

**THE IMPACT OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROJECTS ON WOMEN'S
DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES OF MOGALAKWENA
MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE: A CASE STUDY OF MALOKONG,
MASIPA AND ROOIWAL POULTRY PROJECTS**

by

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DECLARATION

I declare that the mini-dissertation hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo, for the degree of **MASTER OF DEVELOPMENT** has not been previously submitted by me for a degree at this or any other university; that it is my work in design and in execution, and that all material contained herein has been duly acknowledged.

Tsheola N.M. (Mrs)

Date

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ACRONYMS

ANC	- African National Congress
BBBEE	- Board Based Black Economic Empowerment
DEAT	- Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
EPWP	- Expanded Public Works Programme
GEAR	- Growth, Employment and Redistribution
GDP	- Gross Domestic Product
GNP	- Gross National Product
IDP	- Integrated Development programme
ILO	- International Labour Organization
IMF	- International Monetary Fund
LED	- Local Economic Development
LIBSA	- Limpopo Business Support Agency
NGOs	- Non Government Organizations
PAP	- Poverty Alleviation Project
RDP	- Rural Development Programme
RPAP	- Rural Poverty Alleviation Project
SEDA	- Small Enterprise Development Agency
SIDO	- Small Industries Development Organisation
SMME	- Small Medium and Micro Enterprise
UN	- United Nation
WED	- Women Entrepreneurial Development

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the impact of poverty-alleviation projects on women development at Mogalakwena Municipality in Limpopo Province. Focus is on three projects, namely; Malokong, Masipa and Rooiwal poultry projects. The researcher has used the qualitative paradigm in this study, though limited aspects of the quantitative approach were also used. Convenience sampling has been used to collect data from a sample of forty (40) women from all the three identified poultry projects. All the respondents are women beneficiaries of different ages in the above-mentioned poultry projects. The study highlights employment generation and appropriate technology versions of growth with equity theories to justify the necessity of poverty-alleviation projects. It confirms the chief characteristic of the employment version that illustrates the projects' ability to employ different groups of people, particularly those with very low educational backgrounds. These projects enable them to get income that can be used to pay school fees, buy food and pay medical bills in support of their families, thereby improving the overall wellbeing of women in rural communities

The approaches (qualitative and quantitative) advocate for the use of local technologies and labour intensive methods to create more jobs and produce economic spin-offs. Poultry projects were chosen because they are appropriate and relevant to the needs of most communities of the Mogalakwena Municipality who are predominantly rural and poor. The study found out that the projects benefit local residents by providing affordable food security needs in the form of fresh chicken meat. These products are a vital source of protein which is necessary for good health. In addition, members derive both economic and social benefits from poultry projects. Given the threats to sustainability of these projects, the study recommends that the government employ more Agricultural Extension Officers and mobilise financial resources to support the activities of these projects. There is also an increased demand for more training on various aspects of management and production for members to maximise output. The study also identifies the significance of a continuous monitoring and evaluation of projects on a regular basis.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

Poverty is one of the greatest challenges facing South Africa since the transition to democracy (Kelly, 1984). Poverty poses a serious moral obligation to all South Africans to move towards economic and social integration of the poor into the mainstream economy and make them productive citizens for a better livelihood. This research strives to create a common understanding of poverty, how it affects women, particularly rural women, and the possible measures that can be taken to deal with this social vice so as to improve the well-being of households. The research focuses on the model of eradicating poverty through community-based poultry projects.

1.2 Background to Poverty in South Africa

Poverty is a variable that is very difficult to measure with accuracy (Schwabe, 2004). Poverty is multidimensional, difficult to measure or calculate in dollars and cents. It is the inadequacy of income, measured in terms of human condition, the inadequacy in terms of health and nutrition, education and other components of wellbeing including leisure time (Bumivic, 1998).

In South Africa, poverty is a subject of political polarisation of demographic groups which were instruments of the apartheid regime to ensure that the capitalist economy favoured the economic independence of the dominant minority. It is estimated that around 56% of Blacks are poor as compared to 36% of Coloureds, 15% of Indians and 7% of Whites. About 60% of female-headed households are poor and this country has one of the highest rates of income inequalities in the world. The country's richest 10% population gets almost half the income, whilst 20% of the poorest receives 3.3% of the income (Stewards, 2002).

In South Africa, it is estimated that 57% of South African citizens was living below the poverty datum line by 2004. Limpopo and Eastern Cape Provinces have the highest proportions of poor people, with 77% and 72%, respectively (Statistics S.A 1999).The table below shows the country's poverty levels by province as generated by the Human Science Research Council.

Table 1: Provincial Poverty Levels in South Africa

Province	No of poor persons(millions)	% of population in poverty
Eastern Cape	4.6	72%
Free State	1.8	68%
Gauteng	3.7	42%
Kwazulu Natal	5.7	61%
Limpopo	4.1	77%
Mpumalanga	1.8	57%
North West	1.9	52%
Western Cape	0.7	28%
Northern cape	1.3	54%

Source: Schwabe (2004)

The above table shows that poverty is present in all South African provinces, with Limpopo Province on top at 77%, and Gauteng at least, 42%. Given the high incidence of poverty in South Africa, it is therefore, mandatory for the government and other stakeholders to put in place measures to eradicate poverty. Whilst the table shows statistics of the population below the poverty datum line, it does not give an indication of how far below the poverty line the poor households are. The table does not also reflect on gender-based poverty levels.

1.3 Poverty in Mogalakwena Municipality

Mogalakwena Municipality is one of the six local municipalities in the Waterberg District. It is one of the most rural, and ranks among the poorest in Limpopo (Prakash, 2003). The municipality has a high human population density of mostly

unemployed women. Rural communities at Mogalakwena depend entirely on subsistence agriculture and women are the sole providers in most families, particularly those who are widowed or female-headed. African women have tilled the land from time immemorial and they continue to take poverty head on by engaging in agro-economic initiatives brought about by both the government and donors.

Poverty has been a subject of debate for a long time and many authors (Schwabe 2004, Manuh 1998, Oakley and Clegg 1999) has written a lot of literature about various topics on it. Colonialism has been identified as a major cause and contributor to the perpetual existence of poverty among indigenous people. Colonisers established extreme rules and controls on economic roles of women and this was particularly common with native women who had little or no access to resources.

Subsistence agriculture has proved to be ineffective in addressing the growing needs of modern society. This has, therefore, made rural women realise that some form of economic endeavour is necessary to generate and supplement basic income from other resources. Poultry projects became particularly popular mainly because they provide white meat as an affordable source of protein that can be produced with ease for the local market. According to Coetzee (1997), some 50-90% of Mogalakwena's rural poor households are directly involved in farming, and of these, the greatest proportion are women. The common characteristics of impoverished women in rural communities are the limited human and physical infrastructure, high degrees of inefficiency and powerlessness in decision making. All these aspects are coupled with reduced access to economic resources and opportunities.

In 1994, the newly elected democratic government of South Africa came up with interventions and strategies aimed at addressing abject poverty that was so prevalent in Black rural communities. The first priority was to meet basic needs through job creation. The government introduced the policy of Local Economic Development that was aimed at tapping into local resources in a participatory manner by members of local communities. A substantial number of poverty alleviation projects such as small scale mining and waste recycling were established in rural areas using funding from government, donor agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Despite all these efforts, evaluation of the extent of poverty

alleviation remained imperative to measure the impact of these programmes in the fight against poverty.

1.4 Problem Statement

As part of the strategy to alleviate poverty in Malokong, Rooiwal and Masipa communities of Mogalakwena Municipality, poultry projects were introduced in 2004. The idea of the strategy was to implement government's Local Economic Development policy towards experimenting possible intervention of eradicating poverty. However, the impact of these projects needs to be evaluated to ascertain whether they really assisted in reducing poverty among rural women. The focus of this research is, therefore, on the impact of poverty alleviation projects on rural communities of the Mogalakwena Municipality in the Limpopo Province, particularly on the well-being of women.

1.5 Purpose of the Study

The study singles out, among other poverty alleviation projects, poultry production as a successful and effective measure of eradicating poverty and empowering rural women as illustrated in Malokong, Rooiwal and Masipa rural communities of Mogalakwena Municipality where broiler chickens were raised for commercial purposes. In this study, several aspects of women development are addressed as issues of management, administrative, and leadership skills are looked into and these add value to the projects and community at large.

1.6 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were to:

- Establish the impact of poverty alleviation projects on women's development in rural communities using poverty alleviation projects as vehicles for socio-economic empowerment through skills development, knowledge and capacity building.

- Establish the women's independent ability to engage and contribute positively to the local economy as well as increasing access to resources.

1.7 Research Questions

The study attempted to provide answers to the following research questions:

- Why were poultry projects high priorities among other poverty alleviation projects in Mogalakwena Municipality?
- What criteria were used to select the beneficiaries of these poultry projects?
- What were tangible impacts of these projects on women's development in terms of income, livelihood and skills?
- Were there any challenges facing women in implementing these projects at Malokong, Rooiwal and Masipa communities?
- What alternative strategies different from previous approaches to sustainability could be applied to sustain these poverty alleviation projects?

1.8 Significance of the Study

The study will be useful to the stakeholders involved in the fight against poverty in South Africa. Such stakeholders include, Agricultural Extension Workers, Social Workers, Non Governmental Organisations, government departments and policy makers. These stakeholders have an in-depth understanding of the significance of poultry projects in eradicating poverty and developing ways to improve performance and sustainability of the projects. Such knowledge is also required by policy makers as a poverty intervention mechanism in the development of strategies.

The researches will also be of value to academics and researchers in that it provides insight into areas that require further research in poverty alleviation. Such research will enable policy makers and implementers to devise improved ways of dealing with poverty at its entirety among grass roots communities.

1.9 Definitions of Terms

The following terms are explained in the context of this research study:

Poverty

Poverty is defined as lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in a socio-economic activities, not having enough to feed and clothe the family, not having a school or clinic to go to, not having land on which to grow one`s food or a job to earn one`s living, not having access to credit. It essentially means a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It is about insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households or communities from participating in constructive and progressive life activities. It also means that there is susceptibility to violence and often implies living in marginal or fragile environment, deprivation of access to basic resources such as clean water or sanitation. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/poverty>).

Project

Project is defined as a temporary endeavour with a defined beginning and end (usually time constrained and often constrained by funding or deliverables) undertaken to meet unique goals and objectives which are typically aimed at bringing about beneficial change or added value. A complete project will always follow five developmental components and these are initiation, planning and design, execution and construction, monitoring and controlling systems and lastly completion (Burke, 1999).

Project Management

Project Management is the discipline of planning, organising, securing, managing, leading and controlling resources to achieve specific goals. The primary challenge of project management is to achieve all the project goals and objectives while honouring the preconceived constraints. Typical constraints of project management are scope, time and budget (Burke, 1999).

Development

Development refers to the improvement of the welfare of human beings, their quality of life, and their social well-being. Development reflects information about equitable distribution of income among social groups, about the share of resources used to provide free health and education services, and about the effects of production and consumption on people's environment.

(<http://www.volunteeringoptions.org/volunteeringdevelopment>)

Poverty Datum Line

Poverty Datum Line is defined as a statistical measure used to estimate the minimum cost basket of goods that would satisfy the necessary daily energy requirement per person over a period of a month. Statistics South Africa has estimated that when consuming the kinds of foodstuff commonly available to low income South Africans, it cost R211 per person every month (in 2000 prices) to satisfy a daily energy requirement. (Statistics South Africa, 2000).

Poverty Alleviation

Poverty Alleviation is a way of reducing poverty levels in the society through measures of increased production, such as engaging the poor in self-help projects.

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/poverty%20alleviation)poverty alleviation)

Women in Development

Women in Development, is an approach to development projects that emerged in the 1970s, calling for treatment of women's issues in development projects. Later the gender and development approach proposed more emphasis on gender relations rather than seeing women's issues in isolation. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/women%20in%20development)women in development)

Poverty Alleviation Projects

Poverty Alleviation Projects are income-generating activities carried out to reduce the effects of poverty on local communities (May, 1998).

Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development is development that allows the present generation to meet their own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs (Mosley, 2003).

Community

Community is a group of populations living and interacting with one another in a particular environment. These populations usually have common cultural, religious, ethnic or other characteristics. Populations in a community often affect one another's abundance, distribution, and evolutionary adaption irrespective of their size. (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/community>)

Municipality

Municipality is a local authority established in terms of an act of parliament and is made up of three categories: metropolitan, district and local. For example, Mogalakwena Municipality is made up of small communities that include Malokong, Rooiwal and Masipa communities. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipalities of South Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipalities_of_South_Africa))

Rural development

Rural development is a process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of the people who live in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. It is traditionally centred on the exploitation of the land's intensive natural resources such as agriculture and forestry. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rural development](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rural_development).)

Community Development

Community Development is an intervention that is structured, giving communities greater control over conditions that affect their lives. It operates at the level of local groups and organisations rather than with individuals or families. (<http://maaori.com/develop/commwhat.html>)

Local Economic Development

Local Economic Development is a South African government aimed at improving the lives of local communities by engaging in productive economic activities that make use of the local available resources, targeting the previously disadvantaged people, marginalised communities and geographical regions, black economic empowerment enterprises and SMMES to allow them to participate fully in the economic life of the country. (<http://www.etu.org.za/toolbox/docs/government/led.html>).

Agricultural Development Strategy

Agricultural Development Strategy is a government strategy aimed at improving the productive capacity of local communities through agricultural activities such as the establishment of different commodity projects, by focusing on helping farmers increase their productivity and enhance the viability of soil, water and other natural resources. (www.gatesfoundation.org).

1.10 Delimitation

This research was limited to three poultry projects of Malokong, Rooiwal and Masipa communities at Mogalakwena Municipality of Limpopo Province. Opinions of forty (40) members of the three projects were solicited and analysed in the research. The researcher also made observations on the operations of the three poultry projects. Sampling consists of forty (40) project members who are split into the following numbers: fourteen (14) from Malokong, eleven (11) from Masipa and fifteen (15) from Rooiwal. These selected samples were analysed in the research.

1.11 Limitations

The research strictly focuses on and is confined to Malokong, Rooiwal and Masipa community poultry projects in the Mogalakwena Municipality of Limpopo Province. The researcher travelled among the three pilot projects with a view to collecting data, but access to some of the areas was made difficult by the road infrastructure that is underdeveloped. These bad roads directly and indirectly affect the projects. The researcher also had to use basic descriptive statistics to a limited extent due to factors such as cultural values, personality, literacy and language barriers.

1.11. 1 Cultural values:

The culture of certain communities forbids women to talk about salaries and other matters which are regarded as taboo or highly confidential. These have an impact on the degree of accuracy of information given as verification may not be requested. Some husbands have a tendency of not disclosing or discussing salary matters with their spouses as this is regarded as encroachment on their personal domain.

1.11. 2 Personality:

Human beings have individual personalities that make them unique. These include having reserved character traits. In the study, it was not easy for the researcher to extract information from reserved persons while at times the researcher had to make a special effort to get relevant information. Some people have a personality that requires an effort to unlock information from them, not because they are unwilling but because they cannot readily open up.

1.11. 3 Literacy:

The level of literacy among different participants had an impact on the quality of statistics and accuracy of information given as some of the participants needed to be reminded about certain things from time to time.

1.11. 4 Language barrier:

The participants and researcher are all Northern Sotho speaking but the dialects spoken presented challenges of interpreting certain facts. The researcher, therefore, relied on verifying information given in a local dialect against a standardised version.

1.12 Conclusion

The focus of this research is on the impact of poverty-alleviation projects on women's development in rural communities of the Mogalakwena Municipality in the Limpopo Province. Chapter one is an introductory chapter wherein the problem has been defined and justified, objectives of the study outlined, purpose laid out, definition of terms made and limitation as well as delimitations stated. The next chapter focuses on the literature review of this study.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

Literature review is important in gathering different opinions about the subject under discussion as well as comparing earlier discoveries with the latest trends in the same field. Poverty and poverty alleviation projects have been a subject of lengthy debate for many years. The focus of this research is on post-apartheid South Africa, particularly on women in rural development (Prakash, 2003). Literature review also assists in repeating the same thing in a research as prior research initiatives on the subject are acknowledged.

In developing economies, the bulk of agricultural cooperatives are formed by women who have a strong influence on the day-to-day management of poverty-alleviation projects. Agricultural projects enable women in rural areas to be economically productive and contribute to the wellbeing of their families. The focus of this chapter is on reviewing related literature on the role of agricultural projects in poverty alleviation, the impact of these projects on women development, and some theoretical perspectives on poverty reduction. It is, therefore, imperative to have a holistic understanding of the concept of poverty.

2.2 Poverty

The pace of economic growth is the main factor that determines how quickly poverty declines, thus the greater the inequality of incomes, the lower the elasticity of poverty. Faster economic growth is, therefore, necessary to reduce poverty where there is high inequality (Mogalakwena IDP, 2009/2010). Limpopo is reputed for its pro poor growth, which is growth that occurs when the economy achieves an increase in incomes of the poor and lifts people out of poverty. The Mogalakwena Municipality LED is, as such, one good example of the pro poor approach. Research indicates that, for poverty alleviation to be successful there is a need for material

support for LED projects in the form of technical assistance, public investments and access to finance.

Smith (2005) defines poverty as the lack of material possessions. This entails that poverty results in the lack of basic capacity to effectively participate in the society. Poverty involves the denial of choices and opportunities, thus causing a violation of human dignity (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/poverty>). From the above definitions, poverty means that an individual does not have enough to feed and clothe his/her family, children do not have access to school and healthy facilities, and the person does not have land on which to grow crops for food as a means of earning a living. Individuals living in poverty suffer from social and economic insecurities, powerlessness and exclusion from community participation. Sen (1999) argues that poverty is a prolonged deprivation of an individual's well-being, which includes low income and the inability to access basic goods and services which are essential for survival. Poverty may, therefore, be viewed as multi-dimensional socio-economic phenomenon encompassing low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, and lack of social participation coupled with insufficient capacity to advance ones' life. Poverty is usually measured into two: absolute or relative poverty.

Smith (2005) and Dutta (2003) argue that economic aspects of poverty focus on material needs which include daily necessities of living such as food, clothing, shelter, or safe drinking water. In this regard, poverty may be viewed as a condition whereby a person or community lacks basic needs that are necessary for a minimum standard of well-being. It results from a persistent lack of income. The same authors further note that the social aspects of poverty are linked to conditions of scarcity in the distribution of economic resources and systems of power dynamics in society. They also acknowledge that poverty may be understood as a function of reduced capability of people to live the quality of live they envisage. It can, therefore, be noted that the social aspects of poverty include lack of access to information, education, health care, or political power.

Poverty may also be regarded as deferential social status based on material possessions and inequitable social relationships with some individuals experiencing

social exclusion, dependency, and reduced capacity to community participation, or to develop a meaningful inter or intra group associations with other people in society. Such social exclusion can be minimised through community participation, empowerment strategies, strengthened connections with the mainstream societal activities, such as the provision of relational health care and food aid to those who are experiencing abject poverty. Some sources (such as Bowden. 2002, Francis. 1994) postulate that poverty is multifaceted and can manifest itself in hunger, unemployment, exploitation and lack of access to clean water (<http://www.christianaction.org.za/newsletter>).

Khumalo (2003), ALiber (2003) and Beck (1998) assert that the emotional, physical and psychological impacts of poverty manifest themselves more on women than among their male counterparts as members of the society. The global trend is that women often give birth to children out of wedlock and this renders them vulnerable to abandonment by irresponsible male partners, thus leaving them with no option but to face the harsh realities of life as they bring up their children. A major and often overlooked role of rural women in poverty relief is the provision of food security in their homes. Women provide an important source of cheap and subsistence labour for cash crop production, provision of food for household consumption, livestock production, generating additional income and performance of household chores (<http://findarticles.com/p/articles>).

2.3 Poverty Alleviation Projects in South Africa.

2.3.1 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The post-apartheid era has presented challenges of bridging the vast gap between millions of the poor and the rich minority. The government had to come up with a mechanism that would speedily address this challenge. The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is touted as a key mechanism for bridging the gap between the “first” and “second” economies. Two economies normally exist in one country with the first being an advanced sophisticated economy based on skilled labour that is becoming more globally competitive while the second is mainly informal,

marginalised, unskilled, populated by the unemployed and those unemployable in the formal sector (Swanepoel, 2006).

The EPWP is, therefore, one of government's short-to-medium term programme aimed at:

- Creating temporary job opportunities and income for at least one million unemployed people that can provide needed public goods and services;
- Labour intensive work at acceptable standards, through mainly public sector resources and public and private sector implementation capacity; and
- Skills development through provision of work experience, coupled with training and information related to local work opportunities for further education and training, and Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME) development.

EPWP standards prescribe that at least 40% of women, 30% of the youth and 2% People Living with Disability be entitled to benefit from this programme over a five-year period ending 2009. The Local Economic Development (LED) programme, therefore, forms an integral part of the EPWP at the local municipal level and government sector departments as well as other implementing agents work through the Municipal IDP and LED channels (Samson, 2007).

2.3.2 Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP).

The Reconstruction and Development Programme is a policy framework for integrated and coherent socio-economic progress. Its goal is to build a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist future for South Africa by:

- Developing strong and stable democratic institutions.
- Ensuring representativity and participation
- Ensuring that the country becomes a fully democratic, non-racial and non-sexist society.
- Creating a sustainable and environmentally friendly growth and development path.

Poverty alleviation projects rank among key deliverables of the RDP in empowering the previously disadvantaged and women in particular (Statistics South Africa 2000). The challenges facing government today are to facilitate and give content to the six basic principles of the RDP namely:

- Integration and sustainability
- People –driven
- Peace and security
- Nation building
- Meeting basic needs and building the infrastructure
- Democratisation
- Assessment and accountability.

Government, through a process of consultation with various stakeholders and the different tiers of government, has identified the following programmes as the key medium and long –term programmes to drive implementation of the RDP:

- Meeting basic needs
- Urban and rural development
- Human Resource Development
- Democratisation and institutional reform
- Economic restructuring.

Poverty alleviation projects in general, and poultry projects in particular, are therefore, vehicles that will ensure delivery on meeting basic needs, rural development and empowerment as well as economic restructuring of rural people.

2.3.3 Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR).

Economic growth, poverty reduction and job creation remain key goals of economic policy. South African government has made significant progress in meeting the goals of the RDP providing houses, basic services, health care and land reform .The lives of millions of people have been improved .The government says GEAR and

privatisation are the best long term strategies to achieve sustainable growth. The macroeconomic policy known as GEAR is seen by many as being in direct conflict with the goals of the RDP, the reduction of poverty and a more equal distribution of wealth. South Africa remains a divided economy with the vast majority of the poor people being black and most of the wealthy ones being white. Economic growth is currently insufficient to reduce unemployment. Though jobs have been created in the informal sector, they have also been lost in the formal sector. Many people are still landless and they require land for agricultural purposes. They need housing to achieve and maintain the goals set out in the RDP South Africa (Economic policy and development 1994).

In the early stages, women may need back-up counselling to help develop their ideas, identify their skills and capacity, as well as increase their confidence. Business support to women include among others:

- Specialised business start-up courses and technical assistance
- Improve access to finance and credit guarantee funds
- Training and technical advice for women farmers in new farming techniques, diversification and management.
- Involvement of experienced entrepreneurs to their mentors.

2.4 Poverty Alleviation Projects in Mogalakwena – Limpopo Province

The Mogalakwena Municipality LED strategy (2006) emphasises the need to realise that LED is an on-going process and that it should aim at promoting business while targeting the previously disadvantaged people, the marginalised communities and geographical regions. The agriculture sector of Mogalakwena contributed some 1.9% to the local economy and accounted for 9.4% employment opportunities in 2004. The development of poverty alleviation projects as LED initiatives in the Mogalakwena Municipality presents real opportunities for growth and subsequent job creation, particularly for rural communities.

Moser (1996) argues that international research highlights that poverty is not always a static condition among individuals, households or communities. While some individuals and households are permanently poor, others become impoverished as a result of general lifecycle changes, and specific events such as the illness of the main income earner, or when external economic conditions get worse (Rakodi, 1995). The Local Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation Summary Report indicates that poverty reduction measures implemented at the municipal level are seen as functioning at a level between national government approaches (macro-level) and community approaches, promoted by non-governmental or Community Based Organizations (micro-level). Approaches at the municipality level are meant to strengthen and complement, rather than replace, those anti-poverty strategies implemented at macro levels (Gosh, 1998).

Poverty alleviation projects in the Mogalakwena Municipality are aligned to the key sectors prioritised as pillars of economic growth, namely, agriculture, mining and tourism. There are a number of Local Economic Development projects under each of the economic sectors. Under mining, there are projects such as Kadikgatlu stone crushers funded through the Mogalakwena LED fund, the TshabangTlala Babirwa small scale mining pebble co-operative, co-funded by the Limpopo Business Support Agency (LIBSA) and the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), and the Setlhatlha Sand Mining cooperative also funded by LIBSA. Under Agriculture, there are poultry and vegetable projects funded through EPWP, CASP programme such as Masipa Broiler, Malokong Broiler, Rooiwal Broiler, Nkidikitlana Broiler Project and Chicken Abattoir. Thutlane Sacred Site and Moepel Eco-Tourism project are LED projects funded through DEAT, EPWP working for Tourism programme.

2.5 Effects of Poverty on Rural Women

The effects of poverty on women in societies are better understood through the aspects of health, food security, education shelter and social relationships (Khumalo, 2003 and Smith, 2005).

2.5.1 Health

People living in poverty suffer disproportionately from hunger or even starvation. They sometimes die from diseases related to malnutrition. Poverty lowers the life expectancy of an individual. According to the World Health Organisation, hunger and malnutrition pose a serious threat to the world's public health, and malnutrition is by far the biggest contributor to child mortality in rural areas, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

2.5.2 Food security

The rising cost of living makes poor people less able to afford basic food items. Poor people spend a greater portion of their budgets on basic food stuffs than rich people. As a result, poor household units living below poverty datum line and those near the poverty threshold can be particularly vulnerable when there is a persistent increase in the price of essential food stuffs such as grains, cereals, vegetables and meat products. For example, in the late 2007, increases in the price of grains led to food riots in some African countries such as Zimbabwe. According to Smith (2005), the World Bank warned that 100 million people were at risk of sinking deep into poverty. Women bear the brunt of perpetual threats of food supply. This may be caused by persistent droughts and water crisis. Intensive farming often leads to a vicious cycle of exhaustion of soil fertility and a decline of agricultural yields that conspicuously affects the success of projects.

2.5.3. Education

According to Bowden (2002), research has established that there is a high risk of education underachievement associated with children who are from low-income families. In the South African educational system, children from poor families are at higher risk of Grade retention than other children in their Grade and even fail to complete their high school education. There are many social and family related reasons why students drop out of school. Some of the suggested risk factors associated with poor children's success in school include juvenile delinquency, higher levels of teenage pregnancy, and the insufficient provision of materials

needed, such as textbooks and uniforms as well as low income by parents. Poverty, therefore, often drastically affects children's access and success in school.

2.5.3 Housing

Poverty increases the risk of homelessness. Shack-dwellers, who make up a big chunk of the South Africa's population, live in poverty. Poor people cannot afford to buy materials needed to build a house and that is why the South African government embarked on a massive housing development agenda through the parcelling out of free RDP houses.

2.5.5. Social relationships

Gosh (1998) says that there is a growing evidence that living in impoverished conditions increases women's risk to all types of violence. Murder rates worldwide, as an example, are found to be the highest in areas where poverty is highly prevalent. Researchers found that there is always a direct relationship between poverty and violence hence poverty is an important factor that needs to be considered when trying to understand the rates and distribution of violence against women by members of society.

Poor people are voiceless and powerless. Many women become victims of human trafficking and prostitution due to economic desperation. Deterioration of living conditions can often compel children to abandon school in order to contribute to the family income, thus putting them at risk of sexual exploitation. For example, in South Africa, particularly in the Limpopo Province, a number of girls are turning to prostitution for survival because of increasing poverty.

Poverty is a social illness that must be addressed both at international and national levels. At national level in South Africa, the municipalities should play a major role in the fight against it. According to Mamari and Rasoamanario (1997), women constitute a large number of the poor and illiterate in both urban and rural areas in Sub-Saharan African. Many young women between the ages of 15 and 25 have

been forced to become sex workers, thus facing the risk of HIV/AIDS infection. It is against this background that over 3,000 women converged in Dakar in 1994 to attend the African Women's Preparatory Conference.

The resulting African Platform for Action identified several priorities that included combating the increase of poverty from African women, improvement of women's access to education and health services, with a special focus on reproductive health, addressing women's relationship to the environment; increasing the involvement of women in the peace process, advancing the legal and human rights of women, highlighting the special concerns of the girl-child, and "mainstreaming" gender concerns within economic and development policy-making by disaggregating data along gender lines. The Dakar Conference also noted the emergence of numerous women's group and NGOs in Africa and the increasingly concrete expression of their organisational potential in development issues and poverty alleviation.

2.6 Poverty Alleviation Measures

Poverty alleviation programmes initiated by international agencies are increasingly becoming less and less effective because they are viewed as hand-outs that create a dependency syndrome to targeted beneficiaries. International development agencies have their own agendas whereby they provide poverty relief grants that aim to assist poor countries but conditionally benefit benefactors more than beneficiaries. The world has learnt to cope with poverty in only one way, and that is, through charity. But charity does not change the situation, instead it only sustains poverty. Intergenerational dependency is experienced in most countries, and to combat this problem, governments are now targeting their anti-poverty schemes by giving people the skills and confidence to provide for themselves (Ministry of Agriculture and Land Affairs 1998).

Poverty charities are the more effective organisations when fighting poverty by skilling people and investing money into the projects of the poor. Oxfam is one of the popular charity organisations raising funds and looking for volunteers to help in the projects, and in this way the real difference can be made in people's lives. The international poverty targets, in line with the Millennium Development Goals, include

the reduction of the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by half between 1990 and 2015, the reduction of infant (under the age of one) and children (under the age of five) mortality rates by two thirds between 1990 and 2015, and the provision of equal access for boys and girls to primary and secondary education by 2005 (Bowden, 2002)

2.7 Rural Women Participation in Poverty alleviation Projects

Participation is a process whereby people interact with their authorities through verbal dialogue, media or using any other means to express their opinions about issues that affect their lives. For the man in the street, participation is the equivalent of his involvement with the authorities when paying taxes, exercising the franchise, becoming a member of a political party, expressing his views in writing on governmental matters in letters to news papers, or by chance, meeting an elected member of a legislative institution. Active participation, therefore, ensures balanced decision-making by considering different interests or views, preventing authorities from taking sides, ensuring ready acceptance of decisions by the public, ensuring a more careful study of proposals, justification of decisions, lessening the danger of introducing inadequate safety measures, accommodating wide representation of groups and a responsive and flexible administration (Bond,2007).

It is believed that the greatest contribution a society can make to reduce poverty is to increase awareness of the presence and causes of poverty. As part of the integrated rural development programme, poverty alleviation projects have significantly reduced the incidence and the severity of poverty in South Africa. Women development have received the highest priority in terms of employment opportunities, literacy and skills development, self-employment (SMME) opportunities as well as occupying key positions in the local economy of their specific development nodal points.

In rural areas, contrary to the urban experience, the trend of declining self-employment for females appears to have been reversed with the reforms and this is due to the increase in agricultural self-employment (Gosh, 1998).A similar article about women entrepreneurial development in Tanzania showcases the impact of the programme called Women Entrepreneurial Development (WED) programme

implemented by Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Tanzania. This is imperative because giving women access to resources is one thing, but giving them control over them is another (Makombe & Iddi, 2007).

2.8 Women Development in Rural Areas

Todaro (1994) refers to development as a multi-dimensional process involving changing social structures, popular attitudes, and national institutions, as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and the eradication of poverty in our communities. Rural development actions are mostly directed towards developing the social fabric of communities and economic material wellbeing of those targeted areas.

In South Africa, rural development programmes usually adopt a top-down approach from the local or regional authorities, regional development agencies, NGOs, national government or international development organisations, to communities such as Mogalakwena. However, it has been established through research that local populations can also bring about indigenous initiatives for development. The term development is not limited to the issues for developing countries only, but it is also meant for developed countries as well. The main aim of the South African government, through the policy of Local Economic Development (LED), is to develop the under-developed villages in rural South Africa.

Rural development seeks to find ways to improve the lives of the rural the population, with participation of the rural people themselves in order to meet the required needs of the areas. Outsiders may fail to understand the setting, culture, language and other things that are prevalent in a particular local area. The general mass itself must participate in sustainable rural development projects of their respective areas.

Rural women have a strong desire to stay in their communities and effectively contribute to its development, provided the following aspects are in existence in their local communities:

- Employment opportunities in the local area, including part-time jobs;
- The possibility of gaining work experience and vocational qualifications;
- Local facilities for education and training;
- Business services supportive to women's projects and enterprises
- Public transport services compatible with working hours;
- Local childcare facilities and social services for the elderly and the sick; and
- Supportive public and professional organizations.

Smith (2005) observes that women's contribution to local and community development is significant, but the world all over rural women are a minority (idea not clear, clarify it) in decision-making and planning structures, particularly at regional and national levels. This has been due to women's multiple roles and work load, and also due to the persistence of traditional view about women's and men's roles in society. It is proposed by Fischler (2006) that in order to ensure active participation by women, the following strategies should be considered:

- The establishment of associations and networks of rural women;
- The involvement of existing women's association in committees and partnerships;
- Encouraging women's group to apply for funding for development initiative;
- Linking women's association with development organisations;
- Enhancing mainstreaming projects in existing organisation; and
- Informing women's associations and network about available rural development programmes and projects.

South African poverty is concentrated amongst Blacks, particularly women. The new political dispensation which came into existence in 1994 was compelled to come up with an agenda to address poverty and to redress inequality amongst all South African societies. This was to be achieved through the macro-economic prescriptions of Growth, Employment and Redistribution policy. For purposes of this study, it is important to understand the tenets and essence of Growth Theories in the quest to deal with poverty in society.

The aim is to encourage and inspire those responsible for rural development programmes and projects to take into account the needs and interests of women in rural areas. Rural economies, particularly those dependent on agriculture, have been affected by the processes of globalisation, leading to the restructuring and decline of the agricultural sector, the growth of the service sector and increased emphasis on technology. In many areas, this has created unprecedented work and employment opportunities, as well as bringing changes in the role and status of women. In general, rural women have a strong desire to stay in their community and contribute to its development, provided certain requirements are met (Francis, 2000).

2.9 Women and Growth Equity Theories

According to Weaver Jameson (1981), the growth with equity approach stems from the conviction that the traditional reliance on growth of GNP will not benefit the poor in today's less developed countries. Only the elite will benefit much from the growth of GDP. Another assumption is that most people in less-developed countries are responsive to economic opportunities presented. The bottleneck in seizing the availed economic opportunities is the powerful elite who fail to design projects that provide meaningful opportunities to peasants.

Those people at the top do not understand the people at local level. For example, the government channels money for poverty-alleviation projects and rural development through the Department of Agriculture, but the Head Office in Pretoria designs stringent conditions that may make it difficult for projects beneficiaries in Mogalakwena to access the funds. Growth with equity theories consist of the Employment Generation version and the Appropriate Technology variations.

2.9.1 Employment generation theory

The employment generation variation of the growth with equity was put forward by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) after its missions in various countries, which include Colombia, Kenya and Sri-Lanka. The mission discovered a growing amount of unemployment despite growing GDP. They discovered that the informal

sector was a key to unlocking employment opportunities and hence poverty alleviation. The informal sector, also known as the hidden economy, is critical to employment generation, which is vital to improving individual earnings particularly that of women. This group has substantial entrepreneurial ability but their main problem is lack of capital (Weaver & Jameson, 1981).

The ILO (1997) argued that the key to growth with equity was to switch emphasis from growth of GNP to emphasis on employment generation to avert the dire consequences of unemployment of the poor. This could be achieved partly through encouraging the formation of agricultural projects such as those in the Mogalakwena Municipality. Studies by Swanepoel and de Beer (2006) in Africa, confirmed that some agricultural projects are efficient and profitable, but suffer from lack of capital and discriminatory interest rates because they lack collateral.

By channelling resources for the development of small agricultural cooperatives, the South African government is taking great strides in employment and income distribution. Rural women development and indigenous businesses have become high priority items on the agenda as shown in the macro-economic policy framework after independence in 1994, especially through the enunciation of the Local Economic Development policy (The constitution of the republic of South Africa, 1996)

2.9.2 Appropriate technology theory

Technology theory is a technology that improves labour productivity, uses local resources and produces goods intended for local markets. In South Africa, the mushrooming of agricultural poverty-alleviation projects in rural areas, which produce fresh farm products using small affordable equipment and machines that manufactured locally, is a testimony of the Appropriate Technology theory. Capital intensive technology creates little employment that is only for the local elite. Income from production goes to capital owners and it exacerbated income disparities among citizens of a country (Schumacher (1990)

Labour intensive industries can only be created through appropriate technology. Weaver and Jameson (1990) argue that appropriate technology appealed and was

given political support by developed countries because it posed little threat to multinational companies. Appropriate technology theorists believe in equitable distribution of income through labour intensive industries despite the low wages paid to workers in those industries. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) (1997) argues that labour intensive industries should be given access to capital markets through the provision of liberalized money markets and tax policies. For example, in South Africa, the government has channelled resources towards the development of agricultural poverty-alleviation projects, which should create opportunities for the cooperatives to market their produce through formal channels of the economy, like selling their produce to established retail outlets such as Shoprite's, Fruit and Vegetables as advocated by appropriate technology theorists.

Appropriate technology is a thrust towards re-orientation of capital formation away from large scale enterprises to investments, something which will help the poor. Burke (1999) shows that appropriate technology enables the poor to have greater capital in order to have income which can meet their basic needs. The development of appropriate technology has led to the development of informal sector enterprise in Kenya and Taiwan in the late 1950s. In South Africa, the Department of Science and Technology was formed to spearhead the development of appropriate technologies through scientific innovation.

Rural poverty is one of the greatest evils of modern society. There has been general lack of jobs and economic opportunities in rural villages that has enticed millions of people to migrate from villages to over-crowded cities. The continued migration has generated immense social and environmental problems in the majority of cities of poor countries. The effects of poverty are most visible in the cities, but the cause of poverty lies mostly in the villages. In order to curb the problem of rural-urban migration, the world needs a technology that directly addresses the negative consequences of rural poverty by creating wealth and jobs in the villages. Such a technology will create industries and careers in the village and would enable them to develop practical alternatives to migration. It would give them a chance to survive and prosper without uprooting themselves to overcrowded cities (Dyson (2007).

Growth with equity is aimed at reducing poverty with the aid of employment creation using local resources. This approach is enshrined in the South African government policy of Local Economic Development policy and the Agricultural Development strategy.

2.10 Causes of Poverty among Rural Women

Research has identified a number of factors which contribute to poverty among rural women and some of these include:

2.10.1 Apartheid

Apartheid's economic exploitation and segregation has systematically resulted in much higher levels of poverty for Black South Africans and women in particular. Land is the basic need of most rural dwellers. One of the policies of the apartheid regime was to deny Blacks access to productive land so that they remain poor, dependant and submissive to Whites. Apartheid policies pushed millions of Black South Africans into overcrowded and impoverished reserves, homelands and townships. Women's power and spheres of influence largely disappeared under the impact of apartheid and external religions, which disturbed the existing economic and social ties between sexes in the African context Callaghar, Hamber and Takura (1997).

2.10.2 Customary laws

Traditionally, women were regarded as dependent on men, thus making it unnecessary to plan and provide for their needs (Domnelli, 1997). They were to work in the fields and home, to produce food and other crops to complement the support provided by their men who worked in visible, documented activities. The advent of colonialism and new government institutions introduced new forms of marriage that granted enhanced property and inheritance rights to the minority, thus increasing the dependence of the majority of African women on men. After the new political dispensation in 1994, new customary laws on marriage created in response to men's anxieties about the independence of women, transformed the previously fluid and

negotiable relations between them into rigid duties and obligations of women towards the upbringing of siblings as such pushing them further into poverty (Manuh, 1998)

2.10.3 Structural adjustment

The structural adjustment programmes that were implemented in many African countries since the early 1980s placed emphasis on demand management and supply-oriented measures, narrowly focused on export-led growth and efficiency, often to the detriment of social welfare. The programmes introduced liberalised trade regimes and financial sector as well as privatisation and reduction in the role of the State in economic life. Because of their specific roles and position within society, women have been among the worst affected by cuts in social sector spending where substantial costs have been shifted from the State to the household (Mosley, 2003).

Consequently, women have been forced to take on an increasing burden of unpaid work of caring for the sick and obtaining food and ensuring the survival of their families. Shan (1998) concurs with Manuh (1998) that the negative impact of cutbacks in health, education and other vital social services around the world, as a result of structural adjustment policies prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank as conditions for loans and repayment, mostly affected women because it destroyed cohesion which traditionally existed in African families, thus promoting individualism.

Developing national governments were required to open their economies to compete with each other and with more powerful and established industrialised nations. This caused the dumping of goods, closure of companies, increasing unemployment and ultimately, women poverty. To attract investment, poor countries entered into a race to see who can provide lower standards by reducing wages and making resources cheap, which led to increased poverty and inequality for most people.

2.10.4 Public policy

Biases in national economic and social policies can contribute to rural poverty by excluding the rural poor from the benefits of development and accentuating the effects of other poverty-creating processes. According to Bumivic (1998), policy biases that generally work against the rural poor include:

- Urban bias in public investment for infrastructure and provision of safety net;
- Implicit taxation of agricultural products through the so-called support prices and an overvalued exchange rate;
- Direct taxation of agricultural exports and import subsidies;
- Subsidies for capital-intensive technologies;
- Favouring export crops over food crops; and
- Bias in favour of large landowners and commercial producers with respect to rights of land ownership and tenancy, publicity provided extension services, and access to (subsidised) credit.

These policies can have both short and long-term effects on rural poverty. The effects are particularly significant in the context of the structural adjustment programmes that many developing countries have undertaken to restore macro-economic stability and expand the capacity of the economy to increase production, employment, and income levels.

2.10.5 Civil wars

Africa has persistent and increased levels of civil strife and conflict in countries such as Somalia, Madagascar and Zimbabwe, to mention a few. Majority of the estimated 8.1 million refugees, displaced persons and post-conflict in Africa are women and children. War and conflict have increased violence against women and worsened social and economic conditions under which they live. Majority of displaced persons come to South Africa where it is relatively peaceful, something which results in competition for jobs and services with locals, thus increasing poverty levels among women (Francis 2000).

2.10.6 HIV/AIDS

South Africa is grappling with the HIV/AIDS crisis, high and increasing rates of HIV infections and the costs in terms of human lives. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable because of their lack of power over their sexuality and reproductive functions. With the decline of national and local economies, many men have been unable or have refused to contribute their share of household expenses. This has increased household pressure on women, raising the number of women living in poverty and the numbers of households in the poorest categories headed by women (Dyson, 2007).

2.10.7 Disasters

Poor women in rural areas are more vulnerable to serious risks associated with change in the weather, health, markets, investment, and public policy. The resultant fluctuations in the prices and quantities for their assets and of what they produce can usually deepen their poverty, though they may at times give them opportunities to escape from it (Khan 2000). The main reason is that the rural poor women have a very low capacity to absorb abrupt financial shocks. In addition, economic crises and natural disasters can bring about sharp increases in poverty and make it more difficult for the poor to avoid it.

2.10.8 Low wages

Women are paid less than men, even if they have the same qualifications and work the same hours. Women who work full time earn only 77% of what men make - a 22% gap in average annual wages. The wage differentials are due to discrimination, not lack of training or education. In South Africa, female workers aged 25 to 32 years with bachelor's degree were paid 14% less than men during the financial year 2007 (Carthone, 2008).

2.10.9 Low paying occupations

Women are segregated into low paying occupations, and occupations dominated by women are low paid. According to Carthone (2008), women are tracked into “pink-collar” jobs such as teaching, child care, nursing, cleaning, and waitressing, which typically pay less than jobs in industries that are male-dominated.

2.10.10 Caregivers

Women spend more time providing unpaid care-giving to their children and the sick than men (Khan, 2000). Women are more involved than men in caring for children and the elderly or disabled family members. According to Bowden (2002), a study found that 69 percent of unpaid caregivers to older adults in the home are women. Because combining unpaid care-giving work with paid full-time work or part-time work exhausts the female workforce, twenty-three percent of mothers are out of the workforce compared to just one percent of fathers who take part in care giving.

2.10.11 Child bearing

Pregnancy affects a women's work and educational opportunities more than men. The economic costs associated with pregnancy are more significant for women than men. Unplanned and mistimed pregnancies in particular, can result in the termination of studies and keep women from getting and sustaining solid employment. Women also bear the costs of raising children more than men. When parents are separated or divorced, women bear the economic costs of raising the children. According to Carthone (2003), eight in ten custodian parents are women, and custodian mothers are twice as likely to be poor as custodian fathers.

From the above discussion, it can be noted that there are numerous characteristics of a country's economy and society as well as some external influences that create and perpetuate rural poverty, which include:

- Political instability and civil strife;

- Systemic discrimination on the basis of gender, race,
- Poorly defined property rights or unfair enforcement of rights to agricultural land ownership and other natural resources;
- Corrupt politicians and public bureaucracies;
- Economic policies that discriminate against or exclude the rural poor from the development process,
- Large and rapidly growing families with high dependency ratios;
- Market imperfections owing to high concentration of land and other assets and distortion in public policies; and
- External shocks owing to changes in the state of nature (for example, climatic changes) and condition in the international economy.

It is, therefore, important for the government to play an important role in putting in place measures that are critical to poverty reduction.

2.11. Poverty Reduction among Rural Women

According to Francis and Ramphela (1994), poverty is defined as “not knowing where your next meal is going to come from, lacking basic needs such as food or shelter”. This entails that poverty is a status of life where a person cannot afford to meet basic needs that are essential for survival. Poverty alleviation is hereby used to mean improving the standard of living of the poor. Poverty alleviation is the process undertaken to improve the status of an individual by providing or involvement in programmes that will impact positively on the present status of that person. Poverty should not be viewed in terms of religion and philosophical reasons only. For example, Christian monks and nuns take a vow of poverty renouncing luxury. Poverty reduction has no role in regards to voluntary poverty. Poverty reduction or alleviation is aimed at improving the living conditions of people who are already poor. There are many intervention strategies that can be used to reduce poverty which include:

- (1) AID-this is when rich countries provide resources to government or communities of poor people. However, there are problems associated with

development aid nowadays. Problems with today's aid include the high proportion of tied aid which mandates receiving countries to buy products, often more expensive originating from donor nations; and

- (2) Agricultural Poverty Alleviation Strategy –this argues that poverty-alleviation projects should be supported financially for sustainability to facilitate poverty reduction in South African rural areas.

2.12. Poultry production in South Africa.

Poultry production in South Africa has developed into a premier meat food product consumed by most people as it is regarded as healthy and appropriate protein source. The reasons for this ascension of poultry meat to the top of popular food products (meat and eggs) list are many as it is nutritional, economic versatile in preparation as well as valuable in many food products for modern lifestyle (<http://msugar.com/poultry/consumer/index.html>):

- (1) Examples of successful poultry projects include the Amafelandawonye which is situated close to Midros sewage plant in Middleburg. It started in June 2005. The 26 impoverished women involved in the project were initiators of that project. The project involves battery chicken farming where eggs and broiler are sold to people in Middleburg and surrounding areas. This initiative is a good example of rural women from disadvantaged backgrounds who empowered themselves through poultry project. (<http://www.openafrica.org/participant/amafelandawonye>)

For poultry production to prosper in South Africa, both emerging and commercial farmers should always consider the following for sustainable development:

- Appropriate infrastructure (shades and ventilation).
- Genetic improvements (local breeds and stress resistant breeds are best to choose).
- Appropriate nutrition and recommended feeding programmes.
- General management techniques (marketing and record keeping)

- Lastly, Control of poultry diseases like Newcastle, coccidiosis and others (Maree and Cassey, 1993).

2.12. Poultry production, Poverty and rural Women

Village communities throughout the African continent have always been practising poultry farming for subsistence and commercial purposes. These birds make up more than 80% of the current poultry flock. Rural family poultry projects are a valuable asset to local populations as they contribute significantly to food security, poverty alleviation and the promotion of gender equality, especially in disadvantaged groups and less favoured areas of rural Africa (<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content>).

It is a fact that policies that empower women lead faster to reduction of poverty hence household poultry production serves as a typical example of such endeavour; this is a link in theory between pro-poor livestock policy and household poultry production. It is also true that poverty has several dimensions which are characterised by a strong relationship between poverty itself, projects and vulnerability of affected subjects. It is believed that through poultry projects, women will be brought out of economic isolation thereby increasing their social capital. This break in isolation and the opportunity to learn new skills enhances their self-confidence and encourages them to take on other tasks. In terms of livelihood framework, they have earned important human and social capital which may easily equip them to move out of the deprivation trap (Dolberg, 2000).

Majority of community development projects are popular with women than men. The reason for this is that women are in the majority in remote rural and grassroots areas while most of them are sole providers for their families even in cases where spouses are employed elsewhere. Women were also found to be active in development while men will be in minority as most of them normally migrate to cities in search of employment. Women also project themselves as experienced individuals in home economics and household management which includes managing meagre finances but making the most of such (Burkey, 1993).

Experience shows that India has one of the world's largest commercial poultry projects, though a big urban –rural divide in the level of poultry products consumption does exist. According to poultry solutions in China, poultry production was the women's domain. A common lesson learned from these projects is that, as in Bangladesh, it is possible to create a pool of private extension workers who, among other things, undertake poultry vaccination work, although issues exist with regard to supply of vaccine and medicine. The questions to ask after it was proven both in Bangladesh and India is that; can poor people, particularly poor women, involve themselves in poultry and other small livestock production both as producers and service providers? How can institutional framework be created? In India, there are plenty of rural women who keep poultry birds in a traditional village than in Bangladesh where most rural women prefer small hatcheries (Stewards, 2002).

2.14. Problems Facing Poverty Alleviation Projects.

There are a number of factors that are militating against the growth of agricultural poverty-alleviation projects at the Mogalakwena in the Limpopo Province. Some of the factors are associated with the policy environment, whilst others are associated with the economic environment. The factors include the following:

(i) Lack of entrepreneurial culture

Most communal agricultural projects do not seize opportunities that are present in both the local and international markets and this hinders their long-term growth. According to Khan (2000), cultural changes have a big influence on the momentum with which poverty can be reversed or defeated given the mind-set that women are also gradually being recognised as key economic role players.

(ii) Lack of capital

Capital consists of the resources used in the production of goods and services. Berg, Fisher and Dornbasch (1987) argue that capital can be divided into physical and financial capital. Physical capital is the stock of produced goods that contributes to production of other goods and services. These include plant

machinery and paper assets that a firm owns. The operations of most poverty-alleviation projects generally suffer from inadequate physical and financial capital, “they have only limited access to financial capital and acquire it largely through informal agents or institutions, except for tenants, who can use their landlord as conduits to formal credit”(Dutta, 2003). Borrowed capital is often costly and it is used to maintain consumption during hard times or to buy supplies and equipment needed for farming. Household labour is used both within the family, for work done by unpaid family and non-farming activities.

(iii) Poor opportunities for skills training

According to De Swart and Theron (2007), training is “a short-term learning experience designed to impart or improve skills knowledge and job performance of employees”. Training is, therefore, integral to achieving quality, efficiency and effectiveness of business operations. It has been observed that most entrepreneurs have limited skills or production know-how in their areas of endeavour, something which negatively affect their productivity. Though there have been courses run by SEDA to improve on entrepreneurial skills, the costs of attending such seminars are substantial therefore, prohibitive. Secondary sources also show that most small entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector lack bookkeeping and marketing skills.

(iv) Lack of access to credit

Berg *et al.*, (1987) argue that banks offer credit to firms and households in the form of long-term and short-term loans. Such loans will be of varying amounts and dates of maturity. Interest is payable on all borrowed loans. However, project members for agricultural projects fail to access such loans because of demands by banks such as collateral.

(v) *Procurement problems*

The project requires material inputs to the production process. These may be in short supply or highly priced, which negatively affect the production process of these agricultural projects (Berg *et al.*, 1987).

(vi) *Lack of communication*

There is not much done in the area of communication to effectively facilitate consultation among government, local authorities and informal sector traders. However, in the Mogalakwena Municipality, women who are involved in poverty-alleviation projects are assisted by Extension Workers employed by the Department of Agriculture and Community Development Officials from the Department of Health and Social Development

Based on the study by Prakash (2003), the following are the general constraints faced by women in agricultural poverty-alleviation projects:

- High illiteracy rate and poor living conditions among rural women;
- Lack of leadership and inadequate participation in the organisational and economic affairs of their agricultural cooperatives;
- Absence of property inheritance rights, restriction on acquiring membership of agricultural cooperatives, consequently being deprived of farm credit and others;
- Inadequate health care services in rural areas;
- Lack of appropriate agricultural technology aimed at reducing the physical burden of farm women;
- Inadequate access to credit and agricultural inputs and other services;
- Lack of female farm extension workers;
- Lack of market facilities and opportunities;
- Traditional, religious, social and cultural obstacles;
- Less participation in decision making –even within the household;
- Male migration/urban drift, which increases pressure on women;

- Lack of opportunities to improve socio–economic status of farm women;
- Lack of skills and attitudes in leadership and management development; and
- Lack of secretariat supporting function for women’s organisation and allocation of funds for them in cooperative organisations.

2.15 Impacts of Poverty Alleviation Projects on Rural Women

2.15.1 Economic impacts

Sustainable poverty-alleviation projects create employment to unemployed people and, thus decreasing the level of unemployment rural areas. Employment has been created for people who were initially unemployed, illiterate, either unskilled or semi-skilled, and as such people would find it difficult, if not impossible, to penetrate the labour market, women in particular.

According to Barbarin and Richter (2001), sustainable rural projects in Limpopo have a positive impact on the economic lives of the poor people. Their study found that people are able to buy fresh vegetables from these projects, for example, tomatoes, cabbages, spinach, fruits and other outputs such as chicken, bricks. Local agricultural projects also save poor people unnecessary expenses as they no longer need to travel long distances to buy these commodities. At the same time, women who work at these RPAPs receive income that enables them to look after their families and take their children to school (Expanded Public Works Programme 2008).

The South African constitution supports the fact that people have socio-economic rights, which means that the government has a duty to assist poor people to gain access to adequate housing, food, water, education, healthcare and social security, all of which are contained in the Bill of Rights. Nevertheless, socio-economic rights are not goods that must be handed over free of charge by the government to the people, but individuals should contribute economically through these poverty-alleviation projects (the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996).

In the world today, many researchers have been made to prove the close relationship between gender equality and rural economy development. In Vietnam, the role of women in the economy was often under-evaluated, but since independence of the nation, women's role in the economy, family management, social development and the nations' protection has increasingly improved (Bond, 2007). Poverty-alleviation projects have expanded women's access to economic opportunities by ensuring that they have access to finance (micro to mega bucks), fast tracking them out of the second economy, and leveraging components of BBEE: provisions for access to finance for women and youth, funding commitments for housing and small business loans for women. The economic part is covered by Agribusiness, which may be defined as all market and private business oriented entities involved in the production, storage, processing and distribution of agro-based products (Berg *et al.*, 2006). An improved quality of life implies improved knowledge and knowledge management; improved communication; and acquisition of new skills. Problem solving is about cohesion that these projects bring among the interest groups because they start identifying with each other and they also influence other community members to join the project.

Through competitions and incentives that these projects brought to the community, such as Female Farmer Entrepreneur Award initiated in 1999 by the Department of Agriculture, which recognises Top household producer, Top producer for national markets as well as Top producer for international markets, women are becoming more competitive when it comes to farming business. The projects are instruments of phasing out idleness in the community by presenting challenges that need innovative solutions. This becomes clear when assigning responsibility for performing project works to someone who is multi-skilled.

2.15.2 Social impacts

Community-based poultry projects have proved to be effective in addressing the plight of poverty particularly the food security part of it. The poultry projects are social investments because they are businesses in the community by the community for the community. However, there are four areas that should be measured no matter

what the outcomes may be and these are, namely: 1) economic function, 2) quality of life, 3) social investment, and, lastly, 4) problem solving.

South African government's role, among others, is to:

- Create an enabling environment that makes it possible for poor people to gain access to property rights and improve their quality of life;
- Remove barriers militating against progression of the poor; and
- Adopt special measures to assist vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to improve their wellbeing (Barbarin and Richter 2001),

It is important to note that South African government is playing its part in ensuring that the above-mentioned factors are realised through financial assistance given to rural areas that is meant for poverty-alleviation projects. However, groups and communities are also responsible to ensure active participation in development initiatives. This is also the approach of UN declaration on the rights to development of 1996, which contends that people should be active participants and beneficiaries of development, and not mere passive recipients (Liebenberg & Pillay, 2000).

The central logic of sustainable human development rests in inclusive participation as the primary means to ensure that members of society are given access to economic opportunities, material resources and the requisite capacities to benefit equitably from the development process. It seeks to reduce the level of exclusion of the poorest sections by working to integrate them into productive sectors and to open access to social services. The fundamental argument is that eradication of poverty entails active and direct involvement of all sections of society and mobilisation of civil society interests regarding decision-making; preparation of project proposals; administration and monitoring of projects; and the dissemination of information.

The sustainable RPAPs restore, enhance and deepen the sense of pride, confidence and self-reliance in rural communities. Oakley and Clegg (1999) emphasise that participation would instil a sense of self confidence, cooperation, creativity and

responsibility in the minds of participants. This helps boost the morale of local people and at the same time inculcates a sense of being proudly South African. It is envisaged that projects that do well and are sustainable bring poor communities together and improve their living standards. This shows that no project can succeed if the recipients do not participate given the fact that, ultimately, it will be their responsibility to continue with the project.

Poverty-alleviation projects empower community members and women in particular. Empowerment of people and creation of an enabling environment through sound governance in partnership with civil society are two crucial aspects of sustainable human development. This fundamental concern in empowerment strategies is to address those factors that constrain the capacity of people generally to exercise their rights to engage in productive activities. Women raised ideas that became solutions for lifelong poverty challenges which were orchestrated by cultural oppression upon them, thus denying them the right to raise their concerns and to challenge decisions that undermined them.

2.16. Implications of poverty alleviation projects

Different scholars argue about approaches to development whether by government, NGOs or parastatals. They, however, all agree that fighting poverty is everyone's common concern. There is consensus that in all development endeavours, affected beneficiaries should be actively involved by engaging in giving inputs and critically outlining bread and butter issues close to everyone's hearts (Moser, 1998).

It was also important that poverty be analysed and broken down in order to list all issues that really characterise it so that its (poverty) projects address its core elements. Poverty indicators need to be guidelines for poverty projects identification, prioritisation and implementation. Poverty projects should also not be informed by availability of money and other resources as it happened in many previous instances but the dire need to uproot existing identifiable poverty. International donor agencies have the tendency to pump money into aid projects that are unsustainable; they make assumption of poverty occurrence without consideration of issues close to the

hearts of affected beneficiaries. Such Poverty alleviation projects identified in that manner eventually collapse because issues identified are not genuine. (May, 1998).

2.17 Conclusion

The impact of poverty-alleviation poultry projects has proved to be positive in many instances, although gender issues were disregarded in some instances where they were undermined at the expense of economic advancement. In the African context, poverty and the resultant bad effects affect the masses, not the individual. Masses of poor people are trapped in a vicious circle of poverty that constantly reintroduces itself, thus ensuring that hardship continues.

Literature review is based on the historical background of women's poverty, the current developments to address general and specific challenges as well as the future prospects of ending poverty through socio-economic empowerment measures. It is true that poverty can be eradicated and it is also true that poverty is not natural but man-made and is primarily characterised by materialistic and/or monetary deficiency. It is increasing not only in Africa but in other parts of the world as well.

It is interesting to note that it was through the poultry projects that women's leadership potential and capabilities were unearthed. This has contributed immensely to women emancipation from customary and traditional oppression that deprived them of independent innovative thinking. Women are historical sole providers of households but poverty was always a barrier in making them efficient in this regard. It was only through the poultry projects that the element of successful female-headed households was evident. The negative aspects of poultry projects were the red tape associated with government procurement system that delays growth in production due to budget cuts, and delayed expansion of infrastructure due to lengthy approval processes. Women-owned poultry projects were facilitated by women Agricultural Extension Officers. This saw women expressing themselves more freely and openly as compared to the days when male Extension Officers were taking the centre stage and dominating.

It is a fact that customary and colonial laws were designed to make women accept inferiority treatment and subordination to men. Nonetheless, poverty-alleviation projects were instrumental in revealing the reality that women are equal to men by exposing talent and instilling a sense of independence whereby women accessed land and other resources without having to seek permission from men. Poverty-alleviation projects also compelled women representation in decision-making structures of government and communities so as to promote in order to advance their dream as well as influence decision makers to acknowledge their leadership.

Women are good at networking, and through local and regional workshops, it was possible to engage them in information-sharing and problem-solving exercises. It would have been very difficult to enhance this ability if networking was not centred on developmental and beneficial issues such as poverty alleviation. Government aid programmes such as AID did not involve women, hence their failure. It is because they were hand-outs initiative to poverty-stricken rural communities, and as such they did not promote growth and independence of women. Consultation and involvement of women through inclusive and participatory approaches resulted in sustainable women empowerment initiatives such as poverty alleviation projects that changed the status of women in society for ever. It is sad to note that the percentage of women employed in LED and poverty alleviation projects was never highlighted or emphasised hence the significance of this study to draw a better picture of this scenario.

Much of women's development in poverty alleviation projects needs attention and government is faced with a critical task of ensuring that the whole exercise is a success. Domestic and international financial assistance in the form of loans and grants have been allocated all in the name of poverty alleviation. It is important to listen to the poor themselves than to assume what seem to be their desires and aspirations. When rural women are given an opportunity to express their perception and understanding of poverty alleviation projects, a different picture of what professionals claim is painted. Poverty therefore, is like beauty which is only contained in the eye of the beholder (Allock, 1993)

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the collection of data, its analysis and interpretation. The researcher also outlines the approach and strategies applied in the research. The researcher is interested in investigating how the lives of the beneficiaries of the project have changed since they joined it (project). Gaining access to households of beneficiaries of the project and to the project, sites increases the researcher's probability to source more and accurate information required. There is justification in combining the use of two methods, bearing in mind respect for cultures and traditional practices of women. Questionnaires alone are inadequate and likely to be misinterpreted or misunderstood. It was, therefore, practically convenient for the researcher to be available to respond to clarity-seeking follow up questions and to be elaborative where necessary.

3.2 Research Methodology

The focus of this chapter is on how the research was conducted. The research design, population, sample and methods of gathering data are discussed. The ways of ensuring reliability and validity of the research instruments are also highlighted.

3.3 Research Design

This research used a qualitative, but to a limited extent quantitative paradigm. Qualitative research is defined as "a method focusing on a phenomenon that occur in a natural setting and involves studying that phenomenon in its complexity" (Nkatini, 2005). The researcher in this case, applies both qualitative and quantitative methods because the questionnaire and interview approaches ensure that accuracy and follow-up on clarity are made possible during data collection process. This saves time and provides for adequate data analysis. This tacitly shows that qualitative research is concerned with analysing life as it is lived in real situations.

Qualitative research requires the ability to interpret and make sense of phenomena. Atkinson, Delmont and Hamersley (1998) postulate that social life is complex and has many layers of meanings and the research has to discover the innermost meanings. In order to gain access to deeper levels of understanding, the researcher needs to develop a rapport with the subjects of the research. Wimmer and Dominick (1987) argue that qualitative research seeks to discover the meanings that participants attach to their behaviour, how they interpret their situations, and what their perspectives are on particular issues. This may imply that some project beneficiaries might see the project as a source of employment while others see it as means to develop their agricultural or business skills. The researcher should, therefore, be close to the project sites to observe beneficiaries in various situations, moods, appreciate their inconsistencies, ambiguities and contradictions in their behaviour. Nkatini (2005) refer to research design as “a set of plans for collecting information”. From this definition, research design can be regarded as a blueprint for the collection of data from the respondents. The ideal design should collect a maximum amount of information with minimal expenditure in terms of time.

The researcher explored their interests and tried to understand their inter-group and intra-group relationships. Atkinson *et al.*, (1998) further contend that the researcher should try to appreciate the culture of the group to capture meanings as they permeate the culture as understood by the participants. Situations are different and they are deemed important in the qualitative paradigm because they influence behaviour. People behave differently in different situations. This implies that the behaviour of project beneficiaries was to be understood in the context of a set of parameters within which the individuals interact.

Welman *and Kruger* (2000) enumerate the following benefits of qualitative research:

- There is attention to details embracing both verbal and non-verbal behaviours, penetrate fronts, discover meanings and reveal subtlety and complex truths;
- It portrays perspectives and conveys feelings and experiences of respondents;

- It deals with processes in natural environments; and
- Actions are contextualised within situations and time.

The following are some of its weaknesses:

- Immersion into depth by the researcher can lead to explanations in terms of situations under observation ignoring other forces outside;
- It can be a high risk, low yield enterprise in terms of time to negotiate, assemble and develop a rapport with subjects; and
- It is sometimes biased, subjective, idiosyncratic and lacking in precision.

For the purposes of this study, the research design used is a case study of Malokong, Masipa and Rooiwal poultry projects.

3.4 Case study

A case study is defined as a process whereby a 'particular individual, program or event is studied in depth for a defined period of time' (Nkatini 2005). According to Pickard (2007) it is a study involving a systematic empirical inquiry that investigates contemporary phenomena within its real life situation. A case study can, therefore, be regarded as a systematic inquiry into a programme(s) to have a holistic understanding of the programme(s) in a natural setting. A research can focus on one, two or more cases to develop an understanding about the situation. In this study, three cases are studied to make comparisons on the effects of poultry projects on women's development in rural areas of the Limpopo Province at the Mogalakwena Municipality.

Nkatini (2005) suggests the following advantages for case study:

- Makes use of multiple sources of gathering data. For example, in this study interviews, observation and documentary analysis will be employed to gather data.

- It is a way that is rich and comprehensive to understand people and their behavioural patterns. The researcher had greater insights in the dynamics of behavioural patterns of beneficiaries as they are affected by poverty alleviation projects.
- The researcher determined in advance what to gather and the techniques to use to analyse the data, for example, content analysis was done.

The main disadvantage about case study cited by Atkinson *et al* (1998) is that data collected from a single case cannot be generalised. In this study, three cases are studied.

3.5 Method

Nkatini (2005) proposes that, in a case study, the researcher can collect data through observations, interviews and documents. All the three methods were utilised in this study to achieve triangulation as a way of ensuring validity and reliability.

3.5.1 Interviews

Interviews can be direct or indirect using a medium such as radio or telecom. The study took the route of direct one on one interview to back up the questionnaires while facial contact and expression are also valuable in building confidence in the respondent. Structured questionnaires are uniform in nature and they strive to accumulate data in a uniform fashion so that same information can be gathered from each respondent of each project.

An interview is described as a face-to-face encounter. They are used to 'gather data when the topic is complex and emotionally loaded'. Interviews involve having the interviewer visit the respondents at their homes or place of work. Interviews gather opinions and facts from respondents while the researcher observes their personal characteristics which give an additional dimension. Interviews can be structured or unstructured (Merriam & Simpson 1984). Structured interviews use standardised questions that are similar to those used in a questionnaire whilst unstructured

interviews are spontaneous and open-ended which are normally spread over a long period of time. A structured interview was used to collect data in this research project. In a structured interview, questions are detailed and developed in advance. Pickard (2007) argues that structured interviews are frequently used in multiple case studies to ensure consistence. Since this study looked at three cases, structured interviews ensured reliability and validity of the findings. He further enumerates the following key success factors which are used in an interview:

- Always make it clear to the interviewee about the purpose of the interview and what type of information you want to gather as a researcher which is essential in ensuring consent by participants;
- Avoid questions where participants give 'yes' or 'no' as their answers and make sure all questions are clear;
- Do not ask leading questions and do not make the interview too long;
- Keep the number of questions to a minimum and make use of probing questions which helps to give you an understanding of your participants' perceptions about the phenomenon under study;
- Include a wide range of questions ranging from experience, behavioural to opinion as well as value questions;
- The interviewer must be a good listener who does not dominate the interview, do not be judgemental and never criticise; and
- Observe non-verbal communication from the respondents and check your own verbal cues, such as eye contact and posture.

From the preceding arguments, it can be noted that interviews have a high response rate (Babbie, 1992). All questions are answered and they reduce the number of 'don't knows' and inadequate answers. The interviewer can ask further probing questions in greater depth and detail to enhance understanding about the subject under inquiry. Observations help the researcher derive confidence and meanings from gestures by respondents. The researcher also develops a rapport with respondents which assists in getting replies to sensitive questions that would have remained unanswered.

Interviews have their share of drawbacks. According to Wimmer and Dominick (1987), interviews are 'an expensive way of collecting data in terms of travel'. The researcher must travel to projects sites and even to beneficiaries' homes to get responses. The participants attended to their everyday chores, hence scheduling of interviews was at times difficult. During interviews, respondents were sceptical as some individuals tend to masquerade as researchers while having a different agenda. There are also problems associated with the human element and subjects may feel uneasy and adopt avoidance tactics. It is impossible to bring every aspect of human encounter within rational control. An element of interview bias may result from age, sex dress, non-verbal behaviour and comments by the interviewer.

3.5.2 Questionnaires.

A structured questionnaire was used during this study. The questionnaire contained both closed and open questions. Merriam and Simpson (1984) define a questionnaire as a written strategy to elicit information which can be generalised over a large population. In this study, a structured questionnaire with open-ended questions was used during interviews. A structured questionnaire is used to ensure consistency. In this study, questionnaires consist of four sections:

Section A is on Bio-data which is about personal information on the respondent and the researcher needs this information to know the literacy levels, age and income as well as the profiles of respondents' dependants. Section B is on Project information which gives an overall picture of the project such as land ownership, size of the area, the business commodity and the history of the project including the reasons for the choice of the commodity. Section C is Project infrastructure and facilities which details out tangible features of the project such as buildings, water sources, security and power facilities available on site. Sections D are all the Project benefits that beneficiaries derive from the project including sharing of surpluses, bonuses and skills training opportunities. Lastly, Section E, which looks at the Project sustainability outlining intervention and contingencies in place to keep the boat afloat and to rescue any risk situation with potential to affect the project negatively.

3.5.3 Observations.

The researcher has a better understanding of the language, culture and knowledge of the area. This makes it convenient to enhance extraction of as much information as possible when doing this from an advantaged position of knowing the background of the communities. Wimmer and Dominick (1987) define observation as a process whereby the researcher explores and sees the natural setting of the phenomena. In this study, this involves the researcher visiting the projects sites and interacting with project beneficiaries. The researcher adopted a non-participant observation mode. In this approach, the researcher had the role of a researcher and only observed areas of interest in that capacity. They further argue that the primary advantage of observation is flexibility as the researcher can even observe unforeseen data sources as the research unfolds.

3.5.4 Documentary analysis

According to Nkatini (2010), documentary analysis is a data gathering technique that focuses on all written communication or information that sheds light on the phenomenon under investigation. In this study, documentary analysis involves observing any available documents that are used in the project such as cash registers, receipts books, memoranda, letters, agendas and minutes of previous meetings. These documents are called primary data sources. The task of the researcher is not to take documents at face value, but to find out how they are used and interpreted. Documents can provide objective information that can be used to reconstruct the truth about events and give information about social and economic relationships.

3.6. Subjects

3.6.1 Study area

The Mogalakwena Municipality is located in the North of Gauteng and South of Polokwane in the Limpopo Province. Malokong, Rooiwal and Masipa are villages in the Bakenberg area of the Mogalakwena Municipality. The three villages are all on

communal land headed by a chief and each monitored by a headman appointed by the chief. The villages are deep rural with a limited accessibility, particularly during summer as the roads are gravel and soils clayish.

3.6.2 Population

The population of the three villages ranges from 500 to 750 households each and the average household has seven family members (Mogalakwena IDP 2009/2010). Women are selected as the population in the study because they make up the greatest proportion of adults and economically active members of the rural communities.

Research conducted on communities previously, revealed that women have always been lacking hence this research's attempt to shed light on women due to their socio-economic disempowerment resulting from colonial and cultural laws. The migrant labour system saw men leaving women for cities to seek employment opportunities while women spent time raising children.

According to Bless and Higson-Smith (2000), population is a set of people who will be the focus of the research and on whom the researcher wants to determine certain characteristics. In this study, the population consists of all women participating in agricultural community projects at the Mogalakwena Municipality in the Limpopo Province. McBurney (2001) refers to population as the sampling whilst Barbie (1992) regards it as the universe. The actual size of women population in poverty alleviation projects at the Mogalakwena Municipality is so high such that only forty women from the three identified projects were selected for the purpose of this study. Since there cannot be complete coverage of the population in each project, a subset of the population was selected for the study.

3.6.3. Sample size

In the study, the total sample size of active women selected in all three poverty alleviation projects was forty (40), split into sub-samples of fourteen (14) from Malokong, eleven (11) from Masipa and fifteen (15) from Rooiwal. Women were

selected because they make up the greatest proportion of adults and most importantly, the economically active members of rural communities.

3.7 Sampling Procedure

The researcher used a case study of Malokong, Rooiwal and Masipa poultry projects where qualitative and to a lesser extent, quantitative methods were used. In this study, the researcher chose to pursue convenient sampling due to the readily available project members to participate and the fact that they can be traced to their homes or anywhere in the vicinity for desired sample to be achieved. The challenge with convenient sampling is that it targets specific groups which may not necessarily have the required information while it may purposely exclude groups with relevant information. The selection was purely based on the researcher's judgement to make it useful or representative. The judgement was based on the researcher's knowledge of the population, its elements and the purpose of the study. Pickard (2007) argues that the researcher should provide a rationale for the sampling procedure. The reasons for the sampling decisions are:

- ❖ It is not possible for the researcher to draw up a list of all the members of project beneficiaries at the Mogalakwena Municipality and therefore, it is not possible to state the size of the population with accuracy;
- ❖ The researcher took the subjects that are at project sites and their homes;
- ❖ Convenience sampling is easy to carry out with few rules governing how the sample should be selected;
- ❖ Convenience sampling helped to gather useful data and information that would not be possible using probability sampling techniques that require formal access to lists of populations; and
- ❖ It enables the researcher to get a desired sample size in a relatively fast but inexpensive way.
 - ❖ Though probability sampling is the most preferred procedure, non-probability sampling was used in this research. The methods for non-probability sampling include convenience sampling and purposive sampling. Convenience sampling was utilised in this study. Wilmer *et al* (2000) define convenience sampling as a process of selecting on the

available units for inclusion in the sample. Convenience sampling occurs where only elements that are easy to access are selected. The method can be used to compile a sample when the sampling frame cannot be stated with precision.

Convenient sampling is a method that makes it more practical and easy to conduct research under any given set of circumstances. Buckingham and Saunders (2004) postulate that a sample consists of a tiny fraction of the population. They view a sample as a representative of the entire group. It contains population parameters and information from a sample that can be generalised on the population. Sampling refers to the process of selecting a representative subset of a population to determine the characteristics of the variables under study. Sampling theory distinguishes between probability sampling and non-probability sampling. Probability sampling occurs when the probability of including each element of the population can be determined. Non-probability sampling is used when the chance of including each element is unknown.

Convenience sampling has its disadvantages. Atkinson *et al.*, (1998) suggest that convenience sampling suffers from bias, under-representation or over-representation of subjects. To avoid under-representation or over-representation, only those selected will be interviewed from each of the projects.

3.8 Validity and Reliability

Validity can be defined as the extent to which an instrument measures what it is supposed to measure. For the purposes of this research project, the questionnaire was derived from the questionnaire that was used in a survey on poverty at the Mogalakwena Municipality to ensure validity. (Terry 2007) defines reliability as the extent to which a research instrument yields consistent results when the characteristics being measured have not changed in this study, a standardised and structured questionnaire was used to ensure reliability. The interviews were administered in a consistent manner at project sites and respondents were provided with questionnaires before the interview.

3.9 Data Collection Procedures

The data collection procedure involves the researcher arranging a visit to the projects. She/he follows protocol through the formal request to the Mogalakwena Municipal Agricultural Manager who engaged Agricultural extension officers to inform project members about the planned visit to the three projects sites for interviews. The researcher conducts a briefing to participants to highlight and emphasise the scope and purpose of the interview as being solely academic and non-committal so as to avoid misconceptions and false expectations. Each participant was given a questionnaire prior to the interview to read and familiarise with it. The researcher completed a structured questionnaire during the interview process. The researcher also explained to participants that they have the right to participate or not and that they have a right to withdraw from participation. The researcher was also granted permission to carry out the research at projects sites by Agricultural Extension Officers supervising those projects. Appointment dates were agreed upon with participants. An introductory letter from the researcher was used to confirm the researcher's status.

3.10 Data Analysis

Data analysis is an important part of the whole research process, the first step in data analysis in completed questionnaires is known as data preparation and involves three operations, namely, editing, coding and data capturing. Data analysis can also be described as making sense of raw information collected as data from completed questionnaires. This is done to explain and show meanings. A detailed description and interpretation of data from questionnaires will be done. Data were tabulated in instances where comparison is essential, plotted on graphs as well as populated on pie charts to give it different dimensions. Data analysis was project specific while it also looks at issues of variables from project to project and focuses on respondent to respondent. Data were focused and aligned to the topic to ensure that the content arrives at the desired outputs. The outcome of data analysis describes the coding process and how it may be used to quantify information obtained by means of qualitative methods.

3.11 Conclusion

It is important to highlight that the focus of this chapter is on research design, methodology, population, sampling and data collection procedure. The interview, observation and documentary analysis will be used to collect data from three cases that were studied at Malokong, Masipa and Rooiwal poultry projects at the Mogalakwena Municipality in the Limpopo Province. Issues of validity and reliability have also been highlighted. Content analysis was done to come with relations on the findings. Data analysis was done comparatively among the three projects.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

In the study, an investigation of the impact of poverty alleviation projects on rural women's development is conducted with focus on rural communities of the Mogalakwena Municipality in Limpopo Province. This chapter, therefore, seeks to outline the research findings about the impact of poverty alleviation projects on women's development in the villages of Malokong, Masipa and Rooiwal. The results are presented under the following headings: Bio-data of respondents, Project background, Project impact and Project sustainability.

4.2 Bio-data of respondents

The study includes a bio-data on projects respondents indicating educational background, age groups, marital status, dependants and other sources of income all of which are critical in demonstrating the category of community from which the project members originate. The information gathered through the bio-data gives a better reflection of the degree of impact that the project has on the livelihood of beneficiaries and their entire families as well as the community in which the project is located. It should be noted, however, that a number of selected respondents in each project constitutes the percentage of individuals who were available for the interview and not necessarily the percentage of the total membership per project. The sample of this study consisted of forty (40) subjects who participated in this research and were distributed as follows:

Project name	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Malokong	14	35%
Masipa	11	27.5%
Rooiwal	15	37.5%
Total	40	100%

Table 2: Distribution of selected respondents per project

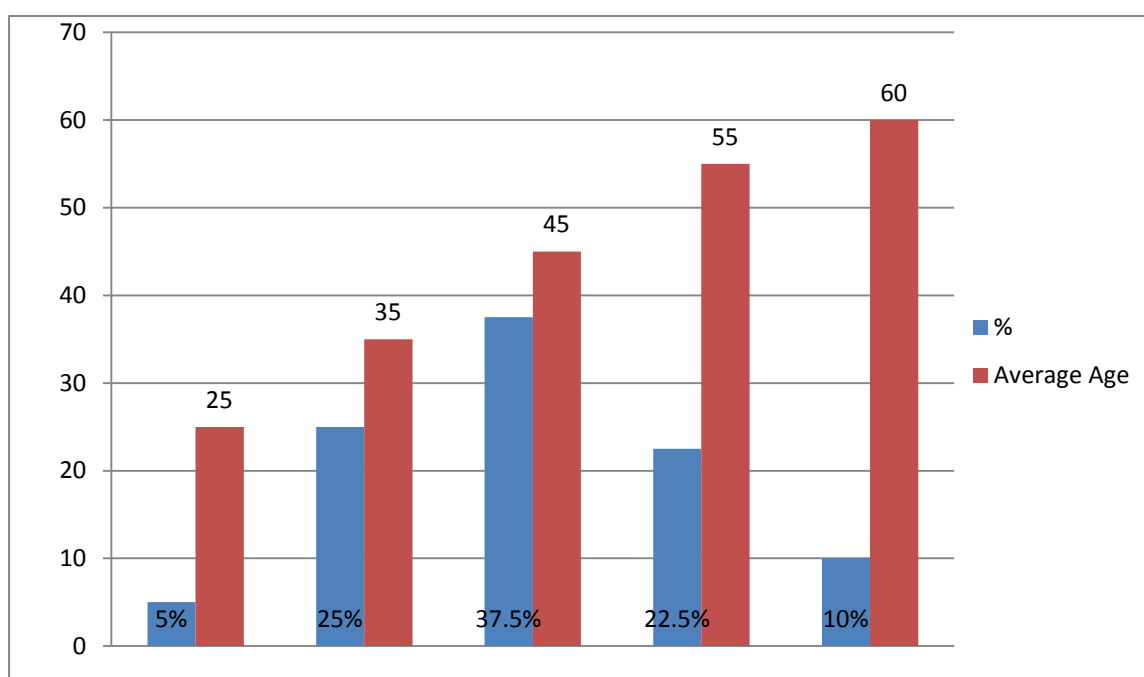


Fig 1: Shows the average age of the respondents in Malokong, Masipa and Rooiwal projects

The spread in age groups in any activity is important in reflecting the significance of the projects. The above graph depicts collective figures and percentages per category for each of the projects whereby 5% of the respondents are an aged group of 21-30 collectively for all three projects, 25% was 31-40; 37.5% was 41-50; 22.5% was 51-60; and, lastly, 10% was those at the age of 60 and above. The figures also paint a picture of age groups of women who will engage in community activities without being prodded or compelled. These women are active in more than one community activities and they easily volunteer.

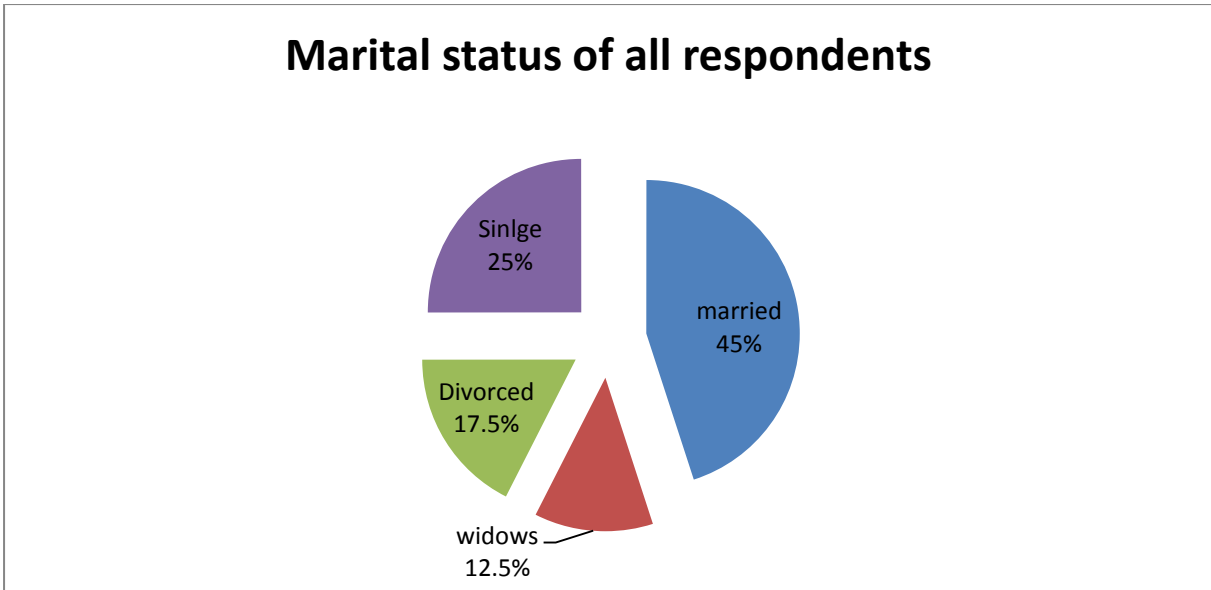


Figure 2: The marital status of project members interviewed

According to the percentages illustrated in Figure 2 above, about 45% of women, which forms the highest proportion of interviewed individuals, are married. These women's participation in the project is an indication of shared responsibility which they must exercise while their spouses are away as migrant labourers. Another possibility of married women participating in poverty alleviation poultry projects is the fact that the spouses' incomes are either insufficient or unavailable to them due to alcoholism or extramarital relations. The second highest percentage of 25% is single mothers who are self-reliant and are the sole providers of their households. They are committed project beneficiaries as the project is, in most cases, the absolute source of income for them. These women are mostly reliable, dedicated and young to middle age, with reasonable educational background. They are normally taken for training courses which are related to the project and do most of the responsible tasks in management.

17.5% of the interviewees are divorced and recuperating from loss of a steady support system. These women are strong pillars in the project as they provide vision and guidance because of their experience in house-hold management. They are normally willing to learn and attend adult basic education (ABET) classes to equip themselves with basic literacy skills to enable them to take records and conduct inventory. The last 12.5% category of women is widowed. It is important to note that although they are generally disillusioned due to loss of spouses, they remain

committed and are valuable contributors to the project. They are mostly responsible for disinfecting the broiler houses and caring for chicks as well as maintenance of infrastructure. Women in all the above categories are entitled to a state grant of some kind ranging from child, disability or old age. Project income is accepted as supplementary source than wage or salary the highest proportion of project members, as illustrated in Figure 2, is that of married women:

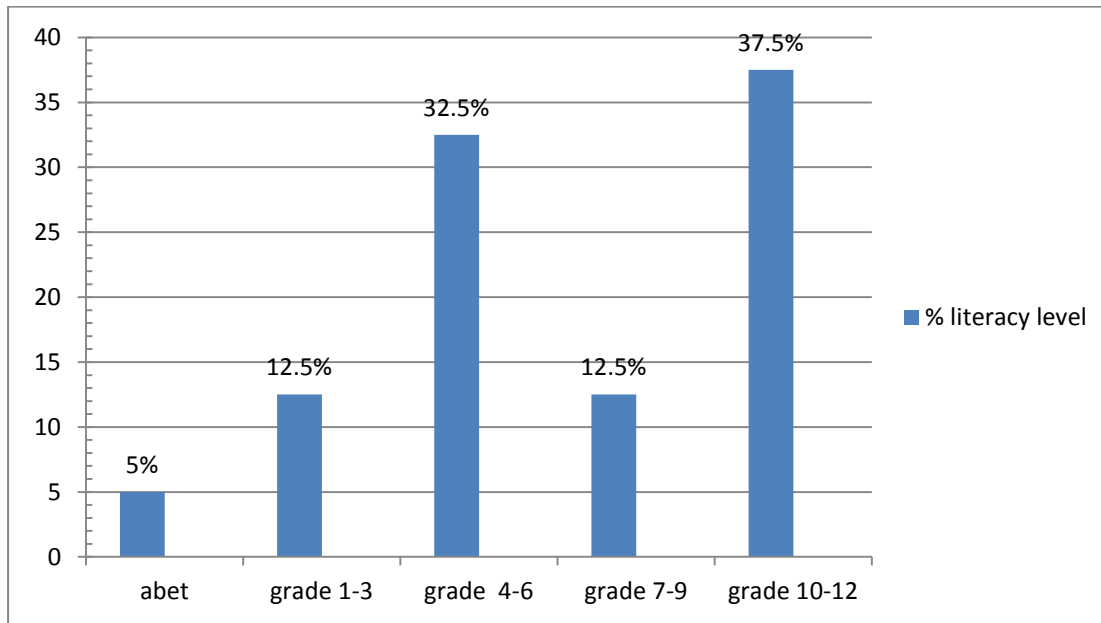


Figure 3: Illustration of the educational background of projects interviewees

The above graph illustrates the literacy levels of interviewees who participated in the research. The levels of literacy among all participants account for their choice and commitment to the projects. Literacy is a factor that enables an individual to make an independent decision hence the more literate the people are, the more chances are there to buy into an idea. Among the participants, 5% are ABET level education. These women had to leave school early because they were either married at a young age in their lives but later abandoned through divorce or were widowed. 12.5% have reasonable reading and writing abilities and they were naturally lacking in intelligence or they have no one to pay for their schooling while others just dropped out of school. They add value to the project in that they can do minor but important work for the project that entail reading and writing.

32.5% are the Grades 4–6 who perform functions that do not require extended concentration but close monitoring. They are helpful in routine records such as feeds, saw dust and compost measurements. The Grades 7–9 make up 12.5% and they perform administrative duties. Some 37.5% of the interviewees are confident decision makers and core management groups as they have Grades 10–12 and as a result of this, they are regarded as the drivers of the projects. They are taken on advanced business and management training as an investment to the project. Income generated by the project is generally supplemented by income from other sources as outlined above. These supplementary sources of income include Child Support grant, running back-yard spaza shops, child maintenance deposits and family support money from spouses. From the illustration below, 50% of the respondents receive R1001-R5000 from other sources, 32.5% receive less than R1000 and 17.5% between R5001-R10000. The project members with the highest additional income sources (R5001 –R10 000) are those whose spouses are in formal employment such as the local hospital, police station and at local schools.

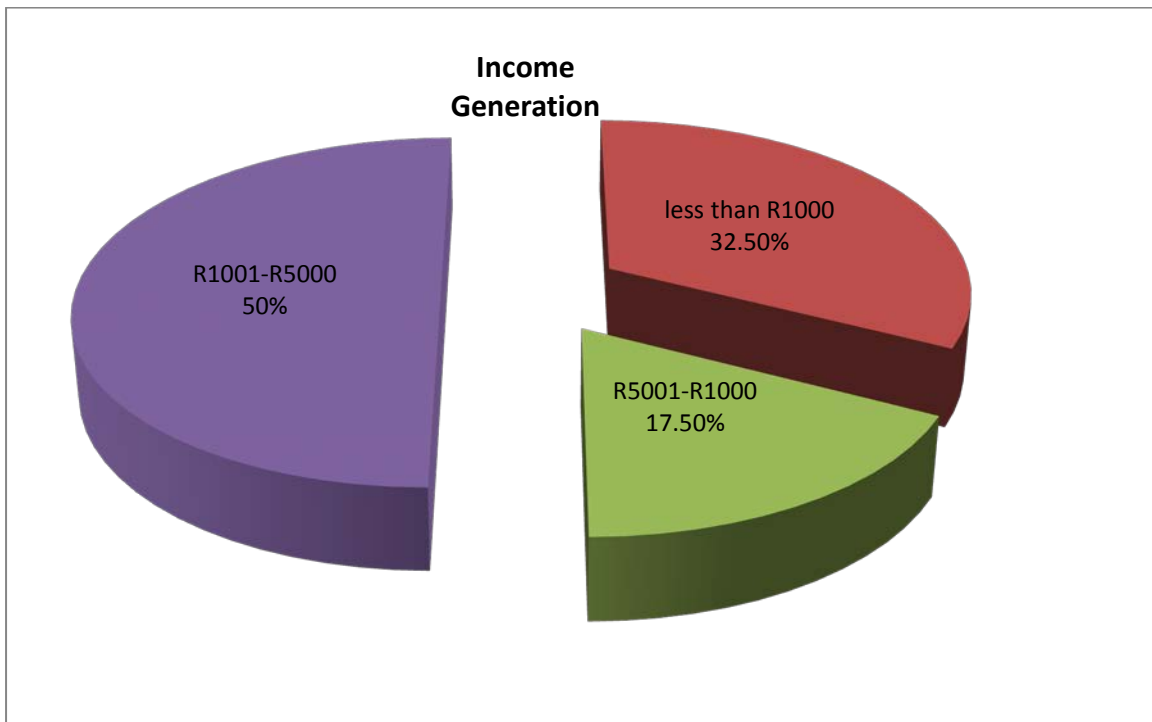


Figure 4: The interviewees' other sources of income

Monthly expenditure trends are generally determined by overall monthly income as supplementary incomes are also inconsistent and variable according to changing

circumstances. The above diagram is an illustration of income level categories of various project members. It takes into account all incomes generated through every available means that is tangible and quantifiable. It should be noted that expenditure versus income is also a contributory factor that made it possible for members to opt for a project as they saw it to be a source of additional revenue as need increases. The least expenditure group are those making up 5%, spending up to R600 a month and their children are mostly at primary or secondary schools and seldom at high school. It is on rare occasions where their children are at tertiary levels. Government come in handy with subsidies, and this becomes easily accessible if one has proof. 47.5% spend R601–R1000 and the remaining figure of 47.5% spends R1001–R1500, which is slightly higher than the preceding same percentage group. It is worth noting that the difference in expenditures emanates from the varying demands for resources and commitments.

The beneficiaries use their earnings to finance the provisions for their dependants, which include school fees, food, transport and others. All respondents have dependants. The results indicate that 22.5% of the respondents have 1-3 dependants, 47.5% has 4-6 dependants, and 30% has 7-10 dependants.

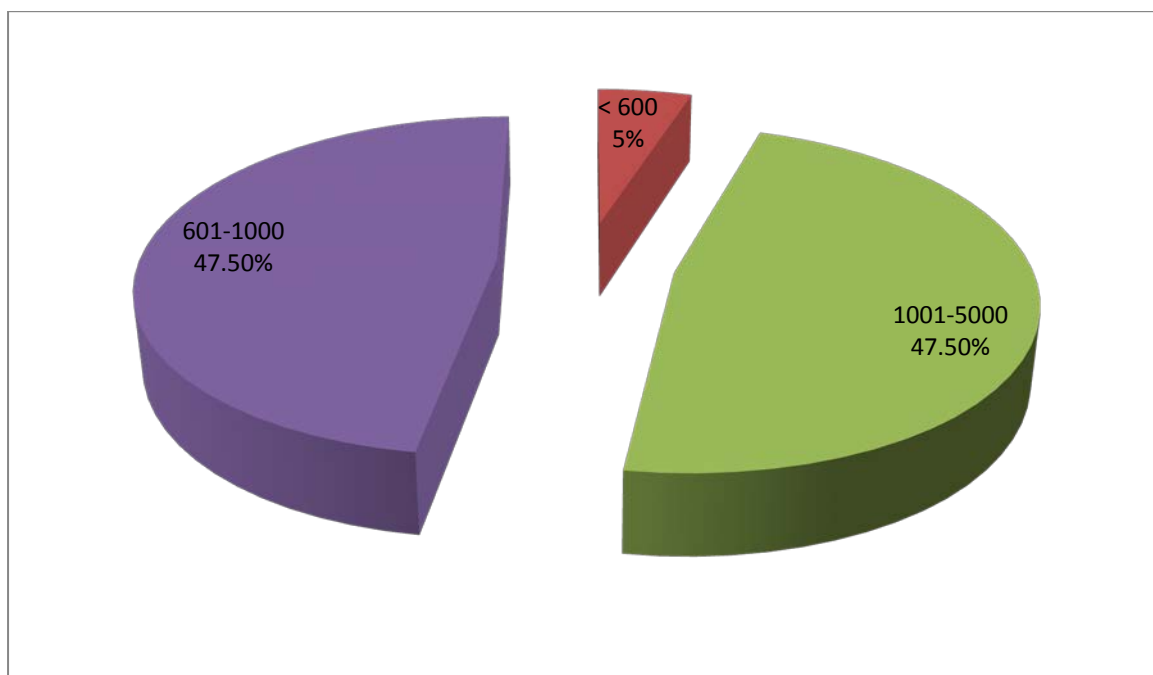


Figure 5: The estimated monthly expenditure

4.3 Project background

The study aims to establish whether the projects have any limitations on access to land as it is owned by the tribe and if they can expand as the operation grows. This is illustrated by the current surface area of 5–8 hectares for which they do not pay any lease or rental but pay tribal levy. The study also wanted to establish as to whether or not gender and equity were considered, particularly with regard to the criteria for the selection of project beneficiaries. The study also wanted to establish information about fixed and movable assets of the project as part of infrastructure and facilities.

The gender ratio illustrated below shows a small but insignificant number of men in all the three projects. There are assumptions that men prefer formal employment in heavy industries or would do casual labour if the opportunity arises (Mogalakwena IDP, 2009/2010). Men would mostly prefer to leave the project and take up employment elsewhere if such opportunity arises. The projects are generally perceived to be women initiated enterprises which men do not take seriously. Looking at the table above, majority of members are women, with Malokong having 62.9%, while men account for 37.1%. At Rooiwal, 71.4% is women while men make up 28.6% and, lastly, Masipa with 67.9% with 32.1% men. The three projects under study have membership distributed by gender as follows:

Project name	Male	%	Female	%	Total
Malokong	13	37.1	22	62.9	35
Masipa	9	32.1	19	67.9	28
Rooiwal	12	28.6	30	71.4	42

Table 3: The gender ration percentage per project

4.3.1. History of the gender trends

According to the respondents, the Rooiwal project was started in 2003 with 35 beneficiaries of whom 24 were women, 4 youth and 7 men. All beneficiaries were unemployed and coming from poverty-stricken households in the Rooiwal village. More people were interested in joining the project but the challenge was the unfair expectation of immediate payment of salaries without any regard for the time needed for the project to grow and have profit. The Masipa project started in 1998 with 42 beneficiaries who were also from poor families in the community. The Masipa projects had more youth beneficiaries as compared to Rooiwal. Most people were trapped in poverty such that they could hardly afford basic needs such as water which they collected from wells while some kids were not in school as compulsory education was not yet in force.

The Malokong project started in 1999 with 65 members after learning from success stories of Rooiwal and Masipa as these villages are not far apart. Malokong project had 44 women, 14 youth, 5 were men and 2 disabled people. All of the respondents maintain that the projects were started as a poverty alleviation measure and they were started by more women as compared to men. All the three project sites concentrate on poultry production and Rooiwal project beneficiaries also produce vegetables. All the three projects are carried out in the communal lands of the Mogalakwena Municipality with land sizes varying between five (5) and eight (8) hectares.

At Masipa project, members were required to pay (R30) thirty rands application fee and at Rooiwal poor women who were not employed were given first preference to be members. Membership at Malokong was acquired through a joining fee of fifty (R50) rands. Membership, according to the respondents, has declined over time due to deaths. Some members moved out due to uncertainty about the future sustainability of the projects while others did so due to aging of members. All the respondents suggested that they joined the projects in order to alleviate poverty and to share profits out of project activities. According to the illustration below, men are clearly outnumbered by women in all the three projects. 68 % of the project beneficiaries are female and 32% are male.

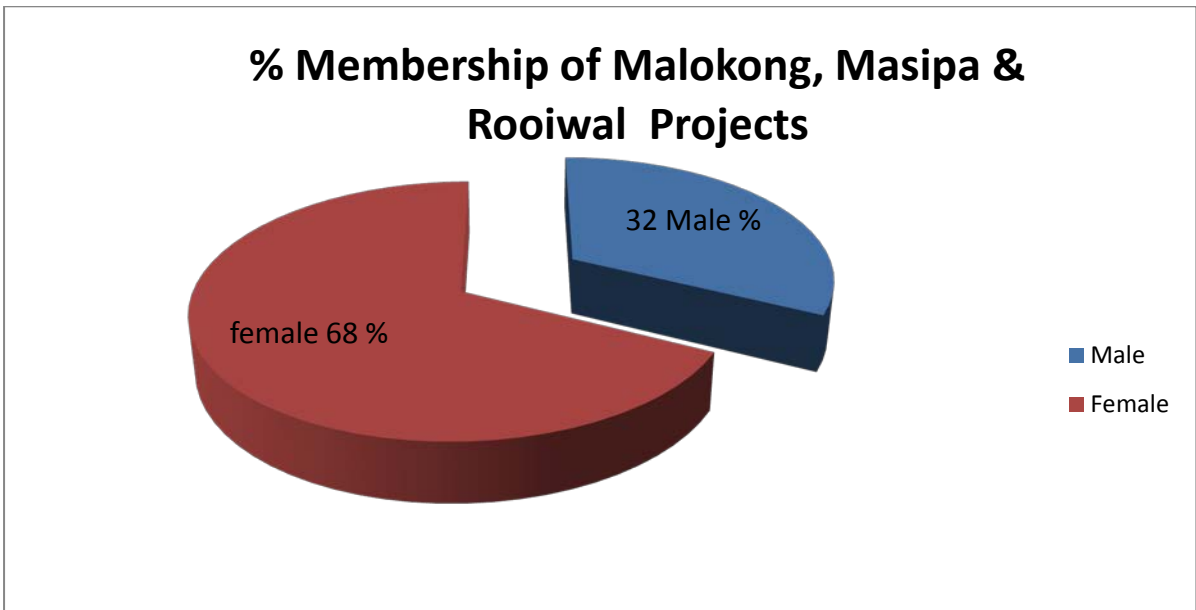


Figure 6: The project membership gender ratio percentages

From the table below, the projects exhibits sensitivity to equity issues as illustrated by the 28.6% at Malokong, 32.1% at Rooiwal and 33.3% at Masipa, all of which are special category beneficiaries as required by the equity act which also enhances the chances of accessing funding. The study shows a positive equity impact on various groups through equal ways of work allocation as well as wages:

	People with disabilities	Youth	Aged	% of total beneficiaries
Malokong	4	4	4	28,6%
Rooiwal	2	4	3	32,1%
Masipa	3	5	4	33,3%

Table 4. Number of projects beneficiaries in terms of age groups and disabilities

4.3.2. Project infrastructure and facilities

All the three projects are well resourced in terms of the required infrastructure and equipment to make work more manageable. From the table below, all the fowl runs are fenced with a diamond mesh wire and Masipa has barbed wire which should

reduce theft at the project by deterring thieves and bringing down theft. Each project has its own borehole to meet water requirements. There are about seven to nine fowl runs at each project site. Each site has a maximum carrying capacity of nine thousand birds at a particular time if there is optimisation of production. The study establishes that some facilities, such as those at Malokong, are not fully operational and this has a potential to affect production and increase mortality. Other facilities available include store rooms, marketing pens and offices for administrative purposes. The table below shows some of the facilities that are available at each project site:

FACILITY	MALOKONG	MASIPA	ROOIWAL
Project borehole	√	√	√
Diamond mesh fencing Barbed wire		√	
7-9 fowl runs	√	√	√
Carry capacity of 1000 birds	√		√
Carry capacity of 500 birds		√	√
Store Room	√	√	√
Marketing pen	√	√	√
Office	√	√	√

Table 5: Projects Resources and Facilities.

4.4. Project impact

It is clear, from the respondents, that the three projects have economic and social impact. For instance, at Rooiwal there is a close access to road networks, hence the high performance rate of the project while Masipa is second in performance due to its better roads and Malokong is lowest and difficult to access.

4.4.1 Indicators of economic impact

Income generated through the poultry projects has shown positive impact on improving life styles of beneficiaries and their households as women established stockvel clubs to which they contributed money on monthly basis which helps them in feasts and burials. Some project members were able to open Mzansi savings accounts at the Post office which made them proud and dignified citizens. The economic impact was assessed by asking the project beneficiaries about the monthly incomes that they receive and how they spent it, how adequate it is in relation to their needs. The study also compared the income earned in relation to other sources of income. Economic impact was also measured in terms of the number of sustainable jobs which the project created for women. The acquisition of assets is also seen as an important measure of economic impact as the project members assist their spouses by buying furnisher, household equipment and clothing for children while others go to an extent of buying livestock, which is regarded by local people as valuable wealth. Rooiwal project has shown to be the best in this regard:

Income (Rands)	Frequency	%
1-499	11	25 %
500-999	14	35 %
1000-1999	15	40%

Table 7. Monthly Income Levels of the Projects Interviewees

a. Income

The projects enable members to receive income. All members are receiving income ranging from R1-R1999. These salaries that beneficiaries are getting enable them to finance households' expense. The results of the research confirm the findings by Barbarin and Ritcher (2001) that members in most of the cases receive an income from poverty alleviation projects. Though they are getting income, the money is not

enough to finance household expenses, especially for the 37.5% at Malokong who are receiving less than R1000 per month. This may mean that those in the 37.5% bracket are still living under perpetual poverty irrespective of their membership to income generation projects. The little money received by respondents may not be enough to buy household basic needs such as paraffin and bread given that 75% of the respondents have 7-10 dependants. The continued membership on such a petty income implies that members need extra income to break even. Other beneficiaries indicated that they just hang in there as the little dividend they are getting is better than nothing. The money received from the projects can be used to supplement household incomes brought in by spouses and relatives working elsewhere or through government social grants. When women earn some income, it helps to reduce dependence on their male counterparts.

b. Empowerment

Empowerment is generally difficult to measure. The researcher argues that, to the extent that women are able to earn a reliable and stable source of income, and are able to meet most, if not all, of their needs, they can argue that they are empowered. More importantly, empowerment can be determined by the extent to which women earn and control the businesses or projects which they are running. The study therefore, sought to explore the role of women in managing and controlling the projects by being able to negotiate with input suppliers to buy in bulk and have supplies delivered in batches. This also applies to purchases of chicks upfront for the whole year and have an arrangement to get them delivered in batches throughout the year according to demand. Poverty-alleviation projects empower rural women. They are able to participate in decision-making processes of project activities through management committees.

Participation is a process through which women beneficiaries exercise varying degrees of influence over development activities that affect their projects. In this study, 92.5% of the respondents have posited that they actively participate in the activities of the project whilst a paltry 7.5% have said that the level of participation is low. When women engage inactively in externally designed or managed projects or facilities provided through a developmental project, they seem to be essentially non-

participatory but rubber stamped participants. Participation in project activities is, therefore, assessed in terms of the measure of influence beneficiaries' exercise over development activities affecting their lives.

Gilbert *and Gugler* (1995) suggest that participation by local people contributes significantly towards sustainability of rural poverty alleviation projects. When people participate, they take responsibility for carrying out programs. In this study, 92.5% respondents' say that they participate in feeding the broilers, cleaning the fowl runs, 70% have participated in training programmes to enhance production while 37.5% said they participate in decision making process.

c. Employment

As indicated earlier poverty alleviation projects help creates employment. In other words, these projects help reduce unemployment among women, rural women in particular. All the respondents have indicated that they joined the schemes due to poverty and to gain some form of employment. This enables members to desist from social vices such as prostitution, theft and gossip. The creation of rural employment through poverty alleviation projects helps to reduce rural-urban migration (Fischler, 2006) as well as congestion and overcrowding in urban areas. When women are employed, they can share household expenses with their spouses.

Callaghar *et al* (1997) found out that when women contribute some income in their families, it helps reduce violence against them in the home and increases chances of stable families. Poverty alleviation projects are a source of employment for both men and women. In this study, it was interesting to discover that even special groups of people are catered for and are given an opportunity to participate in the economy and contribute to the Gross Domestic Product.

In this study, respondents indicate that 28.6% of the beneficiaries are special groups at Malokong, 32.1% at Rooiwal and 33.3% at Masipa. These special groups include people with disabilities, the youth and the aged. Though these projects are contributing to the community through meat product and employment creation, their

activities are not well documented and therefore, not imputed in the calculation of the gross Domestic product (Roefs, 2001).

One feature that is characteristic of most rural areas is the prevalent of low educational qualifications among women. In this study, only 37.5% of the respondents went as far as Grades 10-12 and none of them has a tertiary educational qualification. This implies that women with low educational qualification can be given an opportunity to productively participate in the economy and be gainfully employed. The low educational levels indicate low skills among beneficiaries which makes it difficult for them to fit in the formal labour market which requires skilled labour. These agricultural projects can accommodate these unskilled women and act as a motivator for the success of these projects as failure would spell doom for these women.

d. Skills development

Projects offer beneficiaries an opportunity to develop their skills. Thus, the study also assessed the extent to which the projects improved the skills of beneficiaries in relation to poultry production. Representatives from each of the projects attended production management courses and marketing while few attended customer care offered by department of Labour. Beneficiaries are also empowered through education and training provided by SEDA and Government Departments. In this study, 70% of the respondents have received training on production of broilers thereby empowering them with knowledge to start their own individual businesses. Sixty-two point five percent (62.5%) of the respondents also attended courses in basic bookkeeping and marketing, equipping beneficiaries with pre-request skills need for project sustainability.

e. Development of physical infrastructure

An important indicator to measure an impact is the development of physical infrastructure, for example, construction of project related infrastructure. Rooiwal is intending to construct another marketing pan and acquire a water pump for their second borehole which they want to dedicate to gardening while Masipa intends to

build a boardroom for project meetings. Malokong intends to install an automatic drinking system for their chicken pans.

f. Provision of goods locally

The poultry projects in Masipa, Malokong and Rooiwal assist in the provision of chicken products at affordable prices to community members and to other neighbouring local communities. Due to lack of capital infrastructure, they cannot supply processed chicken meat products. The projects provide cheap chicken meat to locals without paying for transport costs of going to the nearest town (Mokopane) to buy meat. The project, therefore, reduces transport costs for women and community members who, instead of going to town to buy fresh chicken, would get it locally from the production site.

g. Rural infrastructure development

The results for the study indicate that poverty alleviation poultry projects help in the development of rural infrastructure. The fowl runs at the three sites have a maximum capacity of holding 9000 birds each, meaning that the combined total output can be 27000 birds for the three project sites. If such projects can be improved, it can lead to the construction of an abattoir and processing plants for the production of meat products such as polony and others. All the respondents indicated that fowl runs are fenced with diamond mesh wire and a borehole to provide clean water. Future plans include construction of a collaborative abattoir with international standards. The development of rural physical infrastructure will help boost the business growth of rural women.

h. Business skills

The projects enable members to develop economic skills required for survival in everyday life. Women who are beneficiaries receive training in bookkeeping which helps them in their budgeting skills. One of the respondents said that the training courses help in 'self management'. Women are equipped with skills necessary to do financial planning to improve their wellbeing as well as that of their families.

Beneficiaries are also taught production skills which help them develop entrepreneurial skills so that they can become effective economic players. These business skills will also help them start their own poultry projects or diversify into other business spheres using available resources in their communities.

4.4.2 Indicators of Social Impact

a. Social networking

Human beings are gregarious creatures wanting to belong together and connect in a system that bonds them into a closely knit entity called community. One important aspect of human life is social interaction. For this reason, beneficiaries developed social networking systems by joining these poverty alleviation projects. Projects provide platform for information-sharing on issues of common concern that stretch beyond the project itself. In this study, 15% of the respondents became members based on their friendship. Social networks are a source of sound social and financial security and in some cases; members give one another credit on the basis of social collateral (Sandra Yu 1990). Socialisation at the project site may, therefore, enhance social capital which is a necessary ingredient for social development.

b. Food security

Malnutrition and disease are just but a few of the threats associated with food insecurity. Any common problem among people has a potential to bring cohesion particularly among vulnerable groups. The study discovered that broiler chicken meat produced at these projects provides a cheap source of "fresh relish 'with high protein value for beneficiaries as well as the community at large. Live chickens produced locally are preferred as local people believe that they have more nutritional value because they were not frozen for extended period of time. Production therefore, ensures that food is available for consumption. It also increases food security among the rural population.

c. Social responsibility

Ploughing back into society through cash or kind contribution is an integral part of social responsibility. The study established that the poultry projects believe in donating for a good cause but can only donate in kind the commodity they produce and not the money they generate. Rooiwal donates 4 live chickens per family per month to four child-headed families, Masipa donates 3 live chickens per week to a local day care centre which has a fair number of orphans and Malokong donates live chickens to Mahlabathini crèche. An interesting discovery in the study is the fact that all of the three projects pledge support in disaster incidents whereby they provide live chickens to affected households in the community.

Respondents suggested that they are engaged in social responsibility. Sixty-five percent of the respondents said that they have contributed chicken meat to community activities such as graduation ceremonies for crèches in the local community and centres for people living with disabilities. They give these generous donations as part of their social responsibility activity.

d. Special interest groups

Social cohesion emanates from individuals who share common interests. Such individuals tend to group themselves into what we call special interest groups. Projects host special day's celebrations such as world food day, national women's day, national youth day in partnership with government or other agencies. This is where community members get the opportunity to learn and understand, and take up membership of such organisations. The study also revealed that constructive engagement among the youth in Love Life activities at the project may help in the reduction of unwanted pregnancies while, at the same time, promoting volunteerism at the project. This, it is believed, may reduce HIV/AIDS infections. In this study, it was established that the youth comprise 12.9% of the total project beneficiaries within the three projects.

4.5. Project Sustainability

A sustainable project, in a layman's language, is one in which the inputs do not exceed the outputs while outputs provide for profit and surplus investment. The results suggest that all the members agree that threats of market shifts and international recessions need to be strongly mitigated by proactively expanding their markets to ensure lasting sustainability. The indicators of sustainability include, among others:

a. Management of the project

Sound management that is transparent and accountable is the backbone of sustainability in a project. The study established that less conflict among members and successful resolution of differences by the Project Management Team is a building block towards sustainability as it was illustrated at Malokong where a member failed to perform tasks and refused to apologise until she was fined and subsequently suspended for nine months after refusing to pay her fine. The study also revealed that management culture is professional as evidenced by kept records such as Visitors' Register book, which is well managed at Malokong than in the other two projects. Leave of Absence and Off-Duty Management book is properly controlled at Rooiwal, where leaves are scheduled and contribute towards a percentage of the salary as contrasted to a full salary in the case of government employees.

b. Financial viability

Financial viability is maintained if a project is able to break even in its cash flow management but most importantly, have audit opinion of its financial management. All the three projects have each appointed a bookkeeper to look into the financial administration of their projects. The respondents indicate that external funding such as donor or grants are difficult to manage, particularly those that are itemised or ring-fenced. Some of these monies are kept in government coffers and released bureaucratically. In the study, 97.5% of the respondents indicated that the projects lack capital to finance project activities. Though the government has set aside funds

for these projects, it is difficult to access the money. The global financial turmoil has exacerbated the situation by radically increasing the price of production inputs.

c. Skills

Acquisition of skills is not eventful or a once-off phenomenon. It is something that should be on-going for the advancement of performance and maximisation of performance. The study revealed that 70% of the project members attended training but the skills acquired are not implemented under monitoring while equipment and accessories for implementing some of the skills are not available.

The study also established that respondents feel that follow-up on skills training and close monitoring by Agricultural Extension Officers are not done adequately:

Project name	No. trained %		No. not trained	%
Rooiwal	9	66%	6	40%
Malokong	12	85.7%	2	14,3%
Masipa	7	63.6%	4	36,4%
Total	28	70%	12	30%

Table 7: Skills development and on the job training

d. Market

A well established and reliable market is a prerequisite for a sustainable business project. In the study, the researcher found that Rooiwal has a market radius of up to 100km from which the bulk of buyers place orders telephonically or by personally visiting the project. Malokong has the same arrangements but the challenge of a mushroomed competitor within a 20km radius poses a threat to the project market's sustainability. The study revealed that bulk buyers and non-bulk buyers cannot be relied upon as a sure market as there are no formal contracts signed. Masipa project sells at government grants pay-out points and their challenge is that it costs them more if the social grants agency changes dates and venues where they normally sell.

e. Exit strategy

An exit strategy for the project is a tool that helps maintain sustainability as it proactively clears fears and doubts, and promotes self-confidence. The researcher found that the poverty-alleviation projects have no exit strategy that ensures decommissioning of the project and complete handing over to the beneficiaries. The researcher also identified the threat of a possible collapse of the poverty alleviation endeavour if old projects do not graduate from the programme and new ones introduced.

4.6 General Discussion on Research Findings

The impact of poverty-alleviation projects on women's development can be observed to be tangible as most challenges that face unemployed impoverished rural women were addressed. The results indicate that all the respondents think that some of the benefits that accrue to members as a result of the projects include income generation, skills development and food security. Communities also benefit from the projects by purchasing live chickens for slaughter and consumption. According to the results, all the respondents suggest that the community gets chicken manure from the project, which is used in gardening, field crops and livestock feeding by farmers who use chicken manure for supplementary feeding. Members of the community also get seasonal jobs that are said to be active during the festive seasons.

All the respondents feel that the projects contribute to self-enhancement of individuals as members are paid a salary depending on the number of days they shall have worked. Members also participate in project planning through the Project Management Committee. The project also enables members to develop skills in business management and poultry production hence self-reliance. Communities also benefit by the material contributions made by management committees to community activities. Their social responsibility activities include paying for graduation ceremonies for local pre-schools (crèches).

According to the results from respondents, the projects were not spared by the recent global economic meltdown. The economic meltdown increased the cost of feed stock, chemicals and transport costs. Some of the challenges that are faced by members when hiring seasonal employees include nepotism. Transport to deliver their products is also problematic as there are no projects vehicles and the road is not accessible as well, especially during rainy seasons. The researcher also observed that there are no machinery such as computers and faxes, despite the existence of an office at each of the three project sites.

4.7 Conclusion

The focus of this chapter was on the presentation and discussion of the research findings. The study established that poverty-alleviation projects have a positive impact on the socio-economic situation of poor women in rural communities, particularly project members and the community at large, because they can afford to buy fresh chicken meat produced in their local communities. The projects create employment, which provides income to members and it can be used to pay for their children's education and health bills. Women can use these projects as a platform to improve their socio-economic wellbeing and that of their families. The study also established that the projects are the nucleus of social cohesion as they also act as service points by attracting government departments and other corporations to come and market themselves in the community.

CHAPTER 5

RESEARCH CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The focus of this research was on impact of poverty-alleviation projects on women's development in rural communities of the Mogalakwena Municipality in the Limpopo Province. The case study focused on the three projects, namely: Malokong, Masipa and Rooiwal Poultry projects. The results confirm the perceptions held by project beneficiaries at the above three projects. This chapter is a summary of the research document starting from the problem statement where the researcher wanted to ascertain whether the poverty-alleviation projects are assisting in reducing poverty on rural women.

The researcher's aim in this study was to generate information on the impacts of poverty-alleviation projects at the Mogalakwena Municipality in the Limpopo Province. These projects are part of the Agricultural Development Strategy aligned to the Local Economic Development policy that aims to reduce poverty among rural communities. The study also looked at verifying the role played by poverty-alleviation projects among rural women in terms of economic and social spin offs. The provision of skills and building of capacity among the impoverished rural women was one of the key focuses of the study, while ways to enhance government Agricultural Development Strategy as poverty-intervention strategy were also discussed.

There were research questions formulated for the study and among them were: What necessitated the introduction of poultry projects as a way of alleviating poverty at Mogalakwena in the Limpopo Province?;What were the criteria to select project members?;Was there any impact of poverty-alleviation projects on women's development in terms of livelihoods, skills and income?;What were the challenges experienced by women in implementing the poverty-alleviation projects at Rooiwal, Masipa and Malokong?;What were the strategies that could be used to promote sustainability of poverty-alleviation projects?.

The research methodology used in the study is mainly qualitative. The non-probability convenience sampling was used to come up with a sample of 40 subjects who are all women from all three poultry projects of Malokong, Masipa and Rooiwal. A standardised questionnaire was developed and used to solicit information from respondents. This questionnaire was coupled with observations and questions directed to the respondents.

5.2 Summary of Findings

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.

5.3 Conclusion

Evidence gathered through the study demonstrated that poverty-alleviation projects have a positive impact on the development of women. Based on a few but critical impact indicators, the study showed that:

- a. Poverty-alleviation projects improved income earned by female project members as these members did not have a single income before but they were able to earn something since the inception of the projects;
- b. There was evidence that some of the women purchased household assets such as furniture and household equipment using income from the project. The researcher found that the money earned was used for tangible items such as the buying of livestock like goats at Masipa project, while at Rooiwal, a member was able to extend a house, and at Malokong it is a means of survival. In other words, without it, members could not make ends meet;
- c. The researcher is convinced that poverty alleviation projects were initiated as a response to a poor social networking among poor rural women in the Mogalakwena Municipality. The key social responsibilities from the projects include donations to schools, crèches and orphans. It is also established that information-sharing was not done before as there was no platform for this to happen, but currently; the three projects are centres of information-sharing and social dialogue. The researcher also established that the idea of poverty-alleviation projects was not parachuted into the communities as a top-down approach but a bottom-up one which was supported by parties in the community. It is further established that legal mandates within the framework of Agricultural development strategy and Local Economic Development are all at play within the entire development agenda of government;
- d. Most of the women also reported that they have been empowered. In the study, women are empowered to participate in the decision-making

processes in the day to day running of the project while they are also empowered through available education and training opportunities that are offered by supporting organisations. At the Rooiwal project, one of the women members of the project was able to contest for and won a municipal councillorship position using knowledge, experience and skills acquired through the project training initiatives. Another success story scenario is that of a woman member from Malokong project who also succeeded in securing a job that required skills which she obtained through training at the project;

- e. The research has proved that women empowerment in the projects has made a huge difference as more women were recruited than men and when seasonal work opportunities arise; it is women that are given priority than men. The study established that women make up 68% of the membership in all three projects while men account for only 32%;
- f. Another very important establishment by the researcher in the study is that infrastructure development to enhance projects sustainability should be viewed in the broad sense and in the context of access roads networks and project buildings and facilities. The sustainability plan, in this regard, is twofold where project based and collaborative infrastructure enhancement initiatives are planned. These include the installation of the second water pump motor and water reticulation system within the project at Rooiwal for existing food garden purposes. Malokong has plans to upgrade their automatic drinking system functional as it is outdated. A collaborative sustainability plan for enhancement of all three projects is the construction of an abattoir which should service all three projects plus other emerging individual poultry projects in the area.

A general conclusion to draw is that the study was successful in establishing the real impact of poverty-alleviation projects on women's development in rural communities of the Mogalakwena Municipality in Limpopo Province as evidenced by the case study of the three poultry projects. It is worth noting that as the women participants were totally unemployed and had no means of generating income, the poverty-alleviation projects bridged that gap. Most of the women had poor educational backgrounds but the projects built bridges for them to be literate and acquire skills that made a huge difference in their lives. The success story of these projects can be

used as reference to initiate similar projects in the municipal area, the Waterberg District and the entire Limpopo Province.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the study conducted and the findings of the study, the researcher has the following recommendations to make:

- The government should fund branding and collective marketing of poverty alleviation projects;
- Clear and visible signage from provincial and municipal roads is essential for routing potential buyers and investors;
- Upgrading of access roads to the projects should be prioritised as it affects delivery of inputs and dispatch of products to the markets;
- The government should assist projects with linkages to progressive markets in the province;
- Agricultural Extension Officers should be actively involved in the monitoring and evaluation of poverty-alleviation projects so as to recommend interventions;
- A continuous project-risk assessment review needs to be conducted and mitigations put in place to prevent collapse;
- Members should be provided with financial opportunities by government agencies and NGOs is starting their own business; and
- The government should set up a poverty allocation fund to finance the activities of such projects.

5.5 Suggested Areas for Further Research

This research was carried out in the Mogalakwena Municipality at the project sites in Masipa, Malokong and Rooiwal. The results represent findings from those three projects and it will be very interesting to carry out a replica of the research at a large scale. In order to have a sound knowledge of poverty alleviation, the following are

suggested areas of study that raised interest to the research during the process of conducting this research:

- Investigating best practices that can be employed by Agricultural Extension Officers to boost production of poverty alleviation projects;
- Investigating the possibility of setting up a Trust Fund by the government, earmarked for poverty-alleviation projects; and
- The role social network in recruiting and retaining members.

These were some of the gaps that were not properly addressed in this research since it was limited to the impact of poverty alleviation projects on the development of women.

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ADDENDA

Addendum A: Research Questionnaire

**UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO
TURFLOOP GRADUATE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP
POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROJECTS QUESTIONNAIRE**

**TOPIC: The Impact of Poverty Alleviation Projects on Women's Development
in Rural Communities of Mogalakwena, Limpopo Province**

The objective of this questionnaire is to gather information relating to the topic about rural women's development emanating from the implementation of poverty alleviation projects at Mogalakwena Municipality in Limpopo Province. The questionnaire also seeks to establish the extent to which the projects have benefited the project beneficiaries. The information collected using the questionnaire is meant to be of high confidentiality and to be used for academic purposes only.

Questionnaire Guidelines

Please answer the questions below by giving a concise and precise explanation. Tick with an X in the appropriate box where applicable.

SECTION A

1. Bio-Data

1.1 What is your age?

- | | | |
|-------------|----|--------------------------|
| 21-30 years | 1. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 31-40 years | 2. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 41-50 years | 3. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 51-60 years | 4. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 61+ years | 5. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1.2 What is your marital status?

Single	1.	<input type="text"/>
Married	2.	<input type="text"/>
Divorced	3.	<input type="text"/>
Widowed	4.	<input type="text"/>

1.3 Gender

1. Male	<input type="text"/>	2. Female	<input type="text"/>
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1.4 What is your highest Educational Qualification?

a. ABET	<input type="text"/>	b. Gr. 1-3	<input type="text"/>	c. Gr.4-6	<input type="text"/>
d. Gr.7-9	<input type="text"/>	e. Gr.10-12	<input type="text"/>	f. Tertiary	<input type="text"/>

1.5 How many dependants do you have?

a. 1 - 3	<input type="text"/>	b. 4 - 6	<input type="text"/>	c. 7 - 10	<input type="text"/>	d. 10+	<input type="text"/>
----------	----------------------	----------	----------------------	-----------	----------------------	--------	----------------------

1.6 What is your monthly income from the project in rands?

0-499	1.	<input type="text"/>
500-999	2.	<input type="text"/>
1000-1999	3.	<input type="text"/>
2000-2999	4.	<input type="text"/>
3000+	5.	<input type="text"/>

1.7 What is your income from other sources

a. Less than R1000	<input type="text"/>	b.R1001 – R5000	<input type="text"/>	c.R5001 –R10 000	<input type="text"/>	d.R10000+	<input type="text"/>
--------------------	----------------------	-----------------	----------------------	------------------	----------------------	-----------	----------------------

1.8 What is your monthly expenditure?

a. Less than R600	<input type="text"/>	b.R601 – R1000	<input type="text"/>	c.R1001 – R5 000	<input type="text"/>	d.R5 000+	<input type="text"/>
-------------------	----------------------	----------------	----------------------	------------------	----------------------	-----------	----------------------

2. SECTION B: PROJECT INFORMATION

2.1 Give a brief account of how the project started

.....
.....
.....

2.2 Which commodity/ies does your project produce?

a. Livestock		b.Poultry		c.Vegetables		d.Other	
--------------	--	-----------	--	--------------	--	---------	--

2.3 What is the size of the project in hectares?

a. 1 – 4 ha		b.5 – 8ha		c.9 –12ha		d.12ha+	
-------------	--	-----------	--	-----------	--	---------	--

2.4 What is the land ownership status?

a. Communal land		b. Private		c. Municipal		d.Other	
------------------	--	------------	--	--------------	--	---------	--

2.5 What criterion did they use for one to become a member?

.....
.....
.....

2.6 How is the project membership gender equity addressed?

a. Males		b.Females	
----------	--	-----------	--

2.7 What is the project's representativity of youth, people with disabilities and the aged?

a. People with disabilities		b. Youth		c. The aged	
-----------------------------	--	----------	--	-------------	--

2.8 Did the project membership increase or decline? If yes, why?

.....
.....
.....

2.9 Which reasons motivated you to join the project?

.....

2.10 Why were poultry projects high priorities among other poverty alleviation Projects in Mogalakwena Municipality?

.....

3. SECTION C: PROJECT INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

3.1 How is the project fenced off?

a. Diamond mesh		b. Barbed wire		c. Palisade fence		e. Wall	
-----------------	--	----------------	--	-------------------	--	---------	--

3.2 What is the project's source of water?

a. Communal borehole		b. Own borehole		c. Municipal supply		d. Other	
----------------------	--	-----------------	--	---------------------	--	----------	--

3.3 How many fowl runs are erected on the project site?

a. 1 - 3		b. 4 – 6		c. 7 - 9		d. 10+	
----------	--	----------	--	----------	--	--------	--

3.4 What is the carrying capacity per fowl run?

a. 500		b. 750		c. 1000		d. 1500+	
--------	--	--------	--	---------	--	----------	--

3.5 What other facilities are there on the site?

a. Hospital pen		b. Store room		c. Marketing pen		e. Office	
-----------------	--	---------------	--	------------------	--	-----------	--

4. SECTION D : PROJECT BENEFITS

4.1 What are the benefits of the project to the members?

a. Income generation		b. Skills		c. Food security		d. Other	
----------------------	--	-----------	--	------------------	--	----------	--

4.2 In which ways does your community derive benefits from the project?

a. Poultry Manure		b. Seasonal jobs		c. Business linkages		d. Other	
-------------------	--	------------------	--	----------------------	--	----------	--

4.3 List three main challenges posed by the community on the project?

- a.....
- b.....
- c.....

4.4 Name any three empowerment opportunities that you benefited you in the project?

- a.....
- b.....
- c.....

4.5 What is the project's key social responsibility contribution in your community?

.....
.....
.....

4.6 What are investment plans of the project from your surplus income and profit?

.....
.....
.....

4.7 How did the recent global economic meltdown affect your project?

.....
.....
.....

5. SECTION E: PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

5.1 Where do you see this project going in three to five years from now?

.....
.....
.....

5.2 Against which of the following phenomena is your project insured?

a. Natural disaster		b. Theft		c. unrests & arson		d. Other	
---------------------	--	----------	--	--------------------	--	----------	--

5.2 Have you ever attended any accredited training courses on poultry production?

Yes No

5.2.1 If yes, list the courses and organisations that offered them

.....
.....
.....

5.3 How is the project membership succession plan structured?

.....
.....
.....

5.4 Which organisation/s provide(s) regular technical and administrative support to the project?

.....
.....
.....

5.5 Which organisations provided major financial support to the project?

.....
.....
.....

5.6 Which innovation can enhance the current performance of the project?

.....
.....
.....

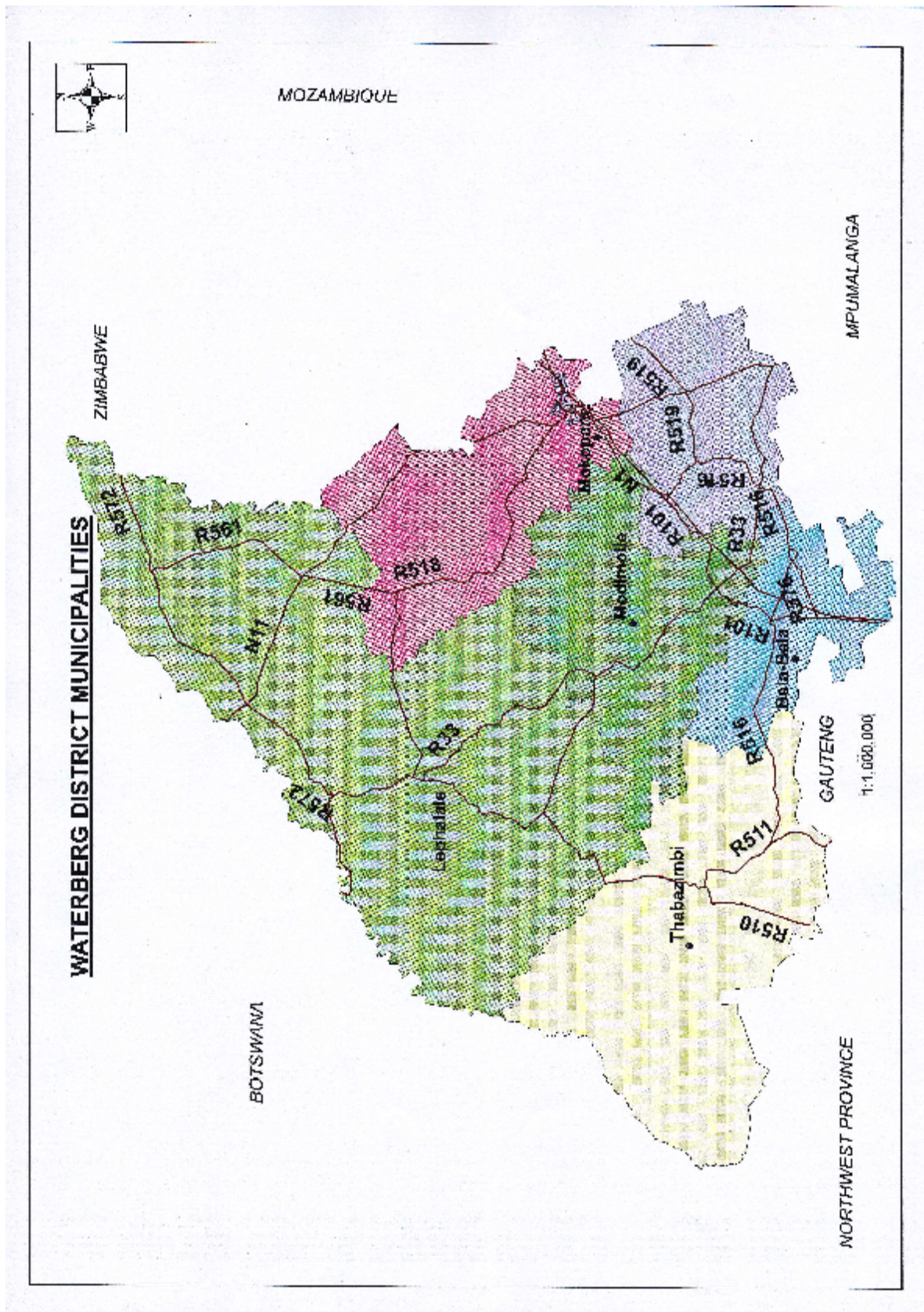
Project Name.....

Respondent No..... Date.....

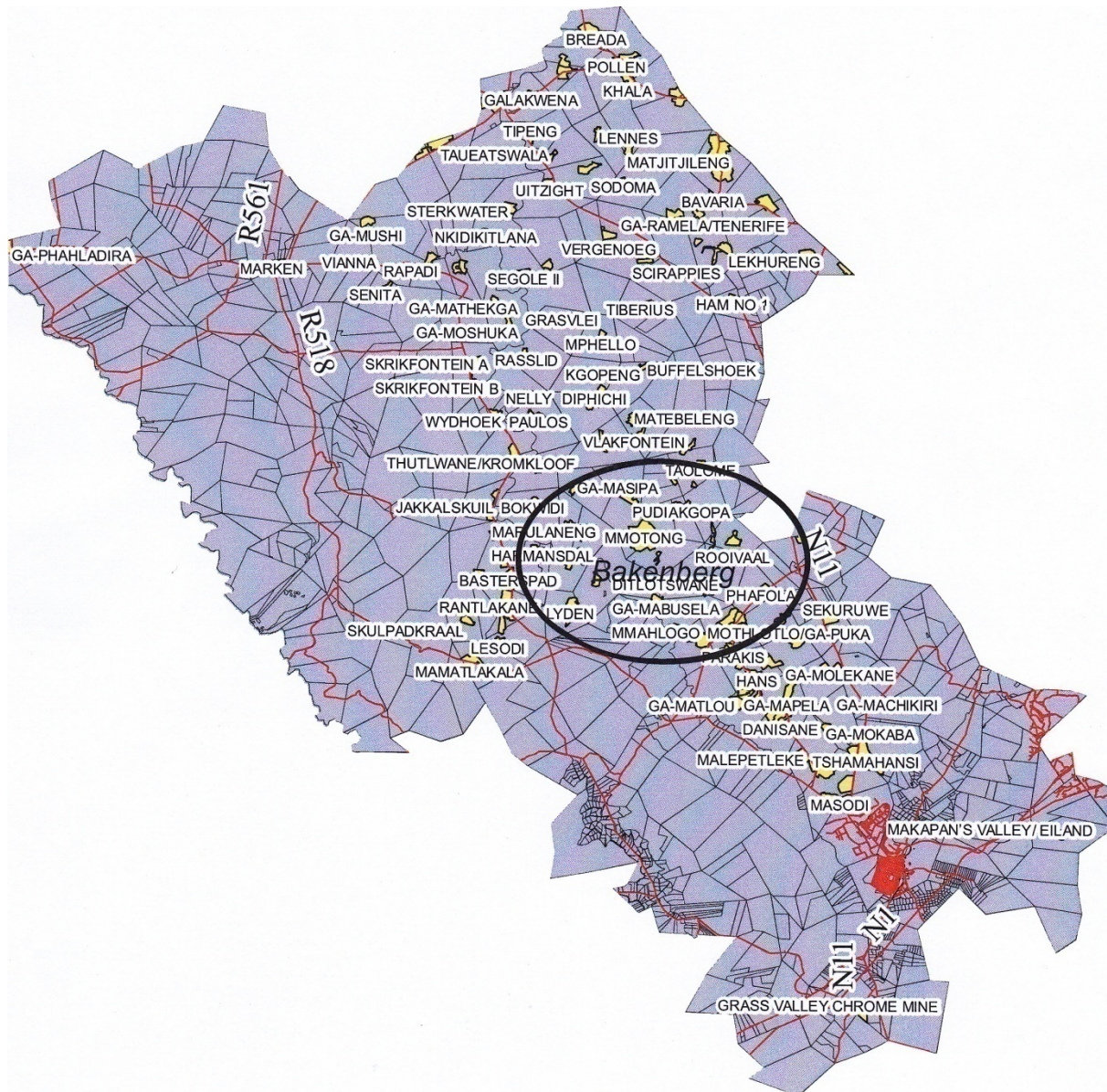
Signature.....

**Thank you for your time and effort in completing this questionnaire. It is highly
valued and significant**

addendum B: Research Area Map, Waterberg District Municipality



Addendum C: Research Area Map, Mogalakwena Municipality, Bakenberg



Addendum D: Arial Map of Masipa Poultry Project



Addendum E: Arial Map of Rooiwal Poultry Project



Addendum F: Arial Map of Malokong Poultry Project

