

**Sustainability Challenges of Rural Livelihoods at Bomvini Reserve,  
Kwa-Zulu Natal; South Africa**

by

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in the

**Department of Social Work**

of the

**Faculty of Arts**

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supervised by

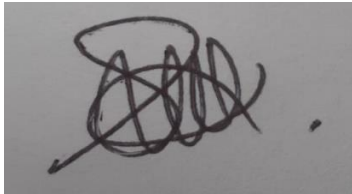
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**DATE: February 2021**

## DECLARATION

I, **Sanele Khethiwe Mthethwa** hereby declare that the study on sustainability challenges of rural livelihoods at Bomvini reserve is my original work in partial fulfillment of the Masters in Community Work at the University of Zululand.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sanele Khethiwe Mthethwa', written on a light-colored background.

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**S.K. Mthethwa**

## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to my children Cebolenkosi, Uzanokuhle and Limiphakade for being the reason behind all my efforts and giving me countless support in desperate times giving me reasons to press on. This is the legacy I would like them to treasure and hold it with both their hands.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I give thanks to the almighty God in Jesus Christ name for giving me this unusual opportunity to prove my potential and being my guider all times. I thank him for giving me strength from the beginning of this study to the end of it, being with me all the times. I give all the glory to him.

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**THANK YOU!!**

## **ACRONYMS**

**UN-** United Nations

**MDG-** Millennium Development goals

**HIV-** Human Immune virus

**USAID-** United States Agency for International Development

**KZN-** Kwa-Zulu Natal

**AIDS-** Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

**DFID-** Department for international development

**IDP-** Integrated Development Plan

**IFAD-** International fund for Agricultural Development

**MIG-** Municipal Infrastructure Grant

## **ABSTRACT**

The study aimed at exploring challenges experienced by sustainable livelihood schemes in the rural community of Bomvini Reserve. Most people in rural areas depend on the sustainable livelihoods for the income generation in their households. Though, they encounter a lot of challenges which discourages them to further continue with their livelihoods. Therefore, the people in rural areas need attention and sufficient assistance to their livelihoods. Since there is a crisis on food security in this country, rural people may benefit from their own livelihoods strategies. Management of the rural livelihoods by livelihood owners would enable the societies to fight poverty by generating an income through sustainable livelihoods.

The sustainable livelihood framework of rural livelihood was adopted as a theoretical framework of the study in order to ensure that the best livelihoods within Bomvini rural areas exist. The methodology of research that was used in this study was qualitative research. There were 15 participant's participants who took part in this study. The collected data was analysed qualitatively.

The findings of the study confirmed major challenges encountered by the community members of Bomvini such as; financial freedom, water shortages, lack of education amongst others. Intervention strategies are therefore needed from both the governmental and municipal structures. Various empowerment programmes that involves community members including the youth involvement on development has to be empowered among these communities so as to have the sustainable future.

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# Chapter One

## 1. Orientation of the study

### 1.1 Introduction

South Africa as a country is stricken by poverty to the extent that amongst the absolute poor one finds the chronic poor. Particularly, this situation is attested to by the fact that in 2005 it was reported that a contingent between 300 to 420 million people of the world are trapped in chronic poverty, (Swanepoel & De beer, 2013:3). Job opportunities are as a matter of fact very scarce and this actually raises the question of what could possibly be done to eradicate the prevailing scourge of poverty. Cawley (2009:54) asserts that it is of the utmost importance that the local government must empower rural livelihoods for sustainability. Notably Poverty is not about economic hardship but it can lead to malnutrition, disease, violence and abuse. However, people living in rural communities face a lot of challenges regarding the sustainability of their livelihoods.

It is against this background, therefore, that the researcher resolved to conduct this study at Bomvini which is a remote area with very few job opportunities. Marsh (2003:1) avers that institutions are of concern because of their linkages to household livelihood strategies and outcomes. Such linkages, for instance, relate to the reduction of vulnerability and also the mitigation of adverse consequences of economic policies, civil strife and other external shocks. According to Shylenda and Rani (2005:18), the degradation and depletion of natural resources which result in the inability of the local resource base to support a decent livelihood, have serious repercussions for the poor. The impact of such degradation has been to further erode the livelihood support system thus making the poor who are dependent on them even more vulnerable. There are no industries which can employ people at Bomvini and as a result of them being uneducated, they stand a very little chance of being employed. This area often faces different challenges in regard to how they can sustain their livelihoods for a living.

Livelihood scheme approaches work with people by supporting them to build their own strength and to realise their potential. In this regard, Werhane et.al. (2010:1) suggest that

companies should seek profitable partnerships with the poor for mutual gain. This, the researcher argues, that it can be done through livelihood programmes which have the potential of actually creating opportunities for economic development. Patra et al (2012:33) suggest that a sustainable interest should be introduced towards changing agricultural practices to ride out the high costs and inputs. The livelihoods should be sustained since there is no doubt that sustainable livelihood approaches can add value to efforts of reducing poverty. Studies show that the livelihood programmes focus on reducing poverty by empowering the poor to build on the opportunities made available to them.

Livelihood programmes are described as working with people by supporting them to build on their own strengths and thus realize their potential while at the same time acknowledging the effects of policies and institutions, external challenges and trends. Schonveld and Cereman (2011:16) argue that the absence of social sustainability provisions in several schemes and the limited scope of other schemes and procedural rules provide compliance loopholes and needs attention. Rural and social development may also be furthered through mechanisms that ensure the economic viability of the enterprise; skills training, extension and special programs that foster local economic development and also by proffering preferential employment to negatively affected stakeholders value or profit sharing initiatives and or the provision of social services and infrastructure.

Bomvini is a rural area dominated by unemployment, where most of the residents uses livelihood schemes as part of their daily means of survival. Initiatives like these are encouraged but at some level left without any support from the government structures. Bomvini is found in South Africa, it situated in the northern part of Kwa-Zulu Natal. This area falls under Umhlathuze municipality. Hence the researcher saw a necessity to include the profile of the community in order to give an in-depth understanding of this area. The community profile of Umhlathuze is outlined below:

## **1.2. The community profile of Umhlathuze Municipality**

### **1.2.1. Introduction of the community profile**

The name Umhlathuze is derived from the Umhlathuze River. The Umhlathuze River goes through the municipal area which joins and unifies the area together. The river was a very dangerous river which had crocodiles and could be used by the locals. The name umhlathuze can be defined by breaking it into two. Mhlathi is a jaw and mthuze means something that doesn't chew. Therefore, Umhlathuze is a river which is like a jaw that doesn't chew.

The city of Umhlathuze is located within the Uthungulu district municipality. It encompasses the towns of Empangeni, Richards Bay, eSikhaleni, Ngwelezane, eNseleni, Vulindlela and Felixton as well as the Traditional Authority areas under Amakhosi Dube, Mkhwanazi, Khoza, Mbuyazi and Zungu. There are rural areas, farms, rural settlements, urban settlement and nature reserves. Tribal authority areas comprise of the rural settlements. The area is having a huge system of wetlands and natural water features such as Cubhu, Mzingazi, Nsezi and Nhlabane. Major rivers include Umhlathuze and Nsezi.

### **1.2.2. Local and physical setting**

The city of Umhlathuze is situated on the north east coast of the province of Kwa-Zulu Natal, about 180 kilometres north-east of Durban. Umhlathuze area covers 795 km<sup>2</sup> of land area. The municipality borders a coastline that spans about 45 kilometres. The national road (N2) traverses the Umhlathuze municipality in the north-east direction towards the Swaziland border and South-west towards Durban. It then forms a division between Empangeni and Richards Bay. The Umhlathuze city has a provincial road which passes through Empangeni towards Melmoth.

The municipality has the benefit of about 45 km of coastline of which about 80% constitutes its natural state. The main access to the municipal area is along the N2 in the north south directions and in the east west direction of the R34 from Ntambanani. Railway lines are prevalent in this area but do not provide passenger services as they provide only

commercial rail/ industrial services. The Umhlathuze municipality area has been divided into 30 municipal wards. The coastal locality is linked to the Richards Bay deep-water port and there is an airport and a couple of land strips in the municipal area. The city of Umhlathuze has got urban areas surrounded by rural, poor undeveloped areas. The substantial number of residents of the total population is said to be rural residents.

**Table 1.2.1.: Areas of Umhlathuze municipality in km<sup>2</sup>**

Area	Km <sup>2</sup>	Percentage
Richards Bay	289,9966	36,5
eNseleni	1,3325	0,2
eMpangeni	28,9386	3,6
Felixton	2,7835	0,3
eSikhaleni	6,2304	0,8
Vulindlela	0,8464	0,1
Ngwelezane	3,7001	0,5
5 traditional authority areas, 21 rural settlements and 61 farms	462,1426	58,0
Total	795,9707	100



#### 1.2.4. Population/community structure

According to the South African National census, the population is estimated to be 334 459. The number of households is estimated to be 86609. The Umhlathuze municipality is the municipality with the largest population in the uThungulu district. Umhlathuze municipality has more females than males, that is, 171516 females and 162943 males. It might happen that single males live in this municipality and their families live somewhere else.

**Table 1.2.2. : Age structure (Percentage of population)**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Population percentage</b>	<b>Population number</b>
Less than 15	56028	55354	34.8	111382
15-64	118217	110410	60.7	228627
65+	6150	3417	4.5	9567
Total	180395	169181	100	349576

Above 40% of the residents of this municipality live in rural and tribal authority areas near Empangeni and Richards Bay. This indicates that the municipality is a densely populated

area. The rate of infant mortality is to be estimated at 38 per 1000 live births. However, the average fertility rate is estimated at 2.81 percent. Although the municipality incorporates both Empangeni and Richards Bay, there are still a number of people who live in non-urban areas.

**Table 1.2.3. : Population groups**

Area	Population group				Total
	Black	Coloured	Indian or Asian	White	
Richards Bay	204429	2106	10569	22047	55151
Empangeni	13754	476	1068	9748	25046
eSikhaleni	73138	73	121	8	73340
eNseleni	14814	29	0	0	14843
Other areas	180678	301	72	145	181191
Total	302813	2985	11830	39148	349576

### 1.2.5. Education System

The city of Umhlathuze consists of 102 schools comprising both primary and secondary schools. The area has got three tertiary institutions which are Umfolozi College, University of Zululand and Owen Sithole College of agriculture. The constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) provides that every citizen has a right to basic education. However, nearly 10% of children of school going age are not attending school and this is due to a

number of factors including access, affordability and other poverty related factors such as HIV/Aids. It is also a concern that there is about less than 9% people who have higher education. This may be attributed to affordability and accessibility.

**Table 1.2.4.: Level of Education**

<b>Level of education attained (20 years or older)</b>	<b>People (number)</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
No schooling	32921	9
Some schooling	34207	10
Complete primary	9075	3
Some secondary	60258	17
Grade 12	44238	13
Tertiary education	16681	8
Total	227380	60

### **1.2.6. Health system**

There are 23 clinics located within the city of Umhlathuze. People from the area receive medical attention free from these public clinics. People who are infected with HIV/Aids constitute a large number. The clinics provide assistance in respect of all diseases. Most young people are suffering from HIV/Aids, sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis. There are also two public hospitals which are Ngwelezane and Lower Umfolozi War Memorial hospital mostly known as NPA. Additionally, there are two private hospitals which are Garden clinic and The Bay hospital. There are general practitioners and those who specialize including dentists, gynecologists, optometrists, psychologists and psychiatrists.

There are 54769 females compared to males 98534 who are infected with tuberculosis which makes a percentage of 44% of the total population. There are 82543 females compared to males who are 61972 who are infected with HIV/Aids which then gives a percentage of 42%.

### **1.2.7. Economic system, Employment and income of the households**

#### **1.2.7.1. Labor market**

A large number of people survive on a very low income ranging from R800 to R1500. About 34% of the people live on such income. This is the case especially for people who live in rural areas where they use money to secure basic life necessities. The sector which is the dominant contributor towards the economy and the generation of wealth in Umhlathuze municipality is the labor sector.

This area still has to create more job opportunities and support small enterprises in order to increase the economic status of the community. About 20% of the households at Ngwelezane, eSikhaleni and eNseleni rural areas earn no income at all with rural areas including Mzingazi village where 27% earn no income. The average income of the household is directly related to the geographical position and the developmental level of the area. About 23 percent of the households in eNseleni do not earn any income. Urban

areas earn the largest amount of income compared to the total areas. With reference to Mereensee, 47% earn around R102401 per annum compared to rural areas like Mzingazi which has households that earn around R1600 per annum. People normally rely on government grants for their basic needs.

People who earn from R0-R1600 are 299905 and those who earn from R1601-R12800 are 46306 and those who earn R12801-R102400 are 17893. This is a clear indication that people are far less than being stable on income. R1600 is not an adequate amount to rely on for the whole household members. Some wards still live under poverty in respect to the income levels.

**Table 1.2.5.: Labour market**

Status	Area			
	Richards Bay	Empangeni	eSikhaleni	Other
Economically active				
Employed	21029	10423	12485	31986
Unemployed	418	1372	7767	38578
Unemployment rate	19	12	38	55
Total labor force	25210	11796	20252	70563
Not economically active	10890	5168	11671	54360
Total labor force	3600	16963	31923	124924

There are few labor opportunities created for the people. Economic opportunities still need to be created in order to increase the rate of employment. More than 41% of the people are unemployed which is a huge number. In the rural areas, people are vulnerable because of their level of education and skills. For instance, they may engage in the production of food, hand work and the like but still have no market for their work which eventually leaves them discouraged. The rate of unemployment seems to relate to the true reflection of the rate of employment. The rate of unemployment seems to be high.

**Table 1.2.6.: Percentage of skilled workforce employable**

<b>Skilled workforce</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Skilled	2
Professional	7
Technicians	11
Plant/machinery operators	9
Clerks	11
Elementary	20

Craft and trade	14
Undetermined	26
Total	100

Skilled people who are employable reflect 2% which is a very low percentage. Elementary craft and trade, clerks and technicians seem to be the dominant sector of employment of skilled people. Only 7% of the people are professionals which reflect the professionalism of people in the area. Manufacturing is reflected as the most dominant employment sector reflecting 24% of the employed people who are employed formally.

**Table 1.2.7.: formal employment by economic activity distribution table**

<b>Economic activity</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Manufacturing	24
Community services	16

Finance	10
Transport	7
Construction	8
Trade	13
Mining	5
Households	6
Other	2
Total	91

### 1.2.7.2. Economic performance

The unemployment rate is high in the Umhlathuze communities but some are involved in informal activities which brings an input to the economy. Farming is an important force in many people and it is a source of produce. Umhlathuze municipality is a third economic

production contributor in Kwa-Zulu Natal. It contributes about 7.6 percent of the gross Geographic Product (GDP) and about 5.5 percent to formal employment. There are companies in Richards Bay in the import and export sector. Sugar cane is still an important sector and people do plant sugar cane although many have become discouraged to continue because of labour costs involved.

### **1.2.7.3. Business sector**

The Umhlathuze municipality community is served by 5 business districts which consists of 23 shopping centers which give a combined total of 265000 m<sup>2</sup>. It has 30 bank branches, 35 government organisations and offices, 8 post offices, 5 cinemas, 14 hotels and 129 registered bed and breakfast establishments. The total industrial space is 555927m<sup>2</sup>.

### **1.2.8. Socio-cultural system**

There are different socio-cultural services which people attend. People from urban areas attend parties, gatherings, night clubs and bashes. People from tribal authority areas attend traditional events like *umkhehlo*, *umemulo*, *ingqibamasondo* and so many other traditional practices. There are so many churches which exist in this municipal area. People do attend churches and are so committed to them. Some normally do household chores that keep them busy during the course of the day.

### **1.2.9. Medium of communication**

Residents of Umhlathuze municipality have many ways of communicating. Cellphones are the dominant mode of communication especially among the youth which uses it for social networks. People use the media like television, radio and newspapers as well. Leaders of the area communicate through loud speakers, community meetings, paper flyers and messengers. The radio remains a very important widely used form of communication. Many people do not have access to the internet.

### **1.2.10. Human services system**

People from uMhlatuze municipality receive services from the city of Umhlatuze municipality and traditional councils. The municipality takes part in the provision of services like water, electricity, houses, roads and sanitation. There are free services like seeds for planting but some services are paid for and the traditional authorities take part in sociocultural services, protection of traditional law and safety of the people, regulations and the wellbeing of the community socially.

### **1.2.11. Transport**

There are buses, taxis, motorcycles, light passenger vehicles which operate in this area. This municipality has got 128 km of tarred national roads and 850 km of tarred secondary roads. The number of minibus taxis is estimated at around 3900 and the number of buses at 130. According to the 2007 statistics, 33582 light passenger vehicle, 2687 motorcycles and 1953 minibuses were registered in this area. There are 733 bus routes and 142800 bus commuters registered in the area. There is a railway but it only serves to transport goods and commodities and not passengers. Transnet provides railway transport. There are about 750 trains per week with 320 km of railway track. The city has got the port of Richards Bay which consists of 2157 hectares of land and 1495 hectares of water area. There are airports which are used by people of this area that are close, namely Durban and Maputo. The Durban airport which is called King Shaka International airport is about 160 km away and the Maputo airport is about 465 km away from the city of Umhlatuze.

### **1.2.12. Community Facilities**

Sports facilities are the most dominant community facilities. The municipal area consists of two athletic fields, fifteen basketball courts, one baseball field, five cricket fields, ten volleyball courts, four hockey fields, seven tennis courts, ten netball courts, two polo fields, four softball courts, two bowling greens, five squash courts, two golf courses, fifteen combi courts and nine swimming pools. There are 809 sports clubs with specific facilities

for equestrian sport, aeorolites angling, yachting, paddling and radio flyers. uMhlathuze municipal area has got four hospitals, twenty-three health clinics, four cemeteries, fifteen community halls, 102 schools and 3 tertiary educational institutions. There are five police stations with 1.7% of police officers per 1000 people of the population and four court laws.

### **1.2.13. Climate of the area**

The city of umhlathuze has a warm to hot and humid subtropical climate with warm moist winters. The average daily maximum temperatures range from 29<sup>o</sup>C in January to 23<sup>o</sup>C in July, and extremes can reach more than 40<sup>o</sup>C in summer, from October to March. Extreme rainfall and thundershowers have occurred on several occasions in the Zululand region, resulting in extensive flooding with loss of life, property and infrastructure. An increasing trend in the frequency of cyclonic activity is alarming and comprises climate constraints.

### **1.2.14. Political System**

There are existing political parties within the city of Umhlathuze. Those parties are the African National Congress (ANC), Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), National Freedom Party (NFP), Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), Congress of the people (COPE) and Democratic Alliance (DA). The most dominant and active political party is the ANC. IFP is the most competitor of the ANC. The other parties are also competitors and there is no reported violence between the political parties and no bad interaction.

### **1.2.15. Law enforcement and safety**

Police stations are there to report criminals and breakers of the law. There are traffic controllers who control the traffic offence within the municipal area. Tribal authority councils have traditional courts which control rural matters. The law seems to function properly because the constitution is considered when enforcing the law.

### **1.2.16. Energy sources**

The majority of households use electricity and about 84.95% uses it for cooking and 91.8 % uses it for lighting. Some of the households try to save electricity by using gas paraffin for cooking. Statistics show that 18.9% use gas and paraffin for cooking. The municipal area uses about 31 903 498 kilowatts of electricity on an average a day. 0.3% uses solar energy to save the costs of electricity.

### **1.2.17. Water, Sanitation and Waste removal**

Coastal lakes form the main water supply resource for the municipality. The soils are very permeable and almost all the rainfall infiltrates into the groundwater where it is temporarily stored before being discharged into the streams, lakes and wetlands. The area is characterized by a complex hydrology and climate change would, therefore, have an impact on water resources in the area. The municipality receives funding through the municipal infrastructure grant (MIG), of which 70% is for water and 30% is for sanitation. However, this amount of funding is inadequate to reduce backlogs for sanitation. Households which have access to basic water are 87.57 percent. The basic level for the provision of water is communal and supply less than 200 meters for a household. A total of 61.72% households have access to the basic level of service for sanitation.

### **1.2.18. Challenges**

The key challenges of Umhlathuze municipality are outlined as follows:

- (a) There are low levels of skills development and literacy. Some of the community members are illiterate which leaves them unable to grow economically.

- (b) There is failure to maintain financial stability through sustainable financial management and cash flow management.
- (c) There is limited access to basic household and commodity services. This area is characterized by an inflow of people in search of opportunities and this trend increases the pressure on social and infrastructural services.
- (d) There are high levels of poverty. The situation leaves the community in a state which renders many more households being unable to sustain themselves.
- (e) There obtains unsustainable developmental practices. The municipality faces the challenge of reacting to urban sprawl, which, in turn, results in increased informal settlement, overcrowded schools, ill-health, marked spatial disparities, higher cost of providing infrastructure and services and other incidental challenges.
- (f) There are problems with ensuring adequate supply of energy and water. The unsustainable use of resources such as energy and water has major impacts on the environment.
- (g) There are high levels of crime and risk. Strategies for addressing crime including both reactive strategies to respond to crime, and proactive strategies aimed at stopping crime before it happens are required.
- (h) There are increased incidents of HIV/Aids and communicable diseases. HIV/Aids is an epidemic which is increasing at an alarming rate and affects communities negatively.
- (i) Infrastructural degradation is a critical social problem.
- (j) Climate change. Escalating greenhouse gas emissions contribute towards climate change and will ultimately impact on human health, food security, natural resources, sea level rise, land loss and coastal infrastructure.

### **1.2.19. Recommendations**

Community outreach campaigns are recommended in this area. Campaigns will have to address teenage pregnancy among the youth, HIV/Aids, crime, sexually transmitted infections and crime and substance abuse. People need to be educated regarding their wellbeing. They need to be educated and be encouraged to take a stand for their economic status. Programmes which are implemented in the area need to be monitored for their effectiveness.

### **1.2.20. Summary of the profile**

Although this area has got urban areas, rural areas need attention when it comes to development. There are many people who live under unfavorable conditions. People need to be educated about their environment and the management of the resources at their disposal. This chapter discussed the community profile of Umhlathuze municipality. Important aspects have been covered in this chapter which clearly characterises the municipality. Aspects which have been discussed include the history of the area, local and physical setting, population structure, educational system, health system, economic system, socio-cultural system, medium of communication, human services system, transport, climate, law enforcement and safety, energy sources, water, challenges and recommendations.

### **1.3. Statement of the Problem**

Communities in rural areas experience poverty given the scarcity of job opportunities nowadays. It is notable also that the people who are poor in rural communities become the most vulnerable because of many factors which affect them. The researcher has been an Educator in a deep rural area of Bomvini where there are no industries to employ

people. In addition, the educational level of people in the area is also low. Therefore, observing this prompted the researcher to embark upon this study focusing on one of the rural areas, thus using it as a representative of many others in similar conditions. The objective of focusing on one rural area was to acquire greater depth of insights into sustainability measures of rural livelihoods that can be adopted and used to assist the inhabitants of these rural areas to deal with the scourge of poverty in their respective areas. As a matter of fact, each time one reads media reports there is a report on poverty stricken communities. Thus, overall, many South African communities especially in rural areas experience poverty in an alarming rate as a result of the lack of job opportunities. As argued by Patel (2005:52), poverty is one of the greatest challenges of Southern African countries. In the context of this study, the concern is that people in rural areas are the most vulnerable in this regard because of the abject poverty they have to endure on a daily basis. This then necessitates more pragmatic measures that are responsive to the situation at hand be adopted and implemented to curb this scourge of poverty in rural areas. As maintained by Strydom, et al (2010:175), for many rural people, the environment and natural resources are key to their development. However, rural livelihoods face a number of challenges. It is against this backdrop, therefore, that this study sought to establish what strategies can possibly be adopted and implemented toward enhancing the sustainability of rural livelihood schemes which thus far remain an area of concern for many people in rural areas.

The other challenge also faced in the rural area of Bomvini is the degradation of resources. Therefore, sustainable livelihood programmes can only be achieved if natural resources are themselves used in sustainable ways. In absolute terms poverty refers to the lack of the financial means necessary for people to survive from day to day. Strydom and Tlhojane (2008:44) supports that the circumstances of the poor people in rural areas are worsening in absolute and relative terms and this is attributed to the legacy of unequal access, control and distribution of resources. Thus, people should be encouraged to involve themselves in measures geared towards changing their environment for the better.

#### **1.4. Aim of the study**

The aim of the study was to explore the sustainability in regard to the livelihood scheme challenges experienced by people in the rural community of Bomvini Reserve.

#### **1.5. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study were formulated as follows:

- (a) To explore the sustainability challenges of people's livelihood in rural community of Bomvini.
- (b) To determine the resources available to sustain the people's livelihood schemes in rural area of Bomvini.
- (c) To describe the livelihoods strategies that can be used to overcome the challenges faced by people in rural area of Bomvini.
- (d) To explore the strategies for implementation of self-sustaining rural livelihood programmes.

#### **1.6. Key Research Questions**

The key research questions of the study were formulated as follows:

- (a) What are the sustainable livelihood challenges that are faced by the people in rural community of Bomvini?
- (b) What are the resources available in the community of Bomvini for sustaining the livelihoods of people?
- (c) What are the strategies that are used to mitigate challenges of livelihood programmes?

(d) What are the strategies that can be used to implement self-sustainable livelihood programmes?

### **1.7. Motivation of the study**

The researcher has been motivated by the lack of economic development taking place in poor and remote areas of South African communities in terms of new job creation and productive capacity. Arguably, sustainability of rural livelihoods can actually make a positive difference in the wellbeing of the citizens of our country. This study pays special attention to the rural livelihoods as the means of promoting the independence of the Bomvini community from relying on government handouts in the form of subsistence grants

Poverty is a problem in South Africa and as such it deserves critical attention. The threats created by the global poverty threaten the very premise of moral principles such as fundamental justice and human rights. This study has as its focus the adoption and implementation of suitable livelihood approaches focusing on sustaining rural livelihood schemes. Carney (1999:2) is of the view that rural livelihood approaches should entail the context in which different groups of rural people live, including the effects upon them of external trends, shocks and seasonality. It is further argued that the access to physical, human, financial, natural and social assets and their ability are also foregrounded in this approach for sustainable livelihood schemes. The institutions, policies and organisations which shape their livelihoods and the different strategies they adopt in pursuit of their goals form the basis of the approaches to sustainable livelihoods.

Fourcacre (2001:8) is of the view that the implementation of sustainable livelihood approaches requires the active participation of those directly affected. Particularly, the issue of transport is construed as being critical in the carrying out of developmental projects which have a direct impact on livelihoods. It thus worth emphasizing, therefore, that a typical rural transport environment, low levels of economic activity, low vehicle ownerships, inferior provisions, difficult roads and near absence of regular transport services all impact negatively on the development of the rural livelihoods. Scoones

(1998:15) avers that planning and implementing a sustainable livelihoods approach is, therefore, necessarily iterative and dynamic. It also requires active participation of all different interested parties in the processes of defining meanings and objectives, analyzing linkages and trade-offs, identifying options and choices and, ultimately, deciding what to do. Crucefix (1998:3) studied the field experience of organic agriculture in developing countries to assess whether the expected impact of rural livelihoods is indeed seen, and under what circumstances initiatives achieve all or some of these, fail completely or continue to flourish. Lewis (2005:3), studied illustrations of dependency and the use value of the forest resources for rural livelihoods and it was established that potential harvesting forest resources was done without compromising ecosystem services. Especially, people living in poverty normally become vulnerable to substance abuse, HIV infections and other related matters. The objective of Millennium Development Goals, (MDG), is to eradicate poverty and hunger, targeting to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (United Nations., 2010:2). The South African government is committed to enhancement the social development of people living in poverty. Various policies and poverty alleviation programmes have been developed but there is not much focus on how to sustain the livelihoods of the poor people in rural areas. In light of what has been highlighted above, the researcher wanted to explore the challenges, available resources (notwithstanding their scarcity) and sustainability strategies that should be given attention regarding the sustainability of rural livelihood programmes for possible adoption and implementation for the benefit of Bomvini reserve.

## **1.8. Theoretical Framework**

The researcher adopted for a sustainable livelihood framework of rural livelihood following and two approaches namely, Self-reliance and Self-help Approach. In order to ensure that the best livelihoods within Bomvini rural areas exist. The theoretical framework is explicated in detail in the literature review chapter.

## **1.9. Definition of Concepts**

### **1.9.1 Rural Livelihood**

Rural livelihood refers to specific economic or livelihood activities undertaken by rural households and the benefits of incomes they derive from the activities which contribute to their welfare (USAID, 2003:33). Livelihood strategies refer to household's longer term plans for successful livelihoods. They are abstractions inferred from actual activity and investment patterns. On the one hand, Upreddy (2004:4), defines livelihoods as what we eat, what we wear, and how we are living in our residence and this is being construed as an element of the society. Furthermore, it is asserted that livelihood is what we are getting, any support from any organization, or any other means that support our daily needs. It is actually the support of life and as such ranges from a job, work or source of income. On the other hand, Thennakoon (2005:1), defines a livelihood as people's capacity to maintain a living by surviving shocks and stress and enhancing their quality of life on a long-term basis without jeopardizing the livelihood options of others.

### **1.9.2 Rural livelihood as Welfare of the Household**

Normally, the welfare of a household is closely related to the type of livelihood strategy it pursues. Some tactics depend on the household's assets. According to USAID (2003:34), rural households depend largely on crop agriculture for income generation. Thus, projects should be implemented to enable the poor to expand their livelihood options and improve their quality of life. In light of this, neither the livelihoods nor the environment should be compromised. Ideally, therefore, projects should ensure the long term sustainability of benefits from sub projects by securing the natural resource base on which they are dependent. As a matter of fact, households face challenges on basic services, an increase in the age of the population and an increasing social, political and economic marginalization. Hence, unemployment and poverty are widespread in our country. Sustainability refers to the maintenance or the enhancement of the resources for

productivity on a long term basis (Upretty, 2004:5). It is notable, however, that there are many ways a household may gain livelihood security, for example, through land ownership, livestock or trees, fishing, hunting or gathering; through stable employment with adequate remuneration; or through varied repertoires of activities.

### **1.9.3. Rural Livelihood Diversity**

Sustainable livelihoods approach has been a way of sustaining rural livelihood programmes. It is viewed as equally applicable to urban as well as to rural survival strategies. Livelihoods are said to be sustainable if they include assets of livelihood approach. All the capitals mentioned above which are the human, physical, social, financial and natural capital provide a checklist by which dealing with constraints on livelihood success can be prioritized for action to remove them (Ellis, 1999:2).

Ellis (1999:2) argues that having alternatives for income generation can make a difference between minimally viable livelihoods and destitution. It is thus argued that diversification contributes positively to livelihood sustainability because it reduces proneness to stress and shocks. However, sustainable rural livelihoods need not equate with the sustainability of all the components of underlying ecological systems due to substitutions that occur between assets during processes of livelihood adaptation over time.

Ellis (1999:4) thus argues that gender is an integral and inseparable part of rural livelihoods. Women typically confront a narrower range of labor markets than men and this happens at lower wage rates. In this sense, diversifications can improve household livelihood security while at the same time trapping in customary roles.

These concepts above expound the meaning of the term livelihood in its entailment of the activities that can be taken by the rural individual community members to ensure that their families' wellbeing is maintained. Comparatively speaking, rural livelihoods seem to present a number of benefits to members of the community households and such benefits range from source of income, to mention but one, whereas the rural communities are well known to dependent on agriculture for their income generation.

## **1.10. Resources Essential for Rural Livelihoods Sustainability**

A livelihood is said to be sustainable when it can contain tension and shocks and recover from them and at the same time maintain and improve possibilities both for the present and for the future without damaging the existing natural resource base. Types of resources which are necessary for the sustainability of rural livelihoods extracted from Dyner (2006:6) are outlined below.

### **1.10.1. Natural Capital**

Natural capital refers to the portions of natural resources from which the flows of resources and services which are useful in terms of livelihoods are derived (Dyner, 2001:6). Natural capital is very important for those who obtain all or part of their livelihood from activities based on natural resources. Improving energy can help not only to reduce emissions and protecting the local and global environment but also in the efficient use of energy sources. Thus, good management can help in the sustainable use of natural resources and reduction of deforestation.

### **1.10.2. Social Capital**

Social capital refers to social resources in which populations support each other in the search of their objectives in terms of livelihoods. These social resources are developed through the following:

- (a) Networks and connections
- (b) Participation in formal groups, and
- (c) Confidence relations which culminate into reciprocity and inter changes which facilitate the cooperation and the reduction of the costs of transactions and thus provide the base for the creation of security networks between those less privileged (Dyner, 2001:7).

### **1.10.3. Human Capital**

Human capital represents aptitudes, knowledge, labor skills and good health which, on the whole, allow populations to take on different strategies and achieve their objective in terms of the livelihoods.

### **1.10.4. Physical Capital**

Physical capital includes the basic infrastructure and the production of goods necessary to support livelihoods. Infrastructure consists of the changes in the physical surrounding that contributes to the populations obtaining their basic needs to become more productive.

### **1.10.5 Financial Capital**

Financial capital refers to the financial resources that people use to sustain their livelihoods. Dyner (2001:10) avers that modern energy can contribute to the reduction of poverty incrementing poor countries productivity and extending the quality and offer of products.

Perret, Anseeuw and Mathebula (2005:19) argue that the rural poor spend a high proportion of their incomes on locally produced goods and services and that interventions increasing income will have substantial spillover effects on growth beyond the sector of origin. The implication thereof is that all livelihood options are slightly more profitable in better-off households.

In rural areas, the resources concept has been conceived of by scholars such as Scoones (2009:2) as a poor concept in that people in poor rural areas are still without access to

clean and modern sources of energy. Arguably, access to energy, particularly through clean and modern technology, can make substantial contributions towards promoting rural development particularly in the poor areas of developing countries. However, while improving access to energy is necessary for development, the manner in which this has been undertaken has not always warranted a sustained livelihood in rural areas.

### **1.11. Research Methodology**

The researcher followed a qualitative methodology to execute the study through a phenomenological approach. The participants were selected through a purposive sampling. Information for this study was gathered from both secondary and primary sources. More specific information that attaches weight on the sustainability of rural livelihoods was obtained from the responses of the participants who participated in the study. Interviews were preferred as a method of collection through an interview schedule. The collected data was qualitatively analysed.

### **1.12. Ethical and Safety Issues**

Research ethics provide researchers with a code of moral guidelines on how to conduct research in a morally acceptable way. Thus, in this study, the researcher ensured that confidentiality was kept and did not violate the participants' privacy. The participants were thoroughly informed beforehand about the potential impact of the investigation. This afforded them the opportunity to withdraw from the study if they wished to do so. Participation was at all times voluntary and no one was forced to participate in the study.

The participants were given an informed consent form to fill and this implied that all possible or adequate information on the goal of the investigation coupled with the possible advantages or disadvantages and dangers to which participants might be exposed as well as the credibility of the researcher were to be rendered to potential subjects or their legal representatives to safeguard their welfare if anything were to run wrong (De Vos 2012:117). Thus, there was no deception of the participants. Furthermore, Struwig and

Stead (2001:69) as cited in De Vos (2012:118) define deception as the rendering of misleading facts or the withholding of information from the participants.

The researcher was not engaged in scientific misconduct such as: distorting and inventing data, plagiarizing the work of others, republishing their data as an original contribution without proper acknowledgement. There was also no failure in maintaining the confidentiality and privacy of the research participants. Those who participated did so voluntarily without any force being exerted on them. Thus, the researcher's conduct was by and large guided by Struwig and Stead (2010:66) and Terre Blanche et al' (2011:67) admonishment that research should avoid and minimize harms and wrongs by having the participants given the assurance that they will be indemnified against any physical and emotional harm (Welman, Kruger & Mitchel, 2009:201).

#### **1.12.1. Informed Consent**

The research was conducted during the day and permission to do so was obtained from the tribal authority of Madlebe Traditional Council and the Ward Councilor of Bomvini Reserve. The consent form explained that the participation in the study was voluntary and the participants were free to withdraw at any time they felt like doing so. The information received was treated with strict confidentiality and anonymity was ensured. The researcher read the consent form for the participants and showed them where to sign and asked questions where they needed clarity.

#### **1.12.2. Anonymity and Confidentiality**

Anonymity was ensured by asking the participants not to write their names on the questionnaire. Confidentiality was maintained by making sure that nobody other than the researcher had access to the questionnaire. The livelihood scheme names or any particulars of the livelihood schemes were not written on the questionnaire.

### **1.12.3. Deception**

The researcher avoided deception by explaining the objectives of the study to the participants. The researcher did not withhold any information from the participants and gave innocent responses to the participants on the information regarding the study. No lies were told deliberately to the participants.

### **1.13. Resources**

The source of information that was used included: textbooks, articles in scientific journals, conference proceedings, theses and dissertations, company reports, magazines and newspapers and the internet.

### **1.14. Feasibility**

The research was feasible enough to be conducted. Livelihoods were there for information and the questions were available for data collection. Financially, the research was feasible since there were no financial constraints. The time for collecting data was feasible since the researcher self-administered the interview schedule and this saved time.

### **1.15. Intellectual Property**

The research documents have been kept in a safe place to avoid other people stealing the work. It is essential that the research documents be kept between the supervisor and the researcher for adequate protection of rights.

### **1.16. Significance of the study**

The study will in all likelihood enlighten the relevant municipality in the immediate vicinity of Bomvini reserve on the challenges faced by rural livelihoods and thus help it focus its attention on those aspects which are pragmatically possible as informed by the specific context at hand. The study will thus provide information on how the resources can be sustained and distributed efficiently in rural livelihoods through the use of pragmatically-oriented strategies. The Department of Social Development in particular will draw insights from the findings of the study on how best to address issues of poverty reduction through sustainable livelihood programmes. Thus, the strategies drawn from the study will be put into use towards enabling rural livelihoods to become self-sustaining, so as to promote relative independence of the rural people.

### **1.17. Knowledge Dissemination**

The dissertation will be published by the University of Zululand library. The results and findings will be presented at relevant conferences and published in a journal. The dissertation will also be made available on the internet.

### **1.18. Structure of the dissertation**

This dissertation is demarcated as follows:

#### **(a) Chapter One: Introduction**

This chapter focuses on the statement of the problem, profile of Umhlathuze municipality, aims, objectives, motivation for the study, research methodology, significance of the study and key research questions.

#### **(b) Chapter Two: Literature Review**

In this chapter, the review of the literature that is pertinent to the sustainability of rural livelihoods and this includes, among other things, the challenges faced, resources that are essential for the sustainability of rural livelihoods programmes and the resources required for the effective functioning of the rural livelihood programmes will be presented.

### **(c) Chapter Three: Research Methodology**

In this chapter, the research design and the research methodology that have been used in conducting the study are discussed in detail.

### **(d) Chapter Four: Data Analysis and Interpretation**

In this chapter the data is analyzed and interpreted in relation to the arguments and or views drawn from the literature review in chapter two

### **(e) Chapter Five: Conclusion and Recommendations**

This chapter concludes the study by drawing on the arguments advanced in the literature review in chapter two, analysis of the community profile of the city of Umhlatuze in chapter four and also on the analysis in chapter five. Having rendered the conclusion, we then make recommendations based on the findings of the study.

## **1.19. Summary**

The foregoing discussion in this chapter focused on the importance of promoting the independence of rural people by having their livelihoods sustained towards boosting the economy of the country. In order to achieve this, rural people need to be encouraged to work on their own not only for the betterment of their livelihoods but also its sustenance in an environment characterized by the scarcity of job opportunities. This study sheds more light and insights on what needs to be done to create sustainable rural livelihood programs geared towards the alleviation of poverty. The following chapter views the

literature which is germane to the issue of rural livelihood schemes and how best to enhance its sustenance especially in rural areas.

## Chapter 2

### 2. Literature Review

#### 2.1. Introduction

In this chapter, the review of the literature that is pertinent to the sustainability of rural livelihood schemes is presented. Stagte (2002:4) defines livelihoods as a people's capacities to generate and maintain their means of living, enhance their well-being and that of future generations. These capacities are contingent upon the availability and accessibility of options which are ecological, economic and political and which are predicted on equity, ownership of resources and participatory decision making. It takes much time and effort for income generation projects to become financially viable entities and members' involvement need to be sustained in the absence of immediate visible benefits (Patel, 2005:244). Livelihoods strategies draw on the livelihood knowledge, skills and experience of the participants.

Challenges faced by the livelihoods are related to a lack of access to financial capital. The other challenges that sustainable income-generation programs combine with building social capital may need sustained inputs for a longer period before they become viable. Also, leadership is a critical success factor and leadership development is important to the sustainability of the projects. Then also macro social and economic development policies should support micro development programs as these provide tangible opportunities to improve the livelihoods of the poor and the populations at risk. In agricultural programs, adoption of more sustainable farm management practices is constrained by the socio-economic environment. Limited availability of organic inputs is a crucial constraint for attaining sustainability in terms of nutrient elements (Ruben, Pender & Kuyvenhiven, 2007:1). The recognition of the sustainability of rural livelihood programs pays attention to various factors and processes which either constrain or enhance poor people's ability to make a living in an economically and socially sustainable manner. Social protection programs remain incomplete and state resources to fund these are quite limited (Rayneke, 2011:2).

Adaptability is the ability to respond and adjust to actual or potential impacts of changing climate conditions in ways that moderate harm or take advantage of positive opportunities (Elasha, Elhassan, Ahmad and Zakiddin, 2005:5). Livelihoods should be adaptable to different climate changes for them to be said as sustainable. Sustainable rural livelihoods encompass secured ownership of, or access to resources, assets and income-earning activities to offset risks, ease challenges and meet contingencies (Kumar, et.al, 2006:1). The analysis of needs and satisfaction can be used for the purposes of diagnosis, planning, assessment and evaluation of livelihoods (Reyneke, 2006:42). The analysis helps the community in a way that empowers the community as it would be able to see that they possess the relevant strengths and resources and thereby improve their livelihood programs. Life skills training can assist with the self-empowerment of groups of people. It brings motivation; such motivation helps people to become catalysts towards empowerment in their community. Empowerment must be attained and attempts must be made to empower people living in rural areas. Such empowerment is more likely to sustain rural livelihoods which depend on the assets available for such sustenance.

According to Solesbury (2003:5), strategies that can sustain livelihoods are predicated on the political system that secures for the citizens the opportunity to participate effectively in decision making. Such participation results in an economic system that generates surpluses. This is achieved through the use of technological knowledge which is a self-reliant and sustained basis. Ultimately, this provides a social system with solutions not only for the tensions arising from disharmonious obligation to preserve the ecological basis for development but also a technological system that can search continuously for new solutions. Characteristically, therefore, this presents itself not only as an international system those foresters' sustainable patterns of trade and finance but also as a flexible administrative system that has the capacity for self-correction. Patel (2005:240) construe poverty-reduction strategies as being aimed at breaking the structural forces that cause poverty reduction through the achievement of economic growth and human development. These strategies enhance the capabilities of disadvantaged individuals, households and communities through redistributive development interventions. These measures are designed to ensure a minimum standard of living for all people by eradicating extreme poverty and by acknowledging the power of human agency in the reduction of poverty.

Unemployment rates in South Africa have reached critical proportions which is a contributory factor in the declining living standards and the consequent rise of poverty in society as a whole. In such circumstances, sustainable livelihood strategies are mostly concerned with identifying and accessing natural and other resources and activities required to serve as pragmatic means of living. It is thus arguable that sustainable livelihood interventions linked with community development thinking and practice can potentially enhance the effectiveness of not only the well thought but also well executed interventions (Patel, 2005:242). De beer and Swanepoel (2012:21) argue that to empower rural communities to sustain their livelihoods, is of the utmost importance that they receive assistance in terms of the skills and organizational training, credit, income-generating schemes, appropriate technology, education and access to basic services.

From an agricultural perspective, it is arguable that agricultural development increases the production of food gains and that this helps in the achievement of self-sufficiency in most of the food commodities. In this regard, environmental management seeks to steer the development process to take advantage of opportunities, try to avoid hazards, mitigate problems and prepare people for unavoidable difficulties by improving adaptability and resilience (Barrow, 2006:5). As observed by Kumar et al, 2006:47), promotion of the livestock-based integrated farming system and the efficient and effective self-help groups are the key initiatives to make farming a profitable and less risky venture, thus sustaining livelihoods and reducing regional inequalities, (Kumar et. al.,2006:47). It bears repeating, therefore, that unemployment had been severe in rural areas and this resulted in rural households having to rely mainly on remittances and state social grants for income. It is against this backdrop, therefore, that consideration has to be given towards adopting and implementing sustainable community development programs as these have the potential of contributing to the long term strengthening of community viability (Community Development Toolkit, 2005:2).

## **2.2. Economic resources for sustainable rural livelihoods**

Turok (2011:115) avers that South Africa needs to make structural changes to the real economy in order to address the pressing problems of inequality, poverty and unemployment. This is in view of the fact that South Africa's growth part has been driven by unsustainable consumption which is a challenge that the country must face. Thus, there is a growing investment by the government and the public co operations in infrastructure, but the balance of trade is deteriorating sharply which presents a serious challenge. Consequently, concessional funding through development finance institutions will probably be the main form of support to the other sectors (Turok, 2011:126). For this reason, it is important that development be strengthened through programs of quality basic service delivery and specific sector strategies. Thus, it becomes an objective necessity for programmes to have the involvement of rural livelihoods which need to be strengthened financially and in all dimensions. Emanating from this, therefore, is the recognition that resource mobilization and implementation have to focus on mobilization of the state assets such as land, social and cultural resources, development finance and other resources. This would require that infrastructure be at the core of government plans to support resource availability.

## **2.3. Characteristics of Rural Livelihoods**

Rural lives and livelihoods would be at risk if any unexpected misfortune occurs such as, illness or death in the family or death of their livestock by accident or in any other way. Upreddy (2004:11), established that over one third of Nepal's population is estimated to live under poverty. For all these people who live under poverty livelihood involves a constant struggle for survival as their control over and access to strategic resources is limited and their sources of income are precarious and yield generally low returns to effort risk. Thus, for these people, their social networks and stocks of social capital are generally of limited capacity and their personal resources and quality of life are poor. Rural livelihoods are the rural poor, and the working classes, they include poor and marginal

farmers and the smallest rural artisans and handicraft producers, small retailers, and those with insecure jobs outside agriculture and agricultural laborers. Furthermore, it has been established that there are diverse ways of fulfilling the livelihood needs in the rural family which implies that it is not only the single source of income that is enough for the rural livelihoods.

## **2.4. Theoretical Framework of Sustainable Rural Livelihood**

In order to ensure that the best livelihoods within Bomvini rural areas exist, the researcher adopted the sustainable Methods of Rural Livelihood and two approaches namely, Self-reliance and Self-help Approach. Notably, sustainable livelihood is deemed to be sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets while not undermining the resource base (Haug, 1999:182).

A diverse portfolio of activities contributes to the sustainability of a rural livelihood because it improves its long-run resilience in the face of adverse trends of sudden shocks. In this regard, human capital is important and this necessitates that education be accorded its significant role in rural livelihoods in the form of both formal academic education and workplace skills for improving livelihood prospects and is established by a great number of studies. As a matter of fact, poverty is closely associated with low levels of education and lack of skills. Thus, Ellis (1999:8) asserts that investigation is likely to show that livelihood strategies are a great deal more complicated and that there will certainly be big differences between the poor and the better-off in relation to the sources of income that feature most strongly in their respective rural livelihood strategies.

### **2.4.1. Crops as Sustainable Rural Livelihoods**

It is argued that households rely on income from a number of sources and this includes dry land crop production and other sources. The finding by Prage, Toborin, Toborin, Christophs, Ogle and Person (2003:6), shows that dry land crops contribute 22% of the

total net income. It is notable that crops are part and mostly used form on rural households and are deemed to be a major source of cash. Sadly, access to land becomes a barrier since the land redistribution doesn't give access to every household. Lack of access to cash compels some households to engage in the sales of woodland products. As a consequence, low capitals limit household productions. To the extreme ends, wealthier households purchase physical assets which disadvantage the rural poor.

In the rural context, although traditional leaders are the central decisions makers of the daily rural life but their rules are not strictly adhered to. It is also notable that livelihood patterns changes over time with their concomitant changes institutions. This fact notwithstanding, famers try to work on their crops thus disregarding the low level of capital assets. Prage et al (2003:8) suggest that a more appropriate model is that of rural livelihood systems given their being non-equilibrium and opportunistic as they are systems in constant transition.

#### **2.4.2. Agricultural Irrigation Schemes as Sustainable Rural Livelihoods**

Irrigation is another form of increasing agricultural production both in subsistence and commercial farming. Water is an essential element and as such it has to be supplemented by irrigation schemes in areas with little annual rainfall. Irrigation schemes have to be established to inherent variability of rainfall as well as to ensure that cultivation is done throughout the year to boost and increase food production in the country so as to alleviate poverty. It is indisputable that people living in rural areas need water irrigation schemes for their crops.

According to Chazovachi (2012:3), irrigation farming enables the growing of green vegetables, wheat, tomatoes, maize and even sugar-cane, among other things. It is further asserted that data from previous case studies reveal that irrigation farming has long term economic contribution on rural livelihoods. As a consequence, rural people are reportedly moving regularly between rural areas and towns or cities to seek work, market

their produce and buy manufactured goods since such rural livelihoods improve their standard of living.

For sustainable livelihoods to be achieved the future of irrigation farming towards alleviating rural poverty lies not only on people but also calls for intervention on the part of interested stakeholders in rural development (Chazovaki, 2012:7). As already mentioned, the majority of communities living in rural areas rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. The sad reality though is that due to climatic conditions and drought agriculture becomes impossible without access to irrigation water. Hakobjanyan (2014:1) argues that the conditions of the irrigation systems as well as the water distribution policy limit farmers' access to irrigation water dramatically.

Notably, rural people face problems in relation to food crops from irrigation farms since they lack the transport to ferry their produce to the markets. Rural areas often have gravel roads which are long and winding, some poorly maintained and inaccessible. Watering the plots is particularly the very most challenging hurdles in times of water crisis. People tend to abandon their work in times of water crisis which badly affects their livelihoods. Chazovaki (2012:8) further argues that existing fences are at times destroyed and having them repaired is quite expensive. Once the fences have been destroyed, animals and also people often find ways to the farming fields and have the crops destroyed.

### **2.4.3. Community Forestry in Relation as Sustainable Rural Livelihoods**

Forestry, agriculture and livestock are intimately related in the farming system and are a basis for rural livelihoods. Upreddy (2004:1) argues that community forestry has contributed to rural livelihoods in a manner that improves the flow of forest products through the improvements of forest resources and through the development of livelihoods assets in the grass root level which form the basis for sustainable livelihoods. A range of assets is needed for positive livelihood outcomes. Assets required for the sustainability of livelihoods are referred to as stores, resources, claims and access. Resources may be water, forest and land. Assets which are required for livelihood sustainability are divided

into two categories which are basically the tangible and intangible assets. Tangible assets, on the one hand, are defined by Upretty (2004:6), as “stores and resources” and intangible assets, on the other hand, are defined as “claims and access”. Tangible assets include, for example, food, stocks, jewellery and woven textiles, cash saving in banks and credit schemes and resources including water, trees and livestock, and farm equipment. Since intangible assets are claims and assets, they are therefore, demands and appeals which can be for material, moral or other practical support access.

The claims take many forms of support and are often made at a time of stress or shocks and are made on individuals or agencies, social groups or any other national and international community. Claims are based on the right, precedent, social, convention, moral obligation and power (Upretty, 2004:6). Therefore, out of these tangible and intangible assets people form a living using their physical labor, skills, knowledge and creativity. Skill and knowledge may be transferred from one generation to another in the same manner as indigenous knowledge is transmitted or more formally through education. Traditional skills and knowledge should be transferred from one generation to the next generation. This may be in relation to a system of cultivation, making threads, making manure. Characteristically, this transfer acquired knowledge from one generation to the next. In the context of poverty alleviation, livelihoods have to be connected with poverty and sustainable livelihood priorities for development in order to enhance progress. Thus, a sustainable livelihoods approach is defined as a holistic approach which tries to capture and provide a means of understanding the vital causes and dimensions of poverty without collapsing the focus onto just a few factors.

#### **2.4.4. Agricultural Cooperatives as Sustainable Rural livelihood**

Agricultural cooperatives share similar traits with liberalisation and globalisation which are considered as important driving forces that make Third Generation Cooperatives necessary in order to promote competitive participation of the rural poor in the production and marketing activities. Such cooperatives are considered as grass-roots based self-help business enterprises operating autonomously in a dynamic and competitive business environment. Getnet and Anullo (2012:181) established that agricultural cooperatives are

important to rural organisations as they support livelihood development and poverty reduction.

The foregoing statement above thus speaks to the availability of agricultural cooperatives within the rural communities which seek to promote sustainable livelihoods while at the same time serving the individual (community member) to benefit from working with other community members which result on them to easily access the market. The cooperative benefits their interest such as; self-employment opportunity while it serves as food security within rural communities due to its abilities to reduce poverty.

It has been observed by the International Co-operative Alliance (2015:6) that agricultural cooperatives are well recognized for their poverty reduction efforts. For example, in Tanzania, improved cooperative marketing of agricultural products like milk and coffee has meant that cooperative members can afford fees for the education of their children; in Egypt, 4 million farmers derive income from selling agricultural produce through agricultural marketing cooperatives; and in Ethiopia, 900,000 people in the agricultural sector are estimated to generate most of their income through cooperatives. What transpires from the statement above is that the cooperatives have been successful in some developing countries and that if KZN were to ensure sustainable livelihood within our province by focusing on cooperative in agriculture the rural communities will highly benefit from this and such a move would also ensure that sustainable livelihoods for the province is not only enhanced but is also maintained. Notably, the democratic South African government has attempted to ensure that cooperatives are functioning within the state such as the adoption of the Cooperative Act (Act14 Of 2005).

## **2.5. Self-reliance Methods**

Self-reliance is the ability to think and act without the help and influence of others and it also entails the ability to decide what one should be or do. As such, it is improvement from within. It is thus argued that self-reliance is a key factor in community development and rural livelihoods and should thus be promoted in rural communities. Kim and Ismail (2013:2) define a self-reliant individual as an individual with increased skill capacity,

greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline and responsibility and material well-being. This is an act that has to be promoted in rural livelihoods so that the livelihoods themselves will be self-sustainable. It is important that the livelihoods are sustainable. That means if the livelihood owners are self-reliant they can think for themselves and utilize what they have in order for self-sustainable livelihoods to take place. Sustainable development requires meeting the basic needs of all and also to extend such an opportunity towards the satisfaction of the aspirations of other individuals for a better life.

## **2.6. Impact of Rural Livelihoods**

### **2.6.1 Gendered Role within Rural livelihood**

According to Maneka, Jayasinghe, Lakshman (2010:1), there has been a significant improvement of women participation and leadership in the village. The implication thereof is that livelihood strategies and necessary implication incomes remain gendered. As a consequence, there is a significant distinction between gender roles in household level and this accounts for the difference in the livelihood of men and women. Maneka et al (2010:2) suggest that particular attention must be paid to address the issues in livelihood interventions and gendered impact assessments to provide better understanding of how effective the interventions are in overcoming gender barriers with the view of enhancing sustainable livelihoods.

The sustainable livelihoods framework suggests that any intervention that would create any sort of impact on the ownership of the assets of livelihoods sustainability would invariably influence the sustainability of their livelihood strategy. It is thus notable that the income of the households increases significantly as a result of greater longitudinal diversification of livelihoods which by and large are strengthened by access to loans and by the savings of the people. Of importance to note, therefore, is that there has been a significant improvement of female participation and leadership in the village activities particularly through well specified targets.

## 2.6.2. Educational levels within rural livelihoods

Educational levels are correlated with poverty. It can thus be argued that rural poverty is a result of a combination of interacting social, economic and environmental factors and processes operating at a range of scales. Such factors are outlined in Campbell, Luckert, Mutamba (1999:8) as the following:

- (a) Adverse biophysical conditions resulting in low agricultural potential;
- (b) Lack of insufficient quality land deriving from colonial land allocation patterns;
- (c) Labor scarcities;
- (d) Economic remoteness, with presumably higher transaction and input costs and few investments because returns to investments are low when compared to other places;
- (e) Lack of credit markets as a result of little or no collateral;
- (f) Low levels of educational skills and few job opportunities;
- (g) Low levels of cash income due the lack of purchasing basic needs;
- (h) Poor macro-economic conditions;
- (i) HIV/AIDS pandemic resulting in the death of the breadwinner; and
- (j) Low levels of empowerment.

Suggestions made by Campbell et al. (2003:9) are that:

- (a) An integrated approach, covering several production activities is required to make a sizeable impact on income;
- (b) Building a capacity of organizations is important;
- (c) Market development is critical to improved cash income and

(d) Macro-economic impacts on local livelihoods outweigh the effects that can be achieved through local development initiatives.

Support through provision of markets, information and development of marketing organizations will allow households to respond positively to the markets and thus be induced to drive development themselves.

### **2.6.3. Climate Change within Rural Livelihoods**

Livelihoods differ according to regions because they are ecologically dependent. According to Dube and Phiri (2013:17), the decrease of precipitation leads to negative effects on the livelihoods of local communities. Thus, any negative changes in the rainfall patterns are likely to impact negatively on the rural livelihoods. As a matter of fact, water sources are a critical component of the equation in ensuring sustainable rural livelihoods especially in conditions where there is declining rainfall. Thus, with climatic changes, livelihood strategies are under a threat of disappearing.

### **2.7. Rural Communities in Access on Resources**

According to Faiz, Faiz, Wang and Bennett (2012:2), rural access to resources is indisputably central to the alleviation of rural poverty and has a close synergy with rural livelihood outcomes such as increased incomes, increased social wellbeing, reduced vulnerability, improved food security and a more sustainable use of natural resources. Furthermore, Faiz et al (2012:3) assert that by providing access to opportunity, rural roads contribute towards making livelihood sustainable so that it may become resilient in the face of external shocks and stresses as it is not dependent upon external support and that it can maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future. This is by and large accounted for by the fact that it is able to ensure that there is long-term

productivity of the natural resources and in so doing it does not undermine the livelihood opportunities of others.

An understating of people's strengths is crucial in relation to how people analyze their endeavor to convert their assets into positive livelihood outcomes. Taking note of this is critical since rural roads can accelerate the depletion of the natural capital and many also contribute to diminution of social and political capital assets of sustainable rural livelihoods.

The sustainable livelihoods objectives as outlined by DFID as follows:

DFID aims to increase sustainability of rural people's lives through the following measures:

- (a) Improved access to high-quality education, information, technologies and training and better nutrition and health;
- (b) A more supportive and cohesive social environment;
- (c) A more secure access to and better management of natural resources;
- (d) Better access to basic and facilitating infrastructure;
- (e) A more secure access to financial resources and
- (f) A policy and institutional environment that support multiple livelihood strategies and promote equitable access to competitive markets for all.

DFID's objectives maintain to eliminate poverty in poor countries. DFID seeks to reduce by one half the proportions of people living in poverty. A direct contribution to this aim is through adopting livelihoods approach to understanding poverty and pursuing the livelihoods' objectives.

Right based approaches on sustainable livelihoods are complementary perspectives that seek to achieve many of the same goals. Partnerships are important in many levels. DFID

stresses relationship with other donors. Livelihood approach puts people at the center of development, (Campbell et. al, 2003:7).

The sense that the livelihood approach is people centered means that the approach:

- (a) Starts with an analysis of people's livelihoods and how these have been changing over time;
- (b) Fully involves people and respect their views;
- (c) Focuses on the impact of different policy and institutional arrangements upon people/households and upon the dimensions of poverty they define;
- (d) Stresses the importance of influencing the policies and institutional arrangements in a way that promotes the agenda of the poor;
- (e) Works to support people to achieve their own livelihood goals;

It is contended that sustainable poverty reduction will be achieved only if external support works with people in a way that is congruent with their current livelihood strategies. Application of these livelihood approaches mentioned above might have a positive impact on the sustainability of rural livelihoods.

Campbell, Luckert, and Mutamba (2003:12) describe the sustainable livelihoods approach addresses the most pressing constraints faced by rural people and promise these opportunities open to people regardless of their social standing.

The livelihoods' approach also takes into account a holistic approach to rural livelihoods sustainability. As outlined in Campbell et al (2003:7) holistic means that the approach:

- (a) Is non-sectorial and applicable across geographical areas and social groups;
- (b) Recognizes multiple influences on people and seeks to understand the relationships between these influences and their joint impact upon livelihoods;
- (c) Recognizes multiple actors;

(d) Acknowledges that multiple livelihood outcomes must be determined and negotiated by the people themselves.

In this way, it looks at how various factors can be adjusted so that when taken together they produce more beneficial livelihood outcomes.

Seemingly, the sustainable livelihoods approach helps in the structuring of the analysis of the support required to support the poor (Murray, 2001:9). In particular, important aspects are a holistic analysis of strengths and an understanding of macro-micro linkages. Murray (2001:9), laid out a series of phases in developing a poverty reduction strategy using the sustainable livelihoods approach. This entails developing an interest and commitment to such strategies, organizing a proper detailed study, conducting and writing up the study and developing the strategy. Overall, the implementation of the strategy is significant in rural livelihoods.

## **2.8. Community rights and governance of natural resources**

The majority of Africa's human population relies on the resources that grow and live on land and the ecological services which underpin agricultural and pastoralist livelihoods (Nelson 2010:1). Resources are fundamental to rural and economic communities whose livelihoods depend directly on natural resources and people should not fail to manage those resources. Sustainable resource management requires reforms that secure greater land and resource rights at a local level. It is important that more effective strategies have to be devised to empower local groups of people to secure their livelihoods, territories and environment. Rural communities rely on agriculture, livestock and a range of natural product for food and income. Therefore, resources need to be conserved and managed in a sustainable way. To achieve this, it is important not only to focus on the natural resource management but also to focus on the political processes that determine the shape of resource governance institutions and how these changes over time. Nelson (2010:15) argues that by setting natural resource governance and policy formulation

within a broader context, it becomes apparent that efforts to devote authority over lands and resources are to borrow from prevalent governance patterns and power relations. The natural resource governance may be politically rational in the private realm while both environmentally and economically destructive in the public realm.

It is thus argued that governance has to start from the 'ground' up and involve networks and linkages across various levels of organization so as to sustainably manage natural resources. In doing so, viable incentives have to be created for local communities' involvement in conservation. Since livelihoods rely on a range of natural resources for sustainability, livelihood strategies have to be facilitated by the governance models and institutions in place. It is noted, however, that livelihoods encounter the challenge of being undermined if one specific form of land use is pursued far more in comparison to others. Davids and Francois (2014:13) assert that human and physical resources are continuously being sucked from rural to urban areas, leaving the rural areas with a shortage of resources.

## **2.9. People-centered development through sustainable livelihoods**

Davids et.al. (2014:20) refer to people centered development as development that accepts the wholeness of people with their environment. Therefore, people-centered development includes the protection of the natural environment. Rural livelihoods have to be empowered with people-centered development so that it can make them protect their territories and the environment. Sustainable development means that development can be sustained in the long run without adversely affecting the natural environment. People in rural areas have to be made the focus of development action and intervention though rural livelihoods are an economic perspective of development. Focus should further go as far as the needs, values, customs and understanding of the circumstances of the people, not only creating infrastructure. Ideally, development seeks to eradicate poverty and environmental degradation through fostering sustainable rural livelihoods should be prevented. Davids etal (2014:59) conceive of strong leadership as the driving force for

governance since in livelihoods good leadership has to take place so that sustainability can be maintained.

Overcoming poverty by strengthening the livelihoods of men and women living in poverty has to be the center of every development program. Livelihood strategies have to focus on the support for agriculture in view of its potential to contribute to rural poverty reduction which would then reduce the vulnerability of poor men and women by strengthening their asset bases so that they are better able to manage risks and uncertainty. This, in essence, would test the assumption regarding the importance of agriculture for rural families. Thus, focusing on people people-centered development requires critical understanding of gender dynamics in the diversification of livelihood strategies.

## **2.10. Local government role towards sustainable livelihoods**

People from rural communities should not only be the primary beneficiaries of development but should also be the key actors in transforming and democratizing local level development. Davids et al (2014:129) argue that an integrated development plan (IDP) should be used as the vehicle to mandate grassroots development and authentic and empowering public participation. It is argued that an IDP is a principal tool for bridging the gap between the current development realities, and the vision of equitable and sustainable development and service delivery. Davids et.al. (2014:133) conceive of an IDP as an approach to planning that includes the entire municipality and its communities with the view of finding the best solutions to achieve development that is sustainable.

Ideally, local government should be seen as a corporate entity consisting of a well-integrated administration, structures, and functionaries, and a beneficiary community. This derives from the understanding that communities are a center of the local government development through a variety of development strategies including the sustainable livelihoods strategy.

## **2.11. Agricultural land redistribution for sustainable rural livelihoods**

Increased access to land by family farmers can also lead to more vibrant local economies; given the fact that half of the world's population and 75 percent of its poor live in rural areas (Binswanger-Mkhize, Bourguignon & Van der Brink, 2009:10). Therefore, land redistribution should benefit the rural people since it would aid in enhancing sustainable rural livelihoods. For the stated reasons, Binswanger-Mkhize et al (2009:5) discuss that if implemented well, land redistribution can make an important contribution toward reducing poverty. It is noted, however, that although rural development holds the promise of reducing poverty significantly, its success will depend largely on small holders and poor households participating in the production. Arguably, well-targeted land redistribution programs have a meaningful impact on poverty reduction. This is so because when given good farmland, the rural poor can lift themselves out of poverty permanently. The argument advanced, therefore, is that redistributing land from large farmers to family farmers can bring efficiency gains to the economy. However, this will require Governments to intervene to boost the purchasing power of the poor and eliminate incentives for the wealthy to hold land for nonagricultural purposes (Binswanger-Mkhize et.al 2009:13). This should drive support from the fact that the masses of land-less laborers and tenants who derive their livelihoods from agriculture receive relatively less income because their only asset is labor. Hence, the poor must be provided with either the land or a grant to help them buy the land to compensate for their lack of equity.

One of the objectives of the fast track redistribution program is to reduce the intensity and extent of poverty among rural families and farmworkers by providing them with adequate land for agricultural use and to promote environmentally sustainable use of land through agriculture and ecotourism. It is worth noting though that a well-executed land reform program would come not only from a more intensive use of agricultural land but also from the multiple livelihoods created by a more dynamic rural economy based on a substantial increase in the number of small family farms.

## **2.12. The role of infrastructure towards sustainable rural livelihoods**

The expansion or quality improvement of infrastructural services can lower marginal costs and thereby raise not only the minimum efficient scale production and transportation but also marketing. A significant part of infrastructural contribution to growth and poverty reduction comes through its facilitation of international trade expansion. Brooks and Hummels (2009:1) argue that it expands both the scope for domestic absorption and supply to export markets, while stimulating linkages with and between different sectors and industries and encouraging innovation. A balanced infrastructure may benefit the rural livelihoods since it would lower the costs of maintenance of the livelihood. Infrastructural influences do not only give absolute but also comparative advantage (Brooks et al, 2009:11).

## **2.13. Integrating agricultural technology as sustainable rural livelihoods**

In the agricultural sector, knowledge has been generated through research and a greater number of technologies have been developed for their application to increase production and productivity by the agricultural scientists. However, the technology developed at the research stations cannot be applied in the existing farming situations under rural setting due to the limitations of infrastructure and other micro level factors. In light of this, Jamal and Arya (2004:3) maintain that technology development has to vary from situation to situation depending upon the extent of sustainable control over the environment. Notably, agriculture is the back bone of the rural communities. Therefore, the demand for agricultural production is increasing. Hence, agricultural development in the country should be guided not only by the compulsion of improving food and nutritional security but also by the concerns for environmental protection, eco-friendliness, sustainability, stability and profitability.

Agricultural livelihoods are not only a supplier of food but also a driving force for overall economic growth, employment generation, poverty alleviation, food security and

sustainability. It is argued that the failure of poor farmers not to adopt the new technology derives from their ignorance of the technology and how to relate it to their relation to the physical, ecological, social and economic conditions. It is also notable that even though technology may be improved every time to time rural communities seem to be ignorant of how to utilize it as a result of numerous factors they encounter. Therefore, when making technology available, the rural poor have to be considered and establish whether they would be able to utilize the technology or not.

The lack of sustainability may be shown by the decline of the productivity or sudden fall in production. Hence, it is of the utmost importance that the intricacies of socio-economic and ecological environment within which the farmers operate and resolve their problems should be responsive to their needs and priorities. Thus, Jamal et al (2004:25) suggest that it is better to interact with the villagers, understanding them and learning from them. Put differently, it is useful to focus attention on people, their livelihoods and their inter relationships with socio-economic and ecological factors. Notably, rural livelihood is integrally connected with seasonality (Jamal et. al. 2014:59). This is so since some seasons bring about differences in climatic conditions in crops grown given the availability of water, fuel and fodder, to mention but a few.

#### **2.14. The impact of communication technologies in rural livelihoods**

Communication and knowledge sharing capabilities of information and communications technologies have the potential of enhancing the livelihoods of the rural poor. Changes to the availability of technology, most evidently the mobile phone, have enabled access to information for a wide range of rural poor people. Grimshaw and Kala (2011:6) contend that the challenge of using technology is to understand better what business models and technology models work best in a given context. In rural livelihoods, the sharing of information is very important and this necessitates the adoption of new technologies.

In rural areas price and nutrient information are the only two information-based issues facing poor farmers. Grimshaw et.al (2011:15) assert that technology has a crucial role, and in particular, the mobile phone which increases the market price transparencies that foster higher incomes. It is argued that providing access to accurate and timely market price information without physically visiting markets is the first step in reducing transaction costs and allowing farmers to engage effectively in agricultural markets (Grimshaw et.al. 2011:16). However, effectiveness could be gained by increasing the flow of information as well as by facilitating the confluence of relevant actors and policies that affect rural livelihoods. As alluded to earlier on, with uncertainty due to climate change, agricultural practices have become more unpredictable. This poses a serious challenge to existing formal structures in terms of providing updated information for the farming community. Grimshaw et.al (2011:54) regard agriculture as the major source of livelihood for the rural poor since most communities depend on rain-fed agriculture and fragile forests for their livelihoods. Notably, farmers in rural areas have to deal with failed crops and animal illness frequently and due to limited communication facilities solutions to their patterns remain to the most part out of reach.

## **2.15. Livelihood legislative framework**

Livelihood approaches have considerable potential not only to improve the focus of the programs and the policies but also the overall strategic coherence of interventions that a government or donor uses to promote poverty reduction. Characteristically, rights and approaches to livelihoods are concerned with the practical means of development. This is so since rights have an impact on the livelihoods in the following manner:

### **2.15.1. Constitution of South Africa (1996)**

Chapter 2 section 24(b) provides that everyone has the right and access to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that prevent pollution and ecological degradation; promote conservation; and secure ecologically sustainable development

and use of the natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development. Therefore, livelihoods are recognized and need to be sustainable in relation to the use of the environment in its conserved form. Section 27 sub-section (1) (b-c) provides that everyone has a right to sufficient food and water and social security, even if they are unable to support themselves and their dependents, appropriate social assistance. Human rights approach is a powerful lever for civil society groups to demand state action for supporting the livelihoods of the poor. Furthermore, it provides guidance for prioritizing between the rights of the present and future generations. The use of non-renewable resources or exploitation of marginal environments and any gains in poverty reduction may be unsustainable. Identifying constraints on peoples' livelihoods, can help suggests which rights are most important for a particular group at a particular time or the sequence in which rights should be approached for a given group (Davids & Theron, 2014:35).

### **2.15.2. Rights and sustainability**

Section 2 subsection (7) of the South African Constitution conceives of the bill of rights as enshrining the rights of all people in our country and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom. Thus, the state must respect, promote and fulfill the rights in the bill of rights. Additionally, section 2 sub-section (9) provides that everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law. Equality includes the full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms. The state has to promote the achievement of equality and legislative and other measures designed to protect or advance persons, or categories of persons and those disadvantaged by unfair discrimination, may be taken. Through sustainable livelihoods, financial freedom may be achieved. Livelihood related rights help to contain social tensions which may result in civil disorder, crime and violence (Conway, 2007:21). Rights alone are not enough and as such they may have a little effect on livelihoods sustainability.

### **2.15.3 Cooperative Act (Act14 Of 2005)**

The Cooperative Act (Act14 Of 2005) promotes co-operative values of self-help, self-reliance, self-responsibility, democracy, equality and social responsibility. With these attributes, a viable, autonomous, self-reliant and self-sustaining co-operative movement can play a major role in the economic and social development of the Republic of South Africa particularly by creating employment, generating income, facilitating broad-based black economic empowerment and eradicating poverty. It is thus argued that the South African economy will benefit from increasing the number and variety of viable and sustainable economic enterprises which are indicative of the fact that government is committed to provide a supportive legal environment that will enable co-operatives to develop and flourish. Notably, cooperatives can be used in the context of livelihoods so that rural people may be empowered through them as the means of income of the rural poor.

### **2.16. Post 2015 development agenda**

The report of the IFAD post 2015 policy brief shows that poverty is often characterised by lack of participation in decision making and in civil, social and cultural life. What is then required is an empowerment approach to the future agenda which seeks to sustain livelihoods. The report states that the future agenda should promote policies and investments that enhance the capabilities and livelihoods of people living in poverty; especially those who belong to socially disadvantaged groups or live in hard to reach areas, which are often bypassed by economic growth.

Furthermore, empowerment is encouraged which thus concerns both accessing assets which allow having and using opportunities to increase one's earnings and to participate in shaping collective choices. The IFAD report probes into social and economic exclusion that result in unequal access to economic opportunities thus forming part and parcel of poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon which contributes to the challenges of rural livelihoods. Poor rural people face multiple deprivations not only because of the marginalization of rural areas and rural sectors in policy and public investments but also

as a result of the deterioration of the natural resource base and poor coverage of services and infrastructure, particularly in remote areas.

The natural resource management is central to the achievement of most of the millennium development goals. It is asserted in the IFAD report that the poorest people and households are dependent on natural resources for survival. One of the millennium development goals makes provision for environmental sustainability towards achieving sustainable livelihoods as it is imperative to conserve the resources available for the future. The MDG's focused on reducing extreme poverty in developing countries. However, Griggs (2013:306) argues that pursuing a post 2015 agenda focused only on poverty alleviation, undermines the purpose of the agenda.

The livelihoods are supported by the MDGs in a way that is geared towards the reduction of hunger by providing food security through livelihood opportunities. The demand of the world is that all nations make transition to sustainable lifestyles since there are water shortages, extreme weather, deteriorating conditions for food production, ecosystem loss, ocean acidification and sea-level rise which threaten the future of rural livelihoods. Griggs (2013:306) stresses that development which takes place should be development that meets the needs of the present while safeguarding the earth's life-support system on which the welfare of current and future generations depends.

Because of the challenges the country still encounters, MDGs are updated for 2030. The driving principles which remain are still those of reducing poverty and hunger, improving health and well-being and creating sustainable production and patterns. This is indeed a goal of improving lives and livelihoods of the people, especially the rural poor.

## **2.17. Transport and sustainable rural livelihoods**

In rural livelihoods, there are low vehicle ownership levels, inferior provision of roads and near absence of regular transport services. Although these challenges do not impede travelling, they nevertheless make this to take place at a very low pace contrary to what

is desirable in the circumstances. As a matter of fact, transport is an essential component of sustainable rural livelihoods. Thus, Fouracre (2001:4) argues that roads also improve livelihood outcomes through better access to natural assets and management of forest resources. Travel is evidently an essential component of the livelihoods as it is the main means by which local communities and individuals access the outside world. As such, it is the means of access to other facilities and services and a means to social bonding and development. It is sad though that women are less likely to be able to take advantage of rural transport improvements as they are less likely to possess their own independent source of income. This is despite the fact that transport stimulates improved agricultural production and marketing potential, therefore increasing income generation.

The argument being advanced here is that improving the efficiency and hence reducing the costs of the transport sector is an important contribution to sustainable development. It is noted, however, that this may not be a sufficient condition for yielding tangible benefits for the rural poor. Fouracre (2001:8) thus argues that transport as a service to the community impacts on the development option of many of their livelihood interests. This fact notwithstanding, it is worth noting Maunder, Daus, Bryceson, Howe, Mbari and Onweng's (2001:2) assertion that accessibility to supply services, facilities and work opportunities depend on transport affordable for the movement of people and their loads.

## **2.18. Conclusion**

This chapter probed into the relevant literature dealing with rural livelihoods. The researcher focused on those aspects which are significantly pertinent to the sustainability of rural livelihoods. It transpired from the review of the literature that rural communities experience poverty and are unable to sustain their livelihoods. Such failure on the part of the communities to sustain their livelihoods inadvertently impacts negatively on their wellbeing as rural communities. The following chapter deals with the research methodology that was used in this study.

# Chapter Three

## 3. Research Methodology

### 3.1. Introduction

Research methodology is the systematic, theoretical analysis of the methods applied to a field of study or the theoretical analysis of the body of methods and principles associated with a branch of knowledge. It is also defined as the study of the methods by which knowledge is gained (Rajasekar, Philominathan & Chimathambi, 2006:2).

In this study, the researcher used the phenomenological research method. Notably, the phenomenological researcher goes into the field with a framework of what will be studied. Thus, a phenomenological study is a study that attempts to understand people's perceptions, perspectives and understanding of a particular situation (De Vos, Strydom, Fouche & Delpont 2012:309). Therefore, in this chapter the researcher outlines the research methodology, research design, population, sampling, data collection as well as data analysis and interpretation methods that was used in this study.

### 3.2. Research design

A research design is a strategic framework for action that serves as a bridge between research questions and the execution or implementation of the research (Blanche et al., 2011:34). Barbbie, Marton, Vorcester and Prozesky (2012:72) conceive of the research design as the planning of scientific inquiry designing a strategy for finding out something.

It is notable that Ashley and Hussein (2000:22) used case studies conducted largely by and for national governments organizations. These authors assert that in assessing the cost of implementing a methodology, it is important to recognize not only costs to the agency but also those incurred by local people and institutions. In this study, the researcher used the qualitative research design given its explorative and descriptive

qualities. The qualitative method was chosen since it renders the research results more valid since it enables the participants to respond to questions in an unstructured way.

The researcher did not deem it necessary to use both quantitative and qualitative approaches as it will limit the collected data since the study will be more of participant's experiences and observations. Therefore, the researcher opted for the qualitative research design only. The knowledge and experiences of rural livelihood owners at Bomvini reserve have been central in enabling the researcher not only to gauge which of the strategies available can sustain the livelihoods but also to identify the challenges faced by the livelihoods, identify the resources required and the self-sustaining strategies that are implemented in the rural livelihood programs. It needs to be noted, therefore, that qualitative research relies on information gathered in words for its effectiveness as a research tool.

A research design, on the one hand, comprises all the decisions a researcher makes in planning a study. On the other hand, it refers to a phase in the process of research. Thus, research design is a plan for collecting and analyzing evidential data that enable the researcher to answer the questions under investigation (Metzler, 2014:112). De Vos, Strydom, Fouche and Delprt (2012:307) refer to research design as encompassing all those decisions a researcher makes in planning the study. Put differently, a research design is also defined as the option available to qualitative researchers to study certain phenomena suitable for their specific research goal. Terre Blanche, Durrheim and Painter (2011:34) define a research design as a strategic framework for action that serves as a bridge between research questions and the execution or implementation of the research. It is thus notable, therefore, that what differentiates research from other forms of observation is its designed and planned nature.

This study used a qualitative research design. Struwig and Stead (2010:13) define qualitative data as any information that the researcher gathers that is not expressed in numbers. Inherent in this approach is the interaction between the participants and the researcher in naturalistic settings with few boundaries, resulting in a flexible and open research process. Qualitative research deals with and is interested in meaning. It records the messiness of real life putting an organizing framework around it and interprets it in

some way (Braun et. al. 2013:20). Qualitative techniques examine how people learn about and make sense of themselves and others.

Overall, qualitative research is deemed to be exploratory, open-minded and organic. Characteristically, it produces in-depth, rich and detailed data from which to make claims and as such allows the researcher to focus on peoples' own framing around issues. The result effect of this is that a deeper understanding of phenomenon is gained. Braun et al (2013:4) construe qualitative research approach as an aspect of research seeking to understand and interpret more local meanings and takes into recognition the fact that data as gathered in context notwithstanding its potential of producing knowledge that contributes to more general understandings. Qualitative research properly seeks answers to questions by examining various social settings and the individuals who inhabit these settings (Bruce et. al, 2009:8).

According to Braun et al (2013:25) in qualitative research the focus is not on the language as used in the research but on the language that is used in that particular area. The interest is in how language gives shape to certain social realities and its impacts. Therefore, it is concerned with words and is typically experiential or experimental. In this study, language was not an issue when conducting research. The research was done in IsiZulu since the participants were Zulu speakers. The interest was basically in their experiences on livelihoods and not in their language. The approach that was used in this study is the phenomenological approach to qualitative research design. De Vos et al, (2011:316), on the one hand, describe phenomenology as an approach which aims to describe what the life world consists of, or more specifically, what concepts and structures of experience give form and meaning to it. It is the study that describes the meaning of the lived experiences of a phenomenon or concept for several individuals. It is intended to understand the phenomena under study on their own terms and, therefore, to provide a description of the human experience as it is experienced by the subjects. A phenomenological researcher goes into the field with a framework of what will be studied and how this will be done (De Vos et. al. 2011:305). Somehk and Lewin (2006:121), on the other hand, define phenomenology as the study of the lived, human phenomena within the everyday social contexts in which the phenomena occur from the perspective

of those who experience them. Phenomena describe anything that a human being experiences. The researcher asked questions directly from the participants since they are the ones who experience the context of rural livelihoods sustainability every day. The rationale used was to examine the experiences of the participants since they are directly involved. The participants were asked specific questions so as to give a closer access to practice and knowledge. The researcher asked open questions so as to encourage reflection upon everyday experiences by the participants. Somekh et al. (2006:128) assert that phenomenology have great benefits for eliciting unarticulated concerns hidden in the everyday. This approach to research made the researcher to be immersed in the surroundings of the research area.

### **3.3. Target Population**

A population is the sum total of all the cases that meet the definition of the unit of analysis (Mouton, 2013:135). Mouton (2013:134) defines population as a collection of objects, events or individuals having some common characteristic that the researcher is interested in studying. Furthermore, population is defined as the aggregate of all the cases that conform to some designated set of specifications. It is actually a set of elements of various kinds. In this study, the population is the livelihood owners existing in Bomvini Reserve. The community of Bomvini as a rural area was used as the population of the study. All owners of livelihoods are the relevant population of this study since the study sought to establish the challenges faced by the owners, the resources they use and sustainability strategies for rural livelihoods. Therefore, the target population for this study was the existing livelihood owners at Bomvini Reserve. So, purposive sampling was selected from this population.

The study was conducted at Bomvini reserve. People having the livelihoods at Bomvini reserve as their means of living constituted the population of this study. Notably, the population in research is the study object and comprises individuals, groups, organizations, human products and events or the conditions to which they are exposed. A population is the full set of a case from which a sample is taken (Terre Blanche, et al, 2011:53). The target population of this study was the rural livelihoods owners at Bomvini

reserve. The livelihood owners were the ones who had the experience of sustaining their livelihoods everyday thus they had much information to share. Hence, they were chosen as the target population for this study.

### **3.4. Sampling**

Sampling units are the elements about which information is sought and these elements in any specific sample depend on the objectives of the study. The researcher used the purposive sampling method and it consisted of 15 participants who were regarded as livelihood owners. In purposive sampling researchers rely on their experience to deliberately obtain units of analysis in such a manner that the sample they obtain may be regarded as being representative of the relevant population (Welman, et. al., 2009:69).

Sampling is a selection of participant for research purposes. When sampling, it is important that all the participants have experience of the phenomenon being studied. The researcher had to select participants based on their potential to purposefully inform an understanding of the research problem and central phenomenon in the study. Creswell (2013:157) views the sample size as entailing not only the study's few sites or individuals but also the collection of extensive detail about each site or individual studied. Therefore, the sample size has to be one of those critical aspects when deciding on a sample for research activities.

It is only with a representative sample that research findings for the whole population can be generalised. Obtaining information from a sample is often more practical and accurate than obtaining the same information from an entire universe or population (Struwig etal, 2010:109). Sampling is the logic of using a sample of subjects to make inferences about some larger population.

The type of sampling used in this research was purposive sampling. In this type of sampling, researchers used their special knowledge or expertise about some group to select subjects who represent this population. In some instances, purposive sampling is

done after field investigations on some group in order to ensure that certain types of individuals or persons displaying certain attributes are included in the study (Bruce et.al. 2009:51). De Vos etal (2012:391) explains that in non-probability sampling, the odds of selecting a particular individual are not known because the researcher does not know the population size or members of the population. In purposive sampling, a particular case is chosen because it illustrates some feature or process that is of interest for a particular study. This type of sampling is based entirely on the judgment of the researchers in that a sample is composed of elements that contain the characteristic most representative or typical attributes of the population that serve the purpose of the study best (De Vos, 2012:392).

Metzler (2014:179) avers that sampling decisions determine substantially what empirical material in the form of text becomes and what is taken from available texts concretely and how it is used. The selection of the participants in this study involved choosing purposefully the known potential participants to be the best when it comes to the experiences of how to deal with issues of sustainable livelihoods. From the population of rural livelihood owners, that's where the sample was selected to be part of this study.

### **3.5. Data collection**

In this study, the researcher used semi-structured questions for the interviews which were conducted with the participants. Semi-structured interviews were used since it is open and allows new ideas to be brought up during the interview as a result of what the interview says. The researcher asked open-ended questions allowing for a discussion rather than a straight forward question and answer format which could have restricted the responses of the interviewees. Like many individuals from the rural area of Bomvini, the participants were uneducated. This led to the researcher' deciding to use semi-structured questions for the scheduled interviews. The interview was the best method for the data collection in this study since it gave the participants the opportunity to give open-ended responses without being constrained. The interview schedule comprised 34 questions. The schedule comprises of three (3) sections namely. Section A, which elaborated on the study and the instructions and purpose of the study. Section B; which dealt with the

biographical data and finally, section C, which focused on the experiences and knowledge of the participants in relation to the sustainability of rural livelihood programmes in which they are apparently involved.

In this study, interviews were used as the method of data collection. De Vos et al (2012:341) explains that the purpose of the research must guide the researcher to choose the most effective method. In an interview, researchers obtain information through direct interchange with an individual or group that is known or expected to possess the knowledge they seek. The interview is a social relationship designed to exchange information between the participant and the researcher (De Vos et. al. 2012:342). Data collection in qualitative research is geared towards natural situations, everyday- life worlds, interaction and interpretation. Notably, a qualitative researcher is engaged in situations/ problems that are more tolerant, flexible, permissive and 'understanding' (Sarantakos, 1998:295).

Semi-structured interview questions were utilised in this study. These questions are defined as those organised around areas of particular interest, while still allowing considerable flexibility in scope and depth. Struwig et al (2010:98) argues that in semi-structured interviews predetermined questions are posed to each participant in a systematic and consistent manner. The participants are also given the opportunity to discuss issues beyond the confines of the questions. The researcher asked open-ended questions to which the participants had to respond. The researcher asked open-ended questions to get the knowledge from the participants. The researcher used an interview schedule during which the questions were read to the participants by the researcher. Whilst the participants responded to the questions posed to them, the researcher wrote down the responses. The interview was conducted in IsiZulu since the participants are Zulu speakers. Data was collected from the participants who were selected as having existing livelihoods in the area of Bomvini.

Notably, using open-ended questions in an interview allows the researcher and the participant much more flexibility. Participants share more closely in the direction the interview takes and they can introduce an issue the researcher has never thought of. In this relationship, participants can be perceived as the expert on the subject and should,

therefore, be allowed maximum opportunity to share their story (De Vos 2012:352). Interviewing gives the researcher the opportunity to get to know people quite intimately so that they can be better understood. From a constructionist perspective the interview is an arena within which particular linguistic patterns can come to the fore (Terre Blanche et al, 2011:297).

### **3.6 Data analysis and interpretation**

The researcher used the thematic method of analyzing qualitative data by focusing on the analysis of themes emerging from the data on which deductive reasoning was applied. This helped elicit information from the participants' experiences of the sustainability of the rural livelihoods. A careful consideration of data analysis strategies was ensured by keeping the design coherent as the researcher matched the analysis to a particular type of data whilst not losing sight of the purpose of research and also paying particular attention to the research paradigm, (Terre Blanche et. al., 2011:52). Methodology is broader, and refers to the framework within which our research is conducted. It consists of theories and practices for how we go about conducting research. (Braun & Clarke 2013:31). It provides of a package of assumptions of what counts as research, and how it is conducted, and the types collected. It gives suggestions on which methods are the most appropriate for a particular study. Braun et al (2013:31) further argue that methodology is a theory of how research needs to proceed, to produce valid knowledge and about the psychological and social world.

De Vos (2012:397) defines data analysis as a process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of collected data. Qualitative analysis contains a minimum of quantitative measurement, standardization and mathematical techniques (Sarankos 1998:313). Qualitative data analysis is a process of inductive reasoning, thinking and theorizing which certainly is far removed from structured, mechanical and technical procedures to make inferences from empirical data of social life. It is further asserted that qualitative analysis is an ongoing process involving continual reflection about the data, asking analytic questions, and writing memos throughout the study. Collection of data was merged with analysis (De Vos, 2012:401).

At the time of its collection, the data was coded, conceptually organised, interrelated, evaluated and used as a spring-board for further data collection. The analysis was made when the researcher was still working in the field and before data collection was finalised. It is thus notable that analysis of data involves data reduction which helps to identify important aspects of the issue in question. Moreover, it involves data organization which is the process of assembling information around certain themes and points, categorizing information in more specific terms and presenting the results in some form. It also involves interpretation whereby the researcher makes decisions and draw conclusions related to the research question.

In qualitative research the researcher has to identify different themes and code those encountered by means of a line-by-line analysis of each interview transcription. Codes have to be descriptive and characteristic of the data incident they present, rather than a mere naming or labeling. Thus, in this study, the data was grouped into themes. Then each and every questionnaire was used to analyse the data per theme created. The information was grouped into themes by using codes and these codes as defined by Stuwig et al, (2010:169), are labels that assign units of meaning to the information obtained. Notably, a code is linked to a word, a phrase, a sentence, a paragraph, or larger sections of data. Of importance to note, therefore, is that codes should be interpreted within a certain context in relationship to other codes and as suggested by Struwig (2010:172), the interpretation of data should not deviate from the research aims of the study as set out in the beginning of the research process.

### **3.7 Conclusion**

This chapter probed into the research methodologies that were used in this study. This chapter, therefore, discussed in detail the research design relating to how all the plans were undertaken in the study, the target population of the study in relation to the objectives of the study, sampling procedure which was used, data collection method, analysis of data and the method which was used when analysing data and interpreting the data. In this study, the researcher used qualitative methods of research throughout the whole research; from the planning of research to the whole process of research. The

next chapter probes into the research community profile of the Umhlathuze Municipality focusing on the area of research with the purpose of better understanding.

# Chapter Four

## 4. Data Analysis and Interpretation

### 4.1. Introduction

This chapter focuses on the data that was collected from fifteen (15) interviewees who are the livelihood owners. The themes that have been identified emerged from the interviews that were held between the researcher and the participants. This chapter starts with a brief profile of the participants so as to get familiar with the participants and there after it continues with the themes which emerged from the discussions held. The themes were identified from the data that was collected then each theme has sub themes which are related to the main theme.

Thus, in this chapter, the researcher presents analyses and interprets the data that was collected using the qualitative research method which is the interview method, to be more precise. Notably, qualitative data refers to any information that the researcher collects and is not expressed in numbers. As such, it includes information such as words, pictures, drawings, paintings, photographs, films, videotapes, music and sound tracks (Struwig et. al. 2010:13). Thus, qualitative data probes into the experiences of the people who are involved in a specific phenomenon every day. As indicated earlier on, the data was collected at Bomvini reserve focusing on the challenges faced by the owners of the livelihoods, the resources essential for the sustainability of these rural livelihoods, the strategies for the sustainability of these livelihoods and the self-sustainability of rural livelihoods.

The researcher interviewed the rural livelihood owners in order to acquire information from them since they are the ones who are hands-on with the sustainability of their respective livelihoods. From the information that was collected, specific themes which had initially been used to analyse the data which had been collected were developed. Additionally, the researcher's observations mediated in the interpretation of the findings of the study. The data was collected from the sample which was selected from a population of rural livelihoods at Bomvini. The method of sampling that was used to select

the participants from the population was the purposive sampling. Thus, the researcher selected the participants on the basis of the knowledge she has about the population. It bears repeating at this stage of the discussion that this study was conducted with the aim of establishing that the challenges of rural livelihoods can be addressed meaningfully if responsive programs specifically designed for such were to be implemented. To this end, therefore four objectives of rural livelihoods sustainability at Bomvini were formulated and these were:

- (a) To explore the challenges faced by the rural livelihoods;
- (b) To explore the resources that is sustaining the rural livelihoods;
- (c) To explore the strategies for overcoming the challenges of rural livelihoods;
- (d) To explore the strategies for implementation of self-sustaining rural livelihoods.

**4.2. Biographic Information of the Participants of the Study**

Fifteen participants who are the livelihood owners were sampled from the population and were solicited to participate in this study. All the participants whose participation was solicited are from Bomvini reserve as it was chosen as the area of study. It is worth noting, therefore, that as the study strictly adheres to the ethical principles which entail confidentiality and anonymity, the researcher was obligated not to reveal the exact identity of the participants as would have been the case in other circumstances where such issues of ethics are not foregrounded. As a result, the participants were given numbers from 1 to 15 as their pseudo names. The participants are outlined below following will be a brief profile of the participants.

Participant 1	A female aged between 21 and 30 who sells airtime
Participant 2	A male aged between 45 and 65 who owns a scrapyard

Participant 3	A female aged between 36 and 45. She sells chicken and eggs.
Participant 4	A female aged 65 who makes and sell traditional mats.
Participant 5	A female aged between 45 and 65 who works in a community garden project.
Participant 6	A male aged 45 and 65 who owns rental houses.
Participant 7	A female aged 65 who works at a garden project.
Participant 8	A female aged between 36 and 45 who owns six rental houses.
Participant 9	A male aged above 65 who owns a sugarcane plantation.
Participant 10	A male aged between 36 and 45 who is on informal vendor.
Participant 11	A male aged between 46 and 65 who builds and sells blocks for a living.
Participant 12	A male aged between 21 and 35 who owns a salon.
Participant 13	A male aged between 36 and 45 who is a photographer and videographer.
Participant 14	A male aged between 36 and 45 with rental houses.
Participant 15	A male aged between 45 and 65 who owns rental houses.

Following below, therefore, are the brief profiles of the participants:

### **Participant 1**

Participant number (1) was as a female aged between 21 and 30 and she lives with her family comprising of the grandparents and the younger brothers and sisters. The participant was not employed and the only people who provided for food were the grand parents of the participant. This first participant was selected to participate in the study because she had a livelihood where she sells airtime in order to generate an income for herself. The participant did not pursue further studies at the tertiary level which is why it was the most viable option for her in the circumstances was to sell airtime as a vendor. It is thus obvious that the participant did not have formal educational skills attained through institutionalised formal training.

### **Participant 2**

Participant number 2 was a male aged between 45 and 65. He lived with his family and owned a scrap yard. The participant was not only the head of his house but was also the provider of the family. Educationally, the participant completed grades which fall between grade 7 and grade 12. He did not have any other means of earning an income other than relying on the income he receives from the scrapyards. The second participant acquired the necessary skills of dealing with cars at the time when he was working at another person's scrapyards prior to him securing his own scrapyards. Given the amount of work involved in the scrapyards, the participant has secured employees to help him with the running of the scrapyards.

### **Participant 3**

The third participant was a female aged between 36 and 45. She was the head of the house and she lived with her children. Her livelihood from which she earns her income derives from selling chicken and eggs. Her position of being the head of the house is accounted for by the fact that she was a widower. Although this participant did not pursue tertiary education, she has nevertheless attained a high school grade -which falls between

7 and 12. Despite her having no higher educational skills, she has acquired self-taught skills which, unfortunately, render her knowledge on animal production too little for rendering the most commendable service delivery as is expected in any business adventure irrespective of whether this is done as a sole proprietor or as a partnership. As a single parent, the parental duty of ensuring that her children do go to school falls squarely on her shoulders with no one to lean on to. In addition to overseeing the children's educational needs, the participant has to make provision for their subsistence as a parental duty the breach of which would not only be legally reprehensible but would also invite the imposition of the sanction applicable in such circumstances.

#### **Participant 4**

Participant number 4 was a female aged 65 and she is an old woman who makes traditional mats (*icansi*) and sells them to earn an income. The fourth participant has to take care of her grandsons and grand-daughters. The government pension money which the participant received every month was not enough to satisfactorily provide for the needs of this family. Educationally, she attained grades ranging only between 0 and 7. Consequently, she was counted among those who have no marketable skills deriving from institutionalised formal training. Despite these odds, she had skills for making mats as this skill can be acquired through informal exposure to the art of making mats.

#### **Participant 5**

Participant number 5 was a female aged between 45 and 65. She works in the garden project with some of the members of the project. Whatever they produce in the garden gets sold to other people in order to earn some income. The income received is saved at the bank account opened for the project and the profit which would have accrued after the expiry of a specific projected period of time is then split and shared among the members of the project. The fifth participant has no formal planting skills because she has never received any formal education on how to plant the crops effectively. Educationally, she has attained educational grades between 0 and 7. Thus, for the group

to succeed in the garden project, they have to work together as team members so as to receive better returns from the sales of their products.

### **Participant 6**

Participant number 6 was a male aged between 45 and 65 and he owns rental houses which he has built for purposes of having them rented. As he is working the income he receives from the houses being rented merely supplements his salary. Educationally, he has attained a tertiary qualification from which he derives the skills for his full-time employment as an electrician. These acquired skills are used as his livelihood. The participant extends the use of his electrical knowledge for his personal benefit in the event of there being a failure of power in his rental houses. The participant has the responsibility of taking care of his big family as the family members are unemployed which leaves him as the only breadwinner in his family.

### **Participant 7**

Participant number 7 is a female aged 65 and she is working in the garden project with other members all of whom are as old as she is. Once they have made some sales they divide the income amongst themselves. These old people work so that they can be able to supplement the pension money they receive from the government. The garden project is remotely situated from where they reside and as a result they have to travel a very long distance to the field. It is notable that because of the long distance these old women have to travel, at times it becomes impossible for them to go to work in the fields. Notably, therefore, participant 7 does not have formally acquired skills as she acquired these gardening skills through exposure to the work environment.

### **Participant 8**

Participant number eight (8) was a female aged between 36 and 45. She owned six house owns which she uses for rental houses to support her big family. In order to build these rental houses, she managed to secure land. It is notable, though, that the financial gain

which derives from her rental houses, she still encounters some challenges that hinder the effective sustainability of her livelihood. It was also notable that her being female poses tremendous challenges which potentially comprise the safety of her tenants.

### **Participant 9**

Participant number nine (9) was a male aged above 65 and owns a sugar cane plantation from which he derived his income. As he was not educated, he did not have any formal skills. As a result, he has to negotiate when he needs the services of a truck when it is time to harvest the sugar cane with the purpose of having it sold. Given the fact that he is the eldest in the family, he single-handedly shoulders the responsibility of supporting his huge family of grandchildren who, by virtue of being still at school, depend on him for their subsistence.

### **Participant 10**

Participant number 10 is an informal male vendor aged between 36 and 45). He sells vegetables, snacks and some other stuff in his small place he built. Since his wife and children were not working, they solely depend on him financially. Thus, given the fact that the wife and the children were not employed, this gives them the opportunity to help him with the selling as and when the situation allows them to do so. Although this participant was a vendor he was an astute business person who runs his business with acumen.

### **Participant 11**

Participant number 11 was a male aged between 46 and 65 and his entire family depend on him financially livelihood derives from making building blocks and sell them. Additionally, he owns trucks which he uses fetch and sell sand to people who need it for building purposes. Although the livelihoods from which he derives his income are away from his home, people from the Bomvini area are the ones who use his services.

## **Participant 12**

Participant 12 was a male hairdresser and Barber aged (21-35) from a big family of uneducated individuals who are school dropouts. He worked from his house and his business is supported by his immediate community members to whom he renders his services. Notably, although this participant earns an income, he deems this not as sufficient enough to put food on the table. As a consequence, he used his income for his own needs to the exclusion of the family. Thus, the family members, despite them being uneducated, have to fend for themselves.

## **Participant 13**

Participant 13 was a male aged between 36 and 45. Occupationally, he was a video maker and is hired when there are events affording him the opportunity not only to make videos but also to take photos. Additionally, he takes pictures even at home in a small studio that he built whenever a person wants a picture. So, given the small studio that he has at his house, his taking of pictures is not confined to his official business place. Although photo and video making are an important aspect for every occasion nowadays, he did not seem to have mastered the use of technology to the maximum benefit. Such shortcoming arises from his competence in the use of the many devices that people in general use to take pictures and make videos. As a result of this, keeping his livelihood sustainable has become a serious challenge as he is not abreast of technological developments.

## **Participant 14**

Participant 14 was a male aged between 36 and 45 with renting houses for tenants adjacently situated to his houses. The tenants pay him monthly the amount agreed upon. Although rental housing might seem a simple livelihood to sustain, the participant faced many challenges as regards the sustainability of the livelihood. The 20 rooms he has for renting are all occupied. Despite him securing a seemingly reasonable income monthly

from the renting of his rooms, he was, however, not necessarily enjoying the income he gets to the absolute since he had a big family which depends on him. The situation is compounded by the fact that some of the family members are studying at the tertiary level and, as a consequence, he supported all the household members.

### **Participant 15**

Participant number 15 was a male aged between 45 and 65. He owned rental houses in addition to the work he has at Transnet given his educated training. For purposes of securing his property intruders, he has hired security guards to render security services especially at night against would-be intruders whilst he is away preoccupied with other business relate matters. Given the measures he has put in place to secure his property and business interest; he seemed to have his livelihood relatively under control. Judging from the two income streams he had secured for himself, it is arguably easier for him to overcome the challenges faced by rural livelihood given his sound financial viability when compared with other individuals.

As a researcher, I have deemed it necessary to remark on the context in which the study was conducted. As argued by Struwig et al (2010:12), qualitative researchers are very interested in understanding the issues being researched from the perspective of the research participants. Notably, qualitative research reflects certain approaches to knowledge production. As a matter of fact, qualitative data include information such as words, pictures, drawings, paintings, films and videotapes. This means that qualitative researchers study phenomena in its natural setting to make sense of this setting and thus have it interpreted in accordance to the experiences of the people inhabiting such a setting.

It bears repeating, therefore, that the community in which the study was conducted is called Bomvini reserve. As indicated earlier on, Bomvini is an area under Umhlathuze municipality which is situated in KwaZulu-Natal and is clustered under the King Cetshwayo district. Historically, it was a place where people used to plant sugarcane and some food crops. Now, they are unable to continue doing so because of the shortage of

farming land and finances. In terms of jurisdiction, this area falls under Madlebe traditional authority which implies that its governance is overseen by both the traditional council and the Umhlathuze Municipality.

### 4.3. Themes that emerged from the collected data

The data was collected from interviews from the rural livelihood owners in Bomvini reserve. The themes that emerged from the collected data are indicated below. Each theme mentioned below is further divided into subthemes. The main themes that have been identified are:

Theme 1	Challenges faced regarding rural livelihood schemes.
Theme 2	Inadequacy of resources.
Theme 3	Strategies towards sustainability of rural livelihoods.
Theme 4	Self-sustainability of rural livelihoods.

In respect of the presentation of both themes and sub-themes which emerged from the interviews, an interpretation or verbatim quotation is used in support of what is presented as an explication of what transpired from the interviews. Furthermore, relevant literature is used to support the views, points or arguments.

#### **Theme 1: Challenges faced by rural livelihoods**

Findings of this study revealed different challenges faced by rural livelihoods. The common understanding is that the interventions of development structures are of lack in all the livelihoods. The feeling the participants have is that they feel neglected and they

end up being discouraged. One of the participant mentioned that, *'we've been waiting for the councilor to arrive ever since we asked for his intervention, he promised to come yet till today he hasn't come and there are no apologies nor any information on why he doesn't come.'*

Most participants believed that if ever there were no too many promises from the side of the government their livelihood status would be of different state. The fact that the rural people are illiterate it makes them to be dependent on the development structures. One of the participants mentioned that, *'if ever we are being helped by some of the structures we would be telling them our problems and what we want them to do for us, we end up being discouraged to work more because we have no one to help us'*. Since promoting rural livelihoods, it can be a very important factor of rural development. Since rural people are the ones who are subjected to be poor they need to be helped to overcome their challenges. There are so many challenges that they face. Some of the participants denied being the part of the study; they felt like if ever people come they make too many promises which are not kept.

The participant's views are supported and extended by literature. Davids, Theron and Maphunye (2009:40), states that the perspective stressed is the participation of individuals and communities in defining and solving their own problems. By focusing on vulnerability or the poverty per se, the issues that emerge may not be the lack of an income or even unemployment, but rather some of the factors such as the family breakdown or social problems. Davids et. al. (2009:40), states that individuals have to be enabled to lead a long and healthy life in which they are educated and have access to a decent standard of living. Included in this are that ensuring that human rights are upheld and that political and social freedoms and secure. As the dependency theory maintains, the class nature of society also determines the kind of development for each class. Mulligan (2015:168) states that when it comes to the challenges of sustainability, particular people or organisations will have a duty or obligation to motivate sustainable behavior. Fox and Rooyen (2004:83) give an indication that the current challenges and opportunities for Africa's rural poor warrant renewed consideration of the strategies to be implemented to achieve sustainable development.

### **Sub-theme 1.1.: Season changes**

The majority of the participants had the problem when the season changes. The effect made by climate affected their livelihoods by different reasons. The reason the researcher asked this question was to find out the effect season change have on the sustainability of the livelihoods. Participants who had garden projects were the most affected due to climate change since there's a shortage of water in the country. One of the participants said: *"It is very difficult for us to work since there is shortage of water and it would be better if summer comes with rain."* Some of the plants which need much water were not planted because some plants are planted according to their seasons. The other participant who has a scrapyard stated that he has a challenge when its winter since it takes time for the paint to dry. Only participants with rental housing who are not affected with the season changes but all other participants were affected by season changes. Uberoi (2003:95) looks at global warming as a factor which causes season changes to cause an imbalance in the ecosystem which would affect the economy and business. Therefore, looking at season changes, it affects the livelihoods in many ways even with drought and floods which could have a negative impact on the crops planted. Jamali et.al (2004:59) as cited in chapter 2 state that rural livelihoods are integrally connected with seasonality and that season bring about differences in climatic conditions which in turn influences the living conditions in rural areas.

### **Sub-theme 1.2.: Price and Market increase**

The market prices increased affected all the livelihoods. All the participants had the challenges with the increase of the market prices. Some stated that it lowers development since they end up gaining little profit. One of the participants said *'the increase of the market prices makes me to fight with my customers because they don't want the prices*

*to increase. I end up losing customers because I have to increase the prices and the customers complain about that, which affects the relationship I have with my customers'.* Each year the inflation rate increases the market prices, consequently the livelihoods faced a challenge. Some don't even understand why the prices increase and do they have to do to overcome the increase of the prices, they end up making a loss instead of the profit.

The Department of Agriculture is said to be sponsoring the garden projects with `materials they need. They are given the seeds, manure and watering cans; even though not everything is given to them but at least they get help in terms of the prices and money they use. Mulligan (2005:218) argues that the elevated prices are creating food shortages in many parts of the world on a scale of global food crisis. Due to this the market prices raise which forces the livelihoods to increase their prices. It then becomes a challenge since rural people may not understand the reason for the increase of the prices. The improvement of people's livelihoods is dependent on a system of markets where they can bring and sell their products. This can include both informal and formal marketing, and make different use of different forms of monetary and non-monetary exchange. Fox et. al. (2004:83) states that colonial governments maintained monopolies in marketing and input supply that enforced prohibitions on sales and raised prices on inputs.

### **Sub-theme 1.3.: Lack of infrastructure**

The majority of the participants felt that the lack of infrastructure is a challenge to their livelihoods. The lack of the tarred road had an effect on the transport costs. Transport is expensive when it will go on gravel roads. The price of transport increase which makes it difficult for the livelihood owners to hire transport. Some felt like if ever they had water tanks in their households that would aid them when water becomes a problem. The lack of street lights also has an effect on the sustainability of the livelihoods. One of the participants said *'if ever we had street lights I could work till late, that would help the*

*livelihood to run faster and have more income. The problem is that I also encounter is the break-in of the thieves who take the advantage of the darkness*'. The infrastructure was a big challenge towards sustainability of rural livelihoods. One enduring reality is that existing energy supply infrastructures in rural areas are insufficient to protect livelihoods and meet the needs for basic services. Mulugetta, Doig, Dunnett, Jackson, Khennas and Rai (2005:3) states that an effective strategy for energy development must incorporate options to improve and extend energy supply structures and infrastructures. But it must also seek to allocate resources efficiently and improve quality of services delivered. There are so many relation of infrastructure to rural livelihoods and cannot solely function on separation. Infrastructure has to be delivered to rural communities to take part in sustaining rural livelihoods. Fox. et. al (2004:83) regards the Africa's current rural development situation as characterised by under capitalisation and lack of infrastructure. Furthermore, Fox et. al (2004:83) states that in many areas, proper roads to deliver produce to markets do not exists. Such infrastructural limitations affect the livelihoods.

#### **Sub-theme 1.4.: Lack of development intervention**

The majority of participants communicated a lot about the intervention of the development structures. The participants feel like they are neglected. They were promised so much yet the promises are not kept. They say many people come and promise them many interventions and support but they end up not keeping their promises. They say when they need time or make a request they just get empty promises. One of the participants said *'we have been waiting for the councilor to come and help us initiate this project properly, he promised to come yet he hasn't. We even need fencing yet he cannot help us because he doesn't come to us to hear our problems'*. Intervention is seen to be a very important aspect when it comes to developing rural people. Another participant said: *"We are neglected and forgotten in these parts. We were promised so much, yet very little materialises. Officials come here and promise us some interventions and support, but they end up not keeping their promises."* People in total areas needs assistance when they initiate something, they can't work on their own. Independence is the term that has to be promoted when working with people in rural areas. Rowan-Campbell (1999:109),

states that interventions must address the root cause of the problem, which means examining the issue in the context of equal gender relations. National government organizations (NGOs) have a direct involvement with the community; they need to intervene when they are closely involved with the community, can form a good relationship with the community and understand the various aspect of the problem. Therefore, NGOs are in a position to sensitise government representatives. Fox et. al. (2004:83) looks at the post-colonial policies as ineffective in reversing the poor not benefiting. Rural areas resulted being neglected in rural and agricultural development, especially with regard to smallholders which are livelihoods.

### **Sub-theme 1.5.: Lack of participation in decision making**

The majority of the participants responded to be not part of the decisions which takes place in the community. They are not involved in the development meetings. The researcher attended the war room where the community is supported to be there but they do not attend. People do not know Operation Sukuma Sakhe as the initiative that develops the community. All of the participants were asked if ever they do attend the war rooms but they said they don't even know the term. Therefore, it is important that the community is made aware of the development interventions so they would be able to state their challenges and perhaps get help from there. One of the participants said '*we do not know anything called a meeting and we are never told about the decisions they take. They just give everything to us without getting our concern*'. Participation of community members is important in decision making so that they would feel to own their livelihoods than waiting for being called to meetings where they would be given resources for free. It would also give the development structures to opportunity to know the challenges faced by rural livelihoods. One of the participants said: "*It makes us suspicious and it seems as if only their friends are called to attend these meetings – we never are part of the decisions being made or the outcomes of these meetings.*" Obviously there is a breakdown in communication and should proper scientific strategies be followed to involve everyone and make them aware of all the developmental interventions so that they can make use of it.

Rowan-Campbell (1999:79) states that participatory development involves more than simply asking people what they want and then providing it, regardless of the probable consequences or the prospects for success. It is vitally important that the community is engaged in a thorough process of self-assessment, in order to ascertain what would benefit them over the long term. Therefore, it is not enough to consult beneficiaries and then act on their behalf but it is better to begin with one's intentions. However, it is not usually enough to engage people in a development process if the conceptual orientation and the language of that process do not relate to their experience, and if they lack the tools to assess their needs effectively and to know what options are available to bring about constructive change.

Participation of rural livelihoods development is not only about achieving the more efficient and more equitable distribution of material resources, it is also about the sharing of knowledge and the transformation of the process of learning itself in the service of people's self-development. Rowan Campbell (1999:81) further states that for the level of knowledge transformation to be effective, knowledge located outside needs to be transferred into the community, just as knowledge within the community needs to reach the development agents and sponsoring agents. People's participation is both a methodology and a strategic goal of development. Therefore, people's development for rural livelihoods is an important aspect for the sustainability of their livelihoods.

### **Sub-theme 1.6.: Gender Impacts**

Six out of fifteen participant participants were female. It looks as if females are still disempowered. Before the democratic South Africa, they were disempowered. However, post-apartheid programs were designed to empower women but still as per the researcher's observation females are still disempowered. One of the participant said: "It is better if you are a male because people trust more in you and you have more opportunities." The participants felt that the job of putting food on the table is for the males. Even those who have livelihoods they still don't believe in themselves. One

participant added the following: *“Many women still feel that men have to put food on the table – we as women do not believe in ourselves.”* One single woman participant said: *“If I had a husband who would help me I would be much better off.”*

Rowan-Campbell (1999:86) states that it is important that women are the agents of the process of development not just the beneficiaries of it. A commitment to sustainable organisations needs to be integrated into all project efforts, not only to facilitate the direct, immediate participation of the poor and women but also to ensure that these efforts support long-term engagement, education and action. Efforts should be made to identify, support, and extend them where they exist and to support the efforts of the poor and women to organise in new ways, (Rowan-Campbell, 1999:87). The rural poor do not participate in development on an equal basis with the rich, nor do women participate on an equal basis with men, owing mainly to their pre-existing, subordinate position in the society. Legislative obstacles may prohibit the rural poor from organizing themselves, or limit the right of women to participate in the community activities by putting in place those in power or with access to power. Limitations imposed by daily life disadvantages women in rural communities by factors including the isolation and scattered habitat of the rural poor, their low levels of living and their heavy workloads. Women need to be directly involved in formal structures to represent them for the development of the livelihoods. Van't Hooft, Wollen and Bhandari (2012:45) states that with a view to alleviating poverty, special attention needs to be given to women. United Nations Millennium development goal number 3 states as: Reducing gender inequality; therefore, this goal has to be practiced even in rural communities. Van't Hooft et.al (2012:52) states that opportunities for women are not only to increase household income but also to control a larger portion of it, thus reducing gender inequality.

Davids et.al (2009:41) states that South Africa is a case in point where it was the colour of the peoples' skin, their locality, and their gender that determined their wealth or poverty. Moreover, Davids et.al. (2009:41) further states that black rural women were the poorest in the poor in South Africa. It was the black women who had to bear the blunt of poverty and who still the rural poor. This was because of the former apartheid government who oppressed women in a sense that they became vulnerable. Therefore, the democratic

government had to work against the former laws against women. This brings the sense of why rural women are still oppressed and are still the culprits of the underdevelopment. Furthermore, Davids et. al. (2009:236) suggests that governments should ensure that effective laws and agencies prevent violence, harassment and discrimination against women and promote affirmative action. Gender related constraints are still an existing issue in Africa.

## **Theme 2: Resources Inadequacy**

Livelihoods cannot function without the necessary resources. The majority of the participants find it difficult to overcome the problem of the shortage of the resources. The participants find it difficult to overcome the shortage of resources. There has been the load shedding which really made a downfall on the livelihoods. There's also the shortage of water, livelihood owners also find it very difficult to overcome such shortages. One of the participants said '*It becomes difficult for me to overcome the problem of the shortage of water because it's the basic need of life but then at times I run short of it.*' There are no longer rivers now where the livelihoods could benefit when they need water while it's not on the tap. It becomes a major issue to be out of water and electricity. Not only water and electricity are of the important resources there are so many resources that will be discussed into details as sub-themes of the main theme called resources inadequacy. Resource management involves controls relating to the amount, quality, timing, availability and general direction of resource development, (Fox et. al. 2004:85). Communities have to be empowered for their own environments. Fox et. al. (2004:85) suggests that resource management strategies should be focused on exploitation, together with the simultaneous enhancement and restoration of resources. Pound, Snapp, McDougall and Braun (2003:2) state that a reversal of environmental degradation requires new livelihood options that change people's incentives, in particular the benefits and costs of the resource use. When innovation in resource management is driven by perceived tradeoffs, participatory assessments of livelihood strategies are important for developing a common understanding of how these depend on natural resource assets. Pound et.al. (2003:8) suggests participatory natural resource management, which is

sharing knowledge among stakeholders to build a common analysis of a problem and its solutions is a characteristic of participatory resource management. All stakeholders should be part of the resource management. A number of themes developed from this main theme are discussed below.

### **Sub-theme 2.1.: Transport**

Transport is a major problem for the livelihoods. If they need resources they need to hire transport for the resources to reach their place. The majority of the participants mentioned to have a problem with transport. One of the participants who has a chicken livestock and who sell eggs said *'the major problem I encounter is when I have to transport the eggs for selling; it becomes very difficult because I have to travel by a taxi to the people who have placed their orders.* Another participant who has a garden project said *'when it's time to sell the vegetables to people it becomes difficult because there is no transport to take us there and we have to go with our own feet with the vegetables on our head.* Transport was the big issue when it comes to the rural livelihoods because since they have gravel road it becomes expensive to hire the car. If ever the car is hired to go to a rural place it becomes expensive because of the roads they have. So then livelihoods have a big problem when it comes to the transport issue. It's better if the livelihood owner has got his or her own transport because he/she doesn't have to hire anyone. De Las Heras (2014:270) states that cars have replaced transit or public transport, the demise of which can be traced to conspiracies involving car companies.as a result urban growth now takes place around roads which is only accessible by car and require extensive parking lots. This therefore gives a view that transport is a very essential source for the livelihood sustainability.

### **Sub-theme 2.2.: Water insufficiency**

The majority of the participant's livelihoods were affected by the shortage of water. The shortage of water was the main reason the livelihoods had challenges as it indicates the problem of the basic of life. Some of the participants who had garden projects felt like at least they had the tank to save water for irrigation. One of the participants said: *"Since*

*water is the basic need of life, none can live without water and it is used for so many purposes. We have a problem that the municipality has to address urgently*". The participant work so hard to have water using their head to transport water to the garden for irrigation purposes. Water is the challenge for actually all the livelihoods. Since water is the basic need of life, none can live without water and it is used for many useful purposes. There is an alarming shortage of water; Mulligan (2015:115) also states that an increasing use of groundwater supplies for agriculture is causing an alarming fall in underground water tables. Growing public concerns about the pollution of waterways, rising costs for maintaining water supplies and for dealing with streams of waste water, and new efforts to put price water access rights, may be shifting public opinion slowly. (Mulligan, 2005:197).

There is a challenge of water scarcity in this time. All livelihoods depend on water as a basic resource for sustainability. Therefore, livelihoods are at a very difficult point where by the water issue is really a challenge. Sustainability means that the resources are not wasted but are preserved even for future generations. People need to take more personal responsibility for reducing water waste. Irrigated agriculture accounts for around 70 % of global freshwater use; people need to be educated about saving water and at some points reduce the use of freshwater for irrigation purposes. Climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies must also focus on the needs and capabilities of the resource-poor, ( Van'tHooft, 2012:52). Uberoi (2003:184) acknowledges that the country has come a long way in improving access to water especially to the poor and those in the far-flung remote areas, and becoming self-sufficient in food grain requirements. However, the access to fresh water is still a concern for the rural livelihoods. An issue of paying for water is on, the long-overdue price reforms be undertaken such that the price of water and related inputs such as fertilisers and power in the case of agriculture reflect the cost of providing these services. Dalal-Clayton and Bass (2002:9), state that fragile aquatic environments such as coral reefs and freshwater wetlands are under considerable threat from land-based pollution, destructive fishing techniques and dam construction, as well as climate change. Therefore, it is clear that livelihoods with a threat of finally losing water for sustainability.

### **Sub-them 2.3.: Land redistribution**

Land redistribution is applied when giving equal opportunities of receiving land to people whose land was taken away from them during apartheid time. However, some were never given their land back. At times the people would be using a huge land to plant or even for the resources they need. In addition, the participants indicated that they end up being unable to have as enough land as possible to do their projects. Moreover, when they needed to ask for a place from the authorities which take a long time for a response. As a result, they end up being discouraged to pursue with their livelihoods.

The researcher observed the land of the garden projects as small compared to the number of the members of the garden project. One of the participants said *'It's difficult for us to even plant more crops because of the land we received, we would be even planting more vegetables but because of land we were given we cannot'*. The land redistribution should be revised and priority be given to people of livelihoods so they would develop themselves. The authorities of the place should give land to people who need to use it for the livelihoods.

Rowan-Campbell (1999:83), states that the new agricultural technologies increases over-all output but it makes the conditions worse of the rural poor who lacked access to land. The benefits are for large land holders, who expand their acreage by evicting tenants and buying or leasing land from small holders. Access to land is an important aspect for rural livelihoods since they need enough land to sustain their livelihoods. Therefore, it is important that equity is maintained when rural livelihoods are given land. Uberoi (2003:224) states that land is a source of livelihood for almost 60% of the population through agriculture and related activities. However, land suffers from different types and varying degrees of degradation which in turn has a direct bearing on food production and the livelihood of people. However, Pound et.al. (2003:21), argue that the natural resource management faces multiple challenges if it is to contribute to environmental sustainability, improved livelihoods and equitable social development. Jones and Carswell (2004:5), states that assumptions are that expanding farming population progressively degrade

forest land and resources and a widely held view that the conversion of land for agriculture is the major cause of deforestation. The Development Facilitation Act 65 of 1995 supports the land access and to land development.

#### **Sub-theme 2.4.: Lack of involvement and access to technology**

The majority participants did not have used media to market their livelihood. Social media nowadays is a very important platform to market whatever services a person offers. It's the cheapest way of marketing and getting known by people. However, the rural people are not exposed to the idea of marketing their livelihoods through social networks. It happens that old people are the ones who are more involved in livelihoods which make it difficult for them to use technology. Rural people have no computer skills for running their livelihoods in a faster and modern way; they only use manual and old methods for their livelihoods. One participant said *'those things are not good, ever since the world introduced this technology it has changed. I will never associate myself with the social media or technology is not for me.'* It is non- negotiable that technology is what keeps the world going nowadays.

The findings revealed that the times have changed and even rural people need to be in line with the technology. Some of the people did not know they have access to technology; public libraries are free of charge when using computers. However, some people were unaware of such services. Community life and the extended family structure tend to play a vital role in socialization and its economy. Fox et. al (2004:91) regards limited access to services and facilities as impaction on the self-esteem in people's knowledge and abilities. Jones et.al. (2004:85) argues that technologies enable people to practice an environmentally sustainable form of livelihoods. Networks allow people to overcome the income constraint to practicing environmentally sustainable livelihoods; through networks those who cannot to afford to buy equipment can use it though networks. Therefore, the people in rural area of Bomvini did not have access to technology.

#### **Sub-theme 2.5.: Access to electricity**

Electricity is one of the important energy powers these days; life without electricity in our households becomes a difficult life. However, not only on our households, it also becomes a factor even on the livelihoods. So many machines now use electricity, cellphones for communication with customers need electricity. Not only these mentioned uses electricity, life nowadays depends on electricity. With the problem of electricity supply, sometimes the livelihoods encounter the load shedding which has got a very big effect on the livelihood sustainability. One of the participants who has a barber shop said *'it becomes very difficult for me when there's no power because I have to make sure that the battery is full to alternate using it when the electricity is off. That is very expensive since I have to buy electricity and make the battery full at the same time.'* People have a problem with power supply these days yet they have livelihoods to sustain. Mulugeta, Doig, Dunnet, Jackson, Khennas and Rai (2005:2) states that according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is predicated on extending access to electricity to over 550 million people by 2015. Therefore, electricity supply encounters a number of technical and logistical obstacles.

### **Theme 3: Strategies towards sustainability**

For a livelihood to be sustainable it requires a lot of strategies that would be effective to keep the livelihood sustainable. People in rural areas of Bomvini seemed to be clueless of the strategies towards sustainability. The findings indicated that this may be because of their educational level and other related factors. The people in rural areas have encountered problems when there are no strategies in their livelihoods. As they seemed to become discouraged when they fail once; they don't continue to find other strategies. To substantiate this; one of the participants said *'I follow the strategies that I used long time ago, I don't change for people'*. Independence is also what they perform since on their own they cannot come up with effective strategies for the sustainability of their livelihoods. Mulligan (2005:167) argues that any transition to more sustainable ways of living requires education and community engagement.

United Nations Millennium Development Goals supports the environmental sustainability as MDG 7 is stated as: Ensure environmental sustainability. Van't Hooft et.al (2012:52)

states that to catalyse environmental stewardship, secured access and ownership of land and productive assets is critical. Davids et.al (2009:40) stresses that people are not poor or vulnerable in the same way and that identifying local variations in poverty or deprivation is crucial in shaping effective development strategies. There are other factors which are related to unsustainability of the livelihoods such the family breakdown or social problems. Dalal-Clayton et.al. (2002:27) states that achieving sustainable development will require deep structural and new ways of working in all areas of economic, social and political life. Livelihoods have to be promoted for a longer term and benefit the next generations.

### **Sub-theme 3.1.: Municipality and government intervention**

The Local Government Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 states that the municipality has a duty to promote and undertake development in the municipality and to ensure that members of the community contribute to the decision making processes of the municipality. The municipality is one which also has the duty of helping households to promote their livelihoods as they state that they are to support all the development measures in the IDP report 2014/2015. One of the participants narrated as follows: *'We don't have a fence in our garden, we have been waiting for the councilor to fence for us but he hasn't'*. The narration indicated that the garden is not fenced because they are still waiting for the councilor. This implies that they do not try other endeavors but, as per researchers' observation, they wait for the municipal structures to assist. Municipality intervention is the vital part of sustainability of rural livelihoods. People in rural areas believe that what they do is of value only if they would get the municipality intervention.

The IDP report of Umhlathuze municipality states that the municipality supports the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Goal number 1 states that: Reducing hunger and poverty. Since agriculture is the livelihood source for the majority of the rural-poor, investing in this sector will reduce extreme poverty and hunger. Fox et. Al (2004:93) states that governments should create a rural development environment and the incentives that provide for investment and trade; the underlying competitiveness of production, including productivity, quality, and policies specific to the sector or commodity; and transport.

However, according to Pound et.al (2003:21) argues that governments are decentralizing; roles and rights are changing rapidly; rural people are often relocating in search of viable livelihoods or to escape environmental or political hardship; and households rely on a constantly changing mix of livelihood activities and strategies.

### **Sub-theme 3.2.: Empowerment**

Empowerment is one of the strategies that would help rural people to develop themselves. Empowering would be to share information with them so that they can make decisions to solve problems and improve their services; people need motivation and holding them responsible for whatever happens in their livelihood. However, people seem to be disempowered; even they know their capabilities but it's to put what they think into action. One of the participants narrated '*It would be better that u come here to ask about what we need and what are our thoughts and maybe you can get help for us. We don't know what to do on our own*'. Empowerment programmes for rural livelihoods would be of value towards the strategies since it may promote independence and give people motivation to try more strategies. Therefore, it would help people to grow to their full potential. Consequently, it must be about bringing people who are outside the decision-making process into it. Rowan-Campbell (1999:143), states that empowerment is thus more than simply opening up access to decision making; it must also include the processes that lead people to perceive themselves as able and entitled to occupy that decision-making space. The processes and structures through which an economic activity operates need to be deliberately designed to create opportunities for an empowerment process to happen. The people in rural areas needs empowerment for their livelihoods to be sustainable; it one of the processes that cannot be separated from rural development.

People need to be empowered since the 'culture of poverty' states that it is suggested that the poor are resigned to their situation, that they seldom take opportunities when they arise, are reluctant to work and do not plan for the future. As a result of dependency, the people in communities seem to make little effort to change their situation or to help them by taking the initiative to break free of their poverty. Davids et.al (2009:42) states that development can only contribute to poverty alleviation if the poor actively participate in development initiatives.

### **Sub-theme 3.3.: Educational level**

The majority of participants were having the level of education being grade 0-7. Others were grade 7-12 which clearly stated the level of education in the society. Educational level is important to consider when developing the community as it defines the level of capability of people. It is therefore, important that rural people are given equal opportunities to study and develop themselves. One of the participants said: *“Working and living in this world is better for those who are educated, not for us who do not know much.”* Even though some participants may have not completed matric but they need to be encouraged to further their studies since education gives more knowledge about sustainability of the livelihood to the individual. Rowan-Campbell (1999:81), states that project participants need information and perspective on the economic and political context in which their project is operating. To further substantiate this is that one of the participants who had a chicken farm on her backyard said: *“I had inadequate knowledge regarding on how to preserve my eggs and tried to contact the department of agriculture but they kept on promising to come and help but they did not.”*

There were a number of related indicators of unsustainability of livelihoods such as access to literacy. There was a strong emphasis on first satisfying the elements of deprivation as per basic needs perspective. The human development perspective stresses that individuals have to be enabled to lead a long and healthy life, in which they are educated and have access to a decent standard of living. Therefore, in terms of education, people have to be enabled or supported in a sense that they develop themselves educationally so that they would perform better even on their livelihoods. Fox et. al. (2004:83) looks at the education level as the factor that exacerbates this state of affairs. Davids et. al. (2009:237) states that education and training, better quality work, opportunity to revitalise local technologies and know-how and continued political support towards integrated regional markets, should be a priority of governments and international agencies. The people’s rural livelihoods faced challenges of the educational level being low which impacts negatively on the livelihood sustainability. The Skills Development Act 97 of 1998 has an objective to increase the levels of investment in education and training

in the labor market and improve the return of that investment. Livelihoods need development in terms of education and with the aim of improvement in the sustainability of livelihoods.

### **Sub-theme 3.4.: Income of the household**

The researcher has observed the level of income of the household to be one of the factors affecting the sustainability of the livelihood. When the participants responded they stated that their level of income is related to the way they handle their livelihoods. The implication is that if the income of the household is big that means the livelihood has got better chances of surviving many circumstances. Davids et.al. (2009:37) state that for the poor, poverty is a multifaceted reality consisting of inter alia, lack of power, income and resources to make choices and take advantage of the opportunities. Therefore, this makes the rural poor to be out of the context when saying people have to come with their own ideas of creating livelihoods. The income of the household has a great impact in the livelihood of the household. A range of development interventions has to be made towards filling a gap between the incomes of the household in a manner that it doesn't affect the livelihood sustainability. The very poor tend to depend on non-income sources of support which often makes them to be dependent. Davids et.al (2009:41) states that for most black South Africans poverty has become a vicious circle which is hard to escape, and then it extends to incorporate their children, who ultimately become the next generation of South Africa's poor. The chain of poverty in rural households has to be broken in spite of the family's background. The sustainability of rural livelihoods can break the poor if they are supported and given a better platform towards sustainability. De Satge (2002:4) states that assets and capabilities are closely linked to household livelihood security.

### **Sub-theme 3.5.: Skills**

The majority participants indicated that they had no skills related to their livelihood. Most of them acquired the skills they have informally. The skills are important to the sustainability of the livelihood because of the varying nature of the livelihood. The type of

the livelihood needs certain skills which, preferably, could be acquired formally. People need to have skills therefore it would be of important nature to help people acquire those skills essential so the livelihoods would be sustainable. Van't Hooft et.al. (2012:43) points out that livestock make a vital contribution to food and livelihood security, and to meeting the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. It will be of significance in the coming decades. Therefore, livestock has to be taken as the livelihoods which need the skills development for people to continue with the livestock livelihoods. Livestock keeping is not given attention since the participant who participated said she doesn't have any skills and felt like stopping her chicken livestock livelihood because of the lack of skills. All livelihoods need the necessary skills for them to be sustainable. According to the South African Department of Environmental and Tourism (1994) as stated in Fox et. al. (2004:90), government plays an important role in providing accurate and relevant information about the matters concerning development. One of the Skills Development Act 97 of 1998 objective is to promote self-employment through skills development. In this sense livelihoods are part of the self-employment endeavors which needs to be promoted in-terms of this Act.

#### **Theme 4: Self-sustainability of rural livelihoods**

When the livelihood is said to be self-sustainable it means that it can sustain itself without depending on other people or organisations. It means that the livelihoods resources can sustain the livelihood without the need of the external factors. Livelihoods need to be self-sustainable so they would continue to be sustainable for a long time without falling down. The researcher found that the livelihoods cannot sustain themselves because rural people do not believe on themselves. When the researcher asked the participants of how can the sustainability be effected participants they would say they need some intervention from the government sectors or the municipality. This gives an indication that rural livelihoods have not reached a state where they can sustain themselves. If this term of self-sustainability can be injected into the veins of the people; maybe the task would be

to encourage people to involve themselves in creating more livelihoods other than trying to help sustain the same livelihoods over years. Pound et.al. (2003:2) refers to a rural livelihood as sustainable when it is resilient enough to bounce back from stresses and shocks, maintaining its assets without degrading the natural resource base.

Looking at this perspective of self-sustainability, strategies have to be implanted for self-sustainable strategies. Fafchamps (2003:18), states that like anyone, rural households worry about being able to feed them. Self-sufficiency then becomes the natural route toward food security. Even when food markets exist, imperfect market integration may nevertheless generate enough food price volatility so as to incite households to produce their own food. Therefore, one should regard food self-sufficiency as the unique or even most important strategy through which rural households ensure their food security. There are many households for whom food self-sufficiency is an unattainable objective, either because they live in areas that are inherently unsuitable for agriculture, or because they do not have sufficient productive assets to produce food themselves, (Fafchamps, 2003:19).

#### **Sub-theme 4.1.: Self-reliance**

The majority of the participants indicated they cannot depend on solely themselves. The participants indicated that they need someone or any help from the government or non-government sectors. Some of the participants who had initiated the garden project with other members said *'we are waiting for the ward councilor since we cannot continue with anything without his input. We have been waiting for him for a long time but he hasn't availed himself therefore nothing is continuing in our livelihood because of that'*. If self-reliance could be implemented on rural livelihoods it would be of a better course because people would depend on themselves and save time waiting for help from the outsiders the other participant who is an informal vendor said *'I thought you were coming with the help from the municipality or any form, but you are here for only the questions that will help u. we need financial help that will help us to expand our livelihoods to the extent of*

*our thinking capabilities. Try and go find it and please when you come back come with financial help because we are struggling on our own.*' Therefore, analyzing the responses of the participants the researcher may say that the rural livelihoods are not self-reliant. The self-reliance of rural people lacks on self-confidence, as per researchers' observation, they really lack confidence and they are not intrinsically motivated.

The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) 1994, as stated by Davids et.al. (2009:43), is that it aims at empowering people so that they could become self-reliant in the long run. However, this RDP initiative had never been accepted to the people and still people cannot be self-reliant. The oppression is still playing a major role in rural communities. It therefore affects the livelihoods of the poor because of dependency theory towards developing themselves.

#### **Sub-theme 4.2.: Youth involvement**

Youth is the future of the country as they are the people who need to live in a sustainable world tomorrow. Therefore, the youth need to involve themselves on the livelihoods and the sustainability of livelihoods. Out of fifteen participants only two of them fell in the category of (21-35). Youth is not involved in the livelihoods but it's the old people who are mostly involved in the livelihood. One of the participants said *'I hardly get help here; my children stay at home doing nothing. Whilst I'm here working for them but still they never support me here.'* She further said *'they are the ones who should be helping me with technology that is used these days and they are ones who went to school they know so many things but they don't contribute to this livelihood.'* Youth involvement is a very important aspect towards self-sustainability of rural livelihoods. The youth need to be encouraged to participate in creating their own livelihoods and be involved in sustaining the existing livelihoods of their households. Davids et.al (2005:109) state that youth

involvement is self-sustaining which means development is controlled by the community. Involvement of youth makes the community become determined and empowered.

### **Sub-theme 4.3.: Participation in formal groups**

The people in rural areas do not participate in formal gatherings of the community. There are organizations which are there to listen to what are the community problems. There is Operation Sukuma Sakhe which is active around the areas of Ngwelezane. The researcher attended Operation Sukuma Sakhe war room; there were neither community member nor representatives of the community. There are representatives from each section on the community, Bomvini reserve also has the representative who has got the duty to attend the war room and encourage people to attend. But the attendance of the community was very minimal. The people in rural areas of Bomvini did not even have an idea of these active organizations. The people need to be made aware of what happens over and over be reminded because sometimes they forget to attend and end up forgetting the whole thing. Another participant when asked about attending the war room said; *'I don't even know what is that, I was never told about that. These people they form these without informing us, how could our livelihoods grow if they make everything their own and leave us outside because we don't know anything'* therefore it is important that people attend the war rooms so that they would give each other ideas and they would give the challenges they encounter and maybe even get external help. Jones et.al. (2004:93), looks at a rationale for participation as clear; it is only when the supposed beneficiaries of intervention participate in the planning and implementation of projects which are intended to benefit them so they would have interest in the development process succeeding. Therefore, I households in rural areas have to be involved in the intervention programmes and be part of it so they would be empowered to develop themselves through livelihoods. Jones et.al (2004:93) further states that participation as people achieving a greater capacity to advance their own interests and control their livelihoods and becoming a voice in their livelihoods. Liedenbergh and Stewart (1997:22) state that building the capacity of people has to change those who used to be the objects and recipients of development to become masters of their own development. Those

responsible for capacity building should assist the rural people to discover the possibilities of exercising choice and thereby become capable of managing their own future.

#### **Sub-theme 4.4.: Knowledge about the livelihood**

The majority of the participants indicated that they had no formally acquired knowledge about the livelihood. Specifically looking at the different types of the rural livelihoods identified in Bomvini, it is important that the livelihood owner has the knowledge about the sustainability his/her own livelihood. Different seminars and workshops could enlighten the rural people to have an idea of the strategies to be used. Knowledge is a very powerful tool that can be used to change the situation. According to Pound et.al (2003:2), in an adaptive process, enquiry to generate new knowledge and learning to share existing knowledge are both important, although the emphasis on one or the other will vary from time to time. Therefore, it is important to have knowledge even of the past experiences of the people who had the same livelihood with the one the person is having currently. The people did not know some of the knowledge aspects of their livelihoods but they are not thorough, they need much information to keep them sustaining their livelihoods for themselves other than waiting for other people to help sustain for them.

#### **4.4. Summary of the key Findings**

The livelihoods are the very important aspect of development; they need to be recognised as important to boost the economy of the communities. There is evidence in the literature that they are neglected in some form despite the fact that they have a capability and the potential to change the life of the rural people. The researcher holds the evidence that the people in rural areas are the custodians of knowledge and experiences for future generations to continue. In this chapter, the researcher unfolded the experiences of the rural livelihood owner, the researchers' observations and the direct quotations of the participants. The people in rural areas are burdened with many challenges; as a result,

their livelihoods encounter many challenges which are not known by the authorities of the area.

The people in rural areas of Mbovini reserve were not aware that they can make things happen on their own; each time the researcher found that the people are reliant on the Ward Councilors for that matter. The people in rural areas show the term of dependency in such a way that they don't even trust themselves that they are doing a good thing by having the livelihoods. Evidence shows that there are no seminars that invite rural people with livelihoods to get the ideas for sustainability of their livelihoods. Therefore, these people do not work up to the top without the intervention of the organizations or municipality. Consequently, the resources are very scarce especially water and electricity, the country as a whole is suffering the same problem. Kwa-Zulu Natal has a very serious problem of water because of drought. Umhlathuze municipality of which Bomvini falls under has a problem with this shortage of water and electricity. Water is a basic need of life even on livelihoods; they cannot function without the basic resources needed. Sustainability also goes to an extent of using resources in a profitable manner even for future generations but it seems like so much work has to be done to overcome the scarcity of water and electricity supply.

Self-sustainability and self-reliance are one of the terms which are important in sustainability of livelihoods. Therefore, the researcher has found that they are not encouraged on rural people. The people in rural areas need to know of war rooms because it's the platform where they can get ideas but they do not know of such programs. Rural people are disadvantaged of the knowledge since they are uneducated some of the things do not reach them because of that they have little or no information.

## **Chapter Five**

### **5. Conclusions and Recommendations**

#### **5.1. Introduction**

This conclusion chapter summarises the study by not only drawing conclusions but also making recommendations for future research on the topic that has been discussed in the foregoing chapters. All the forthcoming recommendations made later in the chapter are based on the findings and observations made by the researcher during course of the study. Before delving into the discussion of the conclusions reached and the advancement of the recommendations thereafter, it is worth re-instating the objectives of the study to serve as a contextual framework that informs the discussion of the conclusion and the subsequent making of the recommendations.

#### **5.2. Restating the objectives of the study**

The objectives of the study were:

- (a) To explore the sustainability challenges of people's livelihood in rural community of Bomvini.
- (b) To determine the resources suitable to sustain the people's livelihoods in rural areas.
- (c) To describe the livelihoods strategies that can be used for overcoming the challenges faced by people in rural areas.
- (d) To explore the strategies for implementation of self-sustaining rural livelihoods.

### **5.3. Findings of the study in relation to the objectives**

The following were the findings of the study based on the information obtained from the participants of the study.

#### **5.3.1. Exploration of the sustainability livelihood challenges faced by people in Bomvini community**

The study revealed that there are many challenges that impact negatively on the sustainability of the people's livelihoods and these include lack of infrastructure, lack of participation and other related challenges threatening the sustainability of people's livelihoods in the Bomvini community rural areas. The capacity of people in Bomvini community to handle these many threatening challenges with sophistication is by and large compromised not only by their educational level but also by the incidental skills levels which accrue concomitantly with the educational level attained by the individual concerned. The study revealed that people's livelihoods in rural areas are impacted upon negatively by the market price increase; since the markets have to increase the prices of goods and other items for household usage. Such price increases are said to be occasioned by the scourge of unavoidable inflation which pose as a major factor threatening the sustainability of rural livelihoods. The study's findings have indicated that the infrastructure pose a serious challenge as the roads are not tarred and there are no street lights. As the result, these participants were of the conviction that if the government both at the national and local level (as represented by the municipality) were to be well disposed towards their material conditions, their situation would have been different. It would seem from their responses that the local sphere of the government, with specific reference to the local municipality, does not represent their interest the way it should be doing. Notably, given their grass roots level location, the people felt that the municipality did not properly represent their needs and that they are essentially without a voice. Since their participation comes through the municipal representation as a legally recognised governmental entity designated to oversee their representation in all matters concerning

their wellbeing as subjects of the state. Sustainable livelihoods play a critical role for the Bomvini community as it affords the households the opportunity to secure financial freedom. In a nutshell, it is regrettably noted that the material conditions as observed at Bomvini reserve do not only pose a challenge but also a threat to the sustainability of people's livelihoods.

### **5.3.2. Determining the resources available for sustaining the people's livelihoods**

Resources are found to be what keep the people's livelihood running since without them in their sufficiency, the livelihood cannot materialize as it is supposed to. In this study, it has been revealed that the rural community experiences enormous difficulty in securing enough resources to help them sustain their livelihoods.

Water, in particular, has been cited as the scarcest natural resource with drought being the major contributory factor. Given the severe water scarcity the community was subjected to, the community has had to use buckets to try and get water as a temporary solution to the problem at hand. The problem of resources even extended to electricity whose cost is unbearably burdensome to the sustainability of the livelihoods, since it is the most important resource the participants claimed to be relying on for most their daily activities. As remarked by the participants, the resources are the most important aspect towards sustainability of their livelihoods. Therefore, the availability of the resources has to be treated with the utmost care to ensure that the livelihoods do function as desirable.

Sharing of the resources among the community members in rural area of Bomvini constituted a major problem; since individuals were not well disposed to the idea of having to share the resources given first of all its scarcity and secondly because of the natural propensity to embrace individualistic tendencies in the use of resources. Disappointingly, such tendencies were blatantly oppositional to the communal advocacy of human existence best exemplified in the sharing of the natural resources.

The findings showed that people in the rural area of Bomvini were not aware of the term 'sustainability' since they seem not to preserve the resources for the future. The use of

the resources was not proportional to its availability. Notably, those people who use the resources do not take part in the management of the resources since people are not educated on how to manage the resources as an objective necessity towards the sustainability of the livelihoods. The researcher has thus established that with regard to the question of land, there was no redistribution policy which ensures equity in its redistribution. Also, the researcher had also established that despite the fact that the owners of livelihoods did not have access to technology, they do not use it for marketing their livelihoods, perhaps due to their illiteracy or lack of information in this regard.

### **5.3.3. Describing the livelihood strategies for overcoming the challenges faced by people in rural area of Bomvini**

The study revealed that people in Bomvini area are not intrinsically motivated to act against the challenges encountered in their livelihoods. Most people were not educated about environmental sustainability, since the environment plays a huge part in the livelihoods and it was the main source of the resources. In addition, the findings revealed that economic factors played a major role in the strategies as they helped in the assessment of the income of the household. Comparatively speaking, the household that receives a lot of income can easily have positive strategies compared to the household with low income level.

The people in the rural community of Bomvini were vulnerable to poverty and this made it hard to invest money to overcome any challenges encountered. Money was the most valuable capital when it comes to developing people. In spite of money, even if the household received a valuable income, the education level of the people became a factor in strategizing for the sustenance of the livelihoods. In order to sustain livelihoods, the people needed a lot of strategies since they encountered many challenges on a daily basis. Therefore, it became difficult for their livelihoods to function to an optimum if the owner's education level was very low. Social factors also play role in sustainability strategies. The livelihood functions in a social environment because people are involved and it cannot function alone. Although empowerment is talked about in rural areas, it is not practiced. This has established that there are no empowerment programs in the area.

Although people may have it in their mind that they can do things for themselves but it is also important that the programs in rural areas get implemented for the community to participate towards their own developmental empowerment.

Agriculture was the main form of people's livelihoods. People get food through planting crops and have them sold to other people for an income generation. The Department of Agriculture at Ngwelezane provided people with seeds, watering cans and manure for free and they use it to plant whatever is deemed necessary at any given time. However, only gardeners were attended to and animal livestock and agricultural practices were not given attention. Productivity remained the area of concern as gardeners did not have places to sell their products, after they have been harvested from the garden.

The researcher has further observed that there was a culture of poverty which has been instilled in the minds of many of the rural community members in the rural area. The lack of power and knowing people who are in power remains the issue in this area. Power towards the sustainability of livelihoods has to be exercised so that people will be independent in their own developmental growth without having to wait for other people to exercise their rights. Related to power is the question of how to make choices pertaining to monetary issues and this has become a major area of concern even if the livelihood owner may want to make endeavors to strategize on how best to deal with it, resources become a barrier.

Gender related issues were also observed in the Bomvini area and the people were generally aware of the equality that needed to prevail among the different gender groups. However, they lacked the affirmation that they can do anything in spite of their gender. It was also notable that rural livelihood owners lacked skills and knowledge about their livelihoods. Therefore, skills development has to be implemented in the Bomvini area to increase the level of knowledge of the people have about their livelihood. This will enable the people to have strategies to manage the trying situations they are often subjected to. Certainly, knowledgeable minds can do many things through the knowledge they possess. This study has also revealed that the people in rural community of Bomvini do not get support from the government and non-government sectors in any form. Overall, the strategies adopted towards the sustainability of the livelihoods were not oriented

forward-looking and this was linked to the people's lack of insight regarding the importance of having their livelihoods sustained.

#### **5.3.4. Livelihood strategies that can be used for implementation of self-sustaining rural livelihoods**

The findings revealed that people from the Bomvini rural area lacked self-sustaining strategies and as a consequence they wait for organizations to provide them with donations and contributions in order to sustainable their livelihoods. The dependence syndrome has permeated the whole area of Bomvini. Notably, therefore, the community members cannot create self-sustainable livelihoods because each time they encountered a problem they resorted to seeking intervention from outside organizations. The people would complain that their garden is not fenced and they would wait for the Municipal Ward Councilor to come and fence it for them. Self-sustainability means that the rural livelihoods can be sustained without waiting for the external people to do it for them.

Self-confidence was not promoted in rural livelihoods, hence the prevalence of the undesirable dependence syndrome which render individuals without developmental growth to always wait for someone to rescue them when facing challenges. Furthermore, the findings revealed that the youth is not involved in the livelihoods despite them being the future of this country. Ideally, they should be involved in the development of the community whose future remains bleak without their active participation in its developmental growth. Therefore, the development of the community is not driven by the community and no joint structures of development exist in the area. There is collaborative work between the municipality and the traditional authorities on matters of development in the area. The researcher has established that there is a sense of apathy as the community members do not participate in the meetings and formal groups of development. This makes it difficult for them to have knowledge about the livelihoods and development and this lack of knowledge could have serious repercussions for the sustainability of the livelihoods at Bomvini reserve.

A brief summary of the study:

In this study the researcher used the qualitative method of collecting and analyzing data. The use of 15 participants gave a greater in-depth knowledge pertaining the challenges within the livelihood context. The study has been an interesting study for both the researcher and the participants of the study as it gave the participants an unusual opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the things which can be done for the sustainability of their livelihoods. Poverty can be addressed through the intervention that leads to the self-sustenance of rural livelihood programmes. Recommendations will be discussed below.

#### **5.4. Recommendations**

On the basis of the foregoing discussion, the following recommendations are thus made:

- (a) Various government organisations or structures have to work closely with the livelihood owners to instill participation and self-reliance in the people. Self-reliance is an essential part that has to be advocated and maintained in the sustainability of the livelihoods by developmental structures.
- (b) The NGOs have to take part and extend their activities to reach even the deep rural areas so that they can benefit from the programmes offered. Special programs designed for people in rural areas have to be implemented on the grounds that rural people are often the most vulnerable in many respects.
- (c) Infrastructure has to be developed in rural areas by municipality and government developmental structures. Street lights and tarred roads were identified as constituting the major infrastructural challenges towards the sustainability of the rural livelihoods.

(d) Empowerment structures have to ensure that they empower the youth, men and women equally. The youth in this area are not part of the livelihoods. Therefore, youth programs have to be embraced to empower the youth to have livelihoods in order to circumvent the delinquent or wayward behavior of the youth deriving mostly from idleness.

(e) Skills development needs intervention in every form. People already involved in livelihood programs lack skills which in turn have a bad influence in the maintenance of the livelihoods. Therefore, skills have to be developed in every individual who wishes to work within the framework that seeks to sustain the livelihoods.

(f) The educational level of the rural poor has to be improved regardless of the age of the community members. Education is a critical tool in today's markets. Therefore, people have to be developed in a way that will be sustainable and this can best be achieved if they are educated. Their being educated will thus provide a base upon which development will be predicated since education is, arguably, the driver of development.

(g) Participation in all developmental groups need to be encouraged among rural people. All groups need to be educated about participation in all groups and this should not be confined only to older people but should extend even to the youth.

(h) Access to technology and knowledge of how technology can be utilised in the livelihoods have to be promoted. The world is a changing. So, it is important that rural people are in line with what is used by most people so that sustainability may be ensured.

(i) Traditional authorities need to take part and consider assisting rural livelihoods. It is not only the municipal and government structures that must be involved in development but also the traditional authorities as they are the designated entities closest to the rural livelihoods given their jurisdiction on local matters.

(j) To ensure sustainability, rural livelihood owners and rural people in general, have to be educated about self-dependence and must have a sense of independence in order to have self-sustainable livelihoods. They need to know that they have to stand on their own and make sound decisions as regards their livelihoods.

(k) Different types of livelihoods have to encourage the curtailment of competition amongst the rural livelihoods owners.

### **5.5. Recommendations for future study**

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher ventures to recommend the following for consideration in future study:

It is recommended that future research should consider involving the government and the municipality in promoting the socio economic viability of the people in rural areas and thus addressing the challenges they encounter. Eventually, these would empower them with strategic skills on how the resources can be managed in the rural livelihoods. Thus, government, especially at the provincial and the municipality level should be solicited to consider addressing the rural community on the self-sufficiency strategies. These strategies could be instilled in the livelihood of people in rural area towards eradicating the culture of poverty in the minds of the people and thus empower them to focus on promoting the sustainability to fight the scourge of poverty.

### **5.6. Conclusion**

The sustainability of rural livelihoods has to be recognized and championed without fail and compromise since it helps to provide and maintain job opportunities towards poverty eradication in rural communities. Therefore, livelihoods need to be recognized by both government and private sectors as the key fundamental tools for sustenance of development programs. Policies are needed to ensure that the rural livelihoods are not

compromised. The Umhlathuze municipality which has jurisdiction over the Bomvini reserve has to develop follow up programmes that would help support the substance of the existing livelihoods. Notably, the rural people have the capacity and potential to make a moderate living out of rural livelihoods. Therefore, they need to be encouraged to be proactive both in the creation and sustenance of the rural livelihoods.

The findings of the study show that the people in rural area sometimes start livelihoods but in due course fail to sustain them because of the lack of resources and other necessities pertinent to their sustainability. Notably, therefore, a knowledgeable society is a growing society. Thus, people need knowledge and supportive structures in various aspects in order to ensure the realization of the sustainability of rural livelihoods.

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## **ANNEXURES**

### **Annexure A: ETHICAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE**



### ETHICAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

<b>Certificate Number</b>	UZREC 171110-030-RA PGM 2015/146				
<b>Project Title</b>	Sustainability of rural livelihoods at Bomvini Reserve: Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa				
<b>Principal Researcher/ Investigator</b>	SK Mthethwa				
<b>Supervisor and Co-supervisor</b>	Prof NH Ntombela				
<b>Department</b>	Social Work				
<b>Nature of Project</b>	Honours/4 <sup>th</sup> Year	Master's	x	Doctoral	Departmental

The University of Zululand's Research Ethics Committee (UZREC) hereby gives ethical approval in respect of the undertakings contained in the above-mentioned project proposal and the documents listed on page 2 of this Certificate.

- Special conditions:**
- (1) The Principal Researcher must report to the UZREC in the prescribed format, where applicable, annually and at the end of the project, in respect of ethical compliance.
  - (2) Documents marked "To be submitted" (see page 2) must be presented for ethical clearance before any data collection can commence.

The Researcher may therefore commence with the research as from the date of this Certificate, using the reference number indicated above, but may not conduct any data collection using research instruments that are yet to be approved.

Please note that the UZREC must be informed immediately of

- Any material change in the conditions or undertakings mentioned in the documents that were presented to the UZREC
- Any material breaches of ethical undertakings or events that impact upon the ethical conduct of the research

**Classification:**

Data collection X	Animals	Human Health	Children	Vulnerable pp.	Other
Low Risk					
Medium Risk		High Risk			
		X			

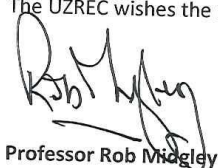
The table below indicates which documents the UZREC considered in granting this Certificate and which documents, if any, still require ethical clearance. (Please note that this is not a closed list and should new instruments be developed, these would require approval.)

Documents	Considered	To be submitted	Not required
Faculty Research Ethics Committee recommendation	X		
Animal Research Ethics Committee recommendation			X
Health Research Ethics Committee recommendation			X
Ethical clearance application form	X		
Project registration proposal	X		
Informed consent from participants	X		
Informed consent from parent/guardian			X
Permission for access to sites/information/participants	X		
Permission to use documents/copyright clearance			X
Data collection/survey instrument/questionnaire	X		
Data collection instrument in appropriate language		Only if necessary	
Other data collection instruments		Only if used	

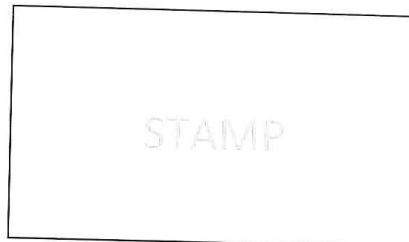
The UZREC retains the right to

- Withdraw or amend this Certificate if
  - Any unethical principles or practices are revealed or suspected
  - Relevant information has been withheld or misrepresented
  - Regulatory changes of whatsoever nature so require
  - The conditions contained in this Certificate have not been adhered to
- Request access to any information or data at any time during the course or after completion of the project

The UZREC wishes the researcher well in conducting the research.



**Professor Rob Midgley**  
 Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation  
 Chairperson: University Research Ethics Committee  
 31 January 2015



## **Appendix B INFORMED CONSENT DECLARATION**

### **(Participant)**

Project Title: Sustainability of rural livelihoods at Bomvini Areas, Kwa-Zulu Natal; South Africa.

*Sanele K. Mthethwa* from the Department of Social Work, University of Zululand has requested my permission to participate in the above-mentioned research project.

The nature and the purpose of the research project, and of this informed consent declaration have been explained to me in a language that I understand.

I am aware that:

1. The purpose of the research project is to explore the challenges or the rural livelihoods, resources essential for the sustainability or rural livelihoods, strategies for sustainability and self-sustainability of rural livelihoods.
2. The University of Zululand has given ethical clearance to this research project and I have seen/ may request to see the clearance certificate.
3. By participating in this research project I will be contributing towards the board of knowledge on the sustainability of rural livelihoods.
4. I will participate in the project by responding to the questions in the form of the interview.
5. My participation is entirely voluntary and should I at any stage wish to withdraw from participating further, I may do so without any negative consequences.
6. I will not be compensated for participating in the research, but my out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed.
7. There may be risks associated with my participation in the project. I am aware that
  - a. the following risks are associated with my participation: publication of my livelihood name and my name.

- b. the following steps have been taken to prevent the risks: anonymity and confidentiality of my participation will be ensured.
  - c. there is a few % chance of the risk materialising
8. The researcher intends publishing the research results in the form of thesis. However, confidentiality and anonymity of records will be maintained and that my name and identity will not be revealed to anyone who has not been involved in the conduct of the research.
  9. I will not receive feedback regarding the results obtained during the study.
  10. Any further questions that I might have concerning the research or my participation will be answered by Sanele Khethiwe Mthethwa. Cell no: 0763942519.  
E-mail address: sanemtetwa@ymail.com
  11. By signing this informed consent declaration, I am not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies.
  12. A copy of this informed consent declaration will be given to me, and the original will be kept on record.

I, ..... have read the above information / confirm that the above information has been explained to me in a language that I understand and I am aware of this document's contents. I have asked all questions that I wished to ask and these have been answered to my satisfaction. I fully understand what is expected of me during the research.

I have not been pressurised in any way and I voluntarily agree to participate in the above-mentioned project.

.....

**Participant's signature**

.....

**Date**

## APPENDIX: C ZULU PARTICIPANT INFORMED CONSENT

### ULWAZI NGESIFUNDO NOKUBA YINGXENYE YASO

(Ozoba ingxenye yesifundo)

Isihloko salesisifundo: Sustainability of rural livelihoods at Bomvini Areas, Kwa-Zulu Natal; South Africa.

*Sanele K. Mthethwa* wakwi Department of Social Work, University of Zululand ucele imvume yami ukuthi ngibe ingxenye nalesifundo esishiwo ngenhla.

Ngichazelwe ngalesisifundo ukuthi sikanjani nenhloso yaso, Kanye nenhloso yalelifomu nokuvuma ukuba yigxenye yalesisifundo ngilwimi engiluzwisisa kahle.

Ngiyazi ukuthi:

Inhloso yalesisifundo ukubheka izingqinamba ezihlangabezana namabhizinisi asemakhaya, nezidingo ngqangi zokusimamisa amabhizinisi kanye nezindlela zokusimamisa amabhizinisi nokuwagcina esimamile ngokwawo.

1. IUniversity of Zululand inginikezile iethical clearance yalolucwaningo nokuthi ngisibonile isitifiketi semvume yokuqhuba lesisifundo.
2. Ngokuba yingxenye yalesisifundo ngizobe ngisiza ekunzeleni olwazini losimamisa amabizinisi asezindaweni ezisemakhaya.
3. Ngizoba yingxenye yalesisifundo ngokuba ngiphendule imibuzo ngendlela yenkulumo mpikiswano.
4. Ukuba yingxenye kwami kulesisifundo kusekuzikhetheleni kwami futhi uma sengifisa ukuyeka ngingayeka noma yinini ngaphandle kwezingqinamba.
5. Ayikho imalli noma utho engizoluthola ngokuba yingxenye yalesisifundo; ngizokhokhelwa uma kukhona engikukhiphile ephaketheni lami.

6. Kungenzeka kube nezingqinamba ngokuba yingxenye yalesisifundo. Nginolwazi lokuthi:
- Ilezingqinamba ezilandelayo ezingaba yinkinga mayelana nokuba yingxenye kwami kulesisifundo: ukuvezwa kwegama lami Kanye negama lebhizinisi lami.
  - Izindlela ezilandelayo izona ezizosetshenziswa ukuthi kumelwane nezingqinamba engingabhekana nazo: kuzofihlwa ngayoyonke indlela ukuba yigxenye kwami kulesisifundo.
  - Mancane amathuba okuba ngibhekane nezingqinamba kulesisifundo.
7. Umcubunguli uzoluveza ulwazi alutholile kulesisifundo kwibhuku olubizwa nge thesis. Kodwa-ke ukufihlwa nokuba kungavezwa igama lami kuzoqikelelwa. Akukho noyedwa ozoba nolwazi ngokuba yigxenye kwami nezimpendulo zami zizofihlwa kuwo wonke umuntu.
8. Akukho lutho engizolutshelwa emva kokuba sesiphelile lesisifundo.
9. Eminye imibuzo engingaba nayo mayelana nalolucwaningo ngiyngayibuza kuSanele Khethiwe Mthethwa. Inombolo yocingo: 0763942519.  
e-mail address: sanemtetwa@ymail.com
10. Ukusayina kwami lelifomu lesivumelwano akusho ukuthi ngiznikezela ekubeni ngingabekwa icala, ilungelo noma ngibe sezinyathelweni zomthetho.
11. Ikhophi yalelifomu lokuzivumela ukuba yigxenye yesifundo ngizonikezwa yona, futhi ifomu okuliyona eliwungqo lizobekwa kahle kumarekhodi.

Mina..... ngifundile ngalolulwazi olungenhla / ngiyavuma ukuba ngichazelwe lolulwazi olungenhla ngolimi engiluzwisisa kahle futhi ngiyazi ngokuqukethwe yilomqulu. Ngibuzile imibuzo engifisa ukuyibuza futhi ngiphendulwe kahle nganeliseka. Ngियाqonda kahle ukuthi yini elindelekile kimi kulolucwaningo.

Angicindezelwanga nangoma iyiphi indlela futhi ngiyazivumela ukuthi ngibe yingxenye yalesisifundo esichazwe ngenhla.

.....

.....

**Ukusayina kozoba yigxenye yocwaningo**

**Usuku**

**Appendix D: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE QUESTIONS**

**BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Gender .....

Time the livelihood has existed .....

**QUESTIONS**

**CHALLENGES FACED BY LIVELIHOOD**

- 1. What effect do season changes have on your livelihood?  
.....
- 2. How do the market price and changes affect your livelihood?  
.....
- 3. Do external perceptions on the prices and services affect your livelihood? And how?  
.....
- 4. What effect does law enforcement have on your livelihood?  
.....
- 5. Do you receive infrastructure and is it of benefit to your livelihood?  
.....
- 6. What effect does lack of production equipment has on your livelihood?  
.....
- 7. Do you have access to technology and does it benefit your livelihood?  
.....

**RESOURCES ESSENTIAL FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE LIVELIHOOD**

- 8. Do you use social networks to market your livelihood?  
.....

9. Does your livelihood have its own website? If not why?

.....

10. Do you encounter resources problems for sustaining your livelihood? If yes which are those?

.....

11. Do you have any access to technology? If yes which form of technology?

.....

12. Do you receive any development interventions? If yes which are those?

.....

13. Do you do staff training?

.....

14. Do you receive any funding and from who?

.....

15. Does your staff receive any development of their skills? If yes how?

.....

16. Do you have policies for your livelihood and are they implemented?

.....

#### STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF THE LIVELIHOOD

17. Do you use improved technologies and do you have access to it?

.....

18. Do you receive any financial assistance? If yes by whom?

.....

19. Is economy of our country efficient for your livelihood?

.....

20. Do you get support from your community? If yes what forms of support?

.....

21. Do you have ways to make your services? If yes which forms do you use?

.....

22. Are you able to share the responsibility among your co-workers?

.....

23. How is your relationship with the other livelihoods?

.....

24. Have you ever received educational assistance?

.....

25. How do you focus on skills and knowledge improvement?

.....

**SELF SUSTAINABILITY OF THE LIVELIHOOD**

26. Do you work cooperatively in your livelihood?

.....

27. Are you able to maintain trust and confidence among the co-workers?

.....

28. Do you try and provide opportunities for the next generation? If yes how?

.....

29. Are you able to cope with season changes in your livelihood? How?

.....

30. Do you consider re-use of resources in your livelihood?

.....

**Appendix E: IMIBUZO YENKULUMO MPENDULWANOUWAZI OLUMAYELANA**

Ubulili .....

Isikhathi ibhizinisi likhona.....

**IMIBUZO**

**IZINGQINAMBA AMABHIZINISI AHLANGABEZANA NAZO**

1. Kunamuphi umthelela ukushintsha kwesizini kwibhizinisi lakho?  
.....
2. Kunamuphi umthelela ukushintshashintsha kwamanani ezimakethe?  
.....
3. Ngabe izimo zamanani nokubiza kwesevisi kuyaliphazamisa yini ibhizinisi lakho?  
.....
4. Kunamuphi umthelela ukusebenza komthetho ebhizinisini lakho?  
.....
5. Uyayithola ingqalasizinda futhi kungabe iyakusiza ebhizinisini lakho?  
.....
6. Kunamuphi umthelela ukushoda kweimishini yokukhiqiza ebhizinisini lakho?  
.....
7. Unayo indlela yokusebenzisa ubuchwepheshe bamanje futhi kungabe bayakusiza yini?

**IZINSIZA EZIYIZIDINGONGQANGI EKUSIMAMISENI IBHIZINISI**

8. Unazo yini izinkundla zokuxhumana ukuze ukhangise ibhizinizi lapho?  
.....
9. Kungabe ibhizinisi lakho linayo yini iwebsite yalo eqondene nokulimaketha?  
.....
10. Uyahlangabezana yini nezinkinga zezidingo ekusimamiseni ibhizinisi lakho? Uma kunjalo kungabe iziphi?
11. Unayo indlela yokukwazi ukusebenzisa ubuchwepheshe? Uma unayo kungabe iyiphi?

.....  
12. Kukhona yini ukungenelela ngokwentuthukop ebhizinisini lakho? Uma kukhona ikuphi?

.....  
13. Niyakwenza yini ukuqeqesha abasebenzi?

.....  
14. Likhona uxhaso lwezimali olutholayo?

.....  
15. Kungabe abasebenzi bakho bayathuthukiswa yini emakhonweni abo? Uma kunjalo kanjani?

.....  
16. Unayo yini inqubo mgomo yebhizinisi lakho?

#### IZINDLELA ZOKUSIMAMISA IBHIZINISI

17. Kungabe uyabusebenzisa ubuchwepheshe besimanje futhi kungabe unayo indlela yokubusebenzisa?

.....  
18. Likhona usizo lwezimali olutholayo ukusimamisa ibhizinisi lakho? Uma kunjalo hloboluni futhi lusuke luvela kubani?

.....  
19. Umnotho walelizwe kungabe ulanele yini ibhizinisi lakho?

.....  
20. Uyaluthola uxhaso lomphakathi owakhele? Uma kunjalo hloboluni loxhaso?

.....  
21. Unazo izindlela zokumaketha umsebenzi wakho? Izona ziphi uma zikhona?

.....  
22. Kungabe kuyenzeka ukulekelelana ngomsebenzi phakathi kwakho nosebenzisana nabo?

.....  
23. Bunjani ubudlelwano bakho nabanye abantu abanamabhizinisi?

24. Uke uluthole usizo lokufundiswa ngebhizinisi lakho?

.....  
25. Uyakunaka ukuthuthukisa amakhono nolwazi?  
.....

UKUZISIMAMISA KWEBHIZINISI NGOKWALO

26. Nisebenzisana ngokubambisana yini ebhizinisini lakho?  
.....

27. Uyakwazi yini ukugcina ukwethembana nokuzethemba phakathi kwabasebenzi? Uma kunjalo wenza kanjani?  
.....

28. Uyazama yini ukuvula amathuba esizukulwane esizayo ukuba sikwazi ukusebenza ngalelibhizinisi lakho?  
.....

29. Uyakwazi yini ukubhekana nezinkinga zokushintsha kwamasizini ebhizinisini lakho? Uma ukwazi wenza kanjani?  
.....

30. Kungabe uyabhekelela yini ukuthi izinsiza ozisebenzisayo ukwazi ukuphinde uzisebenzise nangesinye isikhathi?  
.....

## **Appendix F Permission seeking letter to Conduct Research – Ward Councillor**

University of Zululand  
Department of Social Work  
KwaDlangezwa  
3886  
Tel: 035 902 6660

The Ward Councillor  
Ward 28  
Ngwelezane  
3880

RE: Consent to Conduct Research

My name is Sanele Khethiwe Mthethwa. I am doing Masters in Community Work under the Department of Social Work at the University of Zululand. The part of the requirements for this degree is that I should complete the research dissertation. I therefore request that you grant me a permission to conduct research among the livelihoods in the community of ward 28.

The topic of the research is: Sustainability of rural livelihoods at Bomvini in Kwazulu-Natal; South Africa. I promise to respect and to maintain confidentiality of the people within whom I will interact. Participation in this study is voluntary and participants are free to withdraw the study if however, they feel uncomfortable along the study.

Thank you for your time.

Yours Sincerely

S.K. Mthethwa (Miss)

## **Appendix G: Permission seeking letter to Conduct Research: Madlebe Traditional Council**

University of Zululand  
Department of Social Work  
KwaDlangezwa  
3886  
Tel: 035 902 6660

The Council  
Madlebe Traditional Council  
Ngwelezane  
3880

RE: Consent to Conduct Research

My name is Sanele Khethiwe Mthethwa. I am doing Masters in Community Work under the Department of Social Work at the University of Zululand. The part of the requirements for this degree is that I should complete the research dissertation. I therefore request that you grant me a permission to conduct research among the livelihoods in the community of ward 28.

The topic of the research is: Sustainability of rural livelihoods at Bomvini in Kwazulu-Natal; South Africa. I promise to respect and to maintain confidentiality of the people within whom I will interact. Participation in this study is voluntary and participants are free to withdraw the study if however, they feel uncomfortable along the study.

Thank you for your time.

Yours Sincerely

S.K. Mthethwa (Miss)

