

ABSTRACT

During the war and post war periods, many things are destroyed and this affects socio-economic life. As people sink into poverty, they rely on donations for their survival. Diaconia as a transformative ministry have to help such people by building their capacities so that they can improve by themselves their socio-economic conditions. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the arrival of Rwandan refugees is one among the most striking causes of socio-economic crisis on which churches and NGOs work to assist affected people. But, the problem with assistance is that it creates dependency and reduces people's capacities to be self-reliant.

A thorough look at the impact of assistance reveals that, despite the efforts of Churches and the NGOs, people are still in poverty and always expect to get assistance. This raises the question to know whether this assistance is appropriate to the real needs of the recipients and whether this assistance reaches them.

In this research we tried to present the history of assistance in the context of war, how people lived before, during and after war, what was the attitude of victims toward the assistance and we made an overview of existing forms of diaconia. Then we tried to develop new and appropriate ones which can help to change the situation of the vulnerable people. That means there is a need to develop a well-structured empowering diaconia which helps the needy to discover their capacities and to use them for improving their socio-economic life themselves. In addition, this research assessed the accomplishment of the diaconal role of empowering the rural poor to develop their capacity and skills so that they can become competent decision makers with their confidence to act on their choices.

The present research demonstrates how diaconia may help people to be self-reliant. To achieve this, it was imperative to get in touch with the beneficiary households, church workers and church leaders involved in diaconia. We conducted an interview to get figures and information that help to discover whether the current applied methods are appropriate or not. Afterwards, on the basis of the strengths and weaknesses and with the considerations of the views of the recipients, church workers and church leaders, we formulated some recommendations to the church, to donors/ NGOs and the government for better achievements.