

MATJHABENG

**SOCIO-
ECONOMICAL
ANALYSIS:**

**GENDER /
POVERTY**

Me CEA Makhetha

SOCIO ECONOMIC ANALYSIS GENDER/POVERTY

INTRODUCTION

First of all, we need to understand what Integrated Development Planning means.

It is a process through which a municipality can establish a development plan for the short medium and long term. It enables the municipality to

- Assess the current situation in the municipality area including available resources, skills & capacities
- Assess the needs of the community
- Prioritize these needs in order of urgency and importance
- Set goals to meet these goals
- Devise strategies to achieve goals within a set time frame
- Develop and implement projects and programmes to achieve key objectives
- Set targets so that performance can be measured
- Budget effectively with limited resources
- Regularly monitor and reassess the development and make changes to where it is necessary.

Under the new constitution. Local government has a new expanded role to play. In addition to providing many of the traditional municipal services such as ensuring water provision and refuse collection – municipalities must now lead, manage and plan for development. Their task, together with National and Provincial Government, is to eradicate poverty, boost local economic development and create jobs and carry forward the process of reconstruction and development.

Broad Development function

- Participation of the community in its own government
- Communication and co-operation between community and government
- Integrated development and management of the municipal area
- Provision of infrastructure, household and community services
- Land-use regulation and planning
- Housing and township establishment
- Development planning and local economic development
- Environment and health care and public health
- Local safety and security

Key stakeholders

Certain institutions, bodies and organization and even individuals have a key role to play because of their economic, social, political or moral position within the area. These key stakeholders can provide advice, support and even resources towards achieving the objectives of the I.D.P.

How does the I.D.P. affect women?

Whilst it is important to ensure the maximum participation of all resident and stakeholders in the I.D.P. process, it is vital that the role of the women in the community be acknowledged and their support and participation be secured. Municipalities must make every effort to engage the entire community and to ensure that previously disempowered or marginalised sections of the community such as disabled people, long-time unemployed people, elderly people are fully involved.

Practical & strategic Gender Needs

These are related to the Social position of women and they are as follows:

- They are a response to an immediate perceived necessity
- They are formulated from concrete conditions
- They are derived from women's position within the gender division of labour (i.e. the women's role)
- They do not challenge the subordinate position of women although they arise out of it
- They are needs mainly arising from and arising and reinforcing women's reproductive and productive role

Practical Gender needs may include:

- Water provision
- Health Care
- Income earning for household provisioning
- Housing and basic services
- Family Food Provision

- They are needs shared by all household members, yet identified specifically as practical gender needs of women, as it is women who assume responsibility for meeting those needs
- Strategic Gender needs are related to the Social condition of women
- These are formulated by an analysis of women's subordination in society
- When addressed they should lead to the transformation of the gender division of labour
- They challenge the nature of the relationship between men and women
- They aim to overcome women's subordination

Strategic gender needs may include:

- Abolition of sexual division of labour
- Alleviation of the burden of domestic labour and child care
- The removal of institutionalised forms of discrimination such as rights to own land or property
- Access to credit and other resources

- Freedom of choice over child bearing
- Measures against male violence and control over women

EXAMPLES OF GENDER ROLES AND NEEDS OF WOMEN

	Reproductive role	Productive Role	Community Managing	Community Politics
Practical Gender Need	<p>Shop within walking distance</p> <p>Child care facilities in mother's workplace</p>	<p>Access to income generating activities</p>	<p>Extension of women's reproductive role: unpaid participation in community activities</p>	<p>Women largely absent: consultation & representation of women</p>
Strategic Gender Need	<p>Shared responsibility for shopping with husband</p> <p>Child care facilities in father's workplace</p>	<p>Abolition of gender division of labour</p> <p>Equal pay for equal work</p>	<p>Recognition for the work women do, either in payment or in status</p> <p>Equal participation of men in (organising) community activities</p>	<p>Involvement of women in local decision making</p>

What Local Government Can Do To Address Gender Issues

- * To enable women (councillors and community members) to attend meetings, local government can plan meetings in such a way that takes their domestic responsibilities into account. This means deciding on an appropriate time for women, choosing an accessible venue, offering childcare facilities, etc. Such arrangements can be advantageous to men councillors as well!
- * To redress the gender imbalances in employment, every local government has to formulate, as a priority, a human resource development policy within its overall human resource plan. This includes an affirmative action policy in recruitment, providing training and development opportunities for women, reassessing current promotional practices, etc.
- * To address the issue of sexual harassment, every local government has to formulate a sexual harassment policy. However, without appropriate mechanisms and procedures for implementation and monitoring, such a policy will be ineffective.
- * To gender-sensitise the organisational culture, all people working in local government structures (male and female) should be given relevant information regarding gender issues and gender training.
- * Encourage women to form a support network across party-political lines to collectively raise issues that affect them as women.
- * Set up a Gender Desk to design an overall gender policy for local government structures and departments. This should be accompanied by effective mechanisms and procedures to implement this policy.
- * Link up with existing civil society organisations and other government structures around gender issues.
- * Raise public awareness about gender inequalities and gender relations in the community and play an advocacy role. For example, local government can set an example by giving contracts to women entrepreneurs or local tenders that conform to a gender profile. Local government can also take a stand against domestic violence and violence against women by publicly denouncing these acts and supporting the establishment of shelters.
- * Adopt a Charter/Programme of Action, which spells out the areas of responsibility for local government regarding women and gender. In this document, the intentions of local government to address gender issues are expressed, together with a strategy to achieve this. This document could be used to monitor and evaluate policies and practices of local government.

POVERTY OR DESTITUTION

What is Destitution?

It is a state in which a person finds that he can no longer take control of his basic human needs such as providing food, shelter, clothing, etc. for himself or his family due to ill health, physical disability, natural disasters and has to look to someone to assist either temporarily or permanently.

We have two groups, A and B

Group A are temporary destitutes who can be assisted to regain their position in society i.e. get a job and be able to provide for himself and his family.

Permanent destitutes are those with no chance of regaining their ability to fend for themselves and end up being pension beneficiaries.

Cause of Destitution

The rate of destitution in Matjhabeng is increasing at an alarming rate. This is caused by the following factors: unemployment, single parent families and urban migration. The latter could also be seen as major cause of unemployment because people arrive daily seeking employment especially in the mining sector and end up without shelter and food. Breadwinners also lose their jobs, resulting in a change of lifestyle.

The stoppage of grants by the Government in certain categories has also exacerbated the situation. In the past a child grant was given up to the age of 18 yrs, but this was phased out 2 yrs ago and it is given up to 7 yrs. This has resulted in children being deprived of schooling as the parents cannot afford to pay the fees and buy uniforms. With the re-registration of pensioners a lot of qualifying people are no longer getting their grants, this resulting in abject poverty. They are given dates on which to go and register, and when they get there after being there since the early hours of the morning, they are told that there is something wrong with the computer. Once they no longer receive the grant, the families neglect them because they were seen as a source of income.

Trends

1. Starvation and malnutrition

People are practically starving – some live on water and we once came upon a case of a child who ate up newspapers and became ill because of that.

2. The poor economic climate has resulted in mines and business closing resulting in unemployment.

3. Crime

The crime rate for e.g. burglaries, break-ins, muggings, shoplifting have become the order of the day. Rape has also become rife.

4. Lack of Education

Children are forced to leave school as parents through unemployment cannot afford to pay the tuition. This has resulted in teenage pregnancies and substance abuse.

5. Prostitution

Women and young girls have been forced into prostitution for survival. Matjhabeng being a mining area has attracted a lot of run-aways from other towns. Older women, who are themselves prostitutes, take advantage of these run-aways and sell them to the mine-workers. Some are now suffering from AIDS and their families refuse to take them back.

Squatting

Near the mining areas, squatter camps have been established. Most of them do not have a shelter, they just live in the open field. It comprises of both the men and the women. The men come from other places, where they were unemployed and they came to Matjhabeng hoping to get employment. On realizing that there are no jobs available, they are afraid of going back home as they would be regarded as failures. The women left their homes because of various reasons – some were in unhappy marriages, single mothers couldn't find employment and came to Matjhabeng hoping for employment. In the face of none, they sell their bodies. There are also local women without formal housing who also live near the mines.

Child Abuse

In the absence of parental control, children are abused by relatives and neighbours causing a life-long emotional trauma.

Street Children

There is a great number of school drop-outs being physically and emotionally, abused children who have opted for life on the streets. The Provincial Administration has a re-unification process, but most of the time, they come back as they become used to fending for themselves.

Family Disintegration

Poverty has broken up a lot of marriages causing family violence. This is caused by the frustration experienced by the breadwinner who starts drinking and start physically to abuse the wife and the children.

General increase in alcohol and drug abuse

Poverty leads to the break-down of one's self-esteem and to drown this frustration, people resort to substance abuse.

Impact

The Government and Local Council were forced to put into operation the Poverty, Alleviation, Housing and the Indigent Policies.

Poverty alleviation did however not have the desired effects in most cases, for the following reasons:

1. It does not reach all the people it is meant for
2. Those who managed to set it either abused the funds or lost interest as the results are normally in certain cases long-term and don't satisfy the need immediately i.e. money to buy food, etc.
3. Higher wages demand led to businesses closing down and causing more unemployment.
4. Not everybody qualifies for a social grant and those not qualifying were not catered for by means of food parcels.
5. Poverty has also lead to a break down in the Education System as most parents can not afford to pay the fees.
6. The rights of women are also violated, as they have to market themselves as commodities in order to ward off poverty. This makes them vulnerable to AIDS and HIV epidemic.
7. The social order has collapsed as crime escalates because of poverty.

Weakness

1. Lack of manpower in the rendering of Social Services. In Matjhabeng there is a need for Welfare Services to be established in all the Units so that the emotional and the primary needs of the people can be addressed.
2. Lack of destitute relief especially food parcels as the other policies fail to impact on the people in a meaningful way as they are starving. They appreciate the Indigent Policy, Housing Services and Projects, but the main need at the moment is food.
3. The central government have phased out a lot of policies like grants for older children, rail warrants making it difficult to repatriate people and deliver a meaningful service.
4. The government resources are stretched to the limit where crime is concerned and as a result the crime rate still rises.

Resources

1. NGO's who are willing to assist with the rendering of services and fail because of lack of funds. The government has phased out important subsidies like institutional subsidies as a result children's homes, old age homes, etc. find themselves in dire financial straits.
2. The Council can be a big resource in creating jobs if they attach Labour Intensive Public Works to their projects.
3. Mine buildings and infrastructure that can be utilised to the benefit of the community if funds can be accessed.
4. Unemployed skilled people who can be utilized for capacity building if funds can be made available.

OPPORTUNITIES

The availability of funds for e.g. the reinstatement of grants for older children, institutional subsidies and destitute relief in the form of food parcels and rail warrants for stranded people to go back home, can go a long way in making Mathabeng a thriving Municipal Area because of its potential.

Therefore for Matjhabeng to meet the needs of its communities it must strive to do the following:

1. Expedite the social grants delivery
2. Social relief in the form of food parcels – per household an amount of ± R150.00 - R200.00 to buy food.
3. Job creation initiatives and awarding tenders to women entrepreneurs
4. Structure poverty alleviation in such a way that abuse is avoided.
5. Curbing of crime
6. Improved education for the youth by creating jobs for their parents and promote skills development.
7. Providing a gender desk that is seen to be working and advocating for the rights of women and their safety.