

**IMPACT OF  
UNEMPLOYMENT IN RURAL  
AREAS**

by

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the degree of

Masters in Social Science and Development Studies

UNIVERSITY OF DURBAN-WESTVILLE

2002

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to honour the following people for assisting me in conducting my research and make it successfully. My supervisor DR. A. Thorold, my parents who encouraged me a lot and also the community of Kwa- Nxamalala who provided me with the information that I needed and played an important role by participating in conducting my research.

## ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the impact of unemployment in rural areas at Kwa-Nxamalala .The study shows how the people of Kwa –Nxamalala survive since most of them are unemployed.

According to the finding of the study, unemployment rural areas creates lot of problems like, crime deviant behaviour particularly among the youth. Bad relationship particularly between husband and wife. Children are also affected by the situation both from school and at home. Many people in the community are engaged on different activities in order to survive.

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## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.1. INTRODUCTION

Kwa-Nxamala is a district in Northern KwaZulu Natal, that is situated in the area of Sweetwater in Pietermaritzburg. It is a rural area that is under the rule of the Amakhosi. Inkosi u-Zuma is the leader of this particular area. There were no civil wars in the area during the period of the historical tension between the ANC and the IFP . It can be said that at present people live in harmony , despite the social problems created by poverty and unemployment.

After realising that most of the people residing in the area were unemployed , it was decided that a research should be undertaken in order to determine the levels of the phenomenon, the opinions of the people affected by it , especially in relation to the effects of retrenchments, , the lack of job opportunities, their social conditions as well as the problems faced , mainly due to the existing circumstances.

It was felt that it is important to investigate such social problems in the various local areas in conjunction with other social facets of everyday life such as crime, prostitution, degradation and the like. Thus it was decided that a wide array of people had to be interviewed in the context of the research, unemployed, family members, youths and children. Thus the ideas, opinions and attitudes of the whole social spectrum would be explored . It was established thus that the community tried hard to survive financially by cultivating crops , having cattle and doing other things to earn a living under very difficult conditions.

It was also decided that the educational levels of the prospective sample needed to be explored as education is a determinant of job creation, and semi-illiterate and illiterate people did not have an equal chance to compete in the labour market with those who are better educated. This was specifically important amongst the youth, who have been particularly hit by unemployment. It is important to determine the extent of school dropouts for example, because their opportunities for work are extremely limited.

## **1.2 MOTIVATION**

The researcher lived in the area under investigation for three months before the research was undertaken . In this period she was helping her grandmother who was not well .In this period many things occurring in the community were observed . Several people in the community , encouraged the researcher to undertake such a project as it could help the extraction of conclusions regarding the causes and effects of unemployment and thus enabling the researcher to draw suggestions in order to help the people shaping a better future.

It was observed at first that large numbers of people in this particular community were unemployed, and there was also a visible high birth rate amongst the youth. Most of these children barely survived through the existing government grants. It was decided that scientific information and analysis were needed in order to find ways of rectifying these problems .This was needed so that the researcher could make useful

recommendations to the relevant authorities with the hope that something could be done to rectify the situation in the near future.

### **1.3 AIMS**

The researcher hoped to establish the existing impact of unemployment on all levels of the population , as well as that of the lack of education and migration to the urban areas. Migration from rural to the urban areas started during the era of industrialisation because during colonisation the Black people were evicted and removed from their land , which was arable and fertile. They were pushed away to barren land.

The role of women in the social context of this area was of particular interest to the researcher as women face many burdens in contemporary situations , as their husbands migrate, they are alone in their efforts to raise their children , livestock and also cultivate their land for survival. They also cook, clean the house , look after their families and their children . Women are the foundation of their families and their communities.

The researcher wished to investigate whether the community depended on the cultivation of crops for survival and the types of crops cultivated , as well the extend of livestock amongst families. The role of the youth in the community was to be investigated as they face a heavy burden of unemployment and poverty from a very

young age. It was established that youths used unacceptable means in their efforts to survive as the vast majority amongst them were unemployed.

According to Haralambos (1985:413) , the theory of R.Merton focuses on youth from the lower social classes who use deviant methods to achieve success in their lives. They are not likely to succeed via the existing conventional methods existing in society. Their educational levels are usually low , thus even if they have jobs there are very few opportunities for professional advancement. They have little access to conventional and legitimate means for becoming successful in their lives. Since their way is blocked , they become innovative by turning to various forms of crime , which promises them greater rewards than legitimate means.

#### **1.4 OBJECTIVES**

The researcher felt that the community members of the area under investigation should be made aware of the problems facing those who were unemployed. Awareness was to be created and encouragement in the community regarding individual and collective development amongst the people so they could alleviate poverty at all levels , through various activities . It is important for the community not to exploit the natural resources of the area and destroy the environment. They should be aware that it is of vital importance to conserve water which is a source of life and avoid the overgrazing of the land that ultimately leads to soil erosion in the long term.

## **1.5 RESEARCH METHODS**

The researcher will utilise face to face interviews with unstructured questions .Questions will be asked of the respondents in a sequence , and this will help the researcher to gain valuable information based on scientific principles.The researcher will also use questionnaires and participant observation in order to assess and analyse information related to the topic.

## **1.6 SAMPLING**

The researcher will use the snowball sampling method in this thesis. It is hoped that all sections of the area's population will be covered in this endeavour. As the researcher did not know the exact dynamics of the population it was decided that names would be obtained from the first three interviewees , and these thus a large name list was compiled through this snowballing method. Thus the opportunity was created for a good number of people been interviewed in the process.

## **1.7 SUMMARY**

This chapter examined the background of the study , its motivation and aims and it also highlighted the methods used for conducting the research.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is a literature review on unemployment and it focuses on a number of studies, reports, books and newspaper articles that will set the context of the study. These have been used to support the relevant facts and information upon which this study is based.

### 2.2 YOUTH AND THE EFFECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Haralambos and Holborn (2000: 752) wrote that unemployment is a particularly serious problem for the young. New social conditions have been created for youth in areas of high unemployment. Unemployment destroys the very fabric of society as youth are deprived of the opportunity to become independent of their parents and are denied the opportunity to contribute to their families significantly. Thus the institution of marriage also suffers these social consequences. Financially the serious financial constraints created by unemployment prevent the youth from enjoying a normal social life.

Young people are left in a limbo, in a state of

*Suspended animation, unable either to look forward or to make the transition to adult status. They become bored, frustrated and demoralized. This often leads to stress and*

*conflict within the family. The young unemployed had the daily dilemma of what to do where to go*

(Haralambos and Holborn 2000: 753)

Hasluck (1987:129) argues that the level of unemployment amongst the youth between the ages 16-19 is almost double the overall rate in most international labour markets , especially in the urban areas. One explanation for this high rate is the the population growth amongst young people which has been disproportionately high in inner city areas. A high rate of job turnover has frequently been observed among young people and new entrants in the labour markets find it very difficult to obtain employment. This ultimately leads to high crime rates , as young people enter the labour markets without proper skills.

According to Summers (1990: 143) unemployment results in a sense of normlessness and alienation amongst young people who become marginalised from the mainstream society. Thus their economic, political and ideological behaviour changes significantly. Many young unemployed people lose interest in the political happenings of a particular society and their public demonstration tends rather to involve roaming the streets aimlessly in pursuit of their own totems associated with football teams, and engaging in random acts of violence.

The growth of such delinquent behaviour is not hard to understand as it is the effect of unemployment and leads large numbers of disillusioned young people to become disloyal to society and its widely accepted norms at all levels of behaviour. The

opportunity is thus lost for such youths to become responsible and productive members of society. The effects of unemployment on crime and delinquency are not easy to prove irrefutably not only regarding the mental or physical health like blood pressure , chances of illness and even, eventually, death.

Greenhalgh et al (1983:271) argue that in recent years there has been a marked increase in youth unemployment .Not only have the incidents of unemployment risen but the duration has also increased simultaneously. This is especially true in worsening economic conditions in the global economy. Policy-makers worldwide have taken cognisance of such circumstances , and the fact that the labour markets cannot absorb large numbers of young people is a very wide challenge at all levels , both at government and the private sector. There are long term serious consequences of such social realities.

Young people have been particularly hard hit by the rise in unemployment rate amongst the under 20 age group , which has been higher than the general. In 1960 it was 1,4% in this case , but since then it has increase at a very rapid pace. Between 1980 and 1982 the unemployment rate increased much faster amongst the 18-22 age group and by 1982 it was higher for this particular age group than any other apaty from those over 60 years of age (Showler and Sinfield 1981:18)

According to Erasmus (1999:30) , jobs amongst the young people in South Africa are scarce and the labour market is tight .The majority of unemployed youth were younger than 35 according to the 1996 census .Unemployment was very high amongst

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young workers close to school leaving age without any formal qualifications and skills.

It is highly undesirable for society for these young people roaming the streets aimlessly at this vital and potentially productive period of their life. They accumulate negative experiences about the job market and society in general and in the long run they create resentment towards particular employers , especially those who have rejected their application for work. The price of such resentment will in the long run be paid by society at large , especially in the form of increased crime and violence (Mpanza 1984:34).

Unemployment is a problem that appears to affect the youth seriously to a larger extent than other sectors of society. Thirty nine percent of the younger unemployed who participated in a scientific survey on the topic indicated that they sat around doing nothing , while 62% said that they were often or sometimes bored (Garside 1980:188).

### **2.3 IMPACT ON EDUCATION**

According to Showler and Sinfeil (1981: 20) unemployment has a significant effect on education in at least two identifiable effects.

- Firstly for school -leavers it has led to a challenge to the very legitimacy of the educational system .

- Secondly it surfaced that the very problem of unemployment was a direct negative effect of the very process of schooling
- Thirdly education has been seen as an instrument which can turn around the effects of unemployment

There has been an expressed fear that if jobs do not become available for young people , crime , delinquency and other social ills will become the norm of the day even in well developed societies.

Showler and Sinfield (1981:21) stated that attention should be therefore be given on ways of providing job opportunities for young people in all sectors of society, training and education must be targeted that will lead to employability and the like. Thus if jobs become available, young people will be able to compete equally in the market. In such a situation governments are obligated to boost demand and produce policy legislation that will ease the serious unemployment situation . In this reality structural economic and social problems need to be tackled head on.

Mpanza's research in Kwa Dumisa in Southern Natal (Mpanza 1986) indicated that the high rate of dependency can encourage young adults still in school to start looking for work at an early age. This also implies that they drop out of school early , often with insufficient formal education that could ensure good employment prospects.

Mpanza's findings showed that educational levels were very low in his area of investigation. Half of the adults over 50 years of age had no formal education at all and no one over 39 years had completed their full school circle to matriculation level.

On the basis of this educational profile it seems that the vast majority of the people in the community were very uneducated and were thus able only to acquire low paid jobs in the labour market. In periods of economic stagnation it is more likely that the majority of these people would join the ranks of the unemployed. Many societies face the problem of inadequate education, and especially in South Africa with the legacy of apartheid, most Black and especially African people face a bleak future because of the inadequate nature of education. Inferior education leads ultimately to a position of economic powerlessness.

Unemployment in South Africa is a direct result of the low educational profile of the majority of the population. Almost half of the unemployed had no or at most primary education. A further 35% had attended schools only up to grades 8-11. Most of the white and Indian unemployed had a Standard 10 education, while less than 15% of the African and coloured unemployed people had a standard 10 or higher qualification (Erasmus 1999:56).

Large numbers of students leave school with a standard 10 certificate at a time of very limited job opportunities. The number of unemployed with at least secondary level unemployment increased by almost 134000 persons between 1991 and 1995. The group with no formal education follows with an increase of almost 72000 persons and those with primary level of education is the third with an increase of just more than 49000 (Viljoen 1998: 26)

Mpanza (1987: 5) argues that there are two conflicting influences relating unemployment and education amongst Africans .

- Firstly those with low education levels are less sought after by employers and thus are more likely to be unemployed.
- The new efforts by the Government to create better educational opportunities for the majority might have a new effect on the prevailing situation.
- Skills and other personal development are serious impediments to an already difficult situation.
- Lack of work experience has serious negative effects on employment patterns in all labour markets.
- There is resentment amongst unemployed and employed people in all walks of life nationally and internationally.

Prospects thus for the less educated are gloomy and they become worse as time passes. Everyone agrees that the shortage of jobs is important, and there are millions of people who fear that they will be never able to work again , and if they do they will never reach their and others expectations.

Education is thought of by many people the world over as a ticket to a job , and hence success in adulthood. However the education offered throughout the world state school system often seems to be seriously divorced from the learner skills required for success in one's life. In South Africa such questions of relevance have been raised and debated , and it has surfaced that several alternative educational initiatives have been pioneered in our country (Cooke 1986:36).

According to Orkin (1998:26) there is a curvilinear relationship between education and unemployment. Thus 19% of those without education are unemployed , rising to 25% among those with some education , but less than Matric , and then dropping to 18% among those with Matric or higher qualification.

He further indicated that it is unusual to find people with incomplete schooling having higher unemployment rates than those with no schooling or those with middle or higher qualifications. This association has been found previously in South Africa , especially in the World bank study of poverty. There is also an increasing proportion of people in professional or managerial jobs accounting for the lower unemployment rate amongst the highly educated ( Orkin 1998:27)

The same author (Orkin 1998: 28 ) showed that in urban areas unemployment rates were higher amongst those with some schooling than those with no education , or with matric or higher qualifications. In non urban areas a different pattern was found , the higher the education level the higher the unemployment.

Moller (1990: 143) argues that there is evidence which indicates that unemployed people feel education is a definite advantage in escaping from unemployment, while less educated suffer the ill effects of unemployment to a greater extent than the educate. There is loss of morale and hopelessness amongst the unemployed , there are jobless who suffer from loss of sleep and lack of concentration. Loneliness , uselessness and helplessness become evident in such situations.

## **2.4 OLD UNEMPLOYMENT**

According to Hasluck (1987:31) the problem of high unemployment amongst older workers is the reverse of that to be found amongst the young, while job turnover is low. The duration is usually low and for the older workers unemployment may mean never working again. Older working people face a series of difficulties when seeking employment. They may possess isolated skills and their previous experience may be of limited value to a new employer.

The self respect of the in-service unemployed appears to be more at risk. More older than younger unemployed agree that only people in jobs are respected in society. Older unemployed people are more likely to be fearful that they will not find a job in the future (Moller 1990:146)

Older people lose their jobs as they have very great difficulty in going back to work. The danger in these persons being unemployed for many months and years is that will be entering a stage of great poverty long before their retirement, as Mpanza has adequately shown (Mpanza 1987:36).

## **2.5 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY POPULATION GROUP**

It is evident that official unemployment statistics are much higher for African people in South Africa, when compared with other social groups (Orkin 1998:25)

This is the result of not only the historical legacies of the apartheid regime, but also the prevailing social and economic policies of the Government of national Unity , led by the ANC.

## **2.6 UNEMPLOYMENT AMONGST BLACKS**

According to Barker (1995:167) unemployment amongst Blacks is much higher when it compares to Whites, Indians and coloureds. Female unemployment is higher than its male equivalent . Unemployment amongst Blacks in the October Household Survey was 37,1% , while for Whites it was 8,4%.

Hasluck (1987:36) argued that unemployment rates are much higher among black minority groups than those in the white community . Haralambos and Holborn (2000:350) argue that the labour force survey and the ILO definition of unemployment show that the lower classes are generally more likely to experience unemployment. For example in the Winter of 1998-1999 , non manual workers had just half the rate of unemployment figures when compared to those of manual workers. Professionals had the lowest rates of unemployment amongst various social groups .

In South Africa , according to Roux (2002:53) the overall rate of unemployment for Black S.africans is roughly six times higher than those of Whites. According to Cawker (1993: 28) for many years Black South africans were severely restricted in

their efforts to find employment of their own choice and thus negotiate for higher incomes, due to the insidious racial laws of the country at the time.

Erasmus (1999: 28) argues that unemployment rates for the different population groups were different in 1996. African had the highest unemployment at 42,5% while there was only 4,6 % had the lowest.

#### **4.7 WOMENS UNEMPLOYMENT**

The unemployment problem is very serious amongst women. Amongst African women the rate was 43,9 % in 1993, and it has been calculated that the inclusion of numbers from the previous bantustans would increase this rates substantially .

The largest proportion of unemployed are women younger than 35, and this creates a serious problem as they do not qualify for unemployment insurance. Thus they are not able to support their families and perpetuate the vicious economic and social problem of poverty (Barker 1995: 123).

Roux (2002:54) argues that there is a clear unemployment bias towards females in the case of Black South Africans, as their unemployment rate is 43% higher than those of Black men . In 1999 the highest unemployment rate was to be found amongst Black women (35%) and the lowest amongst White men (4,4%) (Erasmus 1999:28).

## **2.8 EFFECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT ON FAMILY STRUCTURES**

According to unemployment theory families are seriously and directly affected by the phenomenon .Signs of distress appear immediately after the loss of a job . The husband who is unemployed loses the respect of his wife and children and this has direct negative effects on the family structures and functions . There are instances where the authority of the father is challenged seriously and this creates tensions and conflict.

Most unemployed persons face serious financial problems that ultimately lead to economic hardships , which in the end constitute the root cause of a variety of human hardships . Moller(1990:73) examined a wide variety of such instances that have forced children to drop out of school, young girls turn to prostitution etc. Social isolation, frustration, desperation and laziness were also evident in the findings of this research.

According to Garside (1980:102) unemployment generally can be described as affecting negatively marital and family life in all their processes as communication , satisfaction, companionship and other such crucial aspects suffer the indignities of unemployment . Given the traditional power structures found within the family it can be said that cohesion, organisation and conflict mix in a given situation when unemployment becomes a reality. Friction replaces harmony and isolation replaces communication, with serious repercussions for the future .Children also suffer through

such turbulence and it is easier for them to turn into drugs, crime and prostitution at any given time. This vicious cycle can lead to the complete destruction of family life.

## **2.9 POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT**

The increasing and continued process of unemployment leads to higher levels of poverty for large numbers of people the world over. There are millions of cases where people lost their jobs for two months, but they have not worked since .Poverty is the result of a number of economic and social factors , of which unemployment is a crucial link (Jahoda 1982:39)

## **2.10 SOCIAL EFFECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT**

Barker (1995;155) asserts that unemployment is possibly the most severe problem South Africa faces and will face in the future , as it will ultimately lead to a cycle of conflict , violence and destruction.

Jahoda (1982:25) argues that in the absence of regular contact with a collective or family the social experience of the unemployed person shrinks , particularly when the unemployed is surrounded by people who have work. Unemployed thus, experience shame, isolation, self doubt, loss of self esteem and withdrawals from former social relationships.

In terms of youth those who come from poor and working class families and cannot find a job the situation becomes worse as they tend to marginalised pass-times such as drugs, fast life , and crime (Jahoda 1985:28).

Haralambos and Halborn (2000;750) argue that unemployment amongst the youth leads to the disintegration of society, as those who never get work feel that they have no stake and are not part of society. Thus a series of social problems are linked to unemployment and these have been researched and analysed by academics, politicians and journalists. Prevalent amongst them are unwanted pregnancies, suicide, marriage and football hooliganism, abuse and the like.

The unemployed person, thus loses much more than a job , as work gives people an identity , a purpose and objectives in life , a meaningful role in society. Marital disfunction and breakdown are common current effects of unemployment. In South Africa the situation has reached serious proportions and it will seriously affect the efforts towards building a prosperous, non-racial and democratic society in the process of liberation.

## **2.11 MIGRATION**

Mpanza (1987:42) argues that a high level of internal migration is a direct effect of unemployment , and it is important in our understanding of the dynamics of the society we live in. Thus male migration is much higher than its female equivalent as

the majority of immigrants fall into the 20-35 age group. Thus the possibility of a man migrating as compared to that of a woman is three times higher.

## **2.12 AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK AS SURVIVAL MEANS**

According to Mpanza(1987: 50) the community practiced agriculture in order to survive financially. Active cultivation of the land during several months of the year when conditions permit play a key role in life survival. The crops grown were mainly maize, beans, potatoes, yams etc .The community also survived through livestock , and sometimes poultry.

## **2.13 OTHER MEANS TO SURVIVE**

According to Mpanza (1987:54) other means of survival amongst the unemployed were petty trading, selling of food-stuffs, spazas, and handicrafts .Grass works, sewing and knitting were very prominent amongst women . He further indicated that as far as men and petty commodity production were concerned building and construction were cited as well as roofing, especially when the weather permitted.

## **2.14 EFFECTS ON CHILDREN**

Garside (1980: 201) indicated that children generally reacted negatively to their parents unemployment problems . Young girls generally felt unhappy about such

situations and sometimes felt excluded from peer activities due to her parents lack of job. Her feelings were seriously hurt and they worried continuously. Boys on the other hand lose their confidence in their fathers who in the process are not role models for their children. Boys were hurt emotionally, were less calm and more aggressive. They faced adjustment problems at school and misbehaved more frequently than children whose parents had employment.

## **2.15 THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF UNEMPLOYMENT**

According to Dawson (1992: 88) unemployment could be expected to have an adverse effect on the psychological well-being of unemployed people, their families and immediate surroundings. Those who suffer a substantial income loss are likely to become stressed and conflicted as they struggle to pay their bills and maintain an acceptable standard of living.

He further stated that losing a job means in most cases losing a relationship and perhaps even more damagingly the sense of belief and identity as well as the self-esteem that come with it. There is no denying that some unemployed people appeared to be relatively untroubled by their situation while others preferred to be jobless.

## **2.16 TYPES OF UNEMPLOYMENT**

According to Hasluck (1987:101) there are three types of unemployment:

- FRICTIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

This occurs when workers change jobs but do not move immediately to their new job. They are unemployed for a short period as they search for work. Economists regard this type as inevitable in a changing society.

This type of unemployment arises because of a lack of instantaneous adjustment to turn over of employment that take place in labour markets. Firms close thus jobs are lost, workers are retrenched or retired, while others enter the labour force for the second time.

Several types of frictional unemployment can be distinguished :

- Search unemployment when the individual chooses not to accept a job, but searches for a better one
- The distribution of wage offers lures the worker to better prospects.
- New entrants into the labour market always go through this process.

- STRUCTURAL UNEMPLOYMENT

This occurs when jobs are available and there are workers seeking employment, but the workers do not match the jobs. There are two types of structural unemployment, and this is a much more serious reality when it occurs, as it is a longer version of

frictional unemployment . While the latter results from a mismatch between supply and demand within the labour market , technological and other changes have a direct effect on the changing patterns of the phenomenon.

- REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

This exists where unemployed workers do not live in the areas where suitable vacancies are available. In the second half of the 1980's as unemployment decreased it became difficult to fill vacancies in South East England because of labour shortages in those regions , despite unemployment in other parts of England.

- SECTORAL UNEMPLOYMENT

It exists when the unemployed lack appropriate skills or qualifications to fill vacancies. As outdated industries decline and new ones develop , some workers are left without appropriate skills.

- DEMAND-DEFFICIENT UNEMPLOYMENT

Most economists would accept that a fall in the aggregate level of spending on goods and services would lead to more unemployment in the short term.

## **SUMMARY**

**The chapter looked at the theoretical foundations of the phenomenon , as well the various social and psychological effects and dimensions of unemployment .The types of unemployment were also examined.**

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

The researcher will use a number of methods of data collection such as participant observation, questionnaires and unstructured questions. In the period of the research the researcher stayed within the community where the project took place.

As indicated earlier, the use of the questionnaires have been described by Bailey (1994:76) as a solid scientific research method.

#### **3.2 PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION**

In participant observation the researcher becomes an integral part of the community under investigation. In the present occasion the researcher spent three months in the area . She went to the field together with community members and participated in a series of daily activities undertaken by the inhabitants of the area.

According to Bless and Smith (1995: 196) in participant observation the researcher joins the community or the group under investigation with the members sharing in the activities . Thus she becomes an observer and an insider , thus allowing her to gain the confidence of the community and thus share their experiences at all levels of activities.

Participant observation allowed the researcher to observe the behaviour and attitudes of the community members at all facets of their lives.

Anthropologists use participant observation in order to collect information by utilising an array of qualitative and quantitative methods . This helps the process of the creation of a cordial atmosphere between the researcher and local people , which facilitates a process of understanding between the parties. This is an important element in the completion of the researcher's task.

Gerber(1998:55) argued that qualitative methods such as open ended questionnaires generally yield responses which can be used in compelling general ethnographic accounts of a community and its culture.

Participant observation helped the researcher to understand the local people, their behaviour, habits and particularity. There were many moments where she felt a complete member of the local community as the relationship flourished very rapidly and was based on mutual respect and understanding .

According to Taylor and Bogdan (1984:53) participant observation helps to empower the informants to use their knowledge in answering questions. By using this method the researcher understands better the ideas and cultures of the people and thus become widely knowledgeable on these life processes.

Quantitative research requires the researcher to become the research instrument. This means that the researcher must have the ability to observe the behaviour and must shape the skills necessary for face-to face interviews and other methods of data collection. Thus the researcher had to be trained in both the art of face to face interview and the questionnaire. In these cases the researcher was initially accosted by the induna (the local headman) ,so that trust and confidence could be gained.

Taylor and Bogdan (1984: 28) argued that the researcher must guarantee the confidentiality and privacy of people participating in the project. This was guaranteed by the researcher to all people who participated in the research

### **3.3 QUESTIONNAIRE CONSTRUCTION**

The researcher also used questionnaires in the present project. These were given to the interviewees in order to be filled and returned . Those who could not read or write were helped by the researcher , and bias was avoided at all costs.

According to Bless and Smith (1995: 62) the most structured way of gaining information directly from the respondents is a schedule of structured interviews, which is based on the questionnaire. This can be done without direct contact with the respondent , or otherwise. These are self-administered questionnaires that are filled by the respondents accordingly . They can reveal a wide range of opinions, ideas and attitudes.

According to Haralambos (1995: 51) questionnaires consist of a list of questions for which respondents are required to provide answers. The questionnaires are given to the respondents by the researcher or an assistant. These are comparatively cheap instruments and are considered an efficient method of obtaining a large number of quantifiable data from a large number of people.

According to Abrahamson (1981: 177) questionnaires can be administered to respondents who cannot read and write. This is particularly pertinent in South Africa where large numbers of people are illiterate. This was also the case in the present project where young children and adults interviewed fell in this social category.

Abrahamson (1981:177) stated that questionnaires help the researcher to overcome the misinterpretations and misunderstanding of words and questions. As a result the answers given are clear. All these can be rectified because in cases of doubt the interviewer can ensure that the respondents correctly understand the question and interviewers can also ask the respondents for explanation concerning some of the answers.

### **3.4 UNSTRUCTURED QUESTIONS**

The researcher also used unstructured questions in order to obtain information regarding the lives of the community members. These are also called open-ended questions.

According to Neuman (2000: 261) the advantages of open ended questions are as follows:

- They permit unlimited number of answers.
- Respondents can answer in detail
- They can qualify their answers.
- The questions permit creativity.
- They permit self expression
- They permit richness of expression.

The disadvantages of this type of questionnaires are:

- Different respondents give different degrees of details in answers.
- They are difficult to code.
- The detail might be irrelevant
- Answers take space in the questionnaires.
- Questions might be too general , so respondents might lose direction.

### **3.5 SAMPLING**

The representation of the population is a key element of any study. In this project the researcher selected a non-probability sampling framework, the snowball sample. This became necessary as the researcher did not know exact details of the population. Thus accompanied by the induna three persons were interviewed initially and their numbers

multiplied as they introduced the researcher to another three etc. Thus the sample snowballed . Obviously the number of people interviewed were basically unemployed.

### **3.6 PROBLEMS ON THE FIELD**

The major problems faced on the field were that initially the respondents were not exactly willing to answer the questions posed . They were afraid that they could be exposed to other people by the researcher , who already knew some of their secrets. Others were busy in the fields , cultivating crops. Children were also reluctant to speak to the researcher.

### **3.7 SUMMARY**

The chapter was base on the knowledge gained in a comparative perspective. The research problem and ways of achieving research in the final analysis. A comprehensive empirical preposition regarding the assets and other products.



## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA ANALYSIS**

#### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter deals with the analysis of data derived from the interviews and questionnaires prepared by the researcher. This analysis will be presented in the form of questions and answers.

The researcher will begin by analysing the questionnaire and this will be followed by the analysis of the unstructured questions during the process of participant observation. The researcher will divide the questionnaires into two sections, the adults and the children sections. Adult questionnaires were divided into three sections. Firstly there was the background information, the responses of the unemployed and then their social life.

#### **4.2 GENDER AND AGE**

There were seventy adult respondents who answered the questions, some of them helped by the researcher as they were illiterate. Ten of them were male and 10 adult females. The male respondents were between the ages of 24 to 44 and the women were between the ages of 24-34.

### **4.3 FIELDWORK : QUESTIONNAIRES OF UNEMPLOYED RESPONDENTS**

Question 4 was based on the educational level of the respondents .Seven males had lower primary education and three had never went to school .Eight women had secondary education .The researcher noticed that most of the people in the area had limited education. All adult respondents had more than one child.

On Q1 from Section B ( Did you work before?) , seven of the respondents answered that they had not , while 3 had worked before.Six men had not worked before and 4 had not. This shows that many of the people in the area have not worked at all in their lives.

The respondents who had not worked before or lost their jobs answered by giving different reasons why they had left work:

- The company closed down
- The employer left the country
- Low wages
- Bad working conditions
- Going back to school
- Health not good

Some of the women worked previously as domestic workers or in textile factories.

Men did unskilled jobs were very lowly paid as they had low levels of education. A

number of men left the job because of retrenchment or voluntary packages , while others left because of laziness. Then they became addicts to alcohol and drugs.

Q3 from section B (Did you get all your money when you left the company?) was answered as follows: The majority of the respondents answered negatively , they did not even get a cent after they left their companies, some of them because they worked as casuals. Only one male got the UIF due to him , because he was permanent for two years.

On Q5 from section B ( Are there any income you get to support your family?) there were positive answers , while a few said “no”. The respondents who answered “yes” are engaged in various activities within their families, such as selling fruit and vegetables, in the taxi ranks , snacks in the local schools , second hand clothing which they buy from Durban and the like. They sell these items during pension day. Others are looking after the children of those who are working and clean their houses. Some cultivate crops in the fields such as spinach, potatoes and cabbage for survival or to sell the products to other people or locally in the markets.

Men usually work in the yards that make mud bricks .They also build fences for those who work in the fields , those protect the cattle from been stolen. Others look after the cattle. Men and women also work in spazas selling various items to members of the community. Some were exploited by the owners of these small shops and in some instances they were not paid at all.

Regarding Q6 in Section B (How is the situation within your family as you are not working ?) , all respondents indicated that the situation was bad as they felt they had already lost their dignity and were not respected by their wives anymore. There were indications of family violence in other families as men beat their wives , because the latter had lost their respect for them. Men became short-tempered because they were unemployed . Other wife abuse occurred because husbands suspected their wives of having extra marital affairs as she had money to buy things.

Q7 in section B was related to children( How do your children feel since you are unemployed?) .Most of the respondents said that their children were feeling the pressure of the situation and sometimes they became angry for no apparent reason. This was due to their parents unemployment and lack of money as they had nothing as compared to other children.

Q1 from Section C (How is crime in the area?) was answered that there was serious and continuous incidents of crime in the area. This meant that the community lost a lot as instability was prevalent in the area.

Q2 from Section C (What kind of crime?) was answered as follows:

- Housebreaking.
- Stock theft
- Abuse of women and childre.

Cattle was stolen at nights and houses were burgled , whereby valued items were stole, such as radios, TV sets , cutlery etc. These were sold to other people in the community or elsewhere.

Q3 in Section 2 (Is your community working together to earn a living?) was answered positively by all respondents. It was said that people worked together to make ends meet in order to generate income , and various informal societies were also operating in the area. Women worked together in groups of 5-10and were involved in activities such as sewing aprons and school uniforms which were sold to individuals and groups. Some also sewed wedding dresses on occasions.

Women also worked collectively in gardening where they produced various crops and vegetables which they sold to urban and peri-urban areas. They also sold through stalls erected in various sections of the highway and in the community. They use their own indigenous knowledge to cultivate the land as they lack in modern technology.

Q5 in Section C (Are there any development projects in your area?) elicited a positive answer. Respondents said that there were various projects under way such as a water and road . It was felt that these were important projects as local people were given jobs and generated some income. However some said that the water project would make no difference as people did not have money to pay for it.

Q5 in Section C was based on the population dynamics of the area . The respondents felt that there was increase in the population, while others felt there was a decrease. It

was felt that there were not many deaths in the area, unlike the patterns in surrounding communities.

Q6 dealt with the factors instrumental in the increase or decrease of the population. There were multiple answers to this question. There was a high birth rate among young women , especially those between sixteen to thirty years of age. Decrease was basically due to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. There were serious patterns of prostitution amongst young women due to unemployment and poverty. Young migrants who left for the urban areas also infected their wives and girlfriends on their return. There were also serious incidents of cholera amongst children and adults which were not reported , but the community was aware of them. This was due mainly to polluted water as women did not use JIG or BLECH when they used it to do the domestic duties.

Others have died of TB , while migration also played a role in the decrease of the population in the area. Young men and women migrated to urban areas, where they lived in squatter camps as they tried to find employment.

#### **4.3 PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION**

During this process the researcher asked respondents questions related to their lives. The researcher asked how people who were unemployed were treated by their families. It was related that when there was unemployment family members lost respect and compassion for the jobless , as the expression of love ceased to exist.

There were many problems created within the family because of unemployment , as in many instances husbands became short-tempered. One of the respondents said that she had proof of her husband's infidelity and this had made them enemies. She could not ask her husband for money as there was none available. Thus she tried to keep calm and not create conflict.

One of the male respondents said that once you are unemployed there is hatred within the family , as children turn against you and love disappears . There were instances where when the father could not provide this was done by the young sisters and this made children to lose respect for the head of the family who is seen as not following his obligations.

Another male informant stated that unemployment creates inferiority complex to those affected , especially when the wife provides for the family instead of the father. This pinpoints the failure of the male head within the family. Another male respondent accepted that it was difficult to expect respect when you produce nothing tangible for the family , as there are no expectations. Such a process creates hatred within the family, coupled with friction and conflict.

It was observed that males who had jobs previously and were presently unemployed felt embarrassed and depressed because they could not provide for their families. Such feelings were obviously having serious psychological effects on them and occasionally led them into heavy drinking.

Respondents were asked of how their friends reacted or felt towards them as they were unemployed. Most of the interviewees felt that their friends became alienated from them as there was no money to buy beers for them , treat them to meat etc. Thus respondents felt that they had lost their dignity and respect of the community .

In the question regarding the main problems facing the unemployed in their communities it was surfaced that there were serious effects of the phenomenon , such as :

- \*Delinquency amongst the young.
- \* Crime
- \* Lack of money for basic necessities and education
- \* Prostitution

The respondents were asked whether they possessed livestock . It was argued that very few people could afford such luxuries as unemployment in the area was rife .Most of the people depended on agriculture to reduce poverty , although they used outdated methods for production and there were visible signs of soil erosion .

## **QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CHILDREN OF UNEMPLOYED PARENTS**

### **4.1 AGE**

The researcher interviewed children whose parents were unemployed. Their ages fluctuated between 10-16 years. Six of the respondents were between 13-16 years and 4 were between the ages 10-12.

### **4.4.2 GENDER**

The respondents were split unequally between males and females. Out of the ten respondents six were females and four were males.

### **4.4.3 CHILDREN QUESTIONNAIRES**

Q3 was as follows : Who do you stay at home with? Most of the respondents stay with single parents and their mother's family. Eight of the respondents were still at school while two have dropped out as their parents had no money. The respondents who are at school are in grades 5-9.

Q5 was based on the situation that face the child when his/her parents are unemployed. Seven of the respondents argued that it is very hard to cope under such conditions while their parents do not work, and that the situation at home was very

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bad. Three of the respondents said they cope well as they had no other choice , and sometimes even they felt proud as they could not do otherwise. The difficulties there were to be confronted head on , and they did well in their schoolwork.

Q6 was related to the condition of the parents and its effect on their children's lives, their relations with their friends and their own school work. All the respondents said that it was frustrating for them to see their parents struggle daily as it was difficult to face such circumstances , and these situations led to inevitable conflict between their parents. This conflict had a negative effect on the children as they felt confused about the situation.

Q7 ( Can you talk to your teachers about problems caused by the conditions of your parents ?) was met with a completely negative response.

#### **4.4.3 SUMMARY**

People at all walks of life and ages are negatively affected by unemployment. Adults and children openly admitted that unemployment led to;

\*Loss of dignity and respect.

\*Migration

\*Delinquency

\*Crime

\*Alcoholism

\*Lack of education

Community members have tried over the years to reduce poverty by creating their own opportunities , which have been enhanced by several development programmes in the community.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

The present chapter focuses on the recommendations based on the present empirical study of the particular area under investigation .

#### **5.2 GOVERNMENT**

The government can fight against unemployment by creating a series of development projects in the area, where the community will fully participate. This is evident from the two existing projects under way. It is important for these to continue as they provide opportunities for the community, and creates a skills pool . It is important that these projects are undertaken by reputable companies as it has been reported extensively that in many areas of the province there is serious corruption related to such processes.

Skills development in this respect is of importance as semi-skilled and unskilled members of the community become equipped with the necessary tools to continue with their lives and utilise these skills progressively .This is evident with the skills acquired by the people involved in the existing water project. Piping, installation and

other skills were imparted to people who participated in this project and two of them have become self-employed in the community.

Participation of the community in these projects is of key importance , but it is imperative that needs assessment analysis must take place before these projects are implemented. There must be research outlining the needs of the community , and this must be debated on the ground. Otherwise useless projects will be implemented without real use for the community.

There is an urgent need in the community for the establishment of poultry and agricultural products . Training of people involved in such projects is important, as production needs to be sped up .Income generation and reduction of poverty are urgent national and local priorities for the people in order to reduce unemployment in the area.

### **5.3 INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE**

Indigenous knowledge can be very important for the defeat of unemployment and the growth and development of people. Thus the developers need to talk with the local population regarding their needs and implementation of plans so that the projects will be successful in the end.

The developers need to respect all aspects of indigenous knowledge of the local people .Local communities should not accept projects that are not well planned and

canvassed within the community , as unplanned development can have detrimental effects in the environment through soil erosion etc.

#### **5.4 NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOs)**

The NGOs must play a key role in the struggle against unemployment in the rural areas as they can organise workshops, training sessions, in arts, sewing bead-work etc. If such skills are imparted to communities people can become self-employed and produce goods for use and consumption.

#### **5.5 THE COMMUNITY**

Community members must stand up to reduce unemployment. There must be a concerted effort to be united in this struggle . If this is achieved , social ills such as crime and prostitution will be reduced .Community members must understand the importance of environmental issues and be trained to respect the environment . Thus trees should not be cut in the forest and soil erosion must stop. Species must not become extinct.

People in rural areas have burned the field with detrimental effects .Livestock suffer because of such destructive practices. People dump waste in the rivers and this increases the symptoms of pollution and the malaria epidemic.

There is a dire need for education in the rural areas especially regarding the protection of the environment. People need to be conscious , because the destruction of the environment means more poverty and degradation.

## **5.6 YOUTH**

There is an urgent need to provide youth with the necessary skills to reduce poverty and its consequent social ills. Youth needs to come together and acquire skills for work. Development in the rural areas is in the hands of young people as they are the future of the province and the country. Youth should be equipped to develop their communities. Youth must defeat alcohol, drugs and prostitution.

## **5.7 WOMEN**

women in rural areas are the pillars of their communities, and must play a key role in the fight against unemployment. They need educational and skills programmes to develop themselves and their communities, to a larger extent as they have done up to now.

They need to be skilled in agricultural production, art and bead work, marketing and costing , as well as environmental issues , because they are the ones who collect water, cook, cut trees and the like .

## **5.8 MIGRATION**

Rural people migrate to urban areas in order to find work , some of them never return. They end up in squatter camps and live a very different social life . This despite the fact that jobs are equally difficult to find in urban areas.

Instead of migrating, young and mature people must stay in their area and become active and instrumental in their development and growth at all levels.

## **5.9 FAMILIES**

Unemployment has many negative effects on family lives, as there is conflict and lack of communication between partners and children suffer these indignities. The suffering relationships between parents have serious negative effects on their children who do not perform well at school, lose respect for them and engage in delinquent behaviour .

There must be tolerance between married parents , and there is no need to fight in front of their children . Thus harmony in the family can be restored.

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## **5.10 SUMMARY**

The effects of unemployment were described in this chapter. The recommendations concentrated on the role of the Government, NGO's and the community, as well as other stakeholders in the fight against unemployment and the quest for a more caring and humane society at local level.

## CHAPTER SIX

### CONCLUSION

The study sought empirical evidence concerning the lives of the community of Kwa-Nxamala and the levels and effects of unemployment on their families and other social aspects associated with it.

Large numbers of people in the area are illiterate, and they lack skills. This despite the fact that some men and women were previously employed .

There are young people who are dying in the area due to preventable and other diseases, including AIDS. It is difficult to make a proper and decent human life because there are no jobs . Crime and prostitution are high as is delinquency.

In families respect has been lost and relationships suffer as conflict becomes very evident .

Despite the problems created by unemployment there are heroic efforts by many people to survive financially and build a better life for themselves and their families. They cultivate the land and produce an assortment of handicrafts, bead work and agricultural product , they sew and struggle along. Some are self-employed and others work tirelessly in the existing development programmes .

is not gone , the human struggle continues.

END