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Community Dependency Syndrome:

The Case of Benton Harbor, MI
presented by

LaTonyia U. Wade

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M.S. degree in Resource Development

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Rowan".

Dr. George Rowan

Major professor

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**Community Dependency Syndrome
The Case of Benton Harbor, Michigan**

By

LaTonyia U. Wade

AN ABSTRACT OF A THESIS

**Submitted to
Michigan State University
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Professor George T. Rowan

ABSTRACT

Community Dependency Syndrome The Case of Benton Harbor, Michigan

by

LaTonyia U. Wade

Over the past two decades, no community studies have been conducted on local residents' perceptions of dependence as focal points of the study. The purpose of this research was to assess whether governmental funding produced a dependent relationship upon legislative aid in Urban Core cities.

Thus, an examination and evaluation of local political and community practices were researched. Benton Harbor, Michigan was chosen as the case study area because 1) the city is characteristic of the factors creating dependency, 2) the researcher is familiar with the geographical and cultural background of the community, and 3) the researcher had key political and neighborhood contacts that made the study possible.

This study can be used to present Benton Harbor's local leaders with progressive alternatives to increase neighborhood initiatives and ownership. It will develop a methodology for residents of urban core neighborhoods in their fight to reduce the effects of Community Dependency Syndrome.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Many efforts to change images of our urban regions are lost in an arena of political rhetoric, sociologically derived acronyms, and complex institutional modeling. In addition, images of urban America are not transformed through weak and reactive revitalization programs, quick-fix welfare reform bills, or other reactionary programmatic solutions. In fear of this research effort becoming full of “*acronymic clichés*,” the author constantly struggles to keep the ideas citizen-focused, and developmentally practical and yet retain the level of scholarly merit due this endeavor. Therefore, in this chapter the author will define and establish an introductory framework for the purpose of this study.

The framework begins with a historical perspective that will lead to a statement of the problem. The purpose and organization of the study will then be stated.

Historical Perspective

Urban Core is defined those areas in older central cities that experience high rates of federal and state welfare, high concentrations of minorities, and deteriorating political networks and community infrastructure. The urban cores have a host of complex developmental challenges that are beyond the scope of a single research paper. Thus, the author has narrowed the research focus to analyzing individual perceptions of dependency brought about through community restoration efforts. The conditions of urban cores have been population and economic growth and decline, the residue of urban sprawl and urban flight, and legislative policies accompanied by cumbersome legislative procedures. These polarities are felt in different ways within particular cities

(Andranovich & Riposa, 1993, p.1). The general consensus is that external factors threaten urban core revitalization and deter longevity or sustainable communities. These external politics affecting urban development have perpetuated a cycle of pessimism and distrust by urban residents, resulting in pessimistic attitudes and apathetic beliefs about urban restoration and political altruism.

As a result, urban core communities have income disparities far greater than their suburban counterparts and virtually no opportunity to access the established political, industrial, or economic arenas. For example, many theorists and community agents developed projects, objectives, and plans for their own political interests, rather than identifying needs, goals, and objectives deemed critical to community interests. The goals and objectives of citizens are lost in projects because of empty political rhetoric, hidden business ventures, and personal aspirations. The end result is that urban socio-political challenges are highly diverse and complex and render any single-minded strategy to be unfeasible or ineffective.

Urban leaders and community action groups based in the urban cores during the 1960's and 1970's protested then common practices in order to gain access into the decision-making process, hoping to develop long-term political and economic relationships. However, these relationships could only work while the nation's economy flourished. Civil and social leaders did not consider, or accept, that capitalism would be beneficial only during economic upswings, and that they had no real power to stop elimination of their funding sources and programs during economic downturns. Academicians and economists, who assisted urban communities in their fight against structural economic oppression, addressed the issues from a disconnected-leadership

style which excluded their target group. The end result for urban cores was mayhem, deterioration, and even greater dependence upon federal and state aid.

Problem Statement

Distressed communities demonstrate difficulty extricating themselves from continued dependence on unreliable federal government and other nongovernmental promises and support (LaMore, 1988). As an extension of LaMore's analysis, the author asserts that urban distressed communities develop a Community Dependency Syndrome.

Community Dependency Syndrome is exhibited when a large portion of the citizens' survival and livelihood is continually reliant upon federal aid and other support to maintain the necessities of life, and they *perceive that the community has no other viable alternative*. Community Dependency Syndrome (CDS) creates a tenuous relationship between local urban officials, economic developers, and governmental agents because disconnected assistance decreases a sense of community autonomy, viability, and basic human worth. Instead of progressing, the "dependency" on the highly regulated funding sources increases exponentially. Shaffer (1989) states that national political leaders create institutional challenges through top-down policies and cumbersome legislative regulations that focus interests more on corporate allies and granting huge tax benefits instead of rebuilding community infrastructure" (p. 9). When the only viable alternative for citizens' livelihood is dictated through heavy political rhetoric, the individuals of that community become disenfranchised from outside political influence.

Disenfranchisement spirals into deterioration of churches, schools, businesses, and other critical and social infrastructure elements linked to citizen growth. Shaffer (1989) further contends that evasive government management, broken political promises

and commitments, and rigid funding requirements make urban core areas socially and economically dependent upon these ambiguous aids. Unskilled labor pools then plague local urban areas with perceptions of high crime, drugs, and other common generalizations describing life in the urban core areas. Gottdiener (1987) emphasizes that reduced federal government support for our nation's cities in the 1980's limited political and economic viability for many urban residents and exacerbated tensions.

Business dealings from a capitalistic standpoint separate areas totally from a class perspective and are most effective when there is a hierarchical power structure. "All of these opposing features of urban core living arose out of contradictions within industrial capitalism" (Dawley, 1976, p.122). These difficulties are manifested when the social structure is articulated at the economic, political, and ideological levels. According to Timberlake, these capital operations are adamantly opposed to allowing any collaboration that may produce another power structure (1985). Timberlake (1985) also contends the organization of class relations in the dependent societies expresses the form of social supremacy adopted by class power in the dominant society. Logan & Molotch (1969) believe urban core residents face a greater challenge when elites differ on particular strategies for success and use their political strength to eliminate any alternative vision of the perceived purpose of local constituents or their meaning of community. Whether national leaders retain this emphasis depends largely on the courage, vision, and willingness of urban leaders and professional practitioners to fight. It is much easier to look to government for solutions than to take the hard road of self-reliance (Phifer, List & Faulkner, 1989). This Goliath has hindered and even stalled the revitalization of many urban minority population core communities and their economic

independence. Castells (1983) argues that the future of the urban minority population movement depends on their ability to articulate successfully three basic goals: (1) improved collective consumption, (2) the creation of autonomous community culture, and (3) political self-management (pp.322-323). To extend Castells' concept, an urban core city must: (1) enhance its own internal buying power, (2) develop specialized programs and services within its community that turn profits, (3) elect urban political leaders who can strategically bridge the gap between community development and economic enterprise.

While many studies acknowledge the plight of urban core areas, very little research has examined the role of the federal welfare legislation as one of the main catalysts contributing to the development of Community Dependency Syndrome. The complex funding and burdensome restrictions of federal aid have caused individuals in many communities to become apathetic and hopeless about the potential positive impacts of federal aid and consequently the aid is perceived as counterproductive.

A community suffering from Community Dependency Syndrome will be comprised of residents:

- 1) who express apathetic beliefs regarding federal and state political leaders and economic restoration;
- 2) who have negative attitudes regarding the building of neighborhood relationships, social, and other institutional sources of help (i.e. churches, schools, and social institutions);
- 3) who participate minimally if at all in local political events and community outreach activities;

- 4) who have limited knowledge of political programs and services affecting their communities;
- 5) who perceive that their community to have low economic viability;
- 6) who believe that the level of freedom and autonomy at the community level is low; and
- 7) who perceive that high level of dependency is inevitable.

Often urban planners are led to believe that without the various forms of federal aid, economic and social rebirth of the urban core is theoretically and practically an impossible endeavor.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to explore the extent to which residents perceive the presence of the level of Community Dependency Syndrome (CDS) in Benton Harbor, Michigan. The urban core community of Benton Harbor is chosen as a case study because it is a small community and has a history of continued reliance upon state and federal aid. This study examines the indices and compares the individual perceptions of federal welfare and its effects upon Benton Harbor's community development and future economic survival. The research objectives include:

- 1) The development of a set of community indices to provide a foundational groundwork for community dependency mitigation;
- 2) The empirical analysis to measure dependency and to test assumptions about participation, knowledge, attitude, apathy, viability and autonomy in relation to sustainable community building, and

3) To increase awareness at local levels of how welfare programs create community dependency syndrome and how they affect individual perceptions.

The assumption that public participation in community development has an effect on urban policy, economic outcomes, and grass-root development provides the research focus. Benton Harbor's citizens were chosen as research topic for several reasons. The historical plight of the city's economic industry and manufacturing firms and the ongoing struggle for redevelopment make Benton Harbor a good community in researching this topic. In addition, many different funding and welfare programs have been administered in this Southwestern Michigan community. Finally, because of preliminary research on the theory of CDS, the size and scope of Benton Harbor make possible the research necessary to reveal more about the phenomenon of CDS. Therefore, it provides an excellent location for a case study

This research examines a small urban neighborhood of local residents because the subject is in exploratory nature. CDS, discovered through an in-depth literature review, is a concept built upon ongoing community principles, grass-roots practices, and creative neighborhood revitalization strategies. Together they help to frame the theoretical framework. Quantitative methods will be used to assess the level of CDS. Data were gathered through a survey instrument.

The primary contribution of this study to community development theory is building an index of variables beneficial for later analysis of dependency at an aggregate community level. In addition, it may encourage nonprofit organizations, technical-assistant agents, urban leaders, and scholars to re-evaluate and revise urban renewal policies. This study can be used to present Benton Harbor's local leaders with

progressive alternatives to increase neighborhood initiatives and ownership. Lastly, it will develop a methodology for residents of urban core neighborhoods in their fight to reduce the effects of CDS. Ultimately, individual perceptions of dependence, economic practices, and community autonomy could form an important tool to evaluate the effectiveness of community development practices.

Organization of the Study

Chapter 2 provides an introduction to the American urban community development movement; consisting of urban restoration agendas that are not newly derived concepts from academic scholars, change agents, or national leaders. It is imperative that local urban leaders establish the missing link between urban core restoration and business development. "Private decisions and public economic activity are intimately related and ...this concept should lead local governments and community based organizations to take a new and different perspective toward planned and coordinated development" (Blakely, 1991, p.25). However, historically, urban renewal projects were micro-managed and although many failures have occurred the government still embraces these archaic practices. The national government has addressed the urban core's economic and political woes in an ad hoc and reactive leadership style. Inner city leaders have not been a part of the initial decision-making equation in urban redevelopment even though during the Reagan and Bush era many projects, plans, and funding programs were supposedly developed from a macro-perspective.

The paradigm derived from the urban redevelopment idea is that technical assistance would solve the socio-economical and educational disparities experienced in many of our urban areas. Thus, these funding sources were supposed to serve as a

vehicle to elevate and emancipate distressed communities from structural bondage. In order to support these claims, various literature sources are reviewed. An assessment of individual levels of community participation, attitudes, and knowledge will act as a linkage between political processes of economic viability and independence.

Several assumptions support analyzing individual perceptions of community development in Benton Harbor. They are as follows:

- 1) Perceptions of dependency in the minds of urban citizens are factors that impede or augment a city's social viability.
- 2) Urban American core communities exhibit disproportionate symptoms of community dependency.
- 3) Participation and attitudes are critical components that affect apathetic and hopeless beliefs.
- 4) As education, knowledge, and training are implemented from a participative approach, people will believe that there is an opportunity to be somewhat autonomous.
- 5) The community believes that federal welfare is the only viable alternative that will change its situation.

Chapter 3 describes the methodology and research design used to obtain data for the Community Dependency Syndrome theory. The data collection method primarily utilizes surveys to assess residents' perceptions and beliefs about perceived levels of CDS. Fairplain Junior High School households, in the city of Benton Harbor constitute the surveyed group. The Fairplain Junior High School has 296 students and the parents of these children were targeted through direct mail correspondence.

The critical research decisions involved in creating and designing the survey instrument are discussed. Six variables are used to measure CDS; community apathy, community attitude, perceived autonomy, economic viability, levels of community knowledge, and community participation.

Chapter 4 reports on the analysis of the survey results. Descriptive summary statistics are used to analyze the research questions. Data are assessed through residents' perceptions of the viability, autonomous capability, and levels of CDS prevalent in their community. Data are measured through Likert-type scales, open-end questions, short answer, and an analysis of data through the SPSS statistical program. Analyses of the community involvement plans, where available, economic development plans and community participation process at the grass-roots levels are also be included.

Chapter 5 consists of the summary, conclusions, recommendations, and findings of the research questions as well as a discussion of the limitations and advantages of methods of data collection and surveying individual citizens as opposed to various communities. Furthermore, the chapter discusses the development of CDS theory and its relation to distress urban areas and their attempts to gain autonomous positions and business networks in an evolving economy. The discussion will summarize the general concepts about dependency, sustainable economic development strategies, and some implications for future research and political challenges. Finally, this chapter concludes with observations and recommendations for community-based initiatives and how they must develop a solid interdependent community alliance.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Many of our central cities have become filled with hopeless residents, those feeling doomed to a life of meager if not inferior existence. Many of the residents have fallen prey to Community Dependency Syndrome, which the author researches in this thesis. *Community Dependency Syndrome* – is when a large portion of residents' survival and livelihood is continually reliant upon federal aid and other support to maintain the necessities of life, and *they perceive that the community has no other viable alternative*.

Sociologists, economists, as well as politicians have offered a variety of explanations for the development of which is referred to in this paper as CDS. Some have argued it results from years of racial discrimination. Others suggest economic trends have left the central cities and many of their residents to the demands of political activists and campaign contributors and ignored the casualties of urban decay and decentralization.

While all of these assertions contain elements of truth and explanation, the scholarly literature over the last 30 years offers more complex explanation. The Chapter reviews some of that literature and presents around five themes. These are the following:

- Short lived economic prosperity in the community due to reactionary funding and programs.
- Differing perceptions of residents and leaders.
- Constructs defining central city development.
- CDS and variables affecting views of leaders, residents, and economic developers.

- Lack of objectives for urban areas, absence of sophisticated city planning and long-term technical assistance.

The researcher chose these five points because of the exploratory nature of the research topic. The literature consistently supports the theme of economic development in a collaborative style, long term technical assistance, sustainable economic development and other concepts critical to the future of urban core areas.

OVERVIEW OF URBAN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

“Historically, our urban images in the United States have oscillated between the positive (cities as innovative, progressive, and modern) **suburban** and the negative (cities as alienated, pathological, and decadent) **inner cities**...urban images include culture, arts and music, hustle and bustle of commerce as well as violent crime, rampant drug abuse, harsh contrasts between rich and poor, crumbling infrastructure, transportation gridlock and pollution” (Andranovich & Riposa 1993, p.1).

In the past, urban activists focused on traditional economic strategies to solve urban disputes (i.e. funding, programs, and resources) making noble attempts futile and weak. Today, if urban residents expect to contend in the market arena, they must begin to acquire multi-solutional strategies, strategies that not only address external hindrances, but internal oppositions too. Today, more than ever, urban communities still face deteriorating local economies, fragile community resources, socially weak infrastructure, and politically deficient or inefficient representation.

In the mid-1900s, central cities were beginning to experience capital flight and replacement of high paying manufacturing jobs, with low-paying service jobs. This brought city governments to a period of declining revenues, shrinking economic bases, and a growing pool of unskilled labor demanding more social services” (Bluestone & Harrison, 1981; Noyell & Steinbeck, 1983). The urban crises were created through a

confluence of political, economic, and social forces, thus incapacitating our inner urban communities (Andranovich & Riposa, 1993).

Congress has passed several community reformation bills (i.e., War on Poverty and Self-Sustainable Community Building) since the great Civil Rights marches of the 1960's. Over the past three decades, personal safety, excellence in education, cutting-edge technology, solid economic tax-base, and long-term real estate values have been the driving force of American entrepreneurs. One of the main problems of social movement efforts was how to gain external allies without surrendering the autonomy of the inner city groups (Castells, 1983). One method in mitigating co-optation is through an indirect, bottom-up participation approach because the aim is to address the people's greatest demands build confidence and competence in thinking, decision-making, and problem-solving strategies (Batten, 1978). Touraine & Castells (1978) offer a kind of do-it-yourself-movement-building in which, participants jointly struggle to create a new identity and new vision for the future, rather than being mobilized through leader-generated, selected, or solidarity incentives. Urban residents do not want programs that "do" for them, rather they want programs that work "with" them (Biddle, 1968, p.184).

The bottom-line on whether communities retain an autonomous emphasis depends largely on the courage, vision, and initiatives of its citizens and professional practitioners. Although initiatives are worthwhile there are also obstacles to overcome. Logan & Molotch (1969) contend that urban leaders may have strategies that differ from elite politicians' view and their vision of local government and community restoration. This contention is one of the most challenging obstacles for urban areas and they must find ways to fight covert omissions. Also, urban regions must gain points of access that

are profitable and beneficial for development. Citizen attitudes toward their political leadership is one of the key components.

Community Attitudes Toward Political Leadership

Political theories have evolved through complex economic models and have not always been user friendly by inner city leaders, thus these leaders at times acted on the residents behalf without knowing future ramifications. Also, as these theories and ideologies gained increasing recognition, the political struggles, social movements, and “relative states of autonomy,” become parsimonious tools of historical analysis, and they leave “politics” in an ambiguous role (Fainstein & Fainstein, 1983; Poulante, 1978; Castells, 1977; Tabb and Sawyer, 1978). The ambiguity in political functions has caused attitudes of disbelief and confusion in the minds of urban citizens. Constitutionally our governments were developed to be “of the people”, “for the people”, and “by the people” in order to be an active and equitable liaison to fight in their true interests. Belief in this basic premise diminished dramatically because of the major fallacies committed by political leaders in their proposed dedication to urban people.

Opposing views and aims between local and national leaders have caused fragmented development, stagnant internal resources in inner cities, and unprecedented power by industrial corporations. Fitzgerald & Meyer (1986) recognized constraints in development contracts, which refer to increased control of economic activity. Whether through ownership, local markets or other processes, some communities were manipulated, and exploited, while others are promoted and advanced. Hence, citizen attitudes became those of passive taxpayers, and mere recipients of public services provided by bureaucratic agencies (Bookchin, 1989, p.182). “Government had become an

insider's game. Thus, as government programs and machinery grew in complexity, the regulated industries and their regulators were able to manipulate the results, and residents with consumer, environmental, but minority concerns were left largely outside" (Cohen, 1973, p.59). In essence residents' attitudes toward state policies are nothing more than a statecraft, and politicians are profit manipulators of power, forming stronger private relationships at the cost of its disadvantaged tax-paying citizens (Cohen, 1973).

McKnight (1989) maintains that the service advocate (funding agencies) should be required to identify the negative impacts, present evidence of the benefits, and demonstrate that positive impacts outweigh the negative impacts. Too long, any community development was viewed positive, however community developers are engaged in addressing issues of conspiracy, power structures manipulating communities through collaborative means, and dominating each entity for their own profit (Warren, 1978, p.52). So there is a general air of doubtfulness in the success of government programs, promises, and concerns for citizens.

Urban Economic Viability

Urban sprawl, high-taxes, depleted natural resources and threatened land values are some of the structural and institutional challenges to urban economic viability. In addition, uneven development, disinvestment, poor political leadership, and a host of other ills create difficulties in generating strategies to mitigate this enigma. Although, many resources (research, programs, and monies) have been invested in creating viable community life in our urban areas, many still remain incompetent and distressed.

A distressed urban community is a community suffering from under-developed physical, social, political, educational and economic structures, human resources, and

citizens lacking control over resources and structures (LaMore, 1992). Expert scholars, economic developers, and governmental agents assumed that access to jobs for urbanites would alleviate inner city problems, therefore bypassing obstacles of educational disparities and preconceived beliefs (Goldsmith & Blakely, 1992). In addition, disinvestment erodes the local tax-base, and contributes to reductions in infrastructure maintenance. The downward economic spiral fosters a spectrum of social deterioration, including excessive unemployment, high crime rates, blighted neighborhoods and downtowns, and a general attitude of despair among residents (LaMore, 1988).

Elazar (1969) states that “one difficulty of understanding the cities’ problems in America is heightened by the existence of numerous mythical assessments of urban reality, especially those giving rise to all sorts of mythical models for urban improvements” (p.69). For example, economists convinced urban leaders that the “trickle-down’ model would benefit the nation as a whole and their cities in particular. Another difficulty for the urban core is solving economic challenges exclusively by any one model because it is an interconnected web of social, political, and economic attributes (Herson & Bolland, 1990). Singular models made cities technically and economically stagnant rendering them subject to decisions made without their needs initially being considered. These social ills are not rare in urban communities. In fact, their magnitude and intensity have dramatically increased. For past decades urban America has been plagued by:

- 1) deteriorating neighborhoods,
- 2) poorly educated residents, who lack skills and experiences required in today’s workplace,

- 3) extremely high rates of unemployment and underemployment,
- 4) rapidly deteriorating family nuclei and social structures,
- 5) increased isolation from mainstream society, and
- 6) structural changes in the city political economic institutions (Robinson, 1989).

The myriad of ills of these cities causes them to become desperate and dependent upon the government for economic growth, viability, and advancement. Huge corporations reorganized the major factors of production thus decreasing urban land use and values because today most component parts of finished products, such as autos, are produced and assembled at the nearest point of consumption (Kantor; 1988, p.508). In addition, Kantor (1988) implies that state governments witnessing new found growth in their economies or those experiencing central-city decline is because governments and industries do not have a stake in protecting the economic viability of their urban centers.

The economic viability of local institutions, such as schools and churches, collapses when large plants relocate or businesses shutdown on the basis of decisions made in distant headquarters. The local economy slowly disintegrates; the result, government incurs the social costs of the market system. The corporate economy, lacking structures of responsibility, relies on the government to pay for its destructive impact (Bruyn, 1987).

The world is no longer dominated by Fordism and industrial innovation is no longer the saving grace of the city's economically challenging situations. Fordism was an era of large manufacturing plants that were single modes of operation, which proved to be incapable of competing with its foreign competitors. Hill (1990) suggests the plight of the US steel and auto industries in the 1980's is due not only to the maturity of those sectors and their markets, but has been compounded by over-investing, broad-based competition on a world scale, technical backwardness, and failure to invest in new technological methods rather than high factor costs. The plight of the auto industry was

no surprise to private investors, and in order to maintain profits, auto companies abandoned their urban plants to save their stockholders' shares. The auto industry is not obsolete but urban sectors cannot rely on its former strength nor should they hope for it to return as a strong economic source in their communities. Now city officials are looking to its national leaders to aid in overcoming this devastation.

Thus, questions should arise when officials give funds to urban communities without sufficient education and technical assistance, yet expect to help communities become viable. Are funding policies nobly given without technical assistance or are they tactics to maintain an advantage and control over urban leaders? The urban crises will worsen, and although there is no shortage of rational solutions, nothing much will be done about the crises unless the majority of America permits a radical change of public policy and undergoes a miraculous change of attitude towards its cities and their populations (Gans, 1970).

Mass media disproportionately display minorities as primitive, indolent, lazy, inferior, and technically backward. These biases cause systemic and structural breakdowns in the core operations of cities. Logan & Molotch assert that traditional urban research has had little relevance to the day-to-day activities of the place-based elites whose priorities affect patterns of land use, public budgets, and urban social life: while funding urban research through out-of-touch programs, lofty objectives and complex goals tend to strip urban centers of opportunities for economic and community growth.

Gurr and King (1988) profoundly articulate that urban policy decisions and implementations are a function of shifting coalitions of organized economic, political and

social groups; some pursuing general welfare, others seeking to enhance sectoral and individual interests. These interests cause suburban communities to advance while inner cities slide further into economic ruin.

Normally, urban cores have inherited leaders and outside investors who are not connected to the city and who do not have reasons to establish long-term partnerships within the core. Unless central cities take a holistic approach to its multifaceted struggles, urban rebirth will “give-way” to an array of individual political and private pursuits. Urban leaders must obtain influence and allies so that they can affect critical political legislative decisions and build some interest by stakeholders in their communities’ viability.

Community Knowledge and Education

James Madison stated, “A people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives” (Ewens, 1978, p.151). The weaknesses of formal and informal institutions of learning are factors impeding urban restoration. Ewens (1978, p.154) asserts that schools produce and promote dependency and alienation as they are employed as sorting machines to reproduce and perpetuate the existing class structure.

He extends this assertion by stating, “57 million Americans are unequipped to carry out even the most basic reading and writing tasks, which is over 35 % of the entire adult population (Ewens, p.152). Urban areas are disproportionately represented in these figures. Freire (1970) says, schools are submerged in a “culture of silence” “they are programmed for passivity, dependency, fear of freedom, and generally become incapable

of critically evaluating and transcending the logic of the authoritarian system of which they are such an essential part” (p.15).

“Urban public school systems are embedded with many educational deficiencies, having organizational structures that move them even further away from interaction with the communities they serve, and teachers refuse to accept responsibility for not educating anybody successfully in anything” (Katz, 1975, p.151). Katz implies that “historically it has been easier to develop a battery of excuses that places the blame for educational failure outside the school and on the home”. Greer (1972, p.152) cynically believes urban public schools in particular, are a highly successful enterprise; basically, successfully producing high academic failure among students. “A critical element is the failure of most poor children to master the basic knowledge and skills that are necessary for assimilation into a highly technical and industrialized economy and the gap between suburban and urban students remain tragically wide” (Deutsch, Katz, and Jensen, p.1).

The educational disparity result is that attitudes and behaviors such as tolerance, boredom, learning as memorization, competition, and hostility are learned and reinforced in the classroom (Greer, 1972). Finally, perhaps the most fundamental domestic problem of latter 20th century America is the persistence of gross inequalities and opportunities for youths of varying classes.

Building Autonomous Urban Communities

The main thrust of many community developers is to assist communities in achieving a state of autonomy through feasible goals, resources, and objectives. Warren (1978, p.5) defines community development as “a process of helping community people analyze their problems, to exercise as large measure of autonomy as is possible and

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feasible, to promote greater identification of the individual citizen and the organization with the community as a whole". Community, by definition, should promote autonomous behavior through technical assistance and training for any class of people without reservation. "Without autonomy we cannot decide whether what we value is worth cherishing or pursuing; we cannot plan to become one sort of person rather than another" (Kupfer, p.1). Individuals and communities must believe that there is a certain level of altruism concerning their situations. Autonomy is an action of self-willed determination and the ability to achieve satisfactory levels of independence.

Community Apathy

How have urban communities responded to increasing outside domination?

"Many of us have merely struggled to adapt our aspirations and dreams to this bureaucratic system in which we have found ourselves and from which we visualize no escape (Ewens, 1978). In the past, neighborhoods had institutions (churches, fraternal organizations, and small business associations) that served as liaisons, fighting for their rights and protection, thus giving citizens some sense of identity and power about their situations. Also, as these institutions fought on behalf of deprived communities, people believed they could acquire a sustainable level of autonomy. However, Reich (1976, p.320) contends that communities were socialized to rely upon outside controls and were never responsible for themselves. While longing for freedom, they nevertheless grow to fear freedom and doubt their own capacity to govern themselves. As Freire (1970, p.32) emphasizes, the oppressed suffer from a duality that has established itself in their innermost being, discovering that without freedom they cannot exist authentically.

Values had changed during the last two decades, and as people became more active and politicized, their disappointment was inevitable because democratic

societies cannot work when much of their citizenry is not passive. The result was a substantial withering away of confidence in government and a generation of people incapable of realizing that the “arenas where democratic pressures are appropriate and are limited (Ewens, p.247).

The urban attempt to mitigate increasing social apathetic beliefs, give way to pressures of discriminatory factors (racial profiling, redlining districts, and high inner city tax zones). Hence, we have societies, perpetuated by the media’s propaganda, convincing constituents that our urban regions, are increasingly wild, inhabited by social deviants, and composed of a dependent and lawless population (Dunier, 1980). Not only did business investors consider urban areas inferior, they gave impressions to the media of urban areas’ inferiority; for example reinvestment in urban industrial districts was considered too costly due to brown soil, crime, property values, perceptions, and unskilled laborers. Citizen’s initiatives to overcome their apathetic beliefs are more prevalent than ever.

Participation in Urban Communities

Langton (1978, p.5) says that two kinds of resident participation grew in America; one through government officials, and the other through citizen-initiators. The church, political parties, and fraternal organizations were powerful mediators for ordinary residents. He states that several decades ago the influence of these mediating institutions declined significantly, and this has led to an erosion in the traditional source of consensus making. Many times in the citizen-participation movement, politicians were able to manipulate inexperienced groups in accordance with their plans. Thus, participation programs became justifiers, improvers, or supporters of critical decisions (Langton, 1978, p.7).

Residents and local practitioners are now attempting to regain the emphasis and intent of citizen participation. It is a fact that participation is the thrust and power of any social movement, and what is the appropriate level of local citizen participation.

Participation in a democratic relationship should have characteristics of mutuality in decision-making, enforcement of goals and objectives, and the sharing of relatively equal power. Thus, no one authority is able to use coercion as a tool to make communities act against their will.

MAIN CAUSES OF COMMUNITY DEPENDENCY SYNDROME (CDS)

Constructs defining community development and what communities are, are critical links to the development of CDS. In addition, community economic development objectives along with political approaches to urban crises were also deciding variables in the future of urban renewal. Finally, governmental regulations and community development funding processes establishes the tone of the present day urban crises. This section will examine how these variables create a dependent cycle.

A paradigm is a set of assumptions about the scope, method and purpose of a particular science, which determines its questions on the nature of its evidence and its principles of interpretation (Marris, 1982, p.94). Urban leaders and community activists assumed they were an integral component of the development paradigm. Although this paradigm had merit and rationale in theory, urban developers continually failed because of their assumption as key stakeholders in the development game. Ironically, urban political dialogue and purposes have rarely focused on *changing the rules* of the economic (game) process thus always rendering them *subject* to the *rulemakers*. In addition, research and practices suggest that communities engage in the process of

discovering their own wealth are better equipped to improve their economic situation (LaMore, 1989). A city's political leaders must acquire positions as coaches as opposed to always being players on the field.

Urban leaders are unaware of the market's intricate operations and unwritten rules comprising strategic positions of stakeholders, and can not avoid immediate exclusion during economic recessions/depressions during capitalistic breakdown.

Contemporaries of urban rebirth gave little credence to public officials as strong individual players in the game, pursuing self-identified goals in the molding of cities. Thus, politicians formed bonds and relationships with corporations (i.e. auto, retail and manufacturing industries) creating hegemonies mammoth in strength, information and financial status. In addition, these structural changes occurring within contemporary urban regions (political and industrial reformation) for the most part, was a process of change that was beyond local urban control (Freidmann, 1991).

"Unfortunately, unless both the material and human/institutional dimensions are addressed simultaneously in community economic development, there will never be a basis for self-sustaining development to break the economic and psychological dependency that exist in these communities" (LaMore, 1988). There can be no effective national economy if a people cannot meet their essential needs...this doesn't preclude trade but dependence upon trade is detrimental when the sector cannot participate in determining the terms of trade" (Freidmann, 1977, p.54). Urban communities are saturated with many symptoms of *dependency* through their inability to entice outside investors effectively and assemble their existing internal resources. This is a major and

ongoing task for urban distressed communities, to maintain basic needs in order to survive life's daily activities.

Robinson (1989) states that within both political and policy contexts, there appears to be some agreement that the urban poverty problem is closely linked to the economic development process. Historically, certain groups of people have continuously been excluded from the origin of economic objectives and never considered too beneficial in the economic rebirth. Inner cities are politically inept and economically futile because of structural disadvantages historically derived in our country's participation process. Many manufacturers (i.e. auto, steel and computer industry) completely reorganized their investments and factories in order to control a city's entire development operations, services, local political leaders, and stakeholders. It is unlikely, given the experiences of past efforts, that any quick-fix, inexpensive development strategies will ultimately be able to overcome the significant financial and social barriers these communities face (LaMore, 1992).

Traditional solutions answered distressed communities' problems by focusing on trickle-down economics, relocation of the poor, redistribution of wealth, and external community leadership. Castells (1978) states that these new social contradictions fall within the sphere of collective consumption (housing, education, and health) and suggests that they are most clearly manifested at the urban level. Neighborhood residents feel themselves under siege from crime, a rising cost of living, and a seemingly unresponsive government, and these factors have combined to reduce social interaction as the basis for neighborhood life (Herson & Bolland, 1990, p.159). Consequently, these

dynamics are beyond the local political leaders realm of expertise, and forces them to seek outside sources of aid.

CONSTRUCTS DEFINING COMMUNITIES

As Christenson stated, the underlying philosophy of CD is to help people become subjects instead of objects, acting on their situation instead of simply reacting to it.

/CD is a process/...in which the people of a community organize themselves for planning and action; define their common and individual plans to meet their needs and solve their problems; execute these plans with a maximum of reliance upon community resources; and supplement these resources when necessary with services and materials from governmental and nongovernmental agencies outside the community (Fear and Booth, 1985, p.5).

One sociological definition of community is a social system concentrating on its social relationships. Social relationships are patterns exhibited by heterogeneous groups and larger social systems, both internally and externally. How these relationships are developed is critical to community functions and social entities in society (Shaffer, 1989, p.4). Warren (1978, p.325) defines community as a “deliberate and sustained attempt to strengthen the horizontal pattern of a community”.

Ideally, community development is a process of helping community people analyze their problems, to exercise as large a measure of autonomy as is possible and feasible, and to promote a greater identification of the individual citizen and the individual organization (Warren, 1978).

Oberle, et.al. (1974, p.62) define community development as a process in urban centers where “increasingly more members of a local area are involved in decision making through participation at the grass-roots level, the results for urban centers will increase the life chances of some people without diminishing the chances of others”. Warren (1980) describes a “community” as a collection of subsystems that exist within a delimited geographic area that exist to enhance the viability of the locale and thus

continue to grow economically and develop its citizens' social infrastructure. Dykeman (1990) states, "development means social transformation in the direction of more egalitarian distribution of social goods such as education, health services, housing participation in political decision making, and other dimensions of people's life chances". Cawley (1984, p.16) defines community as a "deliberate, democratic, developmental activity; focusing on an existing social and geographical grouping of people; who participate in the solution of common problems for the common good." Dunbar (1972, p.43) outlines community as a, "series of community improvements that take place over time as a result of the common efforts of various groups of people each successive improvement is a discrete unit of community development and it meets a human want or need." Voth (1975, p.148) characterizes community development as a, "situation in which some groups, usually locally based such as neighborhood or local community...attempt to improve [their] social and economic situation through [their] own efforts...using professional assistance and perhaps also financial assistance from the outside...and involving all sectors of the community or group to a maximum." Wilkinson (1979) describes community development as "acts by the people that open and maintain channels of communication and cooperation among local groups" (p.10).

Authentic "community development involves application of a bottom-up process of problem identification and solving rather than the traditional top-down approach; it is about self-help, local leadership and initiatives, networking, and local capacity building" (Dykeman, 1990). Lastly, Christenson, Fendly & Robinson (1989) define community development as a "group of people in a locality initiating a social action process (i.e.

planned intervention) to change their economic, social, cultural and/or environmental situation” (p.14).

Several other factors make something more or less of a community. It is possible to be “more” of a community with respect to some factors and “less” with respect to others” (Effrat, 1974, p.21). Freidmann (1977) contends that a society should not be called a community unless; (1) there is extensive participation by its members in the decisions by which its life is generated, (2) the society as a whole takes responsibility for the members, and (3) the responsibility includes respect for the diverse individuality of these members (p.173). The quality of community is defined in relation to the individual rather than a social aggregate, this phenomenon seems to involve identifying with one’s group and completeness on the part of the individual (Poplin, 1979).

In the United States the term *Community Development* is used loosely, ambiguously, and with various meaning and concepts based on the experiences of practitioners (Dunham, 1972). However, these concepts defining social community infrastructure are slightly misguided and challenged in political, academic, economic descriptions, and functions of community, and do not include socio-cultural impacts. Definitions of community development must not only address the natural needs of a society, but also evaluate the psychological and sociological impacts on a society. This should occur whether the impacts are positive or negative, and should conform to legislative demands and governmental programs. “When you move beyond importing [jobs]...and start a strategy of creative innovation and adaptation, then [local] “innovation” becomes an economic, social, and a local [development] preoccupation, rather than just a technical one” (Williams, 1986, p.32). True, that in our theories of

development, any form of development has been viewed positively, however, this philosophy has caused communities to become mentally crippled and socially weak. Williams (1989) states that community is unusual among the terms of political vocabulary. It is a term that national leaders always try to present as a positive endeavor and one term which has never been used in a negative sense. As a result, inner cities are the kickback of development, leaving a destructive path and a dependence upon outdated political tactics.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

Analytically, “ the public-private dichotomy limits insight into the underlying causes of problems in the process of development itself. When private initiatives provide goods, services...attention is focused on private action, rather than strategies that could move various community-based organizations, into more active roles” (Gun & Gun, 1991, p. 112). The process urban centers need is an interactionary plan. Interaction theory is defined as interaction between individuals, organizations and the level of local involvement and how this association influences change. Rubin (1991) states, “theoretically, professional obligations of economic development practitioners should be to the overall community, to expand its tax base, or to provide increases in the amount of employment and other resources, building a solid foundation at the grass-roots level” (p.246).

Community building and development efforts have had only minimal impacts in our inner cities, and re-evaluation of development aims are mandatory if urban areas are to be vibrant centers for businesses and social activities. Theobald (1981) argues that the social entrepreneurial movement is based on willingness and ability to embrace and

manage change, strong local leadership, vision, and an understanding of how to use knowledge systems for management of change. This idea has an inherent flaw because whoever enacts policy, how the knowledge is interpreted, and who the directors are of the developmental change are critical to the shaping of an urban area's economic, social, and political longevity. Rarely has any inner city political sector had long-term capital, valid local authority, or key community positioning, thereby influencing economic development within its parameters.

Economic development is chiefly concerned with increasing productivity and efficiency, spreading forms of economic organizations that multiply and distribute material resources more broadly, and planning exercises to improve the economic situation of a locality (Christenson, 1989, p.18). Community aims are good, but they lack the essential personal development experience and process; and these processes provide, not the answers, but the means by which citizens shall seek the answers (Biddle, 1968, p.184). Freidmann (1991) asserts that "locally based economic development represents a fundamental shift in the actors as well as the activities associated with economic development...local governments and/or community-based groups manage their existing resources and enter into new partnerships arrangements with the private sector, and or with each other, to create new jobs and stimulate economic activity in a well-defined economic zone" (p.184). "Economists were firmly in the drivers seat of development programs; and they defined the problem of underdevelopment largely in economic terms, and in turn, this perception of the problem as predominately economic in nature helped to establish and to keep economists in charge" (Rogers, 1976, p.408). The economic drive, and power of economists changed the funding of community

development. Also due to the political atmosphere of the 1980s and Reaganomics the disenfranchisement of urban inner city cores spiraled exponentially. Community-based development used the support of private business interest as a “trickle-down” vehicle for local development, rather than supporting consumer and community interests directly (Freidmann; 1991, p.158). The “growth-first-and-let-equality-come-later” mentality often was justified by the trickle-down theory that leading sectors once advanced, would then spread their advantage to lagging sectors (Rogers, 1976). Moreover, economists assumed that all “men” were basically economic, and would respond rationally to economic incentives, that the profit motives (jobs and dollars) would be sufficient to motivate the widespread and large-scale behavioral changes required for development to occur (Rogers, 1978). Yet, today we see cities full of hopeless and anguished people, who have resigned themselves to cyclical poverty.

Our nation’s leaders embraced economic theories as the thread of strength, sewing together the patterns of societies. However, these threads were exceptionally weak and frayed in urban America. Rogers (1976) describes that the “focus on economic growth and urban regional development carried with it an ‘aggregate bias’ about development: urban development now had to be planned and executed at the national level” (p.408). Governments began to enact on behalf of their states and local areas without any dialogue supporting this rationale through economic theoretical constructs. These economic theories have caused obvious deterioration in many facets of urban living and social infrastructure. Many persons have experienced the dangers that outsiders with funding possess through co-optation of community leaders, and bending ideas outside of their natural priorities and perceptions (Uphoff, 1989, p.386).

Economics are properly guided only when the human side of business ventures and interests are carefully reviewed, and decisions in the interest of economic development cannot be made without it. Leonard (1994, p.35) believes “the market is not harmful in and of itself, but lacking the counterweight of common good, it tends to prey on human weaknesses for greed and self-interest.” Schramm (1987, p.153) identifies five major goals of economic development: economic vitality, equity, security, quality, and empowerment and illustrates major gaps from theory to practice, especially in distressed areas.

Political Approaches to Urban Crises

This section describes (1) political approaches to the urban crises, (2) governmental regulations and urban community funding process and, (3) how federal policies themselves impede urban renaissance.

Dawley (1976, p.98) asserts that historically, political leaders painted an image in the minds of city residents that revolutionary changes were happening in development practices - “*old things are passing away and all things are becoming new.*” However, revolutionary changes which local urban politicians and community leaders expected to happen from the national leaders toward urban renewal, never manifested in real needs or practices. Trickle-down economics “restructured” many communities’ economy.

In order to aid urban areas governments claimed they too, needed greater revenues. Officials justified their actions the interests of industries, private and international firms, as necessary to maintain government programs and structure. Once the state officials obtained this power, economic theory acquired an impetus and preoccupation of its own agenda, superseding the interests it originally forged with local urban sectors. These acts of appeasing industries, developers, and international markets, produced greater competition and higher levels of stratification within oppressed groups

and split allegiances in social movements. Now groups that once were unified to fight against domination are now opponents in the social movement arena. Economic ventures are always balanced between profits and losses, and political leaders viewed getting jobs into communities more profitable than evaluating a community's internal workings and social infrastructure. "Whether officials choose to stimulate private economic activity, and how it varies with the prevailing ideological commitments of the state and the social interest with which it is aligned, depends on the continuum of possibilities ranging from state direction to almost complete reliance on private entrepreneurial initiatives" (Gurr and King, 1989, p.75). This alignment of the state with private industries has viewed community operations as profit/losses and risks/benefits and not people, community dreams, and social infrastructure.

Evidence shows that urban communities were not effectively redeveloped after the involvement of private industries, and in some cases totally ignored as an actor or participant in the development process. Skocpol defines it as the result of the intersection of state purposes and private pursuits is that only a small portion of people (capital owner, maintenance managers) are truly accommodated at the inclusion of one population and the exclusion of another. Disproportionately, certain areas and groups of people are more commonly omitted throughout history.

Especially in the United States, this opposition has been an assertion of racial identity and autonomy in the face of a dominant culture which seemed to offer equality, theoretically in principle, only at the price of expropriation (Bruyn, 1987). Gurr and King (1969) state that the primary interests of the state include maintaining public order and authority in urban populations, securing public revenues, and protecting the interests

of officials in the pursuit of their programmatic goals with respect to urban welfare. The facts are not a shock to our national political leaders, these issues are just structurally and legally avoided in the political arena through dense rhetoric. The urban reform issues are becoming much too expensive to ignore.

Also, because of the patronizing nature of national approaches and control by forces outside the community, urban communities do not have the ability or resources to solve the long-term problems of urban distressed communities (LaMore, 1988).

According to Gurr and King, it can be scarcely overstated, that the primary importance of the modern state is maintaining legitimate authority and civil order in cities. Basically, past practices prove that the state is most adamant in maintaining the status quo of its institutional tactic and rules. Castells argues that urban sprawl is at the heart of political debate in industrial capitalist societies, because of the contradiction between increasing socialization of goods and the fact that they are managed in the interest of capital (Elliot, 1980, p.155).

Economic incentives are wasteful because they seldom sway location decisions, those incentives rely heavily on taxes and spending policies that are “upwardly redistributive,” thus compounding a problem through further stratification of our inner cities economy (Hanson, 1993, p.184). The results of this development relationship are that low-income taxpayers and unskilled workers bear the costs of development and private corporations reap the profits. The power has always been vested in private industries and political elites, thus urban communities must acquire stakeholders with vested interests in both groups in order to force coalitions and a dialogue. However, in

social movement building, how can communities gain allies in developing community revitalization without surrendering their autonomy (Castells, 1983).

Governmental Regulations and the Community Funding Process

Programs that merely dispense assistance or social services to low-income urban neighborhoods fall short of what is required (LaMore, 1992). One mechanism by which the federal government can help arrest the deteriorating condition of urban infrastructures is to eliminate biases in federal programs. If maintenance (defined as activities that allow the useful life of a facility to be reached) could also be classified as “capital” for federal funding purposes, the anti-maintenance bias in federal programs could be effectively removed and eventually produce urban environments attractive enough for other private and industrial projects (Kaplin, 1979). Also, establish a foundation for healthy business decisions at the local level changing traditional approaches, to federally funded programs. Batten (1975) stated that agencies using top-down funding styles, decide what people need, ought to have, ought to believe for their own good, and sometimes even how to behave. These decisions become the agency’s betterment goals for people, totally omitting or ignoring concerns at the local base (Benton Harbor, Michigan Restoration Project, 1985).

Distressed communities will not experience revitalization until they develop locally-controlled structures that promote local empowerment and self-reliance (LaMore, 1992). For a long time, in the legislative arena, urban reform and restoration has been attempted through the distribution of money and top-down directed programs. Our leaders without taking the time and effort to gather the perceived real needs of their constituents implemented the national programs. This historical tension between the

demand of expanding national states and local resistance has been transformed into complex institutionalized patterns of cooperation, dependency, and conflict (Gurr and King, 1989).

Dependency relationships between major and minor cities, and between national and local political leaders are not totally due to technology because new technology requires more interrelations and is not necessarily contingent upon a hierarchical structure. People and institutions develop technology and the ways it will be implemented. Therefore, technology cannot be treated as some autonomous force wielding its sword at liberty. Our government would support new technological efforts in only exclusive areas and our urban inner cores were not a part of the choice.

Policies Impeding Urban Rebirth - The law of uneven development is the tendency of the system to produce poverty as well as wealth, underdevelopment as well as development (Hymer, 1978). "The dilemma posed by federal grants is that they are often accompanied by mandates that rigidly describe how and where the funds will be used; such provisions may skew local policy agendas and reflect the interest of national constituencies rather than local interests (Newman & Lovell, 1981,1982). Therefore, Peterson et.al. (1986) suggest one way to understand federalism and urban politics is to delineate between development policy (policies to improve the community's economic position) and redistributive policy (policies to benefit those in need). Also Uphoff (1988) believes...

development projects come down to tailoring the design and implementation of projects to the needs and capabilities of people who are supposed to benefit from them. No longer should people be identified as "target groups". Rather, if we must speak of them abstractly, we should consider them as "intended beneficiaries". They to be benefited, rather than "impacted" (p.359).

External control of distressed communities through organizations and bureaucracies is inherently patronizing and promotes low-community esteem. Also, elected officials are concerned with maintaining representative institutions' continued control of the direction of policy and its implementation. If they do not control the state apparatus and programs of parties, government cannot be effectively pursued (King, 1989). This paradigm has caused political leaders to become more inwardly focused and not community oriented in their approach. Policies now have a tendency to lean more toward private view of development as opposed to the citizens' view of development through local community building. The power of the federal government proves not to be "user friendly" by cities, because federal and state governments could allocate authority and resources to some urban regions, and eradicate economic relationships in others by blocking growth in one area and encouraging it in another (Kantor, 1988).

Interest of this sort has caused government officials to become more aggressively self-preserving in funding and legislation bonding with large industrial corporations causing communities to become economic *pawns* in development tax abatement games. The market structure only seeks profit generating revenues and ventures that are potentially profitable to their stakeholders.

Historically, the democratic regime during the post-industrial era was the only government able to manage the substantial tension between popular control and the city's bargaining position (Kantor, 1988). Kantor also states that businesses were able to impose severe limitations on policy choices, whereas the capabilities of a city's political entities to generate popular support for the development activities became increasingly problematic. Political changes increasingly became a detriment to cities because the

federal government could alter the organization of the market and popular control structures; thus, owning various market environments and political constituencies opposite of its cities (Kantor, 1988).

Another complication is that voters rely heavily on grants for local development, but federal budget problems are consuming public resources available for development activities at the local and state level (Ross & Freidmann, 1991). Legislative dollars tend to have the same theoretical constraints as trickle-down economics, the perception being that eventually some will trickle to the local areas. This funding process has forced city governments to manage popular control by avoidance, leaving development decisions to the whims and preferences of popular opinions (community block grants). Since cities labor markets are too expensive for private investors, the city's strategies are not effective and powerful enough to avoid the deterioration and decline of its social, economic, and political infrastructure.

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT

Decades later and the great urban renewal project, Housing Urban Development Act (HUD) and many other urban renewal administrators of the actions still produced cities with abandoned downtowns, futile community leadership and unmarketable resources. In return we have seen a generation of unemployment, under-employment, cyclical welfare, high drug culture, and inexperienced political leaders. The notion to rebuild our cities has to be more than a benevolent feeling, and a perceived "do-the-right-thing" project. Urban redevelopment must be approached politically, academically, and economically through a collaboration of veteran change-agents and urban developers. Urban core dependence upon government funding should be a temporal source and not

the panacea for all of the societal-ills permeating our cities. However, funding allocated to our cities must be implemented with the same technical assistance as our suburban counterparts.

Three major eras of urban development are the result of the liberal-democratic political economy while each prevailing strategy for promoting urban development and the political arena for determining policy has differed (Kantor, 1987, p.493). Liberal democrats, during financially flourishing times, fought for program control and many quasi-governmental organizations emerged to take advantage of the financial opportunities (Phifer, 1980, p.46). Constantly, different obstacles inhibited a healthy dialogue in urban reform and reform was lost and emerged in larger national plans and goals. Obstacles such job security, long-term partnerships, and technical training and assistance.

According to Gurr and King (1989) “the state is a manifestation of its power relationships; its pattern of recruitment, decision-making, and participation embody the terms of the political elite’s domination over other groups” (p.122). Urban reform and restoration was viewed as a burden and hassle to the intent of governmental agencies, and these agencies were not willing to work cooperatively and responsively with the recipients. “It is common for planners, administrators, and technicians to view the people somehow as “the problem” and to regard themselves as embodying the solution” (Uphoff, 1989, p.388). Many good efforts have been thwarted because of this belief and the demeanor of developers has caused resistance from local politicians and citizens. People want to be assisted and guided, not cared for through condescending rhetoric and ignored through lofty theories.

“Development policies are choices, and as such they are determined by forces internal to state politics, that is by groups whose experience and resources enable them to exert political influence and extract policy concessions” (Hanson, 1993, p.184). National leaders, as a result, justify their private industrial relationships under the umbrella of development, and they disenfranchise urban areas through the cost of doing business. In addition, “changes within the federal system can alter the organization of market and popular control structures (road commission, county boards and business district zones) at the local level, choosing a different political partner than its cities (Kantor, 1987). Furthermore, these choices can re-direct authority and resources to mediate economic coalitions among cities and inhibit growth and collaboration within cities (Kantor, *ibid.*).

Political leaders across the nation have exacerbated urban reform through policies of segregation, redlining, district zoning, property assessments, and discriminatory housing practices this obstructs social and cultural integration.

Urban Dependence on Funding Programs

The efforts of financial, technical, and granting agencies have not encouraged autonomy, self-reliance, and economically resourceful neighborhoods instead they have perpetuated distress rising from community incompetence, nonparticipative behavior, and economic dependency. Batten (1970) describes the irony of the goals of development agencies’ as the primary aim for people, both individually and collectively, is to acquire the will and the competencies to manage their own affairs.

McKnight (1989) states, what actually happened is that federal money is “poured” into programs of human services and we have no knowledge whether the effects of the ministrations have been iatrogenic or cancerous; industry and government officials

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assumed that communities would bloom under a “rain of dollars”. An even more significant problem exists within the capitalist economy; monies are only available during financial upswings in the economy. The growth upswing only allows a small portion of those communities targeted and during economic downturns it automatically purges the programs considered superfluous (i.e., HUD, Adult Education, Urban Aid) and characteristically have a great impact on urban areas. If there is no reward for learning, in terms of privileged and anxiety reduction, there is no motive for work, one ingredient promoting this social apathy is fierce competition between cities (McKee, 1969).

When a city has a dominant market position it faces limited competition from its counterparts, thus producing economic independence and inducing capital investments (Kantor, 1988). However, cities that do the opposite with their market power reverse the relationship among their colleagues. Many urban areas that receive such aid and governmental programs become counterproductive; as long as the funding or programs exist the community is operative. Many programs, when cut because of funding constraints, leave the city in a much worse state than previously. One of the reasons for “white elephants” (i.e., Planned Parenthood) in communities is that governments implement programs that are politically popular and correct, rather than programs that are truly important to that community.

The separation of individuals, people, and communities from the economic and social operations will only produce marginal success in any development plan. One must not forget that development is not solely technology, profits, losses, and operations; we often ignore the human side which is full of emotion, thought, and feeling. According, to

Batten, McKnight, and LaMore there has to be sensitive balance between the two elements in order to accomplish what our urban areas desperately need. “Previous economic theories and program efforts have focused almost exclusively on trying to remedy perceived “defects” in the poor - inadequate education, weak community supports, lack of motivations- ignored the very real, potent, barriers in the structure of opportunities the poor confront on the “demand” side of the labor market equation” (Bentson, 1982, p.32). When there are demands for skills and capital, businesses and investors evaluate communities as profitable resources, and urban communities are considered inferior and risky. Obviously, even when a bureaucracy is set up and dedicated to industrial planning, education reform, community revitalization and other urban struggles, the situation of dependence in relation to the dynamic of the system as a whole precluded any effective realization (Timberlake, 1970). In the past, services, industries, and assistance have been viewed as “good”. However, it cannot be ignored that the qualification of a program’s success comes from the groups that implement the plans. There needs to be a set of evaluation criteria that allows the recipients to express the “goodness” of the project.

Community Economic Development Competition - Dobbs argues that a defining feature of “private ownership under capitalism is that some are obliged to [work for those that own] since [they own] nothing and [have] no access to means of production [and hence] have no other means of livelihood” (Wallerstein, 1975). Many poor and disadvantaged minorities are recipients of economic deprivation and coercion, and often lack capital and resources to combat this syndrome effectively. Moreover, Marshall, like Marx, stressed that internal division of labor within the factory between those who

planned and those who worked, is that this foundation is the main predicament of the economic vitality in capitalism today. In the past, capitalist world-economics required groups to act in their own economic interest; through market imperfections which caused individuals to use deception, manipulations of market activities, coercion on other states, and economic influences to gain as much power as possible (Hill, 1990). An emerging factor that urban centers cannot ignore is the complete internationalization of the economic market; it replaced the industrial and regional complex centered on the auto industry (Sassen, 1991).

The world market is no longer dominated by Fordism, the auto industry is no longer the heartbeat of the economic growth and social structuring of America. Socio-political forms, through which this new economic regime is enacted and constituted, amount to a new class alignment a new norm of consumption where the provision of public goods and the welfare state are no longer as they were in the period dominated by mass manufacturing (Logan & Molotch, 1969). “The plight of the US steel and auto industries in the 1980’s is not due only to the maturing of those sectors and their markets, but has been compounded by over investment and excess competition on a world scale” (Hill, 1990, p.91).

Often the failure of our urban industrial society is that urban core leaders have little or no authority in managing its technical system (Mahood & Angus, 1969). In order to stop the internal deterioration communities must ensure their resources are used to attract capital. Fainstein & Fainstein (1981) state that the ability of state economies to remain very competitive now is dependent on the economic adaptability of urban jurisdictions with the state. However, the state’s focus is promoting economic

development but the states are unreliable “partners” with any particular locale (p.508). This kind of behavior undoubtedly discriminates more against the have-not groups while favoring business candidates especially in city elections (Fainstein & Fainstein, 1974; Harrigans, 1981). Finally, competition is the “American Way”. So how can we assist communities and enhance their resources when they have never had an equal opportunity to lay the foundation of our nation’s economic theories, community plans, and industrial strategies.

Summary

The misguided efforts of our policies and legislation have caused stratified growth, uneven development, and empty infrastructure in our urban inner cities. No a program or funding strategy will quickly turn around the blighted urban zone predicament. Therefore, urban leaders must openly fight against restrictive funding policies inhibiting their progress. Economic development strategies employed tax incentives and other corporate “perks” to manipulate governmental decisions and inner cities’ political authority. Cities basically tried to “fit in” an arena where they have never been fully integrated. During the times of market failure, the cities would be subject to greater allied political and private forces thus pushing them back from the information and economic loop. Local urban leaders did not know how to fight adequately against this power and became submerged within its structure. Survival became the drive of inner city communities and they were unable to obtain strong informed political representation. “Artificial barriers, inferior governmental bureaucracy, and an absence of a “good business climate” are in fact, barriers to economic development (Reese, 1992, p.25).

Therefore, many inner city communities in America are filled with many hopeless residents, feeling doomed to a life of meager if not inferior existence. They are forced to be dependent upon the leftovers of political and industrial whims, exploitive practices, and biased tax laws as a goodwill offering.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

INTRODUCTION

This study seeks to explain the attitudes and knowledge of residents toward neighborhood dependence on federal assistance and knowledge of economic funding, both of which fund local neighborhoods. It seeks further to identify these residents' community individual dependence. This section begins with a description of the community under study, the hypothesis and operationalization of the variables, questionnaire development, sample of subjects for this thesis, the data collection procedure, and method of data analysis. The following variables will be used to characterize and measure the dependency attitudes: economic viability, knowledge, autonomy, apathy, individual dependence, and participation.

Benton Harbor, Michigan Case Study Area: Then and Now

Benton Harbor, Michigan was chosen as the case study area because 1) the city is characteristic of the factors creating dependency, 2) the researcher is familiar with the geographical and cultural background of the community, and 3) the researcher had key political and neighborhood contacts that made the study possible.

Berrien County located in the Southwestern Michigan, was known for its vacation hot spots and agricultural enterprise. Ranked first in Michigan for its abundant production of fruit during the 1930's and 1940's. Benton Harbor the county's largest city and was the economic center for the non-citrus fruit industry in the world (Zerler, 1995, p.30). Benton Harbor thrived also as a manufacturing and industrial community and became an integral connection between Detroit and Chicago transporting freight and

produce along its road and waterways. The influences generated by World War II (mass production, manufacturing industries, and increased employment needs) proved to be favorable for minorities in Benton Harbor as the city shifted from an agricultural to an industrial community. The northern states experienced a flood of southerners seeking a better quality of life and the financial opportunities enticed southerners to migrate North. The 1940's in Michigan were fruitful and prosperous; the automobile industry experienced phenomenal growth due to the shift of supplies produced for war needs. "World War II was a period of marked expansion for most local industries, and even the long-dead-wooden-boat building industry was temporarily revived" (Public Administration Service, 1957, p.4). During the 1960's and early 1970's the city's population expanded as well as its industries and commerce. However, during the late 1970's Benton Harbor experienced the beginning of its economic and social demise. Benton Harbor's population had grown to 22,900 during the 1960's and by 1970 the population declined to 16,481. By 1998 the population had fallen to 12,818. The decline in population was in concert with the flight of local industries. Now the city is a shell of its former self. It is marked by abandoned structures, miniscule industries, extreme poverty, and a welfare-ridden ghost town. Thriving industries that once contributed to the community as a whole include Clark Equipment, Auto Specialties, V-M (Voice of Music), Superior Steel, Whirlpool, Aireco and other manufacturing businesses and retail shops. Once known as a vibrant city of culture, it is now known as a vacuum of despair, hopelessness, and apathetic residents.

In the Berrien County area, Benton Harbor has the highest rate of unemployment, teen pregnancy, criminal offenses, and drug trafficking, as well as functional illiteracy.

The city of Benton Harbor, now Michigan's most distressed urban community, was chosen because of its plethora of social ills. Southeast Commission reported Benton Harbor's quality of life condition in 1992 as the lowest in Michigan. Benton Harbor in 1998, had a population of 12,818 people, 92% of whom are African American and 58% have income below the poverty line (Southeast Commission, 1992). The median household income in 1989 was \$8,866, family income \$10,447 and per capita income \$5,622. Benton Harbor like many urban communities in Michigan is the residue of industrial exodus and residential flight to its neighboring suburbs and townships.

As a result, this economic devastation has spawned high unemployment (33.8%, Southeast Commission Report, 1992), low rates of homeowners, reduced property values, inadequate school funding, and low community economic viability. The Southeast Commission Report identified in the urban core 4,791 housing units, 4,334 are occupied- 1,598 owner-occupied and 2,736 renter properties. About 10 percent (457) are vacant at any one time. Benton Harbor is not an isolated urban case nor is this city's situation rare. Benton Harbors exist in every state in America. "Placed within a larger political-economy, city governments are captives of many slowly changing forces that shape and limit community choices...some of these dependency relationships are a result of historic impact on urban economic development" (Kantor, 1988).

Benton Harbor is a small urban community that possesses many challenges of urban America and its low population facilitates sampling and survey research efforts. Therefore, due to the exploratory nature of this research, quantitative methods were used in this study to gather data. The quantitative portion of this study will be concerned with reliability and the replicability of the findings (Rist, 1977, p.45).

The strategy is to obtain relational linkages of individual perceptions, knowledge and attitudes toward the Benton Harbor community as a whole. These linkages will be foundational constructs in developing indicators for Community Dependency Syndrome.

The survey research sought not only a description of individual perceptions, but also an exploration of the relationships of independent variables: gender, race, residence, income-status, and other demographic factors.

Research Hypotheses and Assumptions

Hypothesis I An inverse relationship exists between participation and apathy (**high participation = apathy**).

The level of an individual's participation is predicated upon the belief that s/he has an opportunity to influence and affect his/her situation. If citizens feel hopeless, the level of participation is low or non-existent. Schwerin (1995, p.7) states, "Empowerment is a core value in neighborhood restoration, and community mediation is viewed by many of its advocates as a transformational social movement that has the potential to empower not only economic developers but also the urban core leaders as well as the community". Empowerment aids citizens' self-esteem and belief that they are stakeholders of change.

Hypothesis II Lower levels of economic viability generate lower individual attitudes toward the restoration of the community environment (**high economic viability = high attitudes**).

All communities must have social infrastructure founded in some common identity and livelihood to build networking relationships and a stronger resource pool at the local level. However, "an external restriction on autonomy of will, economic deprivation can also indirectly produce internal limits, by greatly reducing an

individual's cultural and educational experience, poverty (external constraint) can surface in restricted intellectual abilities and dispositions"(New York Press, 1990, p. 13). This is a common factor in communities like Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Hypothesis III A positive correlation exists between community knowledge and autonomy (**low knowledge = low autonomy**).

Local officials and their constituents must possess knowledge of the functions and procedures and developmental factors in order to gain influence and make input on their behalf. "External constraints typically interfere with the exercise of autonomy, as with deception or censorship. They either suggest spurious possibilities, which misdirect the individual's thinking or keep them ignorant of pertinent information" (New York Press, 1990, p.12). Community advocates and citizens must begin to evaluate and develop long-term plans that require dedication and realistic goals for community change, knowledge and autonomy. Autonomy in judgement is "thinking for one's self", it is a matter of forming beliefs on the basis of evidence, reasoning from similar cases, and anticipating contingencies as well as estimating their likelihood (New York Press, 1990).

Hypothesis IV Assuming the foregoing three hypothetical relationships are validated, respondents will *exhibit high levels of dependency characteristics*, and perceive that the *community's economic status is permanent*. (**apathy, low economic viability, knowledge, and low participation dependency beliefs = CDS**).

Description of Variables

Dependent Variables

Six dependent variables were employed in this study:

- (1) Attitudes toward community social and public structures,

- (2) Perceived levels of social viability and networks,
- (3) Levels of formal and informal knowledge individuals possess and know about their community,
- (4) Individual perceptions of autonomy of their community,
- (5) The general levels of apathy individuals possess, and
- (6) Perceived dependence of their city.

The mean of the responses across the seven attitude items (Section I of questionnaire) created an attitude index score. Similarly, an economic viability, apathy, autonomy and IDS index score was computed for the mean of the responses across five belief items (See Sections II, IV, V, VI). Knowledge and Participation, (Sections III and Section VII respectively) uses a net correct response to ten factual questions.

Independent Variables

Eight independent variables were employed in this study: gender, residence, age, income-status, home-ownership, occupation, percentage of income earned in the city limits, and sources of income.

1. Individual Community Attitudes:

Definition: The composite of *positions or postures* assumed by individuals in connection with a set of given *actions or events* a respondent is knowledgeable of or has experienced.

Sample question: Does Benton Harbor's officials provide enough parks and recreational programs for the city's youth?

Coding: Community attitudes will be measured through a seven-item scale constructed by the researcher using a Likert-type response pattern of Excellent (4), Good

(3), Fair (2), and Poor (1). Responses were coded from one to four with four assigned as excellent (a strong positive representing the high end of the scale) and one assigned as poor (or strong negative at the low end of the scale).

Alpha Score: The seven-item measure exhibited the following alpha value of 0.76 (See Appendix B).

2. Economic Viability

Definition: The individual's perception of the community's ability to develop sufficiently *workable and practical solutions* to its economic *situation* that has long-term financial sustainability.

Sample question: Is job training and placement programs are reducing the need for welfare in my community?

Coding: Respondents' perceptions of Benton Harbor's economic viability was the second predictor variable. Economic viability levels were measured through a five-item scale constructed by the researcher using a Likert-type response pattern of (SA), Strongly Agree (A) Agree, (UD) Undecided, (DA) Disagree, and (SDA) Strongly Disagree.

Responses were coded from one to five, with five assigned to strongly agree (representing the high end of the scale) and one assigned to strongly disagree (or a strong negative at the low end) of the scale.

Alpha Score: The five-item measure exhibited the following alpha score 0.47 (See Appendix B).

3. Community Knowledge

Definition: An individual's range, level of information, formal and informal knowledge and awareness of the specific state of its community and local political funding issues.

Sample Question: Do you know of any local political plans that work to encourage citizen participation?

Coding: Individual levels of community knowledge was the third predictor variable. Community knowledge was measured through a four-item scale constructed by the researcher using a Likert-type response scale of (4) great deal of knowledge, (3) some knowledge, (2) little knowledge, and (1) no knowledge. Responses were coded from one to four with four assigned to great deal of knowledge (representing the high end of the scale) and one assigned to knowledge (the low end of the scale).

Alpha Score: The ten-item measure exhibited the following alpha value .85 (See Appendix B).

4. Community Autonomy

Definition: An individual's perceptions of the community's ability to function independently without continuous welfare and ability to have its government function reliably without strict external controls.

Sample Question: Can Benton Harbor become independent again with long term community and job development?

Coding: Individual perceptions of autonomy was the fourth predictor variable. Community autonomy was measured through a five-item scale constructed by the researcher using a Likert-type response pattern of (SA) strongly agree, (A) agree, (UD)

undecided, (DA) disagree, (SDA) strongly disagree. Responses were coded from one to five with five assigned to strongly agree (representing the high end of the scale) and one assigned to autonomy (representing the low end of the scale).

Alpha Score: The four-item measure exhibited the following alpha value 0.63 (See Appendix B).

5. Social Apathy

Definition: Apathy represents the perception that an issue is general deemed to be important or a critical event, or situation is not important in relation to his/her current life circumstances, as s/he perceives it.

Sample Question: Does Benton Harbor has too many problems?

Community apathy was measured through a ten-item scale constructed by the researcher using a Likert-type response pattern of (SA) strongly agree, (A) agree, (UD) undecided, (DA) disagree, (SDA) strongly disagree. Responses were coded from one to five with five assigned as strongly agree (a strong positive representing the high end of the scale) and one assigned as strongly disagree (at the low end of the scale).

Alpha Score: The ten-item measure exhibited the following alpha value 0.74 (See Appendix B).

6. Community Dependency Syndrome

Definition: Individual perceptions of a community's inability to progress toward sustained levels of autonomy.

Sample Question: Will the city always be dependent on state welfare and other grants?

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Coding: Respondents' perceptions of Benton Harbor's individual dependency syndrome was the sixth predictor variable. Community Dependency Syndrome levels were measured through a five-item scale constructed by the researcher using a Likert-type response pattern of (SA), Strongly Agree (A) Agree, (UD) Undecided, (DA) Disagree, and (SDA) Strongly Disagree. Responses were coded from one to five assigned to strongly agree (representing the high end of the scale) and one assigned to strongly disagree (or a strong negative at the low end) of the scale **Alpha Score:** The five-item measure exhibited the following alpha score 0.67 (See **Appendix B**).

7. Participation

Definition: The level of *involvement* a person or a group of persons devote to community action, in local political or nonprofit organizations in the neighborhood.

Sample Question: Do you regularly attend any meeting of the local school board, PTA, City Council or any other public policy body?

Coding: Community participation was measured through an eight-item scale constructed by the researcher using yes and no responses. Responses were tallied and summed by assigning 1 = yes and 0 = no, thus giving participants a cumulative score. A total score of eight indicating high participation and a score of zero indicating no participation.

Alpha Score: The eight-item measure exhibited the following alpha value 0.66 (See **Appendix B**).

Research Approach

The choice of methodology for this study was governed by the dictum that the research must fit the research questions and goals of the study. According to Kantor,

Kirby, and Goetz (1981, p.295), decisions on whether to use quantitative or qualitative methodologies should be based on the goals of the research.

The objectives are the following: 1) Assess whether the six dependent variables Community (individual) Attitudes, Economic Viability, Community Knowledge, Community Autonomy, Social Apathy, Individual Dependency Syndrome, Participation have an effect on the independent variable (Community Dependency Syndrome). 2) Test the hypotheses and research assumptions. 3) Develop indices that would be useful in analyzing other urban areas for CDS. 4) Present useful data for future recommendations and further development of this theory.

The review of the literature in Chapters II and III revealed that a variety of factors can or do affect individual's perceptions of community autonomy as opposed to community dependency. However, there is very little research developed that the very sources of aid to these communities are also the entities causing Community Dependency Syndrome (CDS).

Questionnaire Development

In order to attain the objectives of this research, it was essential, for reasons of relevance and validity, to obtain ideas for instrument development from various sources. Before constructing the survey instrument, an extensive examination of the community development literature was conducted to identify the most prevalent and/or pressing community issues affecting urban areas. From the literature review, the main urban issues and concerns were identified, as well as the most important economic and governmental issues creating urban dilemma. The author developed questions and scaled

community items from previous community surveys and journal articles to develop a comprehensive survey.

While it is understood that the information collected through a survey may not be as comprehensive as other methods (observation, participant focus groups, etc.), there is a limited amount of available studies on Dependent Communities indicating a critical need for information now. Therefore, this research project intends to satisfy a need for foundational characteristic building that can be used for aggregate community analysis in the future.

Because mailed flyers involve the use of human subjects to obtain information, the researcher first obtained permission from the University Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects (UCRIHS) for the intended research. An application, describing the project safeguards and ensuring the participants anonymity and confidentiality, was filed with UCRIHS. UCHRS determined that the rights and welfare of the subjects appeared to be adequately protected and that the methods used to obtain informed consent were appropriate. Thus, the survey was allowed to proceed.

A cover letter was enclosed briefly explaining the survey purpose and the respondents' role in data collection. It informed them of their rights and by their attending the survey session expressed their full cooperation. Also, all participants were notified at the end of each session and the completion of a survey there will be an opportunity to win a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize monetary award.

Pilot Questionnaire

The pilot study was mainly used to strengthen the validity and reliability of the survey instrument proposed to be used in the quantitative phase of the study.

Specifically, the data collection effort involved the collection of demographic and attitudinal factors using a structural questionnaire. A construct represents the hypothesis that a variety of behaviors will correlate with one another in studies of individual differences (Nunnally, 1978). Reliability testing strengthens both the construct and content validity of the instrument, this kind of testing act as a guide to ensure a researcher's questions are focused on the research objectives.

The pilot questionnaire consisted of 8 attitude items, 6 economic viability items, 10 knowledge items, 7 community autonomy items, 10 apathy items, 5 individual dependency items, 8 participation items, and 13 demographic items. After respondents completed the questionnaire, they were asked how clear or comfortable they were about each operationalized statement, and whether the statement was placed and worded correctly. The pilot study was used to determine whether any questions should be revised, omitted or added for clarity in order to strengthen the survey instrument. After the pilot-study, one community attitude item and one economic viability item were found to be difficult and were consequently rejected. All of the community participation, apathy, and individual dependency variables were retained, but many of them were revised in light of the items that presented a problem to the respondents during the pilot questionnaire.

Final Questionnaire - The final questionnaire consisted of 7 community attitude items, 5 economic viability items, 10 knowledge items, 7 community autonomy items, 10 community apathy items, 5 individual community dependency items, 8 community participation items and 13 demographic items (see Appendix A). The instrument reflects the purpose of the research. The completion time for the survey, as determined

by pretest respondents was 20 to 30 minutes, short enough to allow participants to complete in it one sitting. Several survey questions from the Center for Urban Affairs; North Lansing Community Survey were used. However, the researcher designed the major portion of the survey instrument. Therefore, primary contributions of this instrument are from the field Community Resource Development and the development of Community Dependency Syndrome index of practical indices, and the exploration of the linkages between the theories and assumptions. Eight types of questionnaire items were constructed: (1) items that measure individual community attitudes; (2) items that measure perceived levels of economic viability; (3) items that measure knowledge about funding and community development policies; (4) items that measure perceptions of community autonomy; (5) items that measure perceived levels of apathy; (6) items that measures citizens' perceived levels individual dependency; (7) items that measure the level of citizens community participation; and (8) demographic items. The attitude items were intended to measure how people saw their current local institutions. The viability items were intended to measure programs and services effectiveness in the community. The knowledge items were intended to measure the amount of in/formal knowledge residents had. The autonomy items were intended to measure the community resourcefulness and ability to be independent. The apathy items were intended to measure the level of hopelessness of citizens. The dependency items were intended to measure perceived levels of the community dependency factors. The participation items were intended to measure citizens' levels of involvement.

Research Sample

There are approximately 4,791 households in the city Benton Harbor, thus the researcher used purposive sampling to survey research sample. Thus, the exploratory nature of community dependency theory the researcher is proposing small sample data to support hypothesis. The author is quite familiar with the case-study area and familiar with the characteristics of the community thus, providing an excellent case-study because of the limited scope of researcher's study area (Singleton, Straits & Straits, 1993). Due to the high levels of teenage mothers and single-parent households, the author wanted varied perceptions about Benton Harbor. As previously stated, choosing Benton Harbor was relatively easy because it has many of the characteristics of the phenomena in excess. Also, it provided an array of sample that could be studied within the time and financial constraints of the agenda.

Number of respondents

There were 296 notices mailed to neighborhood parents, of which 72 people completed surveys or 24% response of mailed surveys, which is 6% of the population of inner city Benton Harbor. As demonstrated in **Table 4.1**, the sample population is somewhat skewed from the population of Benton Harbor, Michigan. The respondents represent a wide array of backgrounds, and elevated levels of income and educational status.

COMPARING SAMPLE DATA TO CENSUS DATA

Selecting residents from the boundary area

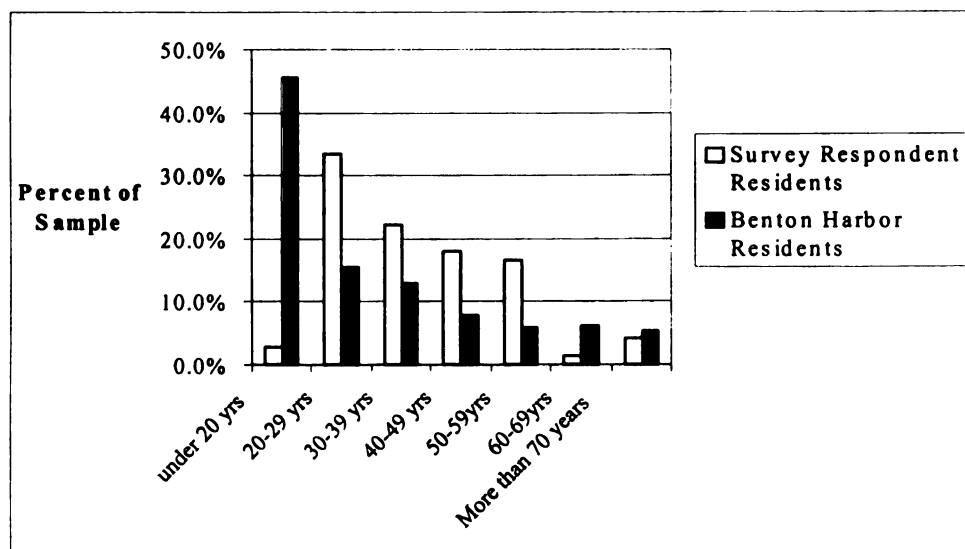
The boundary area chosen by the researcher for this study was the 49022 zip code area, referred to as Benton Harbor inner city residents throughout this report. The zip

code area focused on the Benton Harbor city residents only. The total number of valid household addresses was 296. The number of households participating in the survey session was 72. The response rate for this survey was nearly 25%, which is somewhat lower than expected based on comparable surveys of this type. Therefore, it is useful to examine how closely the survey respondents' match the characteristics of the overall boundary area in the 1990 Census. It was not necessary for the researcher to do follow-up calls to increase household participation. This will help readers to determine the extent to which the results can be generalized to the city of Benton Harbor.

Comparisons based on age

The survey respondents tended to have a higher representation of households with residents over the age of 30 as shown in **Figure 1**. This is partially explained by the fact that many of the younger residents are not homeowners, community participants, and active in school organizations. Otherwise, the age distribution in the survey generally reflected the distribution of the Benton Harbor area population. Age was not a relevant characteristic of this sample because people under 18 years old were not selected.

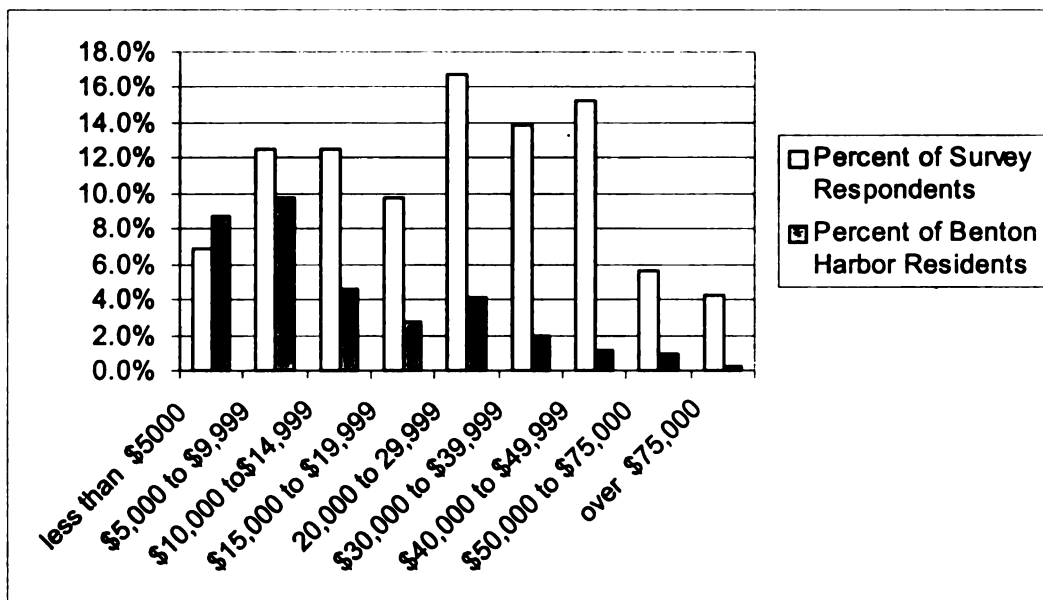
Figure 1



Comparisons based on household income type

The survey respondents tended to have higher household incomes than the Benton Harbor area as shown in **Figure 2**. This suggests that the figures contained in this research may be somewhat skewed, and the information could be a factor in research data.

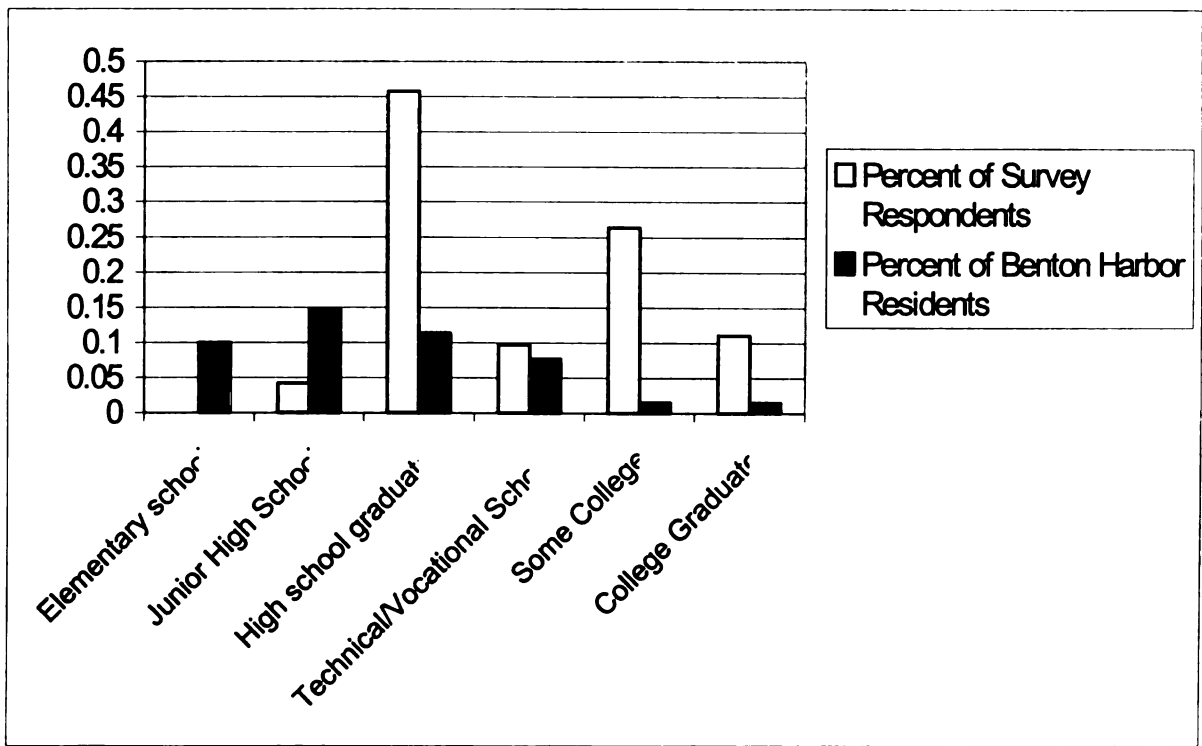
Figure 2



Comparisons based on education level

The education background of the survey respondents approximated the type of education levels found in the Benton Harbor area shown below in **Figure 3**. The survey under-represented the population of people without high school diplomas and over represents the technical, associates, and college degree recipients.

Figure 3



Characteristics of Sample

Demographic information was collected on all subjects who participated in the survey. One purpose of the collection of this information was to provide an overview of the population that participated in the case study. Data were also collected to analyze differences between ages, male and female, employment within city limits, and

educational levels of the citizens. Distribution of demographic characteristics is shown in **Table 4.1**.

TABLE 4.1
Demographic Characteristics – Sample Population

Demographic Characteristics	Level	Number	Percent
Gender	Male	27	37.5
	Female	45	62.5
Age	Under 20 yrs.	2	2.8
	20 - 29 yrs	24	33.3
	30 - 39 yrs	16	22.2
	40 - 49 yrs	13	18.1
	50 - 59 yrs	12	16.7
	60 - 69 yrs	1	1.4
	70 + yrs	3	4.2
Income Level	Less Than \$5,000	5	6.9
	\$5,000 TO \$9,999	9	12.5
	\$10,000 TO \$14,999	9	12.5
	\$15,000 TO \$19,999	7	9.7
	\$20,000 TO \$29,999	12	16.7
	\$30,000 TO \$39,999	10	13.9
	\$40,000 TO \$49,999	11	15.3
	\$50,000 TO \$75,000	4	5.6
Education Level	Over \$75,000	3	4.2
	Elementary School	0	0
	Junior High School	3	4.2
	High School	33	45.8
	Trade/Vocational School	7	9.7
	Some College	19	26.4
Years in the City	College Graduate	8	11.1
	0 - 10 years	6	8.6
	10 - 20 years	11	15.7
	20 - 30 years	23	32.9
	30 - 40 years	16	22.9
	40 - 50 years	8	11.4
	50 - 60 years	3	4.3
	60 - 70 years	1	1.4

Total Sample Size = 72

Age/Gender

The respondents' ages ranged from less than 20 years to over 70 years of age. A majority of the respondents was between the ages of 20-39 years; 45 or (62.5%) of the respondents were female. Overall perspective of the sample population from the community is different.

TABLE 4.2
Demographic Characteristics of Benton Harbor – 1990 Census Data

Demographic Characteristics	Level	Number	Percent
Gender	Male	5,799	45.2
	Female	7,019	54.8
Age	Under 20 yrs	5,821	45.4
	20 - 29 yrs	1,975	15.4
	30 - 39 yrs	1,671	13.0
	40 - 49 yrs	1,011	7.9
	50 - 59 yrs	760	5.9
	60 - 69 yrs	800	6.2
	70 + yrs	680	5.3
Income Level	Less Than \$5,000	1,110	8.7
	\$5,000 TO \$9,999	1,254	9.8
	\$10,000 TO \$14,999	592	4.6
	\$15,000 TO \$19,999	351	2.7
	\$20,000 TO \$29,999	521	4.1
	\$30,000 TO \$39,999	248	1.9
	\$40,000 TO \$49,999	160	1.2
	\$50,000 TO \$75,000	115	.90
	Over \$75,000	24	.20
Educational Level	Elementary School	1,270	10.0
	Junior High School	1880	14.7
	High School	1,450	11.3
	Trade/Vocational School	993	7.7
	Some College	197	1.5
	College Graduate	197	1.5
Years in the City	N/A	N/A	N/A

Total Sample Size = 12,818

Number of respondents

The researcher mailed 296 surveys to neighborhood parents, of which 72 people completed surveys or 24% response to mailed surveys, which is .006% of the city of Benton Harbor. As demonstrated in **Table 4.1**, the sample population is somewhat reflective of the city. The respondents represent a wide array of backgrounds, income and educational status.

Place of Employment

Over thirty-one percent (31.0) of respondents earned 10% or less of their income within the city limits and only 12.9% of the citizens earn over 75% of their income outside Benton Harbor city limits. Survey respondents income ranged from less than \$5,000 to over \$75,000 annual income.

Educational Level

Twenty-six (26) or 37.1% of respondents indicated that they had attended some college or trade/vocational school. Eight (8) or 11.4% indicated that they had obtained a college degree and thirty-three or 47.1% had completed high school. The response group had an exceptionally high response compared to the population at large educational level.

Data Collection

The questionnaires were administered to the research sample (which consisted of households of students living in Benton Harbor, Michigan) during May of 1997. Two hundred and ninety-six (296) were mailed to these households announcing the survey session. The school's assistant principal and guidance counselors told of the survey session during the school announcements, asking to students to remind their parents and/or legal guardians. Seventy-two surveys were collected, 21 surveys in the morning

session, and 51 surveys in the evening. The researcher for the research sample used all of the surveys collected.

The decision to use a mailed flyer to obtain the sample population for collection of data about Community Dependency Syndrome was chosen because it offered the most information-given monetary and time constraints. Campbell & Fiske (1959) argued that more than one method should be used in the validation process to ensure that the variance reflected that of the trait and not that of the method. For organizational researchers this would involve the use of multiple methods to examine the same dimensions of a research problem to improve the accuracy of their judgments by collecting different kinds of data for the same phenomenon (Jick, 1979).

The researcher administered the survey in room 101 at Fairplain Junior High School and collected the survey as each citizen completed the form. Only a few questions about the rating system were asked and the researcher briefly explained the sections. Basically, it was explained that there were no right or wrong answers, just the residents' levels of perceptions about their community.

Statistical Techniques for Quantitative Data Analysis

Because the main purpose of this study was to measure the individual perceptions of community attitudes, economic viability, knowledge, autonomy, dependency, and participation, suitable test items were developed and selected from other sources within these broad categories.

The following statistical techniques will be used:

1. **Frequencies** were used to assess the frequency of responses on each item and the frequency on gender, age, length of residence, and employment location.

2. **Analysis of variance (ANOVA)** was used to test significance of the differences in attitudes and perceptions of the Benton Harbor respondents.
3. **Correlations** were used to investigate the relationships that might exist between the dependent variables.
4. **Regression analysis** was used to show the combined effects of a set of independent variables and the separate effects of each independent variable while controlling for the others on the attitude and perception index scores.
5. **Chi-square** was used to check significance of difference of the responses on the knowledge items.
6. **Descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation)** were employed to show general perceptions of respondents on each category of the questionnaire.

Results of the data analysis are presented in Chapter IV.

CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

The purpose of this chapter is to present the analysis of data concerning the hypotheses, and exploratory findings of the residents' community attitudes, community economic viability, levels of community knowledge, individual dependency, community apathy and community participation. Results are presented by giving a statistical analysis of the quantitative data and through descriptive statistics. Quantitative data are reported in an effort to give an objective and detailed description of the research findings. The research sample responding to the survey consisted of 296 households in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

The researcher used one or more techniques to achieve the objectives of the study or to test the research hypothesis. Accordingly, the first section of this chapter provides an overview of sample characteristics, and the second part is concerned with the hypothesis.

Quantitative Data Analysis

H1: An inverse relationship exists between community participation and community apathy.

The Pearson correlation coefficient was used to test the relationship between participation and apathy. The correlation matrix for this analysis is presented in **Table 4.3**. The results illustrate that participation was not statistically significant, and did support the null hypothesis. However participation is negatively correlated with apathy ($r = -0.555$, $P > 0.05$). Thus, the relationship between participation and apathy shows a negative trend. However it was not statistically significant at the .05 confidence level.

The community participation section of the questionnaire consisted of eight items (1-8) (See **Appendix A**). The respondents' mean score ranged from 0.00 to 8.00 and standard deviation of 1.59. The reliability of the community participation scale was estimated using coefficient alpha value .76 (Cronbach). The community apathy section of the questionnaire consisted of ten items (1-10) (See **Appendix A**). The respondents' mean score ranged from 1.00 to 4.30 and standard deviation of 0.71. The reliability of the community apathy scale was estimated using coefficient alpha value .74 (Cronbach).

H2: Low levels of economic viability produce lower individual attitudes toward the restoration of their environment.

The Pearson correlation coefficient was used to test the relationship between economic viability and community attitudes. The correlation matrix for this analysis is presented in **Table 4.3**. The results illustrate that economic viability is positively correlated and statistically significant with community attitudes ($r = .4573$, $P < 0.05$). Thus, the relationship between economic viability and community attitudes did support the research hypothesis and was statistically significant at the 0.05 confidence level.

The economic viability section of the questionnaire consisted of five items (1-5) (See **Appendix A**). The respondents mean score ranged from 1.00 to 4.75 and standard deviation of 0.71. The reliability of the economic viability scale was estimated using coefficient alpha value .47.

The community attitude section of the questionnaire consisted of items (1-7) (See **Appendix A**). The respondents' mean score ranged from 1.14 to 3.43 and standard deviation of 0.53. The reliability of community attitude scale was estimated using coefficient alpha value .74 (Cronbach).

H3: A positive correlation exists between knowledge and autonomy because deficient levels of knowledge produce lower levels of autonomy.

The Pearson correlation coefficient was used to test the relationship between knowledge and autonomy. The correlation matrix for this analysis is present in **Table 4.3**. The results illustrate that knowledge is positively correlated and statistically significant with autonomy ($r = .2100$, $P < 0.05$). Thus the findings are consistent with the hypotheses and is statistically significant at the .05 confidence level.

The knowledge section of the questionnaire consists of ten items (1-10) (See **Appendix A**). The respondents' mean scored ranged from 1.00 to 4.00 and standard deviation of 0.62. The reliability of the knowledge scale was estimated using coefficient alpha value .85 (Cronbach).

The autonomy section of the questionnaire consists of 4 items (1-4) (See **Appendix A**). The respondents' mean score ranged from 1.00 to 4.75 and standard deviation of 0.81. The reliability of the community autonomy scale was estimated using coefficient alpha value .63 (Cronbach).

TABLE 4.3
Correlation of Individual Perceptions of Community Processes

Var	N	Mean	Std Dev	CORRELATION MATRIX TABLE						
				comatt	comap	know	comauto	ecovia	compart	indsyn
1	72	2.11	0.5268	.76						
2	71	2.30	0.7120	0.0630	.74					
3	72	1.99	0.6228	0.3680	-0.0858	.85				
4	72	2.35	0.8131	0.3805	0.1568	0.2030	.63			
5	72	2.69	0.7130	0.4573	0.1374	0.4350	0.4555	.47		
6	72	1.79	1.5917	0.0774	-0.0555	0.0242	-0.1174	0.0970	.66	
7	72	2.26	0.6887	0.1084	0.3753	0.1524	0.2749	0.2563	-0.0105	.67

(Reliabilities of all dependent variables are diagonally inserted)

(comatt - community attitudes, comap - community apathy, know – knowledge, comauto – community autonomy, ecovia – economic viability, compart – community participation, indsyn – individual syndrome)

H4: Assuming the proposed three hypothetical relationships are true, individuals will exhibit high levels of dependency characteristics, and as a whole individuals perceive that at the aggregate level their communities economic status is relatively permanent.

One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to test this hypothesis, which used individual perceptions of the level of Individual Dependency Syndrome in their community. Based on the overall scale of dependency syndrome, the hypothesis is supported by the data. Survey respondents (1.21) displayed characteristics of IDS and it is statistically significant $F(6,64) = 2.97$, $P = 0.0127$ at the .05 confidence level.

The individual dependency syndrome section of the questionnaire consists of five items (1-5) (See Appendix A). The respondents' mean score ranged from 1.76 to 2.78 and standard deviation of 0.69. The five-item measure exhibited the following alpha value of .67.

Table 4.4
Beta Regression Significance

Variable	B	T	Sig T
Comatt	-.0951	-.555	.5808
Ecovia	.1067	.778	.5805
Know	.1394	.990	.3259
Comauto	.1482	1.343	.1839
Comap	.3400	3.067	.0032
Compart	.0096	.197	.8448

Results of Individual Dependency Syndrome Section

The results of the Individual Dependency Syndrome (positive correlation of all six variables with IDS) are statistically significant at the .05 level and are worthy of further investigation. However, when the six variables were analyzed individually to test whether they were significant, community apathy (commap shown above **Table 4.4**) was the only variable statistically significant at the .05 confidence level. Even though, the other variables were not statistically significant they show a trend toward being a predictor of the IDS. Further exploration of the predictor values' impact on individual citizens' perceptions is needed.

Discussion of the Findings

Generally, the findings were consistent with research hypothesis. However Hypothesis I was not statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. Even though, its reliability value was considerably valid (0.75). Participation did not strongly correlate or affect Individual Dependency Syndrome. The data did not support the hypothesis, however given the sample size and the income and educational homogeneity further research must be employed to determine if participation has an affect upon individual perceptions of dependency.

Hypothesis II and Hypothesis III were statistically significant at the .05 confidence level and this make future research efforts worthwhile.

The primary purpose of this study was to assess residents' attitudes, knowledge and awareness toward community development in their area. The secondary purpose was to determine whether linkages existed between political processes and general perception community development. Three objectives served as a basis for this study:

Objective I - The development of a set of community indices and building a foundational groundwork for community dependency mitigation.

Objective II - To measure dependency and to test assumptions about participation, knowledge, attitude, apathy, viability and autonomy in relation to sustainable community building.

OBJECTIVE III - To increase awareness at local levels of how welfare programs create community dependency syndrome and how it affects individual perceptions.

Post Hoc Analysis

Demographic variables were analyzed to assess whether they were causal or spurious factors affecting the dependent variable in this research paper. Further analyses of these variables are shown in the tables below. An assessment of the demographic variables will evaluate to measure whether there was significant impact upon the six dependent variables. In addition, demographic information was collected on all subjects who participated in the survey. One purpose for the collection of this data was to provide an overview of the population that was surveyed in the case study.

Demographics Table 1A

What is your marital status	Ids	Comat	Ecovia	Know	Comauto	Comap	Compart
Single							
Mean	2.3600	2.0857	2.6400	2.1406	2.0240	2.2680	1.4000
N	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Std. Dev	.6455	.4518	.6336	.6663	.8857	.6203	1.1541
% of Total N	34.7%	34.7%	34.7%	34.7%	34.7%	35.2%	34.7%
Married							
Mean	2.1500	2.0938	2.7109	1.8719	2.2250	2.2680	2.3774
N	32	32	32	32	32	31	32
Std. Dev	.6284	.6111	.7908	.6103	.6380	.8078	1.7060
% of Total N	44.4%	44.4%	44.4%	44.4%	44.4%	44.4%	44.4%
Divorced							
Mean	2.4000	2.1071	2.8125	2.0176	2.3167	2.3000	2.5833
N	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Std. Dev	.9420	.3859	.7161	.5656	.6793	.7311	1.9752
% of Total N	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.9%	16.7%
Widowed							
Mean	1.7000	2.5000	2.3750	1.5500	3.4000	1.8000	1.0000
N	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Std. Dev	.4243	1.1112	.8839	.4950	.5657	.0000	1.4142
% of Total N	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%
Other							
Mean	2.2000	2.2857	2.2500	2.4000	2.0000	2.0000	2.0000
N	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Std. Dev	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
% of Total N	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%
Total							
Mean	2.258	2.1071	2.6875	1.9879	2.2000	2.3042	1.7917
N	72	72	72	72	72	72	72
Std. Dev	.6887	.5268	.7130	.6228	.7573	.7120	1.5917

Marital Status

The survey residents responded strongly to economic viability (ecovia) their sample mean scores were 2.64, 2.71 and 2.81 respectively. The respondents had the greatest standard deviations in perceptions of community participation (compart) shown above in **Table 1A**. The survey residents that were widowed responded greatest to community autonomy (comauto) and because of the low representation there is not

sufficient information to report standard deviations. The majority of respondents who participated in the survey were married approximately 44 percent.

Demographics Table 1B

			F	Sig.
IDS *what is your marital status	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.780	.542
Commatt scale *what is your marital status	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.310	.870
Ecovia scale *what is your marital scale	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.306	.873
Know scale *what your marital status	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	1.018	.405
Commauto scale *what is your marital status	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	1.763	.147
Commmap scale *what is your marital status	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.81	.822
Commport scale *what is your marital status	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	1.277	.288

The Pearson correlation coefficient was used to test the relationship between marital status and the dependent variables. The data for this analysis are shown above in **Table 1B**. The results illustrate that marital status was not statistically significant at the .05 confidence level. The married respondents were tested because they were the largest participants in the survey research.

Demographics Table 2A

What is your gender	Ids	Comat	Ecovia	Know	Comauto	Comap	Compart
Male							
Mean	2.3556	2.1111	2.6667	1.8778	2.0741	2.0167	1.6296
N	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
Std. Dev	.7067	.5095	.6163	.5373	.8212	.6276	1.2136
% of Total N	37.5%	37.5%	37.5%	37.5%	37.5%	38.0%	37.5%
Female							
Mean	2.1911	2.1048	2.7000	2.0539	2.2756	2.3667	1.8296
N	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
Std. Dev	.6782	.5426	.7717	.6659	.7151	.6276	1.2136
% of Total N	62.5%	62.5%	62.5%	62.5%	62.5%	62.5%	62.5%
Total							
Mean	2.2528	2.1071	2.6875	1.9879	2.2000	2.3042	2.5833
N	71	72	72	72	72	71	72
Std. Dev	.6887	.5268	.7130	.6228	.7573	.7120	1.5917

Gender

Male survey respondents had higher mean scores than female respondents in the following areas: individual dependency syndrome (IDS) 2.36 and 2.19, community attitude (commatt) 2.11 and 2.10. Female survey respondents had higher mean scores in the following areas: economic viability (ecovia) 2.70 and 2.67, knowledge (know) 2.05 and 1.88, community autonomy (commauto) 2.28 and 2.07, community apathy (commap) 2.37 and 2.02, community participation (commpart) 1.83 and 1.63. Both male and female respondents had the greatest standard deviation in the area of community participation. See above **Table 2A** for data results.

Demographics Table 2B

			F	Sig.
IDS *what is your gender	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.961	.330
Commatt scale *what is your gender	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.002	.961
Ecovia scale *what is your gender	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.036	.849
Know scale *what your gender	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	1.356	.248
Commauto scale *what is your gender	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	1.198	.278
Commap scale *what is your gender	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.332	.566
Commport scale *what is your gender	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.444	.507

The Pearson correlation coefficient was used to test the relationship between gender and the dependent variables. The data for this analysis is shown above in **Table 2B**. The results illustrate that gender was not statistically significant at the .05 confidence level. The data shows that gender does not affect individual perceptions of dependency and is not a factor.

Demographics Table 3A

What is your age range	Ids	Comat	Ecovia	Know	Comauto	Comap	Compart
Under 20yrs							
Mean	2.8000	1.7857	2.3750	1.5000	1.8000	1.8000	1.5000
N	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Std. Dev	.5657	.1010	.5303	.1414	.0000	.8485	2.1213
% of Total N	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%
20 – 29 yrs							
Mean	2.1833	2.0238	2.6354	2.0667	1.8917	2.3000	1.1667
N	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
Std. Dev	.7221	.4471	.7517	.6155	.7956	.5816	1.3726
% of Total N	33.8%	33.8%	33.8%	33.8%	33.8%	33.8%	33.8%
30 – 39 yrs							
Mean	2.3250	1.9911	2.3744	1.7509	2.1875	2.3600	1.7500
N	16	16	16	16	16	15	16
Std. Dev	.7514	.6204	.7498	.5614	.8531	.8270	1.0646
% of Total N	22.5%	22.5%	22.5%	22.5%	22.5%	21.4%	22.5%
40 – 49 yrs							
Mean	2.4308	2.2088	2.7885	2.2855	2.5692	2.3923	2.3077
N	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
Std. Dev	.7514	.4270	.7349	.6704	.6704	.8836	1.3775
% of Total N	18.3%	18.3%	18.3%	18.3%	18.3%	18.3%	18.3%
50 – 59 yrs							
Mean	1.9667	2.4286	2.8333	2.1250	2.4000	2.0750	2.8333
N	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Std. Dev	.4418	.6418	.7411	.6107	.5970	.6283	2.2896
% of Total N	16.9%	16.9%	16.9%	16.9%	16.9%	17.1%	16.9%
60 – 69 yrs							
Mean	2.0000	2.2857	2.2500	1.5000	2.8000	3.5000	2.0000
N	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Std. Dev	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
% of Total N	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%
70+ yrs							
Mean	2.5333	1.9048	2.2500	1.4667	2.6000	2.5000	.3333
N	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Std. Dev	.4619	.4592	.4330	.3786	.3464	.6557	.5774
% of Total N	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%
Total							
Mean	2.2535	2.1107	2.6901	1.9961	2.2085	2.3029	1.7746
N	72	72	72	72	72	70	71
Std. Dev	.6936	.5297	.7177	.6233	.7593	.7171	1.5964

Age

The largest age range category of respondents was 20 – 29 yrs of age. This group had the highest mean score responding to economic viability at the 2.38 level.

Community participation had the greatest deviation when correlated with age, standard deviations ranging from 0.58 to 2.29. The data for this analysis are shown above in

Table 3A. Although the hypothesis that participation affected individual perceptions of dependency was not statistically significant, age when correlated with participation is statistically significant at the 05. confidence level.

Demographics Table 3B

			F	Sig.
IDS *what is your age range	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.852	.535
Commatt scale *what is your age range	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	1289.	.275
Ecovia scale *what is your age range	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.0446	.845
Know scale *what your age range	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	1.812	.111
Commauto scale *what is your age range	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	1.751	.124
Commap scale *what is your age range	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.911	.493
Commport scale *what is your age range	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	2.372	.039

The Pearson correlation coefficient was used to test the relationship between age and the dependent variables. The data for this analysis is shown above in **Table 3B.** The

results illustrate that age was statistically significant at the .05 confidence level with dependent variable community participation ($r=0.039$, $P>0.05$). Thus age has an impact upon community participation.

Demographics Table 4A

Considering all jobs and other income gross income range	Ids	Comatt	Ecovia	Know	Comauto	Comap	Compart
Less than \$5,000							
Mean	2.3600	2.1143	2.8500	2.1200	2.0800	2.3500	1.6000
N	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Std. Dev	.4980	.3833	.7416	.4970	.7694	.5000	1.1402
% of Total N	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%
\$5,000 - \$9,999							
Mean	2.3778	2.0794	2.5833	1.9111	1.9778	2.3667	1.2222
N	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Std. Dev	.6037	.5398	.5728	.9226	.8686	.5477	.8333
% of Total N	12.9%	12.9%	12.9%	12.9%	12.9%	13.0%	12.9%
\$10,000 - \$14,999							
Mean	1.7333	1.6984	2.4167	1.9222	1.9333	2.2556	1.1111
N	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Std. Dev	.5099	.4005	.4841	.5608	.4690	.5480	.9280
% of Total N	12.9%		12.9%	12.9%	12.9%	13.0%	12.9%
\$15,000 - \$19,999							
Mean	2.2857	1.9388	2.6786	1.9000	1.9714	2.1571	1.7143
N	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Std. Dev	.7559	.4194	.5537	.5033	.5589	.3690	2.1381
% of Total N	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
\$20,000 - \$29,999							
Mean	2.4833	2.4762	3.0417	1.9429	2.4333	2.0667	1.8333
N	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Std. Dev	.8021	.6542	.7600	.7610	.8348	.8261	1.3371
% of Total N	17.1%	17.1%	17.1%	17.1%	17.1%	17.4%	17.1%
\$30,000 - \$39,999							
Mean	2.1400	2.1429	2.8000	1.9000	2.3000	2.7100	1.5000
N	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Std. Dev	.5661	.6901	1.0462	.7364	.9854	.7593	2.4152
% of Total N	14.3%	14.3%	14.3%	14.3%	14.3%	14.5%	14.3%
\$40,000 - \$49,999							
Mean	2.3636	2.1688	2.6591	2.1283	2.3091	2.3273	2.8182
N	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Std. Dev	.9113	.3770	.5839	.5100	.7286	.7734	1.6624
% of Total N	15.7%	15.7%	15.7%	15.7%	15.7%	15.7%	15.7%
\$50,000 - \$75,000							
Mean	2.6000	2.1429	2.3125	2.3000	2.2000	2.2500	1.2500
N	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Std. Dev	.4899	.2608	.7181	.1826	.8485	.4933	.5000
% of Total N	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%
Over \$75,000							
Mean	1.9333	1.9524	2.2500	1.9667	2.6667	2.1333	3.6667
N	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Std. Dev	.6110	.3595	1.0897	.3215	.6110	1.8771	.5774
% of Total N	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%

Income

The greatest representation of respondents' income range was \$20,000 to \$29,000, \$40,000 to \$49,000, and \$30,000 to \$39,000. These groups of respondents mean scores were highest in the categories of economic viability, 3.04, 2.67, and 2.80 respectively. Community autonomy had mean scores of 2.43, 2.31, and 2.30. Community apathy respondents mean scores were the following 2.07, 2.33, and 2.71. The standard deviations of these groups ranges from 0.50 to 2.42, had the greatest variance in the category of community participation. The results are shown above in **Table 4A.**

Demographics Table 4B

			F	Sig.
IDS *	Between	(Combined)	1.130	.357
Considering all	Within Groups			
jobs and other	Total			
income gross				
income range				
Commatt	Between	(Combined)	1.642	.132
Considering all	Within Groups			
jobs and other	Total			
income gross				
income range				
Ecovia	Between	(Combined)	.0871	.545
Considering all	Within Groups			
jobs and other	Total			
income gross				
income range				
Know scale	Between	(Combined)	.277	.971
Considering all	Within Groups			
jobs and other	Total			
income gross				
income range				
Commauto	Between	(Combined)	.636	.744
Considering all	Within Groups			
jobs and other	Total			
income gross				
income range				
Commap	Between	(Combined)	.604	.771
Considering all	Within Groups			
jobs and other	Total			
income gross				
income range				
Commport	Between	(Combined)	1.641	.132
Considering all	Within Groups			
jobs and other	Total			
income gross				
income range				

The Pearson correlation coefficient was used to test the relationship between income range and the dependent variables. The data for this analysis are shown above in

Table 4B. The results illustrate that considering all jobs and other income was not statistically significant at the .05 confidence level.

Demographics Table 5A

Highest level of education	Ids	Comat	Ecovia	Know	Comauto	Comap	Compart
Jr. High School							
Mean	2.5333	1.9048	2.2500	1.4667	2.6000	2.5000	.3333
N	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Std. Dev	.4619	.4592	.4330	.3786	.3464	.6557	.5774
% of Total N	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3	4.3%
High school							
Mean	2.2000	2.0996	2.7197	2.0242	2.0970	2.4250	1.4848
N	33	33	33	33	33	33	33
Std. Dev	.6124	.5538	.6840	.6567	.7161	.6128	1.5637
% of Total N	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%	47.1%
Trade/vocational school							
Mean	2.3429	2.1837	2.8929	1.6306	2.6000	2.6000	1.8571
N	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Std. Dev	.9778	.4100	1.1624	.5979	1.1136	.9327	1.3452
% of Total N	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%
Some college							
Mean	2.2105	2.0827	2.6842	2.2211	2.1474	1.9632	1.8421
N	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
Std. Dev	.6616	.5539	.6762	.5779	.7770	.4705	1.5371
% of Total N	27.1%	27.1%	27.1%	27.1%	27.1%	27.1%	27.1%
College graduate							
Mean	2.4250	2.3036	2.8125	1.9514	2.1750	2.1000	3.2500
N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Std. Dev	.6616	.5477	.2216	.4726	.6964	.9181	1.4880
% of Total N	11.4%	11.4%	11.4%	11.4%	11.4%	11.4%	11.4%
Total							
Mean	2.2571	2.1184	2.7179	2.0061	2.1914	2.2812	1.7714
N	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
Std. Dev	.6929	.5295	.6915	.6207	.7648	.6785	1.5896

Educational Level

The respondents' educational level was concentrated in the categories of high school graduates, the second highest category was trade/vocational school and the least

high category was some college. Trade/vocational school respondents mean scores were higher in the categories of economic viability, community autonomy and community apathy, than any other group. The standard deviations of this group of respondents had the greatest variance in the categories of community autonomy and community participation. The data results shown above in **Table 5A**

Demographics Table 5B

			F	Sig.
IDS * highest level of education	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.328	.858
Commatt * highest level of education	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.411	.800
Ecovia * highest level of education	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.489	.744
Know scale * highest level of education	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	1.892	.122
Commauto * highest level of education	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.849	.500
Commap * highest level of education	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	2.145	.085
Commpart * highest level of education	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	2.919	.028

The Pearson correlation coefficient was used to test the relationship between educational level and the dependent variables. The data for this analysis are shown above in **Table 5B**. The results illustrate that educational level was statistically significant at the .05 confidence level with the dependent variable community participation ($r=0.028$, $P>0.05$). Thus, educational level appears to be related to

community participation. In addition, there is a significant relationship between the dependent variable community apathy and educational level at the .05 confidence interval level.

Demographics Table 6A

What is your housing type	Ids	Comat	Ecovia	Know	Comauto	Comap	Compart
Apartment/room							
Mean	2.0000	1.8367	2.7857	1.8500	2.1429	2.4643	1.7143
N	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Std. Dev	.8038	.5341	.8312	.7978	.8016	.7938	1.6375
% of Total N	19.4%	19.4%	19.4%	19.4%	19.4%	19.4%	19.4%
Mobile home							
Mean	1.8000	2.2857	3.2500	2.5000	3.0000	2.2000	1.0000
N	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Std. Dev	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
% of Total N	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%
condominium							
Mean	3.1000	2.2143	3.0000	2.5000	2.3000	2.6000	
N	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Std. Dev	1.5556	.5051	.3536	.4243	.4243	.	1.4142
% of Total N	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%
house							
Mean	2.2741	2.1640	2.6343	1.9820	2.2185	2.2389	1.8148
N	54	54	54	54	54	54	54
Std. Dev	.5985	.5210	.7016	.5750	.7526	.6924	1.6028
% of Total N	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%
Total							
Mean	2.2528	2.1071	2.6875	1.9879	2.2000	2.3042	1.7917
N	72	72	72	72	72	72	72
Std. Dev	.6887	.5268	.7130	.6228	.7573	.7120	1.5917

Housing Type

The greatest representation of respondent in terms of housing type was single family houses; the second highest group was apartment/room. The means scores of these respondents were higher in the categories of individual dependency syndrome, economic viability, and community autonomy and community apathy. The standard deviation for these groups of respondents was the greatest variance in the categories of community autonomy and community participation. The data results are shown above in

Table 6A

Demographics Table 6B

			F	Sig.
IDS What is your housing type	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	2.178	.081
Comat What is your housing type	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	1.238	.303
Ecovia What is your housing type	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.427	.789
Know scale What is your housing type	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	1.007	.410
Comauto What is your housing type	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.940	.446
Comap What is your housing type	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.927	.132
Compart What is your housing type	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.665	.618

The Pearson correlation coefficient was used to test the relationship between housing type and the dependent variables. The data for this analysis are shown above in

Table 6B. The results illustrate that housing type has a significant relationship to the dependent variable individual dependency syndrome. Thus, housing type has a relationship to individual dependency syndrome.

Demographics Table 7A

What kind of payments are made for the place you live	Ids	Comat	Ecovia	Know	Comauto	Comap	Compart
Other							
Mean	2.1000	2.1429	2.6250	2.4000	1.6000	2.3500	.5000
N	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Std. Dev	.9899	.8081	.1768	.4243	.2828	.7778	.7071
% of Total N	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%
Rent							
Mean	2.1308	1.9615	2.7212	1.9385	2.1923	2.3280	1.6923
N	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
Std. Dev	.7796	.4841	.7393	.7055	.8607	.6736	1.4077
% of Total N	36.1%	36.1%	36.1%	36.1%	36.1%	36.1%	36.1%
Mortgage payments							
Mean	2.2552	2.2069	2.7931	2.0492	2.2345	2.2103	1.7586
N	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
Std. Dev	.6695	.5658	.7649	.5914	.6303	.7664	1.4797
% of Total N	40.3%	40.3%	40.3%	40.3%	40.3%	40.3%	40.3%
Fully owned							
Mean	2.4800	2.1619	2.4333	1.9000	2.2000	2.3042	1.7917
N	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Std. Dev	.5171	.4885	.5784	.5669	.8548	.7069	2.1112
% of Total N	20.8%	20.8%	20.8%	20.8%	20.8%	20.8%	20.8%
Total							
Mean	2.2528	2.1071	2.6875	1.9879	2.2000	2.3042	1.7142
N	72	72	72	72	72	72	72
Std. Dev	.6887	.5268	.7130	.6228	.7573	.7120	1.5917

Housing Payments

The greatest representation with respect to type of housing payment was standard mortgage payments; the second highest category was rental payments. The mean scores of these respondents in this group were higher in the categories of, economic viability,

and community autonomy and community apathy. The standard deviations of these groups of respondents had the greatest variance in the categories of community participation and community autonomy. The data results are shown above in **Table 7A**

Demographics Table 7B

			F	Sig.
IDS What kind of payments are made for the place you live	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.843	.475
Comat What kind of payments are made for the place you live	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	1.069	.368
Ecovia What kind of payments are made for the place you live	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.867	.463
Know scale What kind of payments are made for the place you live	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.529	.664
Comauto What kind of payments are made for the place you live	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.435	.729
Comap What kind of payments are made for the place you live	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.352	.788
Compart What kind of payments are made for the place you live	Between Within Groups Total	(Combined)	.799	.499

The Pearson correlation coefficient was used to test the relationship between housing payment and the dependent variables. The data for this analysis are shown

above in **Table 7B**. The results illustrate that housing payment type was not statistically significant at the .05 confidence level

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

This chapter includes a summary of the purpose, objectives and methodology of the study. It is followed by conclusions drawn from data analysis. Recommendations are then made for additional research that relates to the problem.

Chapter One offers a background for this study. The case-study area is Benton Harbor, Michigan. The focus area consisted of a neighborhood within the city limits. The research question has to do with inner city residents and their involvement or lack thereof in community development in their community. The study focuses mainly on individual citizens' perceptions of their city's level of Community Dependency Syndrome (CDS). It also examines into how government welfare and development programs are affecting their perceptions of restoration of their community.

Chapter Two reviews the literature relevant to this research project. The literature review is focused on government interventions in relation to urban residents and to community development. This chapter illustrates theoretical constructs, definitions of community, and several misconceptions about the methodologies implemented by the national and state governments. Finally, this chapter establishes a foundational platform explaining how governmental aid is a major contributor to the development of Community Dependency Syndrome.

Chapter Three is the methodology and design section. In achieving the objectives of this study, responses to the questionnaire were reported and analyzed by one or more of the following techniques: (1) charts, (2) standard deviations, (3) analysis of variance,

(4) correlations, (5) regression analysis, (6) descriptive statistics (mean, median, standard deviation). Most results were presented in table form making them relatively easy to comprehend and interpret.

Over the past two decades, no community studies have been conducted on local residents' perceptions of community dependency syndrome, especially using citizens and perceptions of dependence as focal points of the study. The purpose of this chapter was to test whether positive or negative relationships exist between the predictor variables and Community Dependency Syndrome. It was critical that a set of CDS indices be established to build a theoretical framework. Thus, an examination and evaluation of our local political and community efforts in urban areas is needed. Prior studies were general, and did not examine individual perceptions of community attitudes, economic viability, knowledge, community autonomy, community apathy, and Individual Dependency Syndrome in relationship with community development.

Also, this chapter tests whether participation, knowledge, attitudes, apathy, viability and autonomy are positively correlated with sustainable community building. The Cronbach reliability analysis presented strong evidence that these predictors and community development correlated.

Chapter Four discusses the results, the results supports the research hypothesis, assumptions and objectives. In addition, the Post Hoc Analysis shows further statistical merit in the research project. The important results from the analysis are:

1. **Hypothesis I** – an inverse relationship exists between participation and apathy (high participation = low apathy) Community participation and community apathy were inversely correlated, however the relationship was not statistically significant at the

.05 confidence level. In addition, the participation in community events, programs were statistically significant when correlated with income, age, and marital status. This data indicate that further research should be done to assess community participation in relation to Community Dependency Syndrome.

2. **Hypothesis II** – Lower levels of economic viability relate to lower individual attitudes toward the restoration of the community environment (high economic viability = high community attitudes) Benton Harbor residents' perception of economic viability correlated positively with individual attitudes towards community restoration and was statistically significant at the .05 confidence interval. The quantitative results of the attitudinal section of the questionnaire found the Benton Harbor respondents to possess significantly more negative attitudes about the general operation of the city's services and programs. Also, the responses toward economic viability were generally negative and feelings of hopelessness are prevalent among the citizens. Survey results showed that citizens perceived that only through continued welfare programs that Benton Harbor would begin to recover economically.
3. **Hypothesis III** – A positive correlation exists between community knowledge and autonomy (low knowledge = low autonomy). Residents' perceptions of autonomous living are predicated upon how knowledgeable they are of the functions and operations of their community. Even though, the respondents' overall perceptions of their community are bleak, many of the residents believe that with long-term economic development and assistance Benton Harbor could one day thrive again.

4. **Hypothesis IV** – Assuming the forgoing three hypothetical relationships are statistically supported, respondents will *exhibit high levels of dependency characteristics*, and perceive that the *community's economic status is permanent*. (high apathy, low economic viability, low knowledge, and minimal participation = CDS). The level of Community Dependency Syndrome is related to the dependent variables supported by the findings. A multiple regression analysis indicated that the six predictors were positively correlated and statistically significant at the .05 confidence interval. However, when each variable was looked at independently community apathy was the only dependent variable statistically significant.
5. Post Hoc Analysis revealed that demographic variables also relate to how residents perceive the vitality and livelihood of their community. Several demographic variables have a significant effect upon the dependent variables. Age, level of education, and housing type were statistically significant at the .05 confidence interval. The data implicates further research is needed because of the sample size.

Finally, in Chapter Five the researcher presents some conclusions from the study and offers some recommendations directed at the local political leaders, governmental developers, urban citizens, and local leaders. Attention to funding policies for communities needs special focus in order to reverse community dependency syndrome.

CONCLUSIONS

Academicians generally agree that community development practices at the grass-roots level must clearly define the literature on community development for its objectives to be effective. Residents consistently suggested that funding programs is always implemented without considering their concerns and questions. Historically, inner cities

have not been stakeholders or decision-makers in the renaissance of their areas. In addition, central city resources, the literature suggests have been manipulated and exploited only for short-term projects and quick profit returns. This one of the reasons this research effort is directed toward inner cities as a research project. Inner cities are capable of being and are major contributors to the American economy and quality of life. The present study closes with the following conclusions:

1. Benton Harbor residents perceive that we need something beyond welfare programs development. In addition the city has no hope of economic restoration without these governmental aids over a long period of time. An alternative to alleviate this cycle is administered technical assistance training, economic development seminars, and city development programs that would be supplement welfare funds.
2. Respondents' attitudes toward government aid are, it does not develop self-help programs, and welfare is given to urban areas as a political courtesy. Funding developers are not in touch with the real issues that local leaders face, and mostly deal with issues through theoretical modes. Aggressive engagement efforts and plans must be developed by local political leaders and proposed to its funding sources in a manner that is quantifiable yet qualitative. In fact, the local leaders must encourage community participation in a fashion that is more than marginal and is manifested in tangible outcomes.
3. Local government and political leaders could benefit from technical assistance training and education, many of the cities' leaders are novices in the "big" economic process, and often funding is allocated to these areas without autonomous development practices. These training sessions will enhance the knowledge and

skills of the community local leaders and could have positive benefits in community restoration.

4. The respondents expressed high levels of apathy in relation to their current and future economic status. Self-help programs must be implemented in a manner that are confidence builders, for example programs must answer immediate needs and develop some intermediate goal setting.
5. The survey results support that respondents perceive that local recreational programs, community activities, and community outreach are virtually non-existent in their neighborhoods. Institutions such as churches, must began intervention strategies and commitment to local community programs to began to abate apathetic beliefs of respondents.
6. The research results demonstrated that education, age, marital status or income level were not related the perception of dependency. However, the factors were related to apathy. One possible alternative is to select organizations that focus on specific challenges in the community and form allies and collaboration, which eliminates the duplication of services and yields the highest return on grants and other funds allocated.
7. Respondents perceive that local political leadership is not capable of developing economic programs to enrich their city. Political should be enrolled and required to engage in seminars for city development, visit cities with similar challenges, acquire a veteran mentor, and attend formal educational programs that enhance leadership skills.

8. Although many grassroots organizations exist, many respondents were unaware these programs and did not participate in local community activities. Grassroots organizations should have an awareness component as a part of its goals and objectives. Isolated programs can only have a minimal affect, however if programs are engaged in community awareness planning they must pool resources in order to be an effective outreach and receive continued funding.

Researcher's Conclusion and Future Study

The findings in this study show that there is a greater need for quality federal programs at local urban levels. Several possible explanations are the general distrust of political leaders and programs implemented. Also, local political leaders are considerably inexperienced, trained and/or capable of handling the severity of urban issues. Other possible explanations include the misguided efforts of national welfare in local urban areas. Also, residents are not concerned enough to participate and challenge present political programs, services and policies, and believe that their efforts would have little or no affect upon their future. Community agents generally are outsiders and do not have vested interests at the same level of the residents. Lastly, funding must be implemented through participative means that produce a perception of win-win solution for all parties involved.

Further research is needed in looking at the indicators affecting community development, these indicators should be tested in other communities like the case-study area.

Implications for Innovative Technical Assistance

Although respondents did not articulate methods specifically as the practices of government assistance and technical training it was implied. The current practices of technical assistance are top-down directed, and a substantial amount of change agents already *know* what the community needs. Change-agents and technical assistance programs most of the time already has a program constructed for their targeted communities. However, these leadership practices only perpetuate as oppose to mitigate beliefs of dependency. Community developers must create innovative approaches to grass-roots development. One possible method could be in-house sessions with key community leaders and directors before developing a complete plan of action for a distressed area. Providing educational seminars for local political concerning funding processes and programs regulations impacting their communities first. Lastly, devise stronger communication links at the state, local, and community level for urban restoration.

Implications for Community Resource Development Training

Resource development focus is to integrate diverse cultures through collaborative practices and solutions. Also, another focus is to develop a potential network of local communities' current resources. The aim and objective are to create a market that is responsive to needs of residents that normally are obtained from outside sources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of the study suggest need for economic development and urban restoration policy curriculum at local levels. Additional research is needed to bridge the

gap between what we know about distressed communities and individual's perceptions of the distress and needs in their community. Recommended are the following:

1. Emphasize integration of multi-solutional approaches to urban distressed community issues.
2. Develop local political skill enhancement seminars that promote understanding of funding procedures, awareness of community restoration strategies and local city dynamics.
3. Incorporate community programs and activities that promote community ownership.

Future research questions to be answered

The following suggestions for future research questions were formulated during various stages of this investigation:

1. Investigate the impacts of community participation and its relationship with community dependency.
2. Evaluate and research community dependency theory in various communities around the United States at the aggregate level.
3. Research and develop a stronger and expansive set of indices indicating Community Dependency Syndrome.
4. Investigate other demographic trends and develop stronger general characteristics that are germane to dependency.
5. Research is needed to study the effectiveness of current national urban restoration policies.
6. Replicate this study in another area for a comparative analysis.

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Appendix A

The Case of Benton Harbor, Michigan Survey

The sections below contain general questions about Benton Harbor. Rate the overall quality of the various institutions, agencies and programs in Benton Harbor, please circle only one answer for each of the statements. The choices are Excellent-4, Good-3, Fair-2, Poor-1.

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1. Religious institutions and churches	4	3	2	1
2. Benton Harbor's parks and recreational programs	4	3	2	1
3. Schools and educational facilities	4	3	2	1
4. Quality of housing	4	3	2	1
5. Police and law enforcement agencies	4	3	2	1
6. Business potential	4	3	2	1
7. Neighborhood organizations	4	3	2	1

This section contains general statements about how programs, policies, and services are doing in your community, please circle only one answer for each of the statements. The choices Strongly Agree-5, Agree-4, Undecided-3, Disagree-2, Strongly Disagree-1.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Low-interest loans are easier for small businesses to get now than 5-10 years ago.	5	4	3	2	1
2. Home interest rates are low enough for fixing up homes (MISHDA, HUD, FHA, VA, banks, credit unions etc.).	5	4	3	2	1
3. Job training and placement programs are reducing the need for welfare in my community.	5	4	3	2	1
4. Economic (jobs, businesses) development programs in larger urban areas would work well in a small community like Benton Harbor.	5	4	3	2	1
5. There is enough recreational programs funded for the youth of Benton Harbor.	5	4	3	2	1

This section will assess the amount of political and social knowledge of Benton Harbor's community action groups. Circle the level of awareness you have of the various groups or programs.

	GREAT DEAL OF KNOWLEDGE	SOME KNOWLEDGE	LITTLE KNOWLEDGE	No KNOWLEDGE
1. COMMUNITIES FIRST	4	3	2	1
2. NISE - Neighborhood Information Sharing Exchange	4	3	2	1
3. CORD - Christian Outreach Rehabilitation Development	4	3	2	1
4. SOUP KITCHEN	4	3	2	1
5. 100 CLUB	4	3	2	1
6. 18 MEN'S CLUB	4	3	2	1
7. 50 PLUS	4	3	2	1
8. ABUSED WOMEN SUPPORT GROUP	4	3	2	1
9. ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS	4	3	2	1
10. BENTON HARBOR STREET MINISTRY	4	3	2	1

Your perception of the level of Benton Harbor's resourcefulness and ability to be independent in today's society.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. The jobs in Benton Harbor provide enough money for independent living.	5	4	3	2	1
2. Benton Harbor has good job opportunities.	5	4	3	2	1
3. Social services programs help people become financially independent.	5	4	3	2	1
4. The unemployment and welfare rates are high because many people are not willing to work.	5	4	3	2	1
5. Most people depend on welfare because of poor jobs.	5	4	3	2	1
6. People in Benton Harbor do not have enough "say so" in how it functions.	5	4	3	2	1
7. Statewide programs (AFDC, SSI and etc.) are why unemployment and welfare is so high in Benton Harbor.	5	4	3	2	1

Describe your general level of concerns for Benton Harbor and your community.

	Strongly Agree 5	Agree 4	Undecided 3	Disagree 2	Strongly Disagree 1
1. The pressures of earning a living leave you little time for volunteering.					
2. What happens in this town does not matter to me.	5	4	3	2	1
3. I do not volunteer because I do not care about Benton Harbor.	5	4	3	2	1
4. I don't care if local government make an effort to increase community participation.	5	4	3	2	1
5. Community organizations are a waste of time in neighborhoods.	5	4	3	2	1
6. I am not concerned with Benton Harbor's many problems.	5	4	3	2	1
7. What happens in the neighborhood does concern me.	5	4	3	2	1
8. It does not matter who Benton Harbor's political leaders are.	5	4	3	2	1
9. I do not care how much funding this city gets it won't change.	5	4	3	2	1
10. I would leave Benton Harbor today if I could afford to.	5	4	3	2	1

This section contains individual perceptions of Benton Harbor's ability to be a independent city.

	Strongly Agree 5	Agree 4	Undecided 3	Disagree 2	Strongly Disagree 1
1. Given Benton Harbor's current situation, no funding policies can help this city.					
2. Benton Harbor can become independent again with long-term community and job development.	5	4	3	2	1
3. The city will always be dependent on state welfare and other grants.	5	4	3	2	1
4. New local outlooks and changes can come through political training.	5	4	3	2	1
5. One-day Benton Harbor will thrive independently again.	5	4	3	2	1

Please describe your participation in local political issues and community development plans and goals.
Circle Yes or No indicating your involvement.

	Yes 2	No 1
1. Have you attended or been an active member of a neighborhood association		

community group?

2. Do you regularly attend any meeting of the local school board, PTA, City Council or any other public policy body regularly? 2 1

3. Have you ever been a member of any local political organizations or worked in any interest groups? 2 1

4. Are you a registered voter? 2 1

5. Do you participate in any local campaigns or community programs? 2 1

DEMOGRAPHICS SECTION

1. Of the people living your household, how many are employed **Full-time**. _____
2. How many of the employed persons in your household work in Benton Harbor? _____
3. How many are employed **Part-time**? _____
4. Of part-time employees, how many work in Benton Harbor? _____

5. Besides jobs, did anyone in your household receive income from the sources listed below.

	Yes-1	No-0
Dividends from investments	_____	_____
Pension	_____	_____
Social Security	_____	_____
Government assistance	_____	_____
Life insurance	_____	_____
Rent payments	_____	_____
Unemployment benefits	_____	_____

6. Considering all jobs and other income, what is the range of your gross total household income.

Less than \$5,000 _____
\$5,000 to \$9,999 _____
\$10,000 to \$14,999 _____
\$15,000 to \$19,999 _____
\$20,000 to \$29,999 _____
\$30,000 to \$39,999 _____
\$40,000 to \$49,999 _____
\$50,000 to \$75,000 _____
Over \$75,000 _____

7. Considering all household income, check the percentage is earned in the Benton Harbor city limits?

0 - 10% _____
10 - 25% _____
25 - 50% _____
50 - 75% _____
75 and over _____

5. Circle your highest level of education.

Elementary School	Junior High School	High School	Trade/ Vocational School	Some College	College Graduate
----------------------	--------------------------	----------------	--------------------------------	-----------------	---------------------

8. What type of housing do you live in? (Check One)
- | | |
|----------------|-------|
| Apartment/room | _____ |
| Condominium | _____ |
| Mobile home | _____ |
| House | _____ |
9. What kinds of payments are made for the place you live? (Check One)
- | | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| No payments, fully owned | _____ |
| Rent | _____ |
| Mortgage payments | _____ |
| Other | _____ |
10. Where is your landlord or mortgage holder located? (Check One)
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Benton Harbor | _____ |
| other place in Twin City limits | _____ |
| outside Benton Harbor city limits | _____ |
11. What area of Benton Harbor do you live in? (Check One)
- | | |
|-------|-------|
| North | _____ |
| South | _____ |
| East | _____ |
| West | _____ |
12. How many years have you lived in your described area? _____
13. What is your age range?
- | | |
|-------------|-------|
| 15-19 yrs | _____ |
| 20-25 yrs | _____ |
| 26-30 yrs | _____ |
| 31-35 yrs | _____ |
| 36-40 yrs | _____ |
| 41-45 yrs | _____ |
| 45 - 55 yrs | _____ |
| 55 yrs + | _____ |
14. Are you Male _____
 Female _____
15. What is your status?
- | | |
|----------|-------|
| Single | _____ |
| Married | _____ |
| Divorced | _____ |
| Widowed | _____ |
| Other | _____ |

Appendix B

Coefficients	Alpha
Commatt	.76
Commap	.74
Know	.85
Commauto	.63
Ecovia	.47
Compart	.66
Indsyn	.67

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