

**THE IMPACT OF INCOME GENERATIONG PROJECT ON WOMEN AT
UTRECHT**

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Zola Elaine Nkosi, declare that the work “The Impact of Income Generating Project on Women at Utrecht” is my own work and that all sources quoted have been acknowledged by complete reference

Z E Nkosi

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my mother Nancy and my daughters Phumla and Ncamisile; my son Sipelelo and lastly my husband Jimmy Nkosi.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to thank God Almighty for His strength and guidance, which has taken me this far.

I am greatly indebted to my supervisor Dr N H Ntombela, for her valuable encouragement in facilitating the whole learning process, without her assistance this work would not have been possible.

My special thanks go to my husband Jimmy Nkosi, my two daughters Phumla and Ncamisile and lastly my son Sipelelo.

I would like to thank my colleagues who are also my fellow students Mrs Patricia Zulu and Bawinile Nkosi.

Lastly, I would like to thank my respondents without them this study would not have been possible

ABSTRACT

The advent of the democratic transformation in South Africa during 1994, brought with it high hope that income , poverty and inequity would soon be significantly reduced from the high levels that existed during the Apartheid era.

Though the development approach was adopted by the Department of Social Development in 1997, it has, however, not yet achieved its purpose. The poverty alleviation programme came as a substitute of maintenance grants. The grants were phased out in the period of three years whilst the Department of Social Development was introducing the new approach of funding community projects.

The study is about the impact of income generating projects by women in Utrecht area. The study was conducted on poverty alleviation projects funded by the Department of Social Development. An evaluative research method was followed in which data was gathered through semi-structured interviews. A sample of twenty projects was drawn and respondents were interviewed where two were from each project.

Related literature has been reviewed that focuses on poverty alleviation and income generating projects. Various recommendations have been made on the findings of the study.

The findings of the study indicated the need for training project members in capacity building. Project members also need to be motivated in one way or another so that they can develop a sense of ownership and work hard for the success of their own projects. Progress in poverty alleviation has been very slow and uneven. Community projects have failed poverty-stricken communities to improve their socio-economic standards.

The research findings indicated clearly that the strategies and policies were not effective enough in achieving the desired goals of poverty alleviation. It has been noted that what actually made programmes for poverty alleviation to be disabled at its implementation in the community.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NO. CONTENT	PAGE NO.
Declaration.....	i
Dedication.....	ii
Acknowledgement.....	iii
Abstract.....	iv-v
CHAPTER 1	
1. ORIENTATION TO STUD.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.....	4
MOTIVATION OF STUDY.....	5
HYPOTHESIS.....	5
OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY.....	6
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY & PROCEDURES.....	7
RESEACH DESIGN.....	7
POPULATION AND SAMPLE.....	8
RESEARCH INSTRUMENT.....	8
PROCEDURE FOR DATA COLLECTION.....	9
DATA ANALYSIS.....	9
DESSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.....	10
DELIMINATION OF THE STUDY.....	10
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY.....	11
DEFINITION OF TERMS.....	11
POVERTY.....	11
COMMUNITY.....	11
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.....	12
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.....	12
1.9 ETHICAL CONSIDERATION.....	13
1.10 LAYOUT OF THE STUDY.....	14
1.11 SUMMARY	15

CHAPTER 2

2. THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF UTRECHT AREA

2.1. INTRODUCTION.....	16
2.2. HISTORICAL AND DEMOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION.....	16
a) CRAFT WORK PROJECT.....	20
b) ALIEN VEGETATION REMOVAL.....	20
c) WETLAND REHABILITATION.....	20
d) CULTIVATION OF MEDICAL PLANS.....	20
e) LAND CARE PROJECT.....	21
f) OTHER ACTIVITIES.....	21
2.3 POPULATION INFORMATION.....	21
2.4 ECONOMIC CHARECTERTICS.....	24
2.5 PHYSICAL CHARETERSTICS.....	25
2.6 SOCIAL CHARECTERTICS.....	26
2.7 RELIGION.....	27
2.8 WELFARE.....	28

CHAPER 3

3. LITERATURE REVIEW: INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS OF UTRECHT

3.1 INTRODUCTION.....	30
3.2 PECETION OF THE COMMUNITY ON PEVERTY IN S.A.....	32
3.3 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.....	34
3.4 DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT OF POVERY ALLIVIATION PROGRAMEMES.....	37
3.5 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.....	39
3.6 DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP	40
3.7 THE PRIORITY AREAS OF ACTION FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION.....	41

3.8 CONCLUSION.....	42
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CHAPTER 4

4. RESEACH METHODOLOGY.....	43
4.1 INTRODUCTION.....	43
4.2 RESEACH DESIGN.....	44
4.3 EVALUATIVE RESEARCH.....	44
4.4 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS.....	44
4.5 THE SAMPLING PROCEDURE.....	47
4.6 THE POPULATION.....	49
4.2.2.2 THE SAMPLING STRATEGY.....	50
4.7 RESEARCH INSTRUMENT.....	50
4.8 DATA ANALYSIS.....	53
4.9 RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY.....	54
4.10VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY.....	55
4.11 SUMMURY.....	55

CHAPTER 5

5. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

5.1 INTRODUCTION.....	56
5.2 NEED ASSESSMENT.....	60
5.3 AVAILABILITY OF CONSTITUTION.....	61
5.4 PARCITIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBERS IN DECISION MAKING.....	62
5.5 PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING.....	62
5.6 INFORMATION OF PROJECT RELEVANCE IN THE COMMUNITY.....	64
5.7 PROGRAME PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION.....	64
5.8 TRAING.....	67

5.7.1 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TRAINING.....	68
5.8 AVAILABILITY OF SKILLS AMONG THE PROJECT MEMBERS.....	68
5.9 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AMONG PROJECT MEMBERS.....	69
5.10 RESOURCES AVAILABILITY IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT GOALS.....	70
5.11 STRATEGIES USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN MONITORING PROGRESS IN THE POVERTY PROJECTS.....	72
SUMMARY.....	74
CHAPTER 6	
6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
6.1 INTRODUCTION.....	75
6.2 RESTATEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY.....	75
6.3 RESTATEMENT OF THE HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY.....	76
6.4 FINDINGS OF THE STUDY.....	76
6.5 CONCLUSION.....	83
6.6 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STUDY.....	83

CHAPTER ONE

1. ORIENTATION TO THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Poverty manifests itself in many different ways: hunger, ill health, premature death, ignorance, vulnerability, discrimination and insecurity, denial of dignity and other expressions of deprivation.

Poverty varies between places over time and in depth. To use income generating projects to combat poverty, therefore, requires grounded poverty analyses. These should be sensitive to the particular context and rest on an understanding of the basic characteristics of poverty which are:

- (i) Poverty is complex. It comprises a wide range of aspects and situations that together constitute the livelihood of poor people- men, women and children.
- (ii) Poverty is context specific: the features of poverty are derived from the particular environmental, socio-cultural, economic and political characteristics of the situation in a given area.
- (iii) Poverty is relative: deprivation is defined by those concerned in relation to their notions of what is judged to be decent life in terms of economic resources, security, adequate health and education, opportunities to participate in social life and fulfill important cultural functions. etc.
- (iv) Poverty is dynamic: the manifestation of deprivation will change over time. Individuals and groups may move in and out of poverty depending on the

local situation as well as on external forces e.g. natural or human disasters, economic crises and armed conflict (Mikkelsen,2005:224).

Social, economic and environmental development in poor communities cannot be ignored when addressing the well-being and living conditions of people. If development is to be introduced successfully in rural communities, the concept of sustainable living means the balance between conservation and development. Many communities in rural areas depend only on the environment for their existence. Houses are built from materials in the environment. Food is obtained or produced from the environment. Despite this, poverty levels have remained alarmingly high. Members of such communities are also disadvantaged since they are usually excluded from the outside world because of a lack of skills and lack of knowledge.

A wide range of development programmes have been implemented in rural areas. In most of the development programmes, women are the majority. Women are seen as people who were marginalised and who need to be helped. Women have been seen as passive recipients of help, but now through empowerment programmes they are participants in development.

Poverty is seen as a phenomenon that is typical of certain countries, areas and group of people who possess specific traits and labels that contribute to their condition of being poor. In South Africa, poverty is primarily a feature of the previously disadvantaged population. Black South Africans who are the majority are the most vulnerable group that

is affected by poverty. The extent of poverty is significant in certain geographical areas like rural areas, informal settlements and in farms. There are various factors that contributed to the legacy of poverty and these include colonialism, apartheid governance, racism, sexism and discrimination.

Some rural people, especially women, the oppressed and the very poor, usually feel powerless to steer development policies, priorities, technologies, agenda and programs. They believe that development is controlled and decided by outsiders, and they can not influence this process. The sense of powerlessness may be due to non-inclusion of people in crating development programs. For instance at KwaZulu-Natal Poverty Hearings held At Ulundi on 15 May 1998, over 600 people, the majority of whom were women, turned up to speak out against poverty. But the majority was too scared to speak in public.” I cannot go up there and speak” said one woman, “I do not have permission of my husband” (Anyaegbunam; 2004:8).

Patel(2005:193) states that since 1997 additional funds have been allocated annually by Parliament for poverty alleviation programmes across government departments, in 2000/2003 this amount to 100 million. The programmes were targeted at women, the youth and people with disabilities. Over the same period a total of 416 programmes were funded including 51 additional food security projects, which were spent n rural areas.

The paradigm shift from providing services to participants in social development emphasizes that individuals should be directly involved in all efforts aimed at their

economic development, hence the income generating projects at Utrecht would be looked at if it involves the participants in all its efforts.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Over one billion of people in the world today live under unacceptable conditions of poverty mostly in rural areas (World Summit for Social Development 2002:57). As a result the South African government committed itself to poverty alleviation in the pursuit of a better life for all its citizens. The government policy has demanded that all the departments, including Department of national Social Development adopted policies which aimed at creating job opportunities by involving disadvantaged group such as women in different projects with different programmes activities, e.g. sewing, baking and poultry farming.

The aim of these programmes was also to ensure that women have access to skills training in order to empower them for self help and self reliance. Over the ages people have felt responsible for each other.

In 1998 the National Government of Social Development and Population Development allocated fifty (50) million rands to provinces for income generating projects. Utrecht is one of the areas where projects were encouraged. There are presently 15 projects all started by unemployed women who are mothers with children under the age of seven years and mothers, who were recipients of state maintenance grants and others who were not in receipt of any state grants.

The purpose of this study is, therefore, to assess the impact of income generating projects on the lives of women in Utrecht, as well the effectiveness of the projects in alleviating poverty and promoting socio-economic development among women and the community.

1.3 MOTIVATION FOR THE STUDY

The researcher's motivation emanates from being actively involved in monitoring the poverty alleviation projects in Utrecht which were initiated by women. Utrecht is characterized by features of under-development such as illiteracy and unskilled practices. Development has embarked on promoting the economic empowerment of individuals, groups and families through the funding of the community projects; poverty is still prevalent in Utrecht. The developmental stance adopted by the democratically elected government aims at unlocking the human potential and ability to obviate social problems under the support of non discriminating community projects. The essence of the study is to establish the contribution of projects in developing local leadership and community empowerment.

1.4 HYPOTHESIS

The following are the hypothesis of the study:

1. The effectiveness and sustainability of the projects depends on the full participation and involvement of beneficiaries in promoting their own social welfare.
2. The full involvement of beneficiaries in the programme implementation process results in the improvement of the local leadership and community empowerment.

3. The strategies set by government have a tendency to achieve the goals of the poverty alleviation.
4. The approach used by the Department of Social Development to alleviate poverty has not reached the desired goal.

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study were as follows:

1. To assess the effectiveness of income generating projects of Utrecht.
2. To determine the involvement of the beneficiaries in improving their welfare.
3. To determine the strategies set out by the government in achieving the desired goals of poverty alleviation, and to establish the involvement in the projects that contribute to improvement of local leadership and community empowerment.
4. To find out if the main objectives and strategies of the Department of Social Development about the programme are achieved. I.e. the ethical responsibilities of development.
5. To establish whether community projects are the best methods to be used for socio-economic enlistment and poverty alleviation.

1.6 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURE

This section presents the procedure that was followed by the researcher when conducting this study.

1.6.1 Research Design

A search design is a plan or blue print on how the researcher intends to conduct the research (Mouton: 2007:74).

A research design provides the answer to the question, “What are the means to be used to obtain the information needed.” Mouton and Marais, (2001).The study made use of evaluative research to evaluate the impact of income generating projects on women at Utrecht in alleviating poverty.

Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were utilised in this study.¹

According to Neuman (2000:30) quantitative data method refers to the collection of data using number counts and measures of things and qualitative research basically involves the use of words, pictures, descriptions or narratives. In the study the researcher used the evaluative design because the aim of the study was to find out the effectiveness, importance, meaning and efficiency of income generating programmes to the beneficiaries and community as a whole.

Farley (2006:145) indicate that evaluative research is one of the new methods. This is an approach to assess the effectiveness in social work, particularly social programmes designed to improve the welfare of people. Weiss in Farley (2006:145) suggest that in evaluation research the tools of research are pressed into service to make the judging process more accurate and objective. The researcher is concerned with the socio-economic status of the project beneficiaries and the rate of poverty in the area of study.

The researcher is involved directly in supervising the programme beneficiaries. The women are observed regularly in the daily activities of their income generation projects.

1.6.2 Population and Sample

The research population comprises women who participated in income generating projects at Utrecht. Welman et al (2005 :46) define population as the study of object, which may be individuals, groups, organizations, human products and events or the conditions to which they are exposed. The research populations were beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation projects in the Utrecht area.

A sample can be thought of as a model of a larger population and it consists of a relatively small number of individuals or other units that are selected from a larger population according to a set of rules. The researcher had enlisted all the names of the beneficiaries of the projects. In choosing the respondents of the study, the researcher has used the probability sampling procedure called Systematic random sample where (20) twenty respondents were chosen from the list of beneficiaries of the projects.

1.6.3 Research Instrument

An interview schedule was used to probe both verbal and non-verbal cues of the respondents and this would give the interviewer the opportunity to clarify matters where necessary. In this study the researcher used the structured interview schedules which comprised both open and close-ended questions. This interview schedule were constructed in English and translated in Isizulu and administered in the same language. Isizulu is understood by all the respondents who basically have a low educational

standard, and therefore are not conversant with English. The structured interview schedule would enable the researcher to gather more information from the respondents about the ignorance or lack of information about poverty alleviation programme in the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries.

1.6.4 Procedure for Data Collection

In the study the researcher had used the structured interview and sentence observation of respondents. The researcher would peruse the project documents like minutes of the meeting, project report files and the formal literature review. .

1.6.5 Data Analysis and Interpretation

The information gathered would be analyzed statistically using graphs and tables in presenting data. The use of data analysis was to establish the frequencies and correlation of findings and would then be presented in the form of descriptive statistics and qualitative discussions and findings.

Data analysis and interpretation answer the question of how the findings of the study shall be reported. Tutty et al (1996:90) state that the purpose of data analyses in qualitative studies is to sift, sort and organize the mass information acquired during data collection in such a way that the themes and interpretation address the original research problem.

Data would be categorized, coded and sorted to form the patterns that would be used to summarize the interpretation of data.

1.6.6 Dissemination of Information

The study would be made available to the library of the University of Zululand and the researcher would submit to the Regional Task Team and to the Utrecht district/ service office as well as the regional office Department of Social Development.

1.6.7 Delimitations of the Study

The study focused on poverty alleviation programmes which are income generating projects. These projects were funded from 1998 to 2002 financial year by the Department of Social Development and Population Development. The study focused only on the projects at Utrecht. The projects were visited on site and the interviews were conducted on projects sites or centres where a separate room was used for interviews to avoid influence from other respondents. A total number of twenty (20) women who are the respondents were interviewed.

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study would assist community development practitioners who are involved in income generating projects how they could improve community participation as **strategy** for community development on poverty alleviation.

1.8 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

The following terms are defined as they are used in the study in order to eliminate misunderstanding about the conceptualization of terms.

1.8.1 Poverty

Poverty is defined as an interlocking and multidimensional phenomenon caused by lack of multiple resources such as employment, food, assets (housing, land), basic infrastructure (water, transport, and energy), health care and literacy (Patel; 2005:240).

Van Wormer (2006:133) indicates that the weight of poverty falls most heavily on vulnerable groups in every society- women, the elderly, minority groups and children.

1.8.2 Community

A community is defined as a group of people who resides in a specific locality and who exercises some degree of local autonomy in organizing their social life in such a way that they can, from that locality base certify the full range of their daily needs(Swanepoel & De Beer;2006:43).

According to Marie (2006:6) a community is also defined as a group of interacting individuals who occupy a certain territory and who are united by commonly shared beliefs, values and norms.

The term community for the purpose of this study is defined as a group of people occupying the same geographic area sharing common norms, beliefs and culture. It is the group of people who also experience common social, economic and political standards.

1.8.4 Community Development

Patel (2005:161) defines community development as an umbrella term referring to the combination of efforts of the people themselves with government to improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental conditions of communities. Community development entails intervention strategies that are most suited to address poverty, community participation and empowerment and social and economic development. Community development has become associated with social development, participation and empowerment and people centered development.

1.8.5 Social development

Midgely (2000:25) defines social development as a process of planned social change designed to promote the well-being of the population as a whole in conjunction with a dynamic process of economic development. Social Development represents an approach to social welfare. Other widely recognized approaches are the residual and institutional conceptions of social welfare.

The South African approach to social development is socially constructed. This means that the idea of social development emerged from the realities of the society and the involvement of many stakeholders in its formulation (Patel; 2005:204).

Social welfare in South Africa has been redefined around a new nucleus or a central concept namely social development.

Social development lays emphasis on the improvement in the quality of life of people especially those who are socially weak and economically vulnerable through institutional

as well as structural changes in society. It enables people and communities on the margin to participate in the development process (Selwan; 2005:132).

1.9 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ethical issues include getting informed consent from the respondents and ensuring confidentiality or anonymity of all respondents who participated in the study. All social research involve consent access and ethical issues, since it is based on data from people and about people. The researcher explained everything to the respondents about confidentiality. The researcher also indicated that they have the right to withdraw when one wishes to pull out. Their names were also held anonymous. Terre Blanche et al (2007:72) indicate that informed consent has often been seen as the only determinant of the ethicality of the research. The standard components of consent are (a) provision of appropriate information, (b) participants' competence and understanding(c) voluntary participation and freedom to decline or withdraw after the study has started, and formalization of the consent, usually in writing. This means that researcher must provide potential participants with clear, detailed and factual information about the study, its methods, its risks and benefits, along with assurance of voluntary nature of participation and the freedom to refuse or withdraw without penalties.

1.10 LAYOUT OF THE STUDY

- Chapter one deals with the introduction of the study. This chapter orients the reader. It includes the motivation of the study statement of the problem, hypotheses, objectives of the study, brief explication of the research methodology,

definition of relevant concepts for the study, ethical considerations as well as the study's lay out.

- Chapter two deals with the community profile of Utrecht
- Chapter three discusses literature review of the previous work done by other scholars in the field. It provides the framework whereby the researcher can direct his or her research, it includes community development and community participation as well as poverty related issues
- Chapter four outlines the methodology used in broader detail. This includes the planning of the research preparation and design of the research, the research instrument and the data collection method.
- Chapter five presents and analyses the findings on income generating projects at Utrecht.
- Finally, chapter six reviews the findings of the study, draws the conclusion and makes recommendations based on the findings of the study.

1.11.Summary

The majority of rural women find themselves engaged in poverty alleviation programmes which have income generating projects

CHAPTER TWO

2. THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF UTRECHT AREA

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Although Utrecht is a rural area and that it has gradually declined over the years. It is a rare gem, unique in that it is in the heart of a conservancy and is beautifully tucked away in a corner of the pictures queue Balele Mountains. There is also a Game Park and there are craft work projects run by the Municipality for tourists wetland rehabilitation, land care projects, all the money generated belongs to the municipalities and the ordinary people of Utrecht remain poorer.

2.2 HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

This chapter focuses on the historical development of the Utrecht area, Kwa-Zulu Natal. This chapter looks at the different area of development, the different programmes including projects and services rendered in the community are mentioned in this chapter. This chapter briefly discusses the demographic profile of the area, its origin, population density and different social indicators that characterized people of that area.

Services in the rural areas are provided by the Umzinyathi District Council whilst services in the urban areas were provided by the Utrecht Local Council. Since the local government election in December 2001, the larger part of the Utrecht Municipality area which falls under the Utrecht Local Council.

Regional Councils have been replaced by the District Councils and Utrecht Local Council now falls within the area of District Council 25 (Amajuba). The population in the Utrecht

Local Council area is older than those in Newcastle and Dannhauser. The Dannhauser area has the largest population, namely 53% in comparison with 47% in the Utrecht area. The N11 links the district with Gauteng and Durban. This route provides timber plantations in the grassland areas of this Bio-resource group. However, this would result in the permanent destruction of users including eco-tourism and agriculture, especially grazing.

The mining operations have impacted significantly on the geology, topography, soils, water vegetation and wildlife of the area. An Environmental Management Programme was drafted and approved for each of the five mines. Each included provision for rehabilitation of the areas affected by the mining operations. The status and progress of rehabilitation at these obsolete coal mines should be assessed in terms of the legal requirements:

- Employment for local communities in eco-tourism.
- In the construction of accommodation and tourist centres.
- In catering, hospitality and services.
- As trained guides, game guides and specialist bird guides.
- To provide cultural tourism experiences.
- Opportunities for employment of local community in the management of the alternative route to Gauteng linking the N3 with Volksrust via Ladysmith and Newcastle.

There is a railway line from Utrecht to Newcastle which is solely for transportation of coal to Newcastle, Dundee, and Vryheid etc. The importance of this area in terms of fresh

water production for KwaZulu-Natal and the whole of South Africa cannot be over-emphasised. It contains the upper reaches of the Tugela River. It contains part of the headwaters of the Buffalo, Bivane and Pongola Rivers, part of the headwaters of the Buffalo and Blood rivers. It also contains the catchment areas from the Slang, Bivane and Dorspruit Rivers. Furthermore, wetlands of considerable size occur in this area. However, many of these wetlands have been drained for cultivation, particularly winter pastures and dammed for water for livestock and irrigation. These grasslands are considered to be so important that a Grassland Biosphere Reserve is proposed that would include the last and best remaining Moist Highland, Grasslands in KZN, the Free State and Mpumalanga, with Wakkerstroom as its core.

The primary land use comprises the wetlands and in the wetland itself is domestic stock grazing on the natural vegetation. There is extensive pasture cutting for hay and some crop and pasture production and afforestation. The Utrecht urban area intrudes slightly into the wetland in the east and until recently, an area at the junction of the Dorspruit and Wasbankspruit has been mined for sand. The catchment has been subject to mining activity with the Utrecht colliery, situated just north of Utrecht. There is severe erosion in some of the tributaries, but erosion of the main wetland is limited. Three dams have been constructed in the wetland and some areas are heavily infested with alien plants.

The Utrecht Local Municipality is made up of six different Bio-resource groups

8. Moist Highland Sourveld ,

9. Dry Highland Sourveld,
11. Moist Transitional Tall Grassland,
- 12 .Moist Tall Grassveld,
- 13 .Dry Tall grassveld,
14. SourSandveld

Grass species typical of sourveld are common and woody species are almost absent, although a few may be found in well -drained sites and along watercourses. Soils vary considerably from deep sands to shallow poorly drained sands and this is reflected in the species composition.

Forest patches occur mainly on the cooler and moist south facing the slopes along the escarpment, particularly where there is protection from fire. However, these forests have been severely damaged by exploitation for timber and fire that burns into the forest margins, diminishing the size of the forest.

The importance of this area in terms of fresh water production for KZN and the whole of South Africa cannot be over-emphasised. It contains the upper reaches of the Tugela catchment and is a main water producing area for the Tugela River. It contains proposed Grassland Biosphere Reserve.

a) CRAFT WORK PROJECTS

- Woven products using local raw materials that can be sustainably harvested from the grasslands and wetlands and can be used in the construction and interior decorating of accommodation and tourist centres, for example, thatching, cladding window blinds and floor mats.
- For sale to tourist for example baskets, table mats, lamp shades and vases.
- Bead products that can be used for interior decorating and sale
- Wrought iron and wire product for interior decorating and sale.
- Pottery for interior decorating and sale.

b) ALIEN VEGETATION REMOVAL

Local communities can be trained and employed to remove alien vegetation focusing initially on river catchment areas and wetlands.

c) WETLAND REHABILITATION

Local communities can be trained and employed to rehabilitate degraded wetlands.

d) CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

Training communities to collect seed and then germinate and cultivate medicinal plants leading to a number of income generating opportunities including:

- The establishment of small plant nurseries to produce seedlings for sale
- The sale of mature medicinal plants to traditional healers and in ‘muthi’ markets.

e) LAND CARE PROJECTS

Small scale community farmers are trained and supported in:

- improved agricultural techniques and practices to improve yields and minimise negative impacts on the environment
- rehabilitating degraded areas.

f) OTHER ACTIVITIES

Other activities in Utrecht include:

- Game viewing,
- Hiking Trails,
- Horse riding,
- Trout fishing and
- Waterfowl hunting

Utrecht area is well accessible with transportation links to Newcastle, Vryheid, Wakkerstroom, Paulpietersburg, Volksrust and Osizweni.

2.3 POPULATION INFORMATION

A total of 24 000 people live around the area .The area has a relatively young population with 48% youth. A large group of adult population has no education, namely 23%. Agriculture is the biggest provider of job opportunities and only 18% of the economically active are unemployed.

The rural composition is reflected in the male and female ratio of 54:46

Utrecht Local Council falls under Amajuba District Council 25. The majority of the population, namely 89% is Black and 7% are White, 2% Indians and another 2% Coloureds. The Amajuba District Council accommodates 410.439 people, of which the majority (70%) lives in the Newcastle Local Area, 24% in the Danhauser Local Council and 6% in the Utrecht area.

The 1996 statistics showed that 24 000 people were living in Utrecht Local Council. Taking into account the HIV/AIDS impact with the development of the land reform projects and development trends it is foreseen that the total population will increase to 30 272 by the year 2006. 10% of the population lives in the urban area.

The Utrecht local council is reasonably accessible to the R 34, which links the town via Newcastle and via R 33 with Vryheid and Dundee. The R 34 links the area also to the North Coast.

At present Newcastle is the main urban centre providing a large variety of social and physical infrastructure. Dannhauser is the other urban core in the District. Utrecht is a town within a Game Park- and it is marketed thus.

Five large parcels of land are in the process of being designated to landless Amakhosi in the Utrecht district, namely Inkosi Khumalo, Inkosi Mabaso and Inkosi Shabalala. Each

of these projects makes provision for 300 beneficiaries except in the case of Inkosi Khumalo where 600 beneficiaries may settle. The land of Inkosi Khumalo has been designated and people have settled in the area. All five projects have potential for LRAD programmes. The development of these five projects in terms of the Redistribution programme will have a major impact on the spatial development of the Utrecht district. Needs for social and physical infrastructure will be influenced and job creation in rural areas will be a major need. In terms of tenure reform 280 applications have been registered. Most are applications of small groups, who do live on farms already and this will have an additional impact on social and physical infrastructure.

Three low cost housing projects are in the process, namely:

150 units at Goedehoop

78 units in the Agri-Village

78 units in Mzimhlophe.

The council plans to submit an application for further 300 units. The majority of farm workers live in mud houses with limited infrastructure. Farm worker housing grants of R3000-00 per family are available, but can be claimed once the house has been built. The mountainous terrain of much of this area and the cold winters with severe frosts limit the development. The vegetation of this area apart from the forests is possibly the least distributed in KZN.

The largest proportion of South Africa's commercial timber is grown within grassland areas similar to that north and north-east of Utrecht. These timber plantations have already consumed vast areas of grassland, often in important water catchments areas with the resulting loss of species of plants and animals and reduced water flow. There has been interest expressed in planting for commercial purposes.

2.4 ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

There is only one factory in Utrecht which manufactures jerseys and track suits. It employs about 200 workers.

The Utrecht Local Council has been actively involved in the marketing and development of the tourism potential of the area since 1997. The area is well situated in terms of accessibility and has a beautiful scenery.

Major tourism projects are in the implementation stage. The largest draw card being the development of the Utrecht Community Game Farm and wildlife products. This project includes the development of the game farm as well as the arts and Craft Village, both aimed at the creation of job opportunities for the local community. Unemployment in the area has increased over the last few years due to the decline in the mining and agricultural industry. This tourism venture is aimed at decreasing the unemployment.

The locality of the Wakkerstroom wetlands and the various battle fields in the area also impact on the tourism potential of the area. The Arts and Craft Village offers pottery, needlework etc. A backpacker's accommodation unit is in the process of completion.

The Utrecht game farm must be seen as the core of tourism development in the area. It creates many opportunities for rural tourism and for the manufacturing of arts and craft in the more remote areas.

Unemployment is very high in Utrecht. Some of the employed earn below R1500 p.m.

2.5 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

There is a big area that has been given to the community for purposes of vegetables/gardening project. There is land also for animal farming like piggery, grazing land for cows, sheep and goats.

There are mines in the area which provide jobs to some people in the community. There has been some closure, however, of most mines making unemployment to be very rife in this area. There is a railway station which has been used solely by the goods trains transporting coal to Newcastle, Vryheid and other areas.

There are mountains surrounding Utrecht and there is a game park and caravan park. There are two hotels in this area. Traffic department is also available and transport is available daily from Osizweni to Utrecht. However, transport from Paulpietersburg to Newcastle via Utrecht is available on certain days only i.e. Mondays and Wednesdays.

There is no electricity at Vallbank/Emxhakeni area; they are still going to install it. Mobile clinics are used here and schools also do not have electricity.

2.6 SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

There is no University at Utrecht but the students have to go to other districts or provinces for university education.

Forty six schools offer education facilities to 7,074 learners. The schools are, however, overcrowded and 16 of the schools are in a bad physical condition and need to be upgraded.

There are no high schools, which offer Grade 12 in the rural area. Four schools up to Grade 10, taking into account the development of the five land reform projects. It will impact on the need for more schools to offer up to Grade 12. Primary schools needs are as follows:

Additional classes,

Feeding schemes,

Cottages for teachers,

Upgrading of schools,

Sports grounds,

Fencing of schools and

Crèches/pre-schools are also in great demand

There is only one library and there is need to extend services. Health services, at the Newmeyer Memorial Hospital are not sufficient. The quality of services has been questioned and there are no other clinic facilities. Mobile clinic (35 points) visits the area on a monthly basis because the low attendance figure does not warrant more visits.

The lack of transport facilities increases the dependence on mobile clinic visits. The construction of new access necessitates the re-evaluation of the locality of the mobile clinics.

The Department's primary health care programme is visible in the area through the appointment of the community health care workers. The relocation of the ambulance services at Newcastle causes discomfort in the district. A request has been made to station the ambulance at Utrecht. There are two private medical doctors. One is also serving as the district surgeon assisting the welfare department customers, who apply for disability grants.

2.7 RELIGION

There are three church denominations in the Utrecht area which are used mainly by English and Afrikaans population. These churches are N.G Kerk, Holy Saints. Black Anglicans use school buildings for worshipping purposes. There are no Mosques and or Synagogues.

2.8 WELFARE

There is a government Department of Social Development which serves the community of Utrecht. The two-non-governmental organizations, which were also offering welfare services, were closed down. i.e. (CMD) and Child Welfare were relocated to Newcastle.

The Department does not have offices but operates from a small office and services people/community of the five Amakhosi's i.e. Utrecht town and rural areas falling under Inkosi Khumalo, Inkosi Nzima who is operating near Wakkerstroom, Inkosi Shabalala in Groenvlei and areas up to Paulpietersburg and Inkosi Mbatha falls under Kingsley, areas up to near Vryheid and 25 km from Dundee. Welfare also provides make shifts offices in the rural areas so that the people can utilize the services brought closer to their homes.

There is one old age home which caters for all races which is one of the transformation regulations/rules. Migration of services by the Social Worker employed by the South Afrikanse Vroue Vereeniging is done. The organization offers its services to the elderly who reside in the nearby coloured area in the form of medical attention for the frail aged.

Pensions are the largest single contributor to income into the rural area. . There are Old Age Pension Committees that help with services related to old age pensioners during pay points.

Social disorders such as abuse, rapes, domestic violence are limited to the urban area. Even divorces are limited. The population profile indicates a large youthful population.

No development exists for the youth. Unemployment for the matriculated youth is very high.

SANCA and KHULISA have just negotiated with Social Development and they are going to target the youth. They intend to offer programmes, which will be aimed at assisting them. Awareness programmes on drugs will also be given/conducted with the youth. The Department of Labour has been contacted also to empower the unemployed youth with capacity building and skills training.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 LITERATURE REVIEW: INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS OF UTRECHT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Neuman (2000:445) states that literature review is based on the assumption that knowledge accumulated that we learn and build on what others have done. Scientific research is a collaborative effort of many researchers, who have their results with others and pursue knowledge as a community. For the purpose of this study, the literature review was obtained from sources such as books, journals and conference proceedings as well as research publications.

Bless (2006:24) states that the purpose of the literature review is to sharpen and deepen the theoretical framework of the research, familiarise the researcher with the latest developments in the area and identify gaps in knowledge as well as weaknesses of previous studies

The legacy of poverty has its roots from apartheid era. The extent and prevalence of poverty has challenged the government and its citizens to respond to the situation, through taking the initiatives towards combating it. Various strategies have been put in place as the means to respond to the thorny phenomenon of poverty.

The paradigm shift from providing services to participants in social development emphasizes that the individual should be directly involved in all the efforts aimed at their economic upliftment.

Fox (2004:101) states that the first democratic government in South Africa is faced with numerous challenges. It realized that the ultimate goal of any country should be the advancement of the general welfare and peace of its people and that in a developing and transforming country South Africa, this could only be achieved through the promotion of sustainable development. In rural communities, women and children are the most at risk; women have taken initiatives to improve their situations and those of their families. Encouraging women to use their leadership skills, providing opportunities for them to participate in community decision-making, supporting women's organisations are some of the actions communities can take to raise opportunities for generating employment for poor women.

One of the goals of the White Paper on Social Welfare is to facilitate the provision of appropriate welfare services to all South Africans, especially those living in poverty, vulnerable groups and those with special needs (White Paper: 1997).

This chapter gives a theoretical background which serves as a frame of reference for the research.

3.2 PERCEPTION OF THE COMMUNITY ON POVERTY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Causes and expression of poverty, as well as strategies to overcome poverty may vary between women and children. It is, therefore, important to include the perspectives of women as well as those of men in a poverty analysis. Gender inequality usually has its roots far removed from the immediate life situations of poor people and beyond their control. Therefore measures that directly target women or men are not enough measures that affect both direct and indirect gender –poverty linkages are required. This includes supporting gender inequality in political participation. Representation and decision making (Mikkelson; 2005:226).The focus of the government is on development and redress of past imbalances.

It is estimated that globally 1.2 billion people are in extreme poverty. Progress with poverty reduction in the last decade has been very slow. The rate of poverty reduction from 1990-1998 was less than one third of what is needed to halve extreme poverty during 1990-2010(Rural Poverty Report; 2001:1)

Poverty is one of the greatest challenges facing Southern African countries (Patel; 2005:51).

Poverty among community members can be measured differently. There are various arguments that authors establishing lines that separate the poor from non-poor have advanced. Most of the households obtain food from money generated through projects or self-employment. Given the fact that unemployment in rural areas is high and many households are accordingly unable to afford daily living requirements.

According to statistics evidence in South Africa (2000), it is estimated that 39% of the population is vulnerable to food insecurity. Food insecurity is one of the major indicators linked to poverty and vulnerability.

The researcher is of the opinion that the poor are poor because of having inadequate income to purchase or having no access to basic needs such as food, shelter and security. In further explaining the notion of poverty one would observe that: poverty and the poor are also associated with high unemployment rates, regardless of how they are measured. Most of the poor people have got no formal jobs. Among those who are included at work as labourers, most of them are women who are earning low wages (Encyclopedia article on poverty, 2000:3).

Income and skills can be measured in subjective concepts. People are poor if they believe they do not have enough resources. Different studies have shown that people say they are poor, but they tend to spend more on basic goods such as food. The definition of poverty focuses on people's quality of life. Poverty in South Africa is primarily a feature of the previously advantaged population. It is estimated that almost 65% of all South Africans live under the poverty datum line (White Paper on Social Welfare, 1997).

The poor people have got no formal jobs. Among those who are included at work as labourers, most of them are women who are earning low wages.” (Encyclopedia article on poverty, 2000:3).

3.3 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT OF PROJECT MEMBERS IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Community participation from the outset, i.e. the planning process is critical to sustainability of the projects. The mid-term assessment has revealed that projects in which the community has limited ownership and struggled to get off the ground. A greater understanding direct ownership of the objectives is likely to lead to a higher level of commitment from the target group themselves (Business Plan 2001/2003, May 2001; 3).

Community involvement in problem identification, need assessment, assessment of project relevance can help in organising local self help schemes in a community where the community can come together and discuss problems which they may experience in project management. Through democratic discussions a community can get information about the problem and the problem can be clearly defined and well understood by the project members.

Nampila (2005:31) states that different individuals in the same community have different interests and may not necessarily want to participate in the development projects. With community participation, the people decide, act and reflect on their actions as conscious subjects. The common belief is that involving citizens in rural development projects and empowering them have the potential to boost their livelihoods and foster development

(Kakumba & Nsinga; 2008:107). Such involvement facilitates the reversal of the inequalities that have been developed under colonialism by helping people to engage in the process of identifying problems and acting on them.

Community participation is one of the key ingredients of an empowered community (Reid 2001:1). Community participation is the process of giving people more opportunities to participate effectively in development activities, empowering people to mobilise their own capacities, manage the resources, make decisions and control the activities of their lives

Nekwaya (2007:11) states that community participation is rooted in democratic approaches to public policy and community planning and development, which assumes that people have a right to make decisions that affect their lives.

According to Cloete et al (1996:17) “Community involvement and participation are prerequisites for a successful community development initiative”. Because of this reason the measurement of the participation of the community members can be directly related to the success or failure of the projects, in as far as it concerns the process i.e. human development.

This approach to development thus puts people and their needs to the centre and puts special emphasis on their responsibilities. It is important that people must state their needs, get involved and make decisions about their project. The involvement and

participation of community members play an important role when problems have to be addressed and needs to be satisfied.

Burkey (1993) states that participation of the rural people in their own development has been measured as key factor in the success of projects. According to Goebel (2006:50-55) if agriculture is to be an effective sector for development, women need to be able to fully participate. The government will need not only mainstreaming in national and local governance. Government action should ensure that legislation does not discriminate against women in areas such as inheritance, wages

The participants should be organized on their own free will or should be encouraged to do so, on their own. They must not be forced to be involved in activities that are not in their interest. Active participation of community members, from problem identification, problem diagnosis, decision-making, project design, project implementation and evaluation needs to be encouraged. The group members must know the efficient utilization of external and internal resources.

Williams (2009:8) observes that “poor women become active participants in planning and management, such planning is widely recognized as a major factor in enhancing project relevance and the sustainability of project effects and ensuring that poor women receive a fair share of project assistance. Gran (1983) in Theron (2005) asserts that participation can give women and other groups of people who are usually marginalized from the community activities the opportunity to influence development initiatives in their communities.

3.4 DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

Kumar (2000) states that community participation is time consuming and slow the progress in the initial stages of the field work thereby delaying achievement of physical and financial targets.

Nampila (2005) supports the assertion that in South Africa citizen participation means the essence of democracy, therefore, conditions should be created under which collaborative dialogue can occur around issues that are critical to the community

Communities, families and individuals have devised and adapted to a variety of survival strategies within their household can be seen to be trying different tactics which they are hoping to generate an adequate and sustainable livelihood. Chopra and Ross quoted by Potgieter (1998:82) mention the experience and perception of poverty and also comment on the importance of gaining control over income resources. They further state that women and men depend on agricultural production in terms of poverty. Women also have emphasised that the income earned on income generating projects belong to them and they are ones who should determine how the income will be spent.

The researcher is of the opinion that poverty alleviation programmes empower people to tackle their problems and to see their potential. One of the goals of the White Paper on Social Welfare is to facilitate the provision of appropriate welfare services to all South

Africans, especially those living in poverty, vulnerable groups and those with special needs.

To achieve the objective of programmes they should be funding income generating programmes and projects for community empowerment (Business Plan, 2001/2003).

According to Hepworth and Harsen (1993:493) quoted by Potgieter (1998), they define the concept empowerment “as a process of increasing personal, interpersonal and collective power which allows individuals, families, groups and communities to maximize their quality of life.

Poverty alleviation for women means not just is an increase in their income generating projects in rural areas of South Africa.

Income but greater access to production resources such as land, capital, technology and opportunities to develop skills needed to improve their lives. It is a question of empowerment of enabling women to help themselves (United Nations, 1995: 3). Poverty alleviation programmes expose women to different training workshops, where they learn different skills, such as financial management, project management issues.

Fox (2004:126) observed that education and skills development are encouraged as many communities do not have the capacity to achieve the objectives they would like to set. In order to achieve these objectives, communities need to increase their skills and this can be done through for example capacity building training programmes

3.5 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

For the purpose of this study community development can be defined as the process in which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of the government authority to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of their communities, it involves two processes:.

The participation of people themselves in efforts to improve their living conditions with as much reliance as possible on their own initiatives.

The provision of technical and other services in ways which encourages initiatives self-help and mutual help and make these more effective (Mc Kendrick 2001).

Community development can be viewed by different authors as a process that requires a certain procedure aimed at achieving specific goals. As a process it does not take place in isolation, but there is inter-sectoral collaboration where it ensures that there is cost effective in the sense that it ensures that there is no service overlap.

in their own development has been measured as key factor in the success of projects

According to Goebel (2006:50-55) if agriculture is to be an effective sector for development, women need to be able to fully participate. The government will need not only mainstream in national and local governance. Government action should ensure that legislation does not discriminate against women in areas such as inheritance, wages and property ownership

3.6 DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP

“Leadership can be defined as the frequency with which one individual influences or directs the behavior of others within a group” (Napier, 1993: 229). Leadership should be developed among project members where the beneficiaries of the project should be active participants and accountable for all issues relating to the projects. Committee members are the ones who direct other project members and hold leadership positions in different projects. Project committees have power over other project members. According to Napier (1993: 229), power is not universal, but it is limited by a person being influenced. A powerful person has power over only those whom he or she can influence in the areas and within the limits defined by any person being influenced. What we observe is that: “Part of the organizers job is to help poor people to develop the type of leadership quality that will make them effective in broadening and consolidating the power of the poor within the community” (Kan, 1998: 35).

Often many of the effective leaders of the poor people will be among those who have the least stake in the community. Other categories of people are those within the poor community from which effective has often emerged. These consist of those who have income that is independent of pressure from one power structure. According to Skidmore (1997:144) leadership can be viewed in a form of a position and ability. As a position it means that a person is responsible for the control of certain situations and directing or guiding that position. As ability it refers to the capacity or skills to influence relationships with others so that they will follow the path taken by the leader. In project management and implementation it requires a responsible person that would guide, direct and provide

information to the whole group. It is a person that would be influential to the group to assist the group and work toward their benefits. Leadership is the accomplishment of goals.

3.7 THE PRIORITY AREAS OF ACTION FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION

In a sustainable manner action in all these areas should be aimed at the social and economic integration of people living in poverty. Overcoming hunger and poverty requires a range of complex actions including the promotion of sustainable equity in the distribution of goods and services (Wealth and Poverty, 1990: 57). The government of national unity aims at the empowerment of the poor through ensuring their access to productive resources and has enabled them to produce food and increase earnings for their living. The social development strategy aims at furthering people's participation in national institutions, enhancement of local governance and creating or strengthening them. More attention would be given to women and other disadvantaged groups like people living with disabilities and children.

The anti-poverty programme aims at promoting the high and sustainable economic rates and expansion and job creation through policies designed to create some enabling environment for poverty reduction. There has been an increase in income and participation in the economy by the unemployed and poor people through targeted measures to improve their skills through training and expanding the opportunities for the poor. This is by way of engaging in economic activities, by determining their access to

land, credit and other productive activities are some of the purposes of the poverty programme.

3.8. CONCLUSION

South African women endured great suffering and deprivation during the violent years of the colonial and apartheid period. Women lived under extreme poverty with less access to the economy and employment. It is difficult for women to escape this situation, unless the state empowers them through income generating projects especially the rural women where there are no job opportunities to sustain their livelihoods.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains how the research was conducted. It describes the sampling method, and how the data was collected and analyzed. It also discusses the ethical issues associated with the study and steps that were taken to maintain high ethical standards.

The social research aims at generating knowledge about the social world. In the final instance, all research is aimed at improving the understanding by describing, explaining and evaluating phenomena in the social world. There are various interpretations of nature of the social world that affect the manner in which it is studied.

The process of social research involves continuous interaction between the researcher and the social world. During this interaction or engagement the researcher had to make a number of decisions in pursuit of valid conclusions. The main stages in this decision-making process are:

- i) Problem formulation
- ii) Conceptualization
- iii) Operationalization
- iv) Sampling
- v) Data collection
- vi) Interpretation (Mouton; 2001: 41- 69).

3. Methodology can be defined as the framework associated with a particular set of paradigmatic use to control that research (Leark, 2007).

4.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

In the study the researcher used the evaluative design because the study aimed at finding out the effectiveness, importance, meaning and efficiency of income generating projects to project beneficiaries and the community as a whole.

According to Babble (2001: 89), a research design involves the planning of scientific inquiry-designing a strategy for finding out something. The researcher used the qualitative as well as the quantitative type research.

4.3 EVALUATIVE RESEARCH

The study made use of evaluative research. Because it assessed the effectiveness of income generating projects in alleviating poverty. This is an approach to assess the effectiveness in social work, particularly social programs designed to improve the welfare of people. Weiss in Farley (2006:145) suggests that in evaluation research tools of research are pressed into service to make the judging process more accurate and objective.

4.4 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

Creswell (2003:5) defines study as an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explore a social or human problem. Terre Balanche et al (2007) asserted that with qualitative research, the aim is to understand how people live, how they talk, how they behave, and what captivates or distresses them.

The study is an evaluative one. Qualitative research methods of collecting data were employed to address the research aim. According to Punch (2005) qualitative research concentrates on the study of social life in natural settings. The qualitative approach enables the researcher to develop complex holistic picture reports detailed views of informants. It is the best approach because the researcher was able to collect data in a natural setting. During data collection the researcher was able to gain multiple meaning and also individual experiences concerning the study. Focus groups and individual interviews were used during data collection.

Differences between quantitative and qualitative styles of doing things were more evident:

Quantitative researchers are more concerned about issues of design, measurement and sampling because their deductive approach emphasises detailed planning prior to data collection and analysis.

Qualitative researchers are more concerned about issues of the richness textures and feeling of raw data because their inductive approach emphasises developing insights and generalisations out of data collected.

Qualitative and quantitative research differs in many ways, but they complement each other in many ways as well. All social researchers systematically collect and analyze empirical data and carefully examine the patterns in them to understand and explain social life. One of the differences between the two styles comes from the nature of the data. SOFT DATA, in the form of impressions, words, sentences, photo, symbols and so forth, which dictate different research strategies and data collection techniques than HARD DATA, which is in the form of numbers.

Another difference is that quantitative and qualitative researchers often have varying assumptions about social life and different objectives. These differences can make tools used by other style inappropriate or irrelevant. The differences can create confusion among students, researchers and readers of research reports. People who judge qualitative research by standards of quantitative research are often disappointed, and vice versa. It is the best to appreciate the strengths each style offers.

To appreciate the strengths of each style, it is important to understand the distinct orientations of researchers who rely on a positive approach to social science. This approach follows technocratic perspectives which applies reconstructed logic and follow a linear research path. This is a language of “variables and hypothesis”. Quantitative researchers emphasized precisely the meaning of variables and testing hypothesis that are linked to general casual explanations.

Qualitative researchers, by contrast, often rely on interpretive or critical social science. They are more to use a transcended perspective, apply “logic in practice”, and follow a nonlinear research path.

Qualitative researchers speak a language of “cases and contexts”. They emphasized conduction of detailed examinations of cases that arise in the natural way flow of social life. They usually try to present authentic interpretations that are sensitive to specific-

social historical contexts. Interestingly, more female than male social researchers adopt the qualitative approach (Neuman: 2000: 121-122).

According to Neuman (2000: 30), “the quantitative data methods refer to the collection of data using numbers, counts and measures of things and qualitative research basically involves the use of words, pictures description and narratives”.

Tripod in McKendrik (2000: 228); also has emphasized that, “evaluative research refers to research purpose rather than a specific research method. Its special purpose is to evaluate the impact of social intervention. The evaluative research is also a process of determining whether the intended results are produced”.

The qualitative method helped to the researcher to assess his client’s attitudes, values, beliefs and perception towards poverty alleviation programmes. Qualitative research methods also helped the researchers to gain more insight and understanding into the problems experienced by project beneficiaries. Besides, quantitative methods helped the researcher to use figures to present data collected easily.

4.5 The Sampling Procedure

‘Sampling’ is a familiar notion. In everyday life we talk of sampling when we refer to the process selecting things or objects when it is impossible to have knowledge of a larger collection of objects. In social research, sampling refers to probability sampling procedures which involve some form of random selection of elements from a target

population. The aim of sampling in social research is to produce representative selections of population elements (Mouton 2001: 132).

During the process of selecting or sampling the aim is to get a sample of that which is as representative as possible of the target population. Representative-ness is the under lying epistemic criterion of a 'valid', that is, unbiased sample. The methodological criteria applied in the process of sampling are:

- Clear definition of the population,
- Systematic drawing of the sample,
- Drawing probability rather than non-probability samples, and
- Observing the advantages of multistage versus simple random sampling.

One can say that probability sampling has two major advantages:

- It removes the possibility that biasness of the investigator will enter into the selection of cases, and
- Through the process of random selection, the principles of probability theory may be applied to estimate the accuracy of samples.

A distinction can be made between probability samples and non-probability samples. Random samples, stratified samples, systematic samples and cluster samples are examples probability samples. Whereas accidental samples, purposive samples, quota sample and snowball samples are non-probability samples. In the case of probability sampling the probability of any element in the population will be included in the sample

can be determined. In the case of non-probability sampling, by contrast, this probability, insofar as it does exceed zero, cannot, be specified. Some elements have no chance (i.e. have a probability of zero) of being included in some examples of non-probability samples. The advantage of probability sampling is that it enables us to indicate the probability with which sample results (e.g. sample) deviate in differing degrees from corresponding population values (e.g. population means). Unlike non-probability sampling, probability sampling makes it possible to estimate sampling error, a statistical team which has bearing on the unrepresentativeness of a sample. Nevertheless, non-probability sampling is frequently used because of considerations of inconvenience and economy (Huysamen; 1998:37).

4.6 The Population

In the selection of a sampling technique, the researcher ensured that he was able to make confident generalizations of the larger population.

The research population was comprised of the beneficiaries of the 5 cluster projects functioning in Utrecht, District-Emxhakeni and KwaZulu Natal. The study was about projects funded by the Department of Social Development from the period 1998-2001. The beneficiaries of these projects are women.

4.7. The Sampling Strategy

The researcher used the probability sampling procedure for the study. Sheaffer, Mendenhall and Sullivan (1990: 137), state that probability sampling each element in the population has some chance of being included in the sample and the investigation can determine the chances of each element being included in the research.

In the study the researcher used the stratified and judge-mental sampling procedures because he knew the income generating projects in the area. According to Babble (2007:215), stratified sampling is a method for obtaining a greater degree of representative ness by decreasing the probable sampling error, rather than selecting your sample from the total population at large. The researcher ensures that the appropriate number of elements are drawn from homogenous subsets of that population.

In choosing the respondents in the study, the researcher used the systematic random sampling where twenty respondents were chosen as the respondents for the study. The sample was chosen from a list of the poverty alleviation project register kept by the Department of Social Development.

There are projects which are functioning in Utrecht. One respondent was randomly selected from each project. This led to twenty respondents for the study.

4.8 RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

The type of measuring instrument used in the study for collection of data comprised the interview schedule. The interview schedule was constructed in English and then translated to isiZulu and administered in the same language as almost the majority of the respondents have a low educational level. An interview schedule was used which enabled the interviewer to probe both verbal and non-verbal cues of the respondents and in order for the interviewer to give clarity where necessary. In the study the researcher used an interviewer schedule which consisted of both open and closed-ended questions.

Face-to-face interviews were conducted through semi-structured questionnaires to ensure flexibility and at the same time the researcher was able to observe and use his own clarification where necessary.

The research consulted some sources with past information about women groups. The researcher read project files, documents and mid-term assessments reports for the June-July 2000 period conducted by the Social Development officials together with Independent Development Trust. This information formed the background where the researcher was able to interpret and gain insight in some of the issues.

Different departments working with income generation projects like the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health. Another difference is that quantitative and qualitative researchers often have varying assumptions about social life and different objectives. These differences can make tools used by the other style inappropriate or irrelevant. The

differences can create confusion among students, researchers and readers of research reports. People who judge qualitative research by standards of quantitative research are often disappointed, and vice versa. It is best to appreciate the strengths each style offers.

To appreciate the strengths of each style, it is important the distinct orientations of researchers. Almost all quantitative researchers rely on a positive approach to social science. They are likely to use a technocratic perspective, apply “reconstructed logic”, and follow a linear research path. They speak a language of “variables and hypothesis”. Quantitative researchers emphasized precisely meaning variables and testing hypothesis that are linked to general causal explanations.

Qualitative researchers, by contrast, often rely on interpretive or critical social science. They are more to use a transcendent perspective, apply “logic in practice”, and follow a nonlinear research path.

Qualitative researchers speak a language of “cases and contexts”. They emphasized conduction of detailed examinations of cases that arise in the natural flow of social life. They usually try to present authentic interpretations that are sensitive to specific social-historical contexts. Interestingly, more female than male social researchers adopt the qualitative approach (Neuman; 2000: 121-122).

According to Neuman (2000: 30), “the quantitative data methods refer to the collection of data using numbers, counts and measures of things and qualitative research basically involves the use of words, pictures, description and narratives”.

4.9 DATA ANALYSIS

Analysis was partly seen as an ongoing process that commenced at the beginning of the research project. Each stage of the study provided valuable data that influenced the subsequent stage of research.

The information gathered during the collection of data was analyzed in the form of statistics, tables, graphs and coding data. Data analysis was designed to establish frequencies and correlation of findings.

Quantitative data contained in the questionnaire were analyzed by making use of spread sheets. Qualitative data generated by semi-structured interviews and face-to-face interviews were analysed through a process of coding and categorizing. The findings were presented in the descriptive statistics and discussions of findings.

The data collected were coded and arranged in the manner that the reader could easily understand.

Mouton and Marais (2001: 103-104), state that; “analysis is understood to mean the resolution of a complex whole into parts. It has an interpretative dimension of

explanation in the social science. Although eventual interpretation presents an indication of the manner in which the events may be understood, as a process of resolution, it is relatively easily accomplished when an existing theory is used as a form of reference”.

4.10 RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

The researcher’s main concern was whether the study would measure the variable that it was intended to measure and a major concern was whether the measuring device measured the concept as it is theoretically defined. To ensure that the findings were accurate, the reliability and validity of study were taken into consideration.

According to Babble (2001:131), the concept “validity” refers to the extent to which an empirical measure adequately reflects the real meaning of the concept under consideration.

Again according to Babble (2001:129), the concept “reliability” refers to a particular technique applied repeatedly to the same objective that would yield the same results each time.

To ensure the validity and reliability of the findings, the researcher used the social workers working in the district for collection of data. Social workers were chosen because they have knowledge in working with women groups. The social workers also formed the key informants for the study. Key informants are believed to be reliable because they have experience in working with poverty alleviation projects and they were

involved during the mid-term assessment of the effectiveness of income or poverty projects in Kwa-Zulu Natal in 1999.

The researcher used a combination of semi-structured questionnaires which were supplemented by observations of physical structures of the projects and observed their attitudes and beliefs towards the programme. The researcher also used some project documents from the District Office to limit personal biases.

4.11 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY

To ensure that the findings were accurate the reliability and validity of the study were taken into consideration. Validity refers to the degree to which a study accurately reflects or assesses the specific concept that the researcher is attempting to measure (Babbie, 2004). While reliability is concerned with the accuracy of the actual measuring instrument or procedure, validity is concerned with the study's success at meaning what the researcher set out to measure (Neuman, 2003).

4.12 SUMMARY

In this study, the researcher has attempted to explain and discuss the methods employed in the collection of data. The study was an evaluative design and the data analysed was qualitative and quantitative. Semi-structured interviews were used for the collection of data.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on the presentation, analysis and interpretation of data from project members of Utrecht. In this chapter tables were used. The information presented in this chapter was obtained from the project members doing craftwork, sewing, gardening, poultry and candle-making. The interview schedules were completed and analyzed. The statistical methods used for data analysis were in a simple form of frequencies and percentages

In short, researchers need to keep a keen sense of their overall project and think their way through analysis. Thinking of one's way through analysis is a process more comprehensive and complex than simply plugging numbers or words into a computer. Reflexive analysis involves staying as close to the data as possible from the initial collection right through to the drawing of the final conclusions.

The following were the findings as per questions used during the distribution of interview schedule:

Distribution of respondents according to the information about the project.

Table 5.1: information about the type of the project

PROJECT TYPE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Craft Work	3	15
Sewing	3	15
Gardening	4	20
Poultry	4	20
Candle making	3	15
Other	2	10
Total	20	100

Table 5.1 indicates that the majority of the projects 4(20%) were on poultry farming and candle-making. The study shows that the majority of the projects were involved in agricultural activities like poultry farming and gardening.

Food security becomes the important activity for poor women because food is a basic need for all. The project members also benefited by means of getting fresh meat from the project in order to feed their families. Eradicating poverty is the highest priority in the government's effort to build a better life for all. Development studies Module 1(1999:90) indicates that small rural projects try to help people in rural areas by giving them a

chance to earn money from something other than farming. Examples of such projects are brick making, tree planting, weaving and other crafts. It is these income creating jobs that help alleviate poverty in the rural areas and stimulate further growth.

FIGURE 5.1:

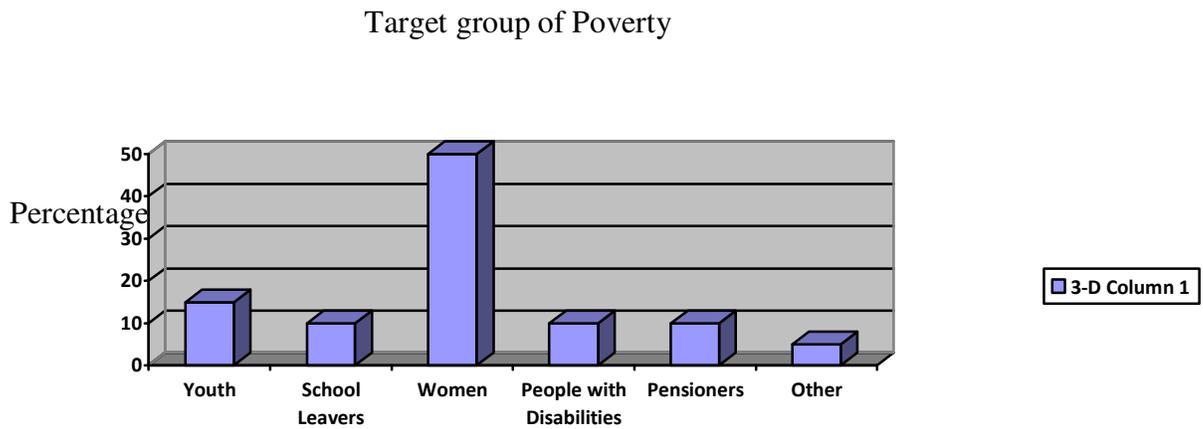


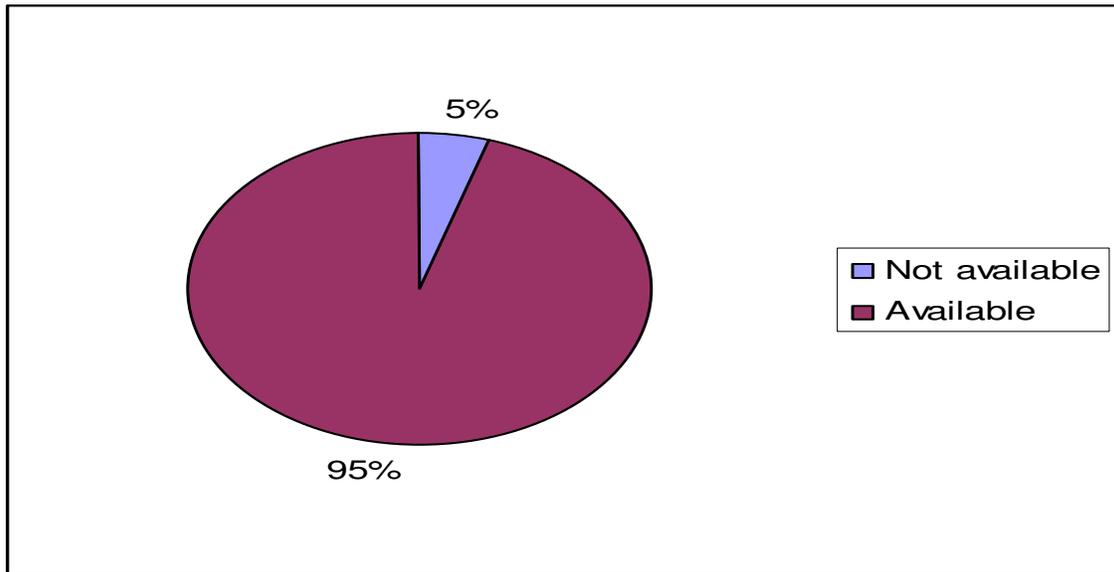
Figure 5.1 illustrates that 90 percent of community members who took part in projects were females. Women play an important role in agricultural labour force and in food production in family land, growing 60 percent of fresh vegetables. Gran (1983) in Theron (2005) asserts that participation can give women and other groups of people, who are usually marginalized from the community activities the opportunity to influence development initiatives in their communities.

TABLE 5.2: Period of operation for a project

PERIOD	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
1 – 2 Years	10	50
2 – 3 Years	6	30
3 – 4 Years	4	20
4 – 5 Years	0	0
5 and more Years	0	0
TOTAL	20	100

Table 5.2 indicates that 10 (50%) of the projects were operating for the period between 1-2 years. There were no projects running for more than five years. These projects were initiated by the Department of Social Development through the poverty alleviation programme in 2008, 2009 financial year. There were no programmes initiated by people with their own efforts. The community needs were identified by the professionals rather than people themselves, whereas the literature on community development states that community members should identify their needs and problems.

Figure 5.2: AVAILABILITY OF BUSINESS PLAN



As reflected in figure 5.2 that 95% of the respondents reported having prepared and drafted a business plan. The study also revealed that 70% of the project members were in possession of a business plan but they knew nothing about the issues written in the business plan.

During discussions with different respondents it became clear that the business plans were drafted and prepared by welfare officials. There seemed to be lack of empowerment of these members by the officials who were in charge of the project members.

5.3. Distribution of respondents according to needs assessment

Tables 5.3 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

PARTICIPATION IN NEEDS ASSESSMENT	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Yes	4	20
No	16	80
Total	20	100

The findings revealed that the majority i.e. 80% of the project members did not participate in need assessment. Burkey (1993) states that participation of the rural people in their own development has been measured as key factor in the success of projects. According to Goebel (2006:50-55) if agriculture is to be an effective sector for development, women need to be able to fully participate. The government need not only mainstream in national and local governance. Government action should also ensure that legislation does not discriminate against women in areas such as inheritance, wages and property ownership Kumar (2000) states that community participation is time consuming and slow progress in the initial stages of the field work tends to delay achievement of physical and financial targets.

TABLE 5.4. AVAILABILITY OF CONSTITUTION

AVAILABILITY OF THE CONSTITUTION	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Yes	19	95
No	1	5
Total	20	100

As reflected in table 5.3 the findings of the study revealed that 95% of the projects had a constitution. The project members did not have insight into the content of the constitution as it was written by officials. Nampila (2005) supports the assertion that in South Africa citizen participation means the essence of democracy, therefore, conditions should be created under which collaborative dialogue can occur around issues that are critical to the community

The researcher is of the opinion that the sustainability of the project could rely on the involvement of project members in drafting a constitution. The constitution is an important document which states clearly how members should behave. A constitution serves as a guideline and a disciplinary document for project members.

5.5. PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBERS IN DECISION – MAKING

Table 5.5. PARTICIPATION IN DECISION -MAKING

PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Chairperson involved	1	5
Project members not involved	19	95
Total	20	100

Table 5.5 indicates that only the chairperson was involved in decision making. Nampila (2005) supports the assertion that in South Africa citizen participation means the essence of democracy, therefore, conditions should be created under which collaborative dialogue could occur around issues that are critical to the community

Involvement of other project members in decision making can help to identify problems, accountability and responsibility can be improved. Community participation is essential during the project design protect implementation and evaluation community participation have the following facts

- It can make for greater effectiveness in planning and implementation of development initiatives.

- To improve the maintenance of assets and infrastructure through local resource contribution and management
- It can offer accountability and equal distribution of resources to community and equal distribution of resources to community members.

5.6 INFORMATION OF PROJECT RELEVANCE IN THE COMMUNITY

All (100%) the project members saw the relevance of their project to the community.

This information was asked to determine whether the project activities were in line with the needs of the community. From the interviews the respondents stated the following on importance and relevance of the project in the community.

The project is situated in remote rural areas where there was a high demand of candles and vegetables so that the community purchased products at a reasonable price.

The findings indicated community ownership. The community members indicated support and also they protect the property of the project.

5.7 PROGRAMME PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

TABLE 5.6 PROGRAMME PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

PROGRAMME PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Yes	4	20
No	16	80
Total	20	100

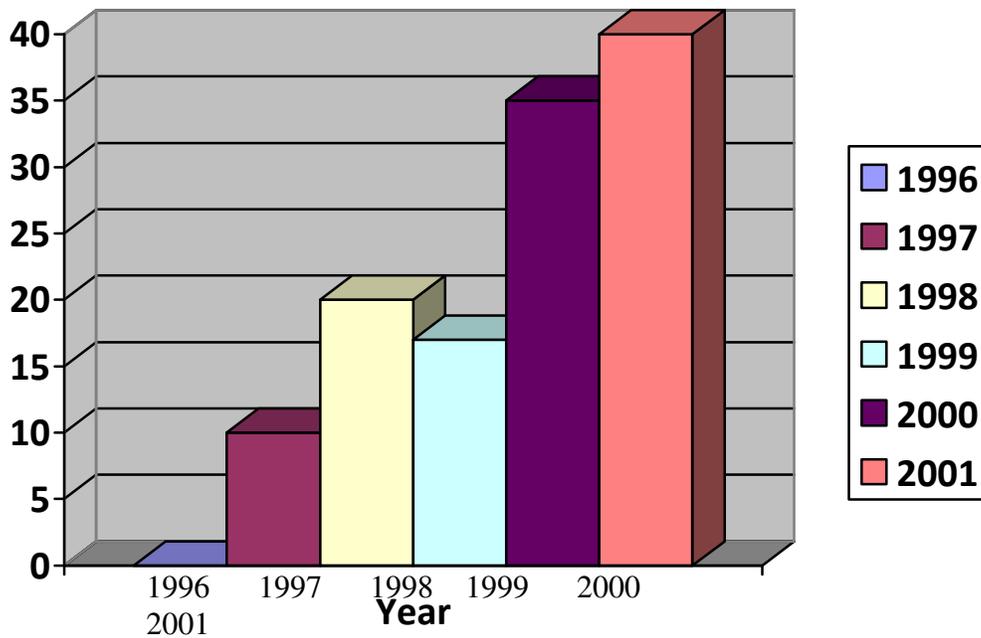
As reflected in table 5.6 the majority of the projects 16 (80%) deviated from their initial planning stipulated in the business plan and then raised the following issues in the business plan.

- The project members changed their initial planned activities because of impossible and difficult programme activities.
- Poor infrastructures like water and electricity resulted in many projects changing from their planned activities.
- The programme activities were planned beyond the programme budget.
- Lack of training between the project members and committee members resulted in the collapse of projects.
- The study also shows that the employment rate in poverty alleviation projects was very slow. The employment statistics from the project indicated that from sixteen project members only (2) are likely to be employed in the project.

Project “X” reported that there was:

“Little progress in income generating since the project members had problems with the chairperson of the project” The study revealed that the majority of the project members were demotivated through their training workshops of the project.

Figure 5.3 Employment opportunities in the project



According to figure 5.3 it became clear from the analysis that the employment rate for the five year period or more was fairly slow.

5.8 TRAINING

This information was sought to determine the training needs for the project members.

TABLE 5.7: TRAINING NEEDS OF PROJECT MEMBERS

TRAINING NEEDS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Financial management	6	30
Training in agricultural activities	7	35
Basic project management	4	20
Business plan writing	1	5
Capacity building	2	10
TOTAL	20	100

The findings revealed a number of training needs in agricultural activities. Fox (2004:126) observed that education and skills development are encouraged as many communities do not have the capacity to achieve the objectives they would like to set. In order to achieve these objectives, communities need to increase their skills and this can be done through for example capacity- building training programmes

5.8.1 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TRAINING

The respondents mentioned financial management as the best training among all other forms of training.

One project reported that:

“Financial management becomes the important training to our project because we get to know how to control and use our money effectively”

The researcher was of the opinion that people value money. This ties in well with the operational definition of income generation. It refers to income generated through the efforts made by people in different projects and program activities. Agricultural activities in the form of gardening became the priority for poor people as this generated money for member’s families.

5.8.2 Availability of skills among the project members.

The study indicated that some respondents had-acquired skills namely gardening, poultry farming, craft and art making piggery candle-making and sewing skills.

Ongoing training by government officials is necessary for sustainability of the projects.

Some of the projects had been developed the human skill that involves project management and conflict management.

The following facts were reported by the respondents:

- ★ Project members benefited from the programme. The programme members gained skills in marketing and financial management. This made it easier to run the project.
- ★ The community members purchased products like eggs, meat, bread with afford able price from the project.
- ★ Project members had developed skill through fund- raising.
- ★ Project members also had developed skills in sewing, piggery and poultry farming.

- ★ Improvements in methods of agriculture like proper ploughing of vegetables were also acquired.
- ★ Although the majority of the projects reported positive remarks, however, but some negative results were noted from the study are as follows:
 - One of the most contributing factors was that almost 90% of funds were granted to project, without prior training on entrepreneurship skills, basic business skills and other skills related to project management.

5.9 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AMONG PROJECT MEMBERS

Skills development involves providing project members with training workshop. This information was asked to determine skill development among project members.

The project members benefited from the programme later and not prior to the project's start. This would have made them to run the project with ease.

The contributing factor was that 90% of funds were granted to the projects without prior training on entrepreneurship skills, basic business skills and other skills related to project management.

Besides, project members did not know how to fund – rise.

They did not develop skills for sewing, block-making, piggery and they were uneducated. Marketing skills were not provided; hence the members' projects did not make enough money.

5.10 RESOURCES AVAILABILITY IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT

GOALS

The study indicated in most projects the availability of material resources for achieving goals of the project. There are material and non-material resources. Different projects have huge buildings for machinery and other materials for sewing projects.

The study revealed that 8 (40%) lacked non-material resources like human resource and programme management.

Some of the project members complained about poor infrastructure like unclear polluted water and the non-availability of electricity. The poor infrastructure in the long run retarded the production of most projects.

5.10.1 Problems encountered in the project.

During interviews a number of different problems were reported. Some of them are listed below:

- ★ There was lack of commitment among project members to attend meetings and participation in project activities.
- ★ There was evident deterioration of income due to low production in projects
- ★ Some of the projects reported theft from their products.
- ★ The requisitions sent to the region for approval took time to be processed.
- ★ Pigs died owing to food not purchased on time.
- ★ There was lack of water for gardening made it impossible for growth of members vegetables.

- ★ Chicks and chicken feeds were both expensive.
- ★ Lack of accommodation and electricity led to the early closure of certain projects.
- ★ There was lack of knowledge and relevant skills in project management. Conflict and corruption among project members affected member's morale in various projects.
- ★ Non-payment of income to project members affected members, since they thought they would be paid, instead of sharing profits after selling their projects.
- ★ Land belonging to farm owner hence the project could not build any structures.
- ★ There was absence of marketing strategy at the beginning of the project
- ★ Members sold the products on credit basis. This resulted in the loss of profits because of non-payment
- ★ Members funding was taken by the banks because of non -pending or withdrawals
- ★ Members tended to leave the projects without prior notification.

5.11 STRATEGIES USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN MONITORING PROGRESS IN THE POVERTY PROJECTS.

The findings revealed that the majority, 16 (8%) reported their dissatisfaction with the monitoring tool

Project "X" stated that:

"The requisition process took considerably a long time and this delayed the production

Some of the projects were satisfied about the monitoring that took place where project “x” states that:” Checking us all the way makes us conscious about how the funds need to be utilized. “The monitoring of funds is important owing to the fact that project members as well as the workers could evaluate the progress and problem in the project. These problems could be minimized.

TABLE 5.8 PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Profit making	4	20
Non –profit making	16	80
Total	20	100

The study revealed that 16 (80%) projects were not- making profit. Only 4 (20%) were making a profit. One of the contributing factors was improper planning and implementation of project goals. Some of the contributing factors were that the policy of the poverty alleviation programme had a limited time frame for allocation of funds to the project.

There seemed to have been some confusion between providing participants with production skills and enabling participants to generate profits for their projects.

The findings revealed a serious lack of skills among the project members. Thus, it resulted in low production and insufficient income generated.

Project “X” stated that:

“The quality of products produced is poor. It cannot command high prices so as to make reasonable prices”.

The community could not purchase poor quality products. This resulted in project members selling their products a cheap price.

The majority (80%) stated that projects could be sustainable if they had received more funds.

The sustainability of a project depends on the positive working relationship from project members, project committee and staff involved in development. The sustainability also depended on the knowledge about the programme and interest on the part of the project members.

Gebremdhin (2004:28) states that integrated rural development is poverty oriented strategy, which has adopted its futures from community development and seeks to inculcate a people-centered approach(community participation) “Community involvement and participation are pre requisites for the successful community development”.

SUMMARY

It has been clear that community participation of members was limited to writing the constitution of the project as well as assessing their needs; hence the sustainability of the projects was questionable due to such factors. There seemed to be a top down approach in identifying the community needs, hence Social Development officials took the lead in deciding what the project members’ wanted

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the findings of the study, draws conclusion and makes recommendations.

. The objectives and hypothesis of the study are also re-stated

6.2 RESTATEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study were as follows:

- To determine the involvement of the beneficiaries in improving their welfare;
- To determine the strategies set out by the government in achieving the desired goals of poverty alleviation ; and
- To establish the involvement in project that contributes to improvement of local leadership and community empowerment.

6.3 RESTATEMENT OF THE HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

The following were the hypothesis of the study:

- The significance and effectiveness and sustainability of the projects depend on the full participation and involvement of beneficiaries in promoting their own social welfare.
- The full involvement of beneficiaries in the programme implementation process results in improvement of local leadership and community empowerment.

- The strategies set by the government of national unity achieve the goals of poverty alleviation.

6.4 FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The following were the findings of the study based on information obtained from the respondents:

- The findings revealed that (10) 50% that is, the majority of the respondents in poverty alleviation were women. This was one of the strategies of poverty alleviation programme where it targets women and other vulnerable groups.
- A number of writers on development have expressed concern that the target population such as women participate equally in the development process. In other words, that they should have self-determination in the decision concerning their own welfare and the management of their own economic affairs
- The study also revealed that 95% of the projects were engaged in subsistence agriculture. Agricultural programmes such as gardening, poultry farming, sewing, baking, candle making and craft work seem the easiest of activities which project members can be in a position of managing.

Project members were also able to generate income and at the same time improve the nutritional status for their families. Not all the projects were able to generate income since they lacked resources such as water, electricity and land.

- In ascertaining the operation period for the project fifty percent (50%) of the programmes operated for the period of 3-4 years. It was noted that the programme was still new and the programme was initiated by welfare officials through the

poverty-alleviation programme in 1998-1999 financial year. This shows clearly that implementation and need for assessing the project relevance was done on behalf of the community members, rather than mere the involvement of community members

- Ninety five percent (95%) of the respondents reported having drafted a business plan. The study revealed that seventy percent (70%) were in possession of business plan but they had less insight about the content of the information written in the business plan. The researcher was of the opinion that the business plan was drafted by government officials. The project members were not consulted in the drafting of a business plan.
- The findings also revealed that 2 (10%) of the project had information about the content written in the business plan. It became difficult for project members to know whether they worked in line with the activities planned in the business plan or not.
- The majority 12 (60%) of the respondents deviated from planned activities. The respondents reported the lack availability of skills in carrying out the desired activities, there were insufficient funds or grants and that programmes were largely impossible to implement.
- Above all, the study also revealed that most of the programme activities did not serve the interests of the programme members. Project “X” reported that “we didn’t apply for funding from the department of Social Development. The business plan for funding was completed by the development committee, which decided to apply for gardening project for us”.

- “Community involvement helps in tackling local problems and facilitates proper identification of local needs. It allows the citizens to express their felt needs directly as opposed to what others may perceive those needs to be”.
- Seventy percent (70%) of the respondents reported that the project committee was active participants in all activities of the project. The project committee work alone without involving the other members of the project.

The lack of involvement from other members resulted in members losing interest to continue with the programme activities.

Cloete et al (1996:17) state that: “Community involvement and participation are pre-requisites for successful community development”.

Owing to this reason the measurement of the participation of the community members can be directly related to the success or failures of the projects, in as far as it concerns the process goals, i.e. human development.

- The findings subsequently revealed that the project committee, especially the chairperson, took decisions for the needs of the community. Improper consultation from the project members resulted in improper and mismanagement of funds. Project members had attained fewer skills in management of funds.
- Polland (1990) states that, community participation is essential during the project design, project implementation and evaluation. Community participation indicates the following facts:

It can lead to the increase of labour, material and non-material to the wider community. It can also make for a greater effectiveness in planning and implementation of development initiatives, to improve the maintenance of assets

and infrastructure through local resources contribution and management and accountability and equal distribution of resources and community members' accountability to other members.

- It was also noted that skills development involves providing project members with training workshops. From discussions during data collection, these were these facts which were reported by the respondents in the study:
 - The project members gained skills in marketing and financial management. This made it easier for them to run the projects.
 - The community members purchased products like eggs, meat and bread with affordable prices from the project.
 - Project members had developed fund raising skills.
 - Project members also learned teaching skill in poultry farming and candle-making and sewing.
 - Although the majority of the projects reported positive remarks, but some had negative results were noted from the study. These included the fact that: One of the most contributing factors is that ninety percent(90%) of funds were granted to projects without prior training on entrepreneurship skills , basic business skills and other skills related to project management. This lack of skills resulted in the failure in most of the poverty alleviation projects.

Another contributing factor is that, project were given very little funding i.e. R25,000.00 (twenty-five thousand) for projects and this led to the failure as

the project were in a cluster group. Other projects ended up using some of the monies intended for other projects.

- Project members lacked skills in carrying out desired programme activities. This retarded the production in the project.
- During data analysis, various problems were identified and reported by the majority of project members. Project members, in fact, reported lack of commitment among project members in attending meetings and participation in project activities.
- Poultry projects reported the unavailability of chicken feeds and chicks around the area. Chicken feeds were very expensive and project members paid a lot of money for transport.
- The majority, 13 (75%) reported having in adequate funds for carrying out their desired activities planned in the business plan.
- The study revealed that project members needed training in financial management, training in agricultural activities, basic project management and business plan writing. The findings indicated for training in capacity building. The training already offered by other government departments, NGO's was insufficient to carry out programme activities.
- The majority of respondents mentioned the absence of financial management as the best training they would have liked to attain.

Project "X" reported that;

“Financial management becomes the important training to our project because we get to know how to control and use our money effectively”

- It is essential for rural communities to be equipped with skills in to how the funds should be managed. Financial management training becomes an important aspect of all projects because their members are then able to do budget, calculate costs and control the income and expenditure in the project.
- The researcher was of the opinion that people value money. This ties in very well with the operation definition of income generation. It refers to the income generated through the efforts made by people in their project and programme activities. Agricultural activities such as baking, gardening become the priority for poor people as they generate money for their families.
- The findings finally revealed that the majority, 14 (70%) reported their dissatisfaction by the strategies used by the department of social development in monitoring the progress in project. The remaining 2(20%) were satisfied by their monitoring which they said enable them to be conscious about how funds need to be used.
- The study revealed that, 16(80%) was not making profit. One of contributing factors included, improper planning and implementation of the projects goals. Some of the contributing factors were the policy of the poverty alleviation programme there is limited time frame for allocation of funds to the project.

The sustainability of the project can also depend on the quality of products produced. It was noted that if the quality of product is poor, it cannot command high prices for members' projects.

6.5 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STUDY

The following specific recommendations among others should be considered in the efforts to sustain income generating projects as a livelihood for rural communities

- That the constitution becomes the important document for a project. It is therefore necessary to particularly involve project members in drafting of the constitution. This would empower project members to work in line with the constitution
- That project members should be empowered with skills to identify and establish their needs. This would enable project members to plan, budget and implement activities of the project according to the planned activities
- That project members should be involved in setting goals, formulation and designing of implementation strategies for the proposed project activities
- That all project members be involved in initiating the work of the project as well as assessing the ongoing progress. The project management and project participants should monitor the work and provide progress in the management activities of the project
- Government officials should plan together with the project members on the activities and implementation of the project.
- That the training activities need to be based on on-going activities in accordance with the project development cycle and at the level of project members development

- That networking and intersect oral collaboration become the important strategies that all government officials should practice in order to achieve the goals of poverty alleviation
- Those workshops are needed to empower project members with the necessary skills to be able to evaluate feasibility of ideas, and then select the best project for implementation. It is also important that project members set measurements that are realistic, specific and time frame goals
- That project members need to be motivated in one way or the other so that they can develop a sense of project ownership and work hard for the success of their own project. Swanepoel & De Beer (2006:30) emphasized the importance of ownership which allows people to take the initiative at the onset of the problem.

6.6 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

On the basis of the findings of the study the researcher wishes to recommend that:

Future research should involve the community development practitioners who are initiators of the projects to test the validity of these findings

Funders of income generating projects should also form part the future research study.

6.7. CONCLUSION

In South Africa, families have been affected by the social, economic policies of the past. The inequitable distribution of resources, social change, migration patterns, growing subculture of violence and changes in the traditional roles of women and men, has had negative effects on social life. Past policies redefined the household structures in South Africa (White Paper for Social Welfare;1997:92).

From the findings we can draw conclusion that there was lack of community participation in income generating project. Decisions were taken by the Department of Social Development in implementing the income generating project without any needs assessment.

A holistic approach to development at the local level should be followed to tackle challenges faced rural communities, especially rural women in initiating income generating projects for sustainability as their livelihoods.

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THE IMPACT OF INCOME GENERATING PROJECT ON WOMEN AT UTRECHT

SECTION A: INTRODUCTION

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

5.1 Project type

- (a) Craft work
- (b) Sewing
- (c) Gardening
- (d) Poultry
- (e) Candle- making
- (f) Other (specify).....

5.2 Target group

- (a) Youth
- (b) School learners
- (c) Adults
- (d) People living with disabilities
- (e) Pensioners
- (f) Others (specify).....

5.3 How long has the project been running?

- (a) 1-2 Years
- (b) 2-3 Years
- (c) 3-4 Years
- (d) 4-5 Years
- (e) 5 Years and above

5.4 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

5.4.1 Do you have the business plan?

Yes

No

If no, why? Support your answer: -----

5.4.2 Do you participate in needs assessment of the project?

Yes

No

If no, why? Support your answer: -----

5.4.3 Do you have the constitution?

Yes

No

If no, why? Support your answer: -----

5.4.4 Are the project members (general members) involved in decision-making regarding the issues and needs of the project?

Yes

No

If no, why? Support your answer: -----

5.4.5 Are the majority of the project members involved in the implementation?

Yes

No

If no, why? Support your answer: -----

5.4.6 Do you think project activities were relevant to the needs of the community?

Yes

No

If no, why? Support your answer: -----

5.4.6 How many members are permanently employed in the project?

5.4.7 What are the training services you need for your project?

5.4.8 In your view what do you think is the significance of your training?

5.4.9 Do you think you have enough skills to perform your project activities?

5.4.10 What skills development were you exposed to?

5.4.11 What are the problems encountered in the project? List some of them:

5.4.12 Are you satisfied with the financial monitoring carried out by the Department of Social Development? Please explain:

5.4.13 Do you think that the project is sustainable? Motivate your answer:

