THE EFFECTIVENESS OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION INITIATIVES IN

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

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THE EFFECTIVENESS OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION INITIATIVES IN BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

BY

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Submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Magister Artium in Development Studies in the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

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DECLARATION

I, Zoliswa Benya, student number 210124377, hereby declare that the treatise for Masters in Development Studies to be awarded is my own work and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment or completion of any postgraduate qualification to another University or for another qualification.

Zoliswa Benya
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God, by His Grace carried me through.
Dedicated to my children.
Abstract

The South African democratic government has, since 1994, implemented various programs that aim to alleviate poverty through policy interventions. The Provincial Growth and Development Plan (Eastern Cape 2004-2014) commit itself to halving poverty by 2014. The research seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of poverty alleviation initiatives in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM), East London; focusing in Nompumelelo informal settlement.

The study applied quantitative and qualitative approaches for biographical and socioeconomic information; and for in-depth understanding and verification respectively. Data collection was through structured interviews and survey questionnaires.

The findings reveal that there are random, short-term poverty alleviation initiatives taking place in Nompumelelo informal settlement area. Projects that could have been self-sustaining collapsed due to lack of skills and training. The study indicates that the level of unemployment is high at 68%.
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<td>Buffalo City Metro Municipality</td>
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<td>HS:</td>
<td>Human Settlements</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDP:</td>
<td>Integrated Development Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>LED:</td>
<td>Local Economic Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDG:</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goal</td>
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<td>NIS:</td>
<td>Nompumelelo Informal Settlement</td>
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<td>NMMU:</td>
<td>Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIR:</td>
<td>Poverty and Inequality Report</td>
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<td>SD:</td>
<td>Social Development</td>
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<td>SMME:</td>
<td>Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise</td>
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CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

1. BACKGROUND

Poverty is the key problem globally and still is one of the major developmental challenges South Africa is battling with seventeen years after transition to Democracy. The Millennium Development Goals commit nations to halving poverty and inequality by 2015. (UN Department of Public Information: 2010). To ensure that this is realized, the South African Government, through its Medium Term Strategic Framework, (2009 – 2014) and various other planning frameworks has set targets for poverty alleviation under the theme “Together we can do more”. However, Enslin-Payne (2010) reports that, although there are strides in fighting poverty, the gap between the rich and poor is still large. These levels of poverty and inequality affect the living standards, economic growth, levels of crime and social stability. South African Institute of Race Relations (2011) open letter to the Minister of Police indicates that below 50% of black population, of the 50,59million South African population (Statssa:2011) live in relative poverty. In 2010, 49% and 35.1% people in the Eastern Cape and BCMM respectively were living in poverty. (ECSECC: 2011).

In efforts to fight deprivation in South Africa, the democratic Government has, since 1994, implemented various programs that aim to alleviate income poverty through stimulating employment, developing skills and improving service delivery. These programmes include cash transfers with social wage packages, clinic-based free primary health care (PHC) for all, compulsory education for all those aged seven to thirteen years, and provision of subsidised housing, electricity, water, sanitation, refuse removal, transportation, and transfer of township housing stock to those who have been resident in these properties for a set minimum period of time.

The Provincial Growth and Development Plan (Eastern Cape 2004-2014) were adopted in 2004 with the main aim of providing collaborative framework to drive growth and
development. In this plan the Eastern Cape Government commits its self to halving poverty by 2014. This plan also informs all departmental programmes with the support of Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) and Local Economic Development Strategies (LEDS) of municipalities.

The National Framework of Local Economic Development in South Africa (2006 – 2011) aims to support the development of sustainable local economies through integrated government action. Municipalities as custodians of Integrated Development Programs work in conjunction with different stakeholders such as private industry, other government departments, Non-Government Organizations (NGO’s) and relevant community sectors towards achieving intended developmental goals; thus are avoiding wasteful duplication of effort and resources. This is a developmental government action with enterprises operating in local municipal areas stimulating heart of the economy.

1.2 THE RESEARCH PROBLEM


This treatise seeks to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of poverty alleviation in Nompumelelo informal settlement, East London.

Low economic growth and a high rate of unemployment are still prevalent and present a major challenge; with relatively high levels of poverty widespread within BCMM. 2001 statistics reveal that 70% of households in the City indicated an income of less than R1500 per month, with 28% of all households indicating no income at all whilst 21% of the City’s 20 years and above population, had grade 12, 16% had post-school education and only 17% of 15 - 24 year olds were enrolled in post school study. Unemployment rate within the Metro is estimated to be about 24%. Future development of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) is threatened by the lack of appropriate education and skills levels. (BCMM IDP 2011 – 2016).
1.3 RESEARCH QUESTION

How effective are the poverty alleviation initiatives in Nompumelelo informal settlement, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality in East London?

1.4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To understand what it means to be poor.
- To understand how the community to be researched defines poverty.
- To identify existing poverty alleviation initiatives in the area.
- To understand who the beneficiaries are.
- To identify existing community structures.
- To evaluate the impact of the initiatives in changing the lives of the beneficiaries.
- To identify challenges the poverty alleviation programmes are faced with and to make recommendations on possible actions that could be taken to overcome these.

1.5.1 SCOPE AND SCALE

1.5.1 Limitations

- Research will focus in Nompumelelo informal settlement, in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality.
- Two projects will be selected for research purposes.
- The research period is limited to the study period.
- Budget might affect the extent of the research work.
- Researcher may encounter barriers in accessing community information.

1.5.2 Assumptions

- The researcher assumes that there are already existing projects.
- Beneficiaries are people living in the area to be researched.
- Majority of the beneficiaries are not educated.
Community members might willingly participate in the research with the hope that the information they give might help in bringing some change in their lives.

1.6 LITERATURE REVIEW

1.6.1 Poverty Explained

In her explanation of poverty May (2000) says poverty is generally characterized by the inability of individuals, households or entire communities to command sufficient resources to satisfy a socially acceptable minimum standard of living. On the other hand the findings of the South African Participatory Poverty Assessment (2008) refer to poverty as:

- Alienation from community - where poor people are isolated from the institutions of kinship and community.
- Food insecurity – inability to provide sufficient food for the family is seen as an outcome of poverty; children go hungry or are malnourished.
- Crowded homes – family members view having too many children as a cause of poverty where these children end up being taken care of by other family members.
- Lack of access to safe and efficient sources of energy.
- Lack of employment opportunities, low wages and lack of job security.
- Family fragmentation where households split over a number of sites as a survival strategy.

It therefore suffices to say, poverty is the state of inability and instability, which does not support the promotion, or manifestation of sustainable livelihoods through social, economic and political barriers.

1.6.2 Poverty Alleviation

In an effort to fight poverty and inequality, the South African Government has put frameworks, policies and strategies in place whose programs interlink their operations
with national, provincial and local governments. These strategies include programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme, Integrated Nutrition Programme, food security programmes such as Siyazondla and Massive Food Programme, Free basic services such as primary health care and no fee schools.

Studies have shown that poverty and inequality in South Africa are cyclical and intergenerational and thus Poverty and Inequality Report in South Africa (2010) has adopted the approach of breaking the forces that have perpetuated a vicious cycle of poverty at one extreme, while encouraging income, wealth and opportunity to be amassed at the other. Proposals informing their approach are:

- Economic growth and human development should be linked and have the aim of achieving sustainable improvements in the quality of life of all South Africans. This is best achieved through enhancing the capabilities of disadvantaged communities, households and individuals by improving their access to a wide range of assets, both physical and social.
- Inefficiencies in markets, institutions, spatial structure and delivery mechanisms that prejudice those who are least well-off need to be identified and removed.
- South African government to increase emphasis on redistributive measures in order to assure the long-term well-being and prosperity of the population.

The achievement of this will be realised when the government assertively facilitates the transfer of assets and services from the wealthy to the poor through effective and appropriate social investment; to be matched by market, institutional and spatial reforms benefitting the less well-off.

- The collection of social, economic and demographic information for the purposes of monitoring the extent and nature of change should be prioritized to ensure that the reduction of poverty and inequality is managed on a sustainable basis.

The monitoring of poverty reduction as suggested above proves to be a valid need, as the 2009 Provincial Growth Development Plan (PGDP) assessment report shows
marginal poverty reduction in the Eastern Cape with nearly seven out of 10 people still living in poverty.

According to the BCMM IDP (2010/2011) the Eastern Cape Province, generally seen as one of the two poorest in South Africa is the second largest province, covering 13.9% of South Africa’s total land area. The province has approximately 6.4 million people (Census, 2001). 1 635 433 of this is Amathole District Municipality population with Buffalo City standing at 42% of the ADM total population (Community Survey, 2007).

The economy of East London is heavily dependent on the motor manufacturing industry, Daimler Chrysler and in 2009 it had the highest human development index of 0.66. However, high levels of poverty are evidenced by the 70% household subsistence levels of less than R1 500 per month and R0 income indicated by 28% of the households, while Amathole District Municipality (ADM) IDP (2011-12) reports that approximately 53% of the households receive social grants.

A study conducted by HSRC (2010) reveals that much of the service backlogs in Buffalo City Metro relates to housing, ECSECC (2007) which then impacts on the provision of other services such as sanitation, electricity and water. This slow progress sometimes is caused by, amongst other things corruption and lack of community involvement in the construction and management of projects after completion. The Johannesburg Alexandra Urban Renewal Project where community participation was hindered because community members were not properly involved during the project initiation stage serves as an example and results in an improved awareness of the role that must be played by the community in the development process (Didibhuku:2009). This sentiment is also shared by HSRC (2010) report where it indicates that “Communities, ward councillors, mayors and government officials thus need to buy-in to projects from the beginning in order to ensure support”.

A number of projects were initiated by BCMM to fight poverty and underdevelopment through job creation, infrastructure development and the stimulation of growth; and
some were driven by the municipality and the private sector. Some of the projects included urban agriculture, tourism, infrastructure development through the Expanded Public Works Programmes and small business development and support. The researcher seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of these developments and other municipal programmes that seek to improve the livelihoods of the people of Nompumelelo.

1.7 METHODOLOGY, RESEARCH DESIGN AND RESEARCH METHODS

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, where Nompumelelo Informal Settlement is, is situated in Amathole District Municipality, in the East London region. According to the BCMM IDP document (2011 – 2016), the area has 70.6% formal households, 4.5% traditional, 24.5% informal and 0.4% other. Some of the challenges BCMM is faced with are: crime, high poverty and unemployment, high rates of HIV and AIDS prevalence and TB, service delivery backlogs and housing shortage. Formal employment growth is highest in the skills demanding sectors whilst 17% of the people older than 20 years have matric or higher qualifications. Only 8% of adults have degrees and 11% of the adult population is functionally illiterate.

Cohen, Manion and Morrison (2000: 20) argue that social science in its own nature is not homogeneous but speaks to a researcher’s ability to assess social reality through the eyes of different people and being able to understand how those realities influence their actions. It is therefore necessary that the methodology that is used takes into consideration these realities and individual definitions hence the researcher will use qualitative research method. This will ensure that:

- The social world will be studied without intervention or manipulation from the researcher
- People will interpret, analyse events, contexts and situations themselves
- The unique characteristics of the researched community stand out taking into consideration cultures
To ensure that the research process is transparent and reliable, existing community leadership structures will be used as an entry point to reach greater community members of the settlement. Data will be collected from a purposive sampling through interviews, participant observation method and focus groups, where open ended questions, field notes, audio recordings and transcript will be used.

The layout of the research is as follows:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction and context** – covers the overview of the research, provides for the research question, aims and objectives and the scale and scope of the research
- **Chapter 2: Literature Review** – the context of the research, background to the research question, current literature on the topic and available research
- **Chapter 3: Methodology and Research Methods** – the research methodology that was used including the research tools and techniques to be applied
- **Chapter 4: Findings/Interpretation of Data** – the results of the research linked to the sub foci outlined in the introductory chapter
- **Conclusion/Policy Recommendations** – a summary of the research and recommendations made based on findings
Chapter 2 – Literature Review

2. Introduction

"More than half the world’s population today lives on less than US$ 2 per day and almost 1.1 billion people live in extreme poverty, defined as less than US$ 1 per day (Rice: 2006). The situation is more disturbing in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) where, according to the World Bank (2006), 44 per cent of the population lived in poverty in 2002. The Bank’s current projections are that in 2015, Africa’s poverty rate will remain over 38 per cent: far above the 22.3 per cent target. This paints a pessimistic picture for Africa, as the continent is unlikely to meet the United Nations Millennium Development (MDG) Goal of halving poverty by 2015". (Akindola: 2009).

(Handley: 2009) considers the socio economic drivers and maintainers of poverty in SSA and suggests that risk and vulnerability, low capabilities, inequality, exclusion and adverse incorporation, limited livelihoods and opportunities are contributing factors. Policy instruments for poverty reduction are widely adopted in SSA, from Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs), in the form of grants and concessional loans to Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These policies are implemented through the delivery of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and its associated conditionality.

In the South African context, the then President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki in his State of the Nation Address, referring to poverty as the challenge the country is faced with "Endemic and widespread poverty continues to disfigure the face of our country. It will always be impossible for us to say that we have fully restored the dignity of all our people as long as this situation persists. For this reason the struggle to eradicate poverty has been and will continue to be a cornerstone of the national effort to build the new South Africa". (President Mbeki: 2004).

Various policy instruments linking to the national government vision for poverty alleviation were adopted; leading to the implementation of programmes such as
Provincial Growth and Development Plan and Integrated Development Plan. These programmes have direct focus on poverty and sustainable economic growth and livelihood opportunities. The successful implementation of these programmes can lead to sustainable livelihoods and the resultant of this will be complete poverty eradication.

2.1 Provincial Growth and Development Plan

As part of the response to the National call, the Eastern Cape Government published the Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP), to provide stimulus for transformation. PGDP serves as a central enabling framework for socio-economic and development planning for the period 2004 to 2014.

One of the PGDP’s targets is to reduce between 60% and 80% the number of households living in poverty. PGDP prioritised five programmes: the expanded public works programme (EPWP), the victim empowerment programme (VEP), the water and sanitation programme, the housing programme, and the HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis (TB) programme.

2.1.2 Integrated Development Plan

The local municipalities utilise Integrated Development Plan as a framework to promote sustainable growth, equity and the empowerment of the poor and the marginalized. BCMM IDP (2011 – 16) five-year plan building block sets its developmental priorities towards achieving its goal as follows:

1. Creation of integrated and sustainable human settlements
2. Economic growth and job creation
3. Access and mobility – by expediting the implementation of the Integrated Transport Plan thus enabling community members access to services in a manner that makes no distinction between rural and urban areas
4. Building strong and integrated communities
5. Equitable provision of services
Studies indicate that poverty is multifaceted and that there is no one way of defining it; and also that it is a global endemic. Various definitions exist which are influenced by different disciplinary approaches and ideologies. Common in all the definitions is the dominating factor of monetary approach and reference to a state of deprivation that prevents an individual from attaining some minimum socially acceptable standard of living. The conceptualisation, definition and measurement of poverty in a society reflect the ideals of that society.

The figure of US$1 income per day is widely accepted as a general indicator of extreme poverty within development discourse, but there is no absolute cut-off and income is only one indicator of the results of poverty, among many others.

Whereas, Friedman and Bhengu (2008) argue that more relativistic, broad, multi-faceted definitions of poverty that focus on a people-centred paradigm have greater relevance to sustainable human development than narrow income-based approaches.

2.3 Poverty in South African Context

(Narayan: 2000) defines the poverty condition of the dispossessed individuals clearly “If you want to do something and have no power to do it, it is talauchi (poverty).” He further defines it by saying it is hunger; lack of shelter; being sick and not being able to see a doctor; not having access to school and not knowing how to read; not having a job; fear for the future; living one day at a time; losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water; powerlessness; lack of representation and lack of freedom.

Referring to South Africa, one of the unequal societies in the world (Aliber: 2002) says poverty is the outcome of colonial and apartheid engineering, which resulted in the
dispossession of land, establishment of overcrowded and poorly resourced homelands for the majority of black population. Families separated through the migratory system to the mining and industrial sectors. Thus racial, gender and geographical dimensions of poverty are the legacy of this historical experience. Such that May (2000) reveals what it means to be poor in South Africa “Be alienated from your community, to be unable to sufficiently feed your family, to live in overcrowded conditions, use basic forms of energy, lack adequately paid and secure jobs and to have fragmented families”.

Based on per adult equivalent national poverty line of R354 per month, in 1995, 48.5% of a population of 46 million people in South Africa were living in poverty; and 23.8% were living on less than two US dollars a day (UNDP: 2003).

Eastern Cape Province is seen as one of South Africa’s poorest provinces with high unemployment rate and larger rural population than other provinces in the country (Aliber: 2000).

Centre for Social Accountability reports that South Africa’s global Human Development Index (HDI) ranking has fallen from 90th in 1994 to 121st (out of 177 countries ranked by the United Nations Development Programme) in 2005, largely because of a decline in life expectancy (Luyt : 2008).

The Nelson Mandela Municipality War on Hunger Campaign (2010) refers to the socio-economic and enabling variables of the “distressed”, as a way of defining poverty as: including level of unmet needs, capacity/skills, socio-psychological conditions (dependency, assertiveness, self-reliance), levels of social capital, levels of development enabling institutional infrastructure: education and training facilities, employment support agencies, extent of Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME) support. The economic Summit further refers to the elements of poverty as “rapid escalation of unemployment, worsening inequalities, mass poverty and general destitution of more than a third of the metro’s population”. Key to this definition is the basic needs, income based approach graphically illustrated below which indicates that lack of income leads to unmet basic needs.
These definitions of poverty indicate that there are various elements involved in poverty and that development agencies need to take into consideration all these in their policy formulations for poverty alleviation, in order to be able to effectively address these specific problematic areas.
2.4 Poverty Alleviation

2.4.1 Poverty alleviation definition

Understanding how the community perceive poverty as it affects them assists the development agencies to come up with relevant strategies in poverty alleviation accordingly.

Poverty Alleviation is a process by which the causes of deprivation and inequity are addressed. It seeks to reduce the level of poverty in a community, or amongst a group of people or countries through poverty reduction programs aimed at economic or non-economic poverty. Some of the methods used are education, economic development, and income redistribution. The aim of these poverty reduction activities is promotion of sustainability and non-dependency relationships among donors, partners, and the targeted group.

It must be noted that poverty alleviation and poverty reduction are used interchangeably; hence the policy of Canada International Development Agency (1996) refers to poverty reduction as meaning a sustained decrease in the number of poor and the extent of their deprivation. “This requires that the root causes and structural factors of poverty be addressed. Reducing poverty places a focus on people’s capabilities to avoid, or limit, their deprivation. Key aspects of this are: recognizing and developing the potential of the poor; increasing their productive capacity; and reducing barriers limiting their participation in society. Poverty reduction must focus on improving the social, economic and environmental conditions of the poor and their access to decision making”.

Following on CIDA’s poverty alleviation model which lists the following as a central focus and coherence in poverty-reduction effort:
2.4.2 CIDA’s Programming Strategies

- Addressing the root causes and structural factors of poverty;
- Adopting a multi-level strategy;
- Use of a threefold classification in addressing poverty: targeted poverty programs, focussed poverty programs, and policy interventions;
- Combining economic growth and social investments;
- Addressing basic human needs;
- Achieving food security;
- Promote participatory approaches: build networks and involve governments.

Following are examples of poverty alleviation strategies of CIDA, Nelson Mandela Bay Metro NMBM) War on Hunger and Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) strategies:

2.4.3 Root causes of poverty

Addressing root causes and structural factors of poverty for sustained poverty reduction, enables the poor to secure sustainable livelihoods; achieved through the removal of barriers to their participation in society.

The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality War on Hunger campaign (2010) agrees with CIDA’s strategy in their definition of approaches to understanding poverty and poverty alleviation; and their emphasis on understanding the different ways in which people think about poverty.

“Poverty has many dimensions and causes, and it is clear that different kinds of actions [poverty alleviation strategies] are needed at different levels (international, regional and local) if it is to be significantly reduced”.(Luyt: 2008). According to CIDA a poverty profile summarizes information on the sources of income, consumption patterns, economic activities, access to services and living conditions of the poor, and examines how poverty is correlated with gender, ethnic and other characteristics.
2.4.4 Assets/Training

Skills development is not equated with formal technical, vocational and agricultural education and training alone, but is used more generally to refer also to the productive capacities acquired through all levels of education and training, occurring in formal, non-formal and on-the-job settings, which enable individuals in all areas of the economy to become fully and productively engaged in livelihoods and to have the opportunity to adapt these capacities to meet the changing demands and opportunities of the economy and labour market. (King and Palmer: 2006).

Trained and skilled poor workforce lead to employment opportunities, which result in the acquisition of assets by the individuals.

2.4.5 Three-fold classification in addressing poverty

These are targeted poverty programs, focussed poverty programs, and policy interventions.

The programs work directly with the poor to improve their welfare in order to satisfy:

• Specified target group e.g. youth or destitute women
• Key interventions to be designed such that they lead to poverty reduction, through the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and the broader participation of the poor in society.

2.4.6 Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

BRAC’s Income Generation for Vulnerable Group Development Program is an example of a successful program in reaching the disadvantaged group (women) and assisting them to organise, save, borrow and move to self-reliance. This group of women were social grant recipients who were taken in by BRAC for poultry rearing training through government’s intervention and in co-operation with World Food Programme; and are now running this sustainable programme. These women were designated as most needy by their local union councils in order for them to be able to participate in the
poverty alleviation initiative. This point indicates and confirms the fact that locals use their own criteria in defining poverty. (Lovell: 1992).

2.4.7 Mpendulo Savings Project (MSP)

MSP whose aim is to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS and unemployment on vulnerable families by building their economic resilience through membership in Community Managed Savings and Lending (CMSL); was formed by a group of people (advisory group) from Jeffrey’s Bay and the township. Their activities involved assisting vulnerable families with grants and charitable donations of food, clothes and medicines. After realising the neglect of building the economic resilience of vulnerable families; they approached the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) for assistance in overcoming this hurdle. They managed to secure a grant and mentoring for the project to take off the ground.

Saving groups were initially formed up by women who got training on saving and lending methodology. Members would get involved in a flexible share system by buying shares (the value of a share set by members) and lending others with interest. At the end of a set period they received their dividends. This relief of funds saw many of these members acquiring useful assets, reducing debts and starting up microenterprises. This also improved social capital amongst group members. At the time of the researcher’s visit of the project in 2010, she was informed by the members that men had also taken membership of savings scheme, influenced by the positive economic impact it had produced in their families.

2.5 Policy interventions

Removal of systemic constraints at both national and international levels to work towards addressing root causes of poverty for both peoples and nations; and promotion of activities which affect the policy environment are crucial to poverty alleviation. Some of these are:

• Promotion of equitable growth-oriented policies;
• Reorienting public expenditures towards social priorities;
• Promoting and enshrining property rights which are equitable to women;
• Stimulating a national dialogue on poverty issues.

2.6 Combine Economic growth and Social investments

Economic growth reduces poverty when the productive capacity of the poor is matched with the physical location and the labour needs of the growth sectors. Governments determine the economic policy framework, redistribute resources, provide critical social investments for the poor, and frame the legislation that establishes property rights and the legal basis for removing gender inequities.

2.7 Address basic human needs

Basic education has significant benefits for the poor in increasing incomes; and education promotes participation on social issues. Addressing priorities such as basic education, primary health care, nutrition and family planning, water and sanitation, and shelter, play a key role in poverty reduction.

2.8 Achieve food security

Food insecurity reinforces the cycle of poverty in that it creates sense of powerlessness, dependency, pain, and reduced physical and intellectual growth to the poor. Provision of food security serves as a starting point of poverty alleviation strategy towards sustainable livelihoods where it leads to employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality war against hunger strategy serves as an example towards this concept.

2.9 Poverty-focussed programs and their impact

Poverty-focussed programs are those which disproportionately benefit a larger number of poor than non-poor. These refer to programs and activities which benefit the poor without getting involved in working directly with them, such as:
• Capacity building of organizations which work with the poor;
• Institutional changes to address the needs of the poor;
• Interventions, such as research into small-scale agricultural techniques, which could be employed by poor farmers.

2.10 Implemented Poverty Alleviation Strategies

2.10.1 War Against Poverty

It is one of the National government’s focuses to meet the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty by 2015. As such in his State of the Nation Speech at the opening of Parliament in 2008, the then President Thabo Mbeki announced Apex priorities to be incorporated into the government Programme of Action. War against Poverty is one of these projects, whose medium-term objective is the development of comprehensive antipoverty strategy and its implementation plan.

This is a short-term project aimed at bringing relief through provision of food to the most distressed communities, initially through a pilot roll-out approach before embarking on a wider scale. The aim is to eventually shift to more sustainable and developmentally orientated approaches to poverty alleviation. This project will adopt a holistic approach by way of feeding scheme tied with skills development, social grants, as well as temporary community jobs; to which the members will be placed on from the feeding-scheme. It promises to have a comprehensive data collection as information will be collected at the feeding point, which in turn will help with the recording of the conditions of families such as child headed homes.

2.10.2 BCMM Initiatives

According to BCMM IDP (2006-2011) finance sector is the single largest contributor to BCMM local economy (29%), followed by community services (28%). Manufacturing, (which is based on automotive manufacturing) stands at 17% due to global recession between 2008 and 2009.
Various poverty alleviation and economic development strategies in the BCMM area, amongst others are:

- State provided social grants. The increase in South Africa of the individuals receiving these grants from 2.5 million in 1999 to 14 million in 2009 indicates a sign of dependence and the challenge is to turn this intervention into development;
- School Nutrition Programme (SNP) which contributes towards the improvement of education quality by enhancing primary pupils’ learning capacity, school attendance; through the provision of a meal which most of the individuals lack due to poverty conditions they live in, where there is lack of food at homes;
- Mdantsane Urban Renewal Programme (MURP);
- Thembisa Food Security – in Kuni Village;
- Poultry – in Kwetyana Village.

(MDG: 2010) report states that South Africa has experienced a decline in poverty largely as a result of a significant income transfer programme, massive reallocation of pro-poor expenditure, for example on housing, water, electricity and sanitation; and is close to achieving the dollar-based purchasing power parity adjusted targets.

In terms of BCMM economic growth and job creation, future development is threatened by lack of appropriate education and skills level. 2001 stats indicate that only 21% of the City’s 20 years and above population, had grade 12, 16% had post-school education and only 17% of 15 - 24 year olds were enrolled in post-school study, although 2007 community survey revealed a slight improvement. The city is faced with the major challenge of low economic growth and a high rate of unemployment; translated to relatively high levels of poverty which is widespread within the City. (IDP 2011-16).

These reports are an indication that more still needs to be done in order to achieve positive results towards poverty alleviation in this area.
2.10.3 Beneficiaries of Poverty Alleviation Initiatives

The War on hunger campaign (2010) indicates that the initiative will benefit struggling children in child-headed homes, unemployed, pregnant women, home-based patients in chronic TB & HIV/AIDS medication and other beneficiaries verified by the Department of Social Development.

It suffices to say that poverty alleviation initiatives should be directed at, benefit and serve those whom they are intended for.

2.11 Community Structures

The BCMM IDP (2011-2016) recommendation of involving local communities in conjunction with the development agencies in the Reconstruction and Development Programmes resounds Sánchez and Franklin’s (1996) recommendation which says: “As a means of enriching society and gaining a cultural advantage in a globally competitive world, Latin American governments should devise policies and practices to make Blacks and Indigenous peoples agents of their own development; should reject the ideology of emblanquecimiento (whitening and Europeanization) and should actively promote pride in Black and Indigenous ancestry to make these minorities self-sustaining rather than the “poor”, as casualties of “exclusive” economic policies”.

The strategy of allowing community members to assume active roles in development activities towards poverty alleviation not only empowers but gives them a sense of ownership. This becomes more effective when the community members are intrinsically motivated. Sánchez and Franklin (1996) mention the starting point towards this process of self-propelled development for Afro-Latin Americans as being the importance of understanding the historical events that have impacted their collective lives.

Effectively, one’s history in terms of development serves as a starting point to see and know the past condition; to be able to strive for a better future.
2.12 Poverty Alleviation initiatives' Challenges

War on hunger campaign states the negative impact of the global economic meltdown on:
- The availability of the resources to fund development projects and programmes.
- Impact on the potential of markets to absorb labour and provision of income for the people to make a living.

It also reports that major advances in the fight against extreme poverty from 1990 to 2005, have stalled. In 2009, an estimated 55-million to 90-million more people will be living in extreme poverty than anticipated before the crisis. (War on Hunger Campaign: 2010).

Thus economic instability is one of the major challenges for poverty alleviation and with BCMM structurally dependent on the inconsistent motor industry; puts it in a worse economic condition.

2.12.1 Corruption

Corrupt behaviour by public officials who are important decision makers can result in the wrong projects being developed, usually at the expense of smaller, more labour-intensive and ultimately more socially and economically beneficial ones.... At the same time, the poorest members of these countries are still waiting for basic services. (Ellis: 2001). Many development projects have failed because of corrupt activities by some of the officials who are custodians of poverty alleviation project/s.

2.13 Conclusion

A good urban governance and capacity building for urban poverty and reduction involving a range of stakeholders require implementation of fair and effective policy frameworks. This includes accountability and responsiveness to the public; anticorruption policies and practices; and capacity building. Authorities must consult with the general public about their needs, requirements, preferences, and satisfaction with services. Communities at the grass-root level know exactly what their needs are, their priority levels and respond positively when involved by the authorities at the initial
stages of every development planning. Urban Institute Colloquium (1995) reflects these positive results where the Mexican government had its referendum passed with a 66% vote for a 40% tax yields from its citizens realised through integrated plan for priority infrastructure investments. It suffices to say that implementation of poverty alleviation programmes require integrated approach even from the community level, in order to yield successful results.
Chapter 3 – Methodology and Research Methods

3. Introduction

Research is a process of arriving at dependable solutions to problems through the planned and systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data. (Kothari: 2009) or a systematic investigation (Burns: 1997).

The researcher employed this systematic process in understanding the meaning of this phenomenon from the perspective of the participants.

The purpose of this study is to find the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programmes in Nompumelelo informal settlement in BCMM; and it will achieve this by seeking:

• To understand what it means to be poor
• To understand how the community to be researched define poverty
• To identify existing poverty alleviation initiatives in the area
• To understand who the beneficiaries are in the area to be researched
• To identify existing community structures and the role they play in poverty alleviation
• To evaluate the impact of the initiatives in changing the lives of the beneficiaries
• To identify challenges the poverty alleviation programmes are faced with

The researcher assumes that:

• There are already existing projects
• Beneficiaries are people living in the area to be researched
• Majority of the beneficiaries are not educated
• Community members might willingly participate in the research with the hope that the information they give might help in bringing some change in their lives
3.1 Research Methodology

According to Creswell (2003) research methodology references the procedural rules for the evaluation of research claims and validation of the knowledge gathered.

Cohen, Manion and Morrison (2000) argue that social science in its own nature is not homogeneous but speaks to a researcher’s ability to assess social reality through the eyes of different people and being able to understand how those realities influence their actions. It is therefore necessary that the methodology used takes into consideration these realities and individual definitions, hence the researcher used qualitative research method to ensure that:

• The social world will be studied without intervention or manipulation from the researcher.
• People will interpret, analyse events, contexts and situations themselves.
• The unique characteristics of the researched community stand out, taking into consideration cultures.

3.1.2 Qualitative Research

Creswell (1994) refers to qualitative research as a system of inquiry which seeks to build a holistic, largely narrative, description to inform the researcher’s understanding of a social or cultural phenomenon. He further states that qualitative research takes place in natural settings employing a combination of observations, interviews, and document reviews.

Qualitative research is inductive in approach; in that it is the process of inferring a generalized conclusion from particular instances. Ratcliff (1994) states that reasoning is involved allowing for modification of concepts and relationships between concepts to occur throughout the process of doing research.

Interpretivist/constructivist approaches to research were employed in this study. Cohen & Manion (1994) say the interpretivist/constructivist have the intention of understanding
the world of human experience and tend to rely upon the participants’ views of the situation being studied.

3.1.3 Quantitative Research

Quantitative research is: "a formal, objective, systematic process in which numerical data are utilised to obtain information about the world" (Cormack 1991).

The researcher used this method for the presentation of biographical information.

3.2 Research method and techniques

Somekh and Lewin (2005) define methodology as both the collection of methods or rules by which a particular piece of research is undertaken and the principles, theories and values that underpin a particular approach to research.

3.2.1 Methods of data collection

Primary data collection that is, interviews and observations are strategies utilized for data collection; and also secondary, which are documents relevant to the phenomenon. The data collection strategy used is determined by the question of the study and by determining which sources of data will yield the best information with which to answer the question.

3.2.2 Interviews

Babbie and Mouton (2006) state that qualitative interview is essentially a conversation in which the interviewer establishes a general direction for the conversation and pursues specific topics raised by the respondent; with the respondent doing most talking.

Whilst Maree (2007) refers to interviews as a two-way conversation in which the interviewer asks participant questions to collect data and to learn about ideas, beliefs, views, opinions and behaviours of the participant.
The study used open-ended question interviews in an interpretive research design to explore the following respondents’ perceptions of the phenomenon: the relevant officials from BCMM, Local Economic Development, Human Settlement, Social Development offices; to obtain information on the development programmes implemented by their departments; and also with the community members to obtain the information indicated in the research tool below. Sample of interview questions is also attached as Annexures A and B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Main and associated questions</th>
<th>Information required</th>
<th>Research Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| To understand how the community to be researched define poverty | Definition of poverty by the community members | Perception of the community | A. What comes to your mind when the term ‘poverty’ is used?  
B. When you use the term ‘poverty’ in your area, what do you mean? |
| To identify existing poverty alleviation initiatives in the area | What poverty alleviation initiatives exist in the area? | Initiatives in process  
Programmes the community wish could see taking place | A. What development programmes are there?  
B. If there are no programmes running, what would you prefer to happen in terms of development? |
| To understand who the beneficiaries are in the area to be researched | who are the beneficiaries | Participants of the programmes  
Age  
gender  
Employment status  
Education | A. What benefits do you derive from these programmes?  
B. What is your current age?  
C. What is your gender?  
D. What is your employment status? |
3.2.3 **Focus groups**

Focus groups are based on the assumption that group interaction will be productive in widening the range of responses, activating forgotten details of experience and releasing inhibitions that may otherwise discourage participants from disclosing information. Participants are able to build on each other’s ideas and comments to provide an in-depth view not attainable from individual interviews. (Maree: 2007).
3.2.4 Observation

Maree (2007) asserts that observation is a systematic process of recording the behavioural patterns of participants, objects, and occurrences without necessarily questioning or communicating with them.

The researcher employed a complete observer strategy where she was a non-participant observer by looking around the community area to witness any development programmes existing.

3.2.5 Documents

Documents serve as a secondary source of data gathering. Written data sources which may shed light on the phenomenon being investigated are utilised. Reports, newspaper articles and other documents relevant to the research were consulted.

3.3 Sampling

Purposive sampling groups participants according to preselected criteria relevant to a particular research question and sample sizes depend on the study’s objectives. It is most successful when data review and analysis are done in conjunction with data collection.

According to Dane (1990) the advantage of purposive sampling is that it allows the researcher to home in on people or events who have good understanding of the event or phenomenon.

For this purpose, the researcher used a purposive sampling of 35 individuals in their natural environments.

3.4. Ethical Considerations

Kumar (1999) states that researchers are to make sure that the privacy, rights and the welfare of their participants are guaranteed.
The researcher sought permission to carry out an investigation from BCMM Acting Manager by submission of a letter, requesting permission to conduct research study from member/s of the Municipal Council, LED official, Human Settlement official, Social Development official, Ward councillor and community members. Also the following documents were submitted as requested by the BCMM research unit gatekeeper: letter from researcher’s supervisor verifying authenticity of the research study; certified copy of researcher’s registration with the university; copy of approved research proposal and a specimen of informed consent.

Ethical research principles were strictly adhered to throughout the research process maintaining anonymity and confidentiality of research respondents at all times ensuring their protection.

3.5 Validation

A research is valid only if it actually studies what it sets out to study and only if the Validation includes collaboration of all participants of the research process. According to Babbie and Mouton (2006) this process means that participants are not merely consulted in each phase of the research, but are treated as autonomous responsible agents where they conduct research themselves.

3.5.1 Triangulation

According to Maxwell (1996) triangulation reduces the risk of chance associations and systematic bias and relies on information collected from a diverse range of individuals, teams and settings, using a variety of methods. Triangulation is critical in facilitating interpretive validity.

For this purpose, the researcher utilised triangulation through use of different methods of data gathering as mentioned previously. Also, Respondent validation was used
where respondents were allowed to judge the accuracy of the researcher’s accounts in understanding meanings and perspectives of respondents’ responses.

3.6 Methods of data analysis

“Analysis is a breaking up, separating, or disassembling of research materials into pieces, parts, elements, or units. With facts broken down into manageable pieces, the researcher sorts and sifts them, searching for types, classes, sequences, processes, patterns or wholes. The aim of this process is to assemble or reconstruct the data in a meaningful or comprehensible fashion”. (Jorgensen: 1989).

Creswell (2003) mentions that in qualitative research, analysis starts with coding the data. The codes are developed early in the study when the researcher scans recorded data and develops categories of phenomena. Codes are the researchers’ way of beginning to get at the meaning of the data.

3.6.1 Qualitative data analysis

Coding was done by the researcher when main themes from the field notes and transcripts from interview responses were identified, grouped together, coded, categorised and defined to ensure that results were accurately reported and responses taken in context.

Thematic analysis was done simultaneously with data collection as and when themes emerged and noted by the researcher, during field interviews.

3.6.2 Quantitative data analysis

Tables were drawn to show overview of responses; and graphs produced to summarise biographical and socio economic information.
3.7 Communicating findings

Barbie and Mouton (2006) indicate that communication of results refers to the reporting, presentation and publication of findings and lessons learned. They further suggest that this knowledge needs to be communicated to the academic audience as well as the participants.

The researcher will communicate findings through: making copies of the research report available to the university, internet and to BCMM; also oral presentation of the research paper to the BCMM will be done as requested.

3.8. Conclusion

This chapter detailed the research methodology with all the steps taken by the researcher.
Chapter 4 – Findings/Interpretation of Data

4. Introduction

This chapter reveals the analysis and interpretation of the research data where thematic analysis has been used to reflect the views of the community members and government officials, gathered through interviews. All respondents were interviewed on different occasions for between 30 and 45 minutes. Two focus group interviews with nine and eight respondents respectively were held, followed by individual interviews of eighteen respondents. Of these, 24% live in informal structures. Respondents were assured that their identities would not be identifiable in any subsequent report. The participants were fully informed about the purpose of the study and interviews before they started and about their right to leave if they felt they no longer wanted to participate. All interviews were recorded on respondents' permission. After the interviews, the recordings and field notes were transcribed into computer files.

The researcher had assumed that there were poverty alleviation programmes in place in Nompumelelo whose impact could have been evaluated, but the findings confirmed negatively, except for the random short term initiatives. As a result the hopes of the community members are easily raised when an outsider pays a visit in the area as was evidenced during interviews where some of the members left mid-way disappointed at the fact that it was not an employment opportunity.

Four more research questions were added to accommodate the lack of on-going projects, in order to find out from the respondents which initiatives they would want the BCMM to implement towards poverty alleviation. These added questions are tabled under Interpretation of poverty and Poverty alleviation initiatives (headings three and four) below. These fall under the following categories:

Category 2 – Consequences of poverty
Category 8 - Initiatives by the community and
Category 9 - Development initiatives required by the community
Statistics reflected in this report are based on the information received from the respondents.

The researcher also did a transact walk and noticed a small patch of undeveloped playground, presence of taverns; and took pictures of the community hall structure and the disused seedling containers as shown below.

Figure 4a Community Hall Structure
4.1 Biographical Information

4.1.1 Gender profile

The majority of the participants during focus group and individual interviews were female at 79% and 21% male, as illustrated graphically below.
4.1.2 Respondents Age

47% of responses were from age group 20 – 39, 32% (40 – 59 age group); 18% and 3% from 60 – 79 and 80 – 99 age group respectively. Of interest to the researcher was the eagerness and fearlessness in the most mature age group in voicing their views, evidenced by the statement made by one of them: “I am glad that this thing (research) came here, I do not mind even if it is something that could take me to prison for taking part because we are suffering here, and we have nothing.” This statement reflected a high level of frustration and despondency.
4.1.3 Educational Level

45% of the respondents have gone as far as primary school level, whilst 21% have attended high school and 34% with no education, as graphically indicated by the chart below.
4.2 Socio economic information

4.2.1 Employment status

The availability of many of the working age respondents during mid-week interviews confirmed the high level of unemployment which stands at 71%. Most of them indicated that working experience becomes a prerequisite in the places they seek employment from.

![Employment status](image)

4.3 Perceptions on the Poverty Alleviation Initiatives

Category 1: Community perception on poverty

Respondents interpreted poverty as: not able to meet one’s needs, burden of taking care of unemployed children, hunger, street kids, uncontrolled lack and not being able to come out of it, lack of education, lack of skills and guidance as to how to come out of poverty, substance abuse, prostitution, lack of income generating projects, elderly people compelled to pay for medical treatment and municipal services from their social grants while there is no food at home, lack of basic services like housing, sanitation,
water and electricity and living on grant. High on the list was unemployment, standing at 68%.

It was noted here that respondents cited consequences of poverty as elements of poverty at the same.

3% indicated that poverty is a mental state; citing high number of taverns in the area. According to this group the recipients of child welfare grants utilise this money in the taverns. This behaviour worsens their dire situation. It is often the case that due to mismanagement of the welfare grant the children become the responsibility of their grandparents. This group felt that, if one was genuinely poor then he/she would spend the money in food and clothing.

The perception of the community on poverty and the high level of unemployment as reflected above (under employment status) is an indication that high levels of poverty are prevalent in the area.

**Category 2: Consequences of poverty**

According to the respondents, anti-social behaviour is the result of poverty displayed through: involuntary engagement in crime, robberies, incarceration, substance abuse, prostitution, young girls involved in intimate relationships with older persons for financial gain where they end up contracting sexually transmitted diseases, high birth rate and conflicts. One of the respondents lamented: “if there could be some initiatives attending to the needs of the youth, all this can come down”. They also mentioned that people in the area are now living in fear.

**Category 3: Municipal poverty alleviation initiatives**

13% of the respondents were not aware of any Municipal projects existing in the area. This could be attributed to the fact that some respondents indicated that they only came to the area few years ago. Others mentioned that there are sometimes social relief
programs from the Social Development, in the form of clothing; school-feeding, and food parcels. Also job advertisements are done by the councillor through the public speaker. Unemployed receive reduced electricity charge. Some other projects of brick-making, poultry rearing, bread-making, sewing, bead-making, provision of seedlings for the people to plant in their own places died midway. The toilet building for the informal structure dwellers was left at the foundation phase. Figure 4b above is an evidence of the uncared for boxes which were used for seedlings, although these are still in a good condition.

Findings revealed that the projects died due to lack of proper management and lack of training. Others felt that these died because there was no proper hand-over where they were supposed to have been officially assigned to the community members who would have had a responsibility of taking them to fruition. Members who were excluded from the projects did not regard themselves as part of the team. They instead regarded the projects as belonging to the government.

Other respondents mentioned that they heard about the project which aimed at building a community hall which never took place, instead informal structure was built from the R5.00 (five rand) community members' contributions. Figure 4a above shows the debilitating unused structure.

The forest clearing, the building of water reservoir and Expanded Public Works Programme (tarring of the road) projects ran successfully, although they were for a short duration. These short-term projects employed some of the local community members.

Some respondents mentioned that they were informed by a Municipal official that there was money budgeted for a 'project' but that members would have to form groups of ten, to be able to access these funds. They were further informed that should the project fail, the lost funds will be deducted from the permanently employed individuals. They then withdrew even though they wanted the project.
The respondents mentioned a roads cleaning project they were informed was underway. Their comment on this was “The government is not fully aware of what is happening in our community, they may not even know that there is only one tarred street here and the rest is gravel. How does one sweep gravel roads?”

**Category 4: Beneficiaries of the programme**

The findings revealed that only a few local members benefitted from the short-term projects as mentioned above. Members felt that more people could have benefitted had the municipality adopted a method where people worked on a rotational basis, even to a point of breaking one project into different segments with people allocated different slots on different times.

**Category 5: Impact of the Initiatives**

The response revealed that those community members who benefitted from the short-term projects managed to buy food for the period they had casual work. Health has improved where there are formal structures due to lesser utilisation of the bucket system, resulting in lesser flies. Infrastructure provides easy access even for the ambulance when it is needed.

**Category 6: Challenges**

The respondents raised the following issues as challenges: Corruption as one of the inhibitors of the progress; mentioning that same community members continuously benefit in social services projects when others had not had any opportunity. Lack of capacity and skills resulted in the collapse of Municipal previous projects. Debtors not settling accounts with the small home-based business owners; the resultant of this is loss of money which eventually leads to the closure of the businesses. Requirement of school fees for the grade R's from the unemployed parents for teacher/s’ salaries results in children not attending school.
Category 7: Existing community structures

Most members mentioned that they now know their current councillor unlike the previous times when they did not know who he/she was. They mentioned that their hopes of anticipated performance by the current councillor in addressing community issues were raised by the councillor’s listening attitude, caring and the noticed change in progress. According to some of the community members, street committees are no longer in existence and that the ward councillor is now used as an entry point for coming projects.

There were a fewer number of people though who were in the dark about the existence of community structures.

The response indicates awareness by some of the members of the presence of community structure/s.

Category 8: Initiatives done by the community members

Although most respondents mentioned that they were doing nothing, some mentioned that they were engaged in the following, in their personal capacity: utilisation of the municipal ground in planting own vegetables, albeit challenges from some community members who are seemingly against this practice, engagement in the Vukuzenzele (wake up and do something for yourself) own initiatives, in the form of running informal crèches, selling fruit and veg, fried fish, use of own houses in running businesses such as spaza shops and taverns. Others mentioned that they applied for social grants but had never received any responses.

Category 9: Development initiatives required by the community

The findings revealed that community members needed the municipality to:

• Resuscitate the defunct projects; and evaluate their progress timeously once they are up and running.
• Build community hall and open a skills training centre that will provide capacity building and offer cultural activities towards the development of youth and other groups.
• Develop sports fields.
• Train and develop entrepreneurs.
• Build local police station, the closest one is approximately 3kms away.
• Build old age facilities so as to accommodate elderly and to open employment opportunities.
• Upgrade local school and crèche buildings.
• Build houses with water, sanitation and electricity.
• Open educational opportunities for those who cannot afford to pay for themselves.
• Research to be done before implementation of any programmes so as to know what the community members want and need.
• All projects (those particularly belonging to the private sector) within the environs of Nompumelelo to utilise local labour. One of the respondents emphasised this point by saying: “Big private sector companies do not consult Ward 29 in their projects resulting in the exclusion of the local people in employment opportunities”.

One of the respondents asked the researcher at the end of one of the interviews “Is there anything you can do for us, seeing that we desperately need employment”. This revealed to the researcher the desperate situation they are in.

**Category 10: Response from the Municipal officials**

The study reveals that definition of poverty depends on the individual department’s scope of operation. One of the departments shared the same sentiments with the community members when explaining poverty and referred to it as being a mental state; where an individual wants nothing else but hand-outs. On the other hand it was defined as lack of schools, clinics and police stations, lack of facilities such as roads, water, sanitation and housing.

Local Economic Development (LED) and Social Development (SD) departments indicated that there were no programmes running in the area, from their side. However,
SD has provided food parcels, undertaken awareness campaigns on Teenage Against Drug Abuse (TADA), positive parenting skills, identification and assistance of individuals to be included in the social security system.

Human Settlement (HS) department has built 1199 units so far. Future plans to build more for those still living in shacks is in progress. Some of the challenges the departments are faced with are lack of land in the area for future development. Owners sacrificing their basic needs due to lack of jobs and rent out their properties, even selling them from foundation stages.

Some of the departments are faced with human resource and budget constraints; making it difficult to service the intended areas.

4.4 Conclusion

This chapter presented the results of the data analysis. The data was collected and processed based on the research topic and tabulated under ten categories, with sub-headings in the data analysis chapter.
Chapter 5 – Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Introduction

The purpose of this study was to verify the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programmes in Nompumelelo informal settlement in BCMM. The research questions of the study were:

• What is poverty in the context of Nompumelelo informal settlement?
• What are the consequences of poverty?
• What poverty alleviation initiatives exist in the area?
• Who are the beneficiaries of poverty alleviation initiatives?
• What impact do they have on the livelihoods of the community members?
• What are the challenges facing poverty alleviation programs?
• Which community structures exist and what role do they play in poverty alleviation?
• What poverty development initiatives are done by the community?
• What development initiatives are required by the community?

Although one of the Provincial Growth and Development Plan (Eastern Cape) objectives is to address the short-term needs and crisis of the Province, as well as community-based human and income poverty reduction initiatives through the IDP, the findings reveal that there have been so far only short-term job opportunities created in Nompumelelo. The ones which would have been self-sustaining collapsed. These factors leave the community members in a situation of dire poverty. Social grants are a major source of income but the findings reveal that community members regard them as other forms of poverty enablers as they have resulted in total dependence with no hope of coming out of poverty.

5.2 Recommendations

5.3 Investment in Human capital development

The study revealed lack of personnel and financial resources by government departments as hindrances towards progress. It is recommended that National
governments need to empower local governments with the required human, financial and material resources in order to render them effective. Equipped and empowered local government working in partnership with local community, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO’s), Community Based Organisations (CBO’s) and the private sector would ensure that basic infrastructure and services are available to the community members and would guide development progress accordingly.

The prevailing lack of education and training in the researched area is also one of the contributing factors which translate to lack of skills to fill up jobs created by the economy, in order that individuals, households or entire communities are able to command sufficient resources to satisfy a socially acceptable minimum standard of living. Health care, education and skills development will play a significant role in preventing the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

5.4 Analysis and Evaluation

The BCMM IDP report (2011 – 2016) states challenges confronting the Metro as including a declining revenue base and poor management of resources, inefficiencies that limit the manner in which the City interfaces with the communities, ageing infrastructure and deferred maintenance, structural inefficiencies resulting in poor service delivery standards, low economic growth and a high rate of unemployment, vulnerable environmental assets and natural resources.

The persistence of some of these challenges as evidenced by the findings has negatively affected the researched community. It is thus recommended, as suggested by the PIR that the Municipality should:

Analyse its current policy in an integrative manner in order to draw out the cross-cutting issues affecting the implementation of its policy as spelled out in the IDP document on the reduction of poverty.
Analyse the adequacy of current plans to reduce poverty and possible barriers to the implementation.

Put in place on-going monitoring mechanisms to measure the impact of policies and programmes in the reduction of poverty.

Further recommendation is running of awareness programmes for community members and Municipal officials concerning possible Municipal initiatives to avoid unclear messages carried across. This is evidenced by the community members’ non-committal attitude for fear of paying back funding of failed ‘promise project’.

5.5 **Political intervention**

Implementation of “War on hunger strategy” is recommended to deliberately introduce social grants as an entry point towards sustainable and developmentally orientated approaches to poverty alleviation.

Presence and visibility of a community leader will also assist in giving direction and ensuring consistent running of the implemented programmes, as previous non-visibility of a community leader seemed to have had a negative impact in the progress of development initiatives.

5.6 **Economic and social Development**

The approach of the government towards economic and social reforms implies alleviating poverty and sustainable economic growth. Creation of economic and self-employment opportunities particularly for struggling children in child-headed homes, unemployed, women and youth as economically disadvantaged groups is recommended to improve their economic status.

Further, Municipality should assist with the development of SMME’s. The introduction and development of SMME’s and introduction of a monitoring system which would
assess the impact of these will serve as an intervention strategy in assisting the current informal workers.

Also building of a community hall to be utilised as a resource centre to permit enterprise training will assist towards re-building social capital and to some extent reduce level of crime.

5.7 Integration and inclusion of the community members

The BCMM IDP (2011-2016) recommends the involvement of local communities in conjunction with the development agencies in the Reconstruction and Development Programmes.

The involvement of community members from the initial stages of project planning, will allow them to take full ownership and responsibility of the initiatives. Lovell’s (1992) statement says locals use their own criteria to define poverty and therefore their involvement will bring about intrinsic meaningful way of coming out of it.

It is thus recommended that Municipality continues with the facilitation of the IDP progress with all the stakeholders involved in the poverty alleviation initiatives as an intervention strategy, for continuous and effective running of identified programmes. This will assist in avoiding the non-exclusion of local members from the private sector initiatives, as revealed in the findings.

5.8 Corruption

Corrupt behaviour by both public officials and community members retards the progress and results in the development of wrong projects and delay in service delivery. The findings reveal that same individuals end up benefiting from social contributions at the expense of the needy ones. BCMM should commit itself to reducing and fighting corruption.
5.9 **Conclusion**

BCMM is faced with a huge task of fighting poverty and to some extent has managed to make an indelible mark in terms of housing delivery in the researched area. However, the current progress does not appear to have met the expectations of either policy makers or the poor.

5.10 **Summary of Chapters**

5.11 **Chapter One**

The chapter covers the overview of the research, provides for the research question, aims and objectives and the scale and scope of the research.

5.12 **Chapter Two**

This chapter explored the definition of poverty in the South African context and poverty alleviation; with reference to War on Hunger strategy and BCMM poverty initiatives.

5.13 **Chapter Three**

This chapter detailed the steps followed in research methodology and tools used to collect, analyse and interpret data. Open ended interviews were used as a data collection instrument.

5.14 **Chapter Four**

Qualitative and quantitative data were analysed in this chapter. Quantitative method was applied for biographical and socio economic information; and interviews for qualitative method.

5.15 **Chapter Five**

A summary of findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study area were outlined in this chapter.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


EXAMPLE OF INTERVIEW QUESTIONS THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

1. Perception of the community
   A. What comes to your mind when the term poverty is used?

   __________________________________________________________

   B. What are the consequences of poverty?

   __________________________________________________________

2. Running Initiatives
   A. What development programmes are there?

   __________________________________________________________

3. Participants of the Programmes
   A. What is your current age? _________________________________
   B. Gender? ______________________________________________
   C. Employment status? _____________________________________
   D. What is the highest level of educational achievement you have attained? ____________

4. Impact of the initiatives
   A. What difference has these programme/s brought about in changing your life?

   __________________________________________________________

5. Inhibitors to the progress
   A. What would you say are the challenges of these programme?

   __________________________________________________________

6. **Existing community structures**
   A. What community structures are there?

   ________________________________________________________________

   ________________________________________________________________

   B. What role do they play in development initiatives?

   ________________________________________________________________

   ________________________________________________________________

7. **Community initiatives**
   A. What community initiated programmes are there?

   ________________________________________________________________

   ________________________________________________________________

8. **Development initiatives required by the community**
   A. If there are no programmes running, what would you prefer to happen in terms of development?

   ________________________________________________________________

   ________________________________________________________________

THANK YOU
EXAMPLE OF INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

1. Perception of the officer
   
   A. What comes to your mind when the term poverty is used, in the area under development?

2. Running Initiatives
   
   A. What development programmes are there from your department?

   B. Who are the intended beneficiaries of these programmes?

   C. What can you say their response is towards these programmes?

3. Community structures
   
   A. What role do they play in development initiatives?

4. Effectiveness of the programmes in changing the lives of the community members
   
   A. What difference has these programme/s brought about in changing their lives?
5. **Inhibitors to the progress of the programmes**
   A. What would you say are the challenges of these programme?

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

   B. In your opinion, what would you say are the causes of these challenges?

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

   C. What would you suggest needs to be done to avoid this?

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

   **THANK YOU**