

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS: THE IMPACT ON PARTICIPATING
WOMEN IN AMAJUBA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN KWAZULU NATAL**

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Patricia Theodora Zulu, declare that the work **“SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS: IMPACT ON PARTICIPATING WOMEN IN AMAJUBA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY”** is my own, and that all sources quoted have been acknowledged by complete references.

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P.T. ZULU

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my late parents Mathilda and Samuel Zondo.

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I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the following people for their endless support while conducting my study:

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ABSTRACT

Culturally determined gender roles restricted women's freedom, choice and rights and as such, it is not surprising that women have long been neglected in development. It is only recently that attention was given to women and particularly rural women who are actively engaged in productive labor.

At the Beijing plan of action conference in 1995, it was highlighted that though poverty affects men and women, but because of gender role and responsibility women bear a greater burden and it was recommended that:

- Policies and programs for women be developed in order to alleviate poverty, with their full participation and respect for cultural diversity.
- Mobilization to improve the effectiveness of anti-poverty programs directed at disadvantaged people.

Several programs have been developed by the government in order to empower women. This study therefore is aimed at assessing the impact of social development programs on participating women at Amajuba district Municipality in KwaZulu Natal.

These programs are developed by women and required their full participation. They are funded by the government for sustainability. The researcher's respondents were selected from members who are participating. An evaluative research method was utilized as it assesses the implementation and usefulness of social interventions.

Higson –Smith (1995:47) stated that evaluation research is aimed at testing interventions, to see how effective they are, and therefore, represents an important means of linking action and research in a constructive manner. Evaluation research can furnish evidence of the usefulness of a program.

Findings revealed that women benefited through participation in these programs, as they were also capacitated on activities they were engaged in. They were not successful to generate enough income to sustain their families. Implementation of recommendations made on chapter 6 will develop projects to small businesses so that participants can maintain their families and, contribute to the economy of the country.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

Social development programs are endeavors aimed at empowering women so that they can contribute positively to the socio-economic development of their families and the country as a whole. In many societies the division of labour is related to the phenomenon of domestication. The predominance of patriarchal ideology in many cultures relegates women to play the gender role of being a mother, a housewife and a nurturer. This applies to our communities as well where the role of a woman lies in bearing and rearing children and providing comfortable homes for their husbands.

1.1.1 THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE ON SOCIAL WELFARE

The thrust of the argument is that political, ideological, economic, social and cultural beliefs have a direct bearing on how social welfare is conceptualized and characterized. The history of the country and its level of development have a bearing on the way social welfare arrangements evolve. The dominant theoretical approaches to social welfare are philanthropy, institutional, conservative, critical and social development perspective. Midgley (1995). The approaches are discussed with reference to their implications for what kind of social welfare systems most desirable. Patel (2005)

1.1.1.1. SOCIAL PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropy and charitable giving has ancient roots and is often prescribed by religious beliefs. This approach is deeply rooted in the culture and tradition of societies. Oriental philosophy and tradition based on Confucianism and Buddhism has inspired people to engage in goodwill, giving and the sharing of oneself for the benefits of others. Individual and collective support for kinship groups and the community. In traditional African societies it is expressed in the concept ubuntu which means humanity.

Philanthropic voluntary organizations constitute a substantial sector in the overall system of meeting needs, and have become more secular in their approach. It is broadly defined as the love of mankind and these giving of practical benevolent assistance to people in need. It is also known as voluntary action for public good through voluntary action, voluntary association and voluntary giving.

It also refers to monetary or non-monetary contributions by individuals, the corporate sector, foreign donors and international and non-governmental organization for humanitarian relief, developmental assistance, humans rights, environmental protection, community development, directional, culture and scientific development and peace disarmament, to mention a few. The goals of the approach are to meet human and social needs.

Social welfare programs delivered by philanthropic organizations have traditionally tended to view the beneficence of their services as passive receivers of goods and services. Eligibility was often based on selective access to services and benefits on account of religions affiliation or the motion of the “worthy” poor. Social reformers operating within this framework have played a significant role in advocacy for social justice and in the promotion of social well-being.

In the changing global context many national and international philanthropic organizations are dealing with there new challenges of accountability, more effective social partnerships and the re-definition of their relations with the state and multinational co-operations.

1.1.1.2 INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH

The institutional perspective conceives of social welfare as a normal first line function of modern industrial societies. Institutionalists are of the view that government agencies are best delivers of social policies and that access to social provision and social rights should be institutionalized through legislation, statutory regulations and comprehensive services. The principle of universality is central to this approach. It refers to the rights of all

citizens of this country to universal coverage and access to services and benefits such as income security, medical care, education and housing on an ongoing basis.

Universality as the idea that social welfare services should be equally available to all members of the society regardless of their income or their means.

Other components of this approach are full employment and a set of social assistance programs that are publicly only funded, such as child and family support and social grants for the elderly and people with disabilities. The state's role in social welfare provision is substantial in the institutional approach, and state intervention is seen as a necessary step in meeting needs in a modern industrial society. Social welfare programs in these types of political and social systems would tend to be more institutionalized in the form public policy mandating and regulating such activities.

Voluntary activities may be encouraged as an expression of collectivism and the personal development of the participants, and as a way of promoting social cohesion and stability in the society.

The impact of institutional approaches on social welfare in the developing world has been limited. Some of the reasons cited are weakness of the state and democratic institutions, civil conflict, low levels of economic growth, fiscal constraints caused by debt trap and the marginalization of poor countries.

1.1.1.3 RESIDUAL OR CONSERVATIVE APPROACHES

This approach is associated with minimal state intervention in the provision and financing of social welfare services and social security. It sees the family and the private market as the natural mechanism for meeting needs. If there is a breakdown in their natural system of support, the third mechanism in the form of social welfare comes into being. This presumes that social welfare provision should be of a short term, emergency nature and should help people in a crisis period and should cease once it over

Eligibility for service and benefits is based on a means test which uses a formula to set minimum criteria. Critics of this principle of selectivity argue that it stigmatized those who are targeted to receive benefit and services, it forces social division in the society. Conservatives hold a view that government should lift economics alone, as this is the best way to create wealth and development. They also agree that limited government intervention in human affairs, free market, economic liberalization and privatisation, individual responsibility, well-being and the creation of mediating structure between those in need and government to address social problems and to defuse conflict between them.

This approach tends to emphasize strong moral and religious principles, promote loyalty to the dominant ideology, emphasize individual responsibility, target services and benefits at those in need and most deserving of social support. Social programs are aimed at changing individuals rather than the society. They argue that social welfare benefits create an under-class of poor people and dependency on welfare benefits, and tend to cause more problems than they actually solve.

1.1.1.4 CRITICAL APPROACH

This approach is essentially an interactive process involving analyses, reflection, questioning and monitoring of one's behaviour in relation to others. Social welfare policies, programs and professional practices in social services from a critical perspective have found expression in the social justice approach and reflective practice.

Proponents of the social justice approach are likely to be engaged in advocacy to effect change in public policies, legislation and institutions in order to make them more responsive to the needs of disempowered and under-represented classes and groups. Social and community action involving grassroots groups in issue-oriented campaigns for social change and forming local, national and global coalitions to effect change to other strategies that are also pursued.

Reflective practice emphasizes the need for practitioners to avoid standardized responses to the situations they encounter. It involves coming to terms with these complexities and

uncertainty associated with human service work Reflective practice requires active and interactive process of understanding social situations and constructing solutions, and uses experience, knowledge and theoretical perspectives to guide and inform practice.

The goals and principles of this approach emphasize social economic justice, democratization, transformation of social institution and empowerment of the oppressed and marginalized. This social approach to social welfare policy favours universal access and coverage of social welfare provision and the redistribution of resources in favour of there marginalized. Beneficiaries of service are perceived to be active participants in a struggle for emancipation instead of viewing them as welfare clients. They are considered to be partners and collaborators in effecting personal and societal change.

1.1.1.5 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The proponents of social development argue that social investments in social programs that enhance people's welfare through their participation in the productive economy are the most effective ways enhancing people's welfare and achieving economic development. Midgely (1995) defined social development as a process of planned social change designed to promote the well-being of the population as a whole in conjunction with dynamic processes of economic development. The approach requires purposeful intervention from state and non-state actors and the creation of organizational and institutional arrangement. Human well-being is about the development of people and that the achievement of human well-being is the goal of social development. It also emphasizes comprehensive and unrealistic intervention and progressive social change.

The approach has very strong leaning towards the institutional approach to social welfare as it supports the principle of universalism, redistribution and strong governmental action in social welfare. It differs from institutionalism in that it does not see a separation between economic and social policy and is also less focused on entitlement right to social benefits, and supports the targeting development effort at the poor and marginalized.

Social development is a people-centered approach to development that promotes citizen participation and strengthens the voice of poor people in decision-making and in building democratic and accountable institutions. Democratic participation is considered integral to the achievement of human development and it is an end in itself. Social welfare policies and programs from social development perspective set goals that are likely to lead to tangible improvements in peoples lives. The principles informing the programs are geared to promoting participation in development effort, empowerment of the poor through productive employment, building the assets of poor and strengthening local institutions and social capital. This approach is a pluralistic in nature focusing on strong government action and partnership between individuals, groups, communities, civil society and the private sector. Beneficiaries are considered to be partners and development change agents working at local, national and international levels.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN CRITICIZED AT THREE LEVELS,

- Firstly it is considered to be new and evolving approach and needs to be strengthened at a theoretical level and in its application in different context.
- Secondly the applicability of the approach in different societal contexts and levels of social and economic development. Studies of different models of social development are needed to assess how the approach is being applied in different social, culture, economic and political contexts.
- Thirdly it is further criticized for not paying attention to the development of models of action, and for promoting a form of action to be incorporated into social work.

Payne as quoted by Patel (2005) stated that its major weakness is that it works within existing social structures and does not approach social change from a critical perspective.

1.2 BACKGROUND

Culturally determined gender roles restrict women's freedom, choices and rights and as such it is not surprising that women have long been neglected in development. Development policies plans and projects have conventionally been designed to serve the interest of men and have seldom recognized the existence of women, let alone their special needs and insights.

Attempts to address the situation in the context of development have gained momentum in the recent years. Midgley (1995:22) drew attention to the fact that women and particularly rural women made a major contribution to development while deriving few benefits from development efforts. The fact that women were actively engaged in productive labour in agriculture and related activities was ignored by development experts who formulated economic models that focused on development of males. The patriarchal structure which exists in many cultures has also been reinforced by the development strategies.

This clearly indicates that the participation of women has not been given the attention it deserves despite the fact of their availability at home and in the community where they live. It is then the view of the researcher to look into the participation of women in those programmes where they participate and the impact of these for themselves as persons, their families and the programmes in which they participate

At the Beijing Plan of action conference in 1995, it was highlighted that though poverty affects men and women, but because of gender divisions of labor and women responsibilities for household welfare, women bear a greater burden. Women have to manage household needs under conditions of increasing scarcity. Many households in South Africa are headed by women only and over half of the unemployed are women.

This Conference recommended that the Government should:

- Promote policies and programs for women to alleviate poverty with their full participation and respect for cultural diversity.
- Mobilize to improve the effectiveness of anti-poverty programmes directed at disadvantaged women.

The above information indicates a shift from just being a housekeeper, to fully empowered, self-reliant women who contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Social welfare programs are aimed at alleviating through empowering women, so that they become self-reliant and also participate actively in the socio-economic development of their husbands. The researcher wants to find out if these programs are impacting positively on women in terms of empowering them. It is the researcher's view that the non-recognition of women's role and positive development will militate against their role in being partners in the alleviation of poverty and attended problems.

The researcher would like to establish what strategies are designed to help women overcome cultural constraints and gender imposed restrictions to become fully participatory and contributing members of society.

Further this will deal with the problem of non-sustainability of community development. According to the Department of Social Welfare financing Policy 1999, women are also considered as a focus groups targeted for being financed so that they become empowered and be in a position to enhance their well-being. It is the researcher's view that non-recognition of women's role and positive development will militate against their role in being partners in the alleviation of poverty.

The researcher would further like to establish what strategies are designed to overcome cultural constraints and gender imposed restrictions to become fully participatory and

contributing members of society. This will also deal with the problem of non-sustainability of community development programs.

1.4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.4.1 To evaluate the impact of social development on women participating in development programs, in terms of utilizing skills and knowledge acquired in these programs.

1.4.2. To look into the strategies that are effective in enhancing full and meaningful participation of women, such that the skills and knowledge acquired becomes a lifelong learning

1.4.3. To investigate obstacles preventing women from benefiting from social welfare programs.

1.4.4. To assess the status of women in terms of the cultural shift and gender imposed responsibilities like child bearing and rearing, to empowered women involved in the socio-economic development of the country.

1.5 MOTIVATION OF THE STUDY

The researcher is a practitioner involved in monitoring social development programs, some of which target women only. She therefore felt it essential to evaluate the programs that have impact, in order to be able to ascertain if women are adequately empowered to break the chains of poverty.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The research findings would assist the Social Development Component in assessing their approaches to women empowerment through participation in development programs, so

that they can be reviewed or strengthened as long they impact positively on women's development.

1.7. Definition of Terms

1.7.1 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Lombard (1992:118) defines community development as a process, a method, a program, a movement aimed at enabling and encouraging communities to be involved with the necessary support from the private and government sectors in improving and managing their own living conditions in all areas of development.

According to United Nations Organization definition as cited by Hugo (1984:210) community development is a process where in joint effort is taken by the community itself with the help from government and the private sector to improve social, economic, cultural and physical conditions in the community in order to improve their quality of life. The White Paper (1997:9) defines community development as a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach.

1.7.2. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

According to James Midgley (1995:12) social development is defined as an approach in social welfare which offers an effective response to current social problems. It is a process of planned social change designed to promote the wellbeing of the population as a whole in conjunction with the dynamic process of economic development Economic development is meaningless, unless it is accompanied by improvements in social welfare for the population as a whole.

1.7.3 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Chimera asserted that despite the hidden agenda for service effectiveness, the purpose of participation was community empowerment, self reliance and the development of people. It is widely accepted that participatory approaches incorporate the knowledge of local people in programme planning and has the mandate to involve them in decisions which

affect them. People participate and become empowered to develop themselves, their communities and their world.

Community participation is a process of awakening or conscientisation of community members at the bottom.

Participation means the involvement of the significant number of community members in institutions or actions which enhance their well-being. It requires voluntary and democratic involvement of community members in:

- (a) Contributing to development effort
- (b) Sharing equitably in the benefits derived there
- (c) Decision – making and implementing economic and social development programs.

1.7.4 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment means taking charge, being in control and participation of the community members in their own development either at group, individual or community level.

The concept community empowerment as quoted by Anderson (1995) is a process which community members, organizations, or groups who are powerless:

- (a) Become aware of the power dynamics at work in their life context.
- (b) Develop skills and capacity for gaining some reasonable control over their lives.
- (c) Exercise this control without infringing upon the rights of others and
- (d) Support the empowerment of others in the community.

Parsons (1991) stated that the term was popularized in the mid 1970s by Solomon (1976) and was used to describe the process of increasing personal, intra-personal, political and social power so that individuals and communities can take action to improve their life situation.

Rappaport (1987) defined empowerment as “a process by which people, organizations and communities gain mastery over their lives, and involve themselves in the democratic

process of their community and employing institutions”. In defining empowerment, Torre, (1985) quoted by Parson (1991), discussed it as “ a process through which people become strong enough to participate within, share in the control of, and influence, events and institutions affecting their lives”, and it necessitates that people gain particular skills, knowledge and sufficient power to influence their lives and the lives of those they care about.

Guitierrez, (1990) described it as:

- a sense of personal control accompanied by the ability to affect the behaviour of other.
- a focus on establishing existing strengths in individuals and communities.
- advocating for equity in the distribution of resources .

Guijt and Shah (1998) declared that empowerment has its roots in social action, community organisation, adult education, black liberation and feminism.

1.7.5 CAPACITY BUILDING

Building capacity in community involves a process whereby the poor are empowered by the strengthening of their capacity to engage in development through educational and skills programs.

1.7.6. SOCIAL WELFARE

According to Friedlander quoted by McKendrick (1987) Social welfare is seen as an organized system of social services and institutions designed to aid individuals and groups to attain satisfying standards of life and health to have social relationships, which permits them to develop their full capacities and to promote their well being in harmony with the needs of their families and community.

1.7.7 COMMUNITY

Community is a word used in a variety of ways; Hunter (1975) defined community as:

- functional spatial units meeting basic needs for sustenance

- unit of patterned social interaction
- symbolic units of collective identity

Minkler (1999) in a examination of the concept community explained that whilst it is commonly used as a geographic term, it may also be non-locality based in that the concept incorporates shared interests, characteristic, ethnicity, sexual orientation and occupational classes.

1.7.8 POVERTY

Poverty is acknowledged as a universal, multi-dimensional phenomenon and incorporates physiological dimension - denoting lack of basic necessities such as food, health, shelter and clothes.

Political Dimension - the state of deprivation and powerlessness where the poor are exploited and/ or denied participation in decision making in matters affecting them. Psychological dimension- the feeling of being worthless because of poverty. Alcock (1997) absolute poverty is regarded as an extreme form of human deprivation where basic needs essential for survival are not met. Relative poverty refers to situation where individuals and group in society are unable to meet the standards of living taken for granted by others in that society. May (1998) defined poverty as these inability to attain a minimal standard of living, measured in terms of basic consumption, needs and the income required to satisfy them.

1.8 DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

Research results will be disseminated through oral presentation in meetings as well as the workshops on development programs. Articles will be submitted to newsletters and to Journals.

1.9 PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY

The outline of the study is as follows

CHAPTER ONE

This chapter provides an introductory part of the study

CHAPTER TWO

Chapter two provides the review of the relevant literature

CHAPTER THREE

Chapter three presents the community profile

CHAPTER FOUR

Chapter four presents the research methodology

CHAPTER FIVE

This chapter presents the findings and analysis of the data collected during the study.

CHAPTER SIX

This chapter gives the summary, conclusion and makes recommendations.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE RIVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This dissertation deals with a theoretical framework that focuses on conceptualization of community development, community participation, empowerment and women and community development.

2.2 CONCEPTUALIZATION OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

It is necessary to explain community development and social development as main concept in this study. Other relevant concepts like community participation and community empowerment will also be tackled.

2.2.1 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

According to James Midgley (1995:12) Social Development is defined as an approach in Social Welfare which offers an effective response to current social problems, social development may be viewed as an approach for promoting people's welfare (or social well-being) He further elaborated that in sociology development is viewed as a process of guided social change which promotes modernity, social workers perception is that it is a process of personal growth and self actualization, which leads to improved social conditions. There are political scientists who emphasize that it encompasses increased human rights, political participation and social integration.

Camfens (1993) summarized that social development rests on two assumptions. Firstly, the eradication of poverty is attainable, and secondly economic development can accompany human development leading to social justice and equitable distribution of resources.

These descriptions emphasize the importance of the creation of employment opportunities and income generation as being essential to poverty alleviation and the transformation of the society as a whole.

Social Development does not deal with individuals by providing them with goods or service or by treating or rehabilitating them; instead it focuses on these community and on wider social processes and structures. It is also comprehensive and seeks to enhance the well- being of the whole population and is also dynamic involving the process of growth and change. However, social development most distinctive feature is its attempt to link social and economic development efforts.

Within the process of development social and economic development form two sides of the same coin. Social Development cannot take place without economic development and economic development is meaningless, unless it is accompanied by improvement in social welfare for the population as a whole.

Social Development is also defined as a process of planned social change designed to promote the well being of the population as a whole in conjunction with a dynamic process of economic development.

2.2.1.1 CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The characteristics of social development are as follows:

- The process of social development is inextricably linked to economic development.

- Social Development has an inter-disciplinary focus, which draws on the insights of the various social sciences. It offers an interdisciplinary basis for analyzing with current social problems and for promoting social welfare.

- The concept social development involves a sense of a process. Social development is a dynamic concept in which the motion of growth and change is explicit. Development is a process of growth, change and evolution.

- The process of social development is interventionist in nature. This process is directed by human beings who implement specific plans and strategies to foster social development goals. As a result this process rejects the idea that social improvements occur naturally as a result of the workings of the economic market.

- Social Development goals are fostered through various strategies. These strategies seek either directly or indirectly to link social interventions with economic development effort.

- The goal of social development is the promotion of social welfare, where social problems are satisfactorily managed, and social needs met and social opportunities are created.

2.2.1.2 PRIMARY VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

2.2.1.2.1 Social justice

Social justice in the social work dictionary is defined as an ideal condition in which all members of a society have the same basic rights, protection, opportunities, obligations and social benefits. A commitment to social justice in the society by upholding and protecting rights, opportunities, obligations and social benefits equally for all citizens, specially the most disadvantaged.

2.2.1.2.2 Ubuntu (Humanity)

Everyone has a right to human dignity and to have that respected and protected. Human dignity is the central value of the constitution of South Africa and it is the foundation of justice and peace. The dignity and worth of the service user is impaired, if people are treated in a degrading or humiliating way.

2.2.1.2.3 Democracy and participation

This value is relevant to developmental social welfare in that gives expression to the way in which social service professions work with their clients. The value of democracy is

indispensable to social development in that there can be not social progress in the society if there is no representational and participatory democracy. This view of society is based on open discussions, debate, understanding, active listening, tolerance and the fostering of democratic social relations.

2.2.1.2.4 Equality and non discrimination

All people should have access to services and benefits nobody may be discriminated against. The rights of the clients would be acknowledged and in social development this principle is important since the approach focuses on felt needs. The value of non-discrimination is vital in ensuring the equal treatment of all people and in affording them the same opportunities irrespective of race, gender, sexual pretence, age, disability or any other social divisions in the society.

2.2.1.2.5 Reconciliation

The value of reconciliation means that there is an acknowledgement of past and commitment to work for reconciliation between individuals, in communities and to address structural inequalities of power, social and economic inequalities. Reconciliation also requires active redress and reparation in the social welfare field.

2.2.1.3. PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Rothmund and Botha (1991:2) state that community work principles form a basic frame of reference for a worker's professional relationship with a given community, based on his belief in man's potential to grow and to develop. They have also stipulated the following eight principles which they drew from different existing literature and writers:

- Respect and consideration: This principle emphasizes that every person as an individual has intrinsic work and dignity and the basic right to develop his potential.
- Acceptance: Acceptance is viewed as a basis for discovering a community's potential and for motivating its members into independent social functioning.

- Receiving recognition is a human need: A community must be given recognition for achievements and co-operation.

Individualization: Each community experiences its own particular social needs and problems, and has the responsibility to respond to these constructively, to overcome given limitations and to ensure the necessary security and stability for its members.

- The right to self-determination: This principle emphasizes the importance of each community to be given the right of making its decisions or choices.
- Help to self-help: The core of this principle is directed towards assisting community to realize its strengths and be able to accept its own responsibility for growth, progress and destiny.
- Meeting the community at its own level: This one implies the understanding of the community's needs and problems in order to start where they are.
- Partnership and co-operation: This principle emphasizes the importance of sharing responsibilities between the worker and the community, in order to obtain best results in the process. Role differentiation and allocation of specific duties come in these principles.

2.2.1.3 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Experience with regard to community development programs through our world has shown that the “quick fix” approach, where the experts come in and “sort-out” community's needs and problems, does not succeed in the long run. Implementation of any development project cannot be effected successfully without an active participation of its community members.

Community participation in development is accepted as a basic rule for planning and development strategy and through it, communities are enabled to organize plan and act in such a way that they can improve their own lot. Participation means the involvement of the significant number of community members in institutions or actions which enhance

their well being i.e. their self income, security, self esteem etc. It requires voluntary and democratic involvement of community members in:

- (a) Contributing to development effort
- (b) Sharing equitably in the benefits derived there from, and
- (c) Decision-making and implementing economic and social development programmes (United Nations, as quoted in Midgley, 1986:25)

Chimera-Dan (1996) asserted that despite the hidden agenda for service effectiveness the purpose of participation was community empowerment, self reliance and the development of people. It is widely accepted that participatory approaches incorporate the knowledge of local people in programme planning and has the mandate to involve them in decisions which affect them.

The assumption is that in becoming involved, people participate and become empowered to develop themselves, their communities and the world at large. Participation is a dialogue-driven process and pivotal to people centered development (Fitzgerald, McLennan and Munslow 1997),

2.2.1.3.1 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AS PROCESS

Genuine community participation means that community members must have the power to influence the decisions that affect their lives. Without empowerment participation becomes ineffective. All different aspects of empowerment must be present for participation to be meaningful i.e. political, economic, and institutional aspects. If participation is put into effect, communication is created and the situation is achieved in which the local communities are in the position to identify and analyze a development program for themselves with the understanding that they have superior knowledge of local problems affecting their communities.

It is a vehicle for beneficiaries choosing their own path to development and preserving their indigenous skills (and) a means of widening the choices available to them and for

capacity building and empowerment putting the last first. It becomes clear that community members need not be neglected particularly in decision making concerning their own development. The community worker has to lead the process of development bearing in mind the basic and felt needs of the community. He needs not to give a cold shoulder to those needs.

A Community worker, therefore, has to ensure that genuine participation prevails, and to do so they have to take the following into consideration:

- (a) Community members have to be trusted and respected.
- (b) Programs and projects should be based on felt needs of the community.
- (c) Participation should be based on the understanding that effective involvement starts within and builds on what the community already knows and has.
- (d) Community workers understand their role that they should act as educators, advisers, and advocates.
- (e) Community participation is an empowerment tool for capacity building in order to strengthen various skills and knowledge of beneficiaries by sharing in the planning and management tasks of projects and monitoring various sections of the projects.

According to Penderis (1996:128) there are four ascending intensity levels of community participation in development initiatives, namely:

(a) Information sharing

This level involves the transfer and multi-directional exchange of information through the planning process and collective action in equipping beneficiaries to understand and perform their tasks effectively.

(b) Consultation

This refers to a process of interaction with beneficiaries on key issues of project design which increases the level of intensity of community participation which in turn contributes to the successful outcomes of the project.

(c) Decision-making

This is a higher level of intensity which occurs when views and decisions of beneficiaries are integrated in the design and the implementation of the planning process, which implies a greater degree of control or influence on project.

(c) Initiating Action

This is the highest level of intensity which according to Penderis (1996:128) “beneficiaries are proactively involved and able to take the initiative in terms of actions or discussions pertaining to a particular project, it further implies a process in which beneficiaries acquire greater control over their particular life situation.”

For effective participation women must be involved in the assessment of those needs they wish to address. This will ensure that these are felt needs and commitment to address these will be high. Assessment of needs also relates to decision making as the needs are prioritized and a feeling of ownership is entrenched from the beginning.

In community participation there is a degree of social organization as people come together to share an interest or concern. For maximum participation there should be a structure to ensure that tasks are adequately and fairly delegated. The degree of organization in a group can be used as a measure of co-operation and thus a platform for togetherness which is so vital in team work.

The group must be able to utilize existing resources maximally and generate new resources where necessary. To do this the group may need assistance as to how to generate and manage resources. Mobilization of resources may include identification of leadership and social forces influencing the thinking of those influential in shaping public

policies, organizational initiatives in the community, developing these and utilizing them in community upliftment.

In management the group leader should be able to supervise project once these are initiated so as to sustain them. The ability to manage can be demonstrated by direction and progress in project undertaken. Good health for women is an enabler as it influences the intensity of participation in activities directed at community development. It can be regarded as a vehicle for participation.

Environment is the area in and around a person. The environment as a strong determinant for participation. It can facilitate participation by its very nature. A conducive environment as determined by intensity of need or desperation may be positive stimulus for participation. The resources that are available in the environment are inclusive of physical structures, political milieu, economical position, social and cultural attributes and emotional feelings.

Women participate in an environment which is either positive or negative as determined by the resources. By sharing ideas and expertise individuals and groups progress and develop to take leadership positions and make decisions for empowerment and self reliance.

2.2.1.3.2 OBSTACLES THAT MAY HINDER EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

There are some obstacles that may hinder the effective progress of community participation. According to Swanepoel and de Beer (2006:26) the following are such obstacles:

(a) Operational

Issues such as much centralization of power, limited capacity, limited co-ordination and inappropriate technology fall under this category.

(b) Culture of poverty

Poverty alleviation programs are essential to come into rescue community members for their full participation in community development.

(c) Lack of structural support for participation

Appropriate structures are necessary for participation. Some existing structures in the community may even be ant-participatory, making things worse in the process. This is why a community worker should first consult the whole community i.e. contact making rather than using the already available structure without a mandate from the community. Some committees are non-effective in the community.

(d) Tokenism, racism and paternalism

Real participation involves risk in relinquishing control to the community. Whatever token structures set up with no real power to influence decisions will be bound to fail. Racism is another pitfall to effective community participation. Unless a dominant race is prepared and willing to interact as equals and respect community members and views from the oppressed group with regard to their desires and needs; success in community participation will be at stake.

2.2.1.3.3 THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:

- More accurate and representative information is derived about the needs, priorities, and capabilities of the local community members and more reliable feedback on the impact of the initiatives and programs is secured.
- Adaptation of programs to meet local conditions so that scarce resources can be employed more efficiently.
- Access to local expertise and technical information that can otherwise be costly to obtain , can be realized and

- Co-operation in new programs which is more likely to occur when the local organizations having the confidence of rural community members can be easily obtained.

2.2.1.4 EMPOWERMENT

The word “empowerment” means taking charge, being in control and participation of the community members in their own development –either at group, individual or community level.

The concept “Community empowerment” as quoted by Anderson (1996), is the process by which community members, organizations or groups that are powerless:

- became aware of the dynamics at work in their life context
- develop the skills and capacity for gaining some reasonable control over their lives
- exercise this control without infringing upon the rights of others and
- support the empowerment of others in the community.

Rappaport (1987) defined empowerment as a process by which people, organizations and communities gain mastery over their lives, and involve themselves in the democratic process of their community.

Community empowerment refers to the development of an effective support system for those who have been blocked from achieving individual or collective goals, because of severity or complexity of the discrimination they have suffered.

2.2.1.5 CAPACITY BUILDING

This is an educative process which aims at bringing about skills and knowledge to the disadvantaged community members, which will satisfy their need. When building capacity in community development the poor are empowered by strengthening their capacity to engage in development through educational and skills programs.

2.2.2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community development is a method widely used by developing countries where it is believed that there can never be change in people's lives unless they embark on a sound community development.

According to United Nations Organization definition as cited by Hugo (1984:210) community development is a process where joint effort is taken by the community itself with the help from government and the private sector to improve social, economic, cultural and physical conditions in the community in order to improve their quality of life.

Community development is described as a method, a process, a program and a movement. These are explained as follows:

- A method of community development is regarded as a means to an end not as an object in itself.
- Community development has a place as a program with focus on social, economic and political development.
- Community development is also described as a movement for participation by dedicated members who intend addressing their needs.
- Community development is a process for changing communities towards desired goals. This includes study, education, training, planning, organizing and action that bring about cognitive purposeful change towards community goals.

Community Development is, on the other hand, seen not to be having an explicit meaning because of the following factors:

- Community Development is concerned with both task goals and process goals. The former means achieving concrete objectives and the latter helps people grow or strengthen the qualities of participation, self-direction and co-operation.

- Community Development and Community Organization overlap due to the increasing relation between them.

The application of the approach both to rural and urban communities differs because of the differences in the communities.

Dunham (ibid) views community development as a process whereby a community gets involved in progressive community actions such as the identification of needs, addressing them together and working towards success.

Shisana and Versfeld (1993:7) views community development as a process applicable to the disadvantaged powerless communities where upon these communities work together to increase their control and powerbase over events that determine their lives. For it to be meaningful people must be physically engaged and be in partnership with providers.

2.3 THE PERSISTENT AND INCREASING BURDEN OF POVERTY ON WOMEN

2.3.1 Women and poverty in South Africa

Poverty shows in different ways e.g. lack of income and productive resources to ensure a decent living, hunger, malnutrition, ill-health, limited or no access to education and other basic services, homelessness or inadequate housing, unsafe environment and social discrimination and exclusion. Women's poverty is also characterized by lack of participation in decision making in all spheres of life.

Women's poverty is increased by the rigidity of gender roles in our society .This leads to women's limited access to power, education, training and productive resources. The

failure to mainstream a gender perspective in economic planning coupled with discrimination has further impoverished women. Women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities.

The failure to include a gender perspective in economic planning coupled with the discrimination of the apartheid legacy, urban migration and consequent change in family structures contributes further to the impoverishment of women.

Poverty affects men and women but, owing to gender divisions of labor, and women's responsibilities for the household welfare, they bear a greater burden. Women have to manage household needs under conditions of increasing scarcity.

According to the Beijing document (1995) many households in South Africa are headed by women and only at least 35% of households are headed by women alone. These are much poorer than an average household and over half of the unemployed are women.

The fact that women are farmers, mothers and homemakers put extra burden on them. Women in rural areas also spend hours collecting wood and carrying water.

Fransella and Frost (1977) are of the view that, an assumption that a woman's primary identity is that of a homemaker or housewife assigns to her not one but many roles. Women have always been looked down upon in their household work, where they do not receive the best recognition and support from their families and community.

Joakes (1987:68) further stated that rural women are, for example expected to be involved in a range of quasi-agricultural tasks to do with food ,crop storage and preparation for consumption, care of small livestock chicken, goats ,cows, etc. as well as the often very time-consuming tasks of fuel and water collection. In some communities these are carried by both men and women, whereas generally, women are responsible and they know the society expects them to fulfill those unpaid duties and men are exempted as they are involved in paid work outside the household.

The other assumption is that work done by women because of their gender is not seen for what it is, because in the absence of a woman this kind of work can be performed by a hired domestic worker, who in turn needs to be remunerated. There is thus a need to consider women equally as potential paid worker regardless of their gender.

The third viewpoint is that housework is not given the status of being real work because there is no end product in terms of payment to women involved in those roles.

There are women who go out to work in order to meet family needs. In these instances women may experience pressure because she would have a new role as a worker and at the same time be expected to fully perform her household duties. As a result she ends up experiencing the role strain.

Afshar (1996:2) says that in order to succeed in these struggle women would have to be able to demystify some of the historical perceptions that have defined them as dependents and confined them to the unpaid domestic sectors of economy and society.

2.3.2 Poverty reduction and sustainable livelihood strategies

Poverty is broadly explained as being caused by either individual pathology or structural forces which create and perpetuate poverty. The structure approach explains poverty in terms of the economic and political forces in this society. Poverty reduction strategies are aimed at breaking the structural forces that cause poverty, through the achievement of economic growth and human development, enhancing the capabilities of disadvantaged individuals, households and communities and through redistributive social development interventions. These measures are designed to ensure a minimum standard of living for all people to eradicate extreme poverty and to acknowledge the power of human agency in poverty reduction.

Poverty has been described as an interlocking and multidimensional phenomenon caused by a lack of multiple resources such as employment, food, assets, basic infrastructure health care and literacy. These psychological aspects of poverty have also been highlighted by poor people, and these include humiliation, inhuman treatment and the emotional strain of living in poverty. The lack of political voice that can be heard by society and decision-makers is another aspect that is important in defining and addressing poverty. Budlender (1998).

The measurement of poverty is shifting from a focus only on one dimension of poverty such as income to a broader view that incorporates the above conceptions and dimensions. Research shows that people do not necessarily live in poverty permanently but may move in and out of poverty over time, as a result of changes in the life cycle such as child birth, early adulthood and ageing. Poverty may also be caused by changes in environmental conditions or societal process that lead to the social and economic exclusion of people. Such factors include political change, the restructuring of the economy, seasonal changes and conflict or war.

These poverty-creating process, which lead to the vulnerability of people may be of a short term nature, but can also become chronic and lead to long term exclusion. Personal misfortune, such as the loss of earning capacity to physical or mental ill health, disability and the death of a breadwinner are other poverty-creating process

2.4 THE CHANGING POSITION OF WOMEN

2.4.1 The Beijing Conference

At the Beijing Conference it was highlighted that the government needs to promote the advancement of women and the responsibility for their advancement should be visited at the highest possible levels of the government.

- The government had to target the allocation of public expenditure to promote women's economic opportunities.
- Develop policies to promote the equitable distribution of food within the household.

- Strengthen state and community-based support system in order to help women living in poverty.
- Formulate and implement policies in support of female-headed household.
- Develop and implement anti-poverty programs.
- Enable women to obtain affordable housing and access to land by removing obstacles to access.
- Promote policies and programs for women to eradicate poverty with their full participation, and respect for cultural diversity, so that they have the possibility of choice in the development process.
- Increase and allocate resources to eliminate poverty of women and their families.
- Help to create an enabling environment that allows women to build sustainable livelihoods.
- Mobilize to improve the effectiveness of anti-poverty programs directed at disadvantaged women.
- Develop in co-operation with government and the Private Sectors a comprehensive national strategy for improving health, education, social services so that girls and women living in poverty have full access to such services. Funding must be sought to secure access to these services with a gender perspective in order to reach remote rural areas not covered by government institutions.
- Mobilize to protect women's human rights to equal access and control of land and credit regardless of customary laws, traditions and practices related to inheritance and marriage.
- Provide adequate funding for programs designed to promote sustainable and productive activities for income generation among women living in poverty.

2.4.2 Women's voices and the place of gender in the Municipality

According to Alison, Todes, Pearl and Amanda (2007) gender is not high priority in any of the municipality. Generally, it is seen as peripheral to their main concerns. Only the two large Municipality- eThekweni and Hibiscus coast-paid any attention to gender

quality. For Msinga, which have very limited finance and staff, and is struggling with basic municipal management, gender issue feel like a luxury.

Like many Municipalities eThekweni and Hibiscus coast have focused their efforts to promote gender equality on employment equity and appointing women to senior management level. Nevertheless, overall, structures continue to be male- dominated and gender stereotyped. Gender champions have also been highly visible in these municipalities, but their impacts have been relatively limited.

2.4.2.1 Women Councillors

At the time of the research in 2005, woman councillors were out numbered by their male counterparts in all three municipalities. Local government has two forms of representation: ward councillor representing local area, and proportional representation' (PR) councillors elected on the basic political part lists. In the three municipalities, women were more often represented as PR councillors, and it was more difficult for them to gain access to positions as ward councillors. These patterns were evident in any municipalities across the country at the time (see HSRC 2004).

Low level of women's representation reflected conservative local politics, where men were expected to hold senior position. Thus, increasing woman's representation has depended on initiative at national level. In the 2006 election, the ANC initiative to 50:50 male-female representations was resisted by men, who felt threatened by the move. However, woman themselves were sometimes reluctant to take up position of leadership or to support woman in the positions.

It was difficult to find evidence that women's position in council was having beneficial impact to woman. While they responded to woman's needs, they did not necessarily have an influence within municipal structures. Woman did not manage to unite or caucus across party lines, and some woman councillor were unwilling to be associated with gender structure or woman issues. Men were sometimes hostile or dismissive, and some woman prefers to devote their effort to more main stream committees. Women

councillors felt that they derived little support from Municipal structures and in addressing women's needs, and that there was resistance to addressing gender issues in council.

2.4.2.2 Woman Councillors respond to woman's need outside council structures

While women councillors have had success in representing women's interests in council structure, they have often been very active within their wards in listening to and responding to women's needs. In all three municipalities, Women councilors have been involved in: promoting women's rights, HIV/AIDS awareness and poverty-alleviation initiatives; establishing co-operation and crèches; accessing fund and training; and sourcing farming commitments on behalf of women in their own wards. Some ensure that ward meetings are held at times and venues that are accessible for women. In Hibiscus coast, women councillors remarked that most meetings were dominated by women, because they were more interested in development than men; this issues raised at the concerns of local women.

Women tend to approach women councillor then men councillors when the wish to raise their concern. They are perceived to more understanding of women's particular circumstances and better able to intervene appropriately. Issues that are disused with women councillors range from HIV /AIDS rape to household service, infrastructure, employment and food security .In conservative context, such as traditional areas where women are often unable to voice their options at public meetings, they approach women councilors to discuss issues

Similarly, women approach the wife of traditional leaders (Ondlunkulu) because they are perceived to be receptive and influential presence. They are also involved in promoting subsistence and income –generation activities for women's groups in their areas.

How ever, the initiatives of women councillors and Ondlunkulu are voluntary and largely under resourced activities, and remain small –scale and marginal to municipal development processes

2.4.2.3 Women in IDP participatory processes

Women’s participation in IDP occurs through public meetings and committee Meeting for representative of organization (e.g. the IDP Representative Forum for stakeholder groups, and ward committees) .Women have been seen as a distinct constituency in these processes, so they have participated mainly as individuals or through other stakeholders groupings.

Nether less, in all three municipalities, women’s presence has been notable in IDP participatory processes. Women have been interested in these processes because they deal with issues that are critical importance to them. In eThekwini and Hibiscus coast, they were often the majority at public meetings. Women were vocal at meetings, but women’s voice were not strong as those of men. It was more difficult for women to speak in Msinga, since traditional protocols do not expect woman to express their opinions unless they are asked to do so. However younger women are beginning to contribute in discussions, so the IDP process does provide a space in which women’s voice are starting to be held.

2.4.2.4 IDP and gender

Attention to gender within the IDP was limited and sporadic in all of the municipalities, where it was present; it was seen as side issue. Women tend to be regarded as one of the vulnerable groups deserving of special attention but in practice this not carried through within the IDP.

There are significant differences between municipalities in the extent to which they have address gender. EThekwini municipality went furthest. The 2002 IDP included commitment to addressing the needs of vulnerable groups through:

- Special desk
- Guidelines for incorporating the concerns of vulnerable groups into council plans
- Partnership with key stakeholders; and
- Identification of women's needs

Since 2002, a gender structured has been established and gender police framework has been written up, although they still need to be link to the IDP process. Gender is addressed to some extent in recent IDP reviews and IDPs (2005/06and 2006-2011) in the following ways:

- City values include non –sexism
- The IDPs express interest in engaging with women's organizations
- There is commitment to affirmative procurement for women; and
- Women are explicitly included in enterprise support

However, gender is not considered in the overall development thrust of the municipality, and the IDPs do not respond explicitly to several identified need

2.4.3 Roads and public works

Roads and public works project have been undertaken in accordance with national guidelines, which specifically target women in most cases. Women are included as laborers. Women were quite appreciative of the opportunity to work on the road and gain same in come. They also professed to feeling empowered by being able to work and to open accounts. They appreciated entry into a non –traditional sector for women and the visibility that this role entails .their involvement in these projects improved their skills and experience and made them role models to other women .However, some women saw work in construction as low type of work that does not pay well and is not respected in the community.

Some projects indicate a deepened commitment to involving women. in eThekwini the Zibambele road maintenance program applied the model pioneer by the provincial

department of transport to 15 percent of the municipal road network. The program target the poor women –headed household as it main beneficiaries.

2.4.3.1 EThekwini Zibambele road maintenance program

EThekwini Zibambele road maintenance program involve the mobilization, training management and support of thousands of marginalized women as contractor to maintain a 500m stretch of road for 12 months period. The program has targeted poor women headed –households explicitly, and women account for almost all of the 2750 contractors.

They receive same introductory training and necessary tool for road maintenance, and they are expected to work eight days a month, for which they are paid R390 They have also been made aware of a range of information and skills, including HIV/AIDS, savings and meeting protocols. Co-coordinators assist contractors in opening bank accounts, completing the necessary documentation, organizing their equipment, ensuring deadlines are met and payments are made, as well as making the necessary arrangements when contractors are ill.

Contractors have benefited significantly from their involvement in the program. They have been able to purchase cellphone and new clothing for themselves and pay for their children’s education. Some of them feel that they are in a position to apply for similar employment opportunities and others indicated that they want to start their own business as a result of the experience and self –confidence that they have acquired. Through the assistance of the co-coordinators, they have obtained identity documents and as visible citizens, they have been able to open bank accounts and obtain social grants.

This labour –based program represent a bold initiative to actively involved thousands of marginalized women in an effort to dovetail poverty alleviation and social exclusion goal with ongoing municipal maintenance activities. Not only does the program provide guaranteed income for a year, it also offer life skills training and increase access to formal systems, which clearly benefit the women contractors and their dependants. A key component of the program is entering into new contracts every 12 months to extend the

range of women –headed households that will be able to benefit. The municipality will need to address the contractor’s dependency on the program deliberately, by building their capacity to seek employment or become self-employed, and by considering further training and linkage to learnership and other empowerment opportunities.

4.4.4 WOMEN AND POLICY ISSUES

It cannot be disputed that women have all along been affected by some development policies, which do not recognize their work or status within the communities. Carr as quoted by Ahmed (1985:115) states that the plight of women in rural areas of Africa has only recently received the amount of attention it deserves. It is now recognized that women are responsible for a large and increasing proportion of work and that they have usually been denied access to enable them to do this work efficiently. Attempts are now being made to collect statistics in order to record accurately the contribution of women to the economy.

There have been so many publications focusing on how policies are formulated in different countries. For instance, Finch as quoted by Pascall (1986:112) says “feminists have been responsible for demonstrating that the education system also reproduces the sexual division of labour in the family, whereby men are in paid employment and women do unpaid work in the home and it reproduces sexual divisions within the labour market itself, they tend to be concentrated in particular types of organizational hierarchies.”

It is thus important that when policies are made regarding development, all different categories of the population be considered to avoid other groups being left out.

The draft White Paper for Social Welfare and Population Development Government Gazette (1996:120) argues strongly that though Black women have been severely disadvantaged by policies of the past, women in rural areas have been especially disadvantaged as they are isolated and do not have access to social and economic opportunity which could improve their lives , Jansson (2008) suggests that the vast

literature that has recently evolved on culturally sensitive practices and on multidiversity stresses the need to adopt programmes to specific populations. This sensitivity has to occur on two related levels:

- a. To examine how specific social problems occur differently in certain populations.
- b. To ask how services could be adopted to the culture and norms of specific ethnic and racial groups.

Amongst problems identified affecting women, are poverty and the current status of being women. Literacy has also been identified as one of the major obstacles to women's advancement and female unemployment is higher than male unemployment. Households headed by women are significantly poorer, with women also facing increasing pressures in reconciling parenthood with work responsibilities.

The question of the status of women goes beyond the fact that the principle of shared responsibility and partnership between men and women is still not accepted in society as a basis of achieving equity and equality.

2.4.5 WOMEN AND WORK

Harley (1996:340) mentions that in America, studies conducted amongst Black men and women indicated that a number of gender related factors explain differences in the proportion of black women and black men represented in the labor force. This participation gap in their part reflects the fact that employers often preferred male wage-earners even though it meant paying slightly higher wages.

This reason can, of course, prevent women from seeking employment in the labor market because of poor wages.

According to Harley (1990:342) other studies revealed that most Black husbands found it impossible to oppose their wives employment when they knew just as well as everyone else, that their family's very survival depended upon wages, however minimal that their wives contributed.

It is clear that family pressures sometimes force women to move out of their families. In that case the housework comes second as it does not pay. On the other hand, the wives wages are also needed to increase the family income if the husband is not there to fulfill the family needs if a woman is the sole breadwinner.

Bernstein, Crow and Johnson (1992:97) have come up with a view saying that the degree of monetization of different activities is important, because it affects the basis on which goods and services including labor are exchanged, and the extent to which individuals and household require cash incomes to carry out productive and reproductive work.

As women cannot be paid for the domestic work they do for their household, the duties performed for production outside the parameters of domestic work have to be as remunerative as possible. This will ensure income for women as well as recognition for the work done.

Boserup in an article edited by Mc Micoll and Cain (1990:47) concludes that in many rural communities, men exercise control over women to such an extent that they prevent them from working outside the home. There is an assumption that women who do not work outside home devote all their time to household activities that can be performed in or close by the home.

2.4.6 WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

In most rural parts of South Africa men and some women work in farms for wages but in their households women are the ones who make sure that fields are cultivated for the production of food for immediate consumption by the family. Joakes (1987:65) discusses some trends in the involvement of women in the Agricultural Sector which is the main

source of food production. He says in Sub-Saharan Africa there is a pattern of separation of male and female spheres of activity, whereas in Asia men and women tend rather to take different parts in a single cultivation process. In African households, food production is done by women alone with the exception of male participation at the stage of clearing the land from bush.

Ironmonger and Sonius (1989:21) mention that many researchers have either ignored or discounted the possibility that productive activity takes place within the household. Consequently, the contribution of household productive activity to the economy at large is assigned a nil value and rarely included in calculations of National income, certainly not in the official statistics. This has important implication, especially for women, whose contribution to society is valued in terms of hours they spend in household activity, is neglected.

Pigou as quoted by Ironmonger and Sonius (1989:21) states that the services rendered by women enter into the dividend when they are rendered in exchange for wages, whether in the factory or in the home , but do not enter into it when they are rendered by mothers and wives gratuitously to their families.

Joakes (1987:6) discusses the value of agriculture in the various regional economics and also where agriculture is more important to women as a source of employment than to men. He continues to give an indication that in 1980 eighty seven percent of all members of the female labour force in low income African countries were in this sector compared by seventy percent in China, sixty percent in other low – income Asian countries and fifty percent in Middle income Asian countries.

The above indicates that there is still a gap between the work performed by women, on one hand, and men, on the other hand. This is because inequality still exists and there is still a question of a woman not receiving genuine recognition.

2.4.7 Women's Right to Self-determination

The researcher feels that women should be optimistic that as time passes, there will be changes in terms of the inclusion of women in decisions taken by the government about women's issues. Fowkes as quoted by Goudie and Kilian (1996:44) gives a statement that while women are actively involved in projects work, networking and support, final responsibility and decision-making powers remain largely outside their domain.

There is a version by authors like Carr as cited by Ahmed (1985:115) who maintain that there is an outcry of African rural women who have all along been excluded in most important issues, where decisions about their lives with regard to their participation in income generating projects would be taken without their involvement.

Brydon and Chant (1989:100) give a viewpoint that although many development projects for women are designed by planners in co-operation with local women, there are instances where rural women themselves have taken the initiative.

There are four major themes which are viewed to be relevant for gender questions in less developed countries. They are household, Reproduction, Production and Policy and Planning.

Household

Harris as cited by Brydon and Chant (1989:9) defines a household as a fairly common form of social organization in most regions of the developing world, and often represents the primary site for the structuring of gender relations and women's specific experience. It is further argued that although membership of a household implies at least a minimal degree of interaction with others in the unit, it cannot be assumed that such interaction entails equality or even co-operation among individuals.

Reproduction

This theme is regarded as having a wide variety of connotations, ranging from the process of biological reproduction at once and of the spectrum to the process of social reproduction on the other. Biological reproduction comprises child birth, while social

reproduction refers to the maintenance of ideological conditions which reproduce class relations and uphold the social and economic status.

Production

Production is seen to be displaying similarities to income generating activities.

Policy and Planning

This refers to the formulation of guidelines and in rural areas the focus is the evaluation of women and women's work by the government and development agencies.

The Integrated Rural Development is the alternative to the total approach on rural development. It considers the inter-relationship between all the factors that contribute to the well-being of rural people. This is the theory that takes into account both what people want a bottom-up orientation and cultural constraints, including religious problems, the sexual division of labour and an evaluation of what women already do. This approach can be of relevance if the development agents irrespective of their various organizations or state departments could come together and fill up the gaps in order to render effective services to communities instead of duplicating.

Discrimination is felt by both rural and urban women and there has to be means of putting women's concerns in the limelight so that their hard earned can be recognized. Carr as cited by Ahmed (1985:117) articulates that women in Africa, especially in rural areas, are fully involved in all aspects of social and economic life, and they are so dynamic that they are found in almost all spheres of life, and they make tremendous contribution towards economy.

2.4.8 Women and community development

Marginalization of women in development programs, projects and institutions led development agencies to rethink women in development approaches and to develop new arguments emphasizing the need to bring women from the margins into centre of the main development programs and of the institutions that deal with the economy. What

may be required to succeed in this is that the society must believe in their communities even if they are poor and view their people as capable of being their own delivery vehicle in development.

A community development approach with people-centred and empowerment focus can enable members of the community to increase their personal and institutional capacity to mobilize and manage their own benefit and to produce sustainable, and justly distributed improvement in their quality of life consistent with their aspirations. This approach includes economic growth but emphasizes that it must take into account the wealth of indigenous knowledge and the necessary transformation which must be structured.

Adedeji et al (1990) points out that society marginalizes women by virtue of their gender, reproductive and roles, and their significant contributions to positive development go unnoticed. The underutilization of women results in progressive economic deterioration and increasing dependency of the whole country.

In formalized community development, marketable skills can be passed on to women to enable them to participate meaningfully in decision making. The self employed women's Union (SEWU) in Durban street hawkers so as to address the problems encountered in relation to their human rights and responsibilities as citizens in the city. These women make a contribution to the country's economy as they are a big tourist attraction especially in the Durban beach front.

Most of their production is from household goods and is home-based or sales are on a small scale from head loads.

Community development is the logical product of the women's engagement in activities that are directed at the upliftment of the community's standard of living. Community development impacts positively on the health of the women as well as their environment.

Women represent an organized group that act in unison in performing those tasks directed towards the improvement of the community's standard of living and its development. Women form the nucleus of these activities and it is through their engagement that community development is realized. Their participation is measured within their leadership initiatives, organizational skills, resource mobilization, ability to access needs and management of projects. The environment in which they find themselves in and their health status are seen as strong determinants of outcomes.

The activities that women are engaged in are mainly

Food production- This could be in the form of communal gardens. Provision of food for a family must be seen in a broad sense where the food has to be produced and / or purchased, prepared, preserved and served.

Generation of funds

As community development puts emphasis on people: economic development relies on inputs from organized local community action. Women generate funds by selling their meager produce or by engaging in seasonal jobs. Once funds are generated economic management becomes imperative.

2.4.9 Women in Development (WID)

This approach emphasizes the importance of integrating women in male dominated social and economic power structures so as to spread development amongst women. It also focuses on improving the quality of life for women by exposing them to more resources. This approach also advocates for women's integration in development programmes.

2.4.10 Women and development (WAD)

This approach focuses on analyzing activities like household, survival and income generating tasks which take most of women's time. This approach asserted that since planners were men, they could not differentiate between man and women needs in development projects. It views women as a homogeneous group and therefore calls for

small scale projects which would consist of only women in an attempt to avoid male domination which had been perpetrated in the previous projects. This in essence will make women self reliant.

It was later discovered that the WID and WAD approaches does not achieve the desired results due to the following:

- Neither approach has addressed the underlying problems of gender and inequality.
- Underlying courses of poverty, discrimination, and subordination of women in different cultures.

2.4.11 FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

2.4.11.1 GOAL

The set goal for a Flagship program is to facilitate economic, educational and training opportunities for women and their children so as to break the cycle of vulnerability and poverty and therefore reduce their dependency on the state.

2.4.11.2 OBJECTIVES

The programs five main objectives are:

- To facilitate, training and employment opportunities for women so that they can provide for the basic needs for their families;
- To develop skills and capacity of women to enhance their overall functioning;
- To ensure that these families receive social services that support and enhance this program goal;
- To provide young and school-going children with developmentally appropriate education to increase their chances of healthy growth and development and
- To develop social and community networks in support of the family.

2.4.11.3 TARGET GROUP

The focus of the Flagship Program is on women with young children, who were historically excluded from economic, educational and development opportunities. It seeks

to provide unemployed women with basic life skills training and economic opportunities within a particular community.

The idea is to develop and support developmental programs that create self-reliance amongst this targeted population. The identified target group comprises of women and children under the age of 15. For young children, provision is made for developmentally appropriate education to enhance their early learning and growth development.

The program integrates economic empowerment activities with provision of social welfare services to participating women and children.

2.4.11.4 SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION INCLUDES:

- Unemployed women with children under the age of 15 years.
- Unemployed caregivers caring for children under the age of 15 years..
- Unemployed women who come from isolated and poor communities.

- Project participants must be permanently and continuously residing in the targeted area and have the potential to benefit from the program.
- Program beneficiaries must have the desire to generate income towards self-reliance.

2.4. 11.5 THE PRACTICE PRINCIPLES OF THE FLAGSHIP PROGRAM.

The Flagship Program's pilot projects are guided by the following practice principles:

1. Needs Driven

All Flagship project are based on the needs identified by the affected women.

2. Accountability

Service providers to the Flagship Program will be held accountable for delivery of appropriate and quality service.

3. Empowerment

The resourcefulness of each woman, child and their families should be encouraged and promoted by providing opportunities to use and build their own support networks and to act on their own choices and sense of responsibility

4. Family Centered

Empowerment of women must be part of building and enhancing the strength of the family.

5. Child Centered

The development needs of children must be met. Appropriate early childhood development interventions must be developed to maximize the children's chances for success in life.

6. Integration

An integrated approach to the implementation of Flagship programs must be applied. Government departments such as health, education, housing, labor, public works, transport, water affairs, land affairs, agriculture, justice, trade and industry, local authorities and Non Governmental Organization's should be encouraged to be involved in these projects.

Social services such as early childhood programs, HIV/AIDS social security, and domestic violence should be integrated in the program.

7. Participatory

Women should be involved in all stages of project development.

8. Human Rights:

Discrimination in terms of age, religion, culture or disability will not apply in all Flagship Programs.

2.4.11.6 IMPACT OF THE FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

The aim of the program was to facilitate training and employment, educational training opportunities for women with young children through the empowerment of women and the promotion of self-reliance and social well-being. It is a government initiated and driven intervention incorporating multi-model strategies such as poverty reduction and promotion of sustainable livelihoods, family-centered and community-based strategies and educational interventions. According to Patel (2005) the program was implemented and evaluated over a five year period as follows.

2.4.11.6.1 Reach of the programs

There was a high level of visibility of the initiative, the communities where the projects were implemented. It was a requirement of the program that participants had to move off program after a year to create space for new recruits. The assumption was that women would have acquired skills which would be used to achieve independent livelihood. This did not seem to materialize and many women were demoralized as there was no exit strategy for women who left the program.

2.4.11.6.2 Target

The flagship targeted poor unemployed women with children under the age of five. Almost three quarters of women interviewed by external evaluator indicated that they were selected because they were unemployed. In some sites closer to urban areas and towns it was discovered that slightly more than a quarter of the participants had been in the kind of employment before joining these projects. It essential that employment programs of this kind to do not draw people away from existing jobs as that could lead to a distortion in local labour` markets.

2.4.11.6.3 Nature of activities

The type of livelihood activities were most popular were vegetable production, bakeries, poultry farming, early childhood development projects, food security and sewing projects. Other less common projects were leatherworks, laundry salon, overnight accommodation and a restaurant. Some activities were more sustainable than others. Bakeries were viable in areas where there were no shops that supplied fresh bread daily. Viable activities need to be selected after market analyses have been done.

2.4.11.6.4 Impact

The program approach to meet the needs of the targeted communities and the flagship projects were owned and used by communities. Acquiring life skills, business and technical skills were considered of the benefits. Participants also involved themselves in community networks.

2.4.11.6.5 Sustainability

There were many factors that had a bearing on organizational and financial sustainability. Selected activities had to be viable and the analysis of the local market had to be vital. Knowledge of community member as well as technical advisors needs to be tapped in administrative and management challenges were identified in many of these projects, these included inadequate business and financial management systems and project management capability. Though many people had training in these areas, the content and approach need to be reviewed. Follow up support was also lacking.

Organizational problems were also encountered which hampered the efficiency and effectiveness of the project. Some of the projects were implemented in some of the remotest and poorest communities in the country where the household income of the majority of the people was well below the national poverty line. A lack of local buying power, infrastructure and access to financial capital to create viable business were major constraints that were identified.

Many projects were depended on government support and the question may be posed as to whether income generating projects of this nature are sustainable.

2.4.11.6.6 Empowerment of women

The program was designed to empower women through providing business and life skills, opportunities for employment and support services for children whilst women engage in productive activities. Women were expected to run and manage the programs and through this process they were expected to build supportive networks.

Employment opportunities were created and household income increased. The income from the projects complemented other sources of household income such as social grants etc. Three quarters of the respondents indicated that child care was provided on site and this was viewed very positively. The flagship program appeared to have met its objective promoting the participation of women in the governance and management of projects. The women were actively involved making decisions about the strategic direction and day to day running of the projects.

2.5 RESEARCHER'S VIEW

Social development projects are initiatives of the community aimed at addressing their needs. Most of them are initiated by women because they are unemployed, lack the necessary skills, play a measure role is providing comfortable homes for their families, have been refused the opportunity to seek employment by their husbands, they will not be away from their families because they have a responsibility of bringing up children and making the home comfortable.

Some of them started as gatherings for burial societies and as they progress they realized a need for generating income since they are providers within families. These women would bring anything and sell as a group and share the funds collected. Some would

bring their own sewing machines and also donate materials and start a sewing project. In this process skills transfer would also take place as they would train others how to sew, while others market and sell the products.

These groups would start informally but because of challenges a constitution would be drawn which would clearly stipulate how the program would be run. Though these groups did not have huge amounts of money they managed to sustain their projects because most of their activities were guided by what is on demand e.g. when schools open they would focus on uniforms, in winter they would focus on knitting jerseys and if they fail to meet the demand they would buy and sell in order to satisfy their customers and they would rear chickens that would only be sold during when the market is busy, for example Easter or Christmas time.

The government targeted some of these groups for funding because:

- They are organized.
- They have one goal – income generation.
- They have an experience of group dynamics.
- Membership is voluntary.
- Capable of sharing skills.
- They are from one community.

These groups would apply for funding and if granted they would sign a Service Level Agreement with the department and would be offered some training on financial management, project management and other skills relevant for the project. A Social Development worker would assist them in working towards achieving their objectives and other relevant stakeholders would be involved in order to share their expertise. The guidance offered is aimed at empowering the group so that they better manage their project. Grants offered by the Department have stipulated procedures on how to access funds in order to work towards achieving the set objective.

2.5.1 Advantages of Funding by the Government

The group is empowered through training. The funds offered would enable them to buy more material. Development Practitioners and other relevant stakeholders offer support to the project by making regular visits in order to check the progress and also assist on challenges. The group is expected benefit on profits gained after selling their products.

2.5.2 Disadvantages of Funding

The procedures followed in order to access funds are sometimes so slow that the activities of these projects are affected. Paperwork is also a challenge especially because most of the people on projects are illiterate. Some of the methods used in running the project prior to Departmental funding changes e.g. changing to activities that can offer more funds during a particular season or concentrating on something that is in fashion at a particular time, could not be practiced.

Failure to generate profits due to unavailability of the market and failure to cost articles. Project members would co-opt enlightened people who would abuse their funds by making them sign blank cheques and also exhaust their funds and disappear. With some projects huge amounts confuses the committee and they end up mismanaging the funds for personal gain.

The process of acquiring quotations is also tiresome, because in certain instances, service providers refuse to give quotations all because they feel they are made stepping stones for other. In order for projects to be sustainable, it would be a good idea to get all relevant stakeholders to be on board, so that they are properly empowered especially on issues of costing and profit making taking into consideration the dynamics of the area.

2.6 CONCLUSION

In this chapter the researcher has reviewed literature and other relevant information that pertains social development projects.

CHAPTER THREE

COMMUNITY PROFILE

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The researcher decided to include the community profile of Majuba District Municipality in order to create a better understanding of the Locality. Amajuba is comprised of the following Local Municipalities:

- Newcastle Municipality
- Dannhauser Municipality
- Utrecht Municipality

3.2 POPULATION INFORMATION

The population statistics for Amajuba District consists of 332,980 people. This has a 54% unemployment rate, decline in the Manufacturing sector, the second highest HIV prevalence rate in the Province. The population is dominated by youth which is 49%, 56% of households earn less than R800-00 per month, 18 500 registered as indigent.

3.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Amajuba District Municipality has urban, rural and semi-urban areas. It has three townships, namely, Osizweni, Madadeni and Mafusini. Madadeni and Osizweni were established during the apartheid era when people were forcefully removed from their places. Some areas like Blaubosch, Suspense Farm etc belong to Trustees and access is via the plot owner. The set up in these areas is somewhat disorganized and their development is sometimes hampered by the owners.

There are also government owned areas Onokhesheni, where land is acquired via the Department of Agriculture. These are organized and have access roads. Development in these areas is possible and easy. There are also informal settlements i.e. areas with no infrastructure and in most instances areas are sought to resettle these families. In both

trust and Nokhesheni areas crop and animal farming is practiced as the allocated plots are big.

3.4 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Housing is comprised of both formal and informal dwellings. Low cost houses are also available. Telecommunication services are at a better level in the whole District Municipality. Most of the area has been electrified by Eskom. Piped water is available but in some areas boreholes are utilized together with street taps. There are areas that are only supplied water by water tanks. Water supply is a priority at the Integrated Development Plan.

3.5 SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

3.5.1 Educational Facilities

Amajuba Municipality has all levels of education ranging from Early Childhood Development, Grade R, Primary Schools, High Schools, Special Schools, FETs, Abet training as well as colleges for skills development. For Universities and Technikons, students travel to other areas or utilized distant learning. Opportunities for academic advancement are high though many highly skilled people are without employment owing to unavailability of jobs.

3.5.2 HEALTH FACILITIES

There are four hospitals one at Madadeni, two at Newcastle and one in Utrecht. There are clinics in most areas and the hospital also offers mobile clinics in other areas. Doctors are in abundance in the area. There are also ambulances as well as disaster management team and equipment.

The area also has Health Care Workers and volunteers who offer home based care services especially with increasing pandemic of HIV/AIDS. Besides clinics community health care workers also offer health education to the community and also assist in monitoring the D.O.T services and provide reports to clinics and hospitals.

3.5.3 RELIGION

The area is characterized by diverse denominations and the community exercises their right to associate themselves with the religion of their choice. The area also has Mosques. They believe in God as a source of strength and peace.

3.6 ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTIC

Though the level of unemployment is high the district especially in Newcastle still have companies like Iscor, Karbochem and other Chinese industries that offer employment to people. Though mining is a thing of the past there is open Cast mining in Utrecht. These businesses are just a drop in an ocean, because scores of people are without jobs even people with better qualifications. Amajuba's population increases daily as people migrate to the area to seek employment the self help projects have been graduated to co-operatives, and the effectiveness of that institution is still not visible.

3.7 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Government departments include the following:

Department of Social Development

Department of Health

Department of Education

Department of Agriculture

Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs

Department of Sports and Recreation

Department of Works

Department of Home Affairs

Department of SAPS

GCIS – Government Communication and Information Systems

3.7.1 Social Development

There are five Social Development offices at Majuba dealing with social development programs like, youth, children and families, social crime, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, older persons, disability, women ,etc. All these offices work hand in hand with the South

African Social Security Agency responsible for the processing of all grant types. There is also Development and Research Component responsible for sustainable livelihood, poverty alleviation projects as well as institutional capacity building. There are social workers, development practitioners responsible for all these services.

Service Providers

There are service providers from which the Department buy services i.e. they subsidized the welfare services that they render. They are Christelike Maatskaplik Diens, Child Welfare South Africa, SANCA, Suid Afrikanse Vroue Federasie and Khulisa.

Children Residential Facility

There is St Anthony's Children's home providing care to children in need. School of industries responsible for behavior modification.

Homes for Older Persons

There are 2 homes for Older Persons providing care to the elderly.

HIV / AIDS

There are Community Care Centres run by NGO's responsible for providing care and support to the infected and affected by providing:

- care and support to orphaned and vulnerable children.
- Voluntary Counseling and Testing services.
- food parcels to qualifying families.
- meals to school going children while still going through the process of applying for a grant.
- bereavement counseling to children and families offer support and life skills to child headed households.
- assistance to children on their homework.

Development and Research

This component is responsible for sustainable livelihood projects i.e. income generation projects. There are 30 projects ranging from sewing, poultry, baking, gardening etc.

There are also Poverty Alleviation projects like Soup Kitchens which provide cooked meals to OVC'S and to bedridden patients without any means of supports.

Substance Abuse

The Department of Social Development promotes the establishment of Teenagers against Drug Action groups among children and they also raise awareness of substance abuse.

Management Bodies

Traditional Authorities

Amajuba has Ubuhlebomzinyathi Tribal Authority which has 3 Amakhosi who are part of the local leadership.

3.8 CONCLUSION

This is a summary profile of Amajuba District Municipality indicating an overview of the area.

CHAPTER 4

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1 INTRODUCTION

In every study an appropriate research design will enable the investigator to gather the relevant data required in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the study.

The main objective of this study was to investigate the impact of social development projects among participating women in Amajuba District Municipality. It also had the aim of studying factors that affect participations positively and negatively with a view to categorizing these into a specific structure of understanding.

4.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

Before undertaking a study, every researcher should have in mind a plan or method on how he would conduct his or her study. According to Grinnell (1993:219) a research design, is a plan which includes every aspect of a proposed research study from the conceptualization of the problem right through dissemination of the finding.

Phillips (1976:7) states that the research design constitutes the blueprint of collection, measuring and analysis of data.

Reid and Smith as cited by McKendrick (1987:256) define research design as the overall plan or strategy by which questions are answered or hypothesis tested.

Mc Kendrick (ibid) further states that a plan should be considered to be accessible to alteration. Research design thus consists of guidelines for investigative activity not fast rules that cannot be broken. There are various types of research designs a researcher may choose from. In this study the researcher had chosen the qualitative design.

Mouton and Marais (1994:79) maintain that the central consideration of validity in the process of data collection is that of reliability. They further stipulate that the reliability of

data is influenced by four variables namely, the researcher, the participant, the research context or circumstances under which the research is conducted.

It is clear that for the research project to attain good results it has to be properly planned and structured in such a way that problems that may hinder the process are eliminated from the beginning.

4.3 Research Method

This research used both the qualitative and the quantitative methods. Each of the methods is defined as follows:

4.3.1 QUALITATIVE DESIGN

Grinnell (1993:186) states that the qualitative research methods assume that the subjective dimensions of human experience are continuously changing. Emphasis is placed on fully describing and comprehending the subjective meaning of events to individuals and groups caught up in them.

Lincoln and Guba (1985:198) indicated that qualitative methods are stressed within the naturalistic paradigm because qualitative methods are more viable instruments for gathering data

The writer used the qualitative method in the study of investigating, since the selected method is employed more often to describe social reality from the points of view of participants within the system studied. This is based on the assumption that actors in a social situation can tell us most about what they are doing and why. Qualitative research design begins with specific observation and builds towards general patterns that exist in the empirical world being studied.

Qualitative research tries to strengthen the knowledge, and to maintain objectivity. It provides ways of helping practitioner to assess what he believes in is actually true. Each respondent is interviewed in his or her situation the experience she or he undergoes.

Qualitative research generates a more holistic understanding of issue, open-ended frame discussions as interviewers are encouraged.

The researchers do not restrict themselves to the measurements of variable. This can be measured in the in the same way for all participates rendering standardized information, the researcher is interested in the participant's unique experience, and what this experience means. Qualitative research is more flexible than the quantitative one.

4.3.2 Quantitative Method

Mouton and Marais (1994:155) define quantitative method as an approach to research in the social sciences that is more highly formalized as well as more explicitly controlled.

This method is formalized in the sense that the instruments of the researcher have to be strictly followed by respondents e.g. interview schedule.

4.4 EVALUATION RESEARCH

According to Reaves (1992) evaluative research is aimed at solving real problems or practical decision about actions in actual situation. It focuses on the effectiveness of some program or treatment, for the purpose of determining how it is working and how it can be improved.

The methods of social science can be used to assess the design, implementation and usefulness of social interventions. This type of research is called evaluation research. Social interventions are most often thought of as sophisticated programmes (such as drug rehabilitation programmes, campaigns against malnutrition, skills training courses, or the introduction of the appropriate technologies to promote small-scale industry). Actually, any attempt to change the conditions under which people live (no matter how simple, or who is responsible) can be thought of as a social intervention.

As we have already seen, one of the central concerns of social research is action-evaluation research aims to test interventions to see how effective they are and therefore represents an important means of linking action and research in a constructive manner. Social interventions may benefit from evaluation research in a number of ways. Three of the most important are listed below.

- Evaluation research used as a *diagnostic* tool may help the people implementing an intervention to identify neglected areas of need, neglected target groups, and problems within organizations and programs.
- A comparison of program's progress with its original aims is another of the functions of evaluation research. This may serve to adjust the programme to the particular needs and resources of the community within which is situated. Evaluation designed to promote effectiveness of a program is called formative evaluation.

Further, evaluation research can furnish evidence of the usefulness of a program. In this way a program may gain credibility with funding organizations, as well as the community within which it is operating. This is known as summative research.

In fact they three roles that evaluation research can play in social interventions. Although different, these goals are complementary and most evaluators are expected to think about all of them.

4.4.1 Formative Evaluation

Formative evaluation relates to the development and implementation of a program. Its aim is to shape the program so that it would have the greatest beneficial impact upon the targeted community. Formative evaluation is an evaluation of the program in order to improve it. Formative evaluation should always form part of the initial planning of a programme. Many large programs use formative evaluations at regular intervals during the life of a programme to ensure that the intervention adapts to changes in social reality

and thus continues to have the greatest possible impact. The questions which the social scientist must consider are of both a theoretical and a practical nature.

On a theoretical level, the social scientist must consider whether the theoretical content of the program has been adequately adapted to the social reality and whether conceptual definitions have been adequately operationalized.

There are many different ways of carrying out formative evaluations and the method depends largely upon the project being assessed. Very often, however, the evaluation relies heavily upon the scientist's experience of similar programs, understanding of social reality and theoretical knowledge. In some cases, social scientists may not have all the available information needed for a satisfactory formative evaluation.

One very useful method which does not depend on the social scientist's expertise in the area of the program is the reputability study. This involves the researcher identifying experts from within the community, from academic institutions, from government and non-government organizations, and so on. Note that 'experts' are not only people with academic qualifications or important positions. People from the community in which the program is to be run (who may have no qualifications or titles) are experts on conditions prevailing in the community, the nature and extent of community problems, the community's likely reaction to the program and many other aspects of a program.

The choice of experts is a sensitive issue and one should be careful to ensure that a wide range of people are represented so as not to bias the final results. The researcher interviews the experts (either individually or as a group) and presents an overview of the programme. The experts are asked for their opinions on the way the programme has been planned and the method of implementation. These comments and criticisms form the base of the formative evaluation.

4.4.2 Summative Evaluation

Another broad aim of evaluation research is *summative*. Summative evaluations set out to determine the extent to which programs meet their specified aims and objectives. This information is used to gain credibility with various groups of people, particularly potential funders and target communities.

Moreover, successful programs may be replicated in other communities. If the designers of the program can demonstrate scientifically that they had certain positive effects, then people are likely to be more enthusiastic about the program being implemented in their community. They are also more likely to receive funding for similar programs. Although summative evaluations ought always to happen at the end of a program, they are often carried out at regular intervals during the life of long programs as well. The process of summative evaluation research generally occurs according to the following five steps.

- The identification of the program's aims and objectives.

The programme is thought of as the 'treatment', that is, it is one level of the independent variable (the other being 'no treatment' group to see whether the 'treatment' has caused any positive change in the former. To assess the change the researcher must know what the 'treatment' is designed to achieve. The identification of the program's aims and objectives requires close co-operation between the program developers and the social scientist carrying out the evaluation. Unless the social scientist knows exactly what the programme hopes to achieve, the evaluation cannot proceed to the next step. The question of whether or not the aims the aims and objectives were adequately chosen falls in the domain of formative evaluation considered here.

- The formulation of the aims and objectives in measurable terms

At this point it is important for the researcher to translate the aims and objectives into observable changes which can be measured in the target community. The variable which is expected to change would become the dependent variable of the evaluation research. In other words the conceptual definitions of the program designers must be translated into operational definitions so that they can be studied through the methods of social science.

4.5 **SAMPLING FRAME**

According to Bailey (1994:81) sampling is a process of drawing subjects from the population which would be used through the study. The sampling frame of this study consisted of sixteen women participating in social development projects.

4.6 **Sample target**

The sample of the study was drawn from women participating on development projects in Amajuba District Municipality. According to Grinnell (1993:188) the qualitative method is based on the assumption that actors in a social situation can tell most about what they are doing and why. As a result respondents were participants. There were sixteen respondents.

4.7 **Interviews and Questionnaires**

Bless and Higson-Smith (1995:106) state that the direct way obtaining information is through an interview. An interview involves direct personal contact with the participant who is asked to answer questions. The most structured way of getting information directly from the respondents is by means of a scheduled structured interview. Bailey (1994:106) states that a questionnaire is a data collection instrument. The type of questionnaire used in this study consisted of open-ended and close-ended questions which are written in English and the researcher had to translate them into IsiZulu so that all respondents could easily understand.

Babbie (2010:148) states that there are two structural requirements in which one constructs closed-ended questions. Firstly the response categories provided should be exhaustive i.e. they have to include all possible responses that might be expected. Secondly answer categories must be mutually exclusive so that the respondents should not feel compelled to select more than one answer.

4.8 PILOT STUDY

The researcher undertook a pilot study to test the reliability of the questionnaire particularly to test whether or not the questionnaire would give the required responses from respondents, to check the ambiguous questions and assess the length of time the respondent might take to complete the questionnaire. Bailey (1994:119) maintains that a lengthy interview with ambiguous questions increases the probability that a respondent would give vague answers, not answer some of the questions and misunderstand questions.

A small pilot study was undertaken with a group which was not part of a group to be investigated in order to improve questions used in eliciting data from real respondents.

5. Conclusion

This chapter has dealt with the methodology of the study and aspects like research design, sample target, questionnaire and pilot study was tackled. The following chapter will present the data that was gathered in the research that was conducted. It will also interpret and analyze the data that was collected,

CHAPTER 5

Data analysis

5.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the writer presents, analyses and interprets data collected using qualitative and quantitative methods .Tables, descriptions and broad themes have been used to represents nominal, ordinal and other forms of data.

5.2 PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

5.2.1 IDENTIFYING PARTICULARS OF RESPONDENT OR PARTICIPANTS

It is essential for this study to indicate the identifying particulars of respondent so as to understand the background, circumstances from where the responses come. The researcher selected sixteen participants aged between twenty five and 60years.With regard to experience of women participating in the project she selected those members who had been with the project for at least 3years and above. Respondents were selected from different community development projects within Amajuba District Municipality.

Table 1

AGE OF PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
25-35yrs	3	19
36-45yrs	5	31
46-60yrs	8	50
TOTAL	16	100%

The table indicated that 19% were between 25 and 35years 31% were between 36 to 45 years and 50% is from the age of 46 -60years.The increase of participants at the ages between 46 and 60 indicates the period when the burden of providing for their families escalates. If married they have to provide for the in-laws, their own children, grandchildren with unemployed or schooling parents. It has been repeatedly mentioned that women are the ones who are widely affected by problems as they are the caretakers or housekeepers of their families having all the traditionally prescribed roles to perform.

Cahill (1994:163) says that while men regard the home as a place of non-work, for every woman, it is the site of work. Women are expected to do the bulk of the household tasks constituting what sociologists call a ‘double shift’.

EXPERIENCE

Table 2

3-8	10	62
9yrs and above	6	38
Total	16	100

It was found that 62% of the respondents had been in the project for more than eight years, whilst 38% had been in the project for nine years and above. This indicates that members stay in the groups as long their needs are not met. During the field work the researcher learned from these groups that they had maintained their membership because they were continually empowered, and they had hoped that they would one day generate enough income to make them self reliant.

5.2.2 INITIATION OF THE PROJECT

Table 3

Project Initiation	Number	Percentage
Women	14	87%
Govt dept	00	00%
Local leadership	02	13%
Other	00	00%
TOTAL	16	100%

The highest percentage of 87 % indicated that projects are initiated by women, which is an indication that they are people driven, and they are aimed at satisfying their needs Carr as quoted by Ahmed (1985: 118) states that women are often faced with added burden of

managing and operating the entire household and taking on tasks commonly performed by men. According to the Beijing document (1995) it is stipulated that many households in South Africa are headed by women.

The fact that women are farmers as well as mothers and homemakers put an extra burden on them. Frasella and Frost (1977:19) are of the view that, an assumption that woman's primary identity is that of a homemaker or house wife assigns her to not one but many roles. Women are the main role players in initiating projects as a result they are the people who benefit in terms of empowerment and otherwise. The advantage here is that if a project is people-driven it tends to be sustainable since they also participate in decision making.

The table also indicates that 13% felt those projects were initiated by the local government. Though there is that feeling women are still the initiators because of the role that they play in those projects.

On the other hand the table indicates that none of the projects were initiated by the government departments. This indicates that projects are initiated by people at grassroots who feel the needs and are not imposed on them by government departments. This makes it easier for Development agents bringing in the funding aimed at empowering projects.

The women participating in projects spelt out that they actually took the initiative to be involved in projects because they were the ones who are fully responsible for there running of their households, making sure that all family needs are met. Most women have been through difficulties and they have withstood hardships well without losing control, and they sustained their families.

5.2.3 MEMBERSHIP OF THE PROJECT

This question is aimed at finding out about membership within projects, whether they pay a joining fee, is it voluntary or they are recruited by families.

Table 4

Membership of the project	Number	Percentage
Voluntary	16	100%
Recruited by the families	00	00%
Pay a fee	001	00%
Total	16	100%

The table indicates that 100% of the respondents voluntarily joined the project. If one looks at the results one is inclined to conclude that Development projects are the brain-child of disadvantaged women. Through their initiatives woman are able to share skills as well as try and generate income for supporting their families.

Joakes (1987:68) stated that rural woman are for example expected to be involved in a range of quasi – agricultural tasks to do with food, crop storage and preparation for consumption, care for small livestock (chicken, goats, cows etc) as well as the often very time consuming tasks of fuel and water collection. Women are responsible and they know what society expects from them. Afshar (1991:2) says that in order to succeed a woman would have to be able to demystify some of the historical participation that have defined them as dependents and confined them to domestic sectors of the economy and society.

This finding indicates that women play a very big role in the improvement of their family life. The fact women had all along been left out from the main structures of economy building was a mistake The discussion by Ghonemy (1991) regarding the establishment of women’s units and other mechanisms of trying to include women in economy have show that women are more important than anyone else in development, and their inclusion was long over due and it has been proved that they should always be there.

The overall impression is that women voluntarily participate in development projects in order to be empowered so that they are in a better position to improve the quality of the life of their families.

5.2.4 FUNCTIONING OF THE PROJECT

It is essential to know whether the projects do have guidelines under which they operate or not.

AVAILABILITY OF THE PROJECT CONSTITUTION.

Table 5

Project constitution	Number	Percentage
Yes	16	100%
No	00	100%
total	16	100%

The response to this question indicated that all members interviewed indicated that there is a constitution. This means that each group had at least a foundation from which to operate and to be guided in the groups activities, at least the project had some documentation to refer to as long as the group is still in existence. The only concern that they raised was that old members were very reluctant to review or amend the constitution, but they felt the constitution was essential in the functioning of the project.

5.2.5 TRAINING

It is essential for project members to receive training that empowers and equips them better so that their activities are directed towards attaining their set goals.

Table 6

Training	Number	Percentage
Attended	14	87%
Not attended	02	13%
Total	16	100%

From the above 87% attended training on how to manage finances, project management as well as on committee roles. They were also trained on different activities they are involved in for example, poultry, gardening sewing etc. This had sharpened their skills had become capable of producing better products. The 13% indicated that they had not attended training explained that they only benefited from skills transferred by other member and they felt it was relevant and useful. They also indicated that they would appreciate exposure. A recommendation was made that they need to be awarded certificates after training.

5.2.6 BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT.

It is important to understand if project member participate in order to be empowered and generate income or it is just a gathering for socializing.

Table 7

Income generation empowerment	16	100%
Total	16	100%

The table indicated that 100% of the members participated in the project in order to be empowered and to generate income for them to improve their life conditions. This supports the argument by Hugo (1984:207) who stated that man must be able to develop and maintain himself so as to survive in a world that is becoming ever complex.

From the writer's perspective project members participated in order to be empowered and also to generate income in order to support their families as most of them were unemployed and yet they had families to support, but the possibility of instant cash from project was very slim since they needed to have stable markets. The significant point is that all groups remained together irrespective of their inability to generate enough income.

The members also highlighted that besides being part of the project the knowledge that they had acquired had assisted in strengthening or starting activities like poultry with a better understanding and knowledge. Some reported that they were rearing chickens within their families for consumption.

The collective response from women was clear as they stated that while they needed income, the main aim was to improve the living conditions and develop their own community resources.

Communities needed to take the initiative on development projects to avoid projects imposed by development agencies as they did not address their needs.

5.2.7 REASON WHICH MOTIVATED WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE PROJECTS.

This question sought to find out what really prompted women to partake in development project.

Table 8

REASONS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Poverty/ unemployed	9	56%
Single parenthood	5	31%
Insufficient income	2	13%
Total		100%

Of the respondents 56 % of the participants indicated that poverty motivated them to join those projects. They lived in poverty because even other members of their household were unemployed.

Of the total respondents 31 % joined because they were are single parents. All household needs were provided by them. They also live in poverty, because some were unemployed and others received mean or no support from the family members who stayed with them.

Some respondents i.e.13 % reported that they participated because of insufficient income. In some instances their spouses were employed temporarily in order to maintain families but they felt a need to augment income or to be empowered in order to be able to indulge in self-help.

The members wanted to emphasize that poverty affects men and women, but because of gender divisions of labor, and women's responsibilities for the household welfare bear a greater burden. Women had to manage household needs under conditions of increasing scarcity as a result some had opted to participate in development projects.

As home makers women needed to provide for their families even in the absence of income.

The question of the status of women goes beyond the fact that the principle of shared responsibility and partnership between men and women is still not accepted in many societies' especially African societies.

5.2.8 Community Attitude

The researcher felt it important to get the opinion of the community pertaining women participating in community development projects. The aim was to gather information that would be an indication on whether the projects were supported or not. This is based on the assumption that project members were aware of the attitude of these communities in which they live and they were also aware of what their communities said about their participation in community activities.

Attitude to women participation in community development projects

Table 9

Attitude to women participation	Number	Percentage
Women make a living	07	44 %
Development community and families	09	56 %
wasting time	00	00%
	16	100%

Of the total respondents 56% percent indicated that women participated in community projects in order to develop their communities. The score shows that the concept of developing communities is in the mind of people.

Of these 44% percent shows respondents who felt that they made a living by involving themselves in projects. Woman participated in these projects because of felt poverty.

The overall response in this question is the fact that women faced the challenge of earning income to help themselves and their families, while at the same time they were implementing these objectives of community development, which were to meet the basic needs of this community, thus improving the quality of people's lives. Women emphasized that they participated in projects because they wanted to be economically independent, and they viewed the project as a resource. Rankin (1992) sees resource development as a priority for rural development.

5.2.9. Barriers that prevent women's participation

The researcher felt it important to know about barriers that prevent women from participating in community development projects.

Barriers that prevent women from participation

Table 10

Type of barrier	Number	Percentage
Husband disallow involvement	5	31%
Home chores and child rearing	8	50%
Uncertain	3	19 %
Total	16	100%

From the total respondents 31% indicated that their husbands did not allow them to participate in social development projects. This group of women could not take a decision on their own; they had to consult their partners. Notwithstanding the importance of those activities performed outside home, husbands would not allow women to take part in any operations without their consent.

Studies conducted by Green et al as quoted by Cahill (1994: 163) found that married women were subject to quite a degree of control from their husbands over the kind of places they visited and they viewed this as the exercise of patriarchal control which indicates the fear that their wives are not safe if outside the home.

The writer believes that even if it was not a matter of getting approval from the husbands, there was a need for good communication between partners so that they could support and trust each other in whatever one is doing.

Out of all respondents 19% indicated that there were uncertain.

Fifty percent (50%) of these indicated that household chores and child rearing prevent them from participating in projects. There was nobody to take care of the children, while participating in the projects and they also reported that household chores took a greater part of their time. They have a major role to play in ensuring that their households were comfortable.

5.3 CONCLUSION

This chapter has focused on presentation, and interpretation of data and its analysis. Amongst responses, some were expected, others unexpected and some were completely surprising. It is, however, hoped that the analysis given meets the objectives of the study and the whole exercise would be beneficial to the community under study.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

This Chapter presents the summary of the findings and recommendations. The study was intended to investigate the impact of Social Development on participating women in Amajuba District Municipality.

6.2 Restatement of the objectives of the study.

The objectives of the study were as follows:

- To evaluate the impact of Social Development programs on women participating in terms of utilizing skills and knowledge acquired in this programs.
- To look into strategies that are effective in enhancing full and meaning full participator of women, such that the skills and knowledge acquired becomes lifelong learning.
- To investigate obstacles preventing women from benefiting from Social Development programs.
- To assist the status of women in terms of cultural shift and gender improved responsibilities like child rearing, to empowered women involved in Social Economic Development of the country.

6.3 Research Findings of the study.

Findings revealed that women who participated valued that they had been exposed to training on committee roles, financial management, record keeping, communication, project management etc. They also stated that they were exposed to formal training on the activities that they would indulge in for example; poultry farming; gardening, sewing etc and that had improved the quality of their products. This had prompted them to start

small projects at home e.g. poultry for family consumption. Financial Management had also equipped them on how to manage their day to day finances.

Members were also capable of transferring skills to those who did not attend any training thereby promoting team work. Parsons (1991) delineated the necessary components for empowering interventions namely;

Collectivity- The merging of individual energy so that the collective provides opportunity for support, mutual aid and collective action from which people derive power.

Education- The critical examination of situations in relation of socio- political context and shared awareness of problems located in structural defects.

Competency Assessment – individuals, groups and communities are asserted within frameworks of strengths and coping skills rather than deficits. This enhances feelings of self efficiency, while participating in social development programmes women are also empowered.

Findings revealed that the projects were initiated by women and membership was voluntary. This was unlike an imposed project. In this instance they participated in order to meet their own felt needs. Most of them participated in order to be empowered and generate income since they had a responsibility of providing for their families.

Participation does not even have age limits since community and family needs exist as long as the person is alive. The inter-generation interaction also provided an opportunity to share experiences and problems solving skills acquired through experience.

The existence of a constitution for project members also assisted them as it was viewed as a guideline and ensures that they did not divert from set objectives. It was consulted regularly when problems cropped up.

The majority of women cited that they did not participate in social development programs because of household chores and child rearing, while others stated that their husbands disallowed them. Only a few respondents stated that non-participation was due to the stable income within their families. Though there were some barriers they worked on them positively because they had a goal which was enhancing social functioning.

The rigidity of gender role also contributes to women's poverty. This leads to women's limited access to power, education and training. Women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities.

Fransella and Frost (1977: 19) are of the view that an assumption that a woman's primary identity is that of a homemaker or house wife assigns her not to one but many roles. Women have always been looked down upon in their household work, where they do not receive the best recognition and support from their families and community.

The fact that husbands disallow women to participate in projects also stems from the gender based responsibility of a woman to provide a comfortable home for her family, so in her absence there will be a vacuum. On the other hand it is essential to expose women to development as most of them are responsible for providing for their families and that can also then be the opportunity to contribute to the economy of the country.

One of the objectives was to assess the status of women in terms of the cultural shift and gender imposed responsibilities like child rearing, to empower women involved in the socio-economic development of the country.

The findings showed that development programs empowered women in terms of skills that they acquired, some of them were utilized in their day to day activities not on the projects only. The only shortfall that they experienced was failure to generate enough profits so that they had enough income. The aspects of pricing etc. did not fall within the competency of the funders, though they tried to involve relevant stakeholders.

The fact that women managed to work as a team while guided by the constitution is an indication that they attained some of their goals, and the training on financial management enabled them to better manage their funds even outside the project.

Women participation had empowered them in such a way that they could also be registered as co-operatives so that they could acquire more funds to run their projects as small businesses.

6.4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Projects should not be imposed they should be initiated by people who have identified the need. Activities decided upon should go through the feasibility study process in order to assess their marketability and see if they are viable or not.

Continuous training should be provided to the project members in order to sustain the project. Marketing, and financial management is essential for proper handling of finances and also ensuring that profits are generated. Certificates be issued after training.

There should be continuous and close monitoring and evaluation in all stages in order to ensure that the set goals are attained.

Networking with other stakeholders is essential but this needs to be strengthened by signing of a memorandum of understanding so that there is more commitment.

Since most income generating projects are aimed at assisting the unemployed, they need to be developed to the level of small businesses so that participants can be self-reliant.

Registration as Non Profit Organization need to be reviewed, they should rather be registered as co-operatives so that they could operate as business linked to Department of Economic Development for sustainability.

Project members need to be continuously motivated to be part of the project irrespective of hassles, as it is empowering.

Constitution to be clearly understood by all project members as it is a guide to the organization.

Sufficient funding together with a stipend to be offered in order to alleviate poverty and sustain the project while in there process of development.

7. CONCLUSION

In this chapter the researcher has restated the objectives of the study and linked them with the respondent's opinions in order to check if the study had achieved the desired goal. Recommendations have been made in order to improve on the existing projects.

Interview Questionnaire / Schedule

Interview questionnaire / Schedule for women participating in Community Development Project at Amajuba District Municipality.

1. Identifying particulars.

How old are you Please tick

25 - 35	
36 - 45	
46 - 60	

How long have you participating in community development projects?

3 - 8	
9 yrs and above	

2. How was the Project initiated?

2.1. Was it initiated by unemployed women.

YES	NO
-----	----

2.2. Was it initiated by government departments?

YES	NO
-----	----

2.3. Was it initiated by the Local Municipality?

YES	NO
-----	----

3. How did you become a project member?

3.1. Was it voluntary?

3.2. Were you recruited by the funders?

3.3. Did you pay the joining fee?

4. How does the project function?

4.1. Do you have a constitution to guide the project's functioning?

YES	NO

5. Have you ever been exposed to any training and was it relevant?

5.1. Yes I attended

5.2. No never attended

6. What are the benefits of participation in Community Development Projects?

6.1. Income Generation and empowerment.

6.2. Socializing with other women.

7. What motivated you to participate in Community Development Projects?

Unemployment.

Single parenthood.

Insufficient income.

8. What is the community's attitude towards women participating in projects?

8.1. Do you earn a living out of it?

8.2. Is it aimed at developing Communities and families?

9. What barriers prevented you from participating in Community Development projects?

Husband disallows participation.

House chore and child rearing.

Stable income.

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