

**DIMENSIONS OF POVERTY IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS: A CASE STUDY  
OF DISTENENG SQUATTER CAMP, POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY,  
LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

**BY  
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Mini Dissertation submitted in fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree Master of Development, in the Graduate  
School of Leadership,  
Faculty of Management Sciences and Law,  
University of Limpopo

**May 2007**

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**DECLARATION**

I, Nkwini Z.S, hereby declare that this dissertation submitted for the Masters degree of Development at the University of Limpopo Graduate School of Leadership, Faculty of Management Science and Law, has not previously been submitted for a degree Masters at this or any other University and that it is my own work in design and execution and that all reference materials contained have been duly acknowledged.

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**Z S NKWINIKA**

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**DATE**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First I would like to give praises to the almighty God who created human beings in his own image and gave them wisdom to rule over other creatures on earth and to interact with one another in effectively and efficiently utilizing the resources for the improvement of their lives.

Special thanks go to my supervisor at the University of Limpopo, Professor D.G. Kirov who patiently guided my work during the whole period of study. Your support and patience triggered enormous energy that motivated me to complete this dissertation.

Thank you to Mr. L.J Marimane of Housing and Building Inspection department in Polokwane Municipality: who opened his door to me when I knocked and requested the relevant official documentation, as well as the relevant contact people for the purpose of this study.

I am indebted to my language editor Mr. A. Thomas for his dedication in editing my work. Your efforts are highly appreciated and support immeasurable.

My special thanks go to Professor M.D.M. Makofane. Your words of encouragement sparked the urge to move until this dissertation was complete.

Thanks also to Mr. V. Gelebe; for proof reading my work.

Thanks to Statistic South Africa (Limpopo region) GIS and population department for all their efforts for compiling and issuing the map for the purpose of this study. Lastly, I thank my fellow students (Chauke G.T, Maponyane P, and Matjekane N.C.) for their encouragement and support.

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this dissertation to all rural communities in the Limpopo Province who are involved in poverty alleviation projects in a quest to change the lives of poor people for the better. Beside documented information consulted while researching, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of various people who made this work a success.

Further, I would also like to dedicate this dissertation to my uncle (Mhlongo M.T), My daughter (Shalati), My Son (Vusi) and the entire family for their undisputed support throughout this study.

<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS</b>	
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency System
ANC	African National Congress
CDM	Capricorn District Municipality
WHO	World Health Organization
HIV	Human Immune Virus
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
HSL	Household Subsistence Level
IDP	Integrated Development Programme
ISRDP	Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme
LED	Local Economic Development
MLL	Minimum Living Level
PGDS	Provincial Growth Development Strategy
PSLSD	Project for Statistics and Living Standard and Development
PLM	Polokwane Local Municipality
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
UN	United Nations
UNIC	United Nations Information Center
DME	Department of Mineral and Energy

<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>		<b>PAGE</b>
TABLE 1	Migration of people to Disteneng squatter camp over a six year period	<b>37</b>
TABLE 2	Questionnaire distributed to Disteneng squatter camp	<b>42</b>
TABLE 3	Demographic characteristics of the respondents	<b>46</b>
TABLE 4	Analysis of the size of household	<b>46</b>
TABLE 5	Educational status	<b>47</b>
TABLE 6	Travelling modes	<b>50</b>
TABLE 7	Duration of stay in the Disteneng squatter camp	<b>53</b>
TABLE 8	Residents satisfaction towards the standard of living	<b>55</b>
TABLE 9	Experience and skills in relation to jobs	<b>56</b>
TABLE 10	Source of Income for the residents of Disteneng squatter camp	<b>57</b>
TABLE 11	Monthly income categories in Disteneng squatter camp	<b>58</b>

**ABSTRACT**

Apartheid land policy and its constitution as a whole conceptualized and structured South African in a way that encouraged inequalities in terms of land ownership, job opportunities and access to education and recreational facilities. The privileged few (whites and a few black elites and whosoever summarized with the former apartheid regime) got richer and richer while the less privileged people, (in this case, the majority of the black people of South Africa) got poor. They were even denied reasonable access to land and quality education. This investigative study examines the state in which they lived and how they are still living in Squatter Camp as an attempt to make qualitatively justifiable recommendations.

Informal settlement is as old as the origin of urban settlement, which existed through industrialization process worldwide. A need for peace, jobs, security, housing and land ownership resulted in the establishment of informal settlement near big towns and mines. The most disadvantaged people, those characterized by poverty due to unemployment, lack of land ownership due to one reason or another move to informally settle nearer to areas in which there are possibilities for employment opportunities and better standard of living.

Specifically, this study examines the deficiencies associated with the existing informal settlement through its assessment and evaluation. In this regard all aspects of assessment techniques of the way in which inhabitants of Disteneng informal settlement live i.e. interviewing processes (both structured and informal), observation through site visit, checking of documented information with regard to informal settlement etc have been used. The gaps that exist between urban life and the living conditions of people from squatter camp have been investigated and reflected.

The focus of the argument in this study is that the less job opportunities and access to land that people have, the more they live in squalid conditions and move to towns in search of work.

This means that the problems they face have to be addressed positively and effectively by the relevant departments of South African Government. Alternative well-serviced living conditions have to be developed and provided to these people (people living in Disteneng squatter camp). Timeously, the department of housing should take statistics of the number of people who are without houses and employment as well as those who are illiterate, so as to develop better responsive policies for addressing these problems before they are out of control.

As a mean of addressing these problems the life in Disteneng squatter camp has been investigated. The results from the data analysis, including the views of the inhabitants of Disteneng squatter camp have been reflected and recommendations were spelt out in the last chapter of this study.



<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	
Declaration	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Dedication	iii
List of abbreviations and Acronyms	iv
List of tables	v
Abstract	vi

<b>CHAPTER ONE</b>		
<b>BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY</b>		
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Problem statement	4
1.3	Motivation of the study	5
1.4	Aim of the study	5
1.5	Objectives of the study	6
1.6	Research Questions	6
1.7	Significance of the study	7
1.8	Definition of concepts	7

<b>CHAPTER TWO</b>		
<b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>		
2.1	Introduction	11
2.2	International overview on the issue of informal settlement	11
2.3	Relationship between informal settlement and poverty	13
2.3.1	Squatters, poverty and multiple effects	14
2.3.2	Victims of poverty and their symptoms	15
2.3.3	Poverty and Vulnerability	16
2.3.4	Defining poverty	17
2.3.5	Deriving an absolute poverty line	18
2.3.6	Correlation between informal and squatter settlement	18
2.4	Squatting in a South African context	20
2.4.1	Poverty in South Africa	20
2.4.2	Poverty and race	22
2.4.3	Poverty and gender	22
2.4.4	Poverty (poor services) and community participation	23
2.5	Dimensions of poverty	24
2.5.1	Housing	24
2.5.2	Water and sanitation	26
2.5.3	Energy and electrification	27
2.5.4	Telecommunication	28
2.5.5	Environment	28
2.5.6	Health	29
2.5.7	Unemployment and crime	30
2.6	Interventions to remedy poverty	32
2.7	Conclusion	34

<b>CHAPTER THREE</b>		
<b>RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</b>		
3.1	Introduction	35
3.2	Research design	35
3.3	Area of study	36
3.4	Population	37
3.5	Sampling	38
3.6	Research approaches	39
3.6.1	Quantitative approaches	39
3.6.2	Qualitative approach	39
3.6.3	Motivation for the use of quantitative and qualitative approaches	40
3.7	Validity and reliability	41
3.7.1	Validity	41
3.7.2	Reliability	41
3.8	Data gathering instruments	42
3.9	Limitation of the study	43
3.10	Ethical consideration	44

<b>CHAPTER FOUR</b>		
<b>DATA PRESENTATION AND DATA ANALYSIS</b>		
4.1	Introduction	45
4.2	Demography	46
4.3	Basic services	48
4.3.1	Housing	48
4.3.2	Electricity	49

4.3.3	Water and sanitation	49
4.3.4	Transport	50
4.3.5	Health	51
4.3.6	Education	52
4.4	Conditional factors posing threats to life in Disteneng squatter camp	53
4.4.1	Migration	53
4.4.2	Environment	54
4.5	Economic and empowerment characteristic	56
4.5.1	Employment	56
4.5.2	Employment skills and experience	56
4.5.3	Income	57
4.5.4	Access to information	58
4.6	Conclusion	59

<b>CHAPTER FIVE</b>		
<b>INTERPRETATION OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS</b>		
5.1	Introduction	61
5.2	Research findings	61
5.2.1	Findings from the secondary data analysis	62
5.2.2	Research findings from the ground	63
5.2.2.1	Findings on demography	63
5.2.2.2	Finding on social and economic condition	64
5.2.2.3	Findings on basic services	65
5.3	Policy intervention	67
5.4	Conclusion	67

<b>CHAPTER SIX</b>		
<b>CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION</b>		
6.1	Conclusion	69
6.2	Recommendation	70

<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>73</b>
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<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>81</b>
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Appendix 1	Map of the study area	82
Appendix 2	Questionnaire distributed to the community of Disteneng	83
Appendix 3	Shacks built of cheap materials	91
Appendix 4	One of the burnt shacks	92
Appendix 5	One of the rented houses	93
Appendix 6	Water tap in the mid of the road close to garbage	94
Appendix 7	Path that lead to Nelson Mandela road	95
Appendix 8	People waiting to be picked up by potential employers	96
Appendix 9	Rubble of garbage close to the shacks	97
Appendix 10	Neglected children who do not go to school	98
Appendix 11	Lonely children along the tarred busy road	99
Appendix 12	Environment in relation to industries and settlement	100
Appendix 13	Erosion that resulted from squatters' path	101

Appendix 14	Dirty water that comes from the rubbles of garbage next to the shacks	102
Appendix 15	Disteneng squatter camp children's without schooling	103
Appendix 16	Part of Disteneng squatter camp from the Arial view	104
Appendix 17	Arial view of Disteneng squatter camp	105