghanaian Construction Industry (GCI) as in many other developing economies such as Malaysia (Sambasivan and Soon, 2007; Shehu et al., 2014), Jordan (Sweis et al., 2008) and Saudi Arabia (Assaf and Al-Hejji, 2006; Al-Kharashi and Skimore, 2009) plays major role in the nation's development.

However, the problem of abandonment of projects is a major topic and issue in Ghana, and has resulted in many adverse consequences to the economy, society and environment, and economically is a waste of useful resources. According to Damoah, et al. (2013), public projects have an impact on the citizens and national advancement of a country, hence it's critical to look into the causes of project failures in order to minimize them. Wasim and Khalid (2018), contend that it is unfair to hold contractors solely accountable for project delays, setbacks, and abandonments. Most projects occasionally experience delays due to cash flow issues and disagreements over tender awards. A number of factors have contributed to the failure of projects: poor budgeting, incorrect procurement procedures, and schedule delays. The contractors executing the project are not solely accountable for all these elements. Projects are essential to the development of any nation or organization. According to Damoah et al. (2013), completing projects typically requires significant funding from the government; as a result, effective management techniques are necessary to ensure that projects provide value for money.

Several projects have been abandoned in sub-Saharan Africa. Data shows that there are multiple abandoned projects and these incur extra costs and retards development in these areas (Gbahabo, & Samuel, 2017). There is the Ghana-STX Building Project, a \$10 billion housing project – Over the course of the project's five-year lifespan, 200,000

homes were to be built in Ghana. The project's failure was mostly caused by division, ineffective governance, corruption, and poor project control, according to research findings (Ackah, 2017). There is also the Mususu Kalenga Building in Zambia which was built for K400 million by the Zambia State Insurance Corporation and sold to Royal Lutanda Company Limited at K800 million in 2000. According to Miln (2020), the 11-story building has remained abandoned for over 25 years. Also in Kenya, a 900-1000MW Coal Power Plant at Lamu in Lamu County has also been abandoned. Due to the Power Company's failure to conduct a comprehensive Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) that complied with legal standards, Kenya's National Environment Tribunal canceled the company's permission to build a coal power station. Again in Botswana, the construction of sewers, roads, and infrastructural services for 360 plots in Kazungula Village and at Nnyungwe area in Kasane, Botswana – the government has inexplicably abandoned the P80 million project (Miln, 2020).

Again, the Zambian government has abandoned the construction of a 20,000-seat capacity stadium in Mongu District in Zambia due to a lack of funds. Miln (2020), stated that in Tanzania, the Pinewood Uranium Project was also abandoned after Kibo Mining announced on 24th February 2017 that it would cease activities at its Pinewood and Morogoro uranium coal and gold projects with immediate effect. This strategic decision was made because both Metal Tiger and Kibo Mining have had significant success in other ventures within their business portfolios, which has caused these interests to become the sole focus of each company (Miln, 2020).

On the other hand, governments fail to complete the construction projects they start. These projects are therefore abandoned and left unattended. According to Olalusi and Otunola (2012), an abandoned project is one where construction work has ended after

beginning at a previous time for a variety of reasons. Corruption, incorrect estimation, bad planning, a lack of experienced workers, a communication gap between staff members, poor risk management, a misreading of job requirements, and poor quality control by governing organizations are the main causes in Nigeria (Olalusi & Otunola, 2012). According to Dahlan (2011), there are a few reasons why projects are abandoned in Malaysia, issues related to site clearing, financial difficulties for developers, disagreements, conflicts, and disputes between project investors.

In Malaysia, Abdul-Rahman et al. (2013), found the following areas of risk that explain abandonment in the Malaysian context: Risks associated with the economy, finances, law, mansards, selling systems, created ratings, and unforeseen risks. Additionally, Williams (2016) also highlighted clientelism, corruption, and collective choice as the causes of abandonment in Ghana. Alao and Jagboro (2017), concluded that the main reasons for abandoned projects were delayed payments, money mismanagement, insufficient budgetary allocation, inadequate financing, inflation, and contractor bankruptcy.

There are problems confronting the Government of Ghana as a result of the abandonment of projects within the country. This work, therefore discusses abandoned government projects in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Project abandonment is a social cancer that needs to be tackled and eradicated from our societies. It retards growth and development within society. According to a wide range of experts, one of the most effective local government changes for accelerating infrastructure delivery and economic growth is decentralized infrastructure supply (Ofori, 2012; Bardhan, 2002). According to Serageldin et al. (2000), the achievement

of many important objectives, including regional specificities, ethnic diversity, democratic local administration, and the inability of central governments to reach poverty-ridden neighborhoods, depends heavily on infrastructure and project delivery. However, the provision of such projects faces serious challenges within Ghana and sub-Saharan Africa at large. Project delivery tends to fail as a result of many factors, and Lawal (2014), says that there are significant obstacles to the provision of infrastructure at the local level. Some of these dynamics that can undesirably affect the accomplishment of projects may be economic, political, geographical, socio-cultural, historical, demographic, and environmental (Collier, 2007; Gow & Morss, 1988; Kwak, 2002; Moyo, 2009).

Ayodele and Alabi (2011) cited the following important causes of project abandonment: insufficient planning, insufficient funding, inflation, contractor insolvency, change in project scope, political element, customer death, payment delay, and incompetent project manager, wrong estimate, faulty design, inadequate cost control, change of priority, improper documentation, unqualified/inexperience consultants, administrative/legal action, dispute, and natural disasters. In contrast, Ihuah and Benebo's (2014) analysis of real property values found that disputes (Odeyemi, 2013), inaccurate estimates (Otim et al., 2012), and changes in priorities (Ewa, 2013) were the main reasons for abandoned projects.

According to Adeleke (2005), Makalah (2008), and Oyelola (2010), inadequate risk management, misinterpretation of the work requirement, poor quality control by regulatory agencies, corruption, a communication gap between staff members, inconsistent government policies, a lack of accountability, incompetent contractors, a lack of building materials, a lack of utilities or infrastructure facilities, and the wrong location may also lead to the abandonment of a construction project.

Furthermore, for Mac-Barango (2017), the primary reasons why construction projects fail include poor planning, insufficient money, inflation, contractor bankruptcies, changes to the project's scope, poor design, delayed payments, and quackery (incompetence). Similarly, Woka and Miebaka (2014) listed twenty-two (22) reasons for desertion. They discovered that the most significant factors included payment remittance delays, insufficient fund allocation, leadership instability, the loss of an investor, client, or owner, inconsistent government policies, poor project planning and design, poor project costing, land disputes/legal issues, and changes in investment present.

Global project failure has been a problem for governments and organizations in recent years (Nelson, 2007; Abbasi, 2014; Patanakul, 2014; Damoah and Kumi, 2018). These failures cost the government enormous sums of money; for instance, Solon (2015) revealed in *The Mirror* that the United Kingdom (UK) lost over £100 million on canceled or unsuccessful Information Technology (IT) projects between 2013 and 2014. In an attempt to assist Egypt in managing its growing population, the Egyptian government declared that it was scrapping the second phase of the \$90 billion Toshka New Valley project (system of canals to carry water for agricultural development). Reports stated that the project exceeded its budget and failed to accomplish any of its goals. (Okereke, 2017).

According to Chan et al. (2002), the lack of the following factors contributes to project abandonment: incompetence of the contractors; incompetence of the clients; ignorance of risk and liability assessment; incompetence of the end users' needs; and end users' imposed limitations on the project's development. Prior studies have either looked at causes of construction projects failure in broad-spectrum, using assessment measures

such as cost overrun (Frimpong et al., 2003), and schedule delays (Fugar & Agyakwah-Baah, 2010), and used multiple failure criteria, or they have focused on industry-wide (Damoah & Kumi, 2018) and sub-construction industries such as groundwater construction (Frimpong et al., 2003), building construction (Fugar & Agyakwah-Baah, 2010), schools and boreholes (Williams, 2016), and housing construction (Amoatey et al., 2015).

There are major effects that arises as a result of project abandonment. Environmental, health, political, and even socio-economic effects emanate from the abandonment of projects. According to Setterfield (1997), the social and economic facets or well-being are negatively impacted by abandoned structures. Atilola (2009) admitted that the termination of a project has a significant negative impact on the physical environment and poses a substantial risk to its long-term viability. According to Ayodele and Alabi (2011), the causes and repercussions of these projects being abandoned span a wide range of factors and significantly negatively affect the economy.

Efenudu (2010) lists the following as the general effects of not finishing/abandoning building projects: resource waste; decline in land value; and loss of communal and neighborhood aesthetic values. Efenudu again postulates that project abandonment affects homes within a neighborhood by lowering property values, which has an impact on real estate and its value. When urban developments are abandoned, they have an impact on the ecosystem in the form of garbage, habitat losses, and changes to the visual and vegetative environment (Carrero et al., 2009). Carrero et al. (2009) further identified environmental effects as visual impact, landscape modification, erosion, loss of biodiversity, and pollution as a result of project abandonment.

According to the available literature on Ghana, there are several reasons government construction projects are canceled (Republic of Ghana Budget, 2012; 2018). However, reports and media commentary have made up the majority of the literature. The main problem of this thesis therefore is to investigate the empirical evidence of the causes of project abandonment and its negative effects on the government, citizens and the economy of Ghana as a nation. With this, the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district is used as a case study for this research.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What are the nature and prevalence of abandoned projects in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district?
2. What are the causes of abandoned projects in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district?
3. What are the effects of abandoned projects in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district?

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To examine the nature and prevalence of abandoned projects in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district.
2. To ascertain the causes of abandoned projects in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district.
3. To probe into the effects of abandoned projects in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is significant for several reasons. It provides practical, policy-relevant, and scholarly contributions that extend beyond the selected study area to inform broader governance and development discourse in Ghana.

The findings of this study provide policymakers with a stronger empirical basis for addressing persistent patterns of project abandonment within Ghana's development landscape. By uncovering the political incentives, electoral dynamics, and administrative weaknesses that shape decisions surrounding the initiation and discontinuation of projects, the study contributes to more informed and evidence-driven policymaking. This is particularly important in a political environment where changes in government often disrupt ongoing development initiatives.

Moreover, the study enhances the understanding of why continuity in public investment remains difficult despite existing policy frameworks. The insights generated can support the formulation of legislative or administrative reforms such as mandatory project completion laws, multi-year budget commitments, and project ring-fencing mechanisms that safeguard public projects from partisan disruptions. Ultimately, the study provides policy actors with actionable recommendations that can reduce the waste of public resources and promote consistency and fairness in national development.

The findings also highlight weaknesses in intergovernmental coordination, particularly between central and local government institutions. This can inform efforts to strengthen communication channels, synchronize planning cycles, and clarify roles and responsibilities in project execution. Furthermore, the study underscores the importance of professional standards and ethical practice among technical officers who often find themselves navigating competing political demands. It also encourages greater community participation in development processes by showing how abandoned projects directly affect service delivery and local livelihoods. These insights can help practitioners design more inclusive and resilient development strategies.

Academically, this research contributes to an underexplored but crucial area of Ghana's development and governance literature. While project abandonment is widely studied in other African contexts, especially in Nigeria, scholarly attention to the Ghanaian context particularly at the district level remains limited. This study therefore fills an important gap by offering context-specific evidence on the political economy of development projects in Ghana.

Additionally, the study contributes to theoretical debates on decentralization, public administration, political patronage, and development planning. By analyzing political motivations behind project abandonment, it advances understanding of how governance structures and electoral incentives shape developmental outcomes. It further lays the groundwork for future scholarly inquiries, including comparative studies across regions, investigations into project sustainability, and examinations of political behaviour in development planning.

1.5 Organization of the Study

The study is organized into five Chapters. Chapter One is composed of the introduction, which consists of the background of the study, the statement of the problem, research objectives and questions, significance of the study.

Chapter Two contains a review of various literature on the study. It goes on to discuss the theoretical perspective of the study. Works and studies of scholars on the concept of decentralization and project abandonment are also reviewed in the chapter.

Chapter Three also emphasizes the research methodology, consisting of the research paradigm, research design, research strategy, sampling technique, study area, target population, data collection instruments, data analysis, and ethical considerations.

Chapter Four also proves the analyses of the data based on the main themes gathered in the literature review.

Chapter Five which is the last chapter also presents the summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study. It goes on to indicate how the research has contributed to existing knowledge and makes recommendations for further research and studies.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

Biggam (2008), argues that every research project's literature review aims to convey the findings of other studies that are relevant to the topic being investigated, connect the study to the larger, ongoing conversation in the literature, fill knowledge or literature gaps, and build upon earlier research.

This chapter in so doing explores the existing literature that is crucial to this inquiry in further and more details. It provides a summary of project implementation, project lifecycle, project initiation, project closure and other relevant details. The theoretical underpinnings of the research are also captured in this section of the study. The chapter reiterates and expands upon the work that numerous authors and scholars have studied and documented regarding abandoned projects, the causative factors that contribute to project abandonment and the effects of project abandonment. This chapter aims to provide a full understanding of the concepts under discussion and other related issues regarding project abandonment.

2.1 Understanding the Concept of Project Implementation

Governments embark on projects with a myriad of objectives ranging from infrastructure development to social welfare enhancements. These initiatives are often driven by political imperatives, public demands, or developmental agendas aimed at fostering economic growth, improving public services, and addressing societal needs (Crawford & Helm, 2009). The imperative to fulfil electoral promises, gain political mileage, and enhance governance legitimacy are among the key drivers prompting governments to initiate projects.

Financing plays a pivotal role in project implementation, especially in resource-constrained environments like Ghana. Governments rely on a mix of domestic revenue, international aid, loans, and public-private partnerships to fund projects (Dewulf et al., 2012). While external funding sources such as development assistance and loans provide much-needed capital, they also introduce challenges related to debt sustainability, project prioritization, and dependency on donor agendas. Domestic revenue mobilization remains crucial for sustainable project execution, necessitating effective fiscal management and revenue generation strategies. (Odoom, 2023).

According to Owusu (2015), despite the noble intentions and financial resources allocated, projects in Ghana often encounter a myriad of challenges leading to abandonment. Poor planning, inadequate feasibility studies, and flawed project design contribute to implementation bottlenecks and cost overruns. Additionally, bureaucratic inefficiencies, corruption, and political interference exacerbate project delays and undermine outcomes. Insufficient stakeholder engagement and community participation further impede project success, leading to disillusionment among beneficiaries and eroding trust in governance structures (Datta, 2021).

Addressing the issues surrounding project implementation requires a holistic approach encompassing political will, institutional reforms, and capacity building. Mansuri and Rao (2012), assert that strengthening governance frameworks, enhancing transparency and accountability, and promoting citizen engagement are imperative for improving project delivery and reducing instances of abandonment. Embracing evidence-based decision-making, fostering inter-agency collaboration, and leveraging technology for monitoring and evaluation can enhance project oversight and mitigate implementation challenges (Moreno & Zabala, 2023).

The concept of project implementation in Ghana is intricately linked to broader socio-political dynamics, financial considerations, and institutional capacities. Understanding the motivations driving government initiatives, the sources of funding, and the underlying factors contributing to project abandonment is essential for informing policy interventions aimed at improving project delivery and ensuring sustainable development outcomes. However in project implementation, there is the need to understand the project life cycle. This will provide insights into how projects start, and how they end.

2.2 Project Lifecycle

The lifecycle of projects, according to Baker (2000) has four predictable phases that characterize every project. These are project initiation, planning, implementation, and termination. These phases serve as a roadmap guiding project managers and stakeholders through the various stages of project development, execution, and closure. The diagram below shows the flow of the phases of a project lifecycle.

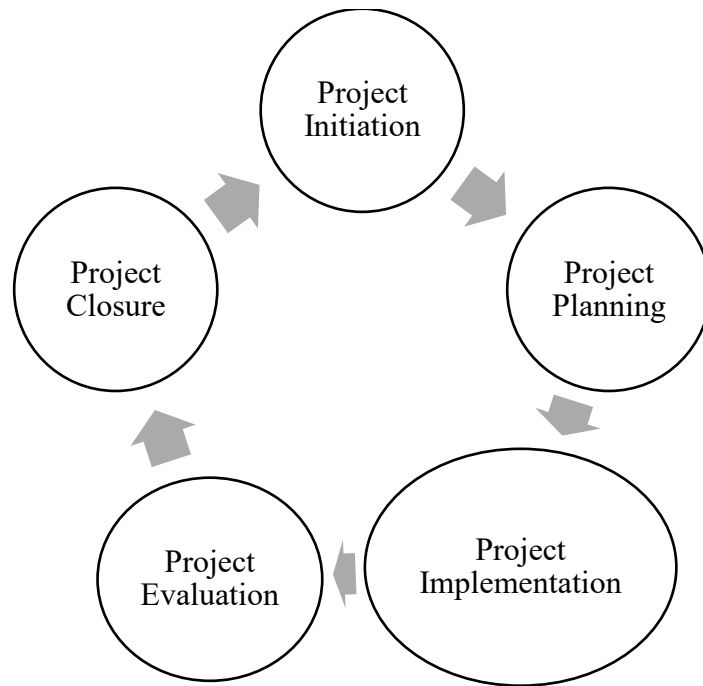


Figure 2.1: Project Lifecycle

Source: Westland (2010) and adapted by the author

2.2.1 Project Initiation

The start of the project is known as the project initiation phase. It begins with the identification of a need or opportunity, defining project objectives, and securing initial approvals. A feasibility study is usually carried out to look into the possibility of remedies to address a problem that an authority (government) has identified. A project is designed to implement the authorized solution after the suggested solution is approved (Baker, 2000).

2.2.2 Project Planning

It is at this stage where the project has been planned in detail and is ready to be executed. According to Baker (2000), this is the planning phase of the project where the project plan, resource plan, financial plan, quality plan, risk plan, acceptance plan,

communication plan and procurement plan are created to get the project ready for commencement.

2.2.3 Project Implementation

Every task listed in the project plan is carried out or executed during the implementation phase. As the tasks and activities are being carried out, a number of management procedures follow in order to keep an eye on and manage the deliverables, which are the project's final products. As Baker (2000) correctly points out, the implementation phase entails identifying modifications, risks, and concerns as well as reviewing the quality of the deliverables and comparing each one's production to the acceptance criteria. The project is prepared for closing once all deliverables have been completed and the client has approved the final solution.

2.2.4 Project Evaluation

Project evaluation is a crucial component of the project lifecycle. It typically occurs towards the end of the implementation phase and continues into the termination phase. Project evaluation involves assessing the project's performance, outcomes, and impacts against predetermined criteria and objectives. It provides valuable insights into the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the project, facilitating informed decision-making, learning, and improvement for future initiatives.

2.2.5 Project Closure

This is usually considered the final phase of the project. At this phase, the final deliverables or the project itself are handed over to the client/customer/user. This includes handing over project documentation, terminating supplier contracts, realizing project resources and communicating the closure of the project to all stakeholders

(Baker, 2000). Closure activities also include obtaining signoffs to officially close projects.

2.3 Project Reinitiation

Projects may close or be terminated for various reasons, such as achieving their objectives, reaching the end of their funding period, or encountering insurmountable challenges. However, the closure or termination of a project does not necessarily mean the end of its lifecycle. In many cases, projects may be reinitiated or relaunched, either to address unmet needs, capitalize on new opportunities, or build upon previous work. This cyclical nature of project implementation underscores the iterative process of project management, where lessons learned from past projects inform the planning and execution of future initiatives.

In all, the project lifecycle encompasses distinct phases from initiation to closure, each crucial for the successful execution and delivery of project objectives. As outlined by Baker (2000), project initiation involves identifying needs, defining objectives, and obtaining approvals, while project planning entails detailed preparation through various plans and strategies. Implementation follows, where tasks are executed, deliverables managed, and quality ensured, leading to project evaluation to assess performance and outcomes. Subsequently, project closure involves formal handover and communication of project completion. However, closure does not necessarily mark the end, as projects may be reinitiated to address evolving needs or capitalize on opportunities. This cyclical nature highlights the iterative process of project management, where lessons learned inform future initiatives. Moreover, the involvement of stakeholders, including government bodies, civil society organizations, traditional authorities, local

government entities, and citizens, plays a pivotal role in project implementation. The next section will delve into the multifaceted roles and interactions of these stakeholders.

2.9 Exploring the Concept of Abandoned Projects

According to some scholars, the term “abandonment” does not have a specific definition for it. From their point of view, there is no concise and generally agreed explanation for the term. This proves that, upon the understanding and perspective of individual differences, comes the definition of the term “abandonment”. According to Morckel (2014), there is no universal agreement on what constitutes an abandoned project. Previously, Khalid (2010) pointed out that in the United Kingdom (UK), the term "housing abandonment" refers to vacant homes that are not in high demand. Moreover, in the US or the UK, abandoned housing complexes are defined as uninhabited structures that exhibit obvious physical suffering (such as being boarded up, burned, exposed to the elements, or having degraded) (Jacobson, 2007 cited in Abdul Rahman et al., 2013).

“Abandoned Projects” are defined as projects that meet the following criteria: the project is not completed within or later than the delivery date stated in the contract agreement and no significant activity is noticed at the construction site for six (6) continuous months” (Ministry of Water Resource, Works and Housing, 2002). The signing of projects between parties comes with a stipulated time of completion. Usually, a timeframe is agreed, and work is supposed to be accomplished within that period. Projects are referred to as being abandoned when choices are postponed without a set date for when work is to begin (Hanachor, 2012). The incompleteness of projects within the stipulated time is regarded by the Ministry of Works and Housing as an “abandoned project”. In progress, works or activities at the site can halt for some time; either a week

or two due to some inconveniences, such as unfavorable weather conditions or others, but at the point where there is no active work being done at the construction site for a continuous period of six (6) months, then it is regarded as an abandoned project.

Similarly, Olapade and Anthony (2012) stated that a construction project that has been abandoned has not been completed by the contract's deadline, and the reasons for and effects of these abandoned construction projects appear to be a result of multiple factors rather than a single cause (Ayodele & Alabi, 2011). Many of these factors, according to Doraisamy et al. (2015), include a lack of sufficient funding and financial allocations before projects are started, poor management, ineffective equal systems, untrained employees, inadequate planning, corruption, and compromises, etc. Dahlan (2011), also says that an Abandoned Housing Project (AHP), is described as a project that either came to an end owing to financial difficulties or whose developer had vanished. Shortage of monetary assistance for a project is assessed by Dahlan (2011), as one of the reasons for project abandonment and more so, the extinction of the contractor. Also, from a planning perspective, an "abandoned project" is a project in which development has been delayed despite the developer having received planning clearance for it.

According to Olalusi and Otunola (2012) and Ubani and Ononuju (2013), abandoned projects are those whose building work has ended for one reason or another, but which had previously begun. It refers to initiatives where some money has been spent but no physical work has been done as of commission. It has been stated that not all construction projects started in Ghana are completed for a variety of reasons, even though these causes vary from region to region (Doraisamy et al., 2015; Shah, 2016). This is because each construction project is different (Mir and Pinnington, 2014). According to Amponsah (2013), at least one of every three infrastructure development

projects in Ghana struggles with or is unable to meet one of the objectives of scope, cost, or time.

Abdul- Rahman et al. (2015), described abandoned projects as “construction projects which are uncompleted and not available for occupation on schedule”. Now, some other proponents are of the view that projects are never in any way abandoned but rather suspended. The explanation for this is given as the contractor not having the means at that period to continue with the project, so then halted for the time being, and not regarded as abandoned. According to Onaikan (2013), public projects are not abandoned but rather suspended. This supports the claim quoted by Olalusi and Otunola (2012) that a project is never deemed abandoned but rather put on hold since the owner lacked the means to complete it in the meantime.

Negative effects of abandoned construction projects on society and the environment are also present. For instance, stagnant water pools can be found in some abandoned projects, where they act as mosquito breeding grounds and endanger public health (Bavani, 2009). In addition to attracting criminals, drug users, and vagrants to occupy the sites, abandoned building projects also pose a hazard to public safety (Chan, 2009). Anybody who enters abandoned construction sites, especially youngsters who enter the area to play, might be in danger (Stuart, 2009). Abandoned construction projects harm the environment since they could be used as a garbage dump and for the discharge of sludge. Moreover, some have lost their aesthetic appeal as a result of excessive undergrowth (Bavani, 2009). These negative aspects of abandoned projects comprise environmental and health risks, befalling areas with these projects being abandoned.

2.10 Studies on the Causes of Abandoned Projects

Within the field of project management, even the most carefully constructed plans are often overshadowed by the issue of abandoned initiatives. Projects frequently end prematurely, leaving stakeholders to deal with unfulfilled goals and squandered resources, despite early excitement and strategic intent. This introduction explores the many ways in which projects can be abandoned, ranging from many factors such as political, social, technological, economic, physical, historical, legal, etc. Abandoned projects retard growth, and slow down the rate at which a community progresses. Abandoned construction projects do not occur in underdeveloped and developing countries only.

According to Hoe (2013), failed and abandoned projects span several countries, including Spain, Malaysia, Russia, and the United States etc. Many government projects in Ghana that were never finished are evidence of the country's unfortunate history of project abandonment (Williams, 2016). Affordable housing as part of the major abandoned projects in the country, (Klutse, 2009), senior secondary community day schools (the Republic of Ghana Budget, 2012), Ghana @50 community jubilee parks, toilets, golden jubilee kindergartens, and roads are notable mega construction projects that have been shelved in recent years (Zoure, 2011). Below ponders on the causes of abandoned projects in detail.

2.10.1 Political Factors

There are many factors that results from politics and how they affect the progress of projects. Changes in government policies or regulations can alter the feasibility or desirability of a project, leading to its abandonment, political instability, corruption, political interference, and others (Eja & Ramegowda, 2019; Damoah & Kumi, 2018).

The policies of government can change, which can disrupt the progress of projects. According to Dewulf et al. (2009), changes in government can lead to project cancellations, adjustments, or delays as the new administration tries to fit the initiatives into their own plans because of their limited resources and political concerns, governments frequently struggle to determine which issues to prioritise (Kingdon, 1984).. For example, issues that relate to the health of citizens can be dealt with before considering any other related policies. Mac-Barango (2017), indicates how changes in government policies has a negative indent on the completion of projects. Being politically inclined with a policy is not depraved in itself, but the extent of moving to partisan politics is the point where everything changes, and it tends to retard the development of the country, thereby creating uneasiness within the populace. Governments in power mostly do away with the projects their predecessors were undertaken to commence their own projects, leaving such projects to be abandoned in the long run. According to research by Damoah et al. (2020), the incumbent administration may intentionally abandon projects to re-award them to members of their party.

Additionally, political unrest and instability is also another political factors that accounts for project abandonment (Ayudhya, & Kunishima, 2017). Political unrests such as coup d'état, revolutions contribute to the abandonment of projects globally. Once such issues erupt, the working environment becomes very hostile, and for that matter, contractors will abandon the site and flee for their lives. Individual safety is of importance and the risk of continuing to work under this situations are really high. Damoah et al. (2015), also indicate how the corrupt practices of government appointees also degenerate the progress of projects, thereby causing abandonment. Corruption in government agencies can result in financial mismanagement, embezzlement, or poor

project management, all of which can lead to project abandonment. Awarding contracts in project management, most of the time comes with corrupt activities and bribery. Contractors who are incapable will be given such contracts because of something they provided whether in cash or kind. Financial mismanagement and embezzlement of government funds can result in the abandonment of projects (Locatelli, et al., 2017).

2.10.2 Economic Factors

For projects to be abandoned, the lack of insufficient supply of funds also contribute immensely to these difficulties. That is why Smith et al. (2018); Love et al. (2020) opines that, funding availability and project progress are closely related. Project abandonment may result from financial difficulties or a lack of funds, particularly if other funding sources cannot be found (Yap et al., 2010). Undertaking projects demands huge sums of financial backing and assistance. In order for projects to be completed successfully, financiers should be economically disciplined, by making sure that the estimated amount for the project completion is available. Despite this, the project can be halted halfway when funds dedicated to support such projects are insufficient. Shinkafi, (2021) opines that, financial difficulties have led to a number of concerns with projects, including delays and abandonment. Ibbs et al. (2019), however show how the delays in releasing funds disrupt projects and the effects of such abysmal behaviour.

Furthermore, significant cost overruns may cause projects to be abandoned because owners are no longer viable or sustainable economically to continue them. Cost overrun happens when the actual cost at the initial stage exceeds the estimated amount. Many things can lead to cost overruns, such as imprecise cost estimation, unanticipated costs, scope modifications, delays, inflation, market swings, and poor project management

practices (Enrica, et al., 2021). The success of the project as a whole may be significantly impacted by cost overruns, which can result in hardship on the budget, the reallocation of resources, stakeholder unhappiness, and in severe circumstances, project abandonment. Assaf and Al-Khalil (2019); Chan and Kumaraswamy (2021) highlight the importance of accurate and consistent financial planning throughout the project lifespan.

Some of the causes in projects implementation are due to unanticipated circumstances that were not considered by the developers when they were developing the project. The developer might quit the housing project because of the differences between the estimated and real building expenses, which render the project untenable at the implementation stage (Tan, 2004). Construction projects' overall cost is determined at the outset of planning. It is possible that things won't go exactly as planned, and the estimated cost may exceed expectations. In these cases, the owner may not have access to the additional funds required to see the project through to completion.

Projects may be abandoned as a result of budget cuts or resource reallocation brought on by economic downturns or recessions (Kesavan, 2016). A downturn in the economy may require reallocating resources and reducing the budget allotted for completing a certain project. However, this can lead to the project being abandoned. Initial resources and funds destined to ensure the smooth flow and accomplishment of projects can be redirected to other significant policies and initiatives that needs massive reinforcement and assistance, for example health and security issues to boost the economy of a country in terms of any unforeseen economic challenges.

2.10.3 Social Factors

There exist some social problems which affects the progress of projects leading to their abandonment. Strong public opposition, whether due to environmental concerns, cultural objections, or community resistance, can halt or force the abandonment of projects. According to Shinkafi (2021), project completion has been found to be impeded by socio-cultural interferences, such as disputes and persistent opposition to public projects. Protests, civil disturbances, or community uprisings have the potential to impede project progress and result in project abandonment. These can happen when the citizens found in these communities are not in support of the project that is being underway in the area.

Many factors can account for such, and one can be the preference of a particular social amenity to the other. For example, if a community is in dire need of a health facility, being a hospital or clinic, and the government decides to put up a market place for them, the people in the communities will rise against such initiative from the government. They will not involve themselves in such projects, and will try to sabotage such projects. Leaders in the communities such as the assembly man and other prominent people will use diplomatic and other legal means to petition the government by writing letters and sending representatives to the government. However, should in case such endeavour falls on deaf ears, then these communities will resort to other aggressive means such as strikes, demonstrations and others.

Projects may fail due to insufficient engagement with local communities, leading to resistance and eventual abandonment (Höhl et al., 2020). According to Affare (2012), ineffective communication contributed to project delays, cost overruns, and project abandonment. Also, it is well-established in the research that ineffective

communication results in delay and disagreement (Sambasivan & Soon, 2006). (Odeyemi, 2013).

Gasik (2023) however indicates that, the general public is the most prevalent group since they are the ones who pay public projects because their taxes support them. As a result, they have a stake in any public undertaking. Establishing robust citizen influence on government policies and services ought to be the main goal of public involvement. Islam and Yiu (2019) also postulate how ineffective monitoring and supervision by consultants on project site accounts for abandonment. The inability and ineffective monitoring practices hinders the required momentum and supervision needed for the total completion of projects. Also clear and comprehensive contracts are essential for promoting efficient project management and governance in a variety of industries. The World Bank (2017), emphasised the importance of these contracts, and Arrowsmith et al. (2019), provided additional clarification, highlighting their crucial role in guaranteeing project success.

2.10.4 Technological Factors

Everything is drastically changing, and the world is moving at a faster pace. Modern developments have taken the old-fashioned ways we used to do things. Relying on antiquated methods and equipment to do tasks does not yield the best results or increase productivity. Atkins, (2003) postulates that technological developments have the ability to quickly render infrastructure or projects that are already in place ineffective or unfeasible. Projects employing sophisticated systems or cutting-edge technology may be abandoned due to unanticipated technological difficulties or constraints. Contractors must be well abreast with technological know-how and the sophisticated ways of doing things in the construction industries nowadays. A large portion of the literature on

construction management examines the advantages of implementing and adopting new technology (Yang et al. 2012). Technological advancement speeds up productivity and saves time and energy. Adopting modern ways and machinery in project delivery can help to curtail some obstacles confronting contractors therefore leading to project success.

However, the dependence on emerging or unproven technologies may face implementation difficulties or performance issues, prompting their abandonment. Despite the fact that contractors should be keen on using new and sophisticated tools and means in project delivery, they are also advised to be cautious of novel technological procedures that have not been verified to be on the safer side of abandoning projects.

2.10.5 Environmental Factors

Project abandonment also results from environmental factors such as earthquakes, floods, or hurricanes which can damage project infrastructure and lead to abandonment (Gizzi et al. 2019). Natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods disrupt the progress of projects and can lead to abandonment. These activities usually comes out the blue and they have a negative impact on projects. Rain-induced erosion can jeopardize building sites' stability, causing soil loss and structural damage, claim Mekonnen and Sileshi (2019). According to Lee and Yoo (2017), excessive rains can cause project setbacks and higher costs since they require repairs and more labour. These highlights the negative effects of rainfall on building timelines. Floods can be as a result of heavy rainfall or even the overflow of river banks. Samantha (2018) indicated that, damages to manufacturing equipment and machinery may be severe and disrupt production, and the loss of equipment and supplies can cause temporary cessation of construction

projects, delaying the repair or restoration of structures (Safapour et al., 2020). Catastrophes cause enormous waste of raw materials at building sites. When a significant disaster strikes, there is typically a large demand for procurement of building supplies (Safapour & Kermanshachi, 2019).

Shaluf and Said (2003) however identified the various types of disasters and classified them as disasters are (i) natural and (ii) man-made disasters. Shaluf and Said (2003) went on to say that while man-made disasters, such as infrastructure collapse, explosions, fire, chemical spills, radiation, gas leaks, and poisoning, are caused by organizational, technical, human, and other factors (ibid, 2003), natural disasters are beyond human control (Coleman, 2006).

Projects may be abandoned due to environmental factors such as pollution, habitat destruction, or ecological damage. The changes in environmental legislation, delays in obtaining permits, or inability to get requisite clearances can all lead to project abandonment. For example, Mueller and Schaltegger's (2012) study discovered that strict environmental rules can have a major impact on project costs and schedules, even to the point of project abandonment.

2.11 Studies on the Effects of Abandoned Projects

The abandonment of projects brings about a lot of negative effects on the people and the state at large. Human capital, resources, time, and energy which could have been ushered into different aspects of the economy, and provided great assistance to the economic progress of the state, have now gone to waste as a result of the project's abandonment. The abandonment of projects, in any case, does not provide a preferable time that such projects will be resumed and completed, giving the impression that all the efforts that were once geared towards their completion have been of no use. Project

abandonment has a significant impact on the construction industry, which ultimately slows a nation's economic growth (Doraisamy et al., 2015). The growth of the economy of most countries depends on their infrastructure. Therefore, the increase in the rate of project abandonment and low infrastructure can be tantamount to poor growth within the economy. Smith et al. (2019) claim that project abandonment can lead to significant financial losses since sunk costs—which include labour, materials, and overhead—cannot be recovered. Furthermore, re-awarding the project necessitates additional expenses because new rates and budgets must be negotiated while accounting for market swings and inflationary trends.

Amoa-Abban (2017) categorized the consequences of unfinished construction projects into three categories: socioeconomic impact, environmental impact, and social effect. There is a major impact on the environment, as well as the lives of the populace within the vicinity. Studies like those by Leite et al. (2020) and Haque et al. (2019), for instance highlight the necessity of strong infrastructure systems to reduce hazards and guarantee community well-being. Among the socioeconomic effects include unemployment, diminished property value, population marginalization, tensions between public administrations and the private sector, and cost-sharing between the public and private sectors (Carrero et al., 2009). Once the project is abandoned, workers who used to work at these sites lose their jobs, causing unemployment. Additionally, Amoa-Abban (2017) found that socioeconomic repercussions include unemployment, lost tax revenue, resource waste, effects on community and neighborhood aesthetics, an increase in poverty, and a reduction in property prices. Scholars like Andrews (2013) and Hood (2010) have provided an outline of this. Transparency, accountability, and answerability in the distribution and application of public funds are all components of accountability. A culture of skepticism towards government acts is fostered and public

trust is undermined when governments fail to deliver on promised projects or abandon them in the middle. The taxes accumulated from the people which could have served other purposes are being used for these projects, which in the long run are abandoned.

Using a sequential data study approach, Damoah et al. (2018), looked into the effects of government construction abandonment. Out of the 26 effects of construction project abandonment examined, the study determined the top ten most significant effects. The top ten effects include unemployment, a negative perception of the government, underdevelopment in the public sector, a slowdown in economic growth, a decline in investor confidence, a reduction in state revenue, pollution, property loss, and a decrease in citizen income (Aseidu, 2002; Calderón & Servén, 2004). Incumbent governments are most of the time blamed for the unsuccessfulness of projects. They are in charge of the affairs of the state, so in any case, the abandoned projects that are cut across the state are blamed on the government. The completion of projects will bring advancement in the communities, making living standards high, but the incompleteness of projects comes with various environmental pollution. These projects can attract different kinds of animals such as snakes and others which can be harmful to human life.

Moreover, the cost of the rehabilitation of abandoned projects is another effect of abandoned projects. The significance of efficient contract management and risk assessment in reducing these expenses is emphasized by Love et al. (2004). They support taking proactive steps to foresee and manage changes in the project scope, which will reduce the need for expensive adjustments down the road. Initial provisions made to complete projects did not involve the use of other revenues to bring abandoned projects into the complete state. Now with the idea of the government to ensure that

projects that were abandoned are complete, excess costs that can even surpass the whole project itself will be needed. This is because many of the things have now deteriorated and need to be replaced. The government, therefore, has to make use of other revenue to replace those spoilt and rotten materials. The government incurs extra financial losses that could have been used for developmental projects.

Tijani and Ajagbe (2016) list the following as the main consequences of project abandonment or non-completion: loss of structural member strength (steel corrosion and concrete deterioration), aesthetic flaws to surrounding area/project site, hiding places for dangerous animals, pollution (abandoned projects typically result in the creation of uncontrolled and unsupervised garbage disposal), marginalization of the population (abandoned projects are used by homeless people, who live under unsanitary conditions), and it becomes a waste of money and material resources, reduces the area's economic worth, denies the government the projected revenue from the property, increases unemployment, and creates tension between the public and private sectors.

Emphasizing the importance of trust in successful community development endeavors, Sarker and Ashraf's (2019) study highlights how incomplete projects can lead to a loss of trust in the government. Working together, being involved, and continuing to participate in community projects all depend on trust (Brinkerhoff & Brinkerhoff, 2011). Disengagement and skepticism about future endeavours result from projects that are abandoned or inadequately carried out, which damages confidence. According to research, unfinished or unsuccessful projects discourage future participation and collaboration in addition to eroding confidence (Ghimire, 2019). According to Ramalingam et al. (2014), communities may get weary of development initiatives and

become indifferent to or resistant to new initiatives. To restore confidence and promote long-term community involvement, the legacy of previous mistakes must be addressed.

2.4 Stakeholders Involvement in Project Implementation

Stakeholders are people, groups, or organizations who are likely to have an impact on or be impacted by a project's outcome (Rajhans, 2018). Stakeholders can be the citizenry, government, and even the contractors themselves. However, the stakeholder salience concept developed by Mitchell et al. (1997) provides three main criteria: stakeholder power (ability to influence the firm), stakeholder legitimacy (relationship between stakeholder and firm based on contracts and legal title), and stakeholder urgency (amount to which managerial delay in responding to the claim is unacceptable to stakeholders). They contend that to be considered a stakeholder, a person must have at least one of the characteristics.

Project managers should be aware of the importance of projects to stakeholders and act accordingly. The involvement of stakeholders in projects helps in different ways. Project performance is highly dependent on stakeholder involvement (Magassouba et al., 2019). Effective communication between stakeholders and project managers works as a bilateral agreement between these two groups. Stakeholders exert some pressure on contractors and project managers, making them work within time and scope. The communication that transpires between stakeholders and contractors makes the former to be abreast with the gradual progress that is being achieved on the project. Stakeholders usually do this to ensure value for money and ensure efficient use of taxpayers' money.

Development projects play a significant role in the development of nations, and the involvement of various stakeholders helps to ensure that performance is both basic and

capital-intensive (Magassouba et al., 2019). According to Tengan and Aigbavboa (2017), the beneficiary community and local governments (service providers) are the external stakeholders and are each represented on projects by an elected assembly person. Beneficiaries must be involved in the design and execution of development initiatives that will transform their lives (Udenka, 2013). As indicated by Udenka (2013), if projects are going to affect beneficiaries either positively or negatively, then they should partake in those projects, in terms of decision-making and implementation.

In Saaka's (2019) study on stakeholders' participation as a determinant of effective implementation of land use plans in Tamale Metropolis in the Northern region, it was found that elements like leadership skills, transparency, the availability of resources, and decision-making centralization have an impact on successful stakeholders' participation in the implementation of land use plans. It went on to explain that the sustainability of the plan suggestions, efficacy, and efficiency, as well as independence, were cited as the advantages of involving stakeholders in the implementation process. According to Magassouba et al. (2019), the rationale for involving the stakeholders during project planning and implementation is to provide successful and sustainable projects by identifying, analyzing, scheduling, coordinating, and regulating every factor that could affect project performance. Stakeholders' involvement ensures the accomplishment of projects and the effective use of resources for development.

According to Ignatius (2016), on stakeholder management on construction projects: a crucial indicator for project success, found that the stakeholders were not adequately informed on the project's history, technical feasibility, and material benefits before project inception. The impact of stakeholders on a project's performance was substantial since they claimed they found it difficult to participate in technical talks and that project

implementers did not want to include them in decision-making. Also, Otieno et al. (2017) researched the sustainability of women's development projects in Kenya's Kisumu County and Kisumu Central Constituency and concluded that stakeholders were involved in the planning and execution of the programs. Stakeholders participated in the project's decision-making and were active in the monitoring stage for the sustainability of the project. So, for projects to be successful and sustainable, stakeholders must be included in decision-making and implementation as well. Stakeholder involvement should, therefore, be a key component of any "sustainable development" plan (Bal et al., 2013).

Stakeholders of government projects in this study have been categorized into implementers and beneficiaries (Suri et al., 2017). However, it is important to note that stakeholders often fulfil multiple roles and their categorization can sometimes overlap.

According to Musau and Kirui (2018), implementers are stakeholders directly involved in the planning, execution, and management of the project. They are responsible for translating project plans into action and ensuring that project activities are carried out effectively and efficiently. Implementers may include government agencies, project management teams, contractors, consultants, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as civil society organizations (CSOs) tasked with project implementation (Ocharo, & Kimutai, 2018). Their roles may vary depending on the nature of the project, but they typically have a hands-on involvement in delivering project outputs and achieving objectives.

Beneficiaries are stakeholders who are intended to benefit from the outcomes or impacts of the project. They are the individuals, communities, or organizations whose lives, livelihoods, or circumstances are expected to improve as a result of the project

interventions (Pouw et al., 2017). Beneficiaries may include citizens, residents of project areas, specific demographic groups (such as women, children, or marginalized communities), businesses, or industries. Their roles may range from receiving services, infrastructure, or support provided by the project to actively participating in project activities or decision-making processes that affect them.

While this categorization provides a broad framework for understanding stakeholder roles in government projects, it's important to recognize that stakeholders can occupy multiple roles simultaneously. For example, a government agency responsible for implementing a project may also be a beneficiary of the project outcome. Similarly, members of a community benefiting from a project may also be actively involved in its implementation through participation in community-led initiatives or local governance structures. Effective stakeholder engagement and communication are essential for understanding their diverse perspectives, addressing their needs and concerns, and fostering collaboration and ownership throughout the project lifecycle (Allen et al., 2013).

2.4.1 Government

Government plays a significant role when it comes to decision-making and the execution of projects both at the local level and urban levels. The government is heavily involved in the stages of decision-making and execution (Obeng-Odoom, 2013). Projects are implemented in communities that may fall under the purview of MMDAs, and to supervise them, the central government primarily uses a minister who has been nominated to that position to perform such supervisory role. The appointment of an individual by the central government to oversee the daily work and progress being made, are all some of the initiatives and advances made to ensure the total completion

and the operational of projects (Akwei, et al., 2020). In addition to the elected assembly members, the President appoints Mayors to oversee the management of Ghana's urban districts.

According to Caiado et al. (2018), governments mobilize financial, human, and material resources to support project implementation. They allocate budgets, secure funding from domestic revenues, international aid, loans, and partnerships, and oversee the disbursement and utilization of funds. Governments also provide incentives, subsidies, and grants to incentivize private sector participation and leverage additional investments for project financing.

Governments also establish regulatory frameworks, standards, and guidelines to govern project implementation and ensure adherence to legal, environmental, social, and safety requirements. They grant permits, licenses, and approvals, conduct inspections, and enforce compliance with regulations to mitigate risks, protect public interests, and safeguard the environment and public health.

They are again responsible for overseeing project management, coordination, and monitoring to ensure effective implementation and delivery of project objectives. Governments appoint project managers, establish oversight mechanisms, and coordinate activities among relevant stakeholders to streamline processes, minimize duplication, and optimize resource allocation. They also monitor progress, evaluate performance, and intervene as needed to address challenges and mitigate risks (Whittlestone & Clark, 2021).

They further engage with stakeholders, including communities, civil society organizations, private sector entities, and international partners, to foster collaboration,

build consensus, and enhance transparency and accountability in project implementation. They consult stakeholders, solicit feedback, and communicate project objectives, benefits, and impacts to ensure inclusive decision-making and promote public participation and ownership.

As has been established in previous paragraphs, representatives of the president are appointed to perform most of the responsibilities of government. However, recent studies by Adaawen and Jørgensen (2012), and Asante (2020), demonstrates that representatives of the president frequently make decisions in an authoritarian manner and are only responsible to the person who appointed them, not the people in their community. Thus, in most of their decisions, they do not involve community members. As a result, many academics have suggested that Mayors, Municipal Chief Executives (MCEs), and District Chief Executives (DCEs) should all be chosen. Resnick (2010) contends that electing Mayors, MCEs, and DCEs isn't always the best course of action because the central government would be hesitant to support urban development initiatives in areas held by an opposition party. The appointment of these government officials can bring about a stall in development activities, such that people from the other political side will try to sabotage the progressiveness of development around these areas.

2.4.2 Metropolitan, Municipals, and District Assemblies (MMDAs)

Metropolitan, Municipals, and District assemblies serve as the focal points for both administrative and economic activity, with the overarching goal of advancing national development. The MMDAs work to coordinate all local efforts with the national development strategy to fulfill their role as change agents at the local level (Mahama,

2009). It is imperative to note that, much of the authority of MMDAs is limited to administrative functions rather than fiscal or political.

MMDAs and citizens collaborate through dialogue and effective participation, and according to Amponsah and Boafo-Arthur (2003), participation in development is the inclusion of citizens in the conception, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of development initiatives and programs. Participation therefore leads to Local Economic Development (LED), and according to the World Bank (2003), the process of LED occurs when public, private, and non-governmental organizations collaborate to improve the environment for economic growth and job creation. LED is considered a process in which stakeholders participate and encourage actions that would result in desired outcomes by exploiting the local resources and potentials (Eric, 2016).

2.4.3 Traditional Authorities (TAs)

According to Mahama (2009), traditional leaders were intended to be part of the local government system, as evident in the 1992 constitution of Ghana and the local government statutes; but their function has not been formally defined. Traditional Authorities (chiefs) carried out a variety of activities throughout the pre-colonial period, including legislative, executive, and judicial positions as well as administrative, military, customary, and religious duties (Adjaye & Misawa 2006, Busia, 1951, Owusu-Mensah, 2014). Even though the central government and its decentralized local government units have largely taken over their functions (Adjei et al., 2017), traditional institutions and their leaders continue to play active roles in local governance and development (Abrefa Busia, 2021).

The provision of developmental projects at the local level needs the great intervention of traditional rulers. This is because most lands for these projects are in the hands of

these traditional rulers, as they act as custodians of these lands. According to Bugri (2012), 20% of all lands in Ghana are controlled by the government or fall under the statutory tenure regime, while the remaining 80% are subject to customary tenure. The government must, therefore, seek the consent and approval from chiefs for them to allow them to make use of these lands for such projects within the society.

Many Traditional Authorities share the state's goal of promoting both local and national development (Abrefa Busia & Adjei, 2020; Boafo-Arthur, 2003; Bob-Milliar, 2009), even though the powers of the central government have frequently restricted the developmental roles to their spheres of influence (Adjei et al., 2017). Despite all the duties traditional leaders perform at the local administration, championing for massive development and progress of their people, they do well in executing their responsibilities as spiritual and traditional leaders. As postulated by Adjei et al. (2017) and Owusu-Mensah (2014), chiefs continue to carry out their traditional duties in addition to their developmental activities, emphasizing their special place in local administration and development, which is recognized by the Ghana's constitution.

2.4.4 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Civil society organizations also play critical roles in the delivery of projects at the local level. They ensure that the government of the day focuses its attention on the most important issues that confront the less privileged within the country. Ghaus-Pasha (2005) asserts that people in civil societies are committed to upholding ideals like inclusiveness, tolerance, equality, and cooperation. Civil societies use means such as the media to make their voices heard and to exert some sort of pressure and force on the government to get their demands met.

Civil societies also hold the government accountable for the use of state resources and finance and serve as watchdogs in some instances. According to Frimpong (2017), civil societies in Ghana are crucial to achieving socioeconomic growth in society. The impact of CSOs cannot be taken for granted as they always put the government on its toes, pointing out the loopholes in their activities and making them competent enough through constructive criticism and other legal means.

Civil society initiatives in Ghana have their roots in the pre-independence era when their primary goals were to safeguard local resources and achieve political independence (Frimpong, 2017). It is prudent to note that CSOs as part of their contribution to local development in terms of developmental projects, also provide these local areas with portable drinking water, schools, hospitals, and health centers. Many CSOs aim at providing comfort and making life wholesome for many people living in many remote areas in Ghana, and on the world stage at large.

2.4.5 Citizens

According to Gasik (2023), public projects involve many different stakeholders, such as contractors, politicians, and audit chambers. But the most important and prestigious group among these stakeholders is the citizens of the country. There are many different types of citizen groups that can participate in public projects as stakeholders. The most common group is the general public, since they have an interest in any public project since they are funded by the citizen's taxes (Gasik, 2023). The primary objective of public involvement should be to foster strong citizen influence over governmental policies and services. This can be achieved through partnerships or information exchange through consultations. The engagement of public representatives is especially important for certain sorts of projects. Citizens might indicate which professional

activities, poverty alleviation initiatives, or cultural events they desire to participate in, for instance, in social activation projects. In order to determine their requirements, establish priorities, and provide solutions, community representatives actively participate in the process (Gasik, 2023).

Openness and transparency are hallmarks of most public undertakings. However, transparency isn't allowed in classified initiatives, though. Projects run by intelligence services or those with a defense component, for example, fit under this category. In these kinds of initiatives, information about the way the project is being carried out, and occasionally even about its existence, is only shared with the project team. There are certain situations where project teams may not be aware of the goals of the project as a whole or the actions of other teams. One instance of this can be found in the Manhattan Project, which aimed to create an atomic bomb (Gosling, 2010).

2.4.6 Contractors

The choice of contractor is a crucial component in ensuring the effective completion of a project. It is a crucial step in the project delivery process. A competent construction contractor is essential to a project's successful execution and completion. Project delivery, however, is the entire, thorough, and methodical process of executing, supervising, and finishing a project through a meticulously thought-out measure. (Mohammed, 2017). Kog and Yaman (2014) posit that the most important task for any decision-maker is selecting the proper contractor for the correct project. Choosing a contractor is one of the most important factors influencing a construction project's success and one of the most difficult decision-making processes involved in the process. In order for a project to succeed, a contractor must be carefully chosen based on their expertise, competence, capability, and experiences, according to Ali (2011). This

should be taken into account prior to the tendering stage to guarantee that a contractor is chosen appropriately. Studies have indicated that most clients encounter difficulties throughout the pre-qualification and final selection process since certain contractors have been reported to exhibit incompetence and have failed to deliver on time and/or within budget (Agboola et al., 2023).

Contractors perform various roles when it comes to project delivery. As asserted by Clough et al. (2015), contractors provide their bids in order to be selected to commence work on a particular project. There are two strategies involved with selecting contractors: one is the lowest tender, and the other is called best value (Agboola et al., 2023). Selecting the lowest tender is still the most popular strategy as it is relatively straightforward, objective and transparent (Plebankiewicz, 2012; Huang, 2011). Contractors also portray as the owners representative, and works in order to meet the deadlines of projects (Sutt, 2011). In a study therefore, Huang (2011) evaluated the selection criteria for contractors in the construction industry. The author restated that the objective of a contractor managing a building project is to produce a finished product that fulfils the project's specified purpose.

Despite these stakeholders playing key roles in the implementation of projects, several factors may affect the implementation of same. This is addressed under the next section.

2.5 Factors Affecting Project Delivery in Ghana

According to Asante and Helbrecht (2020); and Puopiel and Chimsi (2015), due to issues like insufficient logistics to support efficient revenue mobilization, low rates of tax collection, under-declaration of revenues by revenue collectors, political interference, and corruption, among many others, many local governments in developing countries in Africa have been unable to provide massive urban

infrastructure. In Ghana, multiple factors hinder the smooth delivery of projects at the local level.

The first issue to deliberate on will be the issue of partisan politics. In the awarding of contracts for projects to commence, the incumbent government usually and often awards such contracts to party members. According to Damoah et al. (2020), the government might purposefully drop projects before re-awarding them to supporters of their party. The awarding of contracts should be done on merits rather than mere “whom you know”. Party executives often and purposefully do this because of what they can gain from such activities. Contractors who might be able and capable will not be given such projects, all because of their political affiliation, and that does not auger well at all. Also, political party officials can manipulate the system for their benefit because citizens who are intimately associated with political parties are less likely to hold political leaders responsible for their decisions (Besley, 2007). Political leaders frequently try to sway the procurement procedures by bringing in a party faithful for the award of contracts (Kissi et al., 2018). Similarly, partisanship is used to appoint government project management leadership rather than merit (Damoah and Akwei, 2017).

Secondly, poor coordination on the part of local governments also accounts for the delivery of projects at the local level. Hackman et al. (2021), opine that, major challenges with land acquisition, lengthy delays in permit issuance, and poor coordination across different stages and forms of government have caused delays for even those projects where finance was available. The inability of local governments to coordinate effectively renders their actions null and void in executing projects at the local level. These coordination issues are particularly critical in projects involving

drinking water and sanitation, irrigation, highways, etc. where the budgetary requirements and technical complexity necessitate involvement from higher levels of government (East Asia Forum, 2015). According to Bertucci (2003), ineffective cooperation among local governments negatively affects their ability to deliver infrastructure. The lack of cooperation on the side of the local government can stem from the organogram of the local administration.

Furthermore, inadequate availability of resources can also contribute to the inability of local governments in the execution of developmental projects within their locality. Inadequate human resources, capital, and equipment increase the rate at which projects fail at the local level. Local governments heavily depend on the central government for revenue and many logistics. The inability of the government to make available these affects project delivery. The Ghanaian government heavily depends on external resources, such as financing, to complete its programs. According to previous budgets (Ghana Budget, 2012; 2015), the Ghanaian government depends on outside funding for its initiatives. Therefore, if help from these external sources should go sideways, it can affect local governments in the long run. Togba (2014) argued that obstacles like scarce resources, weak institutional capacity, insufficient systems for accounting and responsibility, and a lack of readily accessible information are important obstacles to the provision of infrastructure at the local level.

In addition, excessively bureaucratic and paperwork authorization is another factor that hinders the projection of projects and infrastructure at the local level in Ghana. The purchasing of equipment and materials often requires numerous official procedures, and this usually delays projects at the local level. Infrastructure procurement at MMDAs is typically mired in a lot of red tape and necessitates significant authorization

processes, making procurement a tiresome, time-consuming, and slow process (Anabah, 2015). Procurement is, however, greatly controlled by the central authorities and might take a longer process before everything is in order.

Lastly, corruption is another factor that can affect the smooth delivery of projects at the local level in Ghana. Bribery and corruption have a major stain not only on projects in the country but also on the economic capacity of the country at large. It is a menace that needs to be dealt with, to ensure transparency and to boost major economic growth. Gyimah-Boadi (2002) specified that corruption in the country is precisely great and ubiquitous. Therefore, government employees working on projects might be able to influence the performance of building projects by manipulating the systems for their benefit. Additionally, well-trained contractors and consultants for diligent project delivery may be extorted before such contracts are given to them. All these are reasons that may affect the completion of projects at the local level in Ghana.

All these issues discussed as factors affecting project delivery may cause a project to fail. The failure of a project may be seen in its delay, or it being abandoned outright. It is important to understand these concepts as they provide a framework to describing what can be termed as an abandoned project, delayed project, or failed project.

2.6 Project Delay

Delay is a serious problem confronting the project implementation worldwide. According to Arditi and Pattanakitchamroon (2005), project delays can result in a variety of changes in a project, including a delayed completion date, decreased productivity, accelerated work, higher expenses, and contract cancellation. In 2005, according to Sambasivan and Soon (2007), 417 government contract projects in

Malaysia were classified as ill, meaning they were either abandoned entirely or delayed by more than three months.

In the United States of America (USA), research by Ahmed et al. (2002) found that acceptance of construction permits, change orders, modifications to drawings, incomplete paperwork, inspections, changes to specifications, decisions made during the planning stage, and approval of shop drawings were some of the major reasons for delays in Florida. To better understand the factors that contribute to delays in major construction projects, Sullivan and Harris (1986) performed research in the UK that involved conducting interviews with participants and sending questionnaires to consultants, clients, and contractors. The study found nineteen (19) reasons for delays in large construction projects in the UK, with the most significant ones being waiting periods for information from the client or his representatives, variation orders, unexpected ground issues, inclement weather, design complexity, mechanical and electrical procurement and construction delays, and challenges locating materials.

Adebisi, et al. (2018), conducted research to look into factors influencing the failure and abandonment of multi-storage in Nigeria. A questionnaire was used as the study tool, and it was distributed to consultants and employees of contractors. The data was examined using statistical procedures, including factor analysis, frequency distribution, percentages, mean item scores, and mean response time. According to the study's findings, the following elements can contribute to a project's failure: a client's lack of funding, poor planning during the preconstruction phase, multi-story building construction failure due to structural issues, contractor business failure due to improper scheduling of building project activities, and a failure to hire qualified individuals with technical expertise and experience.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Motaleb and Kishk (2010) looked into the reasons for and consequences of construction project delays. They discovered that, despite the construction industry's estimated fourteen (14) percent Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contribution, almost half of all construction projects in the UAE experience delays. The biggest reasons for delays are thought to be client factors, followed by project management problems and other financial challenges the contractor faces. The most significant delay consequences were time and expense overruns as well.

According to Bramble and Callahan (2010), unforeseen issues like natural disasters can also cause projects to be delayed. Financial payment concerns, poor planning, bad site management, a lack of experience, and a paucity of supplies and equipment are additional factors contributing to delays in Pakistan. Similarly, external factors resulting from natural disasters like earthquakes and floods, according to Rabbani et al. (2011), are the most frequent causes of building delays in Pakistan.

According to Kesavan et al. (2015), construction projects in Sri Lanka are similarly hampered by factors such as contractor financial issues, owner payment delays, insufficient project planning and scheduling, and poor site management. Project delays are most often caused by managerial challenges, budgetary difficulties, and lack of labour, supplies, and equipment, as well as inexperienced contractors, according to research conducted in Malaysia (Alaghbari, et al., 2007).

Among the main reasons for delays in Bangladesh, Mizanur et al. (2014); and Islam et al. (2015) assert that inadequate planning and scheduling, owner and contractor financial difficulties, poor site management, and the choice of the lowest bidder are the reasons for construction delays. Also, poor planning and scheduling by the contractor, poor coordination and communication between parties during different project phases,

choosing the construction company with the lowest bid, and a lack of supplies and equipment are the main causes of project delays in China (Yang et al., 2010).

2.7 Project Failure

All over the world there are numerous failed projects worldwide, including in Malaysia, the United States, Spain, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Abu Dhabi (Hoe, 2013). According to Onyekpere (2011), failed projects have a significant economic impact due to cost and schedule overruns because the additional expenses incurred as a result of these scenarios would have been used to fund the development of other significant projects for the benefit of all citizens. Most projects usually fall short of their objectives owing to a variety of issues, including inadequate stakeholder management, poor project design, delays in project discovery and launch, delays in project implementation, cost overruns, and coordination failure (Amade & Amaeshi, 2015). However, Nzekwe et al. (2015) contend that even if a project is completed on time and within budget, it can still be considered a failure if it fails to achieve its intended goal. When a project doesn't live up to the demands and expectations of its stakeholders in terms of cost, quality, and timeline, it is said to have failed (Ahonen & Savolainen, 2010).

Every nation's construction sector is what fuels its economic expansion (Sambasivan and Soon, 2007; Sweis et al., 2008; Shehu et al., 2014; Pero et al., 2015). As a result, project management's significance to the sector cannot be overstated. However, studies show that some of these projects fail due to delays, cost overruns, inadequate requirement standards, and total abandonment (Frimpong et al., 2003; Sambasivan and Soon, 2007; Sweis et al., 2008; Shehu et al., 2014). According to Ayuba et al. (2012),

a component can be said to have failed when the various parts that make up the component are no longer deemed reliable in accomplishing their initial stated goals.

According to Nguyen et al. (2004), in the context of Vietnam, construction projects are frequently hampered by numerous difficulties that entail a variety of uncertainties, including deadlines. This could lead to risks in project management and result in the collapse of a building project if the cost target or quality is increased.

Sweis et al. (2008) used a questionnaire survey and interviews to collect data from project consultants, engineers, contractors, and owners, and they determined that the following factors were the primary reasons for construction project delays in Jordan: financial difficulties by contractors, an excessive number of change orders by owners, poor project planning and scheduling by the contractor, and a lack of manpower.

Frimpong et al. (2003) used consultants, owners, and contractors as participants in their investigation of the key elements that contribute to delays and cost overruns in the development of underground water projects in Ghana. In their research, twenty-six (26) factors were found, and they were divided into four categories. Participants concurred that the four primary categories of issues that cause delays and cost overruns are project financing, the economy, environmental factors, and material supply.

According to construction contractors and consultants in Jordan, Odeh and Battaineh (2002) identified the twenty-eight (28) most significant reasons why projects involving traditional types of contracts were delayed. The top ten (10) reasons for delays, according to the contractors and consultants, are owner interference, insufficient contractor experience, financing, and payments, labour productivity, slow decision-making, poor planning, contractor management, shortage of materials, unrealistically

long contract duration, and subcontractors. They divided them into eight categories and rated them; in descending order, they discovered that elements linked to clients were the most crucial, followed by factors related to contractors, consultants, materials, labour, equipment, contracts, contractual relationships, and external forces, respectively.

Numerous studies show that there are several reasons projects fail globally (Ahsan & Gunawan, 2010). Every project is unique in its way, but some factors account for project failure globally and are similar. Project planning- projects that commence without proper planning and vision are at risk of failure (Okwandu, 2010), Change in project scope- projects that encounter numerous changes either before or mid of execution also face challenges and failures (Ayal, 2005; Sudhakar, 2016). Effective communication is also a key element for the progress of project execution.

Relevant information and its dissemination help in the success of projects, (Ikechukwu, et al., 2017). Language and cultural hurdles, poor feedback, and unclear communication routes are just a few of the factors Hussein et al. (2018) identified as contributing to poor communication in the construction business. Unclear communication channels might cause issues for the parties sharing information; thus, every project needs to have a reliable communication path built (Zulch, 2014). Therefore, it is extremely important to emphasize the timing and quality of the feedback, particularly when it requires prompt action (Gunhan, et al., 2012).

2.8 Project Success

Success is clearly defined as completing a project within the allotted time, budget, and requirements while generating the intended advantages or profit. But some projects manage to produce the intended results or profit despite experiencing delays and

expense overruns (Boakye, 2015). Success however is a subjective word that can mean different things to different people. Jugdev and Muller (2005), referred to it as an interesting word which is very context-dependent and connotes different things to different people. The only thing that can be guaranteed in project management when it comes to success is that outcome, which can be explained in terms of other ideas like efficacy and efficiency are multifaceted, broad, and confusing terms whose definitions are context-specific (Ika, 2009). Project success is viewed as quantifiable, and it begins the moment the project is finished. However, McCoy (1986) notes that, defining the evaluation criteria is essential before attempting to classify a project as a success or failure.

A successful project, according to Kerzner, is one that has been completed within the following parameters: on schedule, within budget, at the desired performance or quality level, within the original scope or with modifications mutually agreed upon, without interfering with the company's values or culture, and with a well-documented post-audit analysis Kerzner, (1987) and also satisfies internal performance measures of cost, time, and technical performance and is approved by the client Kerzner (1998). Nonetheless, before Kerzner's (1987) definitions of project success, which took stakeholder satisfaction and quality into account, previous attempts to define it frequently left out both of these Duncan (2004). The cost, time, and quality criteria, sometimes known as "The Iron Triangle," were frequently the basis for earlier classifications.

According to Baker et al. (2008), a project is deemed successful overall "if the project meets the technical performance specifications and/or mission to be performed, and if there is a high level of satisfaction concerning the project outcome among key people in the parent organization, key people in the client organization, key people on the

project team, and key users or clientele of the project effort." This is because they see project success as a matter of perception. Keider (1984) also defined a successful project as one that produces a user-effective system on time and within budget.

A project may experience simultaneous success and failure. Sometimes a project is successful in certain areas but fails in others. However, as project stakeholders typically have various goals, it seems improbable that a project will be a total success to all of its stakeholders over the duration of its existence. De Wit (1988) so unequivocally declared that it is absurd to refer to a project as a success or a failure without providing any context. In light of this, Duncan (2004) proposed that we ask "How successful was the project?" as opposed to "Was the project a success?"

2.12 Studies on Factors for Effective Project Delivery

According to Williams (2016), infrastructure is crucial for a country's economic growth and delivery of public services. Infrastructure delivery improves the living standards of people living in remote areas and at the local level in Ghana. Examples of infrastructures such as the provision of good and portable drinking water, health centers and hospitals, school structures, libraries, roads, and many others help to promote the social well-being of individuals. To attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Hackman et al. (2021) opine that, Ghana must address issues related to poverty, homelessness, streetism, and rural-urban dynamics by working to reduce the infrastructure gap.

The provision of infrastructure by various MMDAs eases the pressure on the central government and is also a fundamental prerequisite for economic growth and development. According to Edoun and Jahed (2009), it is a crucial procedure that enables the central government to become less congested and reduces the burden to

reasonable levels. However, the provision of infrastructure and project delivery at the local level usually faces major setbacks involving failures and total abandonment. This section provides some measures to ensure the effective delivery of projects at the local level.

To start with, the local people should be involved in making decisions for projects in their area. The local people should be involved in the formulation and implementation of these policies and projects (Lawal, 2014). The views of the community people should be solicited when the local administration decides to embark on such policies. This is essential because the local administration must be made aware of the needs of the community from the people themselves. Involving them gives the local citizenry a sense of belonging, and more so they claim such projects as their property since they helped in the implementation of such policy.

Furthermore, local authorities should be allowed to generate their revenue, and the government should not interfere in any instance. Agyemang (2010) claims that MMDAs in Ghana are legally permitted to generate their revenue and as such higher-level involvement, such as that from the federal and state governments, should be minimized. It is best to avoid imposing rules or regulations from the state or the federal government (Hackman et al. 2021). The central government can help in a situation where local authorities need assistance, but not take absolute control of all aspects regarding the provision of projects by the MMDAs themselves. Decentralists think that with adequate funding, local government can deliver the required services and infrastructure to guarantee quick poverty reduction (Hackman et al., 2021).

Moreover, another important driver of project delivery at the local level is political commitment. Political commitment on the part of central government agencies and

officials towards local-level infrastructure delivery is essential. According to Scott (2009), political commitment is essential to improving the efficiency of the delivery of decentralized infrastructure. The central government should be committed and willing to support the local administration in putting up developmental projects, in the form of capital, personnel, equipment, and many more. Local administrations being able to construct these projects will however reduce the pressure on the central government in terms of the provision of infrastructure in the local areas in the country.

Also, the effective use of technology and other machinery can affect the construction of infrastructure projects at the local level positively. In this technological world today, all old and primitive ways of doing things have stopped. The degree to which an organization's technical capability is explicitly established and focused affects how effectively it can use its workforce to deliver projects and advance its goals (Lampel, 2001). Making use of technology for construction purposes makes work easy and saves time and energy. The central government can help by sending well-trained people and experts to these local areas to train them and also make use of some sophisticated machinery within the area.

One of the key factors, according to Scott (2009), is the adoption of a worthy infrastructure policy. He argued that local governments should be permitted to create and enforce laws that cater to the specific requirements of their communities. Also, putting an effective check on bribery and corruption is another way of ensuring the provision of infrastructural projects at the local level in Ghana. Corruption is a barrier to rural infrastructural development and must be severely punished to deter others from the act (Lawal, 2014). Generally, corruption is diminishing the rate at which the country is developing economically. There must be very strict laws discouraging corruption,

and using individuals found culpable of corruption as scapegoats, to deter others who might have the idea of doing the same act. Corrupt activities expose how the laws of the country are weak, making foreign investors and expatriates not to engage in any business in the country.

2.13 Theoretical Framework

Introducing a theory to make sense of a topic can offer a solid foundation for comprehension and improved analysis. In the pursuit of unravelling the complexities of the politics of abandoned projects, it becomes evident that a mere collection of observations or data points may not suffice to fully grasp its underlying mechanisms. Instead, the application of established theoretical framework offers a pathway towards deeper comprehension and meaningful interpretation. Paul (2012) suggested that, as a matter of necessity, all parties involved in the knowledge production industry should base their research on theory. Based on this premise, the Stakeholder theory was adopted to explain this work. By employing this theory, the researcher aims not only to elucidate the intricacies of the topic but also to unveil the broader implications and applications that stem from its analysis.

2.13.1 Stakeholder Theory

Stakeholders are individuals, groups, or organizations who may affect or be affected by the outcome of a project (Rajhans, 2018). Stakeholders are known to possess some characteristics such as power, legitimacy, influence, urgency, etc. El-Gohary et al. (2006) defined stakeholders as "individuals or organizations affected or affecting the deliverables or results of a particular organization," while "those who can influence the project process and/or final results," "those who can influence the project's activities/ results, and who benefit from and/or benefit from direct and indirect losses" were

designated as "environment stakeholders" (Li et al., 2011). There are numerous stakeholder definitions, all of which can be traced back to the one in Freeman's 1984 book *Strategic Management: A Stakeholder Approach* (Clarkson, 1994). According to Freeman (Freeman, 1984), a stakeholder is "any group or individual who can affect or is affected by the achievement of the organization's objectives." Stakeholders are described as "constituents who have a legitimate claim on the firm...established through the existence of an exchange relationship" and "who supply the firm with critical resources (contributions) and in exchange expects its interests to be satisfied (by inducements)". (Hill and Jones, 1992).

According to Freeman (1984), the Stanford Research Institute (SRI), which presented the idea that shareholders weren't the only group crucial to an organization, created the concept of stakeholder management in 1963. According to Freeman, the SRI defined a stakeholder as "a group without whose support the organization would cease to exist." Researchers have stressed the significance of including stakeholder interests in organizational decision-making processes (Mir and Pinnington, 2014; Mishra and Mishra, 2013). Stakeholder theory was promoted by Freeman (1984) as a tool for strategic decision-making, and Cleland (1985) used it to create stakeholder management techniques for infrastructure project management. Due to the domain-specific features of infrastructure systems, stakeholder theory is utilized differently in the strategic management of infrastructure projects (Walley, 2013). Despite criticisms that stakeholder theory is nebulous and ambiguous (Mainardes et al., 2012), several academics concurred that applying stakeholder theory to create stakeholder management strategies in infrastructure projects is appropriate (Mishra & Mishra, 2013).

2.13.2 Key Assumptions of the Stakeholder Theory

One of the key assumptions of the stakeholder theory is that according to stakeholder theory, a business has a variety of stakeholders, each with their own demands, expectations, and areas of interest. These stakeholders can include not only shareholders but also employees, consumers, suppliers, communities, governments, and other organisations affected by the actions of the company. Making effective decisions requires knowing who these stakeholders are and what their interests are. Several stakeholder groups are typically involved in a project; however, not every stakeholder has the same expectations, capacities, or influence over the project's course. According to Tuman (2006), there are just four primary groups that project managers should take into account: project supporters, community members, project participants, and parasitic participants. However, based on stakeholders' authority, legitimacy, and urgency, Mitchell et al. (1997) classify stakeholders into seven distinct groups: dormant stakeholders, discretionary stakeholders, demanding stakeholders, dominant stakeholders, dangerous stakeholders, dependent stakeholders, and definitive stakeholders.

Another key assumption of the stakeholder theory is the interconnectedness of stakeholders. The approach acknowledges stakeholders' interdependence and their impact on the company's success. The company's actions may have repercussions for different stakeholders, either directly or indirectly. For instance, choices that favour stockholders may have a negative impact on workers or the environment. This is also applicable in project delivery where there exist the interconnectedness of various stakeholders, and the necessary impact each have on the completion of projects.

Furthermore, another key assumption of the stakeholder theory is significance of stakeholders. Not all stakeholders are equally important to a business at any given time. Stakeholder theory suggests that stakeholders vary in their level of salience based on attributes such as power, legitimacy, and urgency. This is evident in Mitchell's assertion who stated that there exist seven different stakeholder groups: dormant stakeholders, discretionary stakeholders, demanding stakeholders, dominant stakeholders, dangerous stakeholders, dependent stakeholders and definitive stakeholders, based on stakeholders' power, legitimacy and urgency (Mitchell et al., 1997). Dormant stakeholders are those with authority but no genuine connection to or interest in the institution. Company managers should be cautious of dormant stakeholders as they have the potential to become definitive or dominant stakeholders, even though they don't communicate much with the company and don't exercise their authority. Although they lack authority or pressing claims against the enterprise, discretionary stakeholders disagree with justifiable needs. As a result, although they are free to, managers are not required to keep a tight contact with them. Stakeholders making demands have valid claims, but they lack authority. Demanding stakeholders, according to Mitchell et al. (1997), simply attracts managers' attention. Dominant stakeholders are those who possess both legitimacy and power. Organisation managers must respond quickly to the wants and demands of dominant stakeholders because they challenge both the firm's right to legitimate demands and their ability to influence how the organisation operates. Dangerous stakeholders are those that possess authority and urgency within an institution, but lack legitimacy. These stakeholders may exhibit violent and coercive behaviour when operating an organisation. Dependent stakeholders are individuals or groups with important and genuine claims but lack the ability to oppose. Dependent stakeholders must therefore utilise the authority of other stakeholders in order to

achieve their goals. Dominant stakeholders in the organisation become definite stakeholders when they have pressing needs. In an organisation, definitive stakeholders possess authority, credibility, and a sense of urgency. Managers are required to respond to their requests promptly and unambiguously.

Also, the end results of the decisions taken by stakeholders in an organization is another assumption of the stakeholder theory. Unlike the shareholder primacy model, which often focuses on short-term financial gains, stakeholder theory emphasizes the importance of considering the long-term impacts of business decisions on all stakeholders. This long-term perspective encourages sustainable practices that benefit not only shareholders but also other stakeholders and society as a whole.

Ethical Consideration is also considered an assumption of the stakeholder theory. According to the stakeholder theory, companies have moral obligations to all parties that are impacted by their operations. This entails showing stakeholders respect, taking into account their interests during the decision-making process, and refraining from taking any actions that can endanger them. It is believed that acting ethically is crucial to establishing and preserving goodwill among stakeholders. Project performance is highly dependent on stakeholder involvement (Magassouba et al., 2019).

Stakeholder theory recognizes that the business environment is dynamic and constantly changing. As a result, the interests and priorities of stakeholders may evolve over time, requiring businesses to adapt and respond accordingly. This adaptability is crucial for maintaining positive stakeholder relationships and ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of the business. This is however evident in some scholarly works that suggest that a change may happen in the course of project delivery and adequate and prior information can help. Projects scope that encounter numerous changes either

before or mid of execution also face challenges and failures (Ayal, 2005; Sudhakar, 2016). Effective communication should therefore be a key element for the progress of project execution.

In addition, corporate governance and accountability is considered a key assumption of the stakeholder theory. Stakeholder theory implementation within organisations requires strong corporate governance frameworks. It is the duty of management teams and boards of directors to represent the interests of all parties involved and make sure that choices are consistent with the declared goals and values of the business. Furthermore, in order to hold businesses responsible for their deeds and results, accountability and transparency measures are required.

2.13.3 Criticisms Against Stakeholder Theory

One of the criticisms levelled against the stakeholder theory is the lack of clarity on stakeholder identification: The stakeholder theory is sometimes criticised for being vague about exactly who falls under the definition of a stakeholder. Although it implies that all individuals impacted by a company's actions have to be regarded as stakeholders, it doesn't offer precise instructions on how to classify or rank them. This ambiguity may cause misunderstandings and inconsistent application.

Again, there is a difficulty in balancing stakeholder interests. According to stakeholder theory, businesses should take into account the interests of all parties involved, including shareholders, communities, suppliers, employees, and customers. This is evident in Halal (1990); Brenner and Molander (1977); Posner and Schmidt (1984) who state that, company managers need to consider interests, expectations, and viewpoints from various stakeholder groups. In actuality, though, striking a balance between these disparate and perhaps at odds interests can prove difficult, and this is what critics base

their arguments on. For instance, moves that favour one stakeholder group may have a negative impact on another, posing managers with trade-offs and difficult choices.

In addition, the stakeholder theory is critiqued on the possibility of misuse by managers. Some contend that managers may abuse the stakeholder theory to support their decisions, especially if they give some stakeholders' interests precedence over others' in order to further their own agendas. The theory's inclusionary and equitable tenets may be compromised by this biased reading of stakeholder interests. Stakeholder theory, according to some, gives dishonest managers an easy way to justify acting in their own self-interest, thereby reinstating the agency problem that the shareholder wealth maximisation requirement was intended to solve. By arguing that a particular course of action genuinely benefits a stakeholder group, opportunistic managers can behave more freely in their own self-interest. (Marcoux, 2000; Sternberg, 2000; Jensen, 2000)

Furthermore, the theory is seen as restricting accountability and responsibility. The stakeholder theory has also been criticised for weakening the idea of accountability and responsibility by distributing it among several stakeholder groups. It may be more difficult to hold companies accountable for their activities under a stakeholder-oriented framework when traditional accountability tools, including financial performance measurements for shareholders, lose their relevance or clarity.

Moreover, the stakeholder theory posits that all stakeholders possess equal power and influence and is critiqued on this assertion. However, in actuality, power dynamics within stakeholder groups can differ considerably. This is known as the inherent power imbalance. Some stakeholders may have disproportionate authority, such as

government agencies or big institutional investors, which can sway decision-making processes in their favour and marginalise the interests of weaker stakeholders.

Possibility for Conflict and Gridlock: The stakeholder theory may result in disputes and gridlock when stakeholders have different interests or values. This makes it challenging for organisations to make prompt and wise decisions. Effective communication, negotiation, and conflict resolution abilities are necessary to resolve these disputes, but they aren't always easily accessible in organisations.

2.13.4 Relevance of the Stakeholder Theory to the Study

The stakeholder theory has significant contribution to this study and therefore cannot be seen as of no value. The theory can help to understand the politics surrounding the abandonment of projects, therefore really useful in this study. On this premises, the study considers the stakeholder theory as deemed appropriate for understanding the politics of abandoned projects. The researcher considers the theory as relevant in explaining the findings of the study in the following ways;

According to the stakeholder theory, there are several parties participating. Stakeholder theory is a useful framework for comprehending the roles and interactions of the numerous stakeholders in the research, including government implementers, as it strives to explore their views and impacts. It is thought that there are a number of stakeholders involved in project delivery who could have an impact on the success or failure of projects. The data to be assembled will therefore be examined to indicate whether they will affirm or refute the assumptions of the theory.

Again, according to the stakeholder theory, relationships and power dynamics between and among stakeholders in project execution are a problem. Understanding the power

dynamics and relationships among stakeholders is essential to comprehending project abandonment and the ways in which various actors either help or impede project success. By taking into account the interests and concerns of all pertinent stakeholders involved in project implementation, the stakeholder theory provides a comprehensive viewpoint. This all-encompassing perspective might offer insightful information on the politics surrounding shelved projects. The stakeholder theory is however widely used in project management and development studies, making it a practical and well-established framework for this research.

In conclusion, the researcher however argues that the stakeholder theory, which has been used for understanding the complexities surrounding project implementation and delivery by different scholars will help explain this study. Regardless of the shortcomings of the theory, it can help to explain certain things as far as project delivery is concerned. The purpose of this study is to emphasise the importance of stakeholders in project implementation rather than to refute their validity. It is thought that the theory will assist the researcher in achieving a result that satisfies the specified goals.

2.14 Conclusion

The review of literature in this chapter focuses on the concept of project abandonment and its related themes. Other concepts such as project implementation and the project lifecycle have also been discussed in this chapter. The chapter also focusses on stakeholders when it comes to project implementation looking at their roles and involvement. Going further, literature on factors affecting project delivery in Ghana was also considered, with project delay, project failure and project success all delved into in this chapter. The concept of project abandonment with the causative factors; political, economic, social, physical, and environmental were also provided in this

chapter. The chapter also entails literature on the effects of abandoning projects and also the factors for effective delivery of projects. The study finally focuses on the theoretical framework adopted to explain the findings of the study.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The main underlying purpose of this study is to establish the reasons for abandoned projects at the local level in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district. This chapter aids in discerning the research methodology that this work is situated in. The chapter also includes details about the philosophical paradigm adopted to address issues of the study, details on the type of research design used, sample and sampling technique, source of data, mode of data collection, validity, and reliability will also be provided. It also provides and most importantly considers the code of ethics in research, thus the ethical consideration.

3.1 Philosophical Paradigm

The philosophical assumption or paradigm in every research is very essential and significant. The research paradigm clearly shows the type of research approach to go by and they also influence the conduct of the research. Research approaches include qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods and the choice made for any of these is dependent on the type of philosophical paradigm that the researcher is working with. Creswell (2003), identifies four different paradigms that exist for researchers. These are; “post-positivism, constructivism, advocacy or participatory, and pragmatism”. According to him, philosophical assumptions help researchers to make claims about what knowledge is (ontology), how we know it (epistemology), the values that go into it (axiology), how we write about it (rhetoric), and finally the processes for studying it (methodology) (Creswell, 1994, cited in Creswell, 2003).

Now, these four assumptions are equally relevant for the study of every research carried out within their confinement. These four schools of thought provide critical viewpoints in applying them for better understanding and progress. But for the proper understanding of this research, “Social Constructivism” is the paradigm that is most appropriate in arriving at the necessary conclusions for this project. It originated from Mannheim, Berger, and Luekmann’s (1967) work, ‘The Social Construction of Reality’, and from Lincoln and Guba’s (1985) ‘Naturalistic Inquiry’. Constructivists contend that although the world is independent of human thought, all knowledge of the universe is ultimately a product of human and social creation.

According to social constructivists, people try to comprehend the society in which they live and work. Individuals are born different and vary from one another. The meanings one will draw from a situation might be different from what the other will also. This shows how even in the same phenomenon, there are various suggestions and interpretations, because, people construct their understanding from the point they are coming from. The divergent views of the people will have to be studied carefully to conclude and to draw up standpoints. Therefore, social constructivism emphasizes using people's perceptions and interpretations as the sources for first-hand information and insider knowledge (Mason, 2002). Crotty (1998), made some assumptions saying that humans create meaning as they interact with the environment they are interpreting. People create subjective meanings for their experiences, meanings that are geared toward particular items or things in general.

Due to the diversity and multiplicity of these meanings, the researcher chose to focus on the complexity of viewpoints rather than try to categorize or organize them. The research aims to rely as much as possible on the perspectives of the participants

regarding the situation being examined (Creswell, 2009). Open-ended questions are frequently used by qualitative researchers so that participants can express their opinions. Personally visiting the environment and acquiring material, qualitative researchers strive to understand the context or setting of the subject. They also interpret what they discover using their own experiences and backgrounds.

3.2 Research Approach

There are three main forms of research approaches; there is qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method approach. The type of paradigm being used normally determines the approach to go for. These approaches are explained in the following.

The qualitative approach to research entails in-depth interviews, document reviews, observations, and other flexible data collection techniques are all part of the qualitative research strategy, which systematically investigates complex social issues (Bhattacharjee, 2012). Anthropological and sociological corrections are at the core of qualitative research design. Many terms have been used to describe the qualitative path of investigation, including cultural analysis, constructivism, natural research, phenomenological research, postmodernism, post-positivism attitude, and post-structuralism (Schwandt, 2001). The qualitative research design is one in which the researcher typically provides knowledge rights based on constructivist ideas (Creswell, 2003). The qualitative research approach has some advantages, and according to Johnson and Christensen (2012), when using a qualitative research strategy, it is assumed that the data collection process is original. For qualitative research to be acceptable for the transmission of factual and descriptive information, the researcher who acts as an instrument, depends on the gathering of non-numerical primary data, such as words and photos. Also, a more comprehensive interpretation of behavior is

produced through participant observation and the focused group component of the qualitative research approach.

Alternatively, the quantitative research approach is another way through which researchers adopt to help them gain data and complete their research. The quantitative approach also has some definitions given to it by scholars, and in the case of Campbell and Stanley (1963), quantitative research methodologies of inquiry were those that evoked the post-positivist viewpoint. These comprise actual experiments as well as correlational studies and quasi-experiments, which are less rigorous. A quantitative study is one in which the researcher, for instance, primarily uses post-positivist reasons to advance knowledge, including cause-and-effect reasoning, reduction to individual variables, hypotheses, and questions, use of measurements and observations, and the theory test. Approaches often employed in this study design include experiments, surveys, and planned data-gathering techniques that produce statistical data (Abuhamda et. al, 2021).

The mixed-method approach refers to the blending or integration of qualitative and quantitative research and data. Quantitative data typically contains closed-ended responses, such as those found on surveys or psychological instruments, whereas qualitative data typically contain open-ended questions without predetermined answers (Creswell, 2014). The fundamental premise of this type of study is that using both qualitative and quantitative methods together yields a more comprehensive grasp of a research problem than each method by itself. Dealing with numbers and words at the same time provides a clinical understanding of the data being analyzed. It is with this assertion that, most of the time, young and upcoming researchers are being entreated to

try and use the mixed method approach in their works. This is to help them grasp the underlying practicalities of the two approaches (qualitative and quantitative).

However, to undertake this research, the qualitative research approach is purely and solely used. A more comprehensive interpretation of behavior is produced through participant observation and the focused group component of the qualitative research approach, as well as the use of interviews. As a result, the qualitative analysis methodology provides a wealth of information on specific people and real-world situations (Leedy & Ormrod, 2014). Again, the qualitative research technique assumes that the data collection process is original.

3.3 Research Design

The study design establishes the process for gathering the necessary data, the techniques to be used to gather and analyze this data, and how all of this will be used to address the research question (Grey, 2014). A research design is the ‘procedure for collecting, analyzing, interpreting and reporting data in research studies’ (Creswell & Plano 2007, p.58). Robson (2002), gave out the notion that research design takes three different types; they are the descriptive, explanatory, and exploratory type of research design. Yin (2003) also advocated both quantitative and qualitative approaches to case study production and covered exploratory, descriptive, and explanatory qualitative case studies. Explanatory research aims to justify and make sense of the descriptive data. Explanatory studies aim to answer "why" and "how" questions, whereas descriptive studies may ask "what" questions (Grey, 2014). It builds on exploratory and descriptive research and goes on to identify actual reasons a phenomenon occurs. Explanatory research looks for causes and reasons and provides evidence to support or refute an explanation or prediction.

In qualitative research, multiple research designs complement it. Case studies, ethnography, grounded theory, phenomenological research, and narrative research are some of the major research designs under qualitative research (Creswell, 2003). Any of these can be used when conducting qualitative research. The topic under study needs empirical stance and analysis. This is because people with in-depth knowledge and responses are those who need to be confronted or interviewed when embarking on research of this caliber. An in-depth understanding of why projects are abandoned is the backbone of this research.

The research design applied in this research is the case study. Instead of focusing on individual stories as in narrative research, case study research uses a variety of data sources to create an in-depth, contextual understanding of the case (Yin, 2003). Also, the case study approach must be adopted by researchers because, according to Yin (2003), "you deliberately sought to cover contextual conditions—believing that they might be very significant to your phenomenon of investigation" (p. 13). Others offer case study research as an inquiry strategy, a methodology, or a comprehensive research plan, notwithstanding Stake's (2005) assertion that it is not a methodology but rather a choice of what is to be investigated (i.e., a case inside a defined system) (Denzin & Lincoln, 2005; Merriam, 1998; Yin, 2003). Creswell (2007), also postulates that it is seen as a methodology, a certain kind of design for qualitative research, an investigation's subject, and its result. The adoption of the case study design helps to make things that are seen as complex, simple, and unique to the research.

Using case studies comes with some merits as long as demerits. In case studies, qualitative descriptions are frequently used to investigate or describe the data in real-world settings as well as to explain the intricacies of those environments, which may

not be adequately captured by experimental or survey research. The in-depth setting accompanied by this type of design enables the exploration of some crucial details, and also by giving a better understanding of issues. Also, the analysis of the data is typically done in the situation in which it is used (Yin, 1984), i.e., the context of the activity. Notwithstanding, several case studies also look for proof in the numerical and categorical responses of specific participants, (Block, 1986). This is because, variations in intrinsic, instrumental, and collective case study methodologies enable both quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

However beneficial case studies are, some criticisms come with them, and three different forms of objections to case study research are covered by Yin (1984). First, case studies are frequently criticized for lacking intricacy. According to Yin (1984:21), "the case study investigator has too frequently been careless, and has permitted ambiguous evidence or prejudiced perspectives to influence the direction of the results and conclusions." The preconditioned mind of the researcher is being accessed here by Yin (1984), in the sense that, they influence the overall findings of the research, and that is a no-go area in research.

No matter the stand a researcher has, or what they believe and know, it should not in any way affect the overall claims and suggestions of the research, thereby making it much more unbiased, and proving to be the factual nature of the research. Second, case studies use a small number of subjects, sometimes just one, making them a poor basis for scientific generalization. The question of "How can you generalize from a single case?" is frequently posed, (Yin, 1984:21). Third, case studies are frequently criticized for being overly lengthy, challenging to execute, and creating a ton of documentation (Yin, 1984).

3.3 Study Area

The study was limited to the Twifu Atti-Morkwa District area. The Twifu Atti-Morkwa District is one of twenty-two administrative (22) MMDAs in the Central Region of Ghana. It was formerly known as the Twifu-Hemang Lower Denkyira District with its capital as Twifu Praso. It was carved from Denkyira District Council in 1988 by LI 1377 with the name Twifu Hemang Lower Denkyira District. However, in 2012, the Twifu Hemang Lower Denkyira District was split into two districts namely; Hemang Lower Denkyira District and Twifu Atti-Morkwa District under the Local Government Act 462 of 1992 by LI 2023. The Twifu Atti-Morkwa District has Twifu Praso as its district capital with a total land size of 956 square kilometres. The district is bounded to the north by the Upper Denkyira East Municipal, to the South by the Hemang Lower Denkyira District, the east by the Assin North Municipal and the Assin South District, and lastly to the west by the Mpohor Wassa East District.

The population of Twifu Atti-Morkwa District, according to the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) 2021 Population and Housing Census was 100, 851 with females constituting 51.0 percent and males 49.0 percent. The district has a sex ratio of 96 which is higher than that of the region (91). It also has a youthful population (children under 15 years) (76.6%) thus depicting a broad base population pyramid with a small number of elderly persons (60 years plus) constituting 6.8 percent.

On the employment status of the district, age 15 years and older has 62.6 percent as self-employed without employees, 17.5 percent contributing family workers, 11.9 percent are employees, 2.7 percent are self-employed with employees and casual workers 2.6 percent the private informal sector is the largest employer in the district, employing 87.7 percent of the population following by the public sector with 8.0

percent. Of the employed population, 25, 636, representing 56.4 percent are engaged as skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers, 14.2 percent in service and slaes, 11.8 percent in crafts and related trade, and 6.6 percent as managers, professionals and technicians.

About 74.0 percent of the population aged 15 years and older are economically active while 26.4 percent economically inactive. Of the economically active population, 96.7 percent are employed, while 3.3 percent are unemployed. The economically inactive are mainly students, 26.1 percent performing household duties and 6.3 percent are disabled or too sick to work. About five (5) out of ten (59.4%) unemployed are seeking to work for the first time.

3.4 Population

A population, according to Brown (2006), is "the total group of people that a given study is interested in". A population is similarly defined by Strydom and Venter (2002) as the sampling frame; the totality of persons, events, organizational units, case records, or other sampling units with which the research problem is concerned. It encompasses all the people that will be researching will be about, the cases that will be assessed, and other relevant sampling items. According to Bless and Higson-Smith (2000), population is the group of factors the study focuses on and to whom the findings should be extrapolated. For this study, staff from the Twifu Atti-Morkwa District assembly, Contractors, Project Managers, traditional members, assembly men, and community members were used as the study population.

3.5 Sampling Technique

Probability sampling and non-probability sampling are the two most popular sampling techniques (Rahman et al., 2022; Elfil & Negida, 2017). The sampling technique

adopted for this study is the purposive sampling technique. Purposive sampling is a typical example of non-probability sampling. This is a type of non-probability sampling in the sense that, not all individuals and respondents have equal probability of being selected for the study. The researcher retains complete control over the selection of respondents in this sort of non-probability sampling (Kothari, 2004: 59).

According to Shaheen et al. (2016), the foundation of purposeful sampling is the idea that samples with lots of information should be chosen to provide a thorough understanding of the phenomenon. This type of sampling technique enables the researcher to carefully select respondents who have maximum knowledge about the research under study. Key information is needed when adopting this type of technique. The key informant technique serves as a particularly good example of purposeful sampling (Garcia 2006). Relevant information is therefore needed in the type of research. Information-rich cases contain issues that are important for the research, therefore purposeful sampling. Purposeful sampling helps the researcher to select sources of information that would help answer the research objectives.

3.6 Sampling Size

According to Sekaran and Bougie (2010), the sample size is the portion or subset of the population needed to ensure there is enough data to generalize the findings. When selecting an acceptable sample size, several criteria must be taken into account, including the study model's complexity, budget, time availability, the number of items, and the number of variables (Rahman, 2023).

The sample size the researcher used in this study was fourteen (14) participants using the purposive sampling technique. The researcher believed that using a total number of fourteen (14) would be able to provide concrete information and data needed for the

study. Bekele and Ago (2022) identified a range of parameters that affect sample size, ranging from 20 to 60. According to Dworkin (2012), sample sizes for qualitative research should not exceed 25-30 cases. However, some argue that saturation determines the sample size in qualitative research (Hennink & Kaiser, 2022; Sim et al., 2018). Data saturation is when information gathered and compared reveals no new additional information (Charmaz, 2006). Artur and Adom (2019), stated, that if the researcher observes that no new themes are emerging, it is appropriate to stop gathering data. Interviews were halted when the researcher noticed there were no new information arising. The interviewees comprised the District Chief Executive (DCE), Procurement officer, Planning officer, District Engineer at the assembly, Contractors, Project Managers, traditional member, assembly man, and some community members.

3.7 Research Instrument

In research, an instrument is any tool or equipment for collecting and obtaining accurate and adequate data for the research. The instrument used for this study was the interview guide. To conduct an interview, one must "present oral-verbal stimuli and reply in terms of oral-verbal responses" (Kothari, 2004: 97). Interviewing produces the avenue for interviewees to express themselves properly, give much-needed information, and respond to the study in question. The researcher is also privileged to ask relevant questions to get to the core of the topic under study. Seidman (2013) asserts that the desire to comprehend other people's lived experiences and the significance they assign to those experiences lies at the heart of in-depth interviewing.

In this study, a semi-structured interview guide was used. With the semi-structured interview guide, the researcher was able to draft open-ended questions to gather information and solicit ideas from respondents. Semi-structured interview guide also

provides the avenue for the interviewer to ask follow-up questions based on the answers respondents will give, even though those questions are not in the interview guide. This provides the researcher with enough precise information. In contrast, close-ended questions limit the researcher to only the interview guide. Closed-ended questions limit the interviewer and the respondent to a limited number of pre-selected questions (Biggam, 2008; Osuala, 2007).

3.8 Validity and Reliability

According to Creswell (2014), reliability in qualitative research refers to how well the methodology used is aligned with previous studies and researchers, and validity in qualitative research is defined as using specific methods to assess how accurate the findings are. In qualitative research, validity relates to how well the study's conclusions have been accepted as being understood, whereas reliability concentrates on the degree of dependability and consistency (Golafshani, 2003). According to Zohrabi (2013), validity is an effort to clarify the veracity of study findings. In measuring validity, it is said to be achieved when the data gathered reflects and covers the actual area of investigation. The accuracy of the findings of the study depicts the validity level of the research. Now to ensure validity, the interview sample was given to my supervisor for corrections and scrutiny before taking them to the field.

Reliability is also assessed as arriving at similar conclusions when the same procedures are followed. Drost (2011) defines reliability as "the degree to which measurements are repeatable when different individuals measure on different occasions, under different conditions, supposedly with alternative instruments which measure the construct or skill." The consistency of outcomes of a study over some time measures how reliable the results are. The similarity of possible outcomes attained from a study done some

number of times shows how reliable the results can be. Getting different outcomes from the study does not guarantee the reliable nature of the study. If the findings of a study can be verified using a comparable approach, it is considered reliable (Joppe, 2000).

3.9 Sources of Data

In this study, both primary and secondary sources were used. With the primary data collection, the researcher used interview guides for the data collection. Participants were allowed to express themselves freely concerning the topic under study. The open-ended questions provided the forum, whereby interviewees were not limited in any way. The interviews conducted with the participants from the district assembly was done face-to-face, while that with the contractors was done via various phone calls. With the secondary source of data collection, books (both published and unpublished ones), journals, reports, newspapers, articles, newspapers, and many others were also accessed. Important literature about the study was also analysed.

3.10 Data Analysis

Researchers can methodically organize and examine complex data sets by using a qualitative research technique called thematic analysis. It is a search for themes that can include the stories that are present in the data sets' accounts. This entails going over the transcribed material again and again in order to identify themes (Braun and Clarke, 2006). To begin the analysis of the data for this study, the information was first prepared or organized by classifying the data according to names, dates, genders, times, and locations of collection while maintaining participant anonymity. After listening to the taped interviews several times to become acquainted with the discussions, the collected data was transcribed by turning the audio recordings into written text. According to Hennink, et al., (2020), reading through the data again and again requires the researcher

to get quite comfortable with it. After that, the researcher created themes or related codes to create a central concept for the database (Braun & Clarke, 2012).

Following the initial generation of themes and codes, the researcher verified that the themes made sense in relation to the coded extracts and subsequently the entire dataset to determine whether each theme effectively conveyed a significant pattern of shared meaning that was pertinent to the dataset, research questions, and objectives.

3.11 Ethical Consideration

Ethical considerations were also given serious attention in the study. Some of such principles included confidentiality clauses in the interview; total privacy for participants was ensured, and participation was also based on the absolute consent of respondents. To achieve this goal, I made sure that all the respondents who voluntarily participated in the study, did so at their convenience, without any form of coercion. With privacy too, interviews were conducted in the various offices of respondents and through phone calls. Recordings taken from the interviews and phone calls with the consent of the interviewees were also treated confidentially. In addition, participants were entreated not to reveal any of their identities, and the responses given cannot be traced back to them. Assurances of such nature helped the participants to give their maximum best for the study. Moreover, an introductory letter was taken from the Head of the Department of Political Science of the University of Education, Winneba which enabled me to access the information needed for my study. The researcher made sure that the introductory letter was made available to the institutions and organizations visited which made it necessary for me to reveal my identity as a student to them. Again, all sources of information utilized in the study were properly recognized.

Furthermore, for the purpose of anonymity and confidentiality regarding the interviewees used for the study, the researcher adopted the means of assigning codes for them. The Planning Officer, the District Engineer, the District Chief Executive (DCE), and the Procurement Officer were given codes as Interviewee A, B, C, and D respectively. In addition, the contractors used in the study were also given the codes as C1, C2, C3 and C4, and Project Managers as PM1 and PM2.

3.12 Conclusion

In this chapter, information was provided on the methods of gathering data for this research. It further shows that the qualitative method was adopted and also used a case study as the research design. The Twifu Atti-Morkwa district was used as the case study, to probe into the “Politics of abandoned projects at the local level in Ghana”. Both primary and secondary sources of data collection were discussed in this chapter. The sampling technique used in this section, purposive sampling was also discussed as necessary, providing insight into the type of research instrument used, thus interviews. The reliability and validity clauses were also discussed in this section, as well as the ethical considerations regarding research.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

In this chapter, data gathered from the field and analyzed is presented here. The analyzed data is about the research objectives that were stated in the first chapter of this work. Data was collected from selected workers from the Twifu Atti-Morkwa District assembly. The data that is presented in this section of the work was assembled from the District Chief Executive (DCE), Procurement officer, Planning officer, District Engineer, Contractors, Project Managers, assembly man, traditional member and some community members.

Fourteen (14) individuals reacted to the interview guide that was presented to them. Therefore, the divisions below provide the analysis of abandoned projects in the district based on themes derived. The introduction of this section starts with the occurrence of abandoned projects in the district, followed closely by the various reasons for project abandonment and lastly, the effects of these projects and their abandonment on the people living in the district.

4.1 The Nature and Prevalence of Abandoned Projects in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district.

The goal of this research objective was to know the prevalence of abandoned projects in the district. According to the respondents, project abandonment in the district is a problem that in one way or another draws back the development of the district as compared to other areas. The interviewees outlined that project abandonment is a common phenomenon in the district, and it falls mainly under educational structures and road networks. Seeing that educational and road projects are critical infrastructures

that affect lives and livelihoods, the prevalence of the extent to which these projects are abandoned proved to be a worrying trend. The communities in the district lag because of the issue of abandoned projects which does not augur well for the socio-economic development of the district.

4.1.1 The Level of Occurrence of Abandoned Projects in the District

Interviewees were asked about the rapidity of abandoned projects in the district, and responses from the interviewees indicated that there are a lot of abandoned projects that cut across the district. Some of the informants noted that the majority of projects being undertaken face lots of uncertainties therefore leading to their abandonment. In line with this, Interviewee 'A', when asked how common the issue of abandonment is in the district, he explained saying

As for this district, we have a lot of abandoned projects in the here. These projects are commonly road and educational projects. Of course, other related projects face abandonment, but the majority of the projects that are not completed in this district span from both educational, which are classroom blocks, and road construction... [Interviewee A, 2023].

Adding to this, Interviewee C also highlighted that

It depends, in terms of the ones the district assembly does, we don't normally find abandoned projects, but that of the central government, there are a lot. You know some of the projects we initiate and implement, some of them are also from the central government... [Interviewee C, 2023].

This indicates that projects abandoned in the district are mainly projects that are funded directly by the central government. Another issue that came up was whether there are specific stages in the project lifecycle where abandonment tends to happen. The

responses given by the interviewees showed how diversified abandonment happens.

From Interviewee C2, he explained that

Oh, there is no specific stage, some of them at the initial stage, then they are abandoned, some of them too lintel stage then they are abandoned, some of them also, roofing level then they are abandoned so we don't have like any specific stage. Whichever stage the contractors get, and they don't get what they are looking for, mostly money, they just stop. So as for a particular stage, there isn't else it will be like they have planned it [Interviewee C2, 2023].

The indication is that project abandonment can occur at any stage of the project cycle once contractors get stuck. Stuck here will mean that when resources needed for contractors to get the project done becomes scarce or do not come. Similarly, Interviewee C1 noted that

In this district, you'll find various stages where projects have been abandoned, like e.g., GETFund projects; some of them at the foundation level, some of them at the lintel, and gable level... The gable level is when it is ready for roofing. You will see most of these school projects abandoned at this level... These are also roads that are started and abandoned. Some have been abandoned at the early stage like preparing of the grounds and grading. For some, they are halfway through but have been left [Interviewee C1, 2023].

The study considers the issue of abandoned projects in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district in Ghana. There exist several factors accounting for the abandonment of projects within the public sector, particularly in the context of infrastructure development. The findings resonate with existing literature that highlights the pervasive issue of project abandonment, characterized by incomplete implementation despite initial commencement (Frimpong et al., 2003). This phenomenon is emblematic of systemic challenges that undermine the effective delivery of public projects, encompassing various stages of construction and spanning multiple sectors.

From the data, it can be realized that project abandonment occurs in diverse stages ranging from the initial phase to advanced stages like roofing completion. There is no specific phase or stage in the construction process where abandonment occurs. Abandonment can happen at any given phase of projects, and this was deduced from the responses from the interviewees. This echoes findings from studies conducted in similar contexts by Enrica et al. (2021). They examined infrastructure projects in developing countries and pointed out how factors such as inadequate funding, poor planning, and bureaucratic inefficiencies contribute to project discontinuation across various developmental phases.

However, an assembly member from the district also provided his frustrations regarding the inability of projects underway to be completed

As an assembly member in this district, I sometimes find it very difficult why most of these things happen. The Government is in a better place to provide us, the people with various things that will help the community members but we at times feel that it is not enough if they try to complete projects and they are abandoned. It most of the time happens that, community members would be asking you so many questions because you are an assembly member, and they think you know more about the project than they do, and in fact it becomes really challenging and frustrating at some point when you have to explain yourself almost every time. We just hope that, things will change for the better in the near future [Assembly member, 2023].

The above findings from the assembly member highlights the frustration and challenges faces by local leaders in the district due to abandoned projects. Despite government promises, projects remain incomplete, leaving community members with unanswered questions and unmet needs. Morgan (2017), notes that abandoned project can lead to community disillusionment and mistrust in the government. The findings in this study

highlights the relevance of the Stakeholder theory in the context of project management and community development. The Stakeholder theory as described by Freeman (1984), emphasizes the importance of identifying and addressing the interests of all stakeholders in organizational decision-making.

4.1.2 The Nature of Abandoned Projects in the District

This section seeks to investigate the different types of projects that have been abandoned in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa District. Data from information gathered therefore provides the necessary knowledge about the number of projects that have been left abandoned across the district. Contributing factors for abandonment includes various reasons such as financial, political, social, etc. Moreover, projects in educational, roads, sanitation and economic sectors all fall victim to abandonment within the district. The table below shows the details of all government projects embarked on in the district between 2006 and 2022.

Table 4.1: Completed and abandoned projects in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa District

NO	NAME OF PROJECT	TYPE OF PROJECT	LOCATION	AGENCY UNDER TAKEN	DATE			STATUS	WHY ABANDONED
					Start	Expected completion	Completion date		
1	Construction of 3 Unit Classroom Block	Education	Twifo Praso	TAMDA	31/10/2022	30/04/2023	23/01/2023	Completed	
2	Construction of 3 Unit Classroom Block	Education	Akwakrom	TAMDA	2018	2018	2019	Completed	
3	Construction of 3 Unit Classroom Block	Education	Otukrom	TAMDA	31/10/2022	30/04/2023	25/01/2023	Completed	
4	Construction of 3 Unit Classroom Block	Education	Nuamakrom	TAMDA	01/12/2018	30/05/2019	02/02/2020	Completed	
5	Construction of 3 Unit Classroom Block	Education	Opokukrom	TAMDA	30/09/2019	30/03/2020	24/11/2020	Completed	
6	Construction of 3-Unit Classroom Block	Education	Mampoma	CODA	2021	2022	2022	Completed	
7	Construction of 6-Unit Classroom Block	Education	Bepobeng	TAMDA	2021	2021	2022	Completed	
8	Construction of 6-Unit Classroom Block	Education	Morkwa	CODA	2020	2021	2021	Completed	
9	Construction of 6-Unit Classroom Block	Education	TWIPASS SHS (Praso)	GETFund	2019	2020	2021	Completed	
10	Construction of 6-Unit Classroom Block	Education	Praso (New Market)	CODA	2020	2021		Abandoned	Lack of funds
11	Construction of 6-Unit Classroom Block	Education	Aponapon	TAMDA	2022	2023		Completed	
12	Construction of 12-Unit Classroom Block	Education	Morkwa SHS (Morkwa)	GetFund	2020	2021		Abandoned	Lack of funds
13	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary Facilities	Education	Canaan	GetFund	August, 2010	2011		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments
14	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary Facilities	Education	Adjetey Camp	GetFund	Oct, 2011	2011		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments
15	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary Facilities	Education	Asensuho Agave	GetFund	2008	2009		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments

NO	NAME OF PROJECT	TYPE OF PROJECT	LOCATION	AGENCY UNDER TAKEN	DATE			STATUS	WHY ABANDONED
					Start	Expected completion	Completion date		
16	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary Facilities	Education	Kenkuase	GetFund	Nov, 2008	2009		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments
17	Construction of 1No.3-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary Facilities	Education	Minta	GetFund	Oct, 2011	2012		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments
18	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary Facilities	Education	Twifo Praso	GetFund	2009	2010		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments
19	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary	Education	Nko Hunuho	GetFund	Oct, 2011	2012		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments
20	Construction of 1No.3-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary	Education	Ongwaso	GetFund	Oct,2011	2012		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments
21	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary	Education	Asamoakrom	GetFund	Oct, 2011	2012		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments
22	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary Facilities	Education	Atresu	GetFund	Feb,2012	2012		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments
23	Construction of 3-unit classroom Block with ancillary facilities	Education	Ashire	GetFund	2006	2007		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments

NO	NAME OF PROJECT	TYPE OF PROJECT	LOCATION	AGENCY UNDER TAKEN	DATE			STATUS	WHY ABANDONED
					Start	Expected completion	Completion date		
24	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary Facilities	Education	Subriso	GetFund	2008	2009		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments
25	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary Facilities	Education	Twifo Tema	GetFund	2011	2012		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments
26	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary Facilities	Education	Pewodie	GetFund	2015	2016		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments
27	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary Facilities	Education	Mirekukrom	GetFund	2015	2016		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments
28	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block, Office and Store with Ancillary Facilities	Education	Ashire	GetFund	December, 2016	2017		Abandoned	Lack of Funds and commitments
29	Construction of Refuse bay	Sanitation	Twifo Praso	TAMDA	31/10/2022	28/02/2023	12/01/2023	Completed	
30	Construction of 8 Seater WC Toilet Facility	Sanitation	Twifo Praso	TAMDA	11/01/2018	14/06/18	2019	Completed	
31	Construction of 10 Seater Toilet Facility	Sanitation	Twifo Ayaase	MSI	2019	2020		Abandoned	Lack of Funds
32	Construction of 10 Seater Toilet Facility	Sanitation	Twifo Bepobeng	MSI	2019	2020		Abandoned	Lack of Funds
33	Construction of 10 Seater Toilet Facility	Sanitation	Twifo Mampoma	MSI	2019	2020		Abandoned	Lack of Funds
34	Construction of 10 Seater Toilet Facility	Sanitation	Adugyaa	MSI	2019	2020		Completed	
35	Construction of 10 Seater Toilet Facility	Sanitation	TWIPASS	MSI	2019	2020		Abandoned	Lack of Funds
36	Construction of 10 Seater Toilet Facility	Sanitation	Wamaso	MSI	18/02/2019	2020		Abandoned	Lack of Funds

NO	NAME OF PROJECT	TYPE OF PROJECT	LOCATION	AGENCY UNDER TAKEN	DATE			STATUS	WHY ABANDONED
					Start	Expected completion	Completion date		
37	Construction of Mechanised borehole	Water	Twifo Praso (New Market)	TAMDA	2020	2020	2020	Completed	
38	Construction of CHPS Compound	Health	Mbaabaasa	TAMDA	01/10/2019	01/04/2020	14/02/2020	Completed	
39	Construction of CHPS Compound	Health	Twifo Mampong	TAMDA	01/06/2021	30/12/2021	22/10/2021	Completed	
40	Construction of CHPS Compound	Health	Osenagya	MoH	2020	2021	2021	Completed	
41	Construction of 60 bed Capacity District Hospital	Health	Twifo Praso	MoH	2017		2020	Completed	
42	Construction of Nurses Quarters	Health	Bimpongso	TAMDA (MP)	2020	2020	2021	Completed	
43	Construction of Polyclinic	Health	Bimponggya	MoH	2016	2017	2018	Completed	
44	Construction of 4 No. 20 Unit Market Stalls	Economic	Twifo Praso (New Market)	TAMDA	31/08/2020	30/09/21	22/09/2021	Completed	
45	Construction of 2 No. Open Shed	Economic	Twifo Praso (New Market)	TAMDA	21/12/2021	30/03/2022	21/05/2022	Completed	
46	Construction of Enable Youth Factory	Economic	Twifo Moseaso	MoT	2021	2021	2022	Completed	
47	Construction of 48 Lockable Stores & Open Shed At Twifo Praso	Economic	Twifo Praso	CODA	2020	2021		Abandoned	Lack of Funds
48	Construction of Warehouse	Agriculture	Twifo Moseaso	MoFA	2019	2020	2020	Completed	
49	Construction of Bridge Over River Prah 175m	Road	Twifo Praso	GHA	July,2020	June, 2022	2023	Completed	
50	Construction of 15km Ayaase Junction to Mirekukrom Agona Feeder Road	Road	Ayaase-Agona	GHA	2020	2022		Abandoned	Lack of Funds

NO	NAME OF PROJECT	TYPE OF PROJECT	LOCATION	AGENCY UNDER TAKEN	DATE			STATUS	WHY ABANDONED
					Start	Expected completion	Completion date		
51	Construction of 4.5km Mampong Inner Roads	Road	Twifo Mampong	Urban Roads	2020	2021		Abandoned	Lack of Funds
52	Construction of 35km Ateiku Junction To Km Nyinase Highway	Road	Ateiku-Nyinase	GHA	2020	2022		Abandoned	Lack of Funds
53	Construction of 15km From Ateiku Junction To Bonsaho	Road	Ateiku-Bonsaho	GHA	2020	2022		Abandoned	Lack of Funds
54	Construction of 55km Aboabo Junction Asikuma Highway	Road	Aboabo-Asikuma	GHA	May, 2020	May, 2022		Abandoned	Lack of Funds
55	Construction of Nyinase-Adugyaa-Kotokrom Feeder Road (7.70 Km)	Road	Nyinase-Adugyaa-Kotokrom	GHA	2020	2022		Abandoned	Lack of Funds
56	Construction of Bimpongegya-Opokukrom Feeder Road (14.5km)	Road	Opokukrom	GHA	2021	2023		Abandoned	Lack of Funds
57	Construction Twifo Praso inner Roads	Road	Twifo Praso	Urban Roads	2022	2023		Abandoned	Lack of Funds

Source: Field Data (2023)

TAMDA: Twifo/Ati-Morkwa District Assembly

CODA: Coastal Development Agency

MIS: Ministry of Special Initiative

GHA: Ghana Highway Authority

MoT: Ministry of Trade

MoH: Ministry of Health

Summary

Below is a summary of the table above, highlighting the total number of projects within the stated years, the total number of completed projects as against the total number of incomplete projects.

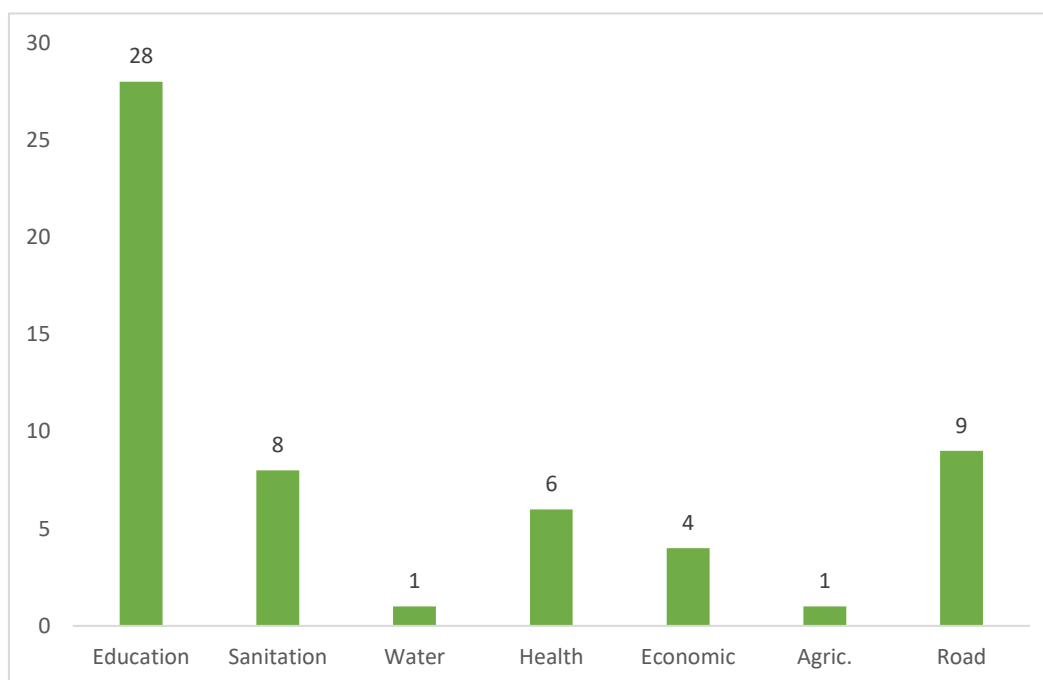


Figure 4.1: Total Number of Projects Embarked in the District

Source: Field Data (2023)

Between 2006 and 2022, a total of 57 projects were undertaken in the district, with education being the most prioritized sector, accounting for 28 projects (49.1% of the total). Road infrastructure followed with 9 projects (15.8%), reflecting efforts to improve transportation and connectivity. Sanitation received moderate attention, with 8 projects (14%), while health and economic projects accounted for 6 (10.5%) and 4 (7%), respectively. However, sectors such as water supply and agriculture were significantly underrepresented, with only 1 project each (1.8%). This distribution highlights a strong focus on education and road development in the district.

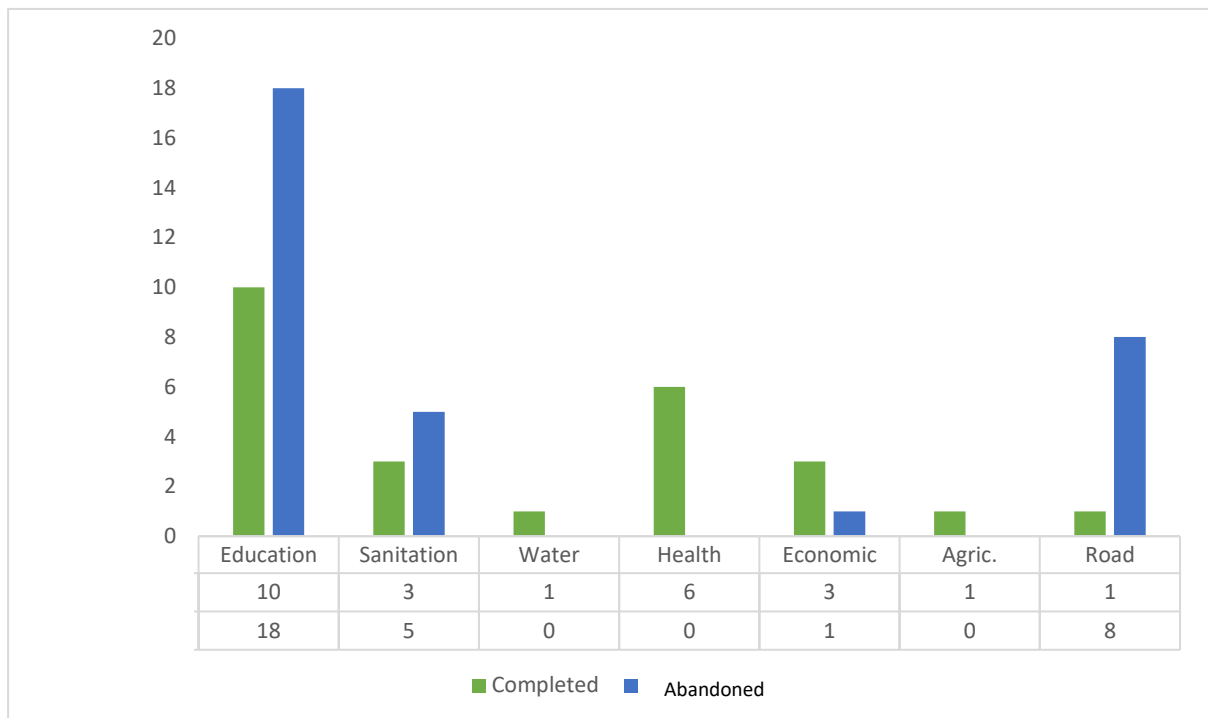


Figure 4.2: Total Number of Completed Projects as Against Abandoned Projects in the District

Source: Field Data (2023)

Out of 57 total projects, only 25 were completed, reflecting a 43.9% completion rate. Health, water, and agriculture achieved 100% completion, while economic projects followed with 75%. In contrast, education and sanitation lagged, with completion rates of 35.7% and 37.5%, respectively. Road projects performed the worst, with just 11.1% completed. Therefore, the top three project types that have suffered abandonment in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district are educational projects, road projects, and sanitation projects.

4.1.2.1 Educational Projects

Interviews conducted supported the claim that most of the abandoned projects in the district are related to educational facilities, specifically classroom blocks which are being constructed have been left unattended to for some couple of years. Education is

a major factor in the development of every nation, and governments of states and other recognized entities across the world such as international organizations have been making serious impactful contributions towards the advancement and betterment of educational facilities across the world. However, there is still more work to be done, and in Ghana for instance, facilities and school buildings are abandoned regardless. Views from interviewees corroborated similar trends of abandonment. For instance, Interviewee A indicated that:

When it comes to abandoned projects, we have a lot, and when it comes to the educational projects, we have about sixteen (16) to seventeen (17) projects that have been abandoned since 2016. Some even as of 2012, and some of them, cannot be continued unless they bring the whole structure down and build a new one. So, we have a lot [Interviewee A, 2023].

The statement indicates that the abandoned has rendered some of these important infrastructures useless because they are unable to serve their purpose. This is also because these projects are not completed, and therefore will have to be pulled down for lack of infrastructural integrity. Interviewee B confirmed the views of Interviewee A and added that

Specifically, when you go to Canaan, there's a six-unit classroom block at gable level, and has been abandoned for some time now, that is a GETFund project, Twifu Ashire there's another GETFund project there, and when you go to Nkohunuho, there's another GETFund project there. When I came to meet them, they were ready for roofing, but as I speak to you now, they have been left. Now work has gone on for quite some time now. You don't see the contractor. Some of the areas, you will see some of the machineries of the contractor there, but for other areas, you will not see anything there [Interviewee B, 2023].

The responses show that the majority of abandoned projects in the district are in the educational sector. Some of these projects date back as early as 2012, yet they haven't been completed for use. Another issue that can be deduced from the above shows that there are some projects, considering the number of years they have been left unattended to, will have to be demolished and new ones constructed because they have become weak and, therefore not safe for usage.

4.1.2.2 Road projects

On roads, it was found that the type of roads that have recorded abandonment are mainly feeder roads that connect to the national and inter-regional routes. Data from the study showed that abandoned roads, though are not as many as educational projects, they are quite prevalent in the district. The table below shows some of the abandoned road projects in the district.

The table above outlines some of the abandoned roads in the district, some of which started in 2020 and were to be completed in 2022. These projects have however been left and the contractors are no longer on-site. The interviews from the informants also stressed the nature of abandoned road projects in the district. According to Interviewee C1,

Typically, when it comes to abandoned projects, there are also some instances when dealing with road projects, and example of road project which has been abandoned is that of Number 1 to Ntiamoah road. This is a very important road that have been left. There are many others that have started but have been left and their timelines have even elapsed [Interviewee C1, 2023]

This view indicates that these road projects that have been abandoned have not only been left alone, but its issue is complicated because the time of completion has elapsed.

It therefore shows that there will be extra cost in renegotiation among issues. Also, Interviewee A added that

...for roads, you will see some around. Now, for some of the roads that has been tarred to a particular point, even the tarred part is getting spoilt whilst the other part has not even been done... You cannot overlook it, and you wonder why at all this keeps happening when we are the ones suffering [Interviewee A, 2023].

The interviews indicated that the issue of abandonment in the road sector is a challenge for the people. While some roads are halfway through the process, with some sections tarred and others remaining, others have begun and been abandoned at the early stages of grounds preparation.

4.1.2.3 Sanitation projects

Data gathered informed on the types of projects that are abandoned on the sanitation aspect. Instances were made providing clarity on various toilet facilities that have been left abandoned in some parts of the district. The provision of modern toilet facilities helps in combatting certain diseases such as cholera and typhoid, and in a way helps in the standard of living of community members. There is greater labour force since people are healthy enough and energetic and the working force broader enough to work help the progress of the district, and the country at large. However, responses from interviewees indicated how some sanitation projects, thus toilet facilities are abandoned. Interviewee A said this;

From time to time, we normally educate and encourage our district members to put up toilet facilities in their homes. But it seems that all those education falls on deaf ears, so we also try to provide some assistance by constructing some toilet facilities to ease up congestion on the already available ones in some

communities, however we are unable to complete due to insufficient capital investment in such projects. Most of the toilet facilities are 10-seater, but they are abandoned and that is not a good initiative at all [Interviewee A, 2023].

Data shown concerning the first objective of this study pointed to the fact that abandoned projects are prevalent in the district and that most of the abandoned projects in the district span from road to educational projects. The names of places mentioned in the responses are all nearby villages and towns surrounding the district capital, Twifu-Praso. This indicates the alarming extent to which projects are being abandoned in various towns and villages in the district. There was also the discussion on whether there is a specific stage in the process of the project where they are more prone to abandonment, however from the various responses provided by the interviewees, there is no specific pattern to the abandoning of projects, at any stage; thus they can be abandoned depending on the availability of resources to the contractor. Also, the study sought to find out what exactly is the reason for the abandoning of these projects. This was the focus of the second objective of this study, and the findings and analysis are provided in the next section.

4.2 Causes of Project Abandonment

The second objective of this study was to find out some of the causes of projects being abandoned in the area of the study. From the interviews conducted, responses showed that several reasons account for project abandonment in the district. One key concern that almost all interviewees alluded to was financial challenges; thus, delays in the release of funds to support the project play a key role in why projects are abandoned in the district. Other issues that emerged also include a change in government, lack of effective monitoring and supervision, challenges in accessing contract documents, and

prioritization of policies by governments. These were all highlighted as contributing factors that hinder the progress of project delivery in the district.

4.2.1 Delay in the Release of Funds

Most of the responses from the interviewees indicated the role of funds in project being abandonment. The interviewees pointed out that when the funds expected to help in the process of project delivery are delayed, or not disbursed at all, it causes delays or outright abandonment of the project. Expected time and energy that should be spent on such activities ultimately drags, which also affects other sectors of the economy in the district. With this, Interviewee B highlighted that

I think one of the primary factors is the source of funding, delay in the release of funds. When the funding is not coming, contractors abandon the site. I don't think you'll give a contractor money and he will abandon the site, that one is a few of them. When the funding is there, and you give it to the contractor, he'll not abandon the site, he'll do it. So, non-release of funds on time is key challenge that has caused the plenty abandonment that you are seeing [Interviewee B, 2023].

The statement response above show that when resources, mainly funds are delayed, it can contribute to projects being abandoned. In addition to the above statement, Interviewee C indicated that

When the funds from the government are delayed, it does not help at all. Most of the contractors usually take laborers that they pay them by day or whatever, and then for some time, their monies do not come from the government. You will see that laborers start to put pressure on them, and because you employed them, you will have to pay them, even though the government hasn't given you back your money. When it happens like that, the contractor is unable to pay the cost of labour he or she got from the people he or she employed, so,

they will leave site and the project. Then we will come and sit here and say the contractors have left site [Interviewee C, 2023].

The above response provides direct reaction to one key factor why projects in the district have been abandoned. It shows that delays of fund from government have mainly caused projects in the district to be abandoned. It shows a link between the difficulties contractors face in paying their workers, the delays of fund from government, and the abandoned of projects. Similarly, Interviewee C2 noted that

You see, money is a huge problem. The main challenge to these projects has mainly been about finances. Contractors work with money. They go for loans to start the work and when it is time for them to get part of the money from government, they don't seem to get them... And so, when the commitment of finances to the project delays, it turns to affect the progress of the project too [Interviewee C2, 2023].

The responses provided by Interviewee C2 was further expanded by Interviewee D who narrated how delays in the release of funds can cause projects to be abandoned. He explained that

The thing is that the number of days the funds are not released equates the number of days that contractors don't go on site. It's because, you see, some contractors will not go on site to work on the project unless they are paid. When they are not paid, contractors fail to continue to go on site to work, and the days they spend not going on site to work is equal to the number of days the project is being delayed, and when this happens for a longer period, contractors will just let their workers go because they cannot keep paying them. Once the workers go, the contractors abandon site [Interviewee D, 2023].

This view shows that contractors usually do not suddenly abandon sites when they are not paid. However, when the issue drags for some time and they are not able to keep

their workers, it is at this point that contractors leave site, which inadvertently implies abandoning the project.

The above information from the interviewees tells how the delay in the release of finances go a long way to affect the smooth process of project delivery in the district. Interviewee B was of the view that a contractor will not abandon a site if his or her funds are provided for on time. Also, Interviewee C stated how delays in contractor's monies can affect the smooth running of projects. In addition, Interviewee C2 also reiterated that, when the finances set aside for the project stay unreleased for a number of periods, it also disturbs the advancement of projects. Interviewee D also provided similar response to buttress this point. According to the interviewees, when funds are not released in a timely manner, contractors may be unable to pay labourers, leading to pressure and ultimately, project delays or abandonment. This assertion aligns with existing research, which highlights the crucial link between funding availability and project progress (Smith et al., 2018; Love et al., 2020). On the other hand, the findings contradicts the view of Kerzner (2017), who shows how robust project management practices can help keep projects on track even when there are delays in funding. A response from one key interviewee showed how it would be very unrealistic for a contractor to abandon a site when the money for projects has been given to him or her prior to the commencement of a project. This view shows that, giving contractors their deserved money reduces the incidence of project abandonment.

To corroborate the responses of the participants above, another interviewee also made claims that

The delay of funds that led to the abandonment of projects within the district was on the account of extensive bureaucratic procedures that needed to be followed. Also, the discrepancies in

documentation have also been the reason for delays in disbursement of funds [Interviewee PM1, 2023].

The response above paints the picture that the complex nature of bureaucratic procedures is one of the reasons why projects are abandoned within the Twiffo Atti-Morkwa district. A study by Agyepong (2017), revealed that lengthy bureaucratic processes and lack of coordination among government agencies contributed to projects delays and abandonment in Ghana. In the same vein, Owusu, (2018) noted that the complexities of Ghana's public procurement system often leads to delays and inefficiencies which can lead to project abandonment.

On the issue of documentation discrepancies, Amoako (2020), indicated that inconsistencies in project documentation including budgeting and planning documents can lead to delays in fund disbursement and project implementation. Poor record keeping has also been highlighted as a variant of documentation practices that can contribute to project abandonment.

4.2.2 Lack of Effective Monitoring and Supervision

Another reason that was highlighted by the interviewees was the lack of effective monitoring and supervision of projects. Responses from the interviewees indicated that when projects are supervised carefully and monitored at all levels, it speeds up the process project delivery and caters for any sloppy work that is being done on the field. Monitoring ensures that all protocols are being followed and also goes to the extent of even ensuring the safety of workers on a particular project. From the responses, even though there are some monitoring and supervision of projects, they are inadequate and ineffective. According to Interviewee A,

When governments award contracts, they often employ outside consultants to monitor and supervise the progress of these projects. And these consultants will come and inspect the project once or twice and you'll never see them again. When that happens, it does not help in the completion of these projects at times, because contractors are there on the field working, but no one is there to supervise and monitor, leaving them to do any shady work and worst of it, its abandonment [Interviewee A, 2023].

The assertion from this response is that lack of effective monitoring by consultants contributes to contractors leaving site. Furthermore, Interviewee B also posited that

You know, as I said, these projects are awarded from the central government, and monitoring becomes very difficult, you know, because if you have awarded contracts from the central government and the district coordinates, the district will have to come and monitor. We don't have the bill of quantities, because when you are holding the bill of quantities that is where you can do effective monitoring. The bill of quantities is like the contract document. It specifies what we are to do at every stage of the contract. It even specifies the type of roofing sheet to use, a whole lot, all that we are supposed to do is in that document [Interviewee B, 2023].

The response of Interview B introduced the issue of contract documents as one of the challenges that the district is facing which prevents them from engaging in effective monitoring and supervision of projects. The interviewee further added that

Sometimes we don't have access to the contract document, so we will be down here. It becomes very difficult to monitor, and the central government you know has awarded all sorts of projects and it even becomes difficult for them to monitor all the projects, and so when they come to monitor it once, they won't come again, that might be all. When they raise any concern that this is happening so we can't continue unless you address it, we cannot do anything because we

don't have the project document... yeah, effective monitoring is also part of why contracts abandon projects [Interviewee B, 2023].

Another interviewee also highlighted that

There is the need for training sessions to be organized for project managers to enhance their supervisory skills. A major deficit we have is the fact that most of our project managers lack the requisite skills to ensure the success of projects in the district. Most of our project managers are still accustomed to the old ways and processes of project supervision, there is the need for them to update themselves to meet the changing demands of project trends to ensure project successes. [Interviewee PM2, 2023].

From the above findings, the indication that the responses provide is that monitoring and supervision is a challenge that affects project delivery in Twifu Atti-Morkwa district. It also implies that any issue confronting workers and contractors on the project might not be resolved on time since monitoring and supervision is weak. According to the study's responses, the government frequently hires outside consultants for oversight and monitoring when giving out contracts. State-led contracts mostly follow this procedure. With consultants visiting project sites only sparingly, it indicates inconsistencies in monitoring and supervision. When contractors have the freedom to do as they like and if they are aware of inadequate supervision, and that no one is watching them work, it becomes easier to abandon the project and leave the site. This is consistent with research outlining how a lack of effective monitoring and supervision affects project completion (Islam & Yiu, 2019).

In addition to the above, the absence of comprehensive contract documents, such as the bill of quantities, poses significant challenges to effective monitoring. The findings of the study revealed how official documents stating the various aspects of the project's phases; from its commencement to its completion are mostly unavailable to officials

responsible for the district. The document is referred to as '*bill of quantity*'. The bill of quantities serves as a roadmap for project implementation, detailing specifications and milestones at each stage. Without access to this crucial document, project monitors face difficulties in assessing progress, quality, and compliance with contractual obligations. This resonates with literature emphasizing the importance of transparent and detailed contracts in facilitating effective project management and governance (World Bank, 2017; Arrowsmith et al., 2019). Lack of access to contract documents undermines accountability and hampers efforts to detect and prevent misconduct. This finding in the study however contradicts the assertion of the Stakeholder Theory, which suggests that organizations should consider the interests and concerns of all parties affected by their actions, not just shareholders. In the context of monitoring, effective stakeholder engagement involves identifying and involving relevant stakeholders in the monitoring process. This can include gathering their feedback, addressing their concerns, and incorporating their perspectives into decision-making processes. From the findings, even the district offices that should be directly involved in projects sometimes know nothing about these projects.

Interviewee PM2's claim that, project managers in the district lack the necessary skills to ensure project successes and therefore require training to update their supervisory skills is supported by scholarly literature. According to Muller and Turner (2007), project management skills are essential for project success, and where these are lacking, project failure is eminent. Pinto and Slevin (1988), also emphasized the significance of project management skills including planning, organizing, and controlling in achieving project objectives. According to Kerzner (2013), traditional projects management approaches are often insufficient in today's complex and dynamic project environment,

and that project, managers need to adapt to new methodologies and technologies to remain effective.

4.2.3 Political Factors

Another area that received notable mentioning was the political factors around project implementation in the district. Under this political factors, three issues came up: change in government, priorities of government policies, and political influence in awarding of contracts. From the responses, these were regarded as a key contribution to project abandonment in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district.

4.2.3.1 Change in Government

From the interviewees, alternating of power between political parties in government is one of the reasons for project abandonment in the district. That is, when power change hands from one political party to the other, according to one of the informants, it has a negative effect on the progress of a project that was started under the administration of one political party. This was explained by Interviewee A who was explained that

...secondly, when there is a change of government. When the contractor is on it and there is a change of government, it becomes very difficult for the contractor to be paid. At that stage, the contractor will abandon the project. Most of these projects are not awarded by the district assembly, they are awarded by the central government. Some of the projects, we wouldn't even be aware of when they start. But when we hear, we have to go there... It's like this party wins and starts a project, when they lose power and the other party comes, it is the contractors that interestingly suffer. It is a big problem [Interviewee A, 2023].

This issue of change of government was further elaborated by Interviewee C3 who responded that

Changes in government also account for projects being abandoned in the sense that, when a new government comes to power, and there is an ongoing project with contractors on site, out of nowhere there can be some modifications or directives given to the contractor. Some can be a change in the scope of the project, a site change, and even a change in the size of the project. Changes are however good at times, maybe the change that was even coming was for the better. But prior notice should be given beforehand, when it happens out of the blue, it affects the progress of projects and when the contractors see this as not in their scope, or needing more money, they just leave site and abandon the project [Interviewee C3, 2023].

The response from Interviewee 3 indicated that a change in government is able to affect project scope, location, and sometimes its whole overview. These changes may be out of the reach of contractors or may need more funds. However, due to the financial challenges these contractors face, they leave the site and abandon the project. To buttress this point further, Interviewee C4 also briefly stated that “...*at times, the new government would even go the extra mile of changing the contractor working on a particular project because they assume the political affiliation of the contractor differs from theirs...* [Interviewee C4, 2023].

These statements show that contractors usually abandon the work they are doing especially when there is a change in government. This is mostly because the incoming government might not honor the agreement between the contractor and the previous government by paying the contractor the monies owed him or her by the previous government, or even delay in the payment. Also, new terms of agreement and modification of the project scope, and location by governments without prior notice to

contractors were given as contributing factors to the abandonment of projects. All these accumulate in loss of motivation for which the contractor will be discouraged from proceeding with the job.

4.2.3.2 Priorities of Government Policies

Again, under political factors, it was observed from the interviews that the government of the day usually embark on multiple projects. Government projects cut across many sections, from health, education, and many others. Most of the time, government prioritize some projects over other and when it happens that a particular project in the district is not a priority of the government of the day, it tends to stall and finally abandoned. It was therefore realized that priorities of governments change leading to much attention given to some projects, thereby drawing back other equally necessary projects. In this regard, this was what Interviewee B had to say:

...on that, well, for my opinion, I would say prioritization of a particular project. Usually, one government will prioritize a project, and another government will come and say, no this project is not my focus for now, stalling the progress of the project. The project will be there, and you will see that the contractor will leave site, causing abandonment [Interviewee B, 2023].

In support of this view, Interviewee C2 also made this comment:

You know governments have a lot of projects they wish to implement, and most of the time priority will be given to a certain project at the expense of others. Take, for example, issues relating to health, a government will make sure to resolve such matters before they put their hands on other related issues. So yes, the priorities of a new government when it comes to projects, also affect projects and to be honest, this issue has caused some of the projects here to be abandoned. But even within a particular government, sometimes the focus of projects change... [Interviewee C2, 2023].

From the above responses, it can be observed that the priorities of governments might differ when it comes to project implementation. This can happen with the one government or with different governments, where projects they (the new government) wish to implement might be different from that of the previous government. When it is the same governments, attention is switched from one project to the other in a matter of time, which in the long run impedes the progress of an already project being implemented. And from the interviewees, all these contribute to the issue of project abandonment in the district. Kingdon (1984), reiterated that politics and resource constraints frequently make it difficult for governments to determine which concerns should take precedence. The term "policy agenda" describes the collection of topics that legislators focus on at any particular time. This statement is however evident in the responses from the findings where some interviewees expressed why certain projects are left unattended to because of the shifting away of policies and priorities.

4.2.3.3 Political Interference

From the responses provided by the interviewees, the last political factor that causes projects to be abandoned is political interference in the awarding of projects. It was indicated that interference of politicians during project delivery contributes to the abandonment of projects. This was highlighted in some of the responses gathered where some of the interviewees stated how some politicians fight for certain contractors to be awarded the contract even though they do not look well-equipped to embark on the said project. Interviewee C3 therefore indicated that:

In awarding contracts, you will see many political individuals at higher offices struggling to get the contracts awarded to their preferred choice of contractors, and this is all because of what they stand to gain when they succeed in getting the contract awarded to such contractors. And you know, such contractors might abandon

the project in the long run, because they were not familiar with the specificities of the job at hand, mainly in terms of the amount the project may cost, and the technicalities that are involved. When this occurs, the work involved becomes too much to handle, and the only option left is for them to abandon the site and leave and we don't hear them doing anything against them [Interviewee C3, 2023].

The response shows the involvement of political leaders in influencing the awarding infrastructural projects to people who may not be qualified to execute the said project contributes to project abandonment. In a similar view, Interviewee C added that

"....and that is what happens when you don't do diligent work in awarding contracts. Because of selfish gains and interests, contractors who are not worthy in terms of resources and funds are given such contracts. They will start the project on a very good note, but as time goes by, then they will find themselves wanting. Awarding contracts should be done based on merits and not 'whom you know' bases that we see [Interviewee C, 2023].

This implies that contracts are usually awarded to contractors who are not financially sound to execute that project, mainly confirming the views expressed by Interviewee C. Interviewee D again added that *"Awarding contracts should not be done based on party colors and affiliations. Give the contracts to those who are ready and capable of doing the job"*. This shows the frustration as expressed by some of the interviewees on the issue of political influence.

The responses above show how political affiliation of contractors plays a major role in the awarding of contracts. It was found that these contractors are not well versed in the volume of work involved in given contracts. Others who do not have the necessary resources are also awarded contracts based on their party line, and when they are not finding the resources to continue the job anymore, then they abandon the project. Out

of this, Interviewee D suggested that, contracts should be given to those capable of doing the job, by first, doing some background checks to see whether the contractors qualify and are ready to undertake such projects. But if all these are not considered and contracts are awarded based on political lines, then the consequences are the abandonment of projects that we face in the country.

From the findings from the above, it was highlighted that there are political factors such as changes in government, reverence given to certain priorities over others and political interference also affect the continuity of projects. Data showed that newly elected governments usually do not continue some of the projects that were commenced by the previous government. This phenomenon is often attributed to political transitions, where new administrations may have different priorities, policies, or preferences regarding ongoing projects. Such transitions can result in delays, modifications, or even cancellations of projects, as new governments seek to align initiatives with their own agendas (Dewulf et al., 2009). This assertion is in connection with Mac-Barango (2017), who indicates how the completion of projects suffers when government policies change. Damoah et al. (2020), also show the politically inclined motive and interference where the incumbent administration may intentionally abandon projects to re-award them to members of their party. Unexpected changes to the project's size, location, or scope can have a serious negative impact on its progress and erode contractor confidence. Transparency, stakeholder participation, and the successful execution of public projects all depend on efficient communication and coordination systems.

4.2.4 Contractor Difficulty in Financing Projects

Flowing from the issue of political influence where some contractors are not well-equipped or qualified to be given a particular project, difficulty of contractors to fund

some projects also emerged as a factor contributing to project abandonment.

Interviewee C4 in his response outlined that contractors at times do not state their actual financial status to show whether they are capable of financing the project or not.

Interviewee C4 outlined that

When projects are being advertised, there are numerous contractors who would want to have the contract. During the tendering process, most of them give the impression that they have the capacity and funds to finance the project meanwhile that is not true. The competitive nature of awarding the contract comes with these challenges... [Interviewee C4, 2023].

This assertion connotes a lack of due diligence by those responsible. This lack thereof put contractors with inadequate funds to complete projects as winners of the contract.

This therefore affects the execution of the project and subsequently leads to its abandonment. Interviewee C1 concurred with this view and added that:

Most contractors abandon projects in the long run simply because they weren't truthful about how to finance the project from the onset. Others too, their sponsors would withdraw from sponsoring them due to reasons best known to them, and when that happens, they also abandon the projects [Interviewee C1, 2023].

This is to show that the source of income for the contractors also play a role in the abandoning of projects. That is when sponsors of contractors refuse or are unable to continue funding a project, the contractors obviously get stuck in the process of the delivery of the project. These statements show how contractors in their quest to gain contracts do not come clean about their state of funds, but rather portray that they are capable of financing projects from start to finish, but in actual sense, that is not true. Once this happens and the project appears to cost more than what the contractor anticipated, coupled with the receding of funds by sponsors of contractors, these

contractors then leave the project which cause it to be abandoned. The interviewees emphasized the cumulative effect of funding delays on project timelines. Contractors may refrain from working on-site until payment is received, leading to a direct correlation between funding delays and project delays. This observation is consistent with previous studies that have documented the adverse effects of delayed payments on project scheduling and productivity (Ibbs et al., 2019). The findings from the study further stressed how crucial financial support is to the accomplishment of a project. Financial commitment delays can impede the progress of the project and put the contractor's capacity to fulfil contractual duties in jeopardy. However, contractors who deceive and cover up their inability to finance projects was also highlighted in the findings. They withhold certain crucial information about themselves, because of the competitive nature of the tendering process. The views of Assaf and Al-Khalil (2019) and Chan and Kumaraswamy (2021), which highlight the necessity of precise and consistent financial planning throughout the project lifespan, support the findings of this study.

4.2.5 Unfavorable Weather Conditions

Unfavorable weather condition was also highlighted as one of the reasons for projects being abandoned. These are natural conditions and their impact on projects are very sever, and usually causes projects to come at a standstill. According to the interviewees, these conditions are sometimes not anticipated as they usually take place unawares, complicating the initial plans and timelines of the project underway. Some of the contractors highlighted that the rainy season are sometimes devastating as they are not able to work, and the little work they have done sometimes get wiped off as a result of a heavy rain. This drains their resources and when it becomes unbearable, and they are

unable to fund the projects (as they wait for funds from the government), they leave site.

Interviewee C1 on this stated that:

Most times, we prefer the sunny weather to the rainy season when projects are underway. The sunny weather speeds up the drying rate and makes our work easier. In the rainy season, the conditions do not favor us at all. All the work you have done can be depleted in just a day when there is a heavy downpour. You will then have to go and redo it, and if you are unlucky, another heavy rain can just destroy it. We can't keep doing that, so we will wait for the government's money. Now you will wait and wait, but it won't come. When that happens, there is nothing we can do than to leave the site [Interviewee C1, 2023].

This point was buttressed by Interviewee C3 who explained that sometimes they lose their materials to flood when working in a flood-prone area. According to him, this affects their revenues, and they leave site to wait for the monies from the government.

He noted that:

In the rainy period, the consequences can become unbearable at times. Take for example road construction, the surface can be washed away in just a short period, meaning all the work done has come to no avail. In some cases, too, the equipment used for the road construction can be carried along by the rain in case there is a flood in the area where the project is taking place. So, to make it easier, we just leave site and wait for the money from government, which even never comes on time [Interviewee C3, 2023].

Another contractor shared similar sentiments. He (Interviewee C4) narrated that

With some projects, you'll have to dig deep trenches and holes before you start. Now in the period where there is rainfall almost every day, these holes and trenches gets filled with water, rubbish, and dirt. We then have to draw out the water and clear the trenches before anything else can be done. This wastes time and resources

that you even did not plan for. Yes, I know in projects we usually have room for these kinds of things but when it happens rampantly, the amount reserved for such issues gets finished, and then what happens? You just need to stop and when the money comes you continue [Interviewee C4, 2023].

The above responses from the interviewees show how unfavorable weather conditions cause projects to be abandoned. For the interviewees who were mainly contractors, the unforeseen circumstances as a result of rain that sometimes leads to flood, destruction of parts of the projects, and others incur additional costs to them. These costs according to the contractors become unbearable, and at this point, they leave site and wait for monies from the government before they continue, only that the monies from the government delays and causes abandonment. It was revealed how unfavourable weather conditions distort the progress of projects within the district. In some of the interviews, and most especially from the viewpoints from some of the contractors, weather conditions such as precipitation and other related conditions affects the work they do on site. Others indicated how heavy downpour most of the time washes away their tools and equipment and also destroys the work they have done that day. And in relation to this, they most of the time prefer the sunny days and weather to the rainy and wet seasons. This is to maintain the schedule they have indicated for themselves for the smooth provision of projects, and for efficient project implementation (Samantha, 2018).

4.3 Effects of Project Abandonment

The third objective of the study was to show the effects of project abandonment to in the district. The findings show that when projects are left abandoned, they have negative implications on the area or community and the country as a whole. Some of the issues that was raised include high cost of rehabilitation of abandoned projects, loss of funds,

slowdown of economic growth, loss of trust in the government, environmental challenges, and others. These negative consequences of abandoned initiatives that emerged from the data collected are presented below.

4.3.1 High Cost of Rehabilitation

The last issue that received attention from the interviewees the high cost of rehabilitating abandoned projects. In the views of the interviewees, restoring abandoned projects to their original state is very costly. This is due to the increase of resources and materials needed for the completion of the said abandoned project. Interviewee A was of the view that;

Coming back to complete projects that were supposed to be completed like say three years mean you have to spend higher than the initial amount. Why do I say so? You know how inflation has been hitting this country for some time now. Now when you decide to go back and then complete these structures that were left unattended, I don't think your budget for those elapsed three years will still be the same. Additional costs will be incurred because the prices of items keep increasing. If that is the case, then why don't we strive to finish projects within the said period? Because there is absolutely nothing good about abandoning infrastructures under construction and later deciding to come back and complete it [Interviewee A, 2023].

The statement above indicate that initial budget of projects is usually affected when projects are abandoned. Due to inflation, it becomes costly to rehabilitate or complete an abandoned project than an outright starting and completing of projects. Interviewee C also added that

Sometimes I ask myself why we abandon projects and later come back to complete when we know the cost involved can be more than the actual funds proposed for the project. There are various

scenarios that we should learn from, but it seems that it's still not enough. Re-awarding the contract, and the cost of reshaping can be huge sums of money surpassing the initial funds for the completion of the project [Interviewee C, 2023].

The above statements provide information on how rehabilitation of abandoned projects is usually costly than initial proposed costs. This throws more light on the need for projects to be completed once they start. Data predicted the extra cost incurred in rehabilitating abandoned projects. The decision to abandon projects, only to later resume them, is often driven by a variety of factors, including political, economic, and social considerations. However, this practice can lead to inefficiencies and increased costs. Scholars like Flyvbjerg et al. (2003) have extensively studied the phenomenon of project abandonment and its consequences. They argue that projects are often prone to "survival bias," wherein initial cost estimates are overly optimistic, leading to underestimating risks and eventually abandonment or restructuring. An interviewee was baffled as to why the country continued to abandon projects for a couple of years and later decided to rejuvenate them knowing the loss that the state incurs. To reduce this expenditure, Love et al. (2004) emphasized the significance of efficient contract administration and risk assessment. They support taking proactive steps to anticipate and manage changes in the scope of the project hence reducing the need for subsequent expensive alterations.

4.3.2 Financial losses

Flowing from the high cost of rehabilitation effect of abandoned projects, the interviews indicated that abandoning projects in the district has caused financial losses. Some of the interviewees asserted that when projects are abandoned, they need to be re-awarded with some extra cost, and the initial money or cost that was incurred earlier becomes a waste of resources. For instance, Interviewee C3 highlighted that

There are a whole lot of financial losses. You know there are some terms in the contract that shows that when a project is abandoned and it gets to some point, the project needs to be re-awarded, and re-awarding the project comes with a new rate and budget, especially road projects. This is because, prices of goods have increased over the years telling you that, the amount of money that you spent on a particular item has either been doubled or tripled [Interviewee C3, 2023].

Interviewee C2 also added to the views of Interviewee C3 by highlighting that

You know in general, when a project is abandoned, it turns to affect the cost. You see, the prices of items keep increasing. So, like when a project is supposed to take let's say two (2) years to complete and it takes five (five) 5 years to finish, you can imagine how the cost will be affected. So, it has a lot of economic challenges and implications [Interviewee C2, 2023].

These statements show that when projects are abandoned, the budget that was made is thrown out the window because price of commodities increase, and the period when no work is being done, it incurs extra cost which would be factored in when re-awarding the contract. Ultimately, the cost of the project increases. Similarly, Interviewee D pointed out that

We have something we call variation. If you don't pay the contractor working on the project for some number of years, you have to do some variation, and this variation will increase the cost, and that is financial loss there. When in say variation, it is difference between what you expect from project, and what really happens. Monies for contractors are calculated from the start of projects to completion, therefore if they are not paid and they abandon site and since we didn't expect that to happen along the way, getting new contractors for such projects accounts for such variations in terms of cost involved [Interviewee D, 2023].

The above responses show that re-awarding projects as a result of abandonment leads to financial losses as the delays sometimes weakens the project which would need a retouching, all increasing the cost of the project. Also, the increase in prices due to inflation affects the cost of the project leading to financial losses. All these increase the cost of projects and again, the delay in paying contractors comes with some variations in the previously agreed cost. This is because prices of raw materials keep increasing and re-awarding them brings about additional costs due to inflation. This confirms the arguments raised by Smith et al. (2019), who claim that project abandonment can lead to significant financial losses. The extra funds used could have been used for other relevant projects. Furthermore, findings showed that another negative effect of abandoning projects, especially road networks linking towns around the district slows economic growth. This was said as some of the towns and villages in this district engage in farming activities. So, the bad state and the abandoning of road networks linking these places to large marketplaces to sell their farm produce makes transportation difficult. Farm produce which are perishable like vegetables will therefore go to waste, and these results affects economic growth in the district and the country at large.

It was observed that when projects are abandoned for some time and it has to be re-awarded, it results in financial loss. In addition, political figures frequently give preference to contractors who can provide them with money or non-financial personal perks when issuing contracts. This is consistent with studies conducted on rent-seeking and corruption in political systems. Academics such as Rose-Ackerman (2018), have conducted in-depth research on the motivations for corruption in government contracting, emphasising the ways in which officials could attempt to obtain personal benefits by manipulating the procurement procedure. This was evident in the responses from interviewees when some shared their views indicating that, contracts are mostly

awarded on a political affiliation basis and not on merit or qualification. When contracts are given out based on personal relationships rather than qualifications, it frequently happens that contractors chosen are those who do not have the skills, resources, or dedication needed to finish the project successfully. This is consistent with research on how corruption affects infrastructure projects. Eja and Ramegowda (2019), Damoah and Kumi (2018), assert how political interference, corruption and others disturb projects, which the findings from this study corroborates.

There's such a thing as the "winner's curse." In an auction or tendering process, the successful bidder sometimes has a tendency to overestimate the project's worthwhile underestimating its associated costs and hazards. This could make it impossible for the contractor to complete the project as scheduled, which would cause delays, cost overruns, and eventually project abandonment. Studies by Bulow and Klemperer (1996) for example have examined this idea and discussed how unequal knowledge between bidders and project owners might result in unfavourable outcomes. From the study, this assertion was mentioned and the studies from these scholars have confirmed it. Key informants disclosed how some contractors overstate their financial capacity in the name of being awarded the project while, they are not capable or up to the task ahead. The finding agrees with the assumption of the stakeholder theory that, there exists a variety of stakeholders in an organization with each stakeholder and their interests and expectations. This assertion acknowledges the competing interests of stakeholders involved in the project procurement process, including contractors seeking to secure contracts, project owners aiming for successful project completion, and sponsors concerned with financial viability (Freeman, 1984). Stakeholder theory emphasizes the importance of understanding and prioritizing the diverse interests of stakeholders to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes (Mitchell et al. 1997). Again, the

statement implies that contractors may neglect their responsibilities to project stakeholders, such as project owners and sponsors, by overstating their capacity and financial capabilities during the tendering process which goes a long way to affect the project as indicated by the theory (Winch, 2004). Stakeholder theory emphasizes the need for organizations to act responsibly and be accountable to all stakeholders, ensuring transparency and integrity in decision-making processes.

4.3.3 Slowdown of Economic Growth

Another issue that was raised was the slowdown of economic growth in the district as a result of the abandoned projects. Responses from the interviews outlined that abandoned projects, mainly roads, seriously impedes the transportation of agrarian products from the district to other districts around. For instance, Interviewee C explained this saying

If It is a road project, it becomes very difficult to transfer their goods, this district is agrarian, and when the road is bad, transporting goods, especially to the Central Business District which is Twifo Praso becomes a burden and the triggering effect is that, food prices also go high, because drivers charge higher prices, other places too, it becomes very difficult for cars to go there, they go there only on market days. So, if I have harvested my products and it is not a market day, and the goods are also perishable, meaning they might go waste, and all these affects both the macro and micro-economies of the district and Ghana as a whole... [Interviewee C, 2023].

The statement shows that the abandoned roads have affected business in the district, which relies on the selling of agricultural products to neighboring districts. Transportation becomes difficult and affects businesses in the district. Also, Interviewee D added that

...Yeah, it affects them a lot, in terms of road projects, conveyance of farm products from one town to the other becomes a challenge as you know most of the towns surrounding us are rural areas and how they are mostly into farming and stuff. Example, farmers from Number 1 who carry their products to Praso market centers normally use motorcycles, and how many of these goods can the motorcycle carry as compared to the cars. All these are challenges confronting these farmers and our communities [Interviewee D, 2023].

The above responses from the interviewees show how project abandonment in terms of roads affects farmers in the district. The challenge to these farmers is mainly on how to transport the products they have harvested from their respective farms and plantations to markets outside the district. On the other hand, drivers who normally transport the products of these farmers usually increase their fares drastically simply because the road are bad. Therefore, farmers most of the time resort to transporting their products via motorcycles from the villages. Since this approach is not feasible, many farm produce that are perishable gets destroyed. According to World Bank (2018), inadequate transportation infrastructure, including roads, can increase transportation costs, leading to higher prices for goods and services, and ultimately, slower economic growth. Moreover, Oduro (2013), found that poor road conditions in Ghana's rural areas, including the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district, lead to increased transportation costs, reduced access to markets, and lower incomes for farmers and traders. Regarding the impact on food prices, FAO (2017) notes that poor road infrastructure can lead to increased food prices due to higher transportation costs, reduced access to markets, and lower food availability.

Aschauer (1989), however argues that the relationship between infrastructure investment and economic growth is complex and depends on various factors, including the quality of infrastructure, economic conditions, and institutional frameworks.

4.3.4 Loss of Trust in Government

The study also found that abandoned projects in the district contributes to a loss of trust in the government. From the responses, failure of the government to complete projects has caused people of the district to lose trust in the government. This is because there have been numerous promises made to them in terms of the provision and, or completion of these infrastructural projects. However, the government has failed to complete these projects that had been started by other governments in the district. One interviewee noted that

As for that one, the trust issue, you lose trust from the community completely, so even when you want to start another project, they don't involve themselves, they do not care because you started one you didn't complete it, you abandoned it and now it has deteriorated. You are coming to tell us a story about another project: until you finish the one you started, they will not mind you [Interviewee C, 2023].

The statement show how abandoning projects contributes to people losing trust in the government in the district. Similarly, another response indicated that starting a new project especially closer to an election year, whilst others are left abandoned leaves a feeling of distrust in the people. According to one of the responses,

“Yeah, so normally, like this year when you start a new project, you know next year is an election year, so when they see us, they'll be like 'ooh it's because of the election that's why you are coming to start a project'... unfortunately, assistance from government to complete projects usually comes getting to the election year. But the

people don't care about that. All they know is that election is coming so you have come to start a project when the old one is still there. They no longer believe what we tell them. It's getting frustrating now [Interviewee B, 2023].

Adding up to the above findings, this was also said by a traditional member

As a traditional member and a member of the traditional leaders, it is on us to make sure that the well-being of our community members is a priority. Usually when there is a new project to be commenced, traditional members are often given the information to grace the cutting of the sword, for such projects to start, and most of these traditional leaders don't make themselves available, why because they have the perception on how the end results of the project will be. Their justification is that, in the long run, these projects will be abandoned and truth be told, they are right. I will not point a finger at any government since they are all the same. They are all responsible for the numerous number of abandoned projects we have in our district [Traditional Member, 2023].

The statements above depict how community members lose trust and confidence in the government when projects are abandoned. Most importantly, when old projects are abandoned and new one is started, the people lose trust in the government; even worse when the new project begins closer to election period. In other responses also, they pointed that the government makes a lot of promises regarding the abandoned projects when seeking power but when they win, they forget what they have said. All these have played a role in eroding the trust people have in the government in the district. Responses denote that community members in these areas have the notion that the government comes to complete abandoned projects when election year is approaching. This confirms the argument of Sarker and Ashraf (2019) who stressed that unfinished projects cause people to lose faith in governments. Abandoning projects also come with some environmental challenges. This was proven in the study as some interviewees

accounted how their buildings, and farms are affected as a result of the abandoned projects. It was said that gutters and trenches dug and filled with rainwater pose a serious life-threatening issue. Thus, Leite et al. (2020) emphasise the need for robust infrastructure systems to lower risks and ensure community well-being.

4.3.5 Environmental Impact

The study also found that abandoning projects have an adverse impact on the environment. The interviewees noted that abandoning projects have had serious impacts on district in terms of environment. Such impacts range from life-threatening ones to others that affects the country's development. Interviewee B for instance addressed this by saying:

...and even some of the projects, it would have been good if they had not started it at all because with some of the projects you would have to do some bridges and coverts before. You have done the bridge and the approaches, you have to fill them. When these are not filled as early as possible, they can be very dangerous for the people within the community, especially the children. But even worse is the danger some of the abandoned roads pose. You see, they start the work and grade some part of the road, throw things here and there. They put the sand and granite on the road. The environment then becomes dusty. You can't breathe when driving... [Interviewee B, 2023].

Interviewee D expressed similar sentiments but also show how their livelihoods are affected when the environment is destroyed for a project to start and then is abandoned later. He explained that

We sometimes have to clear a particular place to allow for projects to start. We cut trees or even clear a farmland for the project to begin, but when it begins, then it is abandoned. So, what do we get? We destroy our environment and our means of livelihood for

nothing. Anytime a strong wind blows, you are scared. There are no trees protecting our buildings. We cut them for road and other projects, but these projects do not get done, and we suffer again in return... [Interviewee D, 2023].

Interviewee C also brought another dimension to the discussion. He observed how these environmental impacts as a result of project abandonment affects development in general. He argues that bad environment affects individuals and cause them to be less productive which affects the development of the district and the country at large.

The thing is that if people have a conducive environment within which they work, then they will be productive. But if I always get catarrh because of the bad shape of the road as a result of a contractor leaving site, how do I work effectively? They don't think about all these things [Interviewee C, 2023].

In addition, interviewee CM2 also made these claims regarding the effects of abandonment on the community

One of the effects of abandoned projects within our community is the fact that these abandoned projects especially classroom blocks have now turned into places of habitation by dangerous and wild animals such as snakes and scorpions which possess threat to the lives of children playing around and even adults. Some have also been accommodated by gangsters (weed smokers), and there have been instances where community members have been marked and ripped off their possessions when they use roads that are closer to these abandoned school buildings [Interviewee CM2, 2023]

The statements above highlights how abandoned projects affect the environment and how it trickles to affecting livelihoods, and productivity. These tend to affect development of the country and the development of Ghana. Numerous studies have emphasised the negative consequences of rain on building projects, focusing on problems including delays, erosion, and infrastructure damage. According to research

by Lee and Yoo (2017), for example, strong downpours can cause project setbacks and higher costs since they require repairs and additional labour. The study highlights the negative effects of rainfall on building timelines. Results from research on erosion management in construction are consistent with the worry expressed on the possible depletion of work progress owing to severe rainfall. Erosion brought on by downpours might jeopardise building sites' stability, resulting in soil loss and structural damage (Mekonnen & Sileshi, 2019). The detrimental impacts of rainfall on construction projects are emphasised by this, underscoring the necessity of efficient erosion control techniques. However, Gizzi, et al. (2019) are of the view that destruction of projects does not occur with the happenings of floods alone, other natural disasters such as earthquakes, and hurricanes also can halt projects. However, this was not consistent with the findings of the study as floods were also a standalone disaster that affects project implementation and leads to abandonment. Shaluf and Said (2003) further point out that disasters can also come from human activities. They refer to this as man-made disasters, consisting of infrastructure collapse which might occur from hasty and shoddy works done, fire outbreaks, and other related human factors.

Also, the assertion that these abandoned projects are most of the time inhabited by dangerous individuals is in connection with the view of Muller and Turner (2007), who indicate that, these places can attract criminal activity and create safety concern for nearby residents. Owusu (2018), also notes that abandoned projects can lead to environmental degradation, including the proliferation of wild animals and vegetation. Abandoned projects can undermine community safety and security (Brautigam, 2008).

4.3.6 Loss of Tax Revenue

The interviewees also showed how the district and the country lose tax revenue when projects are abandoned. The responses indicated that these funds could have been used for other relevant purposes across the country. For Interviewee C3, he argued that projects when completed employs a lot of people who pay taxes to the country. Their abandonment therefore means that the government is not getting those monies. He explained that

Providing schools, health centers, roads, and other important infrastructures is necessary, but when you don't complete them, what was the essence of starting? When you complete the health centers, people will get opportunity to work and pay direct taxes. The government lose all these moneys when they abandon projects. So, as I said earlier, the schools and the roads are important, but when you don't complete them, you waste taxpayers' money without giving anything in return [Interviewee C3, 2023].

Interviewee A continued from where Interviewee C3 left off, stressing that abandoning a project is an abuse of taxpayers' monies and that discourages people from fulfilling their responsibilities in paying their taxes.

There should be the accountability of taxpayers' money. You know, using the taxpayers' money efficiently and effectively won't call for any troubles. But when people realize that, their monies are not being put to proper use, then they start to ask questions. Starting a project and completing will even motivate them to pay taxes without any agitations. And also for peace to prevail, there should be proper accountability given to the people of the country. When projects are abandoned, it discourages people from paying their taxes which is their civic duty [Interviewee A, 2023].

The above responses indicate that when taxes are abused and invested into incomplete projects, it leads to loss of tax revenue. This is because projects can employ people who

will then be able to pay their direct taxes to promote development in the country. Also, the abandoned projects do not foster a desire to fulfil individual's tax obligations seeing that these monies are invested into incomplete projects. All these show a loss of tax revenue that these abandoned projects case to the district and the country all together. The need for proper accountability and transparency must be taken seriously. According to Amoa-Abban (2017), socio-economic repercussions of abandonment include unemployment, lost tax revenue, resource waste, effects on community and neighborhood aesthetics, increase in poverty, and reduction in property prices. This finding is in line with the Stakeholder Theory that emphasizes that taxpayers are primary stakeholders and that they have a right to accountability and transparency in government spending because of their contributions (taxes) (Mitchell et al. 1997). In addition, stakeholder theory emphasizes how crucial it is to establish positive connections and trust with stakeholders (Carroll & Buchholtz, 2014). Governments may develop credibility and confidence among taxpayers and other stakeholders by finishing infrastructure projects and maintaining accountability, which will bolster social and political legitimacy. Freeman (1984) however indicates that, stakeholder theory promotes a comprehensive method of decision-making that considers the various interests and worries of every stakeholder in a project or organization.

To back the responses above, a community member also aired his displeasure on project abandonment within their community and the effects on the community members and the government. On this issue, he said that

Most community members have refrained from paying their taxes because, they have been made to understand that, it is these taxes that are mobilized to provide social amenities like roads, schools etc. for them. But it seems that, there is a consistent trend in abandoning projects in this area, and they are not seeing the

relevance of their taxes reflecting in their livelihoods. In fact, we have made efforts and tried on several occasions to express our worry and agitations, but nothing is being done differently in this area. We all deserve to benefit from the government in terms of the taxes we all pay as citizens of this country, but if projects undertaken in the cities are completed, while ours in this communities are not, then we have all the right and means to talk [Interviewee CM1, 2023]

The interviewee's concern about the lack of accountability in tax utilization and its impact on project abandonment in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district is a valid one. According Bratton (2013), citizens' trust in government is eroded when taxes are collected without corresponding delivery of public goods and services, leading to disillusionment and disengagement from the tax system. In the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district, the interviewees decision, to refrain from paying taxes due to lack of accountability is understandable, however Brautigam (2008), cautions that tax evasion can have negative consequences for community development and public service delivery.

4.3.7 Difficulty in Attracting and Retaining Foreign Investors

Another issue that came up was how these abandoned projects kill foreign investments. The responses showed that abandoned projects scare off foreign investors who might be willing to invest in the economy. Interviewee C asserted that

There are usually investors from other countries are willing to invest in the district. We have had some come around to ask for some documentations. But they go and do not come back. One of them in a conversation mentioned that our road is too bad. Yes, that was what he said. At once, I noticed that was the reason they didn't come again... [Interviewee C, 2023].

A similar view was expressed by Interviewee C3. According to him,

Countries that have infrastructures usually attract foreigners. Having infrastructures boosts the macro and micro economies of a states. This helps in foreign exchange, and they all contribute to the development of a country and ensures economic stability. However, our experience as Ghanaians when it comes to project delivery is not very good at all. There must be proper mechanisms to check these abnormalities [Interviewee C3, 2023].

This view as expressed by Interviewee C3 shows that the abandoned projects contribute to poor infrastructure which does not attract foreign investments. For Interviewee C2, this might even drive away the few foreign investors left in the country. According to him, “...*If we don't change our mentality and behavior on how we abandon projects in this country, there will be a time where there would be a few foreign investors left in the country, they will all leave the country.*” [Interviewee, C2, 2023]. These excerpts from the responses gathered highlights how abandoning projects even affects foreign investments, their attraction and retention.

From the findings above, the success of infrastructure investments in luring Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) depends on the completion and upkeep of these projects. Incomplete infrastructure projects have the potential to erode investor confidence and discourage further investment. Calderón and Servén (2004) conducted a study that highlights the significance of project implementation and maintenance in optimising the financial gains from infrastructure investments. They contend that inadequate or dilapidated infrastructure hinders both local economic growth and development and fails to draw in foreign investors. This was however evident in the study, as some of the responses that were received outlined the possibility of abandoned projects in preventing foreign investors into the country. The significance of infrastructure

development in drawing in foreign investment is one important factor to consider. The beneficial relationship between Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows and the quality of the infrastructure has been the subject of numerous studies. Asiedu (2002) conducted a study which revealed that the development of a country's infrastructure has a major impact on its appeal to foreign investors. This is because advanced infrastructure, including telecommunications, energy supplies, and transportation networks, lowers transaction costs, boosts productivity, and makes it easier for foreign investors to conduct business (Asiedu, 2002).

This section has looked at the prevalence of abandoned projects in Twifu Atti-Morkwa district, the causes of the abandonment and the effects of the abandonment to the district and the country at large. It was found that most of the abandoned projects have mainly been roads and educational facilities. Also, the findings show that delays in the payments of contractors, lack of effective monitoring and supervision, and political factors, among others are the main causes of project abandonment in the area under study. Lastly, it was highlighted that the high cost of rehabilitating abandoned projects, financial losses, loss of trust in the government, economic, and environmental challenges were all some of the effects of abandoning projects in the district. Discussions on the findings and analysis of the study is provided in the next section.

4.5 Conclusion

Project abandonment is a major social problem that has surging effects on the communities involved and on the country as a whole. The contributions that these developmental projects bring cannot be understated and looked down upon. Information gathered from participants reveal that the issue of abandonment in the Twifu Atti-Morkwa district is becoming rampant and spans from various sectors,

including health, sanitation, water, economic, education, agriculture and road sector, however for this study, the main focus was on educational facilities and road networks. This was because, these were the sectors that have experienced abandonment mostly over the years. Data indicated that, the total number of abandoned projects were thirty-two (32) with the educational projects that have been abandoned totalling to eighteen (18) in number as compared to the road networks eight (8) that have also been abandoned within some period in the district. Many reasons were given as to why these abandonment happen, and from the responses from the interviewees, these causative factors were the delay in the release of funds, the lack of effective monitoring and supervision, political factors (change in government, change in the priorities of governments, and lastly political interference). Other reasons were postulated as the difficulty on the part of contractors to finance projects and, also unfavourable weather conditions.

Abandoning projects comes with some negative effects and the data gathered from the participants showed the following as some of the effects that result from abandoning projects; high cost of rehabilitation, financial losses, slowdown in economic growth, loss of trust in government, environmental impacts, loss of tax revenue, and difficulty in attracting and retaining of foreign investors.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

An analysis of project abandonment at the local level is a relevant and necessary step in confronting the problems facing districts and the country at large. Despite the many challenges and problems happening at the local level, such a study needed to be conducted, thus using one of the districts in the country as a case study. The primary motive of the study was to know the reasons projects are left uncompleted and abandoned, whilst massive effort, time, and resources were initially ushered into the project. The researcher conducted interviews with fourteen (14) individuals, with open-ended questions, and of course, other secondary information was also assessed from various literature to help in the course of the study. The motivation of this chapter is to therefore summarize the findings of the study, conclude, and also suggest recommendations for future research.

5.1 Summary of Key Findings

From the results of the study, the researcher found these key findings with respect to the nature and prevalence of abandoned projects in the district. From the findings of the study, it was identified that project abandonment in the district is at a very alarming rate. Information gathered disclosed that out of fifty- seven (57) projects provided, thirty-two (32) were facing abandonment in the district. The findings revealed that of course, many projects have been abandoned in the district, and it cuts across many sectors. It is known that many projects are abandoned, but the most popular sections of projects that have been facing abandonment over the years are mostly educational and road projects within the district. The findings showed that most of the educational facilities being built have been abandoned, with some tracing their date of abandonment

to the early years of 2006. From the study, it was revealed that, closely to eighteen (18) educational facilities have been abandoned across the district. Educational facilities that are supposed to be completed to help in the impacting of knowledge and discipline into future generations are abandoned and all these do not provide the necessary progress and development to such districts and the country at large. In addition, it was found that road projects also face a similar problem within the district. Twifu Atti-Morkwa district is a developing district, therefore many inhabitants in the district engage themselves in agriculture, mostly subsistence farming where they produce to feed their families and to sell some also for income. However, these poor road networks are a major problem confronting these farmers in terms of conveying their farm products to the markets. Proximity of marketplaces becomes an issue of concern in this district and not in the district alone. Eight (8) road networks linking towns and villages were also highlighted from the data assembled.

On the causes of project abandonment in the district, many explanations were given. Among these reasons was the issue of the late release of funds for the projects. It was revealed that the necessary resources and funds that are supposed to sponsor such projects are not been released early enough for projects to continue once they have been started. This might be due to the complex bureaucratic processes the funds must go through before reaching the district.

Moreover, the study again revealed the lack of proper monitoring of projects as another major contributor to project abandonment. Effective monitoring of projects could help in an efficient way to curb projects being abandoned, but because we mostly lack such culture, it affects us many times. Officials mandated to ensure that, monitoring of these

projects at the required fields is ongoing do not take up their responsibilities seriously, and as a result of this, projects get abandoned.

Another reason for project abandonment that was uncovered emanated from political perspective which included changes in government, prioritization of government policies over others, and political interference. It was known during the course of the study that, changes in government of the day also result in projects that are underway already to be abandoned. One of the reasons given was that, if Government A was the one who initiated the project, and Government B came to power, government B might decide not to continue from where Government A left off. The major reason given was that appraisals may be given to the former government even though government B completed the project. So in that case, government B will start a new and different project, leaving the already started projects to be abandoned.

Furthermore, the priorities of government policies from the study also contribute to the abandonment of projects. Every government adopts its mode of existing project. From the study, it was revealed that governments when it comes to policies they wish to implement differ amongst themselves. A particular policy will be on the top list of a particular sitting government, but that same policy will be another government's third or second option because such government wishes to implement a certain policy before even considering another policy to deliberate on. All these are factors that contribute to projects being abandoned. Lastly of the political factors is the interference of some political entities was also provided as a contributing factor to project abandonment. This was explained in the view that people in high political offices in awarding contracts, try to get the projects to contractors they know, and not based on merits. Government project management leadership is appointed on a partisanship basis rather

than on merit (Damoah & Akwei, 2017). These contractors are not scrutinized further to ensure whether they are capable of completing the job at stake. Because of their political affiliations or connections, they are given such crucial mandates, meanwhile they are not up to completing the task.

Additionally, the inability of contractors to finance project contracts they have been awarded was also revealed as a contributing factor to project abandonment. Throughout the interviews, it was noticed how some contractors do not come clean regarding their source of funds to finance the project. Upon further interrogations, it was revealed that, because of the competitive nature of the tendering process, some contractors lie about their ability to complete the project. In the long run, they will abandon such projects and leave the site. All these according to the interviewees are some of the factors that contribute to the abandonment of projects in the district.

Last but not the least was how unfavorable weather conditions also contribute to abandoned projects in the district. From the study, reasons were given by indicating the extent to which working under bad atmospheric conditions can account for the stoppage of work on site. Further reasons were attributed to the fact that heavy rainfall can to some extent carry along tools and equipment that are being used for the construction of these projects. Flooded construction areas do not encourage contractors to continue with their work since they all pose a threat to the lives of individuals working on such projects.

The effects of abandoned projects were also given as high cost of rehabilitation, financial loss, slowdown in economic growth, loss of confidence and trust in the government, environmental impact, loss of the taxpayers' money, and the difficulty in attracting and retaining foreign investors. The first effect from the study was the high

cost of rehabilitating these abandoned projects. When projects are abandoned for some time, and the idea arises for rehabilitation, the cost involved in this is sometimes huge sums of money. There are some abandoned projects, and from the study was understood, how those projects cannot be continued any longer unless they are started all over again. This shows how the initial funds used for those projects have gone down the drain. Rehabilitating other projects can also be as costly as putting up new structures.

Secondly, financial loss in this study was explained within the context of re-awarding the project that has been abandoned for some time now, meaning that there are readjustments on the initial agreed contract sum. Also, when the contractor working on the project hasn't been paid for some time, they'll have to do some variations, and all these increase the initial monies agreed on. Financial loss was again revealed as to how it has an effect on the economy of the country. This factor was explained as a result of the abandoned road projects and how they affect the transportation of farm produce from the various villages to the towns and cities for either processing or exportation. It therefore clarified how the spoilage of these farm products can affect both the micro and macro economies of the country.

Thirdly, the loss of trust and confidence in the government of the day was also mentioned. This is because of the numerous promises that, the people in power made them to believe when they were seeking the mandate and power to govern the country. This has become a normal trend that, community members recognize the impact of the government on them whenever it's getting closer to the election period, which should not be so. The government must be available in terms of the provision of infrastructural projects to people at all times and not at certain appointed times.

Again, abandoned projects from the study show the negative impact they have on the environment. Responses derived from the interviews informed the researcher on how abandoned projects can endanger the lives and livelihoods of both humans and animals within the area. Examples were given on the dangerous threat that, holes dug as a result of projects and filled with rain water can be dangerous to children playing around such places. Because of the project being abandoned, these holes couldn't be covered and therefore left on these sites.

Another effect stated in the study was the loss of tax revenue. When projects are abandoned, the taxpayers' money is not being put to good use. These projects are financed partly with the taxes mobilized by citizens. Citizens therefore expect their monies to be used for something worth their ability to pay those taxes. When there is an abandonment of a project, all the started capital ushered in the project at first becomes irrelevant. And these are funds that could have served other purposes.

Lastly, when the rate of projects being abandoned becomes rampant, it scares away foreign investors. This was an effect given as a result of abandoned projects, depicting how foreigners who might be willing to invest largely in the economy as a result of infrastructures can be put off because of the inability of the government to complete projects. Foreign investors having the eagerness to invest their monies into the construction industry of the country would then advise themselves, and decide not to. The involvement of foreign expatriates could have contributed to foreign exchange, and all these are mechanisms that push forward the economies of countries.

5.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, it is clear that project abandonment in the district is very common and has a negative indent on the improvement of the district, as it retards growth and

development. This study examined the nature and prevalence of government abandoned projects in Ghana, using the Twifu-Atti-Morkwa district as a case study. The findings from the study lead to the conclusion that indeed the district faces the challenges of projects being abandoned. The findings of the study adequately addressed the research objective which was to discover how common the issue of abandonment happens in the district.

The study findings reveal that the issue of abandonment in the district is a result of several causative factors. Firstly, the study showed how the delay in the disbursement of funds that are supposed to fuel these projects accounts for projects being abandoned. Again, it showed how the lack of effective and efficient monitoring and supervisory roles by government officials also accounts for these problems. On the political factors, changes in government from the study were also known to be a contributing factor to project abandonment. Also, project abandonment in the district again from the study showed how the prioritization of government policies also can result in that, and lastly of the political factors was political interference which was also said to be leading to project abandonment and also contractor's inability to finance projects and unfavorable weather conditions. All these according to the study were reasons given to have contributed to abandoned projects in the district.

There were some effects outlined as a result of the concern about project abandonment in the district. Firstly was the high cost involved in rehabilitating these projects. The study discovered that there are financial losses that results from projects been abandoned. Again, the study revealed how this hurts the economic growth of the country. Adding up, abandoned projects come with some environmental hazards which can include the loss of life of children. There is also the loss of tax revenue as an effect

of abandoned projects, and lastly is the decline in the investment of foreign expatriates in the economy of the country.

5.3 Recommendation

Based on the findings of the study, there have been some major recommendations that have been listed to ensure that project abandonment and its rate of occurrence are reduced in the district, and in Ghana at large. This will help in addressing the problems that are associated with projects being abandoned. The completion of projects provide various opportunities and avenues for major development and thus ensure the progress of the communities. Below are some recommendations elaborated which throws more light on the possible precautions and measures to be followed to ensure projects are completed successfully.

1. Firstly, funds that are set aside to finance the progress of government projects should be released earlier. When drawing up projects to be initiated and commenced, there is the stage where the monies that are supposed to be used for such projects are taken into greater consideration. All the necessary expenses are calculated beforehand. Now, in the course of the project, these funds need to be allocated to the various sectors responsible for the projects to be done on time. However, when the funds are delayed and not released on time, it affects the smooth progress and thereby can lead to the abandonment of projects. In this regard, it is highly important to ensure that, the allocation of funds is done on time to curtail the issue of abandonment.
2. In addition, when projects are underway, supervisors are mandated to go around inspecting the progress of these projects in various fields. In the course of the analysis, it was revealed how an ineffective supervisory role can lead to the project being abandoned. When supervisors are to take up their work seriously

and also do very diligent work, the number of abandoned infrastructural projects that we face as a country can be reduced drastically. It is therefore necessary and recommended that people who are mandated to perform these supervisions do them with the utmost seriousness and passion. The government can also hold supervisors who do not perform their duties and responsibilities well accountable, to serve as a deterrence to others who also have the motive of engaging in such an unprofessional manner.

3. Furthermore, it was again known from the respondents how changes in government also contribute to the project being abandoned. This was explained by saying that, the incumbent government in power will start a project and when a change in government happens, instead of the newly elected government continuing from where the previous government left off, they would not do so but rather start their initiative and projects leaving those already in progress to be abandoned. All these are practices that do not help a country to develop, and therefore such behavioral activities of our leaders should be changed for the better. It is therefore recommended that, for governments to start new projects, all the uncompleted projects must be finished before new ones can be started. The priorities of a particular government might differ from the other, but that should not be a hindrance or a blockade to the advancement of projects.
4. More so, the priorities of governments differ from one government to the other. Indeed there are variations in the types of policies that every government in power wants to implement. These are mostly relying on the various promises they made to constituents when vying for power. Since governments take over from others, previous policies of their predecessor might not be what they wish to put their hands on first. They surely will have their scale of preference in

terms of initiatives and policies when it comes to the implementation of these policies. But for the gradual development of the country, it is therefore recommended that, even though these policies might be different from that of the previous government, maximum effort should be made to continue with those policies. Policy implementers should also be advised on the negative effects that disregarding policies of predecessor's policies can have on the economies of the country.

5. Moreover, political interference was also another concern raised as a political cause in project abandonment, therefore the study recommends that, for projects to be done with topmost eagerness, contractors should be allowed to perform their duties as expected of them without any external control or instructions coming from any individual at all, especially those from the incumbent government and of high political hierarchy. When this is done, contractors in charge of such projects will be free and at liberty to do their work within the period and complete projects on time. This can also be said in the process of awarding projects, and it is also recommended that contractors with all the necessary documents, certified and recognized should be given such projects to work on. Partisanship should be left out when awarding contracts because, there have been many instances the political affiliation of able and competent contractors has denied them the chance of getting contracts, even though they are highly qualified and certified.
6. Again, the ability of contractors to fund contracts they have been awarded should be taken up as a serious matter. Many contractors because of the huge sums of money involved after winning a contract often go the extra mile to make sure they are awarded such contracts, even though they know perfectly well,

they can't finance the project. Due to the competitive nature in awarding contracts, many contractors portray themselves as having the capability to do the job. Their funds at some point, would not be flowing as they used to at the early stages of the project. This therefore suggests that they can no longer continue with the project. What I therefore recommend is that contractors who wish to be given contracts of such magnitude should be well researched into. Serious background checks should be carried out on them, and most importantly how often they abandon projects given to them if any. Everything regarding how they execute their plans and projects should be known before they are hired. In the same vein, there must be strict application of the law to contractors who abandon sites and run. These contractors should face the full rigor of the law, to serve as a deterrent to others.

7. Lastly, unfavorable weather conditions were also noticed to have caused many projects to be abandoned. It is therefore recommended that, for a project to commence, a proper study of the climate should be done to know the exact time and period to start projects. The trend of the weather can be studied for some time, even though it can change at any point in time. However, even if there should be a change in the weather, it should not be very vast a difference to affect the progress of projects.

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APPENDIX

SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (DCE), PLANNING OFFICER, PROCUREMENT OFFICER, DISTRICT ENGINEER, CONTRACTORS, PROJECT MANAGERS, ASSEMBLY MAN, TRADITIONAL MEMBER AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

I am Solomon Akwaboah, an MPhil student from the Political Science Department, University of Education, Winneba. I am undertaking a research on the topic; *Politics of Abandoned Projects at the Local Level in Ghana: A Case of Twifu Atti-Morkwa District*. The study is purely for academic purpose therefore, the information you provide will be considered private and confidential. There are no risks involved in taking part in the study. I kindly implore you to help me answer the following questions as objectively as possible. Thank You.

Email: skakwaboah@gmail.com contact: 0509 028 397

1. How common is the issue of abandoned projects in the district?
2. Are there any specific stages in the project lifecycle where abandonment tends to occur more frequently?
3. Can you provide examples of projects in the district that have been abandoned?
4. Are there any specific sectors or types of projects that are more prone to abandonment?
5. What are the primary factors or reasons that lead to project abandonment in the district?
6. Are there any issues related to project planning, implementation, or monitoring that contribute to project abandonment?

7. Are there any external factors, such as changes in government priorities or policies that have an impact on project abandonment?
8. How do abandoned projects affect the community and its residents in the district? Are there any economic implications or financial losses associated with project abandonment?
9. How does project abandonment impact the trust and confidence of the community in the future development initiatives?