CHAPTER ONE – INTRODUCTION

Poverty is an issue of great concern for all departments in the province of the Eastern Cape. According to the global statistics revealed by the United Nations (UN), about 1.2 billion people around the world are living on less than a dollar a day and nearly 50 million go to bed hungry every night (United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2003). Poverty, therefore, is a complex problem and is a product in part of political processes and policy development.

The Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs states that the inability to access income remains one of the most obvious expressions of poverty (DPLG, 2005). Poverty refers to the absence of capital such as land, access to natural resources. Also of importance in defining poverty is the absence of social and intellectual capital and even the positive climate of democracy and security necessary to enhance the capabilities of the poor and excluded.

The social, environmental, political and economic dimensions of poverty are all, therefore, relevant to local government. A major characteristic of urban poverty is the emergence of sprawling informal settlements comprising illegal squatters. Rural poverty has also taken its toll since most of the policies found in most governmental departments are ineffective.

Many people live in communities with little or no infrastructure and in social conditions which perpetuate the problem of violence and poverty. For example 80 percent of the population is still below the poverty line (United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2003). Because of the increasing number of children, social security assistance packages from the state are not always enough in themselves to remedy the situation, because the number of children who have poor parents is growing every day.

Poverty means being short materially, socially and emotionally. It means spending less on food, on heating and on clothing than someone with an average income. Above all, poverty takes away the tools to build the blocks for the future. According to the survey conducted by the government, the Eastern Cape is identified as a province with the biggest number of poor people and where poverty is severe.

According to Porteus and Madubere (2006: 35) poverty is multi-dimensional since it consists of interlocked dimensions such as powerlessness, voicelessness, dependency, shame and humiliation, lack of access to basic infrastructure as well as independent thirst for literacy, poor health and illness as well as vulnerability. The Department of Social Development occupies a strategic position within the province in pushing government programme in poverty eradication. A 2007 White Paper for Social Welfare was introduced with a set of principles, guidelines, recommendations, proposed policies
and programmers for developmental Social Welfare in South Africa. All the provincial Departments of Social Development in the country took time in aligning the strategy with the new policy. According to the State of the Nation Address (SONA) in February 2007, President Thabo Mbeki drew sharp attention to the need to review and focus poverty reduction efforts. With reference to the Chilean approach which emphasizes an integrated approach to poverty eradication, the president also made the point that poverty reduction is central to all government efforts and that the government cannot treat poverty reduction in isolation from building social cohesion.

The Eastern Cape government responded promptly to challenge of the February 2007 SONA. The Eastern Cape Executive Committee (EXCO), at the Lekgotla in Port Alfred, adopted the idea of a two-phase approach to poverty eradication: Focus in the immediate and short term on integrating and coordinating existing Poverty Eradication activities with a special focus on the 10 (later extended to 11) poorest or least developed Local Municipalities in the Eastern Cape and work towards the family-based Chilean model in the medium to long-term.

Many people including politicians talk about the problem of poverty, and underlying their discussion is the assumption that identifying the problem provides a basis for action on which all will agree (Alcock, 1993:3)

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Most people residing within the areas of Ngqushwa Municipality are vulnerable to poverty and the growth of their vulnerability increases the spread of poverty in their societies. This shows that there is the presence of abject poverty among the Ngqushwa Municipality’s communities, which rises as a result of illiteracy, unemployment, and lack of access to infrastructure as well as economic and social vulnerability.

The Department of Social Development (DOSD) has funded a large number of sustainable livelihood projects co-ops and youth development projects within the Ngqushwa Local Municipality. Some of the projects are doing well, others are not viable and some have collapsed. Therefore there is a problem in implementing the effectiveness of strategies on communities to eradicate poverty. DOSD is at the forefront in pushing for poverty eradication. The research also intends to assess the effectiveness of poverty eradication strategies that are in place in the Ngqushwa Municipality, whether they are viable or not. The research will also monitor and evaluate the strategies of poverty eradication that are already in place. The general observation indicate that these problems or challenges highlighted are issues linked to poor management, co – ordination, monitoring and evaluation strategies within the municipality.
1.3 **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- To assess the effectiveness of poverty eradication strategies on communities in the Amathole District Municipality.

- To determine the people’s perceptions in terms of the strategies employed by Amathole District Municipality to eradicate poverty within their areas.

- To suggest possible solutions and means of overcoming the problems and challenges of Ngqushwa Municipality in addressing poverty eradication.

1.4 **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

- Are the strategies employed by the Amathole District to eradicate poverty effective or not?

- What are the challenges / problems facing the officials in terms of strategies to eradicate poverty eradication in the Amathole District Municipality.

- Is there any monitoring, co-ordination, evaluation of the strategies employed to eradicate poverty?

- What are the communities’ perception and concerns on the strategies employed by the Department of Social Development in eradicating poverty?

1.5 **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The Local government plays an important role in promoting job creation and effectiveness poverty eradication strategies. The result of the research will influence the method and policy decision in the Amathole District Municipality. The study can also assist the municipality to know the needs of the society, to know the priorities of the communities. It is also anticipated that the results of the study will assist the management officials in the Amathole District to identify and rectify weaknesses in strategies that eradicate poverty.
The study is also important in its attempt to establish the effectiveness of the poverty eradication strategies employed by Amathole District Municipality in reducing poverty within its jurisdiction. The study should be able to provide a remedy in this regard.

1.6 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design refers to the proposed plan regarding how one intends to conduct research. According to Bless and Smith (1995:63) research design is the planning of any scientific research from the first to the last step. They further defined research as a programme to guide the researcher in collecting, analyzing, interpreting and observing facts. The research study will focus on both qualitative and quantitative research methods to make sure that both methods are giving insights that will produce meaning to the study, especially in showing the effectiveness of strategies employed by Department of Social Development in the Amathole district area.

1.7.1 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHOD

According to Mouton and Marais (1990:175) qualitative research is characterized by the fact that the research is trying to get to multiple meanings and interpretations rather than impose one dominant interpretation. Qualitative research is a way of collecting information on the knowledge, values, and feelings. Attitude, beliefs and behaviors of the targeted population. The data will be obtained through open-ended question items on the self administered questionnaires and the interviews will be conducted.

1.7.2 QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHOD

According to Bless and Smith (1990:86) quantitative research method uses quantifiable data to record specific aspect of society. Quantitative data makes collected data to be reduced to some numerical presentation of what is being measured. In this approach, the researcher will utilize questionnaire surveys in which closed ended questions will be computed and graphically analyzed.
1.7.3 **TARGET POPULATION**

This is where the researcher creates a tolerant environment within the focus group that encourage participants to share perceptions, points of view, experiences, wishes and concerns, without pressurizing them to reach consensus. According to Mouton (1996: 34) a population refers to a collection of objects, events or individuals having some common characteristics that the researcher is interested in studying. In this study, the target population consists of Department of Social Development managers, project coordinators and the citizens within the community will be used by the researcher as the target population. This way, the researcher will gain more understanding on whether the strategies employ by the Social Development in Amathole District Municipality are viable or not.

1.7.4 **DATA SELECTION METHOD**

Data collection refers to a process of preparing and collecting data in order to obtain information to keep on record to make decision about important issues. This can be done through a number of instruments. The research will use two sources of data that is primary and secondary sources of data. Literature from unpublished and published articles, journals and newspapers will be regarded as secondary sources of data, whereas primary data is informed by information derived from the population targeted in the research. Layder (1993:54) identifies a number of instruments that can be used to gather data, among these are interviews, documentary analysis, intakes forms, questionnaires and surveys and attendance records. In these study questionnaires, interviews and observation will be used to gather and triangulate data from the respondents. The research will sets out in details a strategy for collecting data.

1.7.4.1 **DATA ANALYSIS**

According to Mouton (1996:108) data analysis involves ‘breaking up’ the data into manageable themes, patterns, trends, and relationship. Data analysis is a practice in which raw information can be extracted from it. The research will utilize both quantitative and qualitative techniques of data analysis. In the research, tabular, graphical presentation will be used to present data. Graphs are also essential as they present in a way that is easy to understand, comprehend and interpret.
1.8. **DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

The focus of the research will be on the strategies to eradicate poverty in the Eastern Cape Department of Social Department in the Amathole District Municipality areas. The period will be from 2008 – 2011. Due to the logistical constraints of covering all the areas within the entire Amathole district areas in the Eastern Cape Province, the study is confined only to King William’s Town and Peddie areas.

1.9 **ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The data collection processes will not require participants to disclose their names. According to Bak (2004: 28) any research that involves people must show an awareness of the ethical considerations and an agreement to conduct the research in accordance to ethical procedures. Before commencing the research, appointments and permissions will be secured with the respective managers of the relevant institutions and targeted responded where full explanation will be given on the purpose of the study. In this study, ethical issues such as confidentiality, informed consent, and voluntary participation will be strictly observed and adhered to, for the purpose of avoiding harm to the respondents. In this study the respondents will be assured that whatever information that will be collected from them through the questionnaire and interview surveys will be used for academic purpose only.

1.10. **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**POVERTY:** The poor characterize poverty as isolation from the community, lack of security, low wages, lack of employment opportunities, poor nutrition, poor access to water, having too many children, poor education opportunities and misuse of resources amongst other.

**STRATEGY:** Is a broad plan or policy for achieving something or the planning and directing of the whole operation of a campaign or war.

**SOCIAL SECURITY:** The assistance provided by the government for those in need through being unemployed, ill, or disabled.
EFFECTIVITY: Adequate to accomplish a purpose; producing the intended or expected result or the power to be effective.

COMMUNITIS: Communities refers to a social unity

1.11. OUTLINE OF THE STUDY

Chapter One provide the introduction to the research study with reference to the background and rational of the study, problem statement, research questions and objectives, significance of the study, delimitation of the study, ethical consideration. Chapter Two provides a review of literature on poverty and strategies eradicate poverty. It covers the legislative framework relevant to the study, theories on poverty, and the multiple strategies to combat poverty, rural development, and micro-finance on poverty eradication. Chapter Three explains the methods used to collect data for this study. Both qualitative and quantitative will be applied. Questionnaires will be sent out to respondents and interview held. Chapter Four interprets and analyses data and sifts it for findings based through the method applied in chapter three. Chapter Five is the concluding chapter of the study and provide findings and recommendations.

1.12. CONCLUSION

The research has presented the different views of scholars about the multi-dimensional poverty. The extent of the challenges facing the government funded project can be measured through the various legitimate sources as quoted in the introduction.

The research unpack that there is a large poverty in the rural areas more than the urban areas. The research will assess the strategies of the Social Development to fight poverty eradication.
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Due to the nature of the colonial state, the first democratic South African government, like all post-colonial governments Africa, inherited a massive legacy of poverty and inequality. As a result even eighteen years into a democratic South Africa, the majority of citizens still find themselves subjected to conditions of abject poverty. This situation is worse in those parts of the country that were previously homelands or Bantustans, where even the most basic of services are not available for people living in those areas.

The Eastern Cape as a result is among the poorest provinces, especially such districts as O.R. Tambo, Chris Hani, Alfred Nzo, Ukuhlamba and parts of Amathole District Municipalities. These are districts that were previously Bantustans. It is for these reasons that this research paper focuses on Ngqushwa, a local municipality under Amathole District Municipality.

It is important to note that while poverty is largely concentrated in rural communities, there is also significant urban poverty, especially with the population growth rate increasing immensely in townships and informal settlements. It can also be said that this state of poverty and inequality has been worsened by political challenges, which therefore means that any strategies to address poverty in the Eastern Cape must be formulated with full recognition of the political environment.

Poverty in the Eastern Cape and in South Africa at large is inter-generational and structural, with economic, social and political dimensions. The Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PDGP) of the Eastern Cape provincial government states that poverty alleviation is only possible if the underlying structural causes of poverty are addressed through:

(i) Greater control over and access to decision making processes by poor people.
(ii) Poverty reduction initiatives that address the income, assets, skills and capabilities of poor people

(iii) Linkages between micro and macro levels of interventions in a mutually reinforcing manner, (PDGP, 2004)

Since the PDGP was launched in 2004 the Eastern Cape Provincial Government together with National Government embarked on piloting the project on a household based approach. Under the PDGP the Department of Social Development was given the duty of contributing to the Provincial Service Delivery Acceleration Plan by implementing the Provincial Poverty Eradication Strategy. The adoption of the PDGP was premised on the observation that eradication strategies implemented since 1994 have not yielded the desired results.

This chapter is not aimed at discussing all the strategies developed and implemented by government, but it is rather aimed at giving different theoretical conceptions on the subject matter of this paper. This, necessarily, includes the analysis of different theoretical positions and perspectives regarding different strategies implemented to address poverty.

The purpose of a literature review in this regard is to explore and analyze the different theories on poverty alleviation from the perspective of various schools of thought. It is aimed at gaining more insight about the challenges of poverty eradication strategies, especially with regard to community based initiatives. This insight will be gained as this chapter analyses what other authors in this field have written on these different strategies.

2.2. DEFINITION OF POVERTY

Interaction with a wide range of literature and definitions by scientific scholars has proven that defining poverty is not simple due to its conceptual complexity. Poverty is multi-dimensional and must be seen as more than lack of income. It is primarily
characterized by a lack of access to opportunities for a sustainable livelihood, income, assets, skills, knowledge and access to decision making. This definition shows the conceptual complexity of poverty.

Poverty is defined as the “inability of individuals, households or communities to command sufficient resources to satisfy a socially acceptable minimum standard of living” (UNMDG, 2000). It is more than merely income insufficiency and it includes lack of opportunities, lack of access to assets as well as social exclusion.

That is the reason why the PGDP of 2004 (Eastern Cape Province, 2004) stated the seven dimensions of poverty.

- Facilitating access to good employment and economic opportunities.
- Increasing the physical asset base of the poor
- Facilitating access to basic services
- Strengthening community management and organization of own initiatives and external programmes
- Enhancing democratic participation by the poor
- Enhancing access of the poor to legal entitlement and security
- Ensuring access to safety nets to strengthen ability to manage shocks and stresses (Eastern Cape Province, 2004).

There is a causal relationship between the extent of poverty in a community and the levels of literacy in that community. It is this causal relationship that can for instance, be used to explain the very low matric pass rates in provinces like the Eastern Cape, Limpopo and Mpumalanga with higher incidences of poverty. It is suggested nonetheless that access to economic opportunities is more likely to determine the wellbeing of a household than the education attainment of the household members.

The United Nations programme of action defines poverty as a “complex multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains”
They also argue that “the eradication of poverty and hunger, greater equity in income distribution and human resource development remain major challenge everywhere” (UNMDGs, 2000).

2.3. THEORIES ON POVERTY

In an article titled ‘Poverty and Inequality in South Africa’ Julian May (2003) begins by stating that “in 1922 the first Carnegie Conference on poverty in South Africa was undertaken which focused on the poor white problem and fed into the subsequent policy framework for the eradication of poverty amongst whites”. It is this investigation on poverty amongst whites that heralded the beginning of a dispensation of poverty eradication strategies in South Africa, which still persist to this day.

However, “the Second Carnegie Conference held in 1983 examined poverty amongst South Africa’s Black population” (May 2003:1). It is this conference that primarily outlined the conditions under which Black people are subjected and which informed the development of poverty eradication strategies. The rest of the article written by May (2003) offers an analysis of the manner in which poverty eradication strategies have evolved in South Africa since 1922 and how this trajectory has taken a different nature since 1994, with the World Bank and International Monitory Fund offering possible solutions to addressing poverty.

Moreover, May (2003) goes further than just analyzing and gives possible solutions and recommendations for the creation of poverty eradication strategies.

The central recommendations are:

- As an ongoing strategy, maintaining and preferably increasing the share of the current government expenditure on social service. This should apply to all spheres of government and should also be reflected within current initiatives to prepare Medium Term Expenditure Framework’s (MTEF) at these different spheres.
• In the medium to long-term, increasing the resources available to programmes for the redistribution of assets.

This should also be reflected within the MTEF of the national government. Specifically, resources for land reform should be increased and measures should be investigated by which the other forms of asset can be redistributed. For an example, the potential role of the privatization of state assets should be reviewed as an element of this process.

• As an on-going strategy, and into the long-term, maintaining the current system of social pensions which acts both as support for the elderly and a safety net for the other members of the household. In the short term, on-going improvements in the efficiency of this service should be implemented, and private sector pension planning amongst workers should be promoted

• In the medium to long term, promoting labour intensive approaches to the delivery of infrastructure and services by government. This need not be done by government itself and procurement and tendering policies could be adapted to assist this.

• In the medium to long term, identifying mechanisms for the expansion of micro finance facilities. Specifically, the feasibility of expanding existing micro finance organization should be investigated and, if possible, policy adopted to encourage the entry of the private sector into this sphere.

• In the short term, developing more accurate mechanisms for targeting under sourced schools at provincial level, and redirecting government resources to these schools. This support must include In-Service Training.

• In the short term, directing financial and technical resources towards the implementation of the Consolidated Municipal Infrastructure Programme, while ensuring the mechanism for the long term sustainability of this infrastructure is being put in place.

• In the short term, prioritizing urban and rural housing and tenure programmes.

• In the short term, directing resources towards maintaining the current activities of DWAF. Water should be provided for productive as well as consumptive uses.
• In the short term, deploying the Community Based Public Works Programmes as interim measures, pending the anticipated increase in the pace of job creation in other sectors.

• Such public works programmes should be carefully targeted towards areas in which existing livelihoods are being undermined (for example, areas in which jobs are being lost).

• As an immediate priority, strategies should be supported that improve both the commitment and capacity of local governments to plan and implement development related activities, including the delivery of services, local economic development and the collection of payments.

• As an immediate priority, a high level committee should take responsibility for the co-ordination of the many activities relating to the reduction of poverty and inequality, as well as for the assessment of progress in this regard.

• To do this, as an immediate priority, a system and procedure for monitoring the impact of government policy on poverty and inequality should be established and adequately resourced. This should comprise of three elements:

  ■ the collection of input information concerning the activities of departments and the programmes that they are implementing. These should cover all spheres of government, be collected by the central statistical service, but also collected by the departments as a part of their on-going management.

  ■ The collection of impact information via national household surveys at one level and through the establishment of surveillance sites in vulnerable areas.

  ■ Finally, the analysis of the impact of government expenditure review. This could be developed from exercises such as Women’s and Children’s budget projects, whereby in the impact of state expenditure is disaggregated by gender, social group, income and livelihood class. (May 2003: 5 – 6)

According to Raikes (1998:14) “one of the most commonly accepted explanations of the crisis runs somewhat as follows: Population is growing more rapidly in Africa than
anywhere else in the world. Given low levels of technology and low rates of development, growth of food and other agricultural production cannot keep pace with that of the population”. Therefore imports have increased to fill the gap. This is made worse by inept and wasteful government policies, which have favoured the urban areas and industrial sector at the expense of agriculture. “Together with increased food imports, this has led to increasing indebtedness and economic crisis. This scenario means that some of the government policies are not combat the poverty, and sideling the rural development” (Raikes 1998: 14).

The eradication of poverty and hunger, greater equity in income distribution and human resource development remain major challenges everywhere. The struggle against poverty is the shared responsibility of all countries. While managing resources sustainably, an environmental policy that focuses mainly on the conservation and protection of resources must take due account of those who depend on the resources for their livelihood. Otherwise it could have an adverse impact both on poverty and on chances for long term success in resource and environmental conservation. Equally, a development policy that focuses mainly on increasing the production of goods without addressing the sustainability of the resources on which production is based will sooner or later run into declining productivity, which could also, have adverse impact on poverty. A specific anti-poverty strategy is therefore one of the basic conditions for ensuring sustainable development (UNNCED 1992: 27).

It further argues that an effective strategy for tackling the problems of poverty, development and environment simultaneously should begin by focusing on resources and production and people should cover demographic issues, enhance health care and education, the right of women, the role of youth and of indigenous people and local communities and a democratic participation process in association. Integral to such action is, together with international support, the promotion of economic growth in developing countries that is both sustained and sustainable and direct action in eradicating poverty by strengthening employment and income-generating programmes.

UNNCED set up the long term objectives of enabling all people to achieve sustainable livelihoods should provide on integrating factor that allows policies to address issues of
development, sustainable resource management and poverty eradication simultaneously:

The objectives of this programme area are:

- To provide all persons urgently with an opportunity to earn a sustainable livelihood,
- To implement policies and strategies that promote adequate levels of funding and focus on integrated human development policies, including income generation, increased local control of resources, local institution strengthening and capacity – building and greater involvement of non-governmental organization and local levels of government as delivery mechanisms,
- To develop for all poverty-stricken areas integrated strategy and programmes of sound and sustainable management of the environment, resource mobilization, poverty eradication and alleviation, employment and income generation.
- To create a focus in national development plans and budgets on investment in human capital with special policies and programmes directed at rural areas, the urban poor, women and children.

According Van Derhoeven and Van Kraali (1994: 114) poverty alleviation and the enhancement of living standards require reasonable levels of sustained economic growth as an important prerequisite. Structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) are aimed at stimulating economic growth in the stagnant and crisis-ridden countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Van Der Hoeven and Van De Kraal (1994:144) further argue that the noteworthy point, however, are the few cases where SAPs have proved to be successful in stimulating growth, poverty alleviation has been achieved. In Ghana for instance, since the introduction of the SAP, the economy has achieved consecutive growth of 6% on average for several years since 1984. It is in this perspective that the need for direct poverty alleviation programmes (PAPs) such as the social dimensions of adjustment (SDA), social action programmes (SAPROG) and social safety nets (SSNS) and transfer has been recognized. The purpose is to look at the scope of social safety
nets (SSNs) to mitigate the adverse impact of (SAPs) on the poor and vulnerable groups and to indicate ways of improving their efficacy both in terms of their short –term objectives and long term impacts.

According to Van Der Hoeven and Van De Kraai (1994:166) the alleviation of poverty, therefore, requires at least three approaches:

a. Policies for stimulating and sustainable growth. SAP do provide such policy packages.

b. An effective social service delivery system. Neglect of the social sector in many SSA countries over the years has reduced these sectors to a state of near shambles

c. Promotion of PAPs (to mitigate the adverse short –run consequences of SAP. That means in order to implement effectiveness strategy to eradicate poverty; you must have or follow the legal documents like the constitution of the country and policies based on poverty eradication. According to the DOSD draft conceptual framework towards poverty eradication in E.C section 27 (1) c of chapter 2 of the South African constitution, states clearly that every citizen has a right to social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants, appropriate social assistance. To meet the abovementioned constitutional requirement the Eastern Cape Department of Social Development with relevant stakeholders and other developments embarked on poverty reduction initiatives.

Putzel and Cunning, (1989:1) argue that the Philippines is a nation rich in natural sources and fertile land, but beset by poverty and hunger. Over half of the Filipino people live in the countryside and most of them depend on agriculture for living.

They further argue that one of the major causes of poverty and underdevelopment in the Philippines, as well as the key to alleviating poverty and initiating a process of
dynamic development, lives in the way in which the nations primary resources - the land is used and controlled.

According to Mkhandawire (1993:13) South African states have also suffered severe food crisis largely due to the following factors: (a) inappropriate agricultural and rural development policies of the post-colonial state, thus reinforcing the argument that the political and institutional-cum-administration paralysis has had a major share in Africa’s agricultural malaise (IDS, 1986; Green, 1987). (b) Marketing and pricing policy distortions which act as a disincentive to agricultural procedures; (c) Overwhelming dependence on international food aid and South African food products thus undermining national and collective self-reliance despite the fact that agriculture According to Mkhandawire and Matlosa (1993:13) the food crisis has been partly responsible for the increasing rural-urban migration in the region. The above quotation presents an apt caption of the African food crisis.

According to the poverty eradication summit, (2008:63-64) the Green Commission came up with the following models on Poverty Eradication, (a). A department focused on poverty eradication to be created. (b) Community to be trained in implementing poverty eradication development programmes. (c) Economic development institutions must be resourced, so that they will be able to enhance skills. They must be funded with capital resources. The government must work together with such institutions and community development works must be trained to implement poverty eradication. These must be on independent committee, with reporting levels from the upper to the lower level, it must be flexible.

Mandle, (2003:20) argues that globalization and economic development are not ends in themselves. They are desirable to the extent that they result in improved standard of living and, in particular, a reduction in poverty for the people who live in the countries experiencing these processes. The problem is that a reliable time series by which to assess the dire relationship between globalization and poverty reducing does not exist. Information provided by the world bank, for example, shows the percentage of the world’s population living on less than $2.00 (U.S) per day, certainly a level that should
be thought of as impoverished. But these data are presented only in cross section, for one date, not over a period of years.

### 2.4 Multiple Strategies to Combat Poverty

Since the beginning of the quest to fight poverty, both in policy and in practice, it has been ineffective for any single organization or programme to attempt to defeat poverty on its own without the assistance of other relevant stakeholders. It is for this reason that this section of this literature review seeks to analyze the different strategies that government has used in practice to initiate and accelerate the fight against poverty, with specific emphasis on those areas of South Africa that are underprivileged due to the legacy of apartheid.

Mather and Adelzadeh (1998:1) state how the Nelson Mandela administration started its fight against poverty by adopting the Growth, Employment and Redistribution Plan (GEAR) which was aimed at ending a period of debate on macroeconomic plans to initiate a period of intense poverty alleviation strategies at national level (Mather and Adelzadeh 1998:1).

Gear as a policy was aimed at prioritizing employment at local government level, economic growth at national level and redistribution at all levels of society. The overall emphasis of GEAR was to call “for a programme of fiscal expansion directed towards social and physical infrastructure, a ‘balanced’ monetary policy, and a more active role for the state in the economy” (Mather and Adelzadeh 1998:1). In other words the first strategy was to combat poverty by applying economic measures to regulate and direct the economy to be responsive to the immense challenge of poverty presented by a hostile past of discrimination and disadvantage.

Another macroeconomic development strategy that was adopted by government was the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), which was aimed at addressing the infrastructural impact of the colonial administration, while simultaneously addressing the need to uplift the poorest South Africans from a state of economic
deprivation. However, “within one year of the implementation of the RDP, support for it and its cause had eroded and in two years the ministry setup to implement the programme was abolished, and the RDP thereby severely downgraded” (Blumenfeld 1997:1).

After the demise of GEAR the South African Government had to find other strategies through which poverty could be fought both at national and at local government level. This, then, resulted to the adoption in 2005 of a new national path to development which is the Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative which “envisaged achieving the government’s goal of halving poverty and unemployment rate through increasing the economic growth rate and sharing growth, primarily through absorbing more labour into the mainstream economy” (Shapiro 2011: 42).

The aim of this research is to offer an analysis of these strategies and others that will be discussed herein. This section has thus far given an outline of the policy framework adopted and implemented by government at national level to intensify the fight against poverty. It then is fitting for the focus to be shifted from macroeconomic strategies to micro-economic strategies.

One microeconomic strategy that has become popular among different communities around South Africa is the community project strategy which basically involves galvanizing an entire community to be part of a single project to generate income for the unemployed and the very poor families within that community. “In doing this, focus on rural development and agricultural support for families is also at the centre of this anti-poverty strategy” (Discussion Document on anti-poverty strategies for South Africa 2008:5). About half of poor people reside in rural areas, where economic opportunities are limited, it is thus imperative that strategies such as these should be more intense in these areas.

The ‘Discussion Document on Anti-poverty Strategies for South Africa’(2008: 5) details the most fundamental issues pertaining to the government’s vision for the fight against
poverty at community level, and it is important that these be laid down here, as they speak directly to the objective of this section and this paper at large:

“Critical interventions that should receive the highest level of attention from government in addressing poverty (while improving all the others), are:

• Economic interventions to expand opportunities for employment and self-employment in particular including improvement of the state’s capacity to lead in job-creating industrial development.
• Provision of quality education and skills and health care especially to poor communities; and
• Promotion of access to assets including social capital to the poor and reduction of vulnerability
• Promoting social cohesion”

(Discussion Document on Anti-poverty Strategies for South Africa 2008: 5)

The above are key focus points that the South African government regards as important in addressing the scourge of poverty and special attention needs to be given to the last of the above points, which speak to ‘social cohesion’. This is important because poverty can never be alleviated without support from the people who live in poverty. It is for this reason that in years past the government has continued to promote the spirit of independence by championing such slogans as ‘Vuk’ uzenzele’ which basically means ‘rise and do it yourself’. The participation of the population is very important to ensure that poverty is dealt with in a more effective and efficient manner.

It is this reasoning that has over the past decade influenced government to promote a culture of cooperatives within communities where unemployment and poverty is widespread, promoting people to act decisively and in cooperation to uplift and improve the standard of living for themselves as a community. In most cases these cooperatives are encouraged to register with government institutions so as to enable them to bid for tenders and be eligible for consideration for financial assistance from the state.
As a result of the urgency of the situation in which most of the citizens of South Africa find themselves subjected under due to a past of apartheid and social inequality, the government was forced to implement measures to deal with the situation of the people immediately. This included the issuing of social welfare grants to the neediest citizens especially those who are in no position to make ends meet.

It is these kinds of issues that most scholars in the field of public administration, especially those who have an interest in studying the trends that poverty has taken over the years, overlook and do not analyse and this study aims to bring such issues to the fore in order to better understand the nature and effectiveness of poverty alleviation measures in South Africa.

2.4.1 RURAL DEVELOPMENT

According to the policy speech 2011-2012 of the MEC for Social Development in the Eastern Cape, the department has a specific model to empower poor communities in the Eastern Cape for sustainable livelihoods. The strategic goal in this programme is to improve the livelihood capabilities of the poor communities especially youth and woman in the Eastern Cape Province. The overall responsibility as a Department is to build healthy functionary families and communities in the province. This will be achieved through positive social and economic change as identified and driven by communities themselves and should be as a result of collective effort and actions by the communities in the development of their own lives.

The united Development Programme (1971:2) defines the concept of community development as the process by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural condition of communities, to integrate these communities into the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national progress.
The policy speech further states that community development as a programme contributes directly to the 10 government priority areas particularly priority area NO.7 which specifically speaks of cohesive and sustainable communities. It also speaks to the 12 National outcomes in particular National outcome NO.7 which is: vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all.

According to Van der Hoever and Van Der Kraai, (1994:117 argues that, better targets on the poor are possible if the government knows where the poor live and where poverty is widespread and pervasive, it may be easier to identify who the non-poor are and where they live. For example, according to preliminary estimates made by the World Bank (1993a), by 1991, the percentage of rural and urban household in Zambia below the 1980 poverty line were 86.5% and 91.5% respectively, and using a 1980 reference food basket, by 1991 54.2% of urban household and 42.7% of rural households were unable to afford this basket. The above scenario shows clear that where the poorest people live and why there is need for rural development.

According to Colman and Mixson, (1986:118) rural areas are adversely affected in that, contrary to the popular misconception of teeming, overcrowded areas, they often suffer from a general labour shortage. Godfrey, (1969) quotes West Africa as an area with a labour deficiency in agriculture. Furthermore migration is often selective with respect to age and educational levels so that many of the more productive rural areas and rapid expansion of shanty towns surrounding the urban centres, plus the growth of unemployment in the so-called informal sector, attest to the detrimental impact of rural-urban migration in contemporary LCDs.

According to United Nations Programme of Action (UPNPA 1992:28), Government in cooperation with appropriate international and non-governmental organizations should support a community-driven approach to sustainability, which includes:

(a) Empowering women through full participation in decision making.
(b) Respecting the cultural integrity and the right of indigenous people and their communities.
(c) Promoting or establishing grass-roots mechanisms to allow for the sharing of experience and knowledge between communities.

(d) Giving communities a large measure of participation in the sustainable management and protection of the local natural resources in order to enhance their productive capacity.

(e) Establishing a network of community-based learning centre for capacity-building and sustainable development.

Ncapai, (2005:2) argues that participation is one of the key principles of community development that is seen as an essential part of human growth and often leads to the development of self-confidence, pride, initiative, creativity, responsibility, and cooperation. Without such development within the people themselves, all efforts to alleviate their poverty will be immensely more difficult, if not impossible.

2.4.2. MICRO-FINANCE ON POVERTY ERADICATION

South Africa’s highly skewed income distribution and economic structure has produced a large number of so-called “unbankable” households, such that the commercial retail-banking sector cannot profitably serve such households, which exist within the informal economy, and depend significantly for cash income on state transfer payments, such as pensions and effective transfer from employed relatives. Political attempts to exhort South African bankers to serve such people on social ground are pointless and contradict the government’s broader emphasis on a globally competitive economy.

According to UNPA (2006:28) states that, government, with the assistance of and in cooperation with appropriate international, non-governmental and local community organizations should establish measures that will directly or indirectly:

- Generate remunerative employment and productive occupation opportunities compatible with a country’s specific factor endowments.
• Provide substantial increase in economically efficient resource productivity and measures to ensure that the local population benefits in adequate measures from resource use.
• Empower community organizations and people to enable them to achieve sustainable livelihoods. Ted Bauman argue about the developmental challenge base
• SMME Microsoft programmes to facilitate micro-enterprise and job creation has been well supported in government policy, although their effectiveness can be questioned.
• Micro-banking initiatives are beginning to receive recognition and hopefully support that they deserve. Nevertheless, these programmes essentially only reduce the cost of accessing financial services, a factor contributing to poverty.
• Savings and credit networks have not received recognition support commemorate with their existing and potential contribution to poverty alleviation amongst the economically marginalized majority.

Given this, we argue that the development challenge facing the government, particularly DSD into attempts to develop on appropriate microfinance policy, is to educate itself about these various forms and functions of microfinance.

2.5 CONCLUSION

The purpose of this chapter is to basically give an outline of different theoretical conceptions of the phenomenon that this entire discussion seeks to deal with at length. Till thus far the current writer has outlined how different authors view the issue of poverty alleviation as both a theoretically understandable phenomenon and a practically observable reality on the ground in different communities.

What has been made clear by this chapter is the fact that the war that government has waged against poverty can never be won by applying uniform strategies throughout the
country regardless of the community. There is an inevitable need to apply multiple strategies to attack poverty, which has also been outlined in this discussion, where even some of the different strategies that government can use have been discussed at length in the foregoing chapters.

Last but not least, it is important to note that the fight against poverty is not only a peculiarly South African endeavour, but one that is manifested in different parts of the world and championed primarily by the United Nations. In South Africa, however, according to different scholars, the fight needs to be accompanied by community engagement in order for the people to be able to take them out of poverty. Chapter three deals with the research methodology.
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter is aimed at articulating and illustrating the actual methodology used in managing and verifying the research study to achieve the empirical results. The systematic content of the research design includes the type of research methods, research techniques for data collection, scope of sampling, target groups and profile of respondents. This research methodology is about outlining the overall framework of strategies applied during the execution of the actual research methodology. The research study will check whether the projects were able to fulfil the purpose for which they were established that is to eradicate poverty. These strategies emphasize on the principle of self-reliance, community empowerment, community development and rural participation, sustainability and integrated social welfare services as stated in the White Paper for Social Welfare (1997).

3.2. Research Design

Research design constitutes a formal framework plan of action that guides the overall process of the research project. Blanche and Durrham (1999:312) state that, the research design is about balancing the need for valid findings with the need to conduct practically feasible research. According to Bryman (2004: 27), there is a distinction between research design and research method. Research design in this regard is described as a framework structure that guides the execution of a research method and analysis of subsequent data. On the contrary, a research method is described as a technique to collect data, and involves specific instruments such as self-completion questionnaires, structured interviews or participant observation.

According to Wolman and Krugar (1999:46) research is the plan according to which we obtain research participants and collect information from them. In it we describe what we are going to do with the participants with a view to reaching a conclusion about the research problem.
In conducting this study a mixed method approach has been selected and used together with the relevant techniques to collect the necessary information. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were chosen due to the fact that the study was mainly assessing the affectivity of poverty eradication strategies on communities in Ngqushwa Local Municipalities. The following sub-sections will collaborate further on the theoretical perspective underpinning these methods and their relevance to the research questions.

3.3. Research Methods

Qualitative and quantitative methods are the two commonly used approaches in studies. According to Kothan (2005:8), research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. It may be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically. Kothan further states that a research method may be understood as all those methods / techniques of conducting research. Research methodology can be interpreted as a scientific process that seeks to provide answers to questions through a systematic approach with the support of credible data. Berg (2004: 7) states that, research method on human beings affect how these persons will be viewed (Bogdan & Taykor, 1975). If humans are studied in a symbolical reduced statistically aggregated fashion, there is a danger that conclusion- although arithmetically precise- may fail to fit reality (Mills, 1959). Mixed research methods are further recommended for being able to provide an opportunity for presenting a greater diversity of divergent views. In this way it may be possible to give answers to a wide scope of research questions.

According to Mouton and Marais (1990: 175) qualitative method is characterized by the fact that the research is trying to get to multiple mining and interpretation rather than impose one dominant interpretation. It is by contrast construed as a research strategy that usually emphasizes wards rather than quantification in the collection and analysis of data.
The suitability of qualitative method in the research was proven through its ability to ensure assessment and revelation of some hidden, relevant information within the strategies to eradicate poverty. For example, it was possible to assess how the viability and sustainability of the projects were affected by issues like capacity building, skills, illiteracy rate, effectiveness of project management.

3.4. **TARGET POPULATION**

According to Welman and Kruger (1991:122), target population is the population to which the research ideally would like to generalize its results. It was necessary to identify a relevant and strategic population. Bickman and Rog. (1998:117), state that target populations for a research study can be described as the group about which the researcher would like to speak and that may include groups of individuals.

The target groups selected for purposes of the research include the following:

1. Manager on Social Welfare services
2. Manager on Community Development at Ngqushwa Municipality
3. Supervisor of ward 4 project
4. Supervisor of ward 6 project
5. Five field workers in ward 4
6. Five field workers in ward 6

The target population chosen above occupies strategic positions which are directly or indirectly associated with the eradication of poverty. This is the type of target population group which is known as a special population because it is narrowly defined by the nature and purpose of the research questions.

3.5. **SAMPLE AND SAMPLING PROCEDURE**

Blanche and Durrheim (1999: 274) state that, sampling is the process used to select cases for inclusion in a study. All empirical research is conducted in a sample of cases, which may be individuals, groups, organizations or archival documents. Cooper and
Schindler (1998: 72) also confirm that sampling is another important step in planning the research design. It involves developing reliable methods for identifying target populations and selecting subjects or units that bias the sample. It should ultimately ensure that the estimate or sample statistics are sufficiently precise for the study purpose. According to Welman and Kruger (1999: 49), the sample should be representative of the sampling frame, which ideally is the same as the population but which often differs due to practical problems relating to the availability of information. By shaping a sampling procedure within this framework of understanding, it was therefore possible to emerge with a research product that is credible and reliable.

The scope of the sample was determined on the theoretical framework design as outlined above. It also took into account the strategic link and consistency of the sample with the population of interest for the study. A number of institutions pertinent to the study were selected as scope for target population.

Managers identified were from the Ngqushwa Local Municipality and Eastern Cape Department of Social Development which comprise the key and central source for the study question. Particular focus here was on interacting with senior officials who hold strategic positions and are also responsible for strategies to eradicate poverty.

Another institution selected is social development in Ngqushwa municipality which is responsible for monitoring and implementing the projects. Target population for this purpose include supervisors and the fieldworkers of ward 4 and 6. Five fieldworkers in each ward.

Ngqushwa Municipality was targeted because of its rural nature and also there were three wards selected by the Eastern Cape provincial government to eradicate poverty. This is in line with the requirement of the Inter Governmental Relations Framework Act of 2005, which promotes collaboration between government departments and municipalities during the development of poverty eradication strategies.
3.6. DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES

Mixed method strategy was applied by the researcher to collect both quantitative and qualitative data. According to Blanche and Durrheim (1999: 49), data analysis procedures can be divided into quantitative and qualitative techniques. Baker (1998:107) states that once the data is collected it must be put in a form which will enable it to be analyzed.

The complementary approach in data collection is therefore important as it provides for a complete answer to the question under research. The use of same data collection procedures were applied to both quantitative and qualitative methods, and this was done in the context of complementary approach. Morgan and Human (2001: 1) states that observational techniques vary on several dimensions. For example the researcher observes and records the behaviour of the participants rather than relying on reports from parents or teachers.

Morgan and Harman (2001: 1) illustrate qualitative research method as a process that involves six types of data collection techniques which are direct observation, standardized versus investigation developed instruments, standardized tests, standardized personality inventories Summated (Likert) Attitude scales and questionnaire and interviews. The procedures that are outlined constitute some common apparatus for data collection framework in the course of conducting scientific study.

Regarding the interviews, the research applied in depth interviews which were useful in gaining an understanding of the underlying perspectives and attitudes of the people about the strategies to eradicate poverty. This is in line with views of Blanche and Durrheim (1999: 128) who argue that conducting an interview is a more natural form of interacting with people than making them fill out a questionnaire, do a test or perform some experimental task and therefore fits well with the interpretive approach to research. It gives us an opportunity to get to know people quite intimate so that we can really understand how they think and feel.
Interviews as an instrument for collection of primary data were conducted both telephonically and through face-to-face interaction with the respondents. Twenty interviews were conducted with respondents at the project sites, officials from district office of the DOSD, Ngqushwa Local Municipality manager and supervisors of the projects. In depth interviews were used in order to understand the actual experience from the project participants. It was to check on how they feel about being practically involved in the projects, whether they feel sufficiently empowered and self-sustainable. It was also to check, whether the project is viable or not.

Field notes were used during the interviews as tools of collecting information from the respective respondents. The field notes made it clear how participants feel themselves, demonstrate their attitude and behavioural patterns to the research questions. The primary information was in the form of documents or reports from DOSD, Ngqushwa Municipality, policies linked to the topic of the research study, newspaper and minutes of meetings and published research.

3.6.1. Data Analysis Techniques

According to Baker (1998: 107), once the data is collected, it must be put in a form which will enable it to be analyzed. That means after completing the data collection process, the researcher moved into the next step which was to conduct analysis of the available data. The process of analysis was done within the framework of mixed method approach. Baker (1999: 107) further argues that, it is true that once the data is collected, there may be some changes in the plans. Nevertheless, it is better to have a strategy that can be adopted than to end up with piles of data for which there is no organized plan. According to Blanche and Durrheim (1999: 47) data analysis procedures can be divided into quantitative and qualitative techniques. This explanation moves on to characterize mixed method data analysis as a process underpinned by two major rationales.

After collecting data, the researcher looked at whether expectations regarding data characteristics, quality and research objectives were met. Blanche and Durrheim (1991:
argue that, data represents bits of discrete information that can be extracted from their content, whereas interpretive researchers typically work with material that is richly interrelated and would lose its meaning if broken into discrete bits, they also argue that data conjures up image of some kind of knowledge factory, where raw materials (data) are processed (analyzed) to manufactured products. That is why the proper assessment was also done to check if the data was complete, and if not sufficient, whether it was not necessary to finalize the gaps. Then the researcher was satisfied that collected data was sufficient to proceed with analysis.

3.6.2. Quantitative Data Analysis

Mouton and Morais (1990: 155) state that quantitative approach is the approach to research in the social science that is more highly formalized as well as explicitly controlled, with a range that is more exactly defined, and which, in terms of the method used, is relatively close to the physical science. According to Babbie (2007: 405) quantitative analysis is the numerical representation and manipulation of observation for the purpose of describing and explaining the phenomena that those observation reflect. This explanation can summarize that quantitative data analysis is mainly concerned with the attempts to collect and analyze numerical data and also focus on observation made during the data collection process.

In further explaining quantitative data analysis, Babbie (1998: 359) states that, those data would be recorded on microcomputer diskettes, hard drive, or some other device that can be read and analyzed by the computer. Quantitative data analysis made it easier for the researcher to quantify the number of poverty alleviation strategies which are still in existence and those that are not visible. It was also possible to determine the way of intervention done by the Ngqushwa Local Municipality. The method was useful in providing the statistics on the stakeholders involved in the projects to eradicate poverty as well as representation of beneficiaries in terms of demographics.
3.6.3. **Qualitative Data Analysis**

According to Bag (2004: 7) quantitative research properly seeks answers to questionnaires by examining various social settings and the individuals who inhabit these settings. Denzin and Lincoln (2000: 1-3) argued that qualitative research is a field of inquiry in its own right and involves the studied use and collection of a variety of empirical material case study; material case study; personal experience introspection, life story, personal experience; artifacts; cultural texts and productions. Denzin and Lincoln further argue that qualitative data deploys a wide range of interconnected interpretive practice, hoping always to get a better understanding of the subject matter. This means that any approach to qualitative data analysis is determined by the type of research question.

In further pursuit of this definition, Babbie (1998: 297) argues that in qualitative data analysis, field research is one place where this mode of reasoning is especially evident and important. Babie further states that, an inherent advantage of field research is that interaction between data collection and data analysis affords greater flexibility than is typical for other research methods. For example survey researches must at some point commit themselves to a questionnaire, thus limiting the kind of data that will be collected. If subsequent analysis indicate that they have overlooked the most important variables of all, they are out of luck. The analysis was concerned with the exploration of variables like demographics, gender status and other information related to performance patterns within the strategies used to eradicate poverty. Policy evaluation analysis was aimed at examining whether the strategies to combat poverty were in line with the existing legislation and policies that are linked to poverty eradication projects.

3.7. **DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

The focus of the research study was on assessing the affectivity of poverty eradication strategies on communities in the Ngqushwa Local Municipality in Amathole District of the Eastern Cape (2008-2011).
3.8. **CONCLUSION**

The structural framework composition of research methodology as technique for data collection was outlined and include research design, method of research, targeted population / respondents, sampling procedure, data collection technique and data analysis technique and limitation of study.

The mixed method approach quantitative and qualitative was used to apply in a complimentary manner, and that yielded positive spin-offs throughout the research progression. It has been feasible to simultaneously quantify the numerical patterns as well as qualify the social tendencies during the execution of the study. What the research really like from this comprehensive approach was the ability to emerge with a balanced research product into consideration both the external outlook and hidden social factors within the strategies employed to eradicate poverty.

The next chapter will constitute data presentation, analysis and interpretation.
CHAPTER FOUR – DATA ANALYSIS

4.1 Data Analysis

This chapter looks at the research results from data which was collected from various respondents. These include staff from the Department of Social Development, independent development practitioners and community members directly involved in day to day project implementation. A case study made up of four projects working on different commodities (piggery, vegetable production and poultry) was used. The findings from the fieldwork carried out on these three projects are shown below.

4.2 Project Characteristics

Figure 4.1 – Type of Projects

As shown in the table above, food security dominates the project categories with women’s cooperatives bringing the minority percentage. It is important to point out that
all the projects are rural-based, although they are being implemented under different circumstances and conditions.

The table below shows the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the areas in which the projects are being implemented.

Figure 4.2 – Socio-Economic Conditions in Case Study Areas

As shown in the graph above, there is high unemployment in all the areas which necessitates the outlined initiatives. Two-thirds of the respondents also mentioned that there is very low income in the areas where they stay which further makes these poverty alleviation projects necessary. All the projects were initiated in 2007 which makes it easier to compare them since they were started more or less at the same time. Also all the respondents mentioned high unemployment, high crime rate and health hazards as some of the motives for forming the projects.
The figure above shows the number of project members per group, with an average of 16 members per group. However, it is not clear if the number of members per project affects the overall performance, profitability or sustainability of the project.

Figure 4.4 – Level of Participation in the Project
The figure above shows that the level of participation is very high in the projects. In the case where participation is low the reason given is that the project does not have enough equipment to use so they cannot fully apply themselves. Water scarcity which made it difficult to work at optimum levels at the project was another reason which was given for the low participation.

4.3 Project Objectives

It is important to point out that the project objectives for all three studied areas were more or less identical. These included the following:

a) Change socio-economic status
b) Ensure food security
c) Reduce malnutrition and related ills

The above project objectives are consistent with the socio-economic status in the respective areas which is marked by high unemployment and low income which together contributes to the low socio-economic status of the community.

When asked if the projects have met their outlined project objectives all the respondents answered in the negative. In one case where an explanation was given on why the projects did not meet their objectives, the reason was that the project changed from the initial plan of vegetable production. All the respondents however said their objectives have not changed since they started the project which shows some consistency in their approach.
As shown in the figure above, there are other community challenges aside from those mentioned earlier (high unemployment, high crime rate, health hazards, low income). From the responses there are no nearby primary or secondary schools in all the case study areas. This may have long term capacity development implications in the areas as this might lead to more dropouts as more pupils are deterred by the long distances to school.
According to Figure 4.6, only a third of the projects have been implementing their projects according to the initial project design. Most of the respondents pointed out that it is not very clear if their implementation is consistent with the project design largely because they have not started producing. As a result it was too early to tell if their work was according to project design. For those who said the implementation was going very well according to plan, their reason was that they were producing as per project design so they felt their implementation was going according to plan.

Although there were some variances in response to whether the projects were being implemented according to the project design, all the respondents were unanimous in their response that the project design was adequate in addressing community needs. All the respondents also said that the projects implementation was according to the initial business plan.
All the project respondents mentioned that they have all the variables in place to make sure that their projects are sustainable. None of the projects gave details on these variables. All the projects also answered in the affirmative when asked if the project was accessible to other community members who are not part of the project.

**Figure 4.7 – Gender / Age Breakdown of Project Members**

The figure above shows that gender distribution is evenly balanced amongst men and women with women having the highest number and a slim majority over men. In terms of age breakdown, the youth are far lower than the adults as they only constitute 12.5%. However, the gender breakdown of the youth is not provided.
As shown in the figure above, most of the respondents mentioned that so far there has not been much benefit that the larger community is getting from the project. This is because they have not started any production. On the other hand, those who are already producing are the ones who mentioned that the community is benefiting, largely from the commodity that these projects are producing.
As shown in the figure above, most of the projects have the Chairperson as the focal person running the project. However, some projects also include the Treasurer and the Secretary in the running of the projects. All the respondents said that so far the management of the project is good.
Above is a visual indication of the support that the various projects are receiving from some stakeholders other than the Department of Social Development. Most important is the support from the agricultural extension officers since all the projects are agricultural-based. In some cases the municipality also plays a part and some of the projects reported that they have no external support of any kind.

**Figure 4.11 – Training Received by project Beneficiaries**

As shown in the figure above, all the project members received training in project management, with some projects receiving training in some areas more relevant to their commodities. Those projects which are not yet producing mentioned that it was too early to tell if the training was adequate and those already producing said it was adequate. Besides more training in their respective commodities and project management, the respondents also expressed the desire to be trained more in financial management.

### 4.4 Mobilisation of Community Resources

All the respondents agree that that the project managed to allow the community to mobilise some resources. The most frequently mentioned resources that the project managed to tap into are the following:

- **a) Time**
- **b) Energy**
c) Materials (not specified)

All the respondents mentioned that the use of the above resources by the project has not negatively impacted other community members who are not part of the project. Interestingly, none of the respondents mentioned the land on which the various projects were carrying out their production.

The majority of the respondents (those who are not yet producing) mentioned that it’s too early to tell whether the benefits coming from the projects are worthy the resources that it is using (time, energy and material of project beneficiaries). However, those projects that are producing agreed that indeed the benefits from the projects are worthy the resources the community has put in.

As shown in the graph above, the respondents varied when asked if the money they received from DoSD was enough. Those who said the money was not enough mentioned that it was because tractor hire was expensive so sometimes the money ended up not being enough. The respondents were also positive that the project is cost-effective enough.
The respondents further acknowledged that DoSD is involved on how they use their funds. However, all the respondents said that the management of funds was very effective and efficient.

### 4.5 Conclusion

In terms of recommendations, most of the respondents were of the opinion that as part of funding, provision should be made that they get tractors, even if those are to be centralized. The first reason they gave is that tractor hire is expensive and they feel they will be much better off with their own tractor. Secondly, they said sometimes tractors are not available for hire so much that sometimes when they are available it’s already late and that may disrupt their plans and planting schedule.

In conclusion it can be noted that all the projects are similar in many attributes. These include the objectives (poverty alleviation), the structures, sources of funding (Department of Social Department) and type of training. Also, the responses from both the project beneficiaries and other stakeholders show that the projects also share the same challenges especially when it comes to initiating production. For those already producing, there is a challenge of finding a reliable and consistent market for their produce. However, the overall community members who are not necessarily part of the project members expressed support for the initiatives which is essential for their sustainability.

To give a clear picture of the contents of this chapter answered questionnaires are attached at the end of this paper. The next chapter will deal directly the overall outcomes of this research paper, and how each of the proceeding chapters including this one reflects the effectiveness of the poverty alleviation strategies.
CHAPTER 5 - CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is going to round up on some of the findings that came up during the study. This is the chapter that will answer some of the questions raised at the start of the research. The chapter will also attempt to comment on the initial research objectives. Because the research used several sources for information like primary and secondary documents as fieldwork, this is the chapter that will synthesise all the collected data and came up with conclusions as well as recommendations based on the research findings.

5.2 CONCLUSION

This chapter will attempt to wrap up the research findings as well as reconciling the research objective and the research questions that were raised in the first chapter with the research results from the fieldwork. The research will also offer some recommendations based both on the consulted literature and some of the findings that came up during fieldwork.

Considering the poverty situation which has been outlined in several literature texts and the first hand experience of the researcher as well as the research findings providing hard statistics, the research conclude that firstly, there is need for some kind of initiatives to be carried out in the rural areas. Because of the lack of industries or other economic activities that can provide employment, it is important and necessary that the government comes up with these projects that even though they might not eradicate poverty outright, they can at least alleviate it.

In terms of general project sustainability several challenges facing the projects were observed, and these led to the conclusion that it was going to be difficult for these initiatives to be sustainable. For example, firstly, the fieldwork established that there is no formal or guaranteed market where these projects can sell their produce. This is a problem not just for the projects that were used as case studies but for the Department of Social Development projects in general. The lack of a formal and guaranteed market means these projects have to rely on the local communities to buy their produce. In most cases they are similarly poor and cannot afford to buy some of the produce that is being sold like poultry and pigs. Secondly, some of the produce that is coming out of
these projects is not of the right quality which makes them unattractive and incapable of attracting decent prices when they are taken to the market. This issue was raised by the Manager for Department of Social Development who attributed this to the fact that there are no inspections to monitor the state and quality of these produce especially when it comes to livestock like chickens and pigs. Third, there were also reports that some projects were not getting enough assistance from the Department of Agriculture. This was collaborated during the fieldwork as some respondents said they were getting assistance from agricultural extension workers while some said they were not getting any assistance at all. Lastly, most of the institutions that are capable of buying the produce in large and consistent quantities like Spar and Checkers insist that they want consistent supply which the projects are not capable of since they only produce on a small scale and in most cases the production is seasonal. All the above factors show that the projects are facing some challenges which make it difficult for them to be sustainable. In some proven cases, the project cycle only go as far as the availability of the funds and once the funding stops the production and general idea of the project ends as well.

Still looking at the question of sustainability and the chance of these projects taking their beneficiaries out of poverty, there were some findings that came out during the research that might make the viability and benefits of these projects difficult. For example, all of these projects were started in 2007 but as of 2011 there were some projects that still have not started producing even though they received some project funding. In other words, four years after the formation of these projects, the beneficiaries are yet to receive any benefit from them. This had the adverse effect of reducing morale amongst the project beneficiaries as they invest time and energy into a project and get nothing in return. On the other hand, some community members who are not part of the initiative might feel discouraged when they see project members working without any tangible benefits forthcoming. Secondly, there were some projects where it was realised there was no water for the intended activity (vegetable production) and instead they had to do piggery. Because both the community members and officials failed to see that there was no water and only realised this after the commencement of the project means there was some research which was supposed to be done prior to both the formulation of the project and the awarding of funding. It is an oversight of such issues which might make the sustainability of these projects challenging.
5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The first issue that may need to be addressed in future projects is the issue of carrying out baseline surveys and feasibility studies before implementing programmes. Baseline surveys give an indication on the status of the community, their needs, priorities and opportunities, upon which the programme can design appropriate responses and projects. Most importantly, a baseline survey assists in the evaluation process when measuring the actual impact of the programme on the beneficiaries’ livelihoods by comparing their status before and after the programme. Still on the same subject, it needs to be stressed out that while the Department of Social Development sometimes carries out some household profiling, the data collected is often inadequate and inappropriate for use in project design due to the nature and qualitative way in which the data is collected and presented which makes it difficult for other stakeholders to use the same data because its presentation is largely qualitative, which is difficult to analyse when the number of variables (households) increases. Rather, a standard tool like a coded questionnaire can achieve better results for standardisation and scalability. Feasibility studies on the other hand are important in determining the kind of projects to be implemented as part of the programme. Because of the limited income streams for most households, there are often income generating or commercially inclined projects. A feasibility study could have assessed the viability, suitability and sustainability of the projects based on variables such as the skills base of the community, the enthusiasm on the part of the community, existing infrastructures like communication and transport network and market dynamics. If carried out properly, a feasibility study can advice on the best projects to implement.

While most of the poverty alleviation projects are primarily funded by government through the Department of Social Development, there is need to bring in some more players like the civil society and private sector. The civil society, especially NGOs work in most areas similar to what the government departments do in most instances. These areas include training, food security, health and HIV/AIDS as well as water and sanitation. These organisations could compliment the work of government departments and assist in monitoring as well. The private sector on the other hand can identify areas of potential investment in the area. This can assist in securing employment for some of the community members.

The other recommendation is that, as shown by various researches, working with already existing groups, yields better results because such groups would have been
formed to address a genuine and similar cause. As such they are driven by a set vision. Unlike those that are hurriedly formed because there is funding available. There are those who are of the opinion that government and municipalities should be the champions, to take the lead in organizing everything from identifying cooperatives members through to selecting the business opportunity. This approach is commonly seen where government wants to allocate grants but does not have sufficient number of beneficiaries. Thus communities are told to form groups that will be registered as cooperatives, such that they can receive the grant. In many instances, groupings formed in such a manner, do not survive beyond two to three years, by then the funds would have run out. Considering that there were instances narrated by the Manager of the Department of Social Development where projects collapse because there is no longer funding, it becomes important to make sure that the members have development and poverty alleviation as their main priority rather than accessing government funding then disbanding as soon as the funds run out.

Training is a priority that has to be addressed, however the nature of training and topics covered have to be well thought out when targeting poverty-alleviation projects like the ones covered in the case study. When you ask the farmers what kind of training they need, the majority if not all would say business skills and financial management. These are essential areas, however, we encourage that organizational related issues should take priority. It is these that usually affect negatively the running of groups. Thus it is recommended to start with basics for example how to establish a cooperative or any other grouping and how to manage it, together with any legislative requirements, identifying the roles of various offices, responsibilities of office bearers, qualities of leaders, leadership styles, how to conduct meetings, how to take minutes. Other topics include conflict management, time management, assertiveness, scheduling of activities and group dynamics. Thereafter the financial and business related training could follow. The nature of training offered should be more of a mentoring and practical type other than a few days in a class room setting and then left to practice what they have learnt. Related to training is the knowledge base and experience of the trainers. In most cases, service providers use trainers who are straight from college or university, with practically no work experience. This leads to the intended trainees not participating as they should. It is important to ascertain prior to the training, the age group and gender of those to be trained. This will enable you to match the age and gender of the trainers to the trainees. Some have tried to use at least two trainers of both genders.

The first recommendation is to address the marketing issue where some of the projects are finding it difficult to sell their produce through the formal market. The single biggest
challenge to projects is marketing and this is irrespective of the areas they are located in, the type of commodity they produce or the quality of produce. The single biggest challenge is that they cannot supply the large retail shops with enough produce on a consistent scale. This constraint is in turn caused by the fact that in most cases the land available to these projects is limited. Also limited is the financial and managerial capacity needed to produce consistently round the year. To overcome this, it is suggested that projects can come together to form a larger entity or rather an association of cooperatives so that they can pull their produce together and make sure that there is always enough produce for the retail chains. By forming such a pool they can also agree on the commodity to produce so that they will not be in competition and flood the market when the produce is ready. Also important is the fact that such an association will facilitate information sharing among organisations and if handled properly can also play a big role in determining local market prices as the farmers can speak with one voice.
REFERENCES LIST

Agenda 21: The United Nations Programme of Action from Rio, Published by the United
Nations Department of Public Information.

Thomson Publishing Inc.


and Consultancy Services.

Berg. B. L. (2004) Qualitative Research methods, Califonia state University, Long
Beach


Blanche, M.T. and Durrheim, K (1999), Research in Practice : Applied method for social
Sciences: University of Cape Town Press (Pty) Ltd.

African Perspective. Kenwyn: Juta


Cassiem,S , Sandan, M, Perry, H and Streak, J ( 2000 ), Are Poor Children Being Put
First ? Child Poverty and budget, Published by Idasa 2000, 6 spin st, Cape Town, 8001.

Chambers, R (1983) Rural Development, Putting the last first. Published in the United
States of America by Long man INC. New York

Schaik


In the methodology of the social science : Ituman science Research Council

Kothan , C.R. (2005), Research Methodology: Method and Techniques, Now Age Publisher, Mow Delhi.


Nordtveit, B and Integrated Service Delivery: Literacy, Early Child Development and Health


Social Development $ Special Programmes, (2011 C/2012) Policy Speech


UNNCED (1992) Combating Poverty on a Global Scale

Van Der Hoeven, R. and Van Der Kraai, F (1994) Structural Adjustment and Beyond in Sub-Saharan Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS)


White Paper for Social Development (1997), Department of Public Service Administration, Republic of South Africa,
23 November 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: REQUEST FOR CONDUCTING AN ACADEMIC RESEARCH

PROGRAMME: MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA)

NAME: Mr S.P. Seyisis
STUDENT NUMBER: 201004517

The above named is a registered student of the university of Forte Hare. As part of the requirements for completing his MPA degree, the student is expected to conduct a research and submit its findings accordingly.

We hereby request you to allow the student conduct a research in your institution and to interact with relevant selected office-bearers and officials. We have instructed the student to observe professionalism and ethical considerations by maintaining anonymity of the participants concerned. The student has also been advised to maintain strict confidentiality in his interactions with respondents.

Once the research is completed, it may be availed to your institution on request. We hope that the findings of the research will benefit your institution in particular, and South Africa in general.

Please extend every assistance he stands in need.

Regards

EOC Ijeoma
TO: ASSISTANT MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

FROM: S. P. SEYISI

SUBJECT: RESEARCH STUDY QUESTIONNAIRE

DATE : 08 JANUARY 2012

SIR /MADAM

I am masters student at the UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE and currently doing research on the assessing the affectivity of poverty eradication strategies on communities in the Eastern Cape Province. For purposes of convenience, the scope of the interviews and questionnaires will be limited to Ngqushwa Municipality in Amathole District as a sample resource.

On the basis of the above, I therefore humbly request your co-operation in responding to the attached questionnaire.

Please be assured that the information during interviews will be kept strictly confidential and neither your name nor those of the projects will be mentioned in the study.

Your honest and transparent response to the questions will be highly appreciated.

For your response, please contact me at Cell No: 0737993968

Yours Sincerely

S. P. SEYISI

(Master’s Student at The UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE)
TO: MANAGERS AND COORDINATORS OF POVERTY ALLIVIATION PROJECT (FOOD FOR WASTE)

FROM:  S. P. SEYISI

SUBJECT:  APPOINTMENT FOR INTERVIEWS

DATE : 03 JANUARY 2012

SIR /MADAM

I am masters student at the UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE and currently doing research on the assessing the affectivity of poverty eradication strategies on communities in the Eastern Cape Province. For purposes of enriching the requirements of the study, I therefore humbly request your co – operation by sharing relevant information in this regard.

On the basis of the above, may I kindly request you to please secure an opportunity to fill in attached questionnaires during the time of your convenience.

Please be assured that the information during interviews will be treated with maximum confidentiality and no names of the people shall appear in the research work.

Your response in this regard will be highly appreciated.

For your response, please contact me at Cell No: 0737993968

Yours Sincerely

S. P. SEYISI

(Master’s Student at The UNIVERSITY OF FORTHARE)
ANNEXURE B: QUESTIONNAIRES

TO: MANAGERS AND COORDINATORS OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROJECTS. (FOOD FOR WASTE)

1. Explain your role in the project?

2. Give a brief background of the project?

3. How were the beneficiaries involved in the planning and implementation of the project?

4. Explain the criteria used to recruit the beneficiaries?

5. How many beneficiaries are currently involved in the project?

6. To what extent are the beneficiaries participating in the day to day activities of the project?

7. How is the project funded?

8. What are your control measures to promote accountability by all stakeholders?
9. What are your mechanisms to ensure sustainability of the project?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

10. How are the project beneficiaries empowered on project development and management?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

11. How are the government departments and local municipality involved in the project?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

12. Are the projects self-sustainable?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

13. What is your project management plan?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

14. What are the challenges of the project?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

15. What are your preferred solutions to the identified problems?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
QUESTIONNAIRE

Questions to the Assistant Managers and Supervisors of Community Development Projects of Social Development:

1. NAME AND LOCATION OF THE PROJECT
   1.1 Where is the project located and the name of the project?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   1.2 Project description
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   1.3 Characteristics of the project location
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   1.4 Socio-economic condition
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

2. HISTORY OF THE PROJECT
   2.1 When and how did the project start?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   2.2 What motivated the community to start the project?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   2.3 How many people participated in the conception of the project?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   2.4 What is the level of participation now?
3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES
3.1 What were the original project objectives?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

3.2 Did they meet the priority needs?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

3.3 Has the community needs and priorities changed since the project was approved?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

3.4 How have these changed?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

3.5 What other issues are still facing the community?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

4. PROJECT DESIGN, IMPACT, PERFORMANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY
4.1 Does the design and planning of the project address community needs?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

4.2 How well has the design been implemented?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

4.3 To what extent is the existing facility meeting the needs of the community?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

4.4 Is the project implemented as per the Business Plan and LFA framework?
4.5 How many people are benefiting from this project?

4.6 How sustainable is the arrangement for the implementation of the project presently?

4.7 What improvement has the project brought to the life of this community?

4.8 How sustainable is the arrangement for the implementation of the project in 3-5 years time?

4.9 How accessible is the project to the community?

5. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

5.1 Who is managing the project now?

5.2 How effectively does the current management represent the community?

5.3 How well is the project being managed, in the interest of the community?

5.4 What other support is the project receiving?
6. TRAINING
   6.1 What training and development has the project been able to mobilize?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   6.2 Has this been adequate for the project success?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   6.3 What training would the project like to receive given the opportunity?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   6.4 How successfully has the project exploited training opportunities for its benefits?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

7. RESOURCES
   7.1 How effectively did the project mobilize and utilize community resources (use of people’s time and energy, money, materials etc)?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   7.2 What impact has the use these resources had on the overall resources available for other community activities?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   7.3 Has the benefits delivered by the project been worth the resources put in by the community?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

8. PROJECT COSTS
   8.1 Were the financial resources provided by DOSD adequate for project implementation?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   8.2 Were the financial resources provided by DOSD used cost effectively?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
8.3 Is the project cost effective?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

8.4 How are the funds of the projects administered?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________