GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF SELECTED COOPERATIVES IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

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GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF SELECTED COOPERATIVES IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

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University of Fort Hare East London Campus

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Supervisor: Mrs. S M Maistry
DECLARATION

I, Noluthando Victoria Sithole hereby declare that unless specifically indicated to the contrary, this thesis is the result of my own work. Furthermore, I declare that the material contained in this thesis has not been submitted to this or any other university in fulfillment or partial fulfillment of the requirements for another degree.

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Student Number 200603006

Signed at East London
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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANC</td>
<td>African National Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABET</td>
<td>Adult basic education and training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDP</td>
<td>Community Development Practitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTRALESA</td>
<td>Congress of traditional leaders of South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOSD</td>
<td>Department of Social Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSRAC</td>
<td>Department of Sport, Arts and Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISRDP</td>
<td>Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDT</td>
<td>Independent Development Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGR</td>
<td>Inter governmental relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLL</td>
<td>Minimum Living Levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non Governmental Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSDP</td>
<td>National Spatial Development Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDOSD</td>
<td>Provincial Department of Social Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRA</td>
<td>Participatory Rural Appraisal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRP</td>
<td>Poverty Relief Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>RDP</td>
<td>Reconstruction and Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA</td>
<td>Service Level Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMME</td>
<td>Small Medium Enterprises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nation Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFAO</td>
<td>United Nation Food and Agriculture Organisation</td>
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ABSTRACT

In 1994 South Africa took a new direction towards democratic governance. This led to a change of government principles and approaches in leading the country. The people became the centre of the country’s development, resulting in the adoption of people-centred development and people-driven strategies. A special focus highlighted women as in the category which had endured poverty the most in South Africa. The South African government, through its various departments, has a responsibility to improve the lives of South Africans, and the Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Social Development is one of the departments which has committed itself towards changing the lives of women in the community. As a strategy to implement community development, the Provincial Department of Social Development is funding women cooperative programmes.

Women cooperatives are a relatively new endeavour to address poverty within the democratic South Africa. The study supports the notion and attempts to show the impact that women have on community development. The researcher began studying the trends and realized that the funds allocated and the funding process of community development programmes by Provincial Department of Social Development is not working towards empowering communities. A purposive sampling method was used to select two women cooperative programmes in the Chris Hani District Municipality to explore the role of women in community development in the current context of democracy and social welfare transformation in South Africa; to explore the impact of gender through women cooperatives on community development and to explore strategies for the empowerment of women through community development intervention. The design of the study is qualitative, exploratory and descriptive in nature. The study also adapted evaluation and gender analysis methods to verify the effectiveness of women programmes. The study recommends that women be empowered with skills, knowledge, resources and opportunities to enable them to be more effective in community development.