



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

Ref: 12/2/P
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TO : DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL
FROM : DIRECTOR STRATEGIC PLANNING AND POLICY COORDINATION
SUBJECT : REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE EVALUATION REPORT ON IMPACT OF ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMME

1. PURPOSE

To request for the approval of evaluation report on impact of anti-poverty programme.

2. BACKGROUND

The Departmental Evaluation Plan (DEP) of the Office was approved by the Director General in 2016/17 financial year. The DEP reflect the three programmes identified for evaluation over the MTEF period viz Antipoverty Programme (2016/17), Workplace Skills Programme (2017/18) and Special programme (2018/19).

The Office has conducted and completed an evaluation on anti-poverty Programme in line with the DPME guidelines on evaluation of departmental programmes in 2016/2017 financial year. The evaluation was conducted in collaboration with Anti-poverty unit and the focus was on anti-poverty projects in Sekhukhune, Mopani, Capricorn and Vhembe Districts.

The aim of the evaluation was to investigate the impact of Anti-Poverty Programme in the selected districts of Limpopo Province and the objectives were as follows:

- To investigate the impact of Anti-Poverty programme on the reduction of poverty in the Province
- To determine the extent to which Anti-Poverty programmes has contributed towards increased access to service delivery.
- To determine the extent to which Anti-Poverty programme has contributed towards reduction in unemployment levels.
- To establish the ways in which synergy and collaboration can be enhanced across provincial departments.

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- To study the challenges faced in the implementation of Anti-Poverty programme.

To recommend possible strategies that can be used to enhance effective implementation of Anti-Poverty programme

The evaluation was conducted using qualitative and quantitative research methodology.

3. DISCUSSION

Interviews were conducted with beneficiaries and programme owners.

All the data condensed were consolidated through oral interviews, questionnaires and other means of getting information and the data was analysed using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. A report was compiled on the findings and recommendations.

The table below highlight some of the findings and recommendations of the evaluation:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS
Involvement of Youth and people living with disabilities	Youth and people living with disabilities were not involved in their local anti-poverty projects	OTP ensure that Youth and People living with disabilities are also included in their local anti-poverty projects
Criteria for allocating cattle to the recipients <i>Please correct Dairy</i>	In Bungeni village ,ten (10) farmers were identified and there was no specific criteria for allocating the cattle to the recipients	OTP to ensure that there is specific criteria for allocating cattle to the beneficiaries
	In Sekhukhune, certain criteria for selecting people for the Dairy Value project were used and included but not limited to their experience and interest in livestock management. Suitable people were identified through interviews	OTP should ensure that criteria for selecting beneficiaries are replicated in other districts
Impact of anti-poverty Projects	<p>The respondents also agree that Anti-Poverty programme has had a positive impact on poverty reduction in the village and citizens are generally satisfied about the level of services provided to the community</p> <p>The respondents strongly agreed that their lives have changed since the introduction of the project and the improvement in improved in</p>	OTP should ensure that the anti-poverty projects are implemented on massive scale to cover other historically disadvantaged villages

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS
	quality of life can be attributed to antipoverty programme	
Provincial best Practises	Sekhukhune Diary Value Chain was found to be the provincial best practise and should be replicated in other districts	OTP anti-poverty Programme should ensure that Sekhukhune Diary Value chain project is replicated in other districts of Limpopo province

The report after recommendation by the evaluation steering committee be presented to the executive management of the office for approval and further management.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is hereby recommended that the Director General note the findings and recommendations of the evaluation
- 6.2 The Office develop management response and improvement plan on the anti-poverty programme
- 6.3 The Director General approve the attached evaluation report

Recommended/Not Recommended


Director Strategic Planning

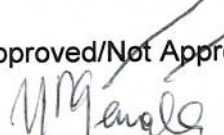
19/03/2019
Date

Comments _____


Chief Director: EMSS

26/03/2019
Date

Comments Approved

Approved/Not Approved

DDG Administration

04/04/2019
Date



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
IMPACT EVALUATION OF ANTI – POVERTY PROGRAMME

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	BRIEF DEFINITION
APP	Annual Performance Plan
LAPP	Limpopo Antipoverty programme
EXCO	Executive Council
CRDP	Comprehensive Rural Development Programme
PRAS	Policy Research and Antipoverty Strategies
SP	Strategic Plan
RED	Rural Economic Development
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
DRDLR	Department of Rural Development and Land reform
OTP	Office of the Premier
OPP	Operational Performance plan
DPME	Department of Planning Monitoring and evaluation
DAPS	District Anti-Poverty Structures
DVC	Diary Value Chain
PM&EF	Provincial Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
PEP	Provincial Evaluation Plan
NEPF	National Evaluation Policy Framework
NEP	National Evaluation Plan
NDP	National Development Plan
LDP	Limpopo Development Plan

1. PREFACE

The National Evaluation Policy Framework (NEPF 2011) and Limpopo Provincial Evaluation Plan provide the basis for evaluation focusing on government's priority outcomes. Management Performance Assessment Tool (MPAT) standard on evaluation requires government departments to conduct evaluation on their major programmes. The primary purpose is to establish the culture of accountability and continuous improvement in service delivery.

The core elements of the framework are the foundation of National Evaluation System (NES), part of which is both the Provincial Evaluation Plan and the National Evaluation Plan which is rolled out each year. The approach followed in the system is to use evaluation results for learning, accountability, improving the programme performance and decisions making rather as a retributive matter. The National Development Plan, 2030 emphasises the need for professionalization of civil service, as well as improvement in quality of service if the main outcomes of elimination of poverty and inequality are to be achieved.

Provincially, the evaluations are implemented by the Office of the Premier in Partnership with relevant provincial departments which are managed through Provincial Evaluation Working Group and relevant departmental evaluation steering committees. Members of the steering committees may not necessarily agree with the results of the evaluation, but their role is to ensure that independent credible evaluation process was followed. The evaluation report will make provision for management response in indicating their position on the findings of the evaluation. Impact evaluation of Anti-poverty programme is an internal evaluation commissioned by the Office of the Premier in 2017/18 financial year.

2. FORMAT OF THE REPORT

The report consists of the following sections:

- One page of the policy summary ,summarising the key policy findings and recommendations
- Five(5) page executive summary, which covers all sections of the main report
- Twenty five (25) pages full evaluation report including:
 - ✓ Background
 - ✓ Methodology
 - ✓ National Case studies
 - ✓ Theory of Change for Anti-Poverty Programme
 - ✓ Findings of the Evaluation
 - ✓ Conclusion and Recommendations

The report was independently prepared by strategic planning and policy coordination unit, reporting to evaluation steering committee. The evaluation steering committee comprised of the director in Strategic planning and policy coordination, chief director in Policy Research and Anti-Poverty Strategies, two deputy directors in Monitoring and Evaluation ,two deputy Directors in PRAS and the evaluator.

Steering committees oversees the operation of the evaluation comment and approve the reports.

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3. POLICY SUMMARY

The evaluation was commissioned by the Director General of Limpopo Provincial Administration to assess the impact of Anti-Poverty Programme, to determine the effectiveness of Anti-Poverty programme and to establish whether the objectives of the programme have been achieved. The evaluation further sought to see how best to strengthen the effectiveness of Anti-Poverty programme in order to improve the lives of citizens of Limpopo.

The primary function of Anti-Poverty unit in the Office of the Premier is to coordinate the Provincial Anti-Poverty initiatives. Poverty reduction has been a government priority since the inception of the new dispensation.

The Cabinet has adopted and approved the proposal for War on poverty which seeks to raise the profile of these activities and reach more people to make much impact within the shortest space of time. This will not only ensure that society appreciate the impact of the programme but also join in the effort. It was against this background that government decided that Anti-Poverty strategy be developed and adopted by the Province.

Limpopo Anti-Poverty strategy was developed and approved by EXCO and subsequent to the approval, Anti-Poverty structures were established in the five district of the Province. The objective of the District Anti-poverty Structures (DAPS) was to coordinate, support and manage implementation of Anti-Poverty projects.

The following projects were identified for evaluation: Sekhukhune Dairy Valued Chain (DVC), Bungeni Dairy Value Chain, Poultry Project (Backyard), IZIBIND Project, Community Work Programme, Drop in Centre, Animal Veld Production (Gakgatla village) and Macena Vegetable Gardens, ECD Project (Muyexe village)

Both primary and secondary data sources were used in the evaluation. Both focus group and individual interviews was conducted with project team members and furthermore interviews were also conducted with Anti-Poverty programme managers. Field work was completed in 2017.

The evaluation established that Sekhukhune dairy value chain is located in Ward 11 of Makhuduthamaga Municipality in the following three villages::Gamosehla, Vergelegen A and Ga-Mokwete.

The overall conclusion of the evaluation is that Anti-Poverty programme has contributed positively in many ways to beneficiaries and that there should be a continuation of support to the projects as it has also contributed towards improving the standard of life for the beneficiaries.

Certain criteria for selecting people for the project were used and include but not limited to their experience and interest in livestock management. Suitable people were identified through interviews.

Identified people were trained by Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in areas of Milk production, meat production animal health and livestock. The benefits/value of the project is that it provide income and food to the local community members.

4. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4.1. INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 Background to the evaluation

The Executive Council of Limpopo (EXCO) took a decision (Dec No: 62/2009) for Anti-Poverty initiative to implement a rollout programme to support the areas that were identified as wards with multiple deprivation by StatsSA. Several antipoverty programmes and projects were established in each district, but for the purpose of this evaluation, the focus will be on the projects that were identified by the steering committee for evaluation in Sekhukhune, Capricorn, Vhembe and Mopani Districts.

The Limpopo Provincial Administration has since 1994 waged a War on Poverty (WOP). This is reflected in the types of policies adopted by this government, as well as in government spending on social policies. The challenges inherited from apartheid are massive. This ranges from an economic structure, which is anti-poor, to a deliberate denial of basic services, access to infrastructure, assets, education and training to improve human capital, settlement patterns that placed the poor far from economic opportunities and that discouraged establishment of opportunities in those areas.

The fight against poverty cannot be simply the responsibility of central government. It must involve all sectors of society, all spheres of government, other part of the public sector, businesses as well as voluntary and community organizations. Success in tackling poverty and social exclusion requires that every sector play its part. There is a need for national mobilization towards a common political and social goal.

A study by Stats SA on multiple deprivations at ward level in Limpopo identified the most acute pockets of poverty and the most deprived wards in the province. In terms of the study, poverty is measured in four dimensions namely; household income, unemployment, level of education and access to household services such as water.

The study found that 23 (17%) Wards in Limpopo were deprived in all four dimensions of poverty. Sekhukhune District has 11 (48%) of 23 Wards and Mopani 7 Wards which are deprived in terms of all the four dimensions of poverty. 25% of Limpopo's 543 Wards are deprived in at least one of the dimension of poverty.

Based on the above information, the Director General Commissioned an evaluation to assess the impact of Anti-Poverty Programme, to determine the effectiveness of Anti-Poverty programme and to establish whether the objectives of the programme have been achieved. The evaluation further sought to see how best to strengthen the effectiveness of Anti-Poverty programme in order to improve the lives of citizens of Limpopo.

The evaluation steering committee was established in terms of the DPME guidelines and developed the terms of reference for the project. Furthermore, the committee identified projects from Capricorn, Mopani, Vhembe and Sekhukhune Districts.

4.1.2 Evaluation Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the impact of anti-poverty programme on the beneficiaries, both the short and long term effects, whether the programme has reached the target groups, intended and unintended consequences and the attainment of the programme objectives. The findings will assist the Office of the Premier to determine the appropriateness anti-poverty programme and its effect on quality of life of the citizens'. To provide information that can help the Office of the Premier to make decisions about how resources should be applied in future to better serve its mission or goals

The impact evaluation of anti-poverty programme has provided evidence on the effectiveness and recommendations on strengthening future development, on implementation of the programme. The evaluation entailed a qualitative of the programme.

4.1.3 Evaluation Questions

The general question of the evaluation is: How has the Anti-Poverty programme impact the lives of the beneficiaries and service delivery?

To operationalize this question, the following specific questions are developed:

- What is the impact of Anti-Poverty programme on the lives of the citizens?
- What are the perceptions of beneficiaries on anti-poverty projects?
- How were the beneficiaries identified for the projects?
- What are the benefits of Anti-Poverty projects
- What are the challenges encountered in the implementation of Anti-Poverty programme?

4.1.4 Evaluation Aims and Objectives

The aim of the evaluation was to investigate the impact of Anti-Poverty Programme in the selected district of Limpopo Province Specific evaluation objectives:

- To investigate the impact of Anti-Poverty programme on the reduction of poverty in the province
- To determine the extent to which Anti-Poverty programmes has contributed towards increased access to service delivery.
- To determine the extent to which Anti-Poverty programme has contributed towards reduction in unemployment levels.
- To establish the ways in which synergy and collaboration can be enhanced across provincial departments.
- To study the challenges faced in the implementation of Anti-Poverty programme.
- To recommend possible strategies that can be used to enhance effective impact of Anti-Poverty programme.

4.2 Report Structure

This report consist of the following four main sections:

- a) **Section 1:** Introduction, Evaluation Background, Purpose and Methodology
- b) **Section 2:** Anti-poverty programme ,inclusive of concepts and theories of antipoverty ,
- c) **Section 3:** Findings of the evaluation
- d) **Section 4:** Conclusions and recommendations to improve the effectiveness of antipoverty programme

4.3 Methodology

The evaluation methodology included provincial and national case studies, analysis of reports and minutes on antipoverty programme and a range of interviews with Chief Director, Deputy Directors, representatives of lead departments and organizations of each project and beneficiaries of anti-poverty projects

Data was collected from a various data sources to inform the findings, conclusions and recommendations, including the following:

a) Key informant interview conducted between February 2017 - July 2018:

- Two programme owners (Antipoverty programme)
- Beneficiaries of Sekhukhune Diary Value Chain
- Beneficiaries of Bungeni Diary Value Chain
- Beneficiaries of various projects in Ga Kgatla Village
- Beneficiaries of various antipoverty projects in Muyexe Village

b) Analysis of selected reports and minutes of antipoverty programme meetings (from April 2012-March 2017.

Evaluation steering committee established in line with Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation guidelines and the first meeting was held on the February 2017.

The evaluators got primary data by distributing questionnaires, conducting interviews as well as focused group discussions. Interviews were conducted with Chief Director, deputy directors and beneficiaries of the antipoverty projects as well as representatives of lead departments responsible for coordinating and supporting antipoverty projects.

The questionnaires contained closed ended questions with a few opened ended questions in order to assess the perceptions of respondents regarding the impact of antipoverty projects. Focused group discussions were held with staff members, programme managers and clients. Therefore, the evaluation used both qualitative and quantitative approaches as focus were on interview schedules, questionnaires (both closed ended and opened ended questions) and focused group's discussions as methods of collecting, analysing and interpreting data.

The findings presented in the next sections are based on the both face to face interviews and telephonic interviews

5. Background and Context

5.1 Evaluation Background purpose and methodology

According to section 125 and 127 of the Constitution, Office of the Premier has a mandate to develop and implement provincial policies, coordinate the functions of the provincial administration and its departments. Furthermore the OoP assist province to develop the administrative capacity required for the effective exercise of their powers and performance of their functions.

As part of the mandate the Office of the Premier informed by the cabinet decision on poverty reduction established antipoverty programme the purpose of which was to coordinate and support antipoverty initiatives in the provinces.

The antipoverty unit highlight the following key objectives of the programme:

- Coordination and facilitation of War on Poverty program in Limpopo Province;
- Coordination and support of two Presidential pilots sites; that is Muyexe and Ga-Kgatla village;
- Development, adoption and implementation of Provincial Anti-Poverty Programme;
- Establishment and support district Anti-poverty Coordinating Structures;
- Identification of War On Poverty sites/area in Limpopo province; and
- Establishment of a Provincial Steering Committee on Anti-Poverty.

From the above objectives it can be emphasized that the programme should not be viewed as a comprehensive and representative sample intended to replace the responsibilities of line departments that provide and support to antipoverty projects. Instead it should be considered as an initiative aimed at exposing the Offices of the Premiers and line departments to the importance of a coordinated and collaborative support, especially for priority projects, and responsible stakeholders to a problem-solving and action-oriented approach to coordinate and manage antipoverty initiatives.

Since the intention of the programme is not a comprehensive and representative sample, one could not conclude that less work was done during the period under review. The evaluation is limited to four districts, Sekhukhune, Capricorn, Mopani and Vhembe that were supported by the OtP since the inception of the program.

According to the recent data released by Statistics South Africa (StatsSA) report, poverty is on the rise in South Africa, and approximately 64.2% of the South African population is living under poverty. The report further showed that about half South Africans survive on less than R999 per capital per month. The youth, black Africans females from rural areas and uneducated are the hardest hit by poverty. Social grants are often the sole income in many South African homes for most of the families these funds are not nearly enough to cover their basic needs. In most cases children and the elderly are the only recipients of the grants in many households.

The purpose of the evaluation is to determine the impact of antipoverty programme on the beneficiaries of the projects and community at large. It further seeks to identify bottlenecks, impediments, weakness, and best and worst practices in programme implementation with a view to enhance programme improvement, accountability and decision making

5.2 Key Anti-Poverty Concepts, Reasons For Anti-Poverty Projects

This section provides an overview of Government Anti-Poverty projects and programmes drawn from national literature and provides a background to case studies in terms of the following:

- **Poverty** can be defined as the lack of necessities such as basic food, shelter, medical care, and safety are generally thought necessary based on shared values of human dignity.
- **Rural Development** refers to the strategy to empower explicit groups of people, especially poor rural women and men to attain the most basic human needs
- **Participation**, is a process of being involved in multi-faceted spheres of societal life, more specifically, the political, economic, cultural and social
- **Poverty Dimension** refers to the five categories including low house hold income, limited education, lack of health insurance, unemployment and concentrated spatial poverty
- **Multiple Deprivation** refers to deprivation based on the four dimensions material deprivation employment, deprivation, education deprivation and living environment deprivation.

5.3 Theories of Poverty And Anti-Poverty Programmes In Community Development

The following five theories of poverty are distilled from literature:

a) Individual Deficiencies

This theory of poverty is a large and multifaceted set of explanations that focus on the individual as responsible for their poverty situation. Typically, politically conservative theoreticians blame individuals in poverty for creating their own problems, and argue that with harder work and better choices the poor could have avoided (and now can remedy) their problems. Other variations of the individual theory of poverty ascribe poverty to lack of genetic qualities such as intelligence that are not so easily reversed.

b) Cultural Belief Systems that Support Sub Cultures In Poverty

This theory suggests that poverty is created by the transmission over generations of a set of beliefs, values, and skills that are socially generated but individually held. Individuals are not necessarily to blame because they are victims of their dysfunctional subculture or culture.

c) Economic, Political, and Social Distortions or Discrimination

Theorists in this tradition look not to the individual as a source of poverty, but to the economic, political, and social system which causes people to have limited opportunities and resources with which to achieve income and well being

d) Geographical Disparities

Rural poverty, ghetto poverty, urban disinvestment, Southern poverty, third-world poverty, and other framings of the problem represent a spatial characterization of poverty that exists separate from other theories. While these geographically based theories of poverty build on the other theories, this theory calls attention to the fact that people, institutions, and cultures in certain areas lack the objective resources needed to generate wellbeing and income, and that they lack the power to claim redistribution

e) Cumulative and circumstantial origins

This theory views the individual and their community as caught in a spiral of opportunity and problems, and that once problems dominate they close other opportunities and create a cumulative set of problems that make any effective response nearly impossible

The table below is a summary of theories of poverty, the causes, how it works and possible community development responses

Theory	What causes Poverty?	How does it work?	Potential Community Development responses	Community examples
1. Individual	Individual laziness, bad choice, incompetence, inherent disabilities	Competition rewards winners and punishes those who do not work hard and make bad choices	Avoid and counter efforts to individualize poverty, provide assistance and safety net	Drug rehabilitation, second chance programs, making safety net easier to access, use training and counselling to help poor individuals overcome problems
2. Cultural	Subculture adopts values that are non-productive and are contrary to norms of success	Peer groups set wrong values and reinforce wrong behaviours,	Use community to the advantage of the poor; value diverse cultures, acculturation, and community building; alternative socialization through forming new peer groups,	Head start, afterschool, leadership development within sub-cultures, asset based community development
Political-economic Structure	Systematic barriers prevent poor from access and accomplishment in key social institutions including jobs, education housing, health care, safety, political	Selection criteria directly or indirectly exclude some groups of persons based on inappropriate criteria	Community organizing and advocacy to gain political and economic power to achieve change; create alternative organizations,	Policies to force inclusion and enforcement,

Theory	What causes Poverty?	How does it work?	Potential Community Development responses	Community examples
	representation, etc			
4. Geographic	Social advantages and disadvantages concentrate in separate areas,	Agglomeration, distance, economies of scale, and resource distributions reinforce differences	National redistributions, concentration of development on local assets,	Redevelopment areas, downtowns, rural urban networking, revitalization
5.Cumulative and cyclical	Spirals of poverty, problems for individuals (earnings, housing, health, education, self-confidence) are interdependent and strongly linked to community deficiencies (loss of business and jobs, inadequate schools, inability to provide social services) etc.	Factors interact in complex ways. Community level crises lead to Individual crises and vice versa, and each cumulate to cause spirals of poverty	Breaking the spiral of poverty with a spiral of success through a comprehensive program that addresses both individual and community issues.	Comprehensive programs that build self-sufficiency in a community reinforced environment, programs that link individuals and community organizations, asset based approaches

5.4 Lessons drawn from national and international Case Studies

The literature presents the findings from previous evaluations in South African context. The findings explain the results and recommendations from other evaluations

The following paragraphs are about case studies from other National Evaluations:

5.4.1 The impact of poverty alleviation projects on women's development in rural communities of Mogalakwena Local Municipality: Limpopo Province: A case study of Malokong Masipa, Masipa and Rooivaal Poultry Projects

The objectives of the study was to establish the impact of poverty alleviation projects on women's development in rural communities using poverty alleviation projects as vehicles for socioeconomic empowerment through skills development, knowledge and capacity building.

The findings of the study highlighted the following:

- The study found that membership of the project was made open to all residents of communities in which the projects are located. In the study, it was established that in
- All the three projects, members consisted of women of all age groups, including
- Those with disabilities as well as the youth. Members who subsequently chose to resign were allowed to do so, though some passed on and this had an adverse effect on membership as the numbers declined.

- The number of new members who join the projects was found to be low and it is believed that people suffer from poverty denial, hence, they choose not to be employed by a poverty-alleviation project but rather settle for a formal employment elsewhere.
- It was established that project beneficiaries received wages differently based on the number of working days per person per month.

The study revealed that incentives in the form of meat rations were given as a reward for extra effort, while food security issues were enhanced as a project and broader community benefit. All of the above benefits and many more were viewed by beneficiaries as valuable contributions of the poverty-alleviation projects, not only to project members but to the entire community at large.

The study also showed that 67.4% of the beneficiaries were women with low educational qualifications. Marital status played an important predetermining role for women to join the project as most married women join the project for income reasons. Poverty was found to be the major driving force for people to take up membership of the project. The study went on to establish that all the three projects accommodate all groups in society, including people with disabilities, the youth and the aged. The study highlights how serious the project members are with regard to security issues as their fowl runs at these projects are well fenced with Diamond mesh wire and each project having a maximum carrying capacity of 9000 birds. At each site, there is a project borehole, administrative office and marketing plan.

5.4.2 SUSTAINABILITY OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROJECTS: A CASE OF THOKGOANENG AND MARATAPELO VILLAGES IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA

The aim of this proposed research is to establish the factors that lead to lack of sustainability of the rural poverty alleviation projects at Maratapelo and Thokgoaneng villages of Ga-Chuene in Limpopo Province.

a) Youth involvement

The youth form part of the unemployed people of this country. The involvement of the youth in poverty alleviation is essential because this will reduce poverty and unemployment, which is rife in the country. In most poverty alleviation projects, the ones that are involved are mainly the older people, thus indicating that these projects are not appealing to the youth. There are many projects in which the youth could be involved, such as construction, Information Technology, catering and others. These projects are sustainable and this indicates that their involvement in poverty alleviation projects will open up business opportunities. Sustainable rural poverty alleviation projects need skilled people. There are also many skill development agencies that are prepared to train youth in different skills like farming, baking, bricklaying and others. This training will benefit the unemployment youth who are unemployed so that they are able to open business opportunities for themselves. The training will also assist the projects in that the youth will bring fresh minds and new ideas.

b) Training

In every work environment, proper training is a key to the success of every institution. Poverty alleviation project members are sometimes given insufficient training or are not given training at all. Most members have been engaged in these projects but they have never attended a single training course in whatever they are involved with. Most members receive training in Financial Management, which is essential but it is not enough for a sustainable poverty alleviation project. Training in gardening, baking, bricklaying, poultry and chicken farming and others are vital as this will assist project members in producing the best products. Most training should be provided by the specialists in different projects. This will motivate the project members as the support shall be coming from knowledgeable and experienced people.

c) Co-ordination among the projects

Most rural poverty alleviation projects are engaged in similar activities within the same environment. There are instances where different projects are engaged in agricultural activities and also those that are engaged in baking produce similar goods. This is because there is no co-ordination among the projects. Co-ordination is very important as the projects members shall be able to assist one another in various methods of producing quality produce that are appealing to their customers.

There is also a problem of stiff competition among the projects. Most customers are the communities where these projects are located and the competition makes most projects lose profit. It vital that projects members are brought together so that they can be advised of the ways of avoiding competing with one another for the same customers. Co-ordination is important for the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects because members are able to motivate one another.

d) Specialization of the projects

The most common poverty alleviation activities are vegetable gardening, poultry and chicken farming, brick making and baking. Most projects are engaged in one of these activities, while others are engaged in more than one activity. The engagement in more than one activity makes the members focus on the activity they think can generate more income, while neglecting the others. For poverty alleviation projects to be sustainable there needs to be specialization so that members can channel all their energy on their activity they are engaged in.

It should be borne in mind that there are certain objectives for these projects. If the objective of a project is the production of quality vegetables, let the customers find quality vegetables and not quality bread. Specialization will also avoid confusing the customers who bring business to the projects. Through specialization, project members will avoid unnecessary competition among the projects within the same jurisdiction.

e) Market Cooperatives

The local communities are the market for rural poverty alleviation projects but these projects need to expand and be competitive in their businesses. There is a serious problem when the projects try to break into national and international markets. The various problems encountered are the quantities they produce, the quality of the produce and the marketing strategies they adopt. It is vital for poverty alleviation projects form these cooperatives so that they are able to market their produce to in large quantities to national markets. This will assist them in getting better and guaranteed profits than those they get from the local communities. These cooperatives are also vital in that the members are bale to exchange business ideas for the sustainability of their projects.

f) Government needs to give support to the projects

The government, be it provincial or national, should play an important role in supporting poverty alleviation projects. The government has played an important role in assisting the projects financially, but more support is needed. Additional support can be in the form of training because it was found that most project members are not given much attention in that area. It is vital that when a project is established, officials with expertise in that project should be available to assist in training and monitoring the progress the project is making. Some projects end up stopping their operation when they encounter some problems, especially when they do not get the project benefits. This is mainly due to the unavailability of government officials whose presence might motivate the project members to continue under those circumstances. It is mainly through the government's support and effective monitoring that poverty can be alleviated through sustainable poverty alleviation projects

6. Findings of the Evaluation

6.1 District Specific Findings

6.1.1 CAPRICORN DISTRICT (GA-KAGTALA VILLAGE)

a) Findings of Back Yard Poultry Project

- The lead institution is the department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the office of the Premier's role is to coordinate and provide support to the projects
- Project has been implemented in the past two(2) years
- The farmers have been trained on how to implement the project
- Five (5) people were provided with egg laying chickens to produce eggs for selling and two(2) people were given chickens for meat production
- Seven people were identified by the community through appropriate structures, two males and five females and among them there is one female. There was no person living with disabilities

- The farmers were given chickens for egg laying and meat production and were supported to implement the project from six months by the LDARD.
- The farmers are able to sustain the project although with challenges encountered
- The respondents strongly agreed that their lives have changed since the introduction of the project and the improvement in improved in quality of life can be attributed to antipoverty programme.
- The residents are satisfied about the level of services provided by the farmers
- All relevant stakeholders were properly consulted for project implementation
- The project has created employment for the beneficiaries

b) Findings of IZIBINDI Project

- The lead institution is Limpopo Department of Social Development ,with OTP playing a coordinating and supporting role
- The project has been implemented in the past five years
- Nine people are involved in the project, three males and six females and among them , there are eight youth
- The objectives of the project is to identify and assist children, especially the orphans and the elderly to get the necessary support from Government
- The project also assist qualifying people to apply for birth certificate and ID cards and the Orphans are also assisted to apply for foster care and other grants
- Respondents strongly agreed that their lives have changed as a result of the introduction of the project and that the project has had appositive results
- Residents are satisfied about the quality of service provided through the project
- The project is being supported by community structures including the headman and it has contributed significantly towards reduction of unemployment
- There is a clear project maintenance plan
- Village Park was established near to secondary school to for recreation purposes

c) Findings of Community Work Programme

- The lead institution is the Department of Cooperative Governance , Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs with Office Of the Premier playing a coordinating and Supporting Role
- The project has been implemented in the past six years
- Twenty three people are involved in the project , seven males and sixteen females, three female members are youth while one is a male youth

- Respondents agreed strongly that the project has a positive impact on their lives
- The community leaders have a clear project maintenance plan for monitoring the Project and the project has contributed towards reduction in unemployment levels in the village
- Respondents also strongly agreed that there proper consultation was conducted prior to implementation of the project

The residents are satisfied about the level of services provided through the project

6.1.2 SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT

a) Findings for Sekhukhune Dairy Value Chain

- Sekhukhune dairy value chain is located in ward 11 of Makhuduthamaga local municipality in the following three villages: Gamosehla, Vergelegen and Ga-Mokwete
- A five member project committee was established to oversee the project.
- Certain criteria for selecting people for the project were used and include but not limited to their experience and interest in livestock management. Suitable people were identified through interviews.
- Identified people were trained by Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in areas of Milk production, meat production animal health and livestock management.
- The community members was aware of the project and are in full support of the project
- The DVC is responsible for milk production and milk processing i.e. production and pasteurisation (Mabodibeng Dairy project).
- Maanoabasadi project buys milk for producing milk products such as drinks and yoghurt.
- The benefits/value of the project is that it provide income and food to the local community members.
- The respondents strongly agreed that the lives of community members have improved as result of the project.
- The project has contributed to positive attitude of community members towards animal management.
- The following organisations are involved in the project:
- DRDL/ARC/LDARD and the SCO and Corporative.
- The respondents agreed that there is a plan to improve the project and the plan includes the involvement of young farmers in the project, ensure that communication among various stakeholders ids strengthened.
- Development of an old diary that was developed by the missionaries at Jane Furse Hospital. To increase livestock by introducing artificial insemination as an add-on. Utilization of structure for storage of animal food.
- Development of wetland to address the challenge of water shortage
- Local schools are sending their learners for experiential learning on the project

6.1.3 VHEMBE DISTRICT

a) Findings of Bungeni Diary Value Chain

- There is a general understanding of what the project is all about
- The project was first implemented in 2015 and is in its third year of implementation
- Ten (10) farmers were identified and there was no specific criteria for allocating the cattle to the recipient.
- Five males and five (5) females were allocated and seven (7) of the recipients are youth
- Three organisations are involved in the project viz Agricultural Research Council (ARC) Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The farmers were provided with training to be able to manage the project
- The respondents agree that beneficiaries live have changed as a result of the project
- Anti-Poverty project has had a positive impact on poverty reduction in the village and that citizens are satisfied about the services provided through the project.
- Respondents also agree that proper consultation was done with relevant stakeholders and community leaders have a project maintenance plan.
- The project has not contributed to reduction of unemployment in the village
- There is a dedicated doctor to provide medicines

b) Findings of Muyexe: Macena Vegetable Garden

- The respondents agreed that there is a general understanding of what the project is all about.
- The project was established in 1992 and twenty one (21) people are involved, one male and twenty females
- Youth and people living with disabilities are not involved in the project,
- The project produces spinach, green pepper, tomatoes, onions, butternut, beetroots and sweet potatoes.
- The project is supported by the Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development and Social development.
- The department of Agriculture provide seedlings and equipment.
- The respondents also agree that Anti-Poverty programme has had a positive impact on poverty reduction in the village and citizens are generally satisfied about the level of services provided to the community.
- Proper consultation was conducted with relevant stakeholders for project implementation process.
- Community leaders were also consulted and have a clear project monitoring plan.
- There has been a significant reduction in unemployment rate in Muyexe

7. Challenges

- i. Planning and implementing projects involving more than one departments was practically impossible. For instance there would be agricultural projects without transport or marketing facilities in the case of Macena Project in Muyexe.
- ii. There was very little harmonisation between projects in the same area in other words there was no regionally integrated development planning.
- iii. Most of the cattle provided for milk production could not adapt to high temperatures and died as a result of hot weather conditions.
- iv. Youth and people living with disabilities were not involved in their local antipoverty projects.
- v. In Bungeni village ,ten (10) farmers were identified and there was no specific criteria for allocating the cattle to the recipient

8. Conclusion and Recommendations

From the foregone discussions, it can be asserted that the general evaluation question,How the Anti-Poverty programme has impacted the lives of the beneficiaries and service delivery? Has been answered and that it was established that the antipoverty projects have had a positive impact on the beneficiaries in more ways than one.

The objectives of the evaluation highlighted at the beginning were achieved, the respondents agreed that Anti-Poverty programme has had a positive impact on poverty reduction in the village and citizens are generally satisfied about the level of services provided to the community and that the projects contributed positively towards reduction of unemployment. The evaluation also highlighted possible ways in which antipoverty programme can be improved

The following recommendations were made based on the findings of the evaluation:

- i. The Office should develop various poverty policies that are aimed at enabling the poor greater access markets, those that are aimed at improving access of the poor to public services and infrastructure and those that are explicitly redistributive in nature
- ii. Regional development committees should be established to facilitate greater participation in decision making
- iii. Municipalities' regional development committees to participate and engage the people in the design and execution of development programmes and projects in their jurisdiction.
- iv. Rural areas must participate in the need analysis and identification of viable projects, the planning and execution of policies that would alleviate/and or eradicate poverty as well as ensure the sustainability of the projects once completed

a) Capricorn District

- i. For Back Yard Poultry Project, it was recommended that the department of Agriculture and Rural development expedite the process of utilizing the building material to finish the building for chicken food.
- ii. Government need to provide temporary structure for storing chicken food.

- iii. The department should assist in addressing the challenge of minimising the distance between the market and production site.
- iv. Furthermore, for Community Work Programme. It was recommended that there is a need to provide cleaning equipment for the programme and that the stipend be increased

b) Sekhukhune District

- i. All farmers must be capacitated in basic skills of managing livestock.
- ii. There is a need for training in milk handling inclusive of tasting.
- iii. Additionally, it was recommended that the project requires additional funding for the purpose of expansion for Sekhukhune Dairy Value Chain

c) Vhembe District

Bungeni Dairy Value Chain

- i. There is a need to link the project with Fetsa Tlala project

Muyexe: Macena Vegetable Garden

- i. The project should be assisted to get a tractor and truck for transporting vegetables there are enough drivers to work for the project

Annexures

Annexure 1 References

- 1) **StatsSA**, 2016 *General Households Survey*, Statistics South Africa, Pretoria
- 2) **Office of the Premier**, 2016 *Progress Report on development of Antipoverty Programme in Limpopo*
- 3) **Rao, Vijayendra and Michael Woolcock**, 2003. "Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches in Program Evaluation," in F. Bourguignon and L. Pereira da Silva (eds.), *The Impact of Economic Policies on Poverty and Income Distribution*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- 4) **Ravallion, Martin**, 1996, "Issues in Measuring and Modeling Poverty," *Economic Journal*, 106:
- 5) **Ravallion, Martin and Shaohua Chen**, 2005, "Hidden Impact: Household Saving in Response to a Poor-Area Development Project," *Journal of Public Economics*, 89: 2183-2204.
- 6) **Weiss, Carol**, 2001, "Theory-Based Evaluation: Theories of Change for Poverty Reduction Programs," in O. Feinstein and R. Piccioto (eds), *Evaluation and Poverty Reduction*, New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publications.

Annexure 2 Glossary

Poverty	Can be defined as the lack of necessities such as basic food, shelter, medical care, and safety are generally thought necessary based on shared values of human dignity.
Impact	<i>Impact means to have a strong positive or negative effect on something or someone</i>
Evaluation	<i>Evaluation refers to a process of systematic collection and analysis of data in order to assess the impact</i>
Policy	A written statement that communicates government's intent, objectives, requirement, responsibility and/or standards. It is also a deliberate plan of action to guide decisions and achieve outcome(s)
Project	Specific and conceptualized-lined set of activities intended to achieve particular results that will lead to achievement of programme goals
Rural Development	refers to the strategy to empower explicit groups of people, especially poor rural women and men to attain the most basic human needs
Participation	Is defined as a process of being involved in multi-faceted spheres of societal life, more specifically, the political, economic, cultural and social
Poverty Dimension	Refers to the five categories including low house hold income, limited education, lack of health insurance, unemployment and concentrated spatial poverty
Multiple Deprivation	Refers to deprivation based on the four dimensions material deprivation employment, deprivation, education deprivation and living environment deprivation.