

An Assessment of Multiple Survival Strategies employed by Rural Women. The case of Kwa-Sondela Community.

BY

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DECLARATION

The Registrar (academic)

University of Durban – Westville

Dear Sir / Madam

I, Bruce Bonginkosi Buthelezi: registration 200001713, hereby declare this thesis entitled: A critical examination of Multiple Survival Strategies used by rural women in alleviating poverty. A case study based on the community of Kwa-Sondela in Kwazulu Natal is the result of my own investigation and research and that it has not been submitted in part or in full for any other degree or to any other institution.

B.B Buthelezi



J S Lutchimiah

Date



Date

Abstract

Poverty has been an issue in South Africa for quite a long time. For as long as the “poor is with us”, this issue will need to be addressed. A whole range of issues such as severe unemployment, illiteracy, drought and other natural disasters fuel poverty, gender inequality, unequal distribution of wealth, etcetera.

From the very outset, three stages have emerged in relation to dealing with those affected by poverty.

1. What can we do for the poor?
2. What can we do about the poor?
3. What can we do with the poor?

The trend is presently at a stage where something is being done together with the poor communities in order to alleviate their poverty condition. The aim of this study is to look at the present stage in the lives of the poor by way of tackling issues from alongside their own perspective. This is done by examining the survival strategies used by poor rural women in order to provide for their families / households.

At the end of the day, the findings of this study will suggest means and ways of helping the poor rural women.

Acknowledgements

Sometimes our emotions overwhelm us and our words fail to convey the message appropriate to the moment. This is a human condition that is oftentimes difficult to escape. A number of people contributed towards making this work possible. This would have not been completed without the help from the following people.

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My family – my mother, Eleanor, my sisters Nelisiwe, Ngiphiwe, Zamashenge and my brothers, John, Musawenkosi and Nkosinathi.

Last but not least staff and Management of Urban Strategy (eThekweni Municipality) who generously paid my tuition fees (by way of a student loan scheme). It was also taught research skills through assigning fieldwork to me during university vacation.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

1. SA –PPA – South African Participatory Assessment.
2. CBO's – Community Based Organizations
3. NGO's – Non Governmental Organizations
4. RDP – Reconstruction Development Programme
5. Gear – Growth Employment and Reconstruction Programme
6. IMF – International Monetary Funds
7. SMME's – Small, micro and medium Enterprise.
8. HIV – Human immune Virus
9. Aids – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
10. DDP – Democracy Development Programme
11. UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
12. HDR – Human Development Report
13. EMA – eThekweni Municipal Area
14. HSRC – Human Sciences Research Council
15. USAID – United States Agency for International Development
16. ISRDS – Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Strategy
17. IDP – Integrated Development Programme
18. Abet – Adult basic Education and Training

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND PROBLEM CONTEXTUALISATION

1.1 Preamble to the Study

Since the coming into place of the new democratic Government in South Africa, some of the National problem areas have remained, amongst which poverty is on top of the list. This happens despite the Government's commitment to eradicating the scourge of poverty.

Attacking poverty and deprivation must be the first priority of a democratic Government. (African National Congress 1994:5)

The above quote was born in the context of a changing South Africa, upon the realization that poverty was continuing to be the destabilizing factor in the lives of so many citizens. Although South Africa, since, 1994, has climbed onto the world stage, in terms of economic growth, the poverty rates continues to grow at alarming rate. According to May (1996) most of the poor live in rural areas whilst fifty percent of those members of the total population in South Africa is rural, the rural areas contain seventy two percent of these members of the total population who are poor. Whilst the above is true, it is estimated that half of the rural households are female headed (May 1996). Thus multiple survival strategies arising out of determination to make a living by rural women are viewed as paramount in ensuring food security.

Prior to 1994 black people and women in particular were forced to live and remain in rural areas. This led to a situation whereby functional development and economic opportunities were confined to urban areas, whilst this was unfolding rural areas bore the brunt of such a system by being denied basic services such as schools, clinics, hospitals, water, electricity, libraries, pensions pay-points etc. In addition to the production role, these women also have a reproductive role as mothers and wives they are responsible for running the household. This responsibility involves bearing and rearing children as well as caring for the old and the sick. It is in carrying out this role that rural women become the biggest consumers of services and facilities by local Government such as water, health-care, housing, fuel, transport, child care, education, safety and security etc. Even though the services are considered basic by urban standards, many rural people do not have access to them. (Ndlela and Holcomb, 1996)

This indicates that the very essence of the rural livelihood is greatly eroded by the absence of the very basic needs that have not been available for so long. Such a situation also points to a weakness in delivering services for the rural communities, which is owed by the system of apartheid which intentionally neglected rural areas. This was also worsened by the fact that very structures that were suppose to oversee such a process were not accountable to the communities they were supposed to serve. Some of the services such as provision of water, electricity, fuel, and transport were taken over by the farmers

and traditional authorities, such as a result these became more of a privilege and not a right and this has not changed.

Since the rural areas have no basic services and no development, men sought employment in urban areas e.g. in mines where they could only be employed as servants and laborers. This was further exacerbated by the migrant labour system and this led to a situation where women remained in poverty in rural areas without any form of employment opportunities.

Holcomb (1996) correctly states that since women are minors according to traditional law, they cannot occupy positions of authority and therefore not eligible to stand for political office. In public gatherings, they are expected to be silent and submissive. This is part of the situation, which has directly contributed to women being disempowered culturally, socially, economically and educationally.

In as much as a lot has changed for the better since 1994, some barriers have in turn are social and cultural ramifications for traditional leadership, lack of representation in decision making, lack of assertiveness in speaking up. There is therefore a needs for women to participate in combating all structures that discriminate against women for example, local Councils, traditional courts, local authorities etc.

1.1 Motivation of the study

What make the South African constitution unique is that it is a homegrown constitution with an anti-poverty focus, which also establishes right of access to adequate housing, health-care, water, land, education and social security amongst other fundamental human rights. This in turn compels the Government to take reasonable measures, even through legislation is in order that all these are realized. It is also worth noting that in 1996, when the constitutional assembly adopted the constitution, it coincided with the United Nations declaration of 1996 being the year for eradication of poverty.

Such a constitution was actually born in a situation where the gap between the rich and the poor seemed only to widen. And yet due to its progressive nature and coupled with the fact that it is the world's newest constitution it brought with it a glimmer of hope in altering the course of the lives of the poor, the powerless, the homeless, the rural and all other groups that have lived on the underside of history. It is then important to link up what on paper with the realities as experienced by the people on the ground. There is also a great need to locate poverty and ascertain where its mostly exists.

Rural and semi-rural poverty, which engulfs the majority of Africans followed by Coloured communities, can only be effectively dealt with through deliberate and delicate intervention in rural areas. The development of the poor, of the rural

areas where they reside, should be used as the driving engine for economic development in South Africa and in Kwazulu Natal province. This realization means that budgetary allocations should prioritize the rural areas, the residence of the poor (Directorate: Macro Policy and coordination, 1999).

If any investment in the rural areas will be worthwhile, it has to target women because they are the majority of the poor in such areas. This is correctly stated in the Reconstruction and Development Programme 1:4:6 that: Because women are majority of the poor in South Africa, mechanics to address the disempowerment of women and boost their role within the development process and economy must recognize and address existing gender inequalities, land, housing etc.

There are various reasons why women are at a receiving end of poverty:

- Women are discriminated against due to a history of patriarchy in our society.
- They are discriminated against because they are Blacks (the apartheid system legislated the Black race being inferior)
- They are marginalized because they are poor (economic inferiority)

1.2 Aim of the study

The aim of this study is to assess the multiple survival strategies employed by the rural women to overcome poverty.

1.3 Objectives

The specific objectives of the study are:

- To establish and examine various survival strategies used by rural women to alleviate poverty.
- To examine constraints applicable to these survival strategies.
- To ascertain the needs of rural women in order to enhance their survival strategies.
- To examine the perceptions of rural women regarding the survival strategies as an alternative to alleviate poverty.
- To forward recommendations based on research findings.

1.4 Chapter Outline

This study is essentially structured into five chapters having the following content: This chapter introduces the aim of the study. It explains the research problem, the motivation for the study and the objectives. The second chapter looks at the major theoretical and conceptual framework of this study. This refers to such

issues as poverty and rural development, and the whole concept of reality. The literature reviews forms part of this chapter. Chapter three explains the type of research methodology used in this study, as well as provides the background to the case study (Kwa-Sondela). Chapter four forms the core of the study. This will be presented in the form of empiric analysis, which analyses the results of the questionnaires that were administered with rural women in the Kwa-Sondela with a view to determining the nature of survival strategies used. This is also a stage whereby after presenting the findings a critical analysis will be done. The final chapter considers recommendations derived from the study and then draw conclusions.

1.5 Conclusion

In this chapter the aim and the objectives of this study have been highlighted. Motivation for taking this study has also been highlighted. Lastly this chapter concludes by providing a preview of the forthcoming chapters of this research project.

CHAPTER 2

MULTIPLE STRATEGIES FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION: A THEORETICAL REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a review of literature concerning the issue of poverty. It will look at the policies adopted by different government to address the problem of development especially as it affects the rural poor. There will also be a reflection on various aspects that are related and can influence any discourse or involvement in poverty reduction. This will, inter alia, review issues that include:

1. Women and poverty:
2. Poverty and rural development.
3. Women, development and rurality.
4. RDP versus GEAR policy and their perspectives on development.
5. Hindrances to poverty alleviation in rural development.
6. eThekweni Municipality plans to tackle poverty and help its citizenry.
7. Review of case studies.

2.2 DEFINITION OF POVERTY

“Poverty is not knowing where your next meal is going to come from and always wondering when the Council is going to put your furniture out and always praying that your husband must not lose his job. To me that is poverty”

(Mrs. Witbooi of Phillipstown, Wilson and Ramphele, 1989:14)

“My child broke his leg and had to go to hospital. I sold my three cows to pay for transport and treatment. Now I have nothing” (man interviewed by operation Hunger SA PPA, 1997:75)

Policy analysts and other concerned parties have always tried to come up with a single definition of poverty, but this has never materialized. The emerging consensus sees poverty as generally being characterized by the inability of individuals, households or acceptable standards of living.

As the quotations at the start of this section shows, whilst poverty has many faces and each and every individual's experience varies, the recent South African Participatory Assessment (SA -PPA, 1997) view poverty to include:

1. Alienation from community: The poor are isolated from the institutions of kinship and community. The elderly without care from their family members were seen as poor, even if they had a state pension that provided an income that was relatively high by local standards. Similarly, young single mothers without support of older kin or the fathers of their children were perceived to be poor.

2. Food security: Participants see the inability to provide sufficient or good quality food for the family as an outcome of poverty. Households where children go hungry or are malnourished are seen as living in poverty.

3. Crowded homes: The poor are perceived to be living in overcrowded conditions and in homes in need of maintenance. Having too many children is seen as a cause of poverty, not only by parents, but by grandparents and other family members who have to assume responsibility for the care of children.

Chambers (1993) speaks of five dimensions of poverty:

1. Poverty proper- a lack of adequate income or assets to generate income.
2. Physical weakness- due to undernutrition, sickness or disability.
3. Physical or social isolation: due to peripheral location, lack of access to goods and services, ignorance or illiteracy.
4. Vulnerability to crises and the risk of becoming even poorer.
5. Powerlessness within existing social, economical, political and cultural structures.

According to May (1996) an example of poverty is given as one man's family having worked for a farmer for three generations, hard physical labour every day. The man has worked since his birth for the same farmer but has nothing, no savings, and not even a bicycle. Everyone's experience of poverty is a little different. For this reason, statistics will never capture the full reality of poverty. Statistics can give us a sense of the magnitude of the problem, but we still need anecdotal evidence to give texture to a profile of poverty. Lack of access to safe and efficient sources of energy is another contributing factor. In rural areas poor

communities, particularly have to walk long distances to gather firewood for the generation of energy. In addition, women through this exercise of collecting wood, increase their vulnerability to physical attack and sexual assault. Poverty is therefore viewed in the context of its multiplier effect. It is not a single, isolated entity, but whatever happens in society has either a negative or a positive effect on poverty levels. (Woolard et al, 1997)

.2.2.3 HINDRANCES TO POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The following are viewed as major obstacles to reduce poverty in rural areas.

1. Globalization - The sovereignty of National States, National policies and practices, individual states economic engineering and a lot more are much tied by globalization. The world is moving towards a state where capital flow is not limited by national boundaries, but the world become smaller and easier to control.

This has come at a time in South Africa when attempts were being made to address the imbalances of the past (pre 1990 era) Gear policy which replaced the RDP moves along in the same spirit as the global wave. Development can no longer proceed without the “eye of the globalizer’s influence and stamp of approval”; hence every thing happens under the watchful eye of the global masters.

2. Capitalism - This is a system that is market based and emphasizes the attainment of profits before anything else. It has always been viewed as the opposite of socialism and communism. The Gear policy have its core as Capitalism hence it has such as sharp contrast will the RDP who main thrust is development and redistribution.
3. Health issues for example, HIV and AIDS epidemic, which has a devastating effect on all communities but its primary victims being the poor rural people. They are due to a lack of proper medical care by way of drugs that help fight the disease.
4. Crime and physical violence - crime has invaded all communities and physical violence is felt and experienced ore by rural women due to their vulnerability for example, when a group of women are in the valley or forest collecting firewood, threat of physical violence is very high compared to an otherwise well line urban centers where energy is easily available for example electricity.
5. International dominance of poor rural communities. This is very easy because of the dependant nature of such people. It becomes easy to manipulate rural people while throwing money at their problems. The IMF and the World Bank are first and foremost in carrying this guilt, owing to their notorious structural adjustment policies, which in the South Africa

context manifest themselves as well in the system of Gear.

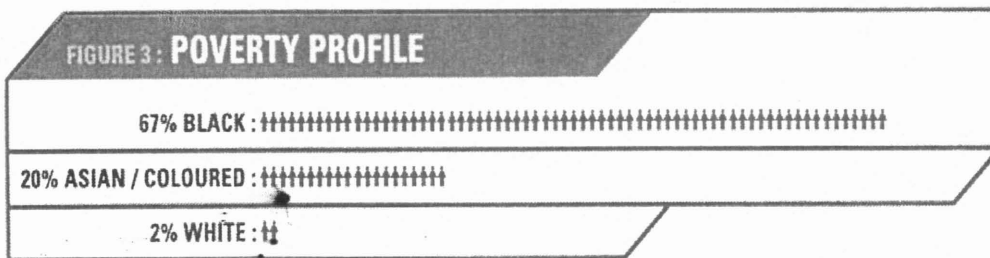
6. Usage of basic forms of energy: The poor lack access to safe and efficient sources of energy. In rural communities, the poor particularly women, walk long distances to gather firewood. In addition, women through wood collection increase their vulnerability to physical attack and sexual assault.

7. Lack of adequately paid secure jobs: The poor perceive lack of employment opportunities, low wages and lack of job security as major contributing factors to their poverty situation. Fragmentation of the family: Many poor households are characterized by absent fathers or children living apart from their parents. Households may be split over a number of sites as a survival strategy. Poverty is therefore viewed in the context of its multiplier effect. It is not a single isolated entity, but whatever happens in society has either a negative or a positive effect on poverty levels.

2.3 WOMEN AND POVERTY

It is not enough to talk about poverty and women without an attempt to dig deeper and find out how the two come about. According to the development profile of the eThekweni Municipality (Feb.2002) as depicted below fifty percent of females in the eThekweni Metropolitan area are classified as being poor.

Figure 2.1 Poverty Profile



Source: Development Profile (eThekweni Municipality, February 2002)

In most countries, the incidence and experience of poverty differs between women and men. Women tend to be over represented amongst the poor and their experience of poverty is often more acute. Women’s disproportionate share of the poverty burden partly reflects the fact that women, historically, have had less access to waged employment, and within the labor market, that they tend to be crowded into low paying jobs. And added reason why women are more likely than men to be poor concerns how resources are allocated within households.

There is much research, which suggests that within households, women have less access to resources and face different work commitments development in South Africa (Kelatwang et al, and 1995:5)

Table 2.1 Percentage of men and women living in poverty

Location	Women	Men
Rural Areas	63.2	57.4
Urban Areas	31.6	28.1
Total South Africa	48.3	43.5

Source (A profile of poverty, inequality and human development in South Africa 1995)

As shown in Table 2 above, a little less than half (48.3%) of all women in South Africa live below the poverty line (the minimum amount of money a person should have per month to adequately feed, clothe and educate themselves and be able to lead a healthy lifestyle) compared to 43.5% of all men. The actual numbers that are derivable from the head count of the two percentage figures can glaringly reflect a very sad picture concerning the position of women in society as relating to poverty.

Furthermore the figures of 63.2% and 57.4% respectively, depict a scenario in the rural areas which Dori Posel, (1995) captures when she says: "Clearly where women and men live is important when accounting for the incidence of poverty

generally: the percentage of people who are poor is far higher for rural dwellers than it is for people living in urban areas. This difference would reflect adverse social and economic conditions in rural areas, and particularly, an absence of basic infrastructure, land constraints and less income earning opportunities.

Contributing largely to the higher levels of poverty amongst women is the ever-increasing number of female-headed households, which in turn become even poorer than male headed households.

Table 2.2 Poverty - female and male headed households.

	Female- headed Rural	Female- headed Urban	Male- headed Rural	Male- headed Urban
Total Households	1665 762	1180 116	2 224 688	3 110 672
% in poverty	66.7	39.8	42.8	18.4

Source: (A profile of poverty, inequality and human development in South Africa, 1995)

Women's larger share of the poverty burden can be explained partly by their disadvantaged position in the labor market, both in terms of job that are available and income that can be earned (Posel: 1995)

As illustrated in table 2.2 above the risk of being in poverty is far much higher in these households which are headed by women and which are more dependent on women's earnings, than in those households which are male headed.

As was mentioned earlier on, in chapter one, that poverty amongst women is targeted poverty, it is underlined by inequality in gender, which influences the thinking of all people in society. In its worst manifestation is the condition that lends to women's thinking in entrenched in rural areas where illiteracy levels are high and women have a history of facing fewer income opportunities.

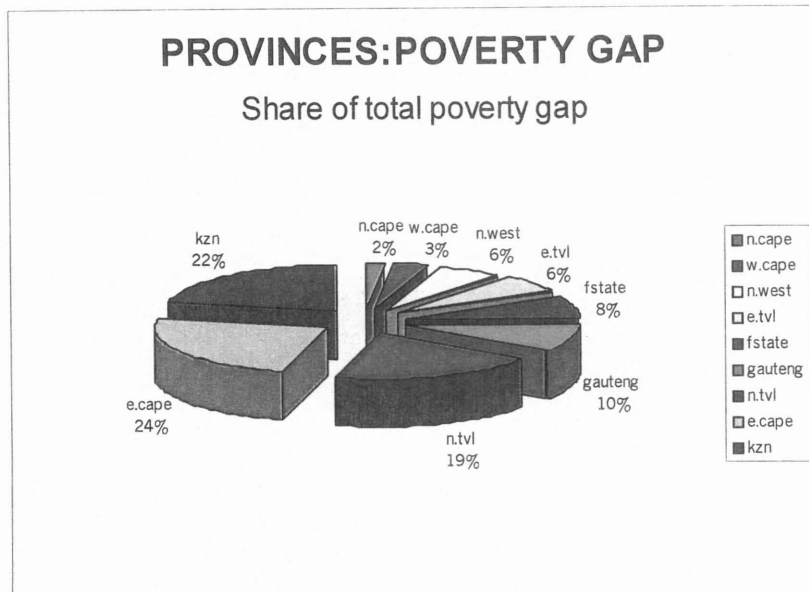
2.4 POVERTY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

There are several ways that can be used to measure poverty and to gauge the extent at which it affects both households and communities. While the poverty head count ratio is convenient measure of poverty, it is insufficient as it only gives an indication of the incidence of poverty. A reliable measure of poverty should encapsulate the depth of poverty. A measure, which incorporates both, is the poverty gap, which is calculated by summing up the differences between the income of each poor household and the poverty line. The poverty gap is of great policy significance since it indicates the theoretical minimum government transfer to poor households need to totally eliminate poverty (Whiteford et al 1995).

Table 2.3 Provinces: Poverty gap Share of total poverty gap.

	Poverty Gap (R million)	Share of total Poverty Gap	Per Household Poverty Gap

Western Cape	529	3.0%	4223
Northern Cape	257	1.7%	5001
Eastern Cape	3716	24.2%	5232
Kwazulu Natal	3303	21.5%	5269
Free State	1159	7.6%	4404
Eastern Transvaal	968	6.3%	4643
Northern Transvaal	2948	19.2%	4845
North West	917	6.0%	3936
Gauteng	1551	10.1%	5174
Total	15348	100.00%	4909



Source (A profile of poverty, inequality and human development in South Africa (1995)

As illustrated above Kwazulu Natal as a province accounts for 21.52% of poverty.

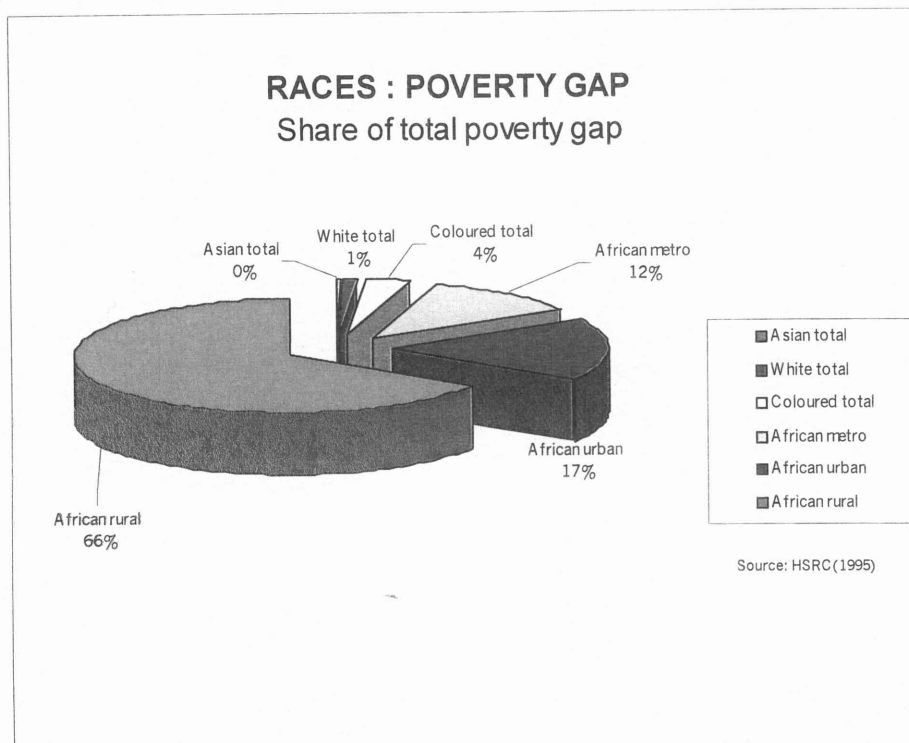
This shows a big gap between Kwazulu Natal and the Northern Cape, which

account for only 1.68% of poverty. In as much as the two does not match in size Kwazulu Natal comes second when all provinces are put together. The following table 2.4 will reflect the same poverty gap but in terms of races and where they live.

Table 2.4 Races: Poverty gaps.

Race	Location	Poverty gap (R million)	Share of total poverty gap	Per house hold poverty gap
African	Rural	10 119	65.9%	4763
	Urban	2621	17.1%	5617
	Metro	1864	12.1%	5240
	Total	14 604	95.1%	4956
Coloured	Rural	28	0.2%	2965
	Urban	304	2.0%	4088
	Metro	208	1.4%	4523
	Total	541	3.5%	4159
Indian	Urban	39	0.3%	3644
	Metro	11	0.1%	2660
	Total	48	0.3%	3375
White	Rural	8	0.1%	1677
	Urban	43	0.3%	3187
	Metro	102	0.7%	6243
	Total	154	1.0%	4402
Total		15 348	100%	4909

Source (A profile of poverty, inequality and human development in South Africa, and 1995)



As shown above the African community as a race shares (65.93%) notably the rural African community. It is worth taking note of the fact that the table does not show other races in terms of their location, which should be rural. This can be attributed to the fact that even if they live in rural areas, they mostly own farms and smallholdings and are mostly rich and therefore they cannot fall within the same category as rural Africans. There are also huge differences that are very obvious; for example, there is a difference of 64,5% between the poverty gap of rural Africans and their white urban counterparts.

According to Posel et al, (1995:8) in 1993 the total poverty gap in South Africa was just over R15 billion which amounted to less than five percent of gross domestic product. The size of the poverty problem is thus small relative to the size of the economy, but the number of individuals involved is enormous.

In order to attempt to close these gaps, income generating opportunities for poor people have to be created and those people provided with enough capacity and scope to maximize those opportunities. The racial differences in poverty are as a result of the apartheid system, which systematically and deliberately advantaged some races more than others. (See Table 2.4).

The rural areas of South Africa suffer from a legacy of inappropriate production and investment decisions by Government and the rural population. For many rural people in the former homeland areas, economic and social decisions remain conditioned by their unequal and distorted access to markets, services and opportunities.

In contrast the non-homeland rural areas are characterized by an over capitalized. Over-mechanized, job-shedding commercial agriculture. Asset ownership and distribution patterns remain those formed by apartheid, in particular, landlessness, over crowding and poor health care service provision persists in the former homeland areas. A huge backlog in rural infrastructure

persists and urbanization runs the risk of simply relocating rural formerly into urban slums.

The high cost of delivering services to rural communities with limited economic potential results in tension between goals of fiscal discipline and those of decreasing poverty and inequality. The rural areas of South Africa have a population of about 16.9 million people, which is 45% of the country's total population. Whilst poverty is not primarily a rural issue, the risk of becoming and remaining poor remains significantly higher in rural than in urban areas. Using income based or calorie based poverty lines; half of the households and two thirds of the people in rural areas can be classified as poor.

Over 70% of rural African households live in conditions which are inadequate or intolerable in terms of their access to shelter, energy, water and sanitation, and rural women are a particularly vulnerable group (Government report on Poverty and Inequality in South Africa, 1998).

The above quote sends a message across that development is all embracing, it is not a single arm that targets a particular issue, but a multi - faceted development approach is needed to address an assortment of development related issues.

The Rural Development framework (1998) comes with a powerful focus on poverty, addressing such issues as how to involve rural people in decisions of local government that affect their lives, how to increase employment and economic growth, how to promote affordable infrastructure and improve services, how to ensure social sustainability, and how to enhance the capacity of rural local Government to plan and implement.

The Rural Development Framework (1998) for rural development has two key elements, a focus on governance and the provision of infrastructure and services, and a focus on an enabling framework for rural livelihoods to expand, mainly for restoring economic rights to marginalized areas.

As it is the case now, if the provision of services and the infrastructure is not accompanied by the creation of sustainable job opportunities tension arises between those advocating the provision of services (viz. the Government) and those who upon receiving these should pay. According to the Rural Development Framework (1998) rural development requires a number of key elements:

- Institution development: Local government has a responsibility of service provision, but national and provincial government must build up its capacity.

- Restoration of economic rights: Jobs must be created through local economic Development, using, the natural resource bases of localities and releasing actual and potential trade links to accumulate production. This will in turn other basic economic rights to marginalized people.
- Investment in rural infrastructure: Sustained investment in infrastructure is crucial to release government equity and efficiency objectives, and must be undertaken in consultation with local Government.
- Building local capacity to plan and implement: The RDF Farmers
- decentralized planning and decision making up, possibly in the form of district level planning units (Government report on Poverty and Inequality in South Africa 1998)

Rural development as a term has evolved over time. In the third world, development has assumed a new description: sustainable development. This is brought about by the fact that development having been practiced over some decades has not succeeded in bringing about desirable change especially in the third world. However at the core of rural development lies the complex problem of poverty, simply because poverty is the most pressing of all rural problems, if it not addressed, rural development becomes a mere exercise in futility.

At a time when globalization and humanitarian interventions are overtaking development as we have known it for decades, new Innovative ways are needed to address poverty from the conceptual understanding development as a worth while and a workable theory. (Blake, 1997)

2.5.1 WOMEN, DEVELOPMENT AND RURALITY

According to Sen (1999) women are no longer the passive recipients of welfare enhancing help. They are increasingly seen as active agents of change, the dynamic promoters of social transformations that can alter the lives of people.

Over time it has become important to view women, as partners for change than mere recipients or beneficiaries of charity. There is an ever-increasing awareness amongst women “to do it for ourselves”.

This is an assertion, which grows into an assertive stance adopted in order to access these resources necessary for development. It is a women’s clarion call to be opportunized into the field of development. This is further evidenced by Sen (1999) when he says: “There is plenty of evidence that when women get preserve of man, they are no less successful in making use of these facilities that men have claimed to be their own for over the centuries “. The problem of women and development lie not in women failing to meet the challenge or under performing but it has everything to do with the denial of opportunities.

This is clearly shown by Sen (1999) when he states: "The ownership of land and capital in the development countries has tended to be very heavily biased in favor of the male members of the family."

It is typically much harder for a women to start a business enterprise, we have a very modest size, given the lack of collateral resources and yet there is plenty of evidence that whenever social arrangements differs from the standard practice of male ownership, women can seize business and economic initiative with much success.

When such success are achieved, it is not merely good progress for women but the whole society gains from women's enhanced or improved status and independence from domination through gender differences. The feminist and womanist literature in calculation today view women's issues as an agency which is a deviation from the normal singular understanding of women's needs and issues.

Women and their empowerment have become the core issue in the process of development for many countries in the world today. It must however, be stated that in spite of such notable success, development is rapidly being overtaken by globalization and other humanitarian interventions, for example CBO's and NGOs.

The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) stresses that "...a key focus throughout the RDP is on ensuring a full and equal role for women in every aspect of economy and society..." (1.46) because women are the majority of the poor in South Africa. Mechanisms to address empowerment of women and boost their role within development are essential. The RDP must recognize and address existing gender jobs, housing, etc.

Development is a term that has been floating around for quite a long time and its distinctive feature is that it means a lot of things to a lot of different people. Any attempt to pin it down to one particular meaning or trying to lock it up into a particular context is always and without exception bound to attract big problems.

Few years after the inception and implementation of the Nationalists Party policy of Apartheid, in the mid 1950's the Native Affairs Department stated: Dependants of poorly paid workers in urban areas will be much better off financially if they remain in the then reserves or take up residence in a rural village where they are not least in the position to grow their own mealies, vegetables, etc. The breadwinner can be accommodated in his/her employer's property or in a hostel. (Tichman, 1987)

This was a veiled introduction of the Influx Control Act whose aim was to avoid blacks from coming into the city. Their flowing into the city was a direct contrast

of what the act had to achieve in forms of developing the newly liberated South Africa only for the white minority. This statement also contains the core thinking of the policy of separate development, qualitatively called Apartheid.

According to Thomas (1992), development is not just a question of one-off process of change to something better, but implies a process, which builds on itself, where change is continuous and where improvements build on previous improvements. Development is also a matter of change occurring at the level of social change and of the individual human being at one and the same time.

The simplest definition of development is the one given by Chambers (1993), where he says development means just 'good change'. This suggests that any progress that has been made is attributable to good change.

The above also sheds some light into the reason why our rural areas are as we have them today are so poor and difficult to develop. Like homelands, they have been used as human dumping grounds for those ejected from the mainstream of society for the convenience of the minority who had just assumed a new role as the liberated race.

The poverty of rural areas, coupled with high levels of underdevelopment is as a result of the past policies, they may be dead but their legacy still impacts very much on what we do now.

In later years the Nationalists Government was faced with the problem named Urban African Crisis. Those Africans who could no longer tolerate hunger in villages were now streaming back into the fringes of the cities and try to find work. The managers of the Durban's Native Affairs Department explained the position as follows:

“We wanted their labour and either we had to sabotage our war efforts by turning them out of town, or tolerate them where they were at Cato Manor, we took lesser of the two evils.” (Maylam, 1982, page 8)

The president of Mozambique Joachim Chissano poignantly points out: “ We can not get into the habit of living on handouts (quoted, Graham Howe et al, 1992 page 187). President Joachim Chissano was speaking in continental sense yet very relevantly for the rest of African countries including South Africa. Developments have always been viewed as being separate from any thing else except what is a need at that particular time. And yet Conrad (1997) argues that, the struggle of poor people in South Africa is by no means unique.

Even the transition to a more democratic form of government is not exceptional. The fact is poor people all over the world face similar challenges- namely, how to democratize governance at all levels, and how to change the distribution of economic power to ensure that resources are not monopolized by a small, rich elite, but used to meet all people's needs equally. The struggle to establish a

more just socio-political and economic distribution of power is ongoing, and is likely to sharpen as the majority of the world population continues to get poorer and the gap, between the rich and the poor increases. Poor people and institutions of governance limit their capacity to influence the events and circumstances that govern their existence.

2.5.2 The RDP versus Gear: Perspectives on development

Soon after the 1994 elections, the whole country was caught up in a new kind of euphoria at the prospect of a new democratic Government. Conrad Barberton (1997) has words that fittingly captures the mood of time: In the period immediately after the first democratic elections in April 1994 there was great calm, a sign of relief at having made it through the first stage of transition. It is as if our stream, after rushing down a mountain slope, suddenly entered a tranquil lake of opportunity. Ordinary people felt a sense of ownership and excitement at the prospect of their government governing.

They had given the government a mandate to implement the RDP. It was an idea; a word on everyone's lips and they responded eagerly to the call to participate in their own development. There was a sense of anticipation now that at last, attacking poverty and deprivation was indeed the first development priority of the government.

The RDP therefore was a document, which was a blue print for the government's preparedness to tackle social ills such as poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, underdevelopment etc. It was identified as the Government's top priority. In trying to avoid loop - holes and avert failure the ANC and its allies in the RDP process (ANC, 1994, p.46) noted division of South Africa into a first world and third world and said:

" We must not confine growth strategies to the former, while doing patchwork piecemeal development in the latter waiting for trickle-down development". (ANC, 1994: 5-6)

It goes on to say that:

"... All our policies must aim to alleviate inequalities and wealth and expand productive opportunities" (ANC, 1994: 81).

Unlike GEAR, the place development before growth and if the latter comes first, for the RDP the whole idea of development becomes a marginal effort of redistribution to areas of urban and rural poverty. (ANC, 1994: 6).

There was an obvious shift from the understanding and the ethics of the RDP that the services rendered to the citizens are public goods to that of GEAR, which believed that services are trading goods, which in turn must create profit to enable growth to take place.

GEAR policy replaced the RDP without any consultation-taking place between the Government and the people, like all newcomers GEAR was applauded in some quarters. According to South Africa Chamber of Business, it was 'a major step in the right direction', whilst the South African Foundation referred to it as 'a creative and decisive response which speaks of courage and conviction' (New Nation, 21 June 1996 Cities, Conrad Barberton, 1997)

Around the same period the Head of the IMF said:

".... The strategies for growth, employment and redistribution are exactly right." (Sunday times, 20 October 1996)

Gear's main difference to the RDP was and still is, that it is market orientated, and therefore firmly based on the principles of Capitalism backed by Neo-Liberalism. In observing this Blake, et al (1997) said that the adoption of GEAR and the ANC's firm commitment to a neo-liberal policy framework will leave the urban and rural poor of South Africa greatly disappointed as the expected changes in living standards and quality of life fail to materialize. GEAR was a system that moved within the ambit of the volatile market forces.

It's introduction was very finely hence it came at a time when the Cold War has ended and market capitalism had no opposition, hence communism has fallen and Western capitalism triumphed. GEAR was never a system or a policy that was development friendly, instead it came up with a new culture of 'joyful

poverty' - people had to wait for economic growth (even if it meant starving themselves to death before reaping the result in the form of new jobs and other employment opportunities).

One of the main thrusts of the GEAR policy was to work towards the curbing of state spending. This was further supported by the teaching that in order to ensure success with growth and the creation and maintenance of an investor friendly environment the government had to exercise tighter control over its pursue strings. Whilst the government by the way of Finance Ministry was trying to follow this, the redistribute emphasis of the RDP obliterated.

As a result of the tightening of the government's budget, some people lost their jobs and some of them may have been breadwinners of extremely poor households. In seeing this trend the RDP monitor (1997: 6) observed:

".... All provinces rich or poor are feeling the whip of the Government's fiscal and monetary policies".

And many of them lacked skills, manpower, and general capacity to effectively utilize whatever funds are granted. GEAR policy is linked to a whole range of systems that have existed only to bring misery to countless number of people all over the world, for example capitalism, free enterprise system, privatization and the general absence of democracy, transparency and accountability.

GEAR policy has succeeded opening up the public sector to market forces for manipulation and control. It is worth nothing that in South Africa today those who still have nostalgia for the old regime easily identify with GEAR, because it is not people – centered and does not support our democratic and homegrown constitution whose main focus is anti-poverty and inequality. The components of the GEAR for example capitalistic thinking merely help by further embracing profit earning before the development of people.

After replacing the RDP, GEAR had a veiled threat which all neo-liberal cite till this day, that in the absence of privatized enterprise, the SMME's growth will be stifled, in other words those who are budding entrepreneurs from the disadvantaged communities will not get a chance to get tenders and be allocated work thereby proving their worth. Although no statistic can be given presently, however, there seems to be very few companies that are completely black-owned and ready to compete as equals with those who have been enfranchised and economically opportunized for many years.

3. Health issues- for example HIV and AIDS epidemic, which has a devastating effect on all communities but its primary victims being the poor rural people. They are exposed to such a disease due to the lack of proper medical care by way of drugs that help fight the disease.

2.5.3. Rural women and local government

The people most affected by the non-existence of basic services and social development in rural areas are women. Women spend long hours, walking long distances just to fetch water and firewood because there are no taps or electricity in their communities. Mobile health clinics, if there are any, are often far from where they live. This extends women's roles to those of nurses and midwives in certain instances. Despite political changes in South Africa, rural women's roles in their communities have hardly changed. Indeed, rural women continue to face the social and economic disadvantages that they experienced under apartheid. Even though the new South African Constitution promises women equality before the law, this is not yet a reality for women in rural areas. (*Lindiwe Ndlela, et, al, 1997, page 161*)

The Local Government is one of the vehicles of development right where the people live. It is the government nearer the people. In spite all the promises made by the successive Local Government to alleviate poverty in rural areas by targeting women as beneficiaries has come to no fruition. One Local Government after the other leaves the local communities poor with no access to basic services. One other reason that is attributable to the failure of Local government to deliver is that it is a structure that is fairly new, especially in rural communities. As stated by Deevy Holcomb, 1995, before Local Government elections in 1995 and 1996, local government structures did not exist in most rural areas.

Owing to the history of migrant labour system and absence of accountability of the government, women have had to play many roles that would otherwise be carried out by males. For example, they function as searchers of food in the absence of industrial activity and formal employment, counselors when faced with the dying and sick especially in the presence of the AIDS epidemic. This multiplicity of roles is clearly captured by Lindiwe Ndlela et al 1997 when she says: in addition to this productive role, these women also have a reproductive role. As mothers and wives, they are responsible for running the household. This responsibility involves bearing and rearing children as well as caring for the old and sick. It is in carrying this role that rural women become the biggest consumers of services and facilities provided by the local government such as water, health care, housing, fuel, transport, childcare, education, safety and security, etc. Even though these services are not considered as basic by urban standards, many rural people do not have access to them.

There have always been weaknesses in rural service delivery mainly because of many years of neglect by the apartheid government and its many wings that manipulated and violated many rights of rural dwellers. The absence of accountability to the communities being served never existed. Some of important services such as water, fuel, transport, etc were without any form of consultation taken by farmers, in some instances, and mostly by traditional local authorities. It is well-known that almost without exception farmers sided with the apartheid government which then entrenched the system and the local traditional

authorities sided openly with the homeland administration who were set up and supported by the apartheid government and enjoyed support of all kind from it.

It is also worth mentioning that even the New Democratic Dispensation should own up to some failures when it comes to rural governance. In spite of all progress gained by the present government, women at local government level remain disadvantaged and development, therefore, does not reach them as it would be if the legislation was both poor and women friendly. Deevy Holcomb (1997) puts this fittingly; the crucial problem of women's presentation in rural local government has its roots in our new democratic government legislation and structure. He goes on to say that, these barriers include the cultural and social malfunctions of traditional leadership and interpersonal and social dynamics of Council culture: lack of self-confidence and assertiveness in speaking up and participating fully in decision making and the need to recognize and combat a women unfriendly Local Council Cultures.

In what ways has the new system impacted on the women of South Africa? In trying to look deeply into this question comes the following observations:

Positive

- 30% of members of parliament, including provincial legislatures are women
- Women are rising to the highest echelons of parliament e.g. Minister Nkosazana Dlamini- Zuma in her capacity as a Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Over the Easter weekend, the 13th female traditional leader was inaugurated

- South Africa embraces a constitution that grants all citizens, including women and children equal, rights
- Legislation on Domestic Violence, Maintenance, and Customary Marriages have been reviewed

Negative

- Only one third of cabinet ministers are women
 - Only 28% of councilors are women
 - Women are integral part of community development, but hold little political power
 - Whilst women constitute more than 34% of the overall South Africa population, men fill 80%of the leadership position in the provincial and national executives of all parties
 - In high schools across the country, girls outnumber boys, yet attain lower pass rates
 - 60% of men attain tertiary education compared to 40% of women
 - Abuse of female children and adults is on the rise
- (Democracy Development Program, 1997)

2.5.4. Women in a democratic society

In as much as a lot has been achieved in the democratic era of the South Africa Society, for women a lot more still needs to be done. The achievements gained are immediately overshadowed by the legacies that continue to exist even during this democratic era. According to the Poverty and Inequality in the context of Kwazulu/Natal (1998) a strategic need was identified as being: a need to address the commonly held stereotypes about the appropriate role and status of women as well as negative self-limiting views that women hold about themselves. In addition to research done for the purposes of the report, reflected very serious obstacles to the full participation of women in development projects deriving from the lack of gender equality in rural areas. These included the following:

Men tend to elect themselves for positions in development projects.

Husbands can prevent their wives from participating in development projects.

The stereotype view that men are breadwinners often leads to men being given jobs in preference to women.

Women are still commonly excluded from leadership positions, although this situation is gradually changing.

Significant decisions around development issues are still made by traditional authority structures where women are poorly represented.

Women are not aware of their rights.

In some cases women have lost access to land for food production to development projects for cash crops or conservation areas. (Ndlela, 1997). Women are commonly the targets of exploitation and nepotism when representatives of traditional authority, who have been entrusted with the recruitment of people, demand a proportion of their earnings. Relatives of powerful leaders are often given preference when job opportunities arise. The girl child is commonly the first to be withdrawn from school when financial resources become scarce. There is still a commonly held view that the girl child does not need the same level of education as the boy child. Based on the above analysis, the report goes on to make the following recommendations and implications that directly affect the Province of Kwazulu Natal:

- Assess current allocations for funding on poverty eradication.
- Identify and assess the impact of current poverty eradication programmes. Obstacles to effective impacts should also be identified.
- Assess the scope for realigning the current policies and programmes with those outlined by the UNDP.
- Assess the learning needs of the public sector to more effectively engage in targeted, focused poverty eradication programmes, which promote people-centered development.
- Assess the opportunities for alternative service delivery that is community based and promotes rapid transfer of knowledge and skills for development activities to local community level.

- Ensure a proper focal point for the co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of poverty eradication programmes.

- Ensure that all poverty reduction programmes have a gender and HIV/AIDS dimension in their planning, implementation and evaluation

Women in the structures of local government have a task of promoting the aspirations of poor rural women once they assume office. If they can not do that, then their presence in these structures, no matter how democratic they are purported to be, is both useless and self-defeating.

The Democracy Development Programme (DDP) report (2002) asks:

“ Ours is a gendered democracy, is the South African democracy for all?” In addition it goes on to say: *“ having silenced apartheid, it is necessary to be mindful of the successes and failures experienced in our new democracy.*

In addressing the issue of women and democracy, the Democracy Development Programme, further asks: Is the present democracy serving as many people as it was promised during the making of the new constitution which put emphasis on poverty eradication?

2.5.5. eThekweni Municipality on Poverty and Economic

Development

The newly formed eThekweni Municipality which now incorporates the majority of the citizens that were under Tribal Authorities, has a new vision that is radically different from the one that was practiced by the past Durban Municipality. The difference lies in the making of bylaws that govern informal trade and the policies that regulate such a business sector. Whereas in the past one would see municipal police chasing away street vendors and owners/operators of small businesses, the attitude is now different. More than encouraging the informal trade, their system put into place to ensure their sustainability and growth. This new way of thinking is clearly set out in the groundbreaking document, Durban's Informal Economy Policy (2001) when it says: "The informal economy makes an important contribution to job creation. In 1996, there were about 60% of these people working from their houses. Common activities are child minding, cooking, manufacturing and repair work. The majority are likely to be women." As a preamble to the newly documented policy on informal trade it is stated: "The informal economy makes an important contribution to the economic and social life in Durban." In the past, there were strict rules controlling street trading and establishment of built markets. Home based work largely not in the domain of local government did not receive enough attention. The rapid deregulation at the beginning of the 1990's as well as the transition in the local government, led to a change in policy environment. According to the development profile (2002) Durban has committed itself to promoting economic development, but has had no

comprehensive, written policy to guide the management support of workers in the informal economy.

A policy has the following purposes

- It makes local government approach and principles clear
- It forms the basis for appropriate and workable legislation
- It provides the basis for common action by different government departments
- It provides the basis for making decisions about allocating resources for management and support
- It provides the basis for making agreements with other stakeholders about what the roles of local government and other groups should be
- It provides the basis for monitoring and evaluation of what has been achieved

With this in mind, eThekweni Municipality's attempts to address poverty issues, as arising from developing the area is both informed and sound. At the very same there always has to be a caution that has to be pronounced continuously relating to the implementation of this policy as it is known that policies fail in as much as they are attractive on paper. Proper implementation of policies eventually becomes a complex issue that needs an undivided attention and accuracy of both interested parties and stakeholders.

The successful implementation of this policy and the reward thereof will greatly benefit the majority of the people residing within the Greater eThekweni Municipal area (see Appendix 1 for the Population Density Map). According to the Development Profile (2002), Amakhosi who are important stakeholders in the Municipal Institutional Structure comprises of fifteen (15) Traditional Authority Areas. These areas contain more than 50% of the total population of the metropolitan area and these are poorest and the least developed areas in all aspects.

Whereas in the past issues as housing, job creation, etc were the duty of the local government and the Unicity. The conspicuous absence of poverty alleviation within the plans of the previous Durban Municipality is also notable. The stride taken by the eThekweni Unicity to bridge the divide between the rural poor and the urban advantaged and the rich is enshrined in their vision named: Our Vision "By 2020 the eThekweni Municipal Area will enjoy the reputation of being Africa's most caring and livable city, where all citizens live in harmony. This vision will be achieved by growing its economy and meeting people's needs so that all citizens enjoy a high quality of life with equal opportunities in a city that they are proud of." This glossy mission statement (vision) can only become meaningful if followed by decisive action that fulfils the wish of the poor citizens of this area especially women.

A REVIEW OF CASE STUDIES

Poverty is a worldwide problem that affects all communities and yet in different ways.

Human Poverty is both multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral. It is not about what people do or do not have, but instead what they can or cannot do. According to the Human Development Report (1997) for developing countries, three dimensions of poverty are captured:

1. Deprivation of a long and healthy life, as measured by the percentage of people not expected to survive to age 40.
2. Deprivation in knowledge, as measured by adult illiteracy.
3. Deprivation in economic provisioning, from private and public income, as measured by the percentage of people lacking access to health services, people lacking access to safe water and the percentage of children under five who are moderately or severely underweight.

As stated at the beginning, the above three is only but a fraction of what poverty can be. The following are four examples of countries where strategic alleviation of poverty by different communities, especially women have been practiced. After these have been named, an identification of obstacles and highlighting of successful action will be presented.

Social Mobilization in Bangladesh

In mid 1999 a rapid assessment of the five-year-old Bangladesh South Asia poverty alleviation programme – based in Rishwargany Thana and covering 200 villages and about 250,000 people looked at how social mobilization had expanded the social, economic and political, opportunities of the poor (Undp, 2000).

In this community, organizations formed links amongst themselves to start “home grown” collective projects, ranging from community clinics to factories, learning from one another across the districts. They are also forming business associations such as clutch farming, to increase their bargaining power with middlemen and to link more directly with markets.

1.1 Successes

Villagers here discovered that they share many similar social characteristics, but their economic positions differ and can fluctuate from year to year, those who are poor this year may not be next year, and vice versa. Through this project village organizations increase the collective strength of villagers and yet do not pre-empt the independent decision making of the self – help groups.

The organizations, in turn, are federated into larger organizations, mandal samakyas, which can cover 30-40 villages. These larger organizations represent

one of the project's most important achievements. All the self-help groups are meeting their running costs from the interest on loans to members. This in turn teaches the members to be both financially literate and responsible. Through such efforts, villagers now have markedly better access to such public services as education, health and veterinary services. As education, and through their involvement in projects, both women and growing girls have benefited by gaining new self –confidence and becoming much more active in community affairs. And through credit and technical assistance, women have been able to contribute much more to household's income and improve the well being of their families – boosting their respect in and outside their households. And by rotating leadership responsibilities among themselves, women are gaining experience in involving the community in local development initiatives. Once organized, women also take on social causes, such as reducing child labour, preventing child marriages, establishing early education centres and boosting their children's enrolment in Primary schools. They have also encouraged village organizations to focus on providing resources to the most vulnerable community members – widowed or deserted women. More keenly aware of their rights, women on petition local authorities for better access to health and education services. And more aware that village livelihoods are linked to environmental conditions, they have become the principal advocates for protecting natural resources. In one case women “captured” and then fined men who had cut down custard trees, one of the women's main sources of income.

1.2 Obstacles

A high level of organizations is needed in order to influence local government and help hold it responsible and accountable, this is mostly not attainable. As a result of the lack of this resource regional and national policy making cannot be influenced. What is mostly lacking is resources to build organizational capacity for execution of projects, capacity building assistance from multilateral organizations that does not start with the recognition that the poor are the best resource to mobilize against poverty is always bound to be of no help. There is always a lack of technical know how in civil society organizations which should go to represent the poor and to engage national policy –makers on poverty issues.

There always problems in developing community leaders who have professional skills and the focus is always on a small stratum which then detach the more skilled and literate. Village development groups can become springboards for personal ambition, leaving most of the members passive and disengaged. There is therefore a need to constantly guard against this occurrence.

The women's development fund in Mongolia. The women's development fund is a major part of Mongolia's national poverty programme, unusual because national anti- poverty plans rarely accord gender dimensions such importance (poverty report 2000)

This fund is similar in most respect to Mongolia's larger income generation fund except that it targets its micro loans to women, particularly female heads of households, and has civil society organizations playing a major role in farming and empowering beneficiaries. Women use the loans for small – scale activities, such as growing vegetables, raising chickens, opening cafes or making traditional boots. Together the funds have created more than 23,000 permanent jobs, 61% for women.

2.1 Successes

The strength of the two funds is their ability to decentralize resources to the local level and to encourage communities to participate in programme activities. In the countryside, where the economy has been depressed for years, the micro loans have made a difference in people's lives. In the women's development fund 96% of the participants have been women, about a third of them heads of households. To allow women to engage in income generating activities, the projects cover food costs for children who attend Pre School.

The programme has since 1979, has supplied subsidized credit to such groups as small and marginalized farmers, agricultural, labourers, rural artisans, the physically handicapped, scheduled tribes and scheduled castes. The programme has significantly increased the income of 57% of assisted families. The participation of civil society organizations in poverty reduction efforts, especially those directed to women, has increased social awareness and encouraged

government to provide better services. C-operatives such as self –employed women’s association provide credit to women at market rates of interests but do not require collateral; they also allow flexibility in the use of loans and the timing of repayments. Such credit initiatives, by bringing women out of the confines of the household, are changing their status within the family and within village hierarchies. Calls by the civil society for greater accountability from government and real devolution of power are increasing the likelihood that expenditures for poverty reduction will reach the neediest especially women.

1.2 Obstacles

Although this programme has reached 51 million families, only 27 % of the borrowers have been women. The programme has significantly increased the income. And in many cases the income generated has not been enough to keep families out of poverty. One reason: investments have been too small or inadequately linked to the development of strong rural banking institutions and market facilities. The program’s impact on females has also been mixed. Credit has not reached the target share of female beneficiaries because of the stipulation that focus should go to the head of the household – usually a man. In areas where civil society organizations have helped administer the programme, the loans given to women have been put to more effective use. Another of the programmes stipulations – that credit be in kind rather than in cash – has hampered efforts to diversify the income generating activities that women can

initiate. Services need to be promoted that complement the loans and activities need to be designed that is compatible with women's other responsibilities, such as household management and child rearing.

3.1 Multipurpose Platform –Mali

The multipurpose platform project in Mali, supported the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) seeks to reduce rural women's poverty while also providing a cheap source of energy. The platform supports a simple diesel engine that can power different tools, such as a cereal mill, husker, and buttery charger. The engine can also generate electricity for lighting and refrigeration and pump water (Poverty report, 2000).

3.2 Successes

This engine has a variety of advantages, sturdiness and multiple uses. Due to its many functions, it can be used year round, and its simplicity allows rural technicians to master its installation and maintenance. Made in India, the motor and its spare parts are readily available in West Africa. The engine can be powered by low-quality diesel that is available in Rural Africa or by cheap substitutes such as pourgher oil. The projects teach women how to operate the platform, market it simple and multiple services and keep accounts.

The availability of water and electricity is already transforming conditions in many of the project villages with a higher work burden and a new source of income; women have acquired new status and influence. However no constraints were recorded for this particular projects.

4.1 Sustainable Energy Development in Rural Nepal

According to the poverty Reports (2000) Nepal has positioned itself as a perfect candidate for hydropower: it has one of the world's most plentiful supplies of water but can offer only 15 % of its population access to electricity. Recognizing this opportunity the United Nations Development Programme initiated the Rural Energy for Development Programme in the country to develop small-scale hydropower plants to provide a sustainable source of energy and improve people's livelihood.

This happened to boost the local peoples intensive search for food, fuel and fodder which in turn had put enormous pressure on environmental resources. The hydropower project objective was to harness water resources in order to provide energy for cooking and lighting and power small-scale irrigation and micro-enterprises to generate income. The projects involves local communities in installing and operating the hydropower facilities and tries to institutionalized policies for rural energy development at the village, districts and central levels.

This project is a perfect example of a situation where local residents in their efforts to combat poverty have their plans supported and complemented by local authorities and international partners e.g. UNDP.

4.2 Successes

This Project has boosted the capacity building efforts of the area by linking up with a sister project, the participatory district Development Programme, and this in turn has helped district bodies develop capacity to manage rural energy systems as an integral part of local development plans. Many rural and remote mountain villages that have never had access to electrical power now have small hydropower plants. Whilst collection of fuel wood had almost depleted the environment, such energy efficient technologies as improved cooking stoves have helped lighten the burden on women and children who had to collect fuel wood. Coupled with this, the project yielded a benefit of environmental significance in the form, of watershed management, land terracing and community representation projects.

4.3 Constraints

There is a problem of the transferring of skills from technicians to the actual beneficiaries of such projects. This is heavily constrained by uneven allocation of financial resources that are always limited. There is always a struggle in terms of

trying to break the divide between poverty and environment. Policies that are attached to these two are always separate and yet they need to be linked up.

2.7 Conclusion

Any attempt to deal with poverty will inevitably be fraught with a lot of problems. Policy analysts themselves have not yet come up with a definition of poverty and development that benefits the situation that stares the South African society in its face. Poverty is an overriding problem/inheritance to any form of development. Both immanent and intentional development faces a similar problem, which makes them ineffective largely due to differences in both vision and strategy of how to address poverty. However, in the face of all these dilemmas, the main focus of this study is to look at poverty from the bottom up. It is highlighting and interrogating what the poor people themselves do to emancipate themselves from the cycle of poverty. The interrogation of people's effort is underlined by what Streeten, *et al*, (1989) observed when he says:

"The objective of a basic human needs approach to development is to ensure that All human beings should have the opportunity to live full lives".

To this end, the approach focuses on receiving access to minimum levels of consumption of certain basic goods and services. The basic needs approach attaches fundamental importance to poverty eradication within a short period as one of the main objectives of development. It defines poverty not in terms of income, poverty lines and docile of income distribution, but as the inability to

meet certain basic human needs on the part of identifiable groups of human beings. Poverty is characterized by hunger and malnutrition, by ill health, by lack of education, of safe water, of sanitation and of decent shelter. A vital aspect of the elimination of poverty then consists in securing access to these goods and services by the poor.

CHAPTER 3

THE STUDY AREA AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the description of the study area and the research methodology used for such a study. In relation to the methodology attention is focused on sampling techniques, sample size, data collection, data analysis, administration of questionnaire and limitations of the study.

3.2 Brief overview of the study area

The study area, KwaSondela is a hamlet, which is situated near Botha's Hill within the boundary of the former Outer West local Council now known as the Outer West Operational Entity. This is a rural area, some five kilometers away from Hillcrest, the nearest Town. This area, since its inception has been under authority of Amakhosi. It only recently, has been incorporated into the eThekwini Municipality.

The problems and challenges of Kwa-Sondela are articulated at eThekwini profile. (Feb.2002) as follows: "with the inclusion of vast tracks of rural area into the new Municipal boundary, the development challenges are even greater. These areas make up less than 10% of the eThekwini Municipality area's (EMA) population but they have the lowest level of social and economic development and infrastructure for example, less than 10% have water to their dwelling, and 42% use natural water resources".

As illustrated in figure 3.1, Kwa-Sondela is in close proximity to the Tourist center, which is between Pinetown and Pietermaritzburg. Tourist attraction such as Izintaba, Koinonia Conference center, Valley view etc, overlook the rolling hills of Kwa-Sondela

Although poverty seems absent from the above list, unemployment fuels poverty and in numerical terms 31% account for a large number of households within the eThekweni Municipality Area that are poor. Unemployment is one of the causative factors of poverty and crime.

Whilst such areas as Botha's Hill, Drummond etc, are booming with the Tourist business, the residents of Kwa-Sondela are suffering from acute poverty. This is in spite of the fact that Kwa-Sondela is situated in the midst of what is called "the thousand Hills Experience", which is an area designated as a tourist Mecca that links Durban to the well known Midlands meander.

Kwa-Sondela was specifically chosen for various reasons. In the absence of big or even small industries in that vast area, tourism seems the only viable business in the area. The presence of tourists in South Africa, especially in Durban and surrounding areas which is also due to favorable weather patterns, provides an opportunity of trading and creating networks with potential oversea investors and business synergies which could be established.

Therefore the singling out of this area Kwa-Sondela as a case study will further lend weight and give meaning to objectives as set out in chapter one. It is important to understand the concerns, needs, fears, aspirations and views of various people in the area which will create an opportunity how both households and individuals get in and out of the cycle of poverty.

Kwa-Sondela, up until 1999, was under tribal rule/authority. Women in such rural areas have suffered for many years, a whole range of indignities in the face of patriarchal systems that undermines women and their role in society (if they ever thought woman had any role to play). In as much as progress has been achieved in empowering women elsewhere, rural areas are still lagging behind in this and in many other regards. Women are still subjugated to male authority and chauvinistic manipulations.

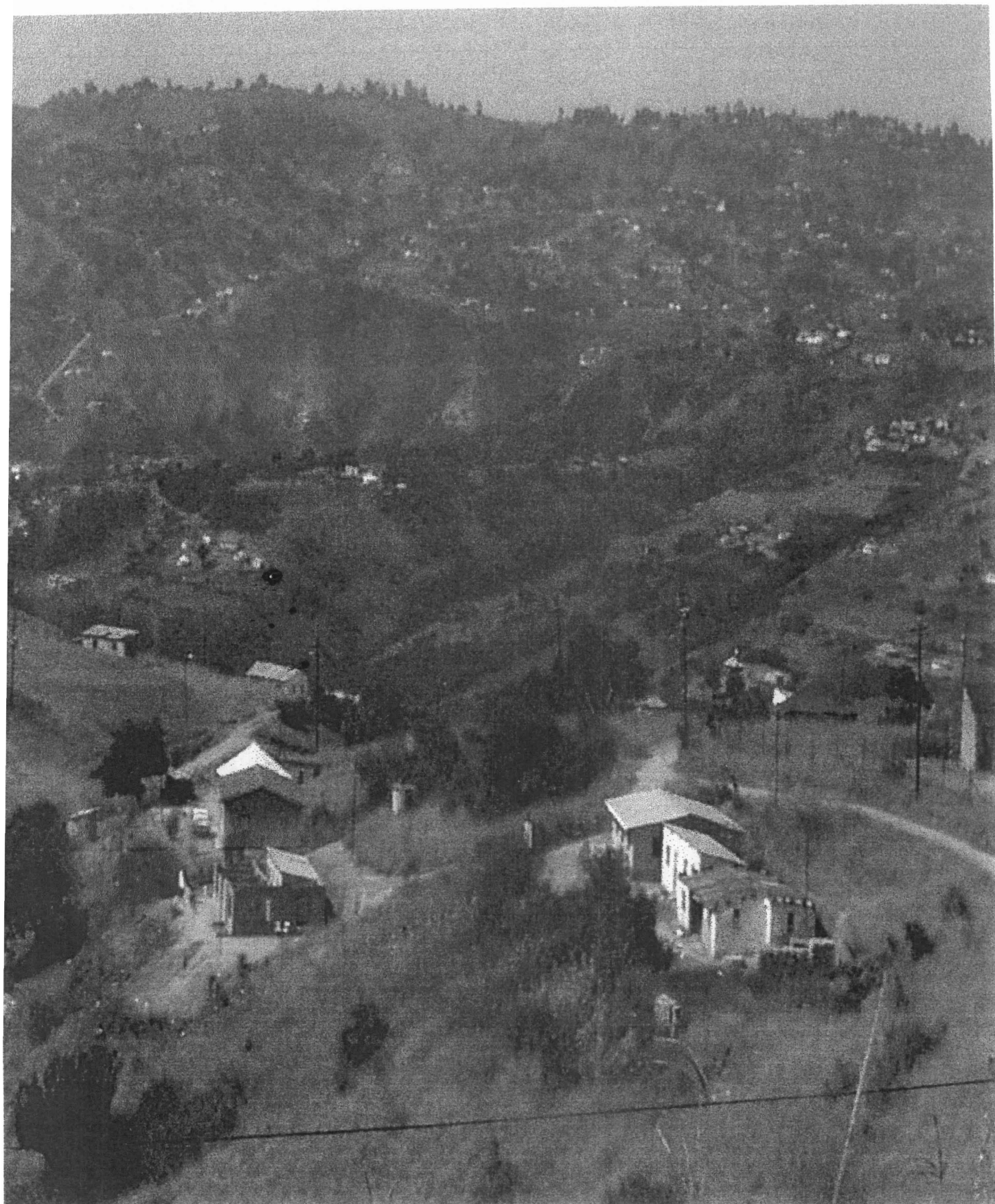
The spatial locations of Kwa-Sondela have a number of advantages.

- It is situated between Durban and Pietermaritzburg and can therefore become a nodal corridor between the two major cities.
- The number of goods available for sale e.g. craft work, curios, fresh produce on wide scale, accessibility to the trading sport can be much easier.
- The area is situated near areas (Botha's Hill, Drummond) where economic activity is being revived. Therefore rural women can benefit from such a situation through receiving business skills, linking up with other

stakeholders and interested parties and enjoy being exposed to a much bigger trading atmosphere.

- The vast unused spaces of vacant land can be utilized to attract business and industries to support local economy.
- In addition to existing infrastructure, tourist accommodation that is favorably cheaper than the ones available in the cities, can help retain people's presence longer in the area.
- The beautiful natural scenery of this place that is nestled in the Valley of Thousand Hills is every visitor's dream.
- Tourists who patronize the area are not only foreign but also local/domestic tourists. They might be encouraged to shift some of their business into the area to promote economic growth.

A DIGITAL CAMERA VIEW OF KWA - SONDELA





Study Area - KwaSondela



Prepared by : Veer Singh
Urban Strategy (GIS Unit)
file ref: s\shpdata\planning area

A TYPICAL STORE IN KWA-SONDELA



3.3 Survey Methodology

Man is constantly striving for a better understanding of a reality in which he finds himself. One of the most important ways of expressing reality is by means of assumptions. Assumptions are personal interpretations of the available information relating to the reality in which one finds oneself. “ Personal interpretations” indicate the subjective selection of information on reality, according to a person’s frame of reference, and represent his value system and the basis for his assumptions (Schnetler, et al, 1989).

It is obvious from the above that such assumptions or statements are not based on scientific considerations such as reality, accuracy, credibility and objectivity. Survey research is therefore necessary to ensure that conclusions about the aspect of reality under investigation have a logical, empirical and objective base. According to Frey, et al, (1989), a survey is an empirical and logical study involving systematic and impartial collection of data from a sample of cases as well as the statistical analysis of the findings. Backstrom and Hush-Cesar, et al, (1989) state that a survey is a formal procedure, a method by which information is obtained that is more or less isolated from the values, convictions and presuppositions of the researcher and the client reader. The survey research needs to be reasonably free from the personal bias of the researchers and client/reader. It provides data, which is more reliable, credible and objective than personal assumptions and prejudices.

3.4 Strengths and Weaknesses of survey data

A survey, as opposed to other types of research, can yield abundant data on many people in many places within a brief period of time. It is also the best method available, compared with other approaches to research, to describe certain characteristics of different populations.

Survey data possess a number of strengths of which the most important are the following (Backstrom and Hursh Cesar, 1981):

- * Original: The data to be obtained from a survey do not already exist in one or another prior to the survey.
- * Selective: Survey data are obtained from a sample of the population.
- * Mediatory: Survey data are obtained by interviewers who act as mediators between the researcher and the respondents
- * Self-reporting: The contents of the survey data are essentially the respondent's own opinion on the particular matter under investigation.
- * Standardized: Survey data are obtained by uniform procedure.
- * Topical: Survey data are collected quickly survey in the field does not take long to complete.

3.5 Sampling Techniques

Since less than all objects are experienced in sampling, the researcher must be concerned that the numbers and the kind of objects in the sample are sufficiently representative of the total population to enable sound generalizations about the population (Smith 1998). It is of paramount importance that the sample be relevant to the needs of the study, sharing the same experience or knowledge. Amongst the sampling methods discussed was, snowball sampling, expert sampling, systematic sampling, random sampling and yet accident or convenience sampling and purposive sampling were preferred methods for this study.

1. **Systematic sampling** – Drawing a simple random sample can be tedious and time consuming by contrast systematic sampling is generally quick and easy and often a much more convenient method of sampling. The basic principle is that the elements of the sample are drawn systematically from a complete list of the elements of the population (Stoker, et al, 1989).
2. **Random Sampling** – The concept “randomness” is at the core of the process of obtaining a representative part of the population by means of probability sampling. It is difficult to define the concept accurately. It can possibly best be described in terms of the unpredictable order in which

heads and tails will occur when a coin is tossed successively. A human being cannot imitate these randomness. A random selection process is the one in which there is an equal possibility for every element of the population to be selected, regardless of the selection of any other elements of the population. A coin that is tossed is a well-known example of a random selection process since the occurrence of heads or tails in a toss is independent of the result or outcome of previous tosses of the coin (Stoker, 1989).

3. Snowball Sampling:

The term Snowball sampling derives its metaphor from a small snowball growing in size as it moves down the Hillside. It initially involves identifying and interviewing persons with the required characteristics, who in turn identify other persons who qualify for inclusion in the sample (Bailey, 1994). This is well suited in geographical areas whose very surroundings are unfamiliar to the researcher. Key informants were relevant in unearthing the issues, problems and needs of the community, there is always the danger of manipulation of information in order to suit certain "hidden political Agendas" steeped in the power dynamics of the community (Bailey, 1995). This is directly applicable to an area such as Kwa-Sondela, where residents are mostly used to traditional authority instead of Municipal authority. This is the time of power shift for this

community and with this in mind the researcher had an obligation to thread carefully.

4. Expert Sampling:

Expert sampling involves the assembling of a sample of persons with known or demonstrable experience and expertise in some area (Trochim, 2002). In this way to provide information that may not be available for the researcher. Again the researcher did not prefer this method.

5. Accident or convenience sampling :

The researcher merely chooses the closest persons as respondents, who possess some attributes or characteristics of the phenomenon to be investigated (Bailey, 1994). These respondents happen to be there at the right time and place. When the researcher was driving along the main road, contact was possible with roadside vegetable and fruit vendors who were willing to spare some time. These accidental encounters proved fruitful and relevant.

6. Purposive Sampling:

This sampling allows the researcher to use his/her own judgment to direct the research to those households that best meet the criteria for the purpose of the study (Bailey, 1994, Smith, 1998). As the main focus of this

study was on survival strategies, those households involved in such work were specifically targeted.

The weakness of the survey data can be summarized as follows:

The costs of personal interviews, especially in a nationwide survey, are exorbitant. Since the span of a survey is limited, it is impossible to delve deeply into respondent's replies. Due to the time and cost factors survey data are often regarded as artificial.

- A further limitation lies in the intrinsic nature of the survey itself. A survey is essentially an entirely human communications process. The most serious problem occurs when the interviewer intervenes between the intentions of the researcher and those of the respondent (so called interviewer and respondent effect).
- Since interviews are often regarded as "making unreasonable demands on the respondent's time", surveys are considered as being intrusive. Respondents are fully aware of the fact that they are the object of the study and may well fail altogether to respond as they are supposed to because they sense the researcher's interest in their responses (the so-called Hawthorne effect).

- A related factor is the artificiality of the information obtained by means of surveys. Surveys are structured situations in which both the interviewer and the respondents' well defined, mutually exclusive roles. One asks the question and the other replies, which is more reminiscent of an interrogation than of a real conversation.
- Some respondents are either unavailable or unwilling to participate in the survey process (refusal). These and other types of non-responses are to maintaining representative of the sample (Dixon, et al, 1989).

This study examines the survival strategies used by rural women in order to combat poverty. This is a locally based study whose central focus is a place-based analysis of the survival strategies and how they relate to development especially in the Provincial context. The research questions are mainly aimed at addressing the objectives that were presented in chapter one of this dissertation. The following broad research questions have guided and directed the study:

1. What are the strategies that poor rural women adopt in order to fight and eradicate poverty?

2. What are the needs and careers (if any) of these rural women in order that they develop these strategies and sustain food security in this area?
3. How can these survival strategies be replicated in other areas that are hit by poverty?
4. How can local authorities e.g. eThekweni Unicity, local government etc. help to enhance the effort of the local community.

3.6 The Research instruments

The following methods were used as sources of data collection:

3.6.1 Interviews

In case of individual interviews the respondent usually visited at his/her home.

These presuppose adequate communication occurring between the two parties by means of the voice, body language, facial expression, etc. This method like all others has its advantages and disadvantages (Dixon, 1989).

3.6.1.1 Advantages

Personal contact: Probably the greatest advantage to be derived from interviewing is the interacting occurring between the interviewer and interviewee (respondent), comprising all the senses and the body as a whole.

Greater Flexibility: The respondent is not limited to one word replies such as “Yes” or “No”. He / She can formulate the response in his / her own words and qualify it as he chooses, while the interviewer can decide whether it is yes / no, and can even resort to probing, if necessary, to obtain a more explicit response.

Opportunity for explanations: If the interviewer suspect that the interviewee is uncertain about something, further explanations can be given.

3.6.1.2 Disadvantages

High unit cost: A survey employing individual interviews is probably the expensive method since it involves travel and subsistence observance and sometimes interviewer remuneration.

Interactive Control: A thorough control system is necessary to ensure that the interviews adhere to the instructions and that “phantom respondents” do not complete questionnaires.

Respondent Obligation: Although appointments can be made to suite the respondent, he may feel obliged to accommodate the interviewer. Interruption such as telephone calls and visitors can cause embarrassment.

The method of selecting my interviews was not without its problems. The geographical setting of Kwa-Sondela is very rugged and scattered across the hills; as a result some households were difficult to reach. For some of those reached, they were not eager to give information suspecting that it might be collected on behalf of Government of which they do not yet know and understand and might then be used against them at a later stage. Some people were simply not prepared to be interviewed and did not give the any reasons for this behavior.

3.6.2 Observation Schedule

For about a period of one week, the area being visited at different focuses, the researcher observed the environment that the community lived in. The geographical setting of the area and some of the activities that take place they

were captured through the use of an artificial camera. According to Jorgensen (1989) and Bailey (1994) direct observation and experience are primary forums and methods of data collection. They also state that although observation most commonly involves sight or visual data collection, it could also include data collection via other senses, and it does not preclude simultaneous use of other data gathering techniques. It therefore affords the researcher first hand sensory experience of the intended study.

The reason for the direct observation was to identify the location and setting of the households and individuals involved in survival strategies to fight poverty. Data was also collected through informal conversations with ordinary people outside the local supermarket Kwa-Sondela Trading Store and at the school where vendors sell their products.

3.6.3 Questionnaires

According to Schnetler et al (1989) a well-designed questionnaire is the culmination of a long process of planning the research objectives, formulating the problems, generating a hypotheses etc. A poorly designed questionnaire can invalidate any research results, notwithstanding the merits of the sample, the fieldwork and statistical techniques. In their criticism of questionnaires studies Berdie and Anderson (1974) object to poor design, rather than to questionnaires, as such. A well-design questionnaire, they say, can boost the reliability and validity of the data to acceptable tolerances.

It stands to reason that questionnaire design does not take place in a vacuum.

It is dependent on the choice of the subject to be researched, the aim of the research, the size of the test sample, the choice of the method of data collection and the analyses of the data.

Questionnaires were distributed among a variety of people in the community i.e. informal vendors and individual women. The questionnaires were designed for the purpose of getting ideas regarding Socio-Economic characteristics of the respondent. Secondly, information that pertains to the accessibility of services that will enhance the quality of life of the citizens. The first part of the questionnaire was designed in a biographical sense in order to get some understanding which relates to family member characteristics like, age, sex, marital status, employment status and educational standards.

The second part of the questionnaire was attempting to find about the availability of service and facilities in the area and the people's perceptions of the new government.

The third part was aimed at informal vendors, as informal vending is one of the many survival strategies used by local women of Kwa-Sondela. Questions raised related to what they sell, their customers, what they think the government will do in order to support their business efforts, how they presently advertise their products and whether they see their situation improving or not. A total of 30

structured questionnaires were administered to 30 different households who were involved in different life sustaining activities. In addition semi structured questionnaire were administered to 20 individuals (women).

3.7 Fieldwork Experience

It has to be stated that the study was both informative and learning curve. It opened the researcher's eyes to the sad reality of people who live in poverty and yet do not see themselves that way. These are the people whose low position is directly caused by policies planed and executed by other fellow human beings and yet they demean and degrade in their implementation. The tension that presently exist in the communities that were originally under Tribal authorities and are now under eThekweni Council, were very evident as the researcher interacted with the community. In as much as the research procedures were explained in the vernacular to the respondents, their hang-ups and suspicions kept on emerging. Some community members were very reluctant and unwilling to take part in the research for various reasons. Some were suspicious of questions relating to their business endeavors saying 'when we had nothing on our tables, the government did nothing, now that we are trying something the government is on our cases'.

As some interviews were recorded some uneasiness emerged from some respondents and the researcher assured the respondents that these interviews were strictly for academic purposes.

The problems of illiteracy once more reared its ugly head, hence some of the questionnaires proved difficult and provocative to some of the participants / respondents. It also emerged that sometime in the past some people have made promises of good life to some residents of the area and nothing have been done and this was a major disappointment for the people. It thus becomes important that the researcher dispels any such occurrence as it only helps exacerbate the problem.

3.8 Conclusion

At the start of this chapter the survey methodology was explained, its strengths and weaknesses were also looked at. Sampling techniques in their various forms were explained and the research instruments used were also outlined. The questionnaire, its different sections used to collect data were explained. The observation schedule was discussed. At the end the fieldwork experiences and how the respondent's attitudes were looked into. The following chapter is about data analysis.

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

The main focus of this chapter is to analyze data for the purposes of providing reasonable answers to the research questions of this study. The objectives of this study are answered by a series of questions that were asked, using a questionnaire.

The choice of this particular area of study was influenced by the fact that (Kwa-Sondela) is situated on the side of the growth point development node of the eThekweni metropolitan area. Even more significant is the fact that, it is neighbouring the ever-famous valley of thousand hills.

The perspective and perceptions of the people of this area are important in assessing the success of the Government's poverty eradication programmes. There are other activities that are unique and yet prevalent of this area. However for the purposes of this study the target groups included female informal vendors and individual female residents.

The socio – economic profile of the people in Kwa-Sondela.

The background characteristics of the respondents are summarized and presented in this section.

Table 4.1 Age Category of respondents.

Age category	% Female
20-39	9.5
40-49	3.8
50-59	25
60-69	39.4

N=50

The profile shows that the majority of people (60.6%) in this community should be employed and yet this is not the case. And yet there is quite a high number of these between 60-69 years (39.4%) it should be quite difficult for these to be economically viable when the younger generation is not, hence the gap in educational opportunities.

Table 4.2: Employment status of households:-

Employment Status	Percentage
Formal Sector: wage employment	16.5
Pension, Welfare, Grants	19.6
Informal Sector: Vending	40.3
Not economically active	23.6

N = 50

Many of the respondents in this area live by involving themselves in various survival strategies in order to provide food for their families. This employment profile also goes to show that as indicated in Table 4.1 that 60.6% of this capable of employment remain unemployed.

This obviously puts a strain on older family members having to provide for those who cannot make it in the job market due to a lack of necessary qualifications and skills. The majority of pensioners and the disabled rely on pension and grants respectively. This is often not enough hence some of those in their late sixties try to augment their meager pensions by involving themselves in income generating activities. Adding a further burden on the elderly is the fact that they still have to feed their extended family, their own children and grandchildren. In the midst of poverty and ever-rising cost of living for ordinary South Africans, it is fitting that 59.2% of this community is engaged in multiple survival strategies to make ends meet and alleviate poverty. A total figure of 23.6% of the population relies on the three main means of survival hence they are economically inactive. This is regrettably representative of both the youth and adults as depicted in the dependency profile in Table 4.3. Lack of formal education, tertiary education, no life skills are major contributors to a scenario such as this. These in the formal sector are represented by 16.5 %, which is minimal and contributes, to a low earning potential in a community. Another factor is that even while women are formally employed men are better salaried than women are. Female headed-households suffer even more as a result of this.

Table 4.3 Age dependency Profile

Age Category	Percentage
0-20	55
21-39	18.5
40-49	9.7
50-59	7.5
60-69	9.50

N = 50

Like in most cases Dependency always lies with the youth population, in this case it is 55%. This figure is very high and since the youth is not economically active such a situation contributes to increasing levels of poverty within the broader community. The large portion of young adults accounting for 18.5% of those who are economically productive further exacerbates this. The total picture is even more gloomy considering that the ages of 21-59 years (35.5%) shows an acceptably high level of economic dependency.

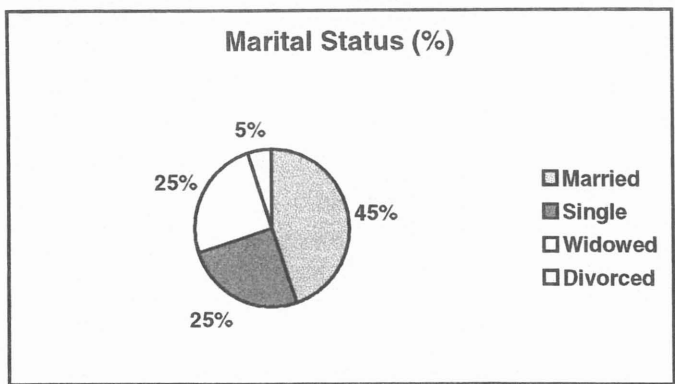
Table 4.4: Education Levels of Respondents.

Educational Level	Percentage
None	28.0
Partial Primary	22.5
Partial secondary	17.0
Matric	32.5

N=50

The educational profile of this community is a reflection of a society that we live in, which is not egalitarian and still very much in line with apartheid planning. Although 32.5% represent the youth with Matric Qualifications, this is basically all they will remain with and in today's very competitive job market, they are rendered unemployable. What makes the picture of poverty almost complete is that 28.0% of people are functionally illiterate. This emerged in the previous chapter whereby the researcher had problems having to interact with the same community who is suspicious of anyone linked with any literate process. Some degree of literacy is reflected with 22.5% who partially went up to primary level. This figure sharply declines at the next level of education and drops to 17.0%. This may indicate that whilst the community tries to be educated, the more it becomes expensive to achieve this they simply drop out of the school system. It is therefore, not surprising that none of the respondents had any qualification beyond matric.

Figure 4.1 Marital Status (in %)



The above figure shows that 45% of the respondents are married. This should create a stable community. This cannot be the case when more than half represented by 25% are single parent families. A lot is being indicated by 25% of the population being widowed. The figure for divorced families is at a low 5% which is an indicator that divorce is not a major concern for this area but families being created and sustained seems to be the problem. In a situation such as this fragmentation in family life causes a ripple effect that ends with poverty. It is difficult to maintain economic stability in an environment that encourages lack of resources and sustainable livelihoods.

4.2 The role of survival strategies

Table 4.5: Goals in using Survival Strategies – multiple responses

Goals in using survival strategies	Percentage
Employment creation	8.5
Sale for income generation	68.5
Improve nutrition	46.5
Reduce hunger	82.2
Food for consumption	85.5
Recreation /Leisure/ Therapeutic	1.0

N=50

The main reason for being involved in survival strategies as indicated by 85.5% is for the communities own food consumption. Even those who do not direct benefit from these strategies 82.2% indicates that this helps reduce hunger. Some people indicated that when coming back from work, they sell in their own homes e.g. fruits and vegetables, paraffin, candles etc. It is also common that whilst the main goal is consumption, those involved in gardening and catering services (burial schemes) do sell some of their produce as well, this is indicated by 68.5%.

This also shows that in as much as these strategies are important, they have not matured as to be able to create employment, hence this is indicated at only 8.5%. It is also very notable that it is only 10% of the people who sell for past

time or as a leisure exercise. The principal aim of these survival strategies is to reduce hunger and minimize the effects of poverty. This is even done at a level where some income is gained; hence it is used to alleviate poverty at different levels.

Table 4.6 Income generated from sale of products

Income	Percentage
R100-R200	23.5
R201-R300	26.0
R301-R400	21.5
R401-R500	18.6
>R500	10.5

N=50

The larger portion of the respondents, 89.6%, earned between R100 and R500, whilst 10.5 earned above R500-00 per amount. The majority of those who earned between R100 and R500 are those whose income generating are either seasonal i.e. vegetable growers or the availability of their material is not consistent i.e. craft and art sellers. Only a small number of, 10.5%, earned above R500. This is the group whose income generating activities is long in the area, have accumulated a sizeable number of loyal customers and is better positioned. Amongst these are block- makers, street – vendors next to schools and taxi ranks and those who sell in pension pay-points on pension days.

Table 4.7 types of survival strategies- multiple responses

Types	Percentage
The muthi trade	15.5
block –makers	2.2
Poultry –farming	4.5
Bead-workers	16.6
Street vendors (hawkers)	35.5
The craft market	45.5
Caterer for schools	28.2
Knob – kierie makers	10.3
Catering for funerals, weddings and parties	36.5
Gardening, vegetables	44.6
Saving scheme	56.8

N=50

According to table 4.7 there is a wide variety of income generating activities that exist within this community. What is striking is that some of the jobs known to be the preserve of males are now done women, i.e. block-making, poverty farming and knob-kierie making, these amount to 17%. This indicates a shift in mind set that males can only do certain jobs. In spite of an obvious lack of education on the part of these people, they are capable of grappling with the same issues that

their educated urban counterparts are dealing with (patriarchy and its effects on women). Topping the charts is savings scheme amounting to 56.8%. This is a scheme whereby women can save as from as little R20-00 a week for eleven months, and at the end members who pay regularly may borrow some money during the course of the year. This money will be repaid with little interest, which in turn boost the interest for all members, The members stated that Ithala Bank makes this possible and it was also the preferred Bank because they are allowed to use a book and all tellers and managers speak their language (Zulu).

Following close on the heels of savings schemes is the arts and craft business that is represented by 45.5%. This is not surprising hence it was mentioned in the chapter three that Kwa-Sondela is situated into the midst of tourism. This means that should this strategy be further investigated and promoted it can be a big income earner for the local community. The third biggest income generating activity is gardening, which is profiled at 44.6 % This is made possible by the fact that there are vast pieces of land where people can grow their crops.

Amongst the problems raised about gardening were pest control measures (not being in place), Damage caused by livestock, lack of knowledge as to which fertilizers to use and when, modern ways of working the soil and its management for maximum output. The problem of fencing the gardens and the lack of Government subsidy to ease the burden of buying crops seemed to top the list.

4.3 Access to land and Resources

Table 4.8

Ownership	Percentage
Interviewee	18.0
State	8.5
Private land owner	10.2
Family /Extended family	43.5
Ingonyama Trust land	19.8

N=50

Most of the land falls under the Ingonyama Trust land. This is no surprise hence more than 60% of land in Kwazulu –Natal falls under the same category. This is followed by the family or the extended family amounting to 43.5%. This figure goes to show that this is an old community with its own set of values and norms where history is traceable back to their forebears. Such problems as lack of education should be dating back into centuries of neglect and lack of any real powers by the local authorities in rural areas. This is followed by land owned by individuals interviewed. Land owned privately amounted to 10.2 % which is quite acceptable, taking into consideration its implications should this figure be more. There is always tension between landowners and their tenants especially when it comes to issues of rent and conditions of occupation.

The whole picture of land and security of tenure is indicative of the larger problem of the land question in South Africa. Rural development and delivery of services in such areas will not be realized until people especially women have land rights and are empowered to own land. This is a thorny issue that lies central to the quest for development of the rural households. Most of those who rely on gardening for consumption and selling identified water acquisition as the most pressing problem. Most depend on rainwater and the rivers for their water supply. They also indicated that to purchase water tank is quite expensive although they knew where to buy these.

The availability of energy also poses a big problem. Their main source of energy is generated through fire. Collection of firewood from the nearby forests is mostly done by young women when they come back from schools and over week-ends. Some respondents cited rape as a constant threat to these young maidens, whereas, there is not even a police station in their area.

4.4 Support Services

None of the respondents indicated that they received any help from the state at all. Two % of the respondents indicated to have received help from a non-governmental organization. The respondents indicated a need to be given support by the Government and other stakeholders such as local authorities and non-governmental organizations. Some held the views that should they be empowered, they in turn can help others through the transference of skills.

4.5 General Concerns and Needs

The lack of clinic in the area was a problem. There is only one clinic at the entrance to Kwa-Sondela, which belongs to the Valley Trust. It is staffed by nurses from other areas, it is open three days a week, and is never opened on weekends.

There is no police station and cases are mostly reported to the local ward Councillor and the secretary to the chief of the area. Most of the times nothing comes forth from reported cases, except in some instances where the Induna give verbal warnings to offending parties. The nearest post office is in Hillcrest, which is a few kilometers away.

Lack of water borne sewage disposal in the area is a problem hence it leaves the community with one option of erecting pit latrines. These pit latrines need to be maintained through disinfectants such as jeyes fluid, which at times is hard to afford. The problem of flies in winter exacerbates this problem.

There is some damaged caused by livestock which in turn points to a problem of fencing in the area. Public transport is a major problem since taxis are both expensive and prone to shooting incidents due to taxi feuds. Bus service from Kwazulu Transport is available but mostly at certain times. Most respondents

cited the problem of having to load their products into a bus already filled to capacity by non-trading passengers.

There is a problem of theft and their fruit and vegetable stalls get vandalized at night. The respondents expressed a need for communal taps that will be monitored by the community involved in gardening activities. There was a great desire for the Government to erect an open plan market, like those in Durban, where suppliers of vegetables and other food products can deliver to the hawkers. There is also a desire for the training school that will equip the community with business skills. Valley Trust once provided this service but was later closed down due to lack of funds required continuing the project.

Electricity is only available to households living near the main road. Some respondents stated that Eskom officials once told them that the scattered nature of their houses makes it too expensive to provide this service.

Many of the problems listed above relate to the community development initiatives that the Government needs to embark on. This also is a challenge to the quick implementation of the Integrated Development Programme.

4.6 Conclusion

This Study gives an indication that the community of Kwa-Sondela is mainly that of poor people and this leads to other social ills accompanying poverty stricken by communities. It is worth noting that in spite of such problems the members of the community have taken it upon themselves to do something in order to make a living.

What actually comes out of the questionnaire is that the people long for empowerment instead of just help for free. There are no signs of the culture of entitlement in this community.

Survival strategies mentioned in this chapter shows how innovative the community is and leaves a challenge to the Government and other stakeholders to offer this community their partnership which can lead to greater opportunities for all. Even those in the waged sector participate in some of these business initiatives as means of supplementing their low incomes and bring additional food.

The farming initiatives of the community are mostly hampered by lack of funds to buy fertilizer that is appropriate to prevailing soil conditions, lack of technical know how in farming as an economic activity. The fact that the community can only do poultry farming on a small scale shows the depth of the problem of funding of emerging farmers.

Chapter 5

Discussion, Recommendations and Conclusion

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a summary as well as recommendations derived from the findings of the study. As already stated in the previous chapter, the survival strategies of rural women are being investigated and appraised such that they may be replicated in other areas where poverty also exist.

The current levels of poverty are a consequence of a number of complex issues, which have been shaped by political and economic policies of the past rather than by an inherent lack of resources in the present day South Africa. As evidenced by a poignant remark by Muhammad Yunus who founded the Grameen Bank, twenty years ago: The poor do not create poverty. The institutions we build and policies we pursue create poverty.

(HSRC 1995)

People gripped by poverty and inequality are living on the underside of history and are therefore not even aware of their good state of poverty as having causative factors.

Some development programmes have been brought about by organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, whereby development practices were such that affected communities were not given a chance to prioritize their core development needs and aspirations. The Apartheid Government did the same as the other dictatorial bodies such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, some U.S. agencies and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Each time these organizations impose their policies on developing countries these never succeeded in the long term, this meant that their policies were fundamentally flawed.

In trying to highlight and fight this an old rural woman remarked as follows when R9 million Rands was earmarked for development in her community: R9 million! But all we want to do is to protect some of the spring so that it is easier for us to get clean water. There are some springs here that are very strong and flow even in droughts. I know that because I am a very old person and those springs have never stopped flowing in my lifetime. (Remarks of an old woman on cost R9 million and the Community should collect R185-000 and then pay a monthly levy for water) (Mapumulo, 1995).

5.2 Summary of findings and Main Concerns.

The socio-economic profile of the Community of Kwa-Sondela shows very clearly that the majority of the households are poor. This comes from the fact that the majority of the population is involved in survival strategies in order to provide food for their families. This is seen as a bold move to alleviate poverty. The dependency profile also points to the fact that, simply because the majority of the economically active people cannot be employed they are left with no alternative out to engage themselves in these strategies. This is done alongside those who are much older and some of whom have reached pension age category. The situation is further worsened by a very small fraction of wage employment earners being youthful and yet not earning enough. This is indicative of a situation where lack of higher education turns those with little education into labourers who never climb the ladder of success at work. The lower their wages, the lesser their chances are to contribute meaningfully to economic growth in their localities.

The educational level of respondents indicated that the majority of the people have no formal education at all. Matric qualification was viewed as a base line entry into the job market. To have no formal education at all jeopardises all such chances of employment. Most of the respondents did indicate that in as much as they would like to further their schooling, they did not have the money or the

capacity to do so. This goes to show that poverty destroys the very social fibre of any Society and even the ability for people to live full lives.

5.3. Forms, processes and potential contribution of the multiple survival strategies.

Two main types of survival strategies identified in this study area were, gardening (vegetables e.g. cabbage, spinach, brinjal, legumes etc) and savings schemes. Most of the community members do their farming activities on properties whose ownership they are not sure about. Although about 43.5 % of woman utilize land owned by family or extended family this always have patriarchal stereo type that goes with it. In traditional communities such as this one, women can never have land rights. In fact young boys have preference over women in terms of land acquisition or security of land tenure.

The South African Government, in consultation with a wide range of key stakeholders is now launching a concerted effort to improve opportunities and well being for the rural poor. In taking this step, the Government is building on six years of experience with its own rural programs, as well as assimilating key lessons from similar efforts worldwide. The resulting “ Integrated and Sustainable

Rural Development strategy” is idealistic in its vision and practical in its focus on mechanisms of implementation. The integrated and Sustainable Rural

Development Strategy (ISRDS) is designed to realize a vision that will “attain socially to serve and stable rural communities with viable institutions, sustainable economies and universal access to social amenities, able to attract and retain skilled and knowledgeable people, who are equipped to contribute to growth and development”. (Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Strategy (ISRDS). 2000).

Like most mission statements, the (ISRDS) promises to deliver a lot to rural communities, with its target group being the poor. And yet such strategies never reach the ground, where they would count the most. It is important that even before the Government learns from similar survival strategies and key lessons, it should look in its own territory before looking at what is being elsewhere in the world.

The economic moves being practiced by local people should be acknowledged, improved funded, and supported until the level of maximum potential as reached. In as much as these strategies from the Government sound progressive until they are made practical, they are not worth the paper they are written on.

5.4 Problems and Constraints

The main problems raised by the community are varied, starting from those that are general to those that specifically relate to hindrances towards the community reaching its full potential by being involved in income generating activities. The community has no police station, no clinic or hospital, no post-office or postal agency, no training school, no community hall and no proper shopping centers. Unemployment, lack of facilities for selling e.g. transport shelters, stands, packaging material, marketing tools, advertising facilities, lack of schooling, non-existence of tertiary institutions are some of the worrying factors in this community.

Some of the specific problems relating to production are listed below:

- Lack of funding – respondents stated that in as much as they knew who their target clients were, lack of fund made their clients unreachable. They do not have the requirements that are needed by banks to obtain business loans, especially because they are not employed and are unemployable. They stated that they knew about other agencies that loan money to people, but they needed collateral (security) which they often don't have. Khula Enterprise and Ntsika Enterprise were specifically mentioned as belonging to this category. Respondents said that in as much as these two

organizations are said to be targeting women, they do not get help from them. The land Bank in Pietermaritzburg promised to provide them loans, but the system they use "step up loan system " is almost the same as their savings schemes so they cannot save twice to get helped the same way.

- Water – For most of the respondents water poses a great challenge to them. They have to fetch water from the nearby river or get it from the Valley Trust clinic if it is open. This clinic opens only on certain days at certain times. Those who grow vegetables wish to buy the pumps to help them draw water from the river, but do not have funds to purchase this facility. This leads to a situation whereby their food produce becomes seasonal, in winter when there are rains they stop gardening until the next summer. In the interim they resort to other forms of activities and by that time others are already involved in these and this results in duplication and conflicts.
- Marketing Plan – respondents claim that in the absence of any marketing plan or tool word of mouth is the only means they have to make their products known to potential clients. They cannot afford to arrange for flyers and pamphlets. Printing costs for these tools are very high.
- Security measures – This is of great concern when they sell their products during the day, thugs come by to try and steal from them. During the night, they come and vandalize their stands and tables. There is no police

station in the area. The nearest police station is in Hillcrest, some few kilometers away from them.

- Advertising – Respondents claim that the only way to do this is to display their products in areas where they think there is a heavy flow of people and this changes when tourists buses come by, they have to approach tourists themselves. They did indicate that if they were known, this could grow their business initiatives. Most of them said their businesses have not grown over the past year. They also do not see any change coming by even in the five years times. Some feel that the Government do not
- understand their needs, hence their urban counterparts in urban areas are well – cared for and yet they are more desperate than those living in urban areas.
- Technology – Some respondents did indicate that they heard about such things as computers, although they have seen cash registers in shops, in towns they do not think that these are their priority. When their businesses have grown to comparable standards with those in towns and cities, they might need these.

- Acquisition of raw material – This specifically refers to these respondents who were involved in arts and crafts. Due to a lack of suitable places where they can access the required material i.e. logs and tree stumps, they end up buying finished products from Durban and sell these in their area. In this way they do not make any profit and yet they need stock to sell. There are gender related dynamics involved here as well, some respondents say that males always ask them to handover the knob-kierie making activity to them hence they can easily fetch the raw material from the local forest. This puts women in a predicament since this activity is a lucrative one; hence they also make walking sticks which are very popular amongst their Tourists clients.
- Lack of support services - there are no support system that s in place to help these local women. In spite of their enthusiasm to do business, lack of subsidies (financial and in other forms) advisory services whether by the state, the Private Sector or NGO Sector are not in place. This creates an obstacle for rural women aspiring to improve on the survival strategies they have devised.
- Lack of financing – The primary need for fencing is to prevent damage by livestock and people coming to steal the produce in the gardens. Fencing

- is expensive and the Local women cannot afford it. It is difficult enough for them to buy fertilizers, and seeds, how much more for fencing.

5.5 Comparative Analysis of survival strategies used in Kwa-Sondela and those used elsewhere in the world.

In Bangladesh, Mongolia, Mali, and Nepal the overriding difference is that in all these, the survival strategies are fully supported by the Government and their implementation monitored by the Poverty alleviation organs put in place for this purpose.

There is a direct link between the Government and the people, and such as interaction ensures both accountability and transparency from both parties A good example is the multipurpose platform in mail, It is not only there to help the community make ends meet but they are taught to operate and repair it so, that through such ownership, the community learn to use it with responsibility. this promotes the good relations between the people and the government of the day. This promotes the elements of skills transference and development and a partnership between the Government and the people.

In Mongolia, South America, a development fund for women was set up by Government in 2002. The people generally managed this fund and the government as partners, this helped eliminated corruption when funds are disbursed and favoritism from either side. Through this scheme even households that are female headed benefited hugely.

When women are empowered in this field, their new found freedom spills over to other areas of life e.g. in Bangladesh once organized women ventured into such areas such as reduction of child labor, prevention of child marriages, establishment of early education centers and boosting their children's enrolment in Primary Schools.

In a community such as Kwa-Sondela, where the rate of illiteracy is so high at 21.5 % they can learn a lot from Bangladesh women's experiences. This is why it one of the objectives of this study, is that in order that survival strategies become meaningful replication of their success stories to other areas is essential. Bangladesh is the case in point. .

In all the four cases there is a sharp contrast to the case of Kwa- Sondela. Whilst the Government and the local Municipality is not aware of the four countries mentioned have made it their task to be in partnership with local women and promote these strategies together.

For a new democracy such as the one we have in South Africa, there is still a long way to go in realizing potential of the rural communities. The four case studies also goes to show that these multitude survival strategies when reaching their full potential have a ripple effect on to other spheres of life as mentioned in the case of Bangladesh.

5.6 Recommendations

The recommendations discussed below are a pointer to new direction that can help alleviate poverty in rural areas such as Kwa-Sondela. State and NGO interactions are highly desirable in helping such communities to live full lives. The enhancement of their strategies of survival will snowball into other areas of life and give full meaning of sustainable livelihoods.

5.7 Need for training and Development

As clearly shown in table 4.4, that 28% of most members are not educated, some form of training is thus required to help bring skills to the local members of this community. One of the ways of achieving will be to involve the community in Adult basic Education and Training (Abet) for a start and then once the level of literacy is achieved other forms of educational development can be pursued. Such training can help compliment indigenous knowledge that is always found in rural communities. Oral tradition also comes in as to unearth the past of the community, where it comes from, how people came to live the way they do, what

values and norms they share and how these have shape their thinking as a community. Formal education should however, never be viewed as a replacement of indigenous knowledge and cultural practices.

5.8 One-stop-shop facility

In keeping with the integrated development process (IDP) a one- stop- shop kind of a facility is envisage for this community, whereas a community hall can be used for adult basic education and training (ABET) the same facility can be used for skills development and training, it can accommodate other such facilities as the post office or postal agency, advise office, legal resource center etc.

This in turn can save the community a lot in terms of traveling costs and inconveniences attached to an unorganized public transportation system.

5.9 Appointment of an Agricultural Extension Officer

It will be prudent to ask the department of agriculture to send an agricultural extension officer to service the area of Kwa-Sondela. This can be done best by an integrated and holistic approach to this task, taking care of providing and advising on what seeds and fertilizers to- to advising the community and farming matters such as tick-control and treatment of diseases in cattle such as foot and mouth disease. Foot-rot, heart-water etc, to the creation of dipping tanks and fencing methods that are suitable to a rural setting.

5.10 Limitations

This study set out to research the survival strategies used by rural women of Kwa-Sondela. The case study approach was used in this study. This involved a single area of study and the findings arrived at cannot be the overall picture applicable to the rest of the country. In spite of this shortcoming, this study should go a long way in promoting the survival strategies as an alternative method of alleviating poverty. The study did not look at survival strategies across the gender spectrum, so it was not gender spectrum, so it was not dynamic in terms of gender sensitivity.

5.11 Conclusion

There is a question that is often asked how possible is it that in spite of eight years of democratic rule; most people still live in poverty? Poverty manifest itself in many different disguises such as unemployment, homelessness, illiteracy, hunger, low academic output, occurrence of different diseases and the food chain that keeps breaking and cannot be sustained. Natural disasters such as floods and drought also contribute to the impoverishment of mostly rural communities.

It is not coincidental that in the wake of object poverty, different households engaged in various survival strategies to earn a living. This takes many different forms that included gardening, art and craft, vending, knob-kierie making, poultry farming, savings schemes etc. The literature review (chapter two) describes

various ways that the three tiers of government can coordinate activities on behalf of the rural poor thereby alleviating poverty in an institutionalized manner. The survival strategies initiated by such rural people like those in Kwa-Sondela further challenges the Government to co-operate with people on the ground. People in helping themselves, in turn are helping the Government to reach out to them. People in the study area have set the pace, it is the Government's responsibility to join hands and grow what the community has initiated.

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ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
UNIVERSITY OF DURBAN WESTVILLE
RURAL WOMEN AND POVERTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Household Details

Level	Relation to the respondent	Sex M/F	Age	Marital Status	Level of Education	Income	Employment details	Additional source of income
1	Respondent							
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								

Codes:

Relationship to the respondent	Marital Status	Education	Income	Employment	Additional source/s of income
1. Respondent	1. Currently married	1. None	1. 0	1. Unemployed	1. Pension
2. Husband/partner	2. Single	2. Partial primary	2. 1-500	2. Domestic	2. Co-operative ventures/inc
3. Daughter/daughter-in-law	3. Divorced	3. Primary complete	3. 501-1000	3. Labourer	me from developmen
4. Son/son-in-law	4. Widowed	4. Partial secondary	4. 1001-1500	4. Pensioner	groups
5. Grandchild	5. Separated	5. Matric	5. 1501-2000	5. Self-employed	3. Renting c
6. Parents	6. Living together	6. Post matric	6. 2001-2500	6. Professional	rooms
7. Other relatives			7. 2501-3000	7. Other (specify)	4. Outside remittances
8. Not related			8. >3001		5. Other (specify)
9. Don't know					

3.SANITATION

3.1 What type of toilets does the households use and what type of toilet do they prefer

Type of toilet	Tick	Preference
Chemical toilet	1	
Flush toilet	2	
Mobile toilet	3	
Bucket toilet	4	
Shallow pit latrines	5	
Improved pit latrine with ventilation (VIP)	6	
Other (specify)	7	
None	8	

3.2 If your household has a toilet, where is it?

Inside dwelling	1
Outside dwelling- on stand	2
Outside dwelling- off stand	3

3.3 Where do you dump your solid waste?

In the dumping holes	1
Taken by solid waste vehicles	2
Other (specify)	3

4.FUEL

4.1 What are the primary sources for cooking, heating and lighting? (rate sources)

	Cooking	Heating	Lighting
1. Wood			
2. Paraffin			
3. Electricity			
4. Coal			
5. Gas			
6. Generator			
7. Candles			
8. Solar heating			
9. Other (specify)			

4.2 Which sources of fuel do you prefer the most?

Wood	1
Paraffin	2
Coal	3
Electricity	4
Gas	5
Solar Heating	6
Other (specify)	7

4.3 Why do you prefer the source of fuel you chose from the above?

4.4 If applicable, which members of the household perform the following duties with regard to the collection of fuel?

	Girls U/18	Women 18-60	Women>60	Boys U/18	Men 18-60	Men >60
Wood						
Coal						
Cow Dung						
Other (specify)						

4.5

If it fuel-wood/coal/cow-dung is used how often does the household collect this fuel?

1. Daily	1		
2. Every second day	2		
3. Weekly	3		
4. Other (specify)	4		

4.6 Do you have difficulty in collecting fuel-wood/coal/cow-dung?

4.7 Do you experience any difficulties in obtaining, purchasing or collecting the source of fuel?

Yes	1
No	2
Sometimes	3

4.8 If yes, what difficulties are those?

No access to sources	1
Unable to purchase firewood	2
environmental problems (lack of sources)	3
Other (specify)	4

4.9 If Wood/ coal is sold within the area, answer the following questions: Who sells the particular fuel?

Business	1
Local dealer	2
Business person outside the community	3
Other (specify)	4

4.10 How much does the household spend on fuel monthly?

Type of fuel	Amount

4.11 If using electricity, do you use any other type of fuel? Name the type.

4.12 Do you experience any problems with the use of electricity?

Unreliable supply		
Cannot afford to pay		
Other (specify)		

4.13 What appliances do you have in the house?

Type of appliance		How acquired? (bought, gift etc)	How old?
Gas stove	1		
Coal stove	2		
Electrical stove	3		
Gas refrigerator	4		
Electrical refrigerator	5		
Iron (electrical)	6		
Iron (coal)	7		
Other (specify)	8		

5. EDUCATION

5.1 What is the distance to each type of school? (One tick per column)

Distance	Crèche	Primary school	Junior Secondary	Senior secondary)	Tertiary(college ,university
1. Within the community					
2. Within a walking distance of 30 minutes					
3. More than a walking distance of 30 minutes					

5.2 How would you rate school education in terms of the following?

Transport	Tick	School Fees	Tick
1. Very easy		1. Low	
2. Easy		2. Reasonable	
3. Difficult		3. Expensive	
4. Very difficult		4. Very expensive	

5.3 How would you rate the adequacy of facilities in the school nearest to your household?

Facilities	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
1. Classrooms				
2. Staff Rooms				
3. Library				
4. Equipment (overhead projector, chalk-boards, etc)				
5. Playing grounds				
6. Toilet				
7. Other (specify)				

6. TRAINING IN BUSINESS SKILLS ACQUISITION

1. Have you ever been trained in any business skill acquisition?

2. If yes, which one and by which organization?

3. Was this a government initiated project or a sponsored venture by an NGO or CBO?

4. Do you have any business skills you have learnt on your own?

5. If yes, list them below

7. PROVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES

7.1. What services are available in the community?

1. Hardware shop (e.g. , cement, spades)	
2. Spaza shop	
3. Supermarket	
4. Post Office	
5. Community Center/ Hall	
6. Indoor Recreation Facility (e.g. boxing, music)	
7. Police Station (SAPS)	
8. Banking Facilities	
9. Tribal Authority Offices	
10. Cemetery	
11. Undertakers	
12. Pharmacy/Chemist	
13. Bakery	
14. hair Dressers	

15. Shebeen	
16. Clinics	
17. Garage Filling Station	
18. Motor vehicle service (repair) shop	
19. Panel beaters shop	
20. taxi rank	
21. Café or tea room	
22. General dealer	
23. Bus service	
24. Library	
25. Ambulance	
26. Laundry/ dry cleaners	
Office services (e.g. photocopy, faxes)	
28. Shoe repair	
29. Tavern (registered)	
30. Bottle store	
31. Other (specify)	

7.2 What other services would you like to have your community?

7.3 Why would you require the services identified above?

8.COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

8.1 Does the community have any of the following institutions? (Tick those that exist in the community and tick if any member of the household is affiliated to such institutions).

Institution	Tick	Affiliation
1. Community Trust		
2. Water Committee		
3. Health Committee		
4. Community Policing Forum		
5. School governing body/bodies		
6. Creche Committee		
7. Burial Society		
8. Development Project Committee		
9. NGOs / NPOs (specify if possible)		
10. Tribal Court		
11. Garden Committee		
12. Youth Committee		
13. Women's Religious Group		
14. Women's Craft Group		
15. Pensions Committee		
16. Agricultural Committee		
17. Other (specify)		

8.2 Which two of the above mentioned institutions are functioning effectively?

8.3 Which of the two above-mentioned institutions are functioning ineffectively and state why?

8.4 Which other community institution would you like to have in your area?

9. LAND AND LAND USE

9.1 Does your household hold any land?

Yes	1
No	2

9.2 Ownership of land

Male	1
Female	2

9.3 What kind of ownership rights does your household have?

Communal	1
Individual title	2
Joint title	3

9.4 Does your household have access to land for the following uses?

Grazing	1
Cultivation	2

9.5 How would you rate the adequacy of land for the following savings?

Land	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
Grazing				
Cultivation				

9.6 Approximate extent of land cultivated

<1 ha	
1ha - 5 ha	
5.1 ha - 10 ha	
>10 ha	

10 SAVINGS, LOANS AND CREDITS

10.1 Does the household participate in any of the following savings?

Type of savings	Tick
1. Bank	
2. Stokvels	
3. Burial Society	
4. Unit trusts and shares	
5. Insurance policies	
6. Other (specify)	

10.2 In the last 12 months, did the household receive any cash loan/s?

Yes	
No	

10.3 If yes, what amount was received on total?

Amount	Tick
< R100	
R101 – 500	
R501- 1 000	
R1 001- 3 000	
R3 001- 5 000	
> R5 000	

10.4 Who provided the loan/s?

1. Family	
2. Neighbor	
3. Local dealer	
4. Commercial Bank	
5. Land Bank	
6. Other government agency	
7. Stokvels	
8. Dealer in town	
9. Commercial farmer	
10. Co-operative	
11. Loan Sharks	
12. Other (specify)	
13. No response	

10.5 What was the money used for?

Item	Specify use
1. Agricultural inputs and services	
2. Other production inputs and services	
3. Buy food	
4. Pay school fees	
5. Building material	
6. Pay for health expenses	
7. Pay off debts	
8. Other	

10.6 How difficult would you say it was to obtain these loans?

Women	Men
1. Very Easy	
2. Easy	
3. Difficult	
4. Very difficult	

10.7 Over how many months must the loan is paid?

10.8 How many months do you still have over which you have to pay the loan?

10.9 Are you paying interest on the loan?

Yes	1
No	2

10.10 If you (or someone in your household) were given the opportunity to obtain a loan to start a business in your area, what business activity would you start or consider?

10.11 How much money would you need for the business and briefly explain how you would use it?

10.12 Why would you choose this business?

10.13 What training would you need to ensure the success of your business?

11. TECHNOLOGY FOR BUSINESS

11.1 Do you know what a computer is?

11.2 Do you have a cash register?

Yes	1
No	2

11.3 Are you familiar with any computer packages?

11.4 If yes, which packages are you familiar with?

12. LIVESTOCK

12.1 Do you and your household own any livestock?

Yes	1
No	2

12.2 If yes,

Livestock	No of livestock owned	For domestic use	For commercial
1. Cattle			
2. Sheep			
3. Goats			
4. Poultry			
5. Pigs			

6. Donkeys			
7. Horses			
8. Other (specify)			

12.3 Do you have dipping tanks?

Yes	1
No	2

12.4 Do you treat livestock if they become sick?

12.5 Where do you sell your livestock? (If applicable)

Within the community (locally)	
Outside the community	

12.6 What problems do you encounter in regards to livestock?

12.7 What have you done in the past two years to solve these problems?

12.8 If you have not done anything, how do you think these problems can be solved?

12.9 What do community members do with the hide/skin of animals?

12.10 Do you have access to extension services?

Yes	1
No	2

12.11 If yes, whom do they usually speak to?

Men	1
Women	2
All Groups	3

12.12 Who provides the extension services?

Government	
NGO's	
Other (specify)	

12.13 Who often do the extension officers visit?

Weekly	
Monthly	
On request	
Other (specify)	

12.14 How do they interact with you and other members of the community?

Conduct seminars/workshops etc	
One to one advice	
Distribution of pamphlets	
Other (specify)	

12.15 What types of issues do the extension officers deal with?

12.16 Do you request information from the extension officers?

Yes	1
No	2

12.17 If yes, what type of information do you request?

12.18 Do you have a demonstration or observation plot in your area?

Yes	1
No	2

12.19 If yes, where are the plot and what activities take place on the plot?

12.20 Are you informed if there are any technology to be introduced or developed?

Yes	1
No	2

13. INFORMAL VENDORS/HAWKERS

Informal Vendors

13.1 What kind of products do you sell?

13.2 Who is your target market?

Local people	
Business	
Tourists	
Urban people	

13.3 What do you think should be done to attract more customers e.g. tourists to your products?

13.4 Are you having any of what is listed below to grow your business?

Sponsors	Marketing Plan	Advertising	Security Measures

13.5 Compared to one year ago, how is your economic situation?

13.6 What do you expect your situation to be in 5 years?

Same	Better	Worse

Why? _____

13.7 What do you think you can maximize your talents such that you make a living without formal employment?

13.8 How must you travel to fetch water? What would you recommend to be done by the government to help this community make ends meet?

How far do you think the government has gone in helping local women to make a living?

13.10 What do you think has changed in the status of women during and after the previous government (pre-1990)?

13.11 What do you think should be done to attract more capital into your area?

13.12 How far do you need to travel to get transport to the city or town?

14. SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

Do you have any strategies that you can create to make a living? If yes please state them below.

Type of strategy	Where used	How learned

15. GENDER DYNAMICS

15.1 Indicate who among the household members perform the following tasks (Use an "S" for self). If labor is hired for any of the tasks, use "H"

	Girls U 16	Women 16-60	Women 0 - 60	Boys U 16	Men 16-60	Men 0 - 60
Fetching water						
Collection of firewood						
Cooking						
Shopping						
Laundry						
House cleaning						
Child care						
Repairs						
Tending livestock						
Tending garden						
Gathering						
Gathering of wild-plants for or medicine						
Other (specify)						

15.2 Who makes decisions on the following?

	Women 16 - 60	Women 60+	Men 16-60	Men 60+
Which crops to grow				
Where to grow				
When to plant				
When to harvest				
Storage facilities				
When to buy or sell livestock				
What price to pay or ask				
When to make loans				
How to repay				
What to use loans for				
Amount to borrow				
Amount to spend on recreation				
Which children go to school				
When to stop their education				
How to pay for school fees				
Amount to spend on household needs				

15.3 Do you have women organizational structures or developments schemes in this area?

Yes	1
No	2

15.4 If yes are you a member of the women organization?

Yes	1
No	2

15.5 If no, what prevents you from joining women's organization?

Your husband	1
The number of children	2
Lack of awareness and decisiveness	3
Fear of not performing well	4
Other (specify)	5

15.6 Do you participate in any of the following structures?

Literacy classes	1
Stokvels	2
Community Trust	3
Skills training (specify)	4
Other (specify)	5

15.7 Does your organization receive any assistance from the government or from NGOs?

Yes	1
No	2

15.8 What types of problems do women's organization have?

Insufficient time to attend meetings	1
Lack of resources	2
Very little support	3
Other (specify)	4

Biographical Information

1. What is your age group? Put a cross in the relevant box where applicable

15 - 25	
26 - 35	
36 - 45	
46 - 35	
36 - 55	
56 - 65	
66 - 75	
Other	

2. Who is the breadwinner at home?

Father	
Mother	
Uncle	
Aunt	
Foster-parent	
Other (Specify)	

3. Have you lost any family member over the past year? Yes / No: Circle the correct choice.

4. How many family members are employed in your household?

None	
01	
02	
03	
04	
Other (Specify)	

5. What is your current marital status?

Currently married	
Common law marriage	
Traditional marriage	
Divorced	
Widowed	
Separated	
Single (never married)	

Services and facilities in your area:

6. How many clinics do you have in your area?

None	
01	
02	
03	
04	
Other	

7. What would you recommend to be done by the government to help this community make ends meet?

8. How far do you think the government has gone in helping local women to make a living?

9. What do you think has changed in the status of women during and after the previous government (pre – 1990)?

10. What do you think should be done to attract more capital into this area/village?

Informal Vendors

1. What kinds of products do you sell?

2. Who is your target market?

3. What do you think should be done to attract more customers e.g. ...to your products?

4. Are you having any of what is listed below to grow your business?

Marketing	
Advertising	
Security measures (if any)	

5. Compared to one year ago, how is your economic situation?

6. What do you expect your economic situation to be in five years time? Why

Same	
Better	
Worse	

Elaborate:

7. What do you think you can do to maximize your talents such that you make a living without formal employment?
