

**COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMME AS A STRATEGY FOR
POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN THE RURAL AREAS OF THABA
NCHU, FREE STATE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**

By

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DECLARATION

I **Tshwene Bridget Malete**, student number **2013098237** declare that the mini-dissertation titled “The Community Work programme as Strategy for Poverty Alleviation in the Rural Areas of Thaba Nchu, Free State Province, South Africa” hereby submitted to the University of the Free State, for the degree of Masters in Development Studies is my own work in design and completion and has not previously been submitted by me at this or any other university; and that all materials enclosed herein has been duly accepted.

Signature

Date

TB Malete (Ms)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	ii
DEDICATIONS.....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iv
LIST OF FIGURES.....	vii
LIST OF TABLES.....	vii
ABBREVIATIONS.....	ix
CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY	1
1. 1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT.....	2
1.3 AIM OF THE STUDY.....	2
1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY	3
1.5 STUDY AREA.....	3
1.6 DEFINITION OF TERMS.....	5
1.7 CONCLUSION.....	5
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW: POVERTY.....	6
2.1 INTRODUCTION.....	6
2.2 DEFINING POVERTY	6
2.3 TYPES OF POVERTY.....	10
2.3.1 Absolute Poverty.....	10
2.3.2 Relative Poverty	11
2.3.3 Income Poverty.....	11
2.3.4 Chronic Poverty	12
2.3.5 Transient Poverty.....	12
2.3.6 Subjective Poverty.....	12
2.4 CAUSES OF POVERTY.....	13
2.5 POVERTY MEASUREMENT.....	15
2.5.1 Reasons for Measuring Poverty.....	16
2.6 DETERMINING POVERTY LINES	18
2.6.1 Absolute Poverty Line.....	18
2.6.2 Relative Poverty Line.....	19
2.7 INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON POVERTY.....	19
2.8 POVERTY IN SOUTH AFRICA.....	20
2.8.1 The Origin of Poverty in South Africa.....	22

2.8.2 Characteristics of Poverty in South Africa	23
2.8.3 Poverty and unemployment in South Africa	24
2.9 CONCLUSION.....	24
CHAPTER 3: LITERATURE REVIEW: POVERTY ALLEVIATION	26
3.1 INTRODUCTION	26
3.2 POVERTY ALLEVIATION: INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT.....	26
3.2.1 United Nations (UN) and Poverty alleviation	27
3.3 POLICY RESPONSES TO POVERTY PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA.....	29
3.4 POVERTY ALLEVIATION STRATEGIES	31
3.4.1 Poverty Alleviation Strategies in South Africa	32
3.4.2 Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Thaba Nchu	37
3.5 CONCLUSION.....	38
CHAPTER 4: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	40
4.1 INTRODUCTION	40
4.2 RESEARCH DESIGN	40
4.2.1 Research Method	40
4.2.2 Target Population	41
4.2.3 Sampling Design.....	41
4.2.4 Sampling Size.....	42
4.3 DATA COLLECTION	42
4.4 DATA ANALYSIS	44
4.5 RESEARCH ETHICS.....	45
4.5.1 Harm to participants.....	46
4.5.2 Privacy.....	46
4.5.3 Confidentiality	46
4.5.4 Deception	46
4.5.5 Consent	47
4.5.6 Authority	47
4.6 LIMITATIONS	47
4.7 MEASUREMENT MAP	49
4.8 TIMELINE	50

CHAPTER 5: FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS	53
5.1 INTRODUCTION	53
5.2 FINDINGS	53
5.2.1 Background of CWP in Thaba Nchu	53
5.2.2 Layout of the findings.....	56
5.2.2.1 Theme 1: CWP as a poverty alleviation strategy.....	57
5.2.2.2 Theme 2: The importance of CWP	59
5.2.2.3 Theme 3: Improving CWP.....	62
5.3 ANALYSIS.....	67
5.3.1 Theme 1: CWP as poverty alleviation strategy	67
5.3.2 Theme 2: The importance of CWP	68
5.3.3 Theme 3: Improving CWP.....	70
5.4 CONCLUSION.....	72
CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	74
6.1 INTRODUCTION.....	74
6.2 THE POVERTY DEBATE AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION	74
6.3 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	75
6.3.1 To determine what poverty means.....	76
6.3.2 To investigate poverty alleviation mechanisms in South Africa	76
6.3.3 To assess the CWP as a poverty alleviation initiative in Thaba Nchu.....	77
6.3.4 To supply recommendations on how the CWP can be improved.....	77
6.4 RECOMMENDATIONS	78
6.4.1 Financial and Technical support.....	78
6.4.2 Stakeholder Relationship	79
6.4.3 Training	79
6.4.4 Monitoring and Evaluation.....	79
6.4.5 CWP Awareness Campaigns.....	80
5.5 AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH	80
6.6 CONCLUSION.....	81
LIST OF REFERENCES	82
APPENDICES	A
APPENDIX A : CONSENT DECLARATION.....	A
APPENDIX B: _CONSENT FORM	B
APPENDIX C: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION: QUESTIONS GUIDE.....	C
APPENDIX D: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CWP COGTA OFFICIALS AND IMPLEMENTING AGENT	E

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Map showing where Thaba Nchu is located	3
Figure 2: Map of Thaba Nchu rural villages.....	
Figure 3: The relationship between CWP and poverty alleviation.....	

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Definitions of poverty.....	
Table 2: Features of failures causing poverty.....	14
Table 3: Poverty line used in South Africa.....	21
Table 4: CWP objectives and features	36
Table 5: Measurement map.....	49
Table 6: Gantt chart.....	50
Table 7: Villages where interviews were conducted.....	55
Table 8: Number of CWP participants	56
Table 9: Research themes	57
Table 10: CWP activities per village	57

ABBREVIATIONS

ADP	Area Development Programme
ANC	African National Congress
ASGISA	Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa
COGTA	Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
CWP	Community Work Programme
DWA	Decent Work Agenda
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
GEAR	Growth, Employment and Reconstruction
HSRC	Human Science Research Council
IA	Implementing Agent
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
LED	Local Economic Development
MDG's	Millennium Development Goals
MMM	Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
RTG	Ready to Govern
SA	South Africa
SDG's	Sustainable Development Plans
SPII	Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1. 1 INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a human destitution phenomenon which is faced by many nations and it has been a major problem in many countries. It refers to the condition of not having access to basic human needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, health and employment (Das, 2009: vii ; Narasaiah, 2004: 20; Vidyarthi, 2005: 3). It is estimated that one billion people in the whole world are still affected by poverty (United Nations Development Programme-UNDP, 2013: 3) and generally the pain of poverty is extreme in rural areas (Das, 2009: 39).

The urgency of alleviating poverty is emphasized worldwide and many countries show their commitment in fighting against this human divest issue (Das, 2009: vii-xiii). Ending poverty and all its forms everywhere is the first goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) set by world leaders (Kroll, 2015: 54). Das (2009: vii-xiii) also pointed out that numerous poverty alleviation programmes have been introduced to uplift the rural poor but poverty still persists especially in rural areas. Tripathy (2009: 41) highlighted that it is relevant and vital to be aware that poverty rapidly increases due to unemployment. According to Chikwava (2007: iii-7) one of the ways for empowering local communities is to promote poverty reduction and management of social and economic development which is the provision of effective social safety nets.

As pointed out by van Niekerk and van Niekerk (2009: 140), rural communities are faced with a number of challenges with regard to poverty reduction. They also observed that income generation programmes have brought hope to the lives of people living in rural areas. Like many other rural areas in the world, most South African rural areas are tormented by drastic poverty and chronic unemployment (De Beer & De Beer, 2011: 603; Le Roux, 2013: 506). As one of the poverty reduction strategies in South Africa, the office of the presidency has initiated the Community Work Programme (CWP) with the aim of creating employment and thereby eliminating poverty. CWP is a poverty relief programme which is targeting poor rural areas with the aim of providing an employment safety net. This programme is housed within the Department of Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Many nations around the world are faced with the problem of poverty. Poverty refers to the inability to meet basic human needs to sustain life (Ong'anya, Omuya, Ombaba & Agoro, 2012: 325; Vandenberg, 2006: 27). It refers to the state of being poor (World Bank, 2010: 1). The majority of South Africans are living in poverty and large proportions are residing in rural areas. In 2002, 11 million South Africans were living in poverty (Radebe, 2015: 1). In 2015, about 27 million South Africans were living in poverty (Mail & Guardian, 2015: 1). Furthermore, between 2002 and 2015, the number of people living in poverty has increased by 16 million. These high levels of poverty pose a serious challenge to our country. In addition to this, Frye (2006a: 38) and Masipa & Jideani (2014a: 53) observe that unemployment is the main causal factor of poverty. According to Friedman and Bengu (2008: 9-11) and Narasaiah (2004: 22) income enables people to meet the basic needs to sustain their lives.

The problem of poverty has led to the development of various poverty alleviation strategies. In South Africa (SA), one of poverty alleviation strategies is job creation. As such, South Africa has initiated various job creation programmes, including the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) which is a national programme aimed at addressing the prevailing levels of unemployment and poverty in South Africa (Sikrweqe, 2013: 47). Progress has been made in poverty alleviation, however poverty still persists in many areas within our country, including Thaba Nchu. It has even been confirmed by many studies that Thaba Nchu is one of the rural areas in SA which is commonly known for its extreme poverty rates and for its drastic increase in unemployment rates (Baiphethi, Viljoen, Kundhlande, Botha & Anderson, 2013a: 53; World Vision, 2011: 9). As a strategy to fight against poverty in Thaba Nchu, the CWP has been in place since 2010. CWP is one of the tools established by South African government in addressing the unemployment problem. This programme has already been implemented in the rural areas of Thaba Nchu. However, its importance as a poverty alleviating strategy in Thaba Nchu is unknown and this represents the research problem pursued in this study. The outcome of this study will help to improve not only the CWP, but various poverty alleviation programmes in South Africa.

1.3 AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to determine whether the Community Work Programme (CWP) is an important poverty alleviation programme in the rural areas of Thaba Nchu.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study:

- a) To determine what poverty means
- b) To investigate poverty alleviation mechanisms in South Africa
- c) To assess the CWP as a poverty alleviation initiative in Thaba Nchu
- d) To supply recommendations on how the CWP can be improved

1.5 STUDY AREA

The research will be conducted in the rural areas of Thaba Nchu. Thaba Nchu is one of the oldest rural settlements within the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality (MMM) in the Free State Province (Baiphethi *et al.*, 2013a: 53; Rural Outreach and Development Services, 2012: 8). “Thaba Nchu was a former part of Bophuthatswana during the apartheid era and it has been a home for Tswana people for more than 180 years” (Mangaung Metropolitan, 2013: 32-246; Rural Outreach and Development Services, 2012: 8). This area accounts for 15% of the population in MMM (MMM, 2012: 41). As pointed out by Baiphethi, Viljoen, Kundhlande, Ralehlolo (2010: 5) Thaba Nchu is located about 58kilometres east of Bloemfontein alongside the N8 road to Maseru, between Botshabelo and Tweespruit. The following map indicates where Thaba Nchu is located within the Free State province.

Figure 1: Map showing where Thaba Nchu is located



Source: SA places (1997: 1)

Baiphethi *et al.* (2013a: 53) pointed out that this area is dominated by rural villages where a huge number of people live. Thaba Nchu town is surrounded by 42 rural villages which make up a total of 70364 hectares (Baiphethi *et al.*, 2010: 5). Those villages can be categorized as peri-urban and deep rural villages (Baiphethi *et al.*, 2013a: 53). The villages are also demarcated into three sections namely, north, central and south. Thaba Nchu falls under the authority of Barolong Boo Seleka Traditional Council under the leadership of Kgosi Setlogelo. Each village has been allocated a leader responsible to oversee all activities in respective villages.

Like any other rural area, poverty is the major problem facing Thaba Nchu (Baiphethi *et al.*, 2010: 5; Baiphethi, Viljoen, Kundhlande & Ralehlolo, 2013b: 054; Rural Outreach and Development Services, 2012: 8). The area is also experiencing high levels of unemployment, food insecurity, water shortages and a high rate of HIV and AIDS (Rural Outreach and Development Services, 2012: 8). Unemployment in this area is regarded as both sign and cause of poverty. Baiphethi *et al.* (2013a: 53-58) observed that the rural areas of Thaba Nchu are faced with a number of unnerving challenges with regard to the elimination of the repercussion of a high level of unemployment and poverty. Barbour (2012: ii) concurred with the above researcher that job creation opportunities remain a challenge and as a result, poverty rates are very high with more than 50% of the population unemployed. Baiphethi *et al.* (2010: 5) noted that there are very limited employment opportunities especially outside agriculture. Therefore, if poverty has to be eradicated in Thaba Nchu, the strategies should focus on job creation.

As a result, several poverty alleviation programmes have been introduced. Mostly, those programmes have been centered on job creation. These include programmes such as EPWP, Working for Water, Working for Fire and Land Care. Beside the tremendous impact made by these programmes, poverty continues to strain such efforts. The CWP which will be the main focus in this study was also introduced to create employment and thereby eradicate poverty. CWP is a government initiative aimed at providing an employment safety net in the area (COGTA, 2013: 1). As pointed out by COGTA (2014: 1) the programme targets poor rural areas.

The researcher chose to conduct the study in Thaba Nchu because this area is faced with poverty and unemployment as confirmed by many studies. Job creation opportunities remain a challenge and as a result, poverty rates are very high in more than 50% of the total population (Barbour, 2012: ii). Therefore, it is very important that this study be conducted to determine the effectiveness of CWP in poverty alleviation. Furthermore, the outcome of this study will assist in making recommendations as

to how poverty alleviation programmes can be improved in South Africa.

1.6 DEFINITION OF TERMS

- i) **Poor** - refers to lacking sufficient income to live at a standard considered normal in a society
- ii) **Rural Areas** - isolated areas with low population density (Du Plessis, Beshiri, Bollman & Clemenson, 2002: 8)
- iii) **Basic Needs** - Basic needs are those things that are needed in order for an individual to survive as human being. These includes adequate food, clean water, appropriate clothing, shelter and physical and emotional security.
- iv) **Livelihood** - refers to a means of securing the necessities of life. This includes people's capabilities, assets, income and material and social resources.
- v) **Poverty Alleviation** - decreasing the negative impact of poverty on the livelihood of poor people in a sustainable and permanent way (Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute-SPII, 2007: 14).
- vi) **CWP** - a programme specifically designed to react to the state of unemployment, targeting the poorest and most marginal areas by offering continuous access to a minimum level of part-time work (Philip, 2013b: 12).
- vii) **Implementing Agent** - an agent contracted by government to implement programmes and projects

1.7 CONCLUSION

The purpose of this chapter was to introduce the study by providing the background, problem statement with motivation to conduct the study, aim and objectives as well as the introduction of the study area. The contribution to be made by this study was also highlighted. The next chapter will provide detailed discussion about poverty as a concept.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW: POVERTY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The concept of poverty has become popular like ever before. Countries across the world are experiencing poverty. Sirajo and Zayyanu (2014: 199) highlighted that poverty concept is one of the most conversant conditions known to humanity. They also noted that poverty is complicated to understand, but James (1972: 1-6) noted that it is important to define it in order to establish approaches of ending it.

Poverty is a multi-dimensional and dynamic concept which includes many things. As highlighted by Spicker (2007: 3) poverty means different things to different people and there is no single simple consistent way of defining it. Meaning there is no single perfect definition of poverty, everybody define it the way it best suit them. The purpose of this chapter is therefore to put forward various possible definitions of poverty, poverty types and causes of poverty, poverty measurement and also discussing poverty in international and South African perspectives.

2.2 DEFINING POVERTY

It is generally recognized that poverty is a complex phenomenon and there is a wide range of opinions on poverty definitions (Govender, Kambaran, Patchett, Ruddle, Torr, & Van Zyl, 2007: 124). Rajasekhar (2004: 9) added that poverty is not a stagnant phenomenon. The notion of poverty changes over time. Many literature revealed that traditionally, poverty was associated with lack of resources, but currently the understanding on poverty concept has been enhanced and expanded.

Poverty reflects many faces and it changes from time to time and place to place. Poverty is hunger, lack of shelter, being sick and not able to afford health care, having fear for the future and being poor. One is considered poor if their income level or consumption is below the minimum level required to meet basic life necessities. (World Bank, 2010: 1)

Poverty is the inability to meet basic human needs (Das, 2009: vii; Narasaiah, 2004: 20; Ong'anya, Omuya, Ombaba & Agoro, 2012: 325; Vandenberg, 2006: 27; Vidyarthi, 2005: 3). The above researchers regard, poverty as associated with features such as food insecurity, unemployment, lack of shelter, poor health, lack of land and no access to education. But Hussain, Bhuiyan and Bakar

(2014: 559) define poverty as the lack of income or assets, disempowerment, lack of confidence and competence. They also noted that poverty may also arise from low productivity and financial constraints faced by households.

According to UNDP (2013: 3) poverty does not only refer to shortage of income, but it is also comprises of mixed human deprivation factors such as not being able to exercise rights, not having the opportunity to participate and have a voice in issues. Thomas (2000: 3-10) regards poverty as under-development. Das (2009: iii) stated that in almost every country whether developing or under-developed, the existence of poverty is seen in different ways.

According to James (1972: 1-6) people are considered to be living in poverty when their income falls markedly below that of the society. Vidyarthi (2005: 1) concurred with James by saying that poverty can be noticed by low income which deprives the people from affording the basic human needs. Vandenberg (2006: 27) argues that poverty is not all about income. He noted that poverty is a broad term which refers to the condition when people lack material resources. But the researcher is of the opinion that poverty refers to when one is living in bad conditions.

Masipa and Jideani (2014b: 559) regard poverty as lack of income, assets, power, competence, confidence and disempowerment. They also believe that poverty arise from low productivity at household level and lack of finance. Townsend (1971: 2) recognised that poverty should be viewed as a general relative deprivation originating from mal-distribution of the resources.

Vandenberg (2006: 1-8) recognized that poverty concept also compasses a wide range of non-material circumstances such as insecurity, lack of rights and powerlessness. He also highlighted that central to poverty problem is the availability of work. According to him employment gives people the opportunity to produce for themselves and generate income to buy other basic necessities.

According to Karnani (2011: 4) poverty is a multifaceted concept consisting of three main dimensions. Firstly, poverty refers to lack of income and assets to achieve basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. Secondly, it refers to lack of access to basic public services such as access to safe drinking water, infrastructure, health facilities, education and sanitation. Thirdly, it refers to cultural, social and political exclusion such as gender, racial, lack of civil rights and ethnic discrimination.

Rein's (1971: 46-47) definition of poverty is also based on three concepts, however, there is little

difference from the one outlined by Karnani. His definition of poverty is based on subsistence, inequality and externality. According to him, subsistence definition is based on minimum of provision required to sustain health and working capacity, meaning the capacity to survive. This definition basically regard poverty as a lack of income needed to acquire basic needs of life. Inequality definition is based on inequality in distribution of the resources such as income, assets, public services, private services and occupational fringe benefits. Lastly, externality concept, is based on social consequences of poverty within the whole society.

Khumalo (2013: 5644) stated that there are different terminologies used to define poverty. These include vulnerability, exclusion, inequality and underdevelopment. Vulnerability can be defined as the probability of an individual or the community to get into risk related to poverty such as starvation, homelessness, bad health conditions and limited choices. Exclusion, inequality and underdevelopment refers to systems disadvantaging people from development e.g apartheid system which has advantaged other people while others excluded. Joshi (2008: 51) added that terminologies such as lack of basic needs, income poverty, relative deprivation, human development, lack of capability and livelihood unsustainability are also associated with poverty.

Sirajo and Zayyanu (2014: 199) stated that even though there are many existing poverty definitions, they can be classified as being lack of income or lower social status. But according to Spicker (2007: 4-5) there are main ten classification of poverty meanings and they are group under three categories namely, material need, economic circumstances and social relationships.

- a) Firstly, poverty refers to material need and this includes three types of definitions:
 - Poverty as specific need- this refers to when people lack certain things that are necessary to their lives. In this regard, people are said to be deprived when they lack the things they need.
 - Poverty as pattern of deprivation- this refers to a general condition when people are in need of ways to get out of bad situations over a period of time, for example living in a bad housing and struggle to get out of it.
 - Poverty as a low standard of living- this refers to people with low income or consumption over a period of time.

- b) Secondly, poverty refers to people's economic circumstances and this includes the following definitions:

- Poverty as lack of resources- it is when people lack resources to acquire the things they need
- Poverty as economic distance- it is when people cannot afford where they live, for example people with less resources cannot afford the things others can afford.
- Poverty as economic class- economic class refers to (for instance) workers, disable people and elderly as they are likely to be poor because they are unable to get or command resources in many communities.

c) Thirdly, poverty refers to social relationships and this includes:

- Poverty as a social class- people's social class is based on the combination of social status, educational status and economic status. People with lowest class and people who lack power, status and opportunities available to others are said to be living in poverty.
- Poverty as dependency- people depending on social welfare or assistance are said to be experiencing poverty.
- Poverty as social exclusion- this refers to when people are excluded from the society. It is basically when people are left out, rejected and unable to participate in the society because they are vulnerable, unprotected, socially rejected and living in poverty.
- Poverty as lack of entitlement- this meaning of poverty is linked to lack of basic security. It is all about people's rights.

According to Narayan, Patel, Schafft, Rademacher and Koch-Schulte (2000: 3) "Poverty is pain". They pointed out that people suffer from different types of pain. Firstly, they suffer from emotional pain which includes humiliations of dependency and lack of power. Secondly, they suffer from physical pain which includes too little food and working for long hours. Lastly, they suffer from moral pain as a result of being forced to make choices. Based on the poverty definitions provided, the researcher observed that it is important to summarize those definitions to confirm the complexity of the phenomenon. The following table summarizes the existing definitions of poverty as discussed in this study:

Table 1: Definitions of poverty

Meaning of Poverty	Reference
Poverty is hunger, lack of shelter, being sick and not able to afford health care, having fear for the future and being poor.	World Bank (2010: 1)
Poverty refers to the inability to meet basic human needs	Das (2009: vii); Vidyarthi (2005: 3)
Poverty is lack of income, assets, confidence, competence, security and power	Hussain et al. (2014: 559); Masipa and Jideani (2014b: 559); Vandenberg (2006: 1-8)
Poverty is a relative deprivation originating from mal-distribution of the resources.	Townsend (1971: 2)

Poverty is indeed a multidimensional concept as confirmed by the above different overlapping definitions. It shows that defining poverty depends on which discourse is being examined. According to the researcher, poverty refers to the state of being unable to live a healthy life as a result of deprivation. This reflects that poverty is more complex than just income level and consumption below the standard level. For the purpose of this study poverty refers to the condition of being poor, unable to afford basic human needs, income-less or lower income to handle all life needs. Das (2009: vii); Karnani (2011: 4) noted that poverty occurs in different forms, therefore the next section will discuss the different types of poverty.

2.3 TYPES OF POVERTY

Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon and it occurs in different forms (Das, 2009: vii). Previously many studies noted absolute and relative dimensions. But currently other dimensions have also been highlighted due to poverty phenomenon being the focal point of many discussions in many countries.

2.3.1 Absolute Poverty

Absolute poverty can be defined as the condition of lacking basic capabilities to live a dignified life (United Nations Children's Fund-UNICEF, 2000: 6). It refers to the view that there is a minimum standard that everyone should have and this minimum standard is referred to as basic needs (Alcock, 2006: 64; Rajasekhar, 2004: 9; Spicker, 2007: 12). Minimum requirement to sustain life is also referred to as subsistence level and one is regarded as living in poverty if is living below this

level. By this explanation absolute poverty means the state of deficit in relation to those basic human needs. Minimum needs required to sustain life include food, safe drinking water, health facilities, shelter, sanitation, education and information (Alcock, 2006: 64; Spicker, 2007: 12). However, the SPII (2007: 24) explains that the definition of minimum basic needs depend on who determines those needs.

Dauids, Theron and Maphunye (2009: 39) highlighted that absolute poverty is one of the influential factor on poverty, especially in developing world where there are millions of people with no access to clean water, adequate nutritious food, clothing and shelter as well as emotional and physical security.

2.3.2 Relative Poverty

Relative poverty definition is based on comparison standard of living between people who are poor and people who are not poor (Alcock, 2006: 65). Spicker (2007: 14-15) concurs with Alcock and further highlighted that relative poverty should be understood in the context where it happens, because what is regarded as poverty in a specific locality may not necessarily be perceived as poverty in other locality or country. According to him the idea of poverty means many different things. Firstly, poverty may be socially defined and secondly, poverty may reflects inequalities. People are relatively deprived when they cannot acquire or obtain the conditions of life such as standards and services which enable them to participate within the society.

Basically the concept of relative poverty relates poverty to population group. In this regard people are considered to be poor if they are poor in comparison. According to this definition, what is regarded as poor will differ from place to place as well as over time. "Relative poverty can be conceptualized by reference to the general standards of living or norms of the civil society as a whole or in terms of the resources necessary to partake fully in that society". (SPII, 2007: 25)

2.3.3 Income Poverty

Income poverty is defined as inadequate income to buy minimum of goods and services. (UNICEF, 2000: 6). Dauids *et al.* (2009: 37) regard it as when people have income below a demarcated national income measure. It is commonly measured by headcount ration whereby the proportion of people whose income falls under a specific poverty line. Income poverty line depends on the set basic basket of goods and services (UNICEF, 2000: 6).

Commonly, income poverty is regarded as when households have insufficient income to afford specified amount of food, shelter and transportation. This type of poverty varies from region to region (Davids *et al.*, 2009: 37).

2.3.4 Chronic Poverty

Chronic poverty refers to the state of poverty that occur over time (SPII, 2007: 14). It is usually transferred crosswise generations, meaning the children of adult living in chronic poverty will be affected as well (Frye, 2006b: 2; Khumalo, 2013: 5645; SPII, 2007: 14). Albadenkrim and Jean-Yves (2007: 8) stated that a household is considered to be living in chronic poverty if its income or consumption component is permanently below the poverty line. Bird, Hulme, Moore and Shepherd (2002: 4) noted that people living in chronic poverty usually experience severe deprivations for longer periods or even throughout their entire lives. Generally those people are the victims of inter-generational poverty as a result of poor households and children growing up from poverty affected households.

2.3.5 Transient Poverty

This is a seasonal condition of poverty which exposes people temporarily in poverty. Transient poverty is measured based on the universal exposure to shock (Albadenkrim & Jean-Yves, 2007: 7; Groover, 2011: 60). According to this definition people are considered to be affected by transient poverty when they fall below the national food poverty line after being exposed to shock (Khumalo, 2013: 5645). These includes natural disasters such as fires, earth quakes, floods and economic shock (Khumalo, 2013: 5645).

2.3.6 Subjective Poverty

Subjective poverty is founded on what constitutes a socially endurable minimum standard of living in a specific society and it reflects a resilient overlays with the view of vulnerability (Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development-OECD, 2013: 3). As highlighted by SPII (2007: 25) subjective poverty is one of the poverty dimensions and it usually occurs in three commonly dimensions:

- Social or physical isolation due to lack of access to goods and services, illiteracy or marginal location.
- Vulnerability to risk or crisis

- Powerlessness within cultural, social, political and economic structures.

It is important to be clear about the type of poverty targeted before evaluating any poverty alleviation strategy. For the purpose of this study, poverty will be observed from the economics' point of view, meaning because poverty alleviation strategy to be evaluated in this study is related to employment creation programmes. The existence of many types of poverty has resulted in many possible causes of poverty. Even Dlamini (2001: 17) observed that poverty is caused by many factors. As such, the next section will focus on those factors.

2.4 CAUSES OF POVERTY

Poverty is caused by many factors and unemployment is considered to be the main cause (Frye, 2006a: 38; Masipa & Jideani, 2014a: 53; Republic of South Africa, 2008: 16). Lack of adequate income to meet the basic needs is perceived to significantly contributing to poverty (Narasaiah, 2004: 22). Masipa and Jideani (2014a: 53) added limited skills as another main cause of poverty. Inequality in income and resources distribution are other contributing factors to poverty problem (Khumalo, 2013: 5645). But White and Killick (2001: xvii) argue that there is no single conceptual framework that allows the identification of the major cause of poverty.

Sirajo and Zayyanu (2014: 199); Binza (2013: 4) pointed out that several factors that contribute to poverty can be classified as social, economic, political and cultural related factors. According White and Killick (2001: xvii) there are three categorized causes that are particularly helpful. Firstly, may be categorized by social process: situational, demographic, economic and political. Secondly, may be categorized by level: household, national and international. Lastly, causes of poverty may be classified as primary or proximate, for example political and demographic causes are regarded as primary causes of poverty while low rates of economic growth are regarded as proximate causes.

Narasaiah (2004: 22) observed that amongst many causes of poverty, lack of adequate income to meet the basic needs is perceived to be the main cause. Income gives people the opportunity to handle the basic necessities. According to Sen (1981) as cited by Rajasekhar (2004: 9), poverty results from numerous failures. These failures have been categorized as endowment failures, production failures, exchange failures and consumption failures. All these failures occur as a result of structural problems, inequalities, government and global institution policies and failure of government and non-government institutions. The following table shows features that are involved in each failure

type:

Table 2: Features of failures causing poverty

Failure Type	Failure Feature
Endowment failures	-Community citizenship within the state -Household membership -Productive assets -Physical power
Production failures	-Environment condition -Capabilities -Shortage of inputs (material, credit etc.)
Exchange failures	-Claims on the state -Claims on community or household -Employment opportunities and incomes -Goods market prices
Consumption failures	-Indebtedness -Household decision-making -Drinking and other depravities

Source: Rajasekhar (2004: 9)

This table shows that poverty can be caused by any failure. For example, lack of land which falls under endowment failures, can cause poverty. However, even if a household owns a land may also experience poverty as a result of production failure such as lack of production inputs or low productivity. Another important dimension is that even if there is no failure in endowment and production, poverty may still be experienced due to exchange failures like low prices for products. The following factors were also raised by Mbuli (2008: 65-67) as the causes of poverty:

a) Unemployment and/ or low income

Lack of income or lower income curtail opportunities for poor communities and this results in them being unable to get out of the poverty trap. Lack of income also encompasses the capacity of the poor communities to afford basic necessities.

b) Lack of access to basic services

The poor people often have little or no access to basic services. Meaning they have to travel for long distances in order to access those services, of which the ultra-poor cannot afford.

c) Rapid Population growth

Population growth is not an issue if resource are available to manage the additional people eg. public services, shelter and employment. But in countries like South Africa population growth is a serious

challenge because already the levels of poverty are hiding the roof. Moreover population growth will make it difficult for the government to fight against poverty.

d) Migration

Migration especially that occurs through irregular channels can cause poverty in many ways. Firstly by worsening the living standards of the poor. On the other hand migrants through irregular channels are likely to be vulnerable to malnutrition, hunger and exploitation, all these constitute to planting poverty.

e) Natural Disasters

Natural disasters such as floods and drought even veld fires may result in poverty and this is likely to affect rural population than urban. For example rural people are depending on agricultural activities such as livestock and crop production for their livelihood. It can be agreed that there is no agricultural production in the presence of drought for example. Natural disasters will only cause transient poverty.

Narayan *et al.* (2000: 4-5) noted that the persistence of poverty is associated with its intertwining multidimensionality: it is complex, dynamic and location, social group, season and gender specific phenomenon. They further noted six interlinking dimension features of poverty. Firstly, hunger is the bottom line dimension of poverty. Secondly, psychological dimensions such as dependency, powerlessness, voicelessness and humiliation. Thirdly, lack of access to basic infrastructure such as clean water, roads and transport. Fourthly, lack or poor quality education. Fifthly, poor health status as a result of the poor not being able to afford health care. Lastly, lack of income. Also noted that these vulnerabilities has gender dimensions. On the other hand Frye (2006b: 2) observed that shortage of assets and resources as well as living in risky conditions preclude households from moving out of poverty over time.

2.5 POVERTY MEASUREMENT

There are a wide range of opinions on how best to define poverty. Basically, this range of opinions result in range of approaches in measuring poverty (Govender *et al.*, 2007: 124). Poverty measurement is essential for designing government policies and interventions. Moreover it is important for evaluating the extent of poverty problem and assessing the effectiveness of those policies and poverty alleviation initiative (Statistics South Africa- Stats SA, 2008: 33; UN, 2010b: 45).

Poverty measurement has become an integral part for initiating and implementing poverty alleviation

strategies (Stats SA, 2008: 33). Measuring poverty is also an important step in understanding its nature and its deprivation extent. Joshi (2008: 49) highlighted that poverty measurement is comprised of two distinctive inter-related exercises, namely identifying poor people and statistics of the identified poor to establish an overall index of poverty.

2.5.1 Reasons for Measuring Poverty

There are plenty of reasons why do we have to measure poverty. Haughton and Khandker (2009: 3-5) identified four major reasons for measuring poverty which are including the poor on the agenda, targeting interventions, monitoring and evaluation of projects, programs and policy interventions and lastly, to evaluate the effectiveness of institutions. Those reasons were elaborated as follows:

a) Including the poor on the agenda

It is easy to overlook the poor if they are not statistically visible. Therefore it is necessary to measure poverty if has to be included in both economic and political agenda.

b) Targeting interventions

The second reason for poverty measurement is intervention targeting. Obviously, the poor cannot be assisted without understanding and knowing who they are. This notion is about setting the main realities about poverty and examining poverty patterns to establish how it differs by geographical locations (e.g rural or urban area, local or national) by household features (eg size of household, educational levels within household), community features (e.g a community with or without clinics or schools). Therefore this assessment will help in targeting and prioritizing the interventions towards the poorest areas. Combination of survey data and detailed census can also assist in providing such information. It is necessary that survey data be combined with more detailed census data to allow a greater geographic and employment targeting, because the ability of many households to escape from poverty depend on employment.

c) Monitoring and evaluation of policy, programs and projects interventions

Monitoring and evaluation of policies, programs and projects is important to check their impact in helping the poor. Policies, programmes and projects may look good on the papers but ineffective in practice. Therefore information on poverty is useful for understanding government policies as well as

to assess the impact of different policies. This will help to improve programs and projects design and cut off ineffective ones.

d) Evaluating the effectiveness of institutions

The last reason for measuring poverty is to be able to evaluate institutions in order to judge whether government is doing a good job or not in fighting against poverty, it is important to have a solid information on poverty.

It was also outlined by SPII (2007: 19) that measuring poverty is essential for the following:

- mapping geographically where poverty is severe and allocate the resources accordingly
- designing policy and government intervention
- Enabling the government to concentrate its resources on specific projects and programmes eg basic services.
- Evaluating whether poverty related programmes are effective and making impact on moving people out of poverty and improving their livelihood, both in short and long term.
- Building of strong national commitment on poverty alleviation

The above discussions shows that there are various reasons for measuring poverty. People's view will be different on perceiving reasons, but they are all important and useful.

Poverty can be measured at a household or at an individual level. Household referred to the level whereby economic decisions are made. Generally, income from individuals from the same household is combined, particularly in the case of the poor. (Govender *et al.*, 2007: 123)

Govender *et al.* (2007: 122) observed that when measuring poverty, many studies focus on money-based measures, either income or consumption expenditure. They have also observed that money-based measures do not necessarily capture all, however they offer a valuable sense for the poverty level of the community or geographical area under observation. According to Karnani (2011: 5) income is a single most important measure of poverty. He believes that income enables people to attain their basic necessities and by attaining basic needs, people will eventually become less vulnerable and less powerless.

2.6 DETERMINING POVERTY LINES

Having described what is meant by poverty measurement, it is important to discuss what determines poverty line. The existence of poverty line helps in providing comprehensive results on a plethora of poverty alleviation tools (Stats SA, 2008: 33). Poverty line refers to below wellbeing level by which people are considered to be poor eg income or expenditure level (Govender *et al.*, 2007: 124).

It is important to note that various factors used to describe poverty lead to differing poverty lines in time and place as well as between countries based on country's development level, norms and values (World Bank, 2010: 1). In nature, poverty line is either absolute or relative (Govender *et al.*, 2007: 124; SPII, 2007: 28-29; Stats SA, 2008: 34). Subjective poverty line was also highlighted by Stats SA (2008: 34) as another important measure of poverty. Subjective poverty line is based on individual opinion on poverty status (Stats SA, 2008: 34). For the purpose of this study relative and absolute poverty lines will be the focus as they are discussed in many studies.

2.6.1 Absolute Poverty Line

Govender *et al.* (2007: 124) defined absolute poverty line as an income or expenditure level constant with a minimum standard of living. For example the level of income required to acquire a defined basic basket of food that would provide adequate diet. When measuring absolute poverty, the poverty line is affixed to basic food and non-food needs (Stats SA, 2008: 34). Absolute poverty line delineates poverty based on an absolute standard applied to income or expenditure (Stats SA, 2008: 34).

This line represents the value of a selection of goods and services that are identified as necessities and secondly, those that relate to income distribution and expenditure within the society. It is calculated by providing a monetary value to a basket of goods or services based on the set standard of living or well-being that reflect the state of destitution. This type of poverty line can be used to portray head count of the number of people living in poverty. (SPII, 2007: 28-29)

Absolute poverty line is the most commonly used approach in areas where absolute poverty is the major problem especially in low income countries such as Sub-Saharan Africa, and middle income countries where inequalities are high like South Africa. The advantage of absolute poverty line is that it is useful even for long-term. Absolute poverty line delineates poverty based on an absolute standard applied to income or expenditure. (Stats SA, 2008: 34)

2.6.2 Relative Poverty Line

Relative line can be defined as in reference to others in the population, meaning the line increases in relation with an increase in the average income of the population (Govender *et al.*, 2007: 124). According to Stats SA (2008: 34) relative poverty line defines poverty based on the prevailing comparative condition within the society.

As stated by Govender *et al.* (2007: 121) relative poverty levels can be determined within a country or between countries. Moreover it is evaluated differently in developing and developed countries. For example in South Africa, the relative poverty line is set at people living below 40% of national income whereas those living below 20% are regarded as extreme poor (SPII, 2007: 28-29). But the World Bank uses poverty line of \$2 per day (World Bank, 2010: 1).

This type of poverty line is usually described as households or people living below average or mean percentage of equalized income (SPII, 2007: 28-29). Govender *et al.* (2007: 124) added that general relative poverty line would be income or expenditure level below which 40% of the population falls.

2.7 INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON POVERTY

Poverty is the major obstacle faced throughout the world, as a result, it is one of the key priority focuses amongst many nations (Thomas, 2000: 3-10). Narasaiah (2004: 22) noted that poverty is one of the most tremendous elements to the economy. Even if the global economy continues to grow, the incidence of poverty remains a challenge (Das, 2009: vii). Despite Africa holding the biggest economy, levels of poverty continue to grow (Khumalo, 2013: 5643).

Masipa and Jideani (2014a: 51) stated that poverty is increasingly dissing the quality of life of many people in various perspectives. Poverty as a problem has become an international phenomenon devastating both urban and rural inhabitants in diverse measures. Lambsdorff (2006: 4) observed that the presence of poverty limits the productivity of the whole society. Moreover, it enables poor people to express their interests and preferences and they are also not able to participate in the political life.

Poverty has become a global phenomenon troubling both urban and rural inhabitants in different ways (Apata, Alani & Bioku, 2015: 151). Aparta *et al.* (2015: 151); Masipa and Jideani (2014a: 51) highlighted that the effect of poverty is more prominent in the rural areas than urban. Vidyarthi (2005: 1) concurred with the above researchers and highlighted that even though poverty is devastating both

rural and urban areas, various elements of poverty are mostly seen in rural areas because people living in sparsely populated areas are more exposed to poverty than people living in urban areas. Rural people have less access to basic services for example most of the rural people are unemployed and without an income, it is difficult for people to afford their basic necessities of life such as food, shelter and health facilities. Vidyarthi (2005: 1) also noted that poverty can be noticed by low income which deprives the people from affording the basic human needs. It shows that poverty will remain a serious challenge especially in rural areas.

The levels of poverty remains high and unacceptable especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, where there is snail moving growth (UN, 2010b: v). Millions people are still trapped in by poverty (Lambsdorff, 2006: 4; UNDP, 2013: 3). During 2013, about 2.47 billion people in the world were living in poverty (Hussain *et al.*, 2014: 559; Masipa & Jideani, 2014b: 559). Aparta *et al.* (2015: 151) stated that three quarters of the world's poor, are living in rural areas and they are depending on agriculture for their survival. Hussain *et al.* (2014: 559) further stated that during the year 1981 and 2013, the number of people living in poverty dropped from 2.59 billion to 2.47 billion. Meaning poverty trends has decreased, but with lower rate. It is without doubt that poverty is remaining a challenge in many countries. That is why poverty remains the core focus in many nations. Many strategies have been put in place, however, poverty still persist. This indicates that there is still a long way to go in addressing poverty. The next section will specifically look at South Africa and the influence of poverty in the country. This section will help in understanding the poverty concept and the state of poverty in the country.

2.8 POVERTY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Like any other developing countries, South Africa's incidence and levels of poverty tend to be excessively high (Botha, Van Rensburg, Anderson, Hensley, Macheli, Van Staden, Kundhlande, Groenewald & Baiphethi, 2003: 1; Fatoki, 2014: 275). Dlamini (2001: 15) pointed out that poverty in South Africa is seen as a primary feature of the previously disadvantaged groups. He further pointed out that its extreme pain is generally felt in certain geographical areas, particularly rural areas, farms and informal settlements.

Poverty remains a serious challenge in South Africa (Khumalo, 2013: 5651) and it involves spatial, demographic, gender and racial analyses (Friedman & Bengu, 2008: 9-11). Mostly poverty affects black, particularly women, children, youth and rural areas (Khumalo, 2013: 5651). The study conducted by Masipa and Jideani (2014a: 51) revealed that about 72% of poor people in South Africa

are living in rural areas. It shows that large population resides in rural areas where the state of poverty seems to be high. Govender *et al.* (2007: 120) noted that the persistence of poverty in South African rural areas is perceived to be as a result of poverty traps, meaning lack of complementary assets and services.

The following table summarized the poverty lines used in South Africa as provided by Mail and Guardian (2015: 1). Generally In South Africa, there are three poverty lines used and are outlined as follows:

Table 3: Poverty line used in South Africa

Poverty line	Per person per month	Per person per day
Upper bound poverty line	R779	R25.50
Lower bound poverty line	R501	R16.50
Food poverty line	R335	R11.00

Source: Mail and Guardian (2015: 1)

During 2011, 23 million South Africans were living below upper poverty line, 32.3%, approximately 16.3 million people were living in lower poverty line and about 10.2 million people were living in food poverty line (Department of Social Development, 2014: 1).

During 2014 about 27 million people (54%) of South Africans were living below upper bound poverty line. In the very same year about 18,6million people were living below lower bound poverty line (37%) and 10, 7 million people were living below food poverty line. (Mail & Guardian, 2015, 1)

The above explanation shows that there is an increase in all poverty lines since 2011 to 2014. Between 2011 and 2014 the number of people living below upper bound poverty line has increased from 23 million to 27 million, below lower bound poverty line increased from 16.3 million to 18 million and below food poverty line has increased from 10.2 million to 10.7 million. In summary, in 2015 half of South Africans, approximately 27 million people were living below the poverty line (Mail & Guardian, 2015: 1). It shows that poverty rate in South Africa is drastically increasing.

2.8.1 The Origin of Poverty in South Africa

The legacy of poverty in South Africa originates from the apartheid era (Dlamini, 2001: 15). Apartheid government was characterized by racism, sexism, inequalities and discrimination. As such our country has been faced with a crisis of poverty, unemployment and inequalities. Mbuli (2008: 5-7) noted that poverty in South Africa is strongly correlated with factors such as gender, race, illiteracy, unemployment and inadequate basic services as well as larger households. He further stated that gender and race are the most correlated factors. But even though it is not restrained to one group, it is heavily concentrated among the blacks. Larger households with many dependents are also an indicator of poverty in South Africa (Mbuli, 2008: 5-7). Unemployment is also one of the root cause of poverty in South Africa (Radebe, 2015: 1).

Since 1994, South Africa's democratic transformation has brought high hopes for the reduction of unemployment, inequalities and poverty from the high levels existed during apartheid (Friedman & Bengu, 2008: 8-9). From 1994 the democratic government of South Africa has implemented several programmes for poverty reduction such as skills development, employment creation and improved service delivery, however poverty still exists (Friedman & Bengu, 2008: 8-9). Khumalo (2013, 5646) concurred and added that despite all the efforts made since 1994, poverty, unemployment, inequality and racism remain a challenge. According to Radebe (2015: 1) unemployment in South Africa is aggravated by lack of appropriate skills and education opportunities.

The study conducted by Nzama (2010: 44) revealed that the stable economy, decline in agriculture, rapid population increase and deterioration of natural resources are considered to be the main causes of unemployment and poverty.

It is now clear that poverty problem in South Africa is of ages and it is rooted from the previous government structure. This situation provides a light that poverty alleviation strategies in our country need to consider many factors.

2.8.2 Characteristics of Poverty in South Africa

There are various considerable features which plays an important role in defining poverty in different countries. Dlamini (2001: 17-27) provided the following the main factors of determining poverty in South Africa.

a) Rural communities

Being poor is another trait of poverty. Poorness can derive from many factor, unemployment being the main factor. It is generally agreed that in rural areas there are limited job opportunities. Most of the people there are depending on social grants as income and subsistence agricultural production for household food security. Most rural areas are still experiencing unemployment and as a results they are unable to afford basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing and even unable to pay school fees and transport fare for their children.

b) Unemployment

Unemployment is one of the main factors in contributing to deepening poverty. Moreover it creates other factors that forms poverty to individuals, households and communities. Even though job creation is priority in our country, the mode at which employments opportunities are created is limited considering economic growth, shortage of educated and skilled workers. Women, youth and disabled are seen as the primary groups exposed to the risk of unemployment.

c) Illiteracy

Illiteracy plays a vital role in poverty problem. Illiterate people are unable to apply their abilities and talents. It should be noted that education improves nutrition and health status, increases productivity and promotes confidence and self-reliance. Higher levels of illiteracy are mostly seen in rural areas.

d) Crime

The crime rate in any community is usually measured against the level of poverty and underdevelopment. In South Africa, the levels of crime upturning as a result of various social challenges. Gaps in income distribution, unemployment, substances abuse (alcohol and drugs) are the major causal factors to crime.

2.8.3 Poverty and unemployment in South Africa

South Africa is faced by many developmental challenges, these include high levels of poverty, unemployment, inequalities and crime (Dicks *et al.*, 2011: 7; Fatoki, 2014: 275). Our country remains an unequal society and a place where many people are unemployed and living in poverty (National Planning Commission, 2012: 24). Unemployment is an important element related to poverty (Friedman & Bengu, 2008: 9-11; Frye, 2006b: 2). Friedman and Bengu (2008: 9-11) further stated that unemployment is one of the root causes of poverty related problems in South Africa. Frye (2006b: 2) observed that the chronic structure of unemployment in South Africa it is as a result of many unemployed people who have never got any employment opportunity before.

The study conducted by Friedman and Bengu (2008: 9-11) revealed that the rate of unemployment had been increasing over many decades and during 1994 there were about 4.8 million people with no jobs. As pointed by Fatoki (2014: 275) in 2014 about 7 million South Africans were unemployed. It shows that the number of unemployment has increased by 2.2 million between 1994 and 2014 respectively. In terms of percentages is approximately 2.2% increase. This chronic manifestations of poverty and unemployment are still far more difficult to address (Frye, 2006b: 1). On the other hand the likelihood of being employed is still influenced by several factors such as race, sex, geographical location and levels of skill (Frye, 2006b: 6).

It is without doubt that unemployment levels are the central indicators of poverty levels in South Africa (Frye, 2006b: 6). Based on the increasing levels of unemployment, it shows that South Africa has a long journey to go to overcome the poverty problem. However the extent of poverty is challenging our country's efforts in fighting against it.

2.9 CONCLUSION

This chapter taught us that poverty is a complex concept and it should be viewed from various perspectives. Poverty will remain head of the news in many nations and it will continue to capture the interest of many researchers.

There are different types of poverty existing and there are many causes of poverty. Therefore when assessing any alleviation strategy, it is important to be clear about the poverty type targeted. For the purpose of this study, poverty will be related to unemployment as the aim of this paper is to evaluate

the effectiveness of CWP as poverty alleviation strategy. As many literature studies confirmed, unemployment is seen as the major cause of poverty (Dlamini, 2001: 17-27; Friedman & Bengu, 2008: 9-11; Frye, 2006b: 2; Mbuli, 2008: 5-7). Without income one would not afford basic human needs. For the purpose of this paper the researcher will discuss poverty following income approach.

CHAPTER 3: LITERATURE REVIEW: POVERTY ALLEVIATION

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Poverty is understood as an insufficiency in socio-economic capabilities of individuals. Its manifestation includes features such as access to basic services, assets, income, information and social capital (Republic of South Africa, 2008: 4). Poverty is a bad living condition which is unacceptable for human beings. The following African National Congress- ANC quote informs us that life will never be good for as long as poverty exists.

“No political democracy can survive and flourish if the mass of our people remain in poverty, without land, without land, without tangible prospects for a better life. Attacking poverty and deprivation must therefore be the first priority of a democratic government.”

(ANC, 1994: 5).

The quote highlights that in order for the countries to flourish, there is a need to eradicate poverty. To bring the lay-man on board it is important to provide the meaning of poverty alleviation. There are various definitions that can be provided by various researchers, however, the features of poverty alleviation are common. According to Attahiru (2007: 15) poverty alleviation is a broad-spectrum action which includes many sectors such as agriculture, health care, housing, water resources, education, transport and finance. But SPII (2007: 14) describes poverty alleviation as to decrease the negative impact of poverty on the livelihood of the poor people in a sustainable and permanent way.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide an overview of poverty alleviation both internationally and in South African context. Poverty alleviation policies, strategies and programmes will then be zoomed to the South African context. It is critical to holistically discuss poverty alleviation in order to understand poverty alleviation approaches used in South Africa and the world at large.

3.2 POVERTY ALLEVIATION: INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

Internationally, poverty alleviation has gained more attention and commitment like ever before. Poverty alleviation remains the principal subject worldwide because the majority of people are still trapped in poverty. According to the Human Science Research Council (HSRC) (2014: 16) poverty has been a major topic for development globally particularly in developing countries. It has been a

focus of the international development community for more than a decade (Ehrenpreis, 2006: 2). As indicated by Chambers (2006: 3) alleviation of poverty is the priority in most nations and it is regarded as the main goal and development measure. South Africa is one of the countries which regards poverty alleviation as one of its primary objectives.

The international attention on poverty alleviation has enhanced national policies to focus on poverty alleviation and also to allocate budget to do that (Gernot, 2008: 1-9). The international organizations such as UNDP, UN, World Bank have already initiated many poverty alleviation programmes as to assist countries in addressing this human diverse issue.

3.2.1 United Nations (UN) and Poverty alleviation

UN is one of the world's organizations dealing with developmental issues. This organization is represented by the world leaders from various countries to assist countries to overcome their developmental challenges. As the effort to help countries, the UN has developed several developmental agendas and policies including the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and the UNDP which will be discussed underneath.

a) Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)

In 2000, the world leaders from all UN developed the MDG's to deal with the challenges faced by nations (Kroll, 2015: 4). These goals symbolize partnerships between developed and developing countries to establish a conducive environment for poverty reduction and development at both national and global levels. The MDG's have been incorporated into the development agenda as a long term strategy to achieve a number of national development plans (Simelane & Chiroro, 2013: 2). The MDG's evolved as the need to address poverty problem worldwide, hence goal number one of the MDG's was to eradication of extreme hunger and poverty (Simelane & Chiroro, 2013: 2). This goal was targeting to halve the number of people tormented by hunger and to halve the number of people with income of less than a dollar per day by 2015 (UN, 2000:1

MDGs have been most prosperous poverty alleviation strategy globally and as such a huge progress has been made in achieving the MDGs including halving the number of people affected by poverty (Kroll, 2015: 4). Though the progress has been made since the declaration of MDGs, poverty still persists in other parts of the world (UN, 2013: 1-3). Having made a progress in achieving the MDG's, countries use the newly established SDG's to address the remaining challenges to achieve

development.

b) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)

The SDG's were adopted by the world leaders from all UN during September 2015 at New York. The SDG's were developed to be the center of global agenda from 2016 to 2030. As such, 17 goals were set and adopted by the world leaders. These goals were as a result of a comprehensive process responding to the criticism of the MDG's. The difference between the MDG's and the SDG's is not only extended numbers and more participatory conception, but is that the MDG's were focusing on developing countries while the SDG's will focus in all countries including well developed nations all over the world. (Kroll, 2015: 4)

SDG'S are the continuance of the MDG'S. Osborn, Cutter and Ullah (2015: 21) pointed out that goal number one of the SDG's is to end poverty and all its forms everywhere. They further stated that this goal is targeting to halve the number of people living in poverty in all its dimension by 2030. The target is to primarily focus on eradicating extreme poverty in the poorest countries (Kroll, 2015: 4). It is believed that the absence of poverty will lead to achieving other goals.

The SDG's are aimed to be universal in the sense of representing a common global vision towards a safe and sustainable space for all citizens. The moral principle of the SDG's is that no one should be left behind and that everyone and every country should play their common responsibilities in achieving the global vision. All the SDG's are general and relevant to all countries including developed countries. (Osborn *et al.*, 2015: 2)

c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Alleviation of poverty is the overarching objective of the UNDP aiming at advocating for positive change in the livelihood of people. The purpose of UNDP is to work with countries to incorporate the principles of human rights in the planning and implementation of development policies and programmes. Its goal is to promote sustainable and inclusive human development aiming at alleviating poverty and all its features. The UNDP's work on poverty alleviation is founded on a holistic inclusive approach intended to achieve sustainable human development. (UNDP, 2013: 1-3)

As stated by the UNDP (2013: 1) the goals of UNDP are to:

- Help countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development thereby bring real improvements in people's lives.
- Strengthening the opportunities and capabilities to alleviate poverty and reduce marginalization by focusing on the most vulnerable and excluded groups
- Help countries to incorporate the environmental concerns into development plans and strategies as well as sustainably managing the natural resources to improve people's livelihood and promote economic recovery.
- Promote integrated approach to attain sustainable development thereby combat poverty, inequality and exclusion while improving skills, knowledge and production to reduce vulnerability to risk.

Poverty is not only about lacking income, it is a cruel combination of deprivation in health, rights, dignity, knowledge and lack of voice. Therefore comprehensive approach is necessary to address the cause root of poverty. As a strategy to fight poverty, during 2010 the UNDP developed the MDG's Acceleration policy framework to assist countries to respond to the needs of the poor, vulnerable groups and marginalized areas. This framework provides an approach for the countries to establish their own action plans based on the setup of their countries. UNDP invests almost U\$1 billion every year to combat poverty. Much of the UNDP's poverty reduction strategy focuses on policy interventions that addresses social, economic and cultural factors which are the main causes of poverty. (UNDP, 2013: 1-3)

3. 3 POLICY RESPONSES TO POVERTY PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA

Poverty alleviation lies as the center of development policies since post-apartheid South Africa. Lehohla (2012: 47) pointed out that poverty alleviation has been the main focus in South Africa with the aim to fight against the legacy of underdevelopment. This commitment is even reflected in various anti-poverty policies, programs and projects (Stats SA, 2008: 3).

The democratic government of South Africa has developed various policies to combat poverty, promote development and sustainable livelihoods. Since 1994, the democratic government, the ANC developed the RDP as to redress the imbalances created by the legacy of apartheid. The RDP is an integrated socio-economic policy framework aimed at combating poverty and inequality in our country (Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, 1994: 7). When the RDP was introduced was recognized a pro-poor policy. As a result it was later realized that there is a need to improve the economic growth

of the country. Against this background, the GEAR was introduced as a market-orientated macro-economic policy framework to improve the economic growth (Mbuli, 2008: 7).

GEAR policy framework is regarded as a macro-economic framework which aims to create conducive environment for economic growth (Binza, 2013: 10; Mubangizi, 2007: 7). GEAR as a macro-economic policy framework was criticized to have failed to deliver job creation and economic targets (Sikrweqe, 2013: 46-47) and because the government was not satisfied about this failure and the growth rate of the GEAR policy, the ASGISA was introduced as a tool to enhance the economic growth (Moyo & Mamabolo, 2014: 948).

The ASGISA was introduced to address the inequitable growth, unemployment and poverty by 2014 (Dicks, Brockerhoff & Lwanda, 2011: 51; Sikrweqe, 2013: 47). As noted by Binza (2013: 13) ASGISA was established to efficiently deal with the economic growth and competitiveness as well as the development challenges faced during the GEAR implementation. ASGISA was targeting to halve poverty by 2014, but it can be agreed that this goal has not been achieved because the majority of South Africans are still living in poverty. This situation has led to continuation of the development and implementation of more policies such as the Anti-Poverty Strategy, LED and NDP in addressing the poverty problem.

The Anti-Poverty Strategy builds on initiatives made since the birth of democracy. Its focus is on increasing and creating economic opportunities in fighting against poverty. The key objective in the strategy is the initiatives to support promotion of long-term jobs through initiating employment programmes that enables participants to enter the labour market. It is because unemployment or lack of income are considered to be the major cause of poverty. (Republic of South Africa, 2008: 8-16)

LED is an international tool and it has also been practiced in South Africa after 1994 as to establish and fast track local development to improve service delivery. The broader aim of LED is to create job opportunities, alleviate poverty and redistribute the resources and opportunities for the local community. (Kanyane, 2008: 698-700).

The NDP is a comprehensive strategic framework that's sets out a coherent and universal approach to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030 (Moyo & Mamabolo, 2014: 948; National Planning Commission, 2012: 1). The plan of NDP is to attach poverty using both long term and short term strategies (National Planning Commission, 2012: 24-28).

The above discussion on policy response on poverty shows us that poverty alleviation has been the focus of the South African government. In relation to those policy responses, several poverty alleviation strategies has been introduced. The next section will then provide an overview of poverty alleviation strategies in South Africa.

3.4 POVERTY ALLEVIATION STRATEGIES

The conceptualization of poverty has resulted in establishment of various poverty alleviation strategies. However, Binza (2013: 15); Karnani (2011: 113); UNDP (2015: 1) stated that in order to alleviate poverty, it is necessary to create employment opportunities for the poor. Karnani (2011: 17) further highlighted two important emphasizes as the effective ways to fight against poverty. He categorized those emphasizes in the following manner:

- i) Primary emphasis
 - Creation of employment opportunities suitable for the poor
 - Ensuring that the poor have adequate access to public services such as safe drinking water, health, education, infrastructure, sanitation and security.
- ii) Secondary emphasis
 - Marketing of useful goods at affordable prices to the poor
 - Implementation of relevant laws to protect vulnerable consumers

Khumalo (2013: 5650) advised that is it vital that economic growth be part and parcel of development agenda in order to build strong poverty alleviation strategies that deliver. But it is important to note that economic growth alone will never reduce poverty, unless job creation and equality are inclusive (UNDP, 2013: 3).

Therefore there is a need for holistic change to address the causes of poverty (UNDP, 2013: 3). Poverty alleviation should be a joint effort from various government departments, private sectors, NGO's and civil society. Gernot (2008: 1-9) noted that the government can create jobs by increasing regular public jobs in education, health and civil sectors. But Karnani (2011: 113) states that private sector is the main driver for job creation because businesses can create jobs suitable for the poor in labour intensive and low skills sectors. According to him the government should just create conducive environment for business development and also develop the skills and capabilities to increase the employability of the poor.

3.4.1 Poverty Alleviation Strategies in South Africa

“Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity; it is an act of justice. Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.”

(Nelson Mandela, 1994)

“In South Africa, the problem of poverty and unemployment alleviation are of national strategic importance” (McCutcheon & Taylor-Parkins, 2012: 34). As a result, the government has responded to these problem through various developmental initiatives. Since the onset of the democratic era, South Africa has embarked on various poverty alleviation strategies (Mbuli, 2008: 142). South Africa's democratic government has sought to bring down inequalities by prioritizing the development of previously disadvantaged areas that are the home to the majority of local communities (Zulu & Mubangizi, 2014: 424). Those various strategies can be classified as economic growth, job creation, basic needs, social security, infrastructure and assets measures.

One of the important things is that poverty alleviation interventions have been successfully aligned with the government's planning and implementation of programmes (The Presidency, 2008: 6-56). Already the commitment of all government spheres is centered on poverty alleviation. But because the national government alone cannot win in fighting against poverty, there is a need of interventions from all spheres of government, community organizations and other businesses (The Presidency, 2008: 6-56).

Mbuli (2008: 135-140) stated that in South Africa, the government is using employment creation initiatives as the strategies to fight against the prevailing levels of poverty. Poverty has been eased through public works programmes and provision of cash transfers, however this does not mean poverty has been alleviated (Dicks *et al.*, 2011: 7). Mbuli (2008: 140) highlighted that jobs in South Africa are created using the mechanisms such as employment creation programmes (EPWP, Working for water, Working for fire, CWP, Land care etc), social assistance, SMME's support and promoting education and training.

According to Oxfam (2001) as cited by Mbuli (2008: 98) the following are the best approaches to poverty alleviation:

- Business and employment opportunities for the poor
- Addressing inequalities
- Ensuring food security for all
- Provision of equitable basic services
- Protection of the natural environment to ensure sustainable livelihoods

The poverty problem and the need for alleviation, especially in rural areas, has led to establishment of various programmes (Attahiru, 2007: 15). According to SPII (2007: 14) the provision of social assistance is one of the approach used in South Africa. Social assistance programmes provide immediate relief from poverty as well as providing developmental impetus by empowering poor people to search for jobs, become entrepreneurs and receive adequate nutrition to live a healthy life. Another approach used to combat poverty in South Africa is job creation through public employment programmes (Mbuli, 2008: 135-140; Republic of South Africa, 2008: 5). Dicks *et al.* (2011: 77) noted that public employment programmes as important intervention when faced by high poverty and unemployment. In South Africa there are two key public works programmes, namely EPWP and CWP. The researcher will then provide an overview of social assistance, EPWP and CWP as poverty alleviation strategies in South Africa.

a) Social Assistance Programmes

South Africa has embarked on socio-economic and socio-political restructuring. As one of the restructuring strategy, during 1997, the White Paper on Social Welfare was developed. The purpose of this framework is to deal with the key issues in the restructuring of social welfare services, programmes and social security in South Africa. On the other hand its purpose is to realize the objectives of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the RDP. (White Paper on Social Welfare, 1997: 4-10)

Right to social assistance is one of the rights enhanced in the South African Constitution. Section 27 (1) (a) – (c) of the Constitution states that “everyone has the right to have access to social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependents, appropriate social assistance” (Republic of South Africa, 2008: 29).

Social welfare programmes and policies aims to ensure that people have adequate social and economic protection for groups such as unemployed, ill health, widowhood, old age, disability, maternity etc. Social programmes of this magnitude, contribute to human resource development which will in turn releases people from the poverty. Such programme enable the poor people to provide for their households. It is clear that the welfare programmes do not only contribute to enhancing human capital development, but also to poverty alleviation. (White Paper on Social Welfare, 1997: 4-10)

According to the White Paper on Social Welfare, people are vulnerable to poverty as a result of unemployment, ill health, old age, disability, disasters, social and political changes and economic crises. But above them all is unemployment which is increasing the vulnerability of many households. This is the reason why this framework recognizes the importance of economic policies on employment generation and economic growth. (White Paper on Social Welfare, 1997: 4-13)

Social assistance has been seen as the government's most poverty alleviation strategy. In South Africa social assistance is done in the form is social grants and / or cash transfers (Dicks *et al.*, 2011: 7; Republic of South Africa, 2006: 29). In South Africa we have about five types of social grants namely, Child, disability, foster care, elderly, war veterans. Dicks *et al.* (2011: 77) observed that social grants plays an important role in poverty alleviation especially when recipients pool their grants with other income sources to address multiple household needs. Therefore South Africa is continuing to invest on human capital through cash transfers which is an important factor for moving people out of poverty and increases production (White Paper on Social Welfare, 1997: 4-13).

Cash transfers provides substantial poverty relief to households who struggle to meet basic needs. (Dicks *et al.*, 2011: 7). It is without doubt that social security interventions contribute meaningfully towards alleviating poverty. However, social security alone is not enough in enabling people to acquire basic needs, that is the reason why South African government is also easing poverty through job creation programme such as EPWP and CWP which will be discussed in the next section.

b) Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)

Since 2004, the government of South Africa has embarked on a national programme known as EPWP (David, 2015: 26). EPWP is one of the government's multi-pronged approaches for poverty alleviation, job creation and skills development (Radebe, 2015: 1; McCutcheon & Taylor-Parkins,

2012: 34; Thwala, 2008: 110). The EPWP is a policy framework which promotes labour intensive work for the alleviation of rural unemployment, poverty and addressing other developmental challenges (Sikrweqe, 2013: 47). It is one of the government's initiative to close the gap between the economic growth and large number of unemployed people (Thwala, 2008: 110). EPWP aims to provide short term income support (Dicks *et al.*, 2011: 77; Kanyane, 2008: 708) by creating temporary jobs to the unemployed while providing trainings on job and ensuring that workers gain skills in order to be employable in future (Thwala, 2008: 110).

As stated by McCutcheon and Taylor-Parkins (2012: 34) the programme creates employment opportunities through four economic sectors: infrastructure, social, environmental and economic. Infrastructure sector focuses on labour intensive activities such as construction and maintenance of low cost roads, community water and sanitation, storm drains and sidewalks, environmental and cultural sector aims to create jobs while benefiting the natural resources and cultural heritage, social sector promotes home community-based care and early childhood development and lastly, the economic sector aims to create learnerships to develop entrepreneurial skills (Gibson, 2005: 6; Kirby, 2005: 4). EPWP as a whole emphasizes labour intensive activities for the provision of public goods and services (Gibson, 2005: 6; McCutcheon & Taylor-Parkins, 2012: 34; Thwala, 2008: 110).

EPWP remains an important employment opportunity. Moreover the trainings provided through the EPWP afford the South African citizens to gain skills and experience. The positive side about EPWP is that most government departments are supportive and responding positively towards the programme. During 2013/14 financial year EPWP has created more than one million employment opportunities (Radebe, 2015: 1). The number of jobs created was as an effort from various government department.

Already many government departments in South Africa are implementing this programme. The study conducted by Thwala (2008: 110) revealed that the public works programmes are playing a major role in creating job opportunities to many people.

c) Community Work Programme (CWP)

In expanding job creation, during 2009 CWP was introduced as the second phase of the EPWP (Dicks *et al.*, 2011: 52). As pointed out by Philip (2013b: 12), the CWP was specifically designed to react to the state of unemployment, targeting the poorest and most marginal areas by offering a

continuous access to a minimum level part-time work. Phillip (2013b: 12) further pointed that CWP is targeting the poorest and most marginal areas. CWP was initiated by the Presidency as one of the tools to address unemployment and poverty problem in South Africa (Setiloane, 2013: 7). This programme was established in recognition that unemployment in South Africa is structural (David, 2015: 26). CWP was piloted in 2007 under the partnership between the Presidency and Department of Social Development (COGTA, 2013: 1; David, 2015: 28; Philip, 2013a: 13). The pilot succeeded and in 2008 the programme was rolled-out in all the provinces. Philip (2013a: 4-5) reported that the results from the pilot phase have been overwhelmingly positive and programme became the component of EPWP. From April 2010 CWP was housed in COGTA (David, 2015: 28; Philip, 2013a: 13).

The CWP aims to improve the livelihoods of rural people by improving skills through trainings, work experience especially for youth in search of jobs, promoting economic and social inclusion and preparing the communities to deal with their problems to meet the basic needs (COGTA: 2014: 1; Naude, 2012: 7). According to Dicks *et al.* (2011: 77) CWP provides minimum guarantee employment through community participation and consultation. The broader objective of CWP is community development (David, 2015: 28) while its main objective is to provide an income safety net to the poor (COGTA, 2014: 2; David, 2015: 28; Naude, 2012: 7). Dicks *et al.* (2011: 52-53) summarized the CWP objectives and features as follows:

Table 4: CWP objectives and features

CWP Purpose	CWP Key Features
Provides a minimum level of regular work for the needy	Identification of useful work at the community level
Provision of employment safety net by creating employment opportunities to those who have no access to social security grants	An employment safety net, not an unemployment solution. Working a minimum level of 2 days per week.
Complement existing livelihood strategies	Support livelihood strategies undertaken
Promotes social cohesion through community participation	Involvement of the community in decision making processes
Development of public assets and provision of services	Implementation of work that targets services and infrastructure needs for public good

Source: Dicks et al. (2011: 52-53)

The programme also contributes to various core strategic goals of government in fighting against unemployment and poverty. It also contributes to a Decent Work Agenda (DWA) through complementing the current income sources and livelihood strategies. (Dicks *et al.*, 2011: 52)

The programme is operating at national and local levels but the management of the programme is done by COGTA. Then COGTA contracted the Implementing Agent (IA) to implement the programme at local level (COGTA: 2014: 1). As pointed out by COGTA (2014: 1) the programme is targeting poor rural areas and areas with high levels of unemployment receives a greater allocation of CWP jobs (Stanwix & Van der Westhuizen, 2012: 15). CWP provides a minimum level of regular work whereby the participants work for 2 days per week and up to 100 days per year. The current rate of CWP is R76 per day and R608 per month (David, 2015: 28). But David (2015: 31) also noted that even though CWP income is relatively low, it is regular and predictable.

The programme is targeting labour intensive activities (COGTA, 2013: 2). It focuses on areas such as social and community services, agriculture and food security, basic service and maintenance, community safety, education support and local innovation (COGTA, 2014: 1-3; Dicks *et al.*, 2011: 54).

3.4.2 Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Thaba Nchu

Several developmental programmes with different approaches has been implemented in Thaba Nchu, however, poverty continues to strain those initiatives. Amongst other programmes is EPWP which has been implemented by various government departments such as Agriculture, Water Affairs and Environmental Affairs. The aim of this programme is to create employment and eventually eradicate poverty. The focus of EPWP in Thaba Nchu is on controlling invader plants especially slangbos. Due to the limited budget this programme absorbs only few people. Selection of participants is done through ruffles because any unemployed person of working age qualifies. As such not everyone can be included and this shows that there is still a need for other intervention to boost the effort of EPWP.

As part of complementing the EPWP, land care programme was also implemented. This programme is housed within the Department of Agriculture. The aim of this programme is to encourage sustainable natural resource management through creating part time jobs for the needy. Activities employed through the land care programme are labour intensive as to contribute to continuous job creation, thereby eradicate poverty.

Programmes such as working on fire and working on water have also been implemented to create job. Area Development Programme (ADP) was also introduced by World vision with the aim of eradicating poverty. It shows that several programmes have been implemented, but poverty is still

persisting. The latest programme introduced is the CWP which is the main focus of this study. CWP is a safety net programme aiming at providing job opportunities to people with no means of income. The findings of this study will determine if the CWP is making remarkable contribution in poverty alleviation.

3.5 CONCLUSION

Poverty has remained a major topic globally, especially in developing countries. As outlined in the previous chapter the causes of poverty are to be found in social, economic and political factors. It clearly shows that poverty alleviation is not only about having food, shelter education, security and health facilities (Yadav, 2008: 117). This holistic approach to poverty calls for combination of factors to be dealt with in addressing it.

Various poverty alleviation programmes has been put in place South Africa, but the legacy of poverty still persists especially in the rural areas. Moreover some of those programmes have been unsuccessful (Bokolo, 2013: 2) and some of those poverty alleviation programmes have been unsuccessful. It clearly shows that poverty alleviation interventions need urgent attention. The Presidency (2008: 6-56) recommended that in addressing poverty, government should give more attention to critical interventions which includes expansion of job opportunities and self-employment, quality health care facilities, education and skills development more especially to rural and poor communities. According to the Republic of South Africa (2008: 4) central to addressing poverty, there are critical elements such as maintenance of overall economic growth and targeting government support that will create economic opportunities for previously marginalized should be included.

Binza (2013: 15) observed that the process of combating poverty requires integrated and participatory approaches in order to create conducive environment to unlock the opportunities for the marginalized and poor people to access social, economic, political and natural resources. Job creation is critical for poverty alleviation, gender equality and equitable economic growth (Binza, 2013: 15; Karnani, 2011: 113; The Presidency, 2008: 40-56; UNDP, 2015: 1). Income security through provision of safety nets, basic services such as water, electricity, sanitation, education, health care and creation of economic opportunities to poor people are recognized as the most critical pillars in poverty alleviation (The Presidency, 2008: 40-56). Income enables people to improve their livelihoods and be secure economically (Binza, 2013: 15; UNDP, 2015: 1). Moreover it allows people to participate fully within the society, contribute to public good and enhances cohesion (UNDP, 2015: 1).

For the purpose of this research, unemployment is treated as the causality of poverty. It is assumed that employment allows people to have income which in turn enables them to buy commodities that are necessary to sustain live. Against this background this study will investigate the CWP as poverty alleviation strategy in the rural areas of Thaba Nchu. As such, the next chapter will present the methodology to be carried out in this study.

CHAPTER 4: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter outlines the methods employed by the study to address the problem statement of investigating the CWP as a poverty alleviation programme in the rural areas of Thaba Nchu. The choice of Thaba Nchu as case study was influenced by the fact that Thaba Nchu is the only rural area within the Mangaung Metro Municipality, amongst the three areas within the municipality.

The discussion in this chapter is on the research methods employed in this study. These includes, sampling design, data collection strategies, research ethics and limitations, time line, measurement map and data analysis.

4.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

This study was carried out as a cross-sectional design. According to St George and Olsen (2004: 7) cross-sectional design is a commonly known design and it refers to the collection of data once off from the selected population to assist in answering the research question. This cross-sectional study followed an explorative and descriptive design aimed at making recommendations on how to improve poverty alleviation programmes on both policy and practical levels.

4.2.1 Research Method

Qualitative research was employed in this study. Jarbandhan and Schutte (2006: 671-673) regards qualitative research as a research design that make use of data which is not relevant for statistical inference. Qualitative research is used to collect data directly from the affected people by means of interactions and observations.

As observed by Tewksbury (2009: 38-47) qualitative research is suitable for conducting researches related to social sciences. According to Hancock, Ockleford and Windridge (2009: 4) qualitative research methods deepen the people's understanding on a phenomenon under investigation particularly in the social world. Myburgh and Poggenpoel (2007: 65) pointed out the following positive points about qualitative research:

- Participants are regarded as to have knowledge about the matter under investigation whereas the researcher is regarded to not knowing. It seeks acquire information based on people's experience.

- It is naturalistic and realistic for the fact that it considers direct observations to participants. It attempts to find out how people view things particularly about social reality. This method tries to investigate the reality about the people.
- The researcher conducts the study without any pre- assumptions. Any idea is put aside and focus on what participants say about the phenomenon.
- All the information acquired from the participants are included in the study. It considers treating different views or perspective in a broader way.
- Vernacular language of the participants is highly considered to obtain accurate information
- This method is very flexible for instance, it has a room for exploration.
- Qualitative research consider participatory approach

The reason for using qualitative research is that the researcher believes that observations and interactions used in qualitative research increases the chances of obtaining high quality data.

4.2.2 Target Population

Burger and Silima (2006: 657) regard target population as the population by which the researcher will generalize the research results. It is very important to identify the target population when conducting a research. This study was targeting the participants of CWP in the rural areas of Thaba Nchu, COGTA officials and CWP Implementing Agent (IA) responsible for Thaba Nchu. The researcher targeted the CWP participants because they are very relevant in answering the research aim as they are directly involved in CWP. Moreover the participants have knowledge as to how the programme has influenced their lives.

4.2.3 Sampling Design

Fowler (1993: 4) explained sampling as the selection of a certain number of populations which will represent the entire population. According to Palys (2008:1) there is no single "perfect" sampling method in the world, sampling choice depends on the nature and objectives of the research under discussion.

In this study purposive sampling design and stratified random sampling design were used. Burger and Silima (2008: 663); Draper (2009: 28) describe purposive sampling design as the selection of people that match the set criteria which is relevant for topic under investigation. Stratified random sampling refers to the sampling method whereby the population is divided into strata or subgroups in

such a way that each unit belongs to a single stratum so that the units can be selected from those strata (Teddlie & Yu, 2007: 79). The division may be based on one or combination of many variables. A sample is then drawn from each of these strata (Burger & Silima, 2006: 660).

The IA and COGTA official were purposefully sampled while the CWP participants were sampled using stratified random sampling. The reason for using purposive sampling is because COGTA official and IA are the ones directly involved in the CWP programme. With regard to the CWP participants, the population was separated into subgroups and randomly sampled. Those subgroups were identified according to the clusters, namely South, North and Central. The purpose of using the stratified sampling was to ensure that each cluster is well represented and the findings of the study well represents the entire population within those clusters.

4.2.4 Sampling Size

"Determining the sample size is dependent on how well the sample represents population targeted" (Burger & Silima, 666). The researcher sampled nine villages. The reason for sampling nine villages is that each cluster will be represented by three villages which will represent the entire population in each cluster. The total number of participants was 56 (17 participants from North, 17 from South, 20 from Central, IA and COGTA official).

4.3 DATA COLLECTION

All scientific research involves data collection. The main aim of conducting a scientific research is to create valid information. Scientific research is regarded as an accurate and a repetitive procedure. In order to answer the research question, data needs to be generated and be collected. Therefore data collection period and data collection instruments play a decisive role in the research process in order to acquire factual information. There are many data collection methods that can be applied to get the required information but the choice depends on the researcher and the instrument which will gather information best. (Jarbandhan & Schutte, 2006: 669-670)

Jarbandhan and Schutte (2006: 673) further highlighted that the researcher needs to make crucial decisions when designing an instrument for data collection. For example the researcher should decide whether to use face to face interviews, structured or unstructured interviews, questionnaires and group discussion. This clearly indicates that deciding on data collection method is a crucial exercise as there are many instrument to be decided on. The researcher notes that the data collection

strategy is determined by the nature of the research and research question. For the purpose of this study data will be collected using interviews.

The data collection strategy is determined by the nature of the research and research question. In this study data was collected using interviews. Interviews are the most common data collection technique. According to Fox (2009: 4) interviews are usually used in descriptive and exploratory studies. Two interview methods were used in this study: focus group for CWP participants and face to face interviews for COGTA officials and the implementing agent IA.

a) Focus groups interviews

Focus group discussions were used to collect data from the CWP participants in nine villages, namely, Tweefontein, Rietfontein, Grootdam, Tabane, Motlatla, Potsane, Middeldeel, Paradys and Mothusi. Focus group has become the most common technique used by many researchers to investigate the way in which people construe the topic in which the researcher is interested (Bryman, 2012: 503). This technique is also referred to as group interviews, group in-depth interviews or focus group interviews (Bryman, 2012: 501; SAGE, 2010: 3). Freitas, Oliveira, Jenkins, and Popjoy (1998: 2) described focus group interviews as the type of interviews involving more than one, but at least four interviewees (Bryman, 2012: 503). Focus group participants are people who come from similar background (both social and cultural), experiences and concerns (SAGE, 2010: 4).

Focus group interviews are effective in providing information about how and why people feel and think regarding the topic under investigation (Bryman, 2012: 503; Freitas *et al.*, 1998: 1). This method also allows people to probe each other's view on a particular topic. Its advantages also include enabling in-depth discussions, involving small number of participants and focuses on the area of interest which will allow the participants to discuss the topic under investigation into details (SAGE, 2010: 4). Moreover focus group interviews allows to collect appropriate data within a short period of time (Bryman, 2012: 501; Freitas *et al.*, 1998: 7). The aim of using focus group interviews is to encourage various responses which provide greater understanding of opinions, perceptions and the attitude of the participants on CWP.

b) Face to Face Interviews

An interview is one of the data collection methods used in qualitative researching (Hancock *et al.*, 2009: 16). According to Fox (2009: 4) interviews are usually used in descriptive and exploratory

studies. Fox (2009: 9) believes that face to face interviews can be the greatest method of generating outstanding quality data and are mostly preferable when dealing with sensitive issues. He observed that face to face interview are convenient and reliable in collecting in-depth information.

Face to face interviews were used to collect data from the IA and COGTA official. The use of face to face interviews added advantage in exploring and understanding better the how people view the CWP. Face to face interviews allowed the researcher to acquire detailed and in-depth information from the research participants.

There are many existing types of face to face interviews, and in this study, semi-structured interviews were used. As pointed by Jarbandhan and Schutte (2006: 677) semi- structured interviews refers to the interview type that uses questionnaire which consists of various open ended question that will give the respondents freedom to respond to questions.

Fox (2009:6); Hancock (2009:16); Vithal and Jansen (2010: 22) pointed out the advantages of using semi-structured interviews, just to mention few, they are practical and efficient to collect data especially on non- observable issues such as emotions or feelings, they provide room for exploration, collection of high valid data due to detailed discussion on issues, difficult questions can be elaborated in depth until the understanding or consensus is reached. Moreover both the interviewer and the respondent have the opportunity to elaborate and discuss issue or topic under investigation into details. The interviewer also have the opportunity to investigate the initial response. Another advantage of using semi-structured type of interview is to collect as much information and as accurate as possible unlike structured method (Vithal & Jansen, 2010: 22). The researcher choose semi structured interviews because it will allow collection of detailed data and create room for exploration.

4.4 DATA ANALYSIS

According to Cloete (2007: 514) the main aim of data analysis is to transform the raw information into observation, facts, perceptions, figures and findings through different and contextualised interpretations that provide understanding of the matter under consideration. Qualitative data analysis involves the process of coding and categorising data. It is the process of reducing data by selecting, simplifying, categorising and classifying data in to manageable units so that the researcher can interpret the data (Draper, 2009: 28).

As pointed by Auriacombe (2007: 462-464) data analysis involves five steps namely, Coding, categorising, classifying, comparing and concluding. Bryman (2012: 597) explained that coding is one of the key steps in analysing qualitative data and it is referred to as the process of breaking down data into manageable components parts and those parts should be labelled.

Thematic analysis was used in this study. Thematic analysis is known as the most common approach in qualitative data analysis and it helps to define the relationships between concepts and relate them with the simulated data (Alhojailan, 2012: 10). It refers to the identification, analysis and the development of themes that are considered to be important in describing the phenomenon under discussion (Braun & Clarke, 2006: 6; Fereday & Muir-Cochrane, 2006: 3). Alhojailan (2012: 10) highlighted that the development of themes involves interpretative work and the analysis of work that has already been theorised.

The process of thematic data analysis involves data coding. Coding depend on whether the themes are more data-driven or theory-driven. Coding will also depend on whether the researcher is intending to code the entire data set or to code for identifying specific features of the data set. Coding can be done manually or by making use of software programmes. (Braun & Clarke, 2006: 10-18)

For the purpose of this study data will be analysed by making use of themes. Identification of themes will assist in categorising the related information in order to answer the research objectives. The identified themes will be labelled manually because the research is theory driven. The related data will be grouped and be analysed together under appropriate themes.

4.5 RESEARCH ETHICS

Ethics has become an important part for conducting a meaningful and effective research (SAGE, 2007: 56-70). The document further highlighted that in every investigation, the researcher has the responsibility of protecting the participants. Ethics involves the responsibility of the researcher towards research participants, beneficiaries and sponsors (Monette, Sullivan & Dejong, 1998: 45). Orb, Eisenhauer and Wynaden (2000: 93) highlighted that ethical issues exist in any type of research and it is all about doing good and avoid causing harm to the participants The most basic ethical principle in qualitative research is that the natural setting under study should not be tempered. The following are the ethics that will be considered in this study:

4.5.1 Harm to participants

The most important part in conducting a research is to ensure that participants are not harmed by taking part in the study (SAGE, 2007: 70). In this study the researcher protected the participants from any harm and respect their privacy. Confidentiality of records was maintained by storing them in a safe place.

4.5.2 Privacy

Like any other ethical considerations, privacy has become increasingly a valuable right. According to the SAGE (2007: 66) privacy is regarded as an act of confidentiality and in every study several factors need to be addressed such as privacy, sensitivity of information and publicity of the information. As explained by Monette *et al.* (1998: 55) privacy refers to the capability to control when and under what circumstances others will have access to your principles, beliefs or behavior. To ensure privacy in this study, the interview was conducted at the participant's home and the information provided will only be shared with the University of the Free State and the data collected will be used as a whole and individuals will not be identified.

4.5.3 Confidentiality

Confidentiality is the major ethical concern in conducting a scientific research (Bryman, 2012: 315; Monette *et al.*, 1998: 53). There might be sensitive issues that are discussed and the participants should always be treated with respect by ensuring confidentiality of the data provided. Therefore the information acquired from the participants during the research process, should be kept confidential unless if there is an agreement (The British Psychological Society, 2010: 22). The researcher ensured that confidentiality and anonymity are maintained at all the times. Instead of using the participants name will use names such as respondent 1, respondent 2 or CWP Tweefontein, Motlatla etc.

4.5.4 Deception

Deception in research refers to misrepresentation of intentions of facts about the nature, purpose and consequences of the study under investigation (SAGE, 2007: 67). According to The British Psychological Society (2010: 24) the study Involving deception should be planned in a way that it protect the dignity and autonomy of research participants. After identifying the participants, the

purpose of the study and the approach of the study was outlined for the participants to make an informed decision to participate.

4.5.5 Consent

According to (Monette *et al.*, 1998: 50) consent is regarded as the process of informing the research participants about all features of the research whereby an individual may choose whether or not to participate in a research study. It is the responsibility of the researcher to ensure that the participants understands the purpose of the study and the risk involved thereof. Therefore the research participants should be provided with full information as might be required to make an informed decision as whether to participate in the research or not (Bryman, 2012: 138). Consent also involves informing the participants about their role and consequences of their participation in the research (Marlow, 1993: 146). For the purpose of this study, the participants were informed about the purpose and benefits of the study. Consent form was signed by the participants to ensure that they understand the study and what is expected from them, and what are the benefits as well as the time needed for conducting the interview.

4.5.6 Authority

Rural villages of Thaba Nchu are falling under the authority of Traditional Council called Borolong Boo Seleka. In this rural settlement, the culture is strictly followed. As such each village has been assigned a traditional leader who is responsible for co-ordinating all the activities within the village. Therefore before conducting interviews, the leaders of all those respective villages were consulted in advance to ask for the permission to conduct the study. The COGTA officials and IA were also consulted for asking the permission to conduct interviews.

4.6 LIMITATIONS

Limitation can be described as any obstruction in the research process that can hamper the smooth running of the study and in other cases can cause the study to discontinue (Draper, 2009: 28). Various limitations exist in many studies. Even in this study, several limitations were anticipated in conducting the whole research and are as follows:

The study was done in Thaba Nchu as one of the rural areas in the Free State province, and therefore the findings of the study might not be applicable to other rural and urban areas within the

province. On the other hand the information on CWP as a poverty alleviation strategy could be limited.

The use of purposive sampling is also an anticipated limitation in this study. Burger and Silima (2006: 663) highlighted that because in purposive sampling the researcher uses his/her own discretion to select the sample, sometimes the population sampled may not be relevant to answer the research question and generalizing of information from the sampled population may not be valid always.

Only one COGTA official and IA has to be interviewed as they are the only one responsible for CWP in Thaba Nchu, therefore the information cannot be generalised to other COGTA official and IA responsible for other areas.

Thaba Nchu rural villages are falling under the authority of Barolong Boo Seleka Traditional Council, as a result one of the limitations was not to be granted the authority to access the participants. One other limitation was to access all the identified CWP participants in the identified villages. As such the appointments for interviews were secured in advance and participants were also reminded a week prior to the appointment.

As confirmed by Auriacombe and Mouton (2007: 443); Draper (2009: 28) the most common limitations of qualitative research is that it is costly, time consuming and labour intensive. Face to face interviews and focus groups were to be used to collect data and these two methods are costly and time consuming. Therefore the researcher has to allocate reasonable period for data collection and make prior arrangements with the village leaders to secure appointments with the participants.

4.7 MEASUREMENT MAP

Measurement map is a tool used to establish the key activities in research process and identifying the relationship of those activities (The Social Investment Business Group, 2014: 11-12). According to the researcher, measurement map is a tool used in research to measure the research objectives. It includes how data will be collected and analysed. Measurement map is presented in the form of table and the following table outlines the measurement map of this study.

Table 5: Measurement map

Objective/ Question	Construct	Variable	Data Source	Data/ Question	Data Analysis
Objective 1: To determine what poverty means	Poverty	Defining poverty	Literature review	Reports/ articles/ books on poverty	Thematic analysis
Objective 2: To investigate poverty alleviation mechanisms in South Africa	Poverty alleviation	Poverty alleviation mechanisms in SA	Literature review	Reports/articles of poverty alleviation	Thematic analysis
	CWP	CWP background	COGTA officials and website	Explanation and purpose of CWP	
Objective 3: To assess the CWP as a poverty alleviation strategy in Thaba Nchu	CWP as a poverty alleviation programme	Assessment of CWP as poverty alleviation programme	Interviews with CWP participants	How were you selected to participate in CWP	Thematic analysis
				How was the situation before and after participating in CWP	Thematic analysis
	What influence has the programme added into your life	Thematic analysis			
	Indicate your views on CWP as a poverty alleviation strategy				
	Is the programme useful and important to you	Thematic analysis			
What are your comments to improve CWP					
Objective 4: To supply the recommendatio ns on how the CWP can be improved	Recommendations	Research results	Analyzed data	Research results from the analyzed data	Thematic analysis

4.8 TIMELINE

Timeline is also referred to as Gantt Chart. It is a table indicating the sequence and the logical relationship of the activities. It is one of the most important tool used for planning, controlling and communication in the project (Burke, 2010: 174). Burke (2010: 174); Durfee (2008: 1); Zilicus Solution (2012: 5) defined the Gantt chart as a project tool used to represent time or period required for project completion and they used by most project managers in various project types. He further indicated that Gantt chart represent each activity in a row and the expected activity time is reflected by horizontal bar marked from the beginning to the end of the expected completion date.

Durfee (2008: 1) states that when developing a Gantt Chart, the project activities are subdivided into manageable smaller activities. The information on the Gantt Chart shows when will the activity begins and end as well as how long will the activity takes (Durfee, 2008: 1; Zilicus Solution, 2012: 5)). The activities are arranged in sequence on the Gantt chart. Depending on the length of the project, activities may be planned based on days, weeks or months. The following Gantt chart indicate time frames of all activities that will be conducted during the study.

Table 6: Gantt chart

ACTIVITY	JAN 2015	FEB 2015	MAR 2015	APR 2015	MAY 2015	JUN 2015	JUL 2015	AUG 2015	SEP 2015	OCT 2015	NOV 2015	DEC 2015	JAN 2016	FEB 2016
1. PROPOSAL														
Writing up proposal	■													
Meeting supervisor	■													
Submit proposal		■												
Edit comments made by supervisor		■												
Proposal finalization			■											
Submitting final proposal document to supervisor			■											
2. LITERATURE REVIEW														
Compile literature review				■										
Submitting literature review to supervisor				■										
Edit comments made by supervisor					■									
Submit final					■									

each activity will be dealt with before commencing with the next activity. Meeting will be arranged with the supervisor before every activity as to discuss the activity into details ensure that every activity is done accordingly.

4.9 CONCLUSION

This chapter painted the picture on how the study will be carried out in order to determine if the CWP is an important poverty alleviation programme. All the processes to be followed in this study were clearly outlined, these include research method, sampling, data collection strategy and data analysis. Ethics were considered in conducting this study and the limitations were also acknowledged. The following chapter continues with the findings and analysis of the data collected.

CHAPTER 5: FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The literature review on poverty and poverty alleviation strategies was presented in the previous chapters. Those chapters have provided an overview of poverty and poverty alleviation in both national and international contexts. As highlighted, Thaba Nchu is one of the rural settlements facing the problem of poverty (Baiphethi, 2013a: 53; World Vision, 2011: 9). Thus, the literature has also discussed the CWP as poverty alleviation in Thaba Nchu. Chapter four then outlined the methodology to be carried out in this study. To recap, the aim of this study is to determine if the Community Work Programme is an important poverty alleviation strategy in the rural areas of Thaba Nchu. Therefore, the purpose of this chapter is to discuss and finalize the results.

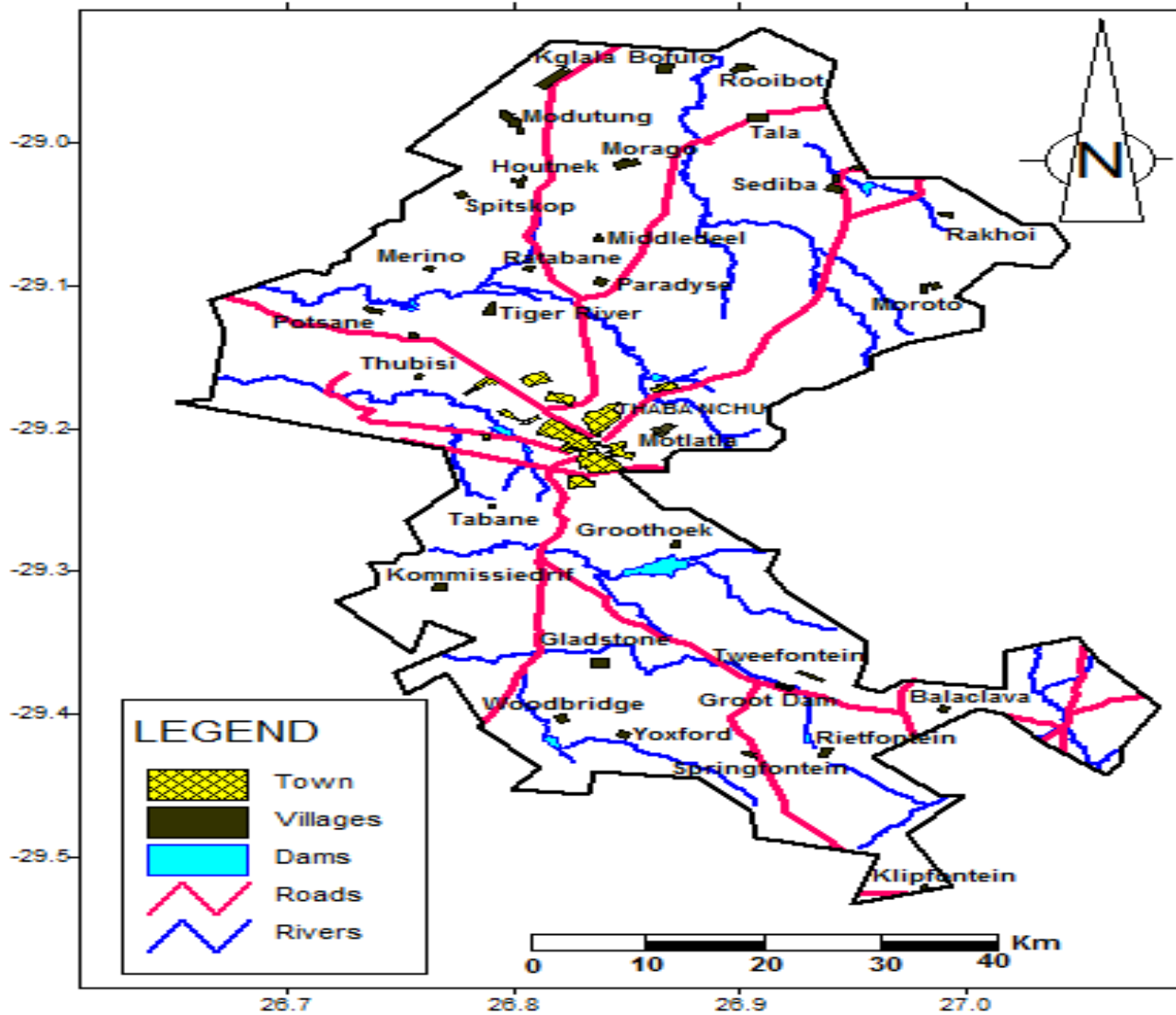
5.2 FINDINGS

The findings will be based on the interview responses from the CWP participants, IA and COGTA official. Nine questions were prepared for the CWP participants, seven questions were prepared for the IA and four questions were prepared for the COGTA official. Interview question guides were developed to collect data and those questions were open ended and open for discussion so as to gather as much information as possible

5.2.1 Background of CWP in Thaba Nchu

As mentioned by Peterson (2014), CWP has been implemented in three wards in Thaba Nchu, namely, ward 38, ward 39 and ward 41. Those wards represent North, South and Central parts of Thaba Nchu. The villages of Thaba Nchu are divided into peri and deep rural. The following map shows the deep rural villages of Thaba Nchu:

Figure 2: Map of Thaba Nchu rural villages



Source: Akwensiogee (2012: 40)

The research was conducted in nine9 villages where the CWP has been implemented namely, Tweefontein, Rietfontein, Grootdam, Tabane, Motlatla, Potsane, Middeldeel, Paradys and Mothusi. All the wards and clusters are represented in the study. The following table shows the areas where the study was conducted and also the respective cluster.

Table 7: Villages where interviews were conducted

North villages	Central villages	South villages
Mothusi	Potsane	Grootdam
Paradys	Tabane	Rietfontein
Middeldeel	Motlatla	Tweefontein

The CWP in the above villages was introduced in 2012, except Mothusi and Motlatla where it was introduced in 2013 and 2015 respectively. All the CWP participants work for two days per week, thus eight days per month. They work on different days: CWP participants from Potsane and Grootdam work on Monday and Tuesday; those from Mothusi, Middeldeel, Rietfontein and Tweefontein work on Tuesday and Wednesday; participants from Paradys, Tabane and Motlatla have two CWP groups, one works on Monday and Tuesday and another one works on Wednesday and Thursday. The participants are engaged in various activities and can be classified as agriculture (vegetable production established in public institutions and elderly households), clean-up (public institutions such as crèches, schools, community halls, graveyards, clinics, streets and elderly households), construction (road maintenance, fencing and building repairs), home-based care (taking care of the elderly, disabled and ill people by cleaning their households, doing laundry and providing them with vegetables from the established gardens) and natural resource management (control of weeds and invader plants such as slangbos). The following table shows the number of participants appointed during the introduction of the programme and the current situation.

Table 8: Number of CWP participants in each village

Village name	Year CWP introduced	NO of initial CWP participants in each CWP site	No of current CWP participants in each site	Difference	No of CWP participants interviewed per focus group
Mothusi	2013	10	6	4	5
Paradys	2012	11	11	0	7
Middeldeel	2012	10	6	4	5
Potsane	2012	16	8	8	8
Tabane	2012	10	8	2	8
Motlatla	2015	10	8	2	4
Grootdam	2012	8	5	3	5
Rietfontein	2012	10	9	1	6
Tweefontein	2012	8	6	2	6
Total		93	67	26	54

Each CWP site has been allocated a supervisor. Some of the supervisors are from within the CWP participants within the same village and some villages are supervised by supervisors from other neighbouring villages. Therefore, there are supervisors who are responsible for more than one CWP group. Supervisors for Paradys, Potsane, Motlatla, Rietfontein and Tweefontein are from within those respective areas whereas Mothusi, Middeldeel, Tabane and Grootdam are supervised from outside. Supervisors work five 5 days per week (20 days per month), Monday to Friday.

All the CWP participants receive their monthly stipend at month end. All participants from all villages except Paradys are paid R76 per day, thus R608 per month. CWP participants from Paradys are paid R560 per month.

5.2.2 Layout of the findings

Findings will be presented in themes. Three themes were developed, made up of related questions and responses from the CWP participants, IA and COGTA official. Each question will be placed on the relevant theme. The responses from both CWP participants, the COGTA official and the IA will be discussed in the specified themes. For the purpose of discussing the findings, the responses from focus groups will be explained as per village; for example, Tweefontein participants, Paradys

participants and so forth. This will assist in indicating exactly what was noted by the each focus group. The following table shows the themes and the questions which relate to each theme.

Table 9: Research themes

THEME	QUESTIONS
THEME 1: CWP as a poverty alleviation strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is your understanding about CWP? 2. Indicate your views on CWP as a poverty alleviation strategy? 3. What is the criteria used to selects participants? 4. How were you selected to participate in CWP? 5. What are the CWP focal activities? 6. What CWP activities are you engaged in?
THEME 2: The importance of CWP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How was your livelihood situation before participating in CWP? 2. What influence has the programme brought into your life? 3. Which activities are more important to your livelihood? 4. According to your experience, what are the priority activities for the participants? 5. What are the positives about CWP? 6. Is the programme useful and important to you?
THEME 3: Improving CWP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there any challenges you encounter in CWP? 2. What are the challenges faced with regard to CWP implementation? 3. What are your comments to improve the CWP?

5.2.2.1 *Theme 1: CWP as a poverty alleviation strategy*

The IA and COGTA official defined CWP as a programme designed to alleviate poverty and illiteracy. According to them, CWP is a poverty alleviation programme as it targets the poor, poverty stricken areas, unemployed people and people with no income, the under-employed, child headed families, disabled people who are unable to work, and the working age group of 16 to 60 years (and even more depending on their ability work) and vulnerable children. The COGTA official noted that the objectives of the CWP are to provide the minimum income, empower people, enhance service delivery in the municipality, contribute to social, community and environmental developments, develop skills through training and complement the current livelihood strategies. The IA highlighted that the CWP is an employment safety net whereby the participants work two days per week at R81 per day while skilled participants work for five days per week at R106 per day. The participants view the CWP as a poverty alleviation strategy because of the following: it creates job opportunities for the unemployed, improves the livelihood of the people, ensures food security through vegetable production, encourages skills development, contributes to community development through encouraging a clean environment, takes care of the elderly and vulnerable children through the

provision of cleaning services and food in the form of vegetables; and finally, it promotes social cohesion.

As explained by the COGTA official, the CWP participants are selected using the indigence register from the municipality. He further explained that the local reference committee is the one deciding on areas or villages to be prioritized in terms of implementing the CWP. If there is a long list of poverty stricken people in one village, the participants are selected through raffles during community meetings. The IA explained that CWP targets unemployed people with no income - social grants excluded. The opportunity is given to one person per household meeting the criteria. The COGTA then presents the programme to the municipality and the IA implements the programme. After this, the municipal council is responsible for deciding on the areas where the programme will be implemented, considering and prioritizing the poverty stricken areas. The IA through the ward councillor and the village leader organise the community meeting to roll out the programme. Thus, the ward councillor and the village leaders are the ones responsible for identifying people meeting the CWP criteria.

According to all the CWP participants except Tabane, they were selected through the community meeting. Those community meetings were organized by the implementing agent in consultation with the village leaders so as to outline the programme. The participants further explained that during those meetings, the IA explained that the CWP was an employment safety net programme which targets the following: unemployed people, the poor, those living in poverty, people with no income source (social grants excluded) and people from households where no one is employed.. The priority was given to anyone of working age group, 16 to 60 years old who met the requirements.

The participants highlighted that the IA afforded the community an opportunity to identify people who met the requirements. As stated by the participants from villages such as Mothusi, Paradys, Middeldeel, Potsane, Grootdam and Rietfontein, they were identified by the community who took their living conditions into consideration. The community selected the people who were considered to be living in poverty and who had no means to sustain their livelihoods. In Motlatla and Tweefontein, the people who met requirements were selected through a raffle. The Tabane CWP pointed out that in their case, the IA arranged the community meeting without notifying the village leader. As a result, the community refused to hold the meeting and as such the meeting did not materialize. The implementing agent then consulted the village leader to get authority to introduce the programme. The implementing agent was then authorized to identify the interested poor people within the village, by visiting house to house until required number was gained.

The IA stated that the activities of the CWP in Thaba Nchu are agriculture (community garden, and homestead - child headed and elderly), clean-up (legal and illegal dumping sites, public assets, streets, graveyards, clinics, schools, churches), construction (minor construction on community assets, old age homes, clinics, water leaks, paintings, repairs, roofing, rebuilding, RDP houses repair), home based care (taking care of the elderly people). But he noted that in Thaba Nchu there is less construction and home based care, and too much focus is on agriculture and clean up. The COGTA official provided an overview of the CWP in the Mangaung Metro Municipality, not necessarily Thaba Nchu. The reason is that the AI is the one to know the activities for each village as he is the person responsible for the implementation process. He highlighted that in Mangaung Metro municipality the CWP activities are agriculture, infrastructure, environment, social issues and education.

The activities vary from village to village. Agriculture occurs in all villages. In Middeldeel the participants have grouped themselves into two groups: one group is engaged in construction and another one in agriculture. All the villages except Middeldeel are also engaged with clean-up. As mentioned by the Middeldeel CWP, the clean-up activity has been discontinued. In addition, construction is undertaken in all villages except Motlatla. However, only three villages namely, Grootdam, Tweefontein and Rietfontein are engaged with home-based care activity. Home-based care in Middeldeel was discontinued because the members whom they were supposed to assist denied them the opportunity to enter their households.

5.2.2.2 Theme 2: The importance of CWP

The participants pointed out that their lives were very difficult before the introduction of the CWP. They stated that they used to go to sleep hungry without any food at all. They also stated that they were unemployed and had no income source, they were relying on social grants (elderly and child grants) and borrowing money from their neighbours. They depended on borrowing money and food. Sometimes people refused to lend them money because they could not see how they would be repaid if the person had no work. Furthermore, Grootdam and Tabane participants explained that it was difficult for them to get jobs because they had to travel long distances to search for jobs. Similarly, participants from Grootdam, Tweefontein, Motlatla and Paradys said they were dependant on piece jobs which sometimes did not pay the amount agreed. Some of the participants stated the following:

"I did not have clothes, used to wear unworthy clothes to a point I was even shy to go outside".

"I was always ill and depressed and I was unable to consult the doctor because I could not afford".

As is evident by the participants' responses, the presence of the CWP has brought positive changes into their lives. With the income they are now able to handle basic needs such as food, electricity, clothes, bus fare for school children, transport, consulting doctors when ill, cosmetics and funeral policies. Most importantly, the programme has reduced poverty especially in addressing the food insecurity factor. They highlighted that they are no longer feeling the the burden of addressing basic necessities because when they combine social grants with CWP income, their lives are much easier. They are no longer borrowing money. They also mentioned that they are no longer living in extreme poverty. Therefore, the CWP as an employment opportunity has improved their livelihoods. In addition, Mothusi, Parady and Tabane participants stated that they have even established saving clubs. The following statements were made by participants which highlight that the employment opportunity has improved their livelihoods:

" Both me and my husband were unemployed and we were only depending on child grant. It was very difficult for us to come. Now at least CWP has improved my life because I can even manage to buy foods".

"This employment opportunity has saved my life because I would have been in jail for involving in theft as a result of unemployment".

"Getting job has made my life easier because I am from a family of five members who are all unemployed. We were only relying on one elderly grant. Now I am the bread winner as I am the only one who is working."

"Participation in CWP keeps me busy and healthy. I was ill and depressed all the times. The CWP "serves as my daily exercise by the nature of its activities".

"Now we have standing income and we have even regained our dignity. When you are unemployed, people turn to disrespect you".

"I am an orphan and I did not have any means to live. I was even hopeless. CWP has improved my life".

All the participants recognized that the activities implemented through CWP has brought positive changes into their lives and the community at large. They recognized agriculture as the most important activity because through vegetable production, they are able feed themselves and the community, especially the elderly, while still supporting feeding schemes for schools and crèches. The surplus is sold to generate an extra income. Moreover, vegetable production plays a huge role in eradicating food insecurity.

Twefontein participants note that the clean-up activity plays an important role in ensuring a clean and healthy environment. Paradys participants mention construction as also important because this activity ensures a well maintained community environment. On the other hand, Rietfontein participants recognize home-based care as important because the elderly and the ill within the village live healthy lives. Similarly, Potsane participants noted that even though they are not involved in home-based care, it is of the utmost important as it would help the elderly, ill, disabled and vulnerable children within their village. Tabane participants regard all activities as equally important to them because with agriculture they are able to eat and provide for other needy community members, especially the elderly, whereas construction and clean-up ensures that their village is always neat and in order. In agreement with this, the IA recognized that all the activities are equally important to the participants because the participants are the ones identifying the useful work within their communities. According to the COGTA official, the activity with the most priority is infrastructure development, however, others prioritize social and educational related activities.

All participants regard agriculture as the most important activity in their livelihoods as it provides them with food, extra income and support for other needy community members. Other activities that are regarded to be important as highlighted by some of the villages are clean-up, construction and home-based care. According to the AI, all the activities are useful and important to the participants because the participants are the ones identifying the useful work. According to the COGTA official, the priority of activities differs widely and this depends on locality setup. According to his observation, most participants prioritize infrastructure, however others prioritize social and educational activities. However, the participants prioritize agriculture because it benefits them in different ways. Thus, it is evident enough that agriculture is the number one priority as it plays a pivotal role in the lives of the participants and the community at large.

All the participants fully agree that the programme is very useful and important to them. According to them the programme is very useful because they now have monthly income. Mothusi and Potsane participants point out that they were unemployed and just loitering about within the village, doing nothing. This has changed because CWP has created job opportunities for them. The participants from Paradys, Middeldeel, Motlatla, Grootdam and Rietfontein highlight that the income received enables them to buy food as well as other basic household needs. Furthermore, Tabane participants stated that combining their CWP income with their social grant income enables them to manage basic necessities. Of great importance is that Tweefontein, Paradys and Potsane participants noted that through CWP they gain experience and skills and this contributes a lot to poverty alleviation.

Participants asserted that the CWP has improved their livelihood by removing them from poverty and hunger, especially through vegetable production, thus, it develops their communities. All the participants highlighted that they like CWP because it has provided them with employment which they were struggling to get as they did not have qualifications and experience. Moreover, there is no need for them to worry about transport costs because they operate from home. Middeldeel, Paradys and Tweefontein participants note that the experience and skills acquired from the programme is invaluable. In fact, Middeldeel and Mothusi participants state that CWP is important because it has retained their dignity because when they were unemployed they felt disrespected and overlooked.

In addition to what has been raised by the participants, the COGTA official notes that the positive attributes of CWP is that it reduces crime caused by idling and lack of income and that it contributes to infrastructure development. The IA adds that a beneficial factor of CWP is that the programme unlocks the talents and potential of the participants. Therefore, the participants are employable and have access Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF).

5.2.2.3 Theme 3: Improving CWP

CWP challenges

There is a shortage of working tools (gardening and fencing tools) in all the villages except Middeldeel. Even though there is a lack of working tools, participants revealed that they are expected to perform their duties daily. A shortage of uniforms is also a challenge in Mothusi, Middeldeel, Tabane, Motlatla and Tweefontein. The respective participants from those villages stated that

uniforms are replaced after a long time and in most cases they receive incorrect sizes. Lack of production inputs (seeds and fertilizers) at Middeldeel, Potsane, Tabane is one of the major challenges and as a result the performance of agricultural activities is very limited. The participants in those villages mentioned that it is always their responsibility to make a contribution from the little income they receive to ensure that production inputs are purchased. The IA provides seeds once per year whereas the participants produce vegetables throughout the year. Another problem is that in Motlatla and Rietfontein there are no fences for gardens. This creates an environment which is not conducive for agricultural activities because animals roam freely in gardens. There is also a severe shortage of water for vegetable production in Grootdam, Middeldeel, Rietfontein and Tweefontein.

In addition, Motlatla, Paradys and Potsane participants raised concerns of inconsistency in receiving payments. They mentioned that they are supposed to receive their incomes by month end, but there is always a delay. They stated that this problem inconveniences them especially with funeral policies because when they join they arrange dates for payment. Paradys participants highlighted that they sometimes do not receive their stipend at all and the in following month they only receive one payment. Furthermore, Potsane participants made reports of not getting paid when they are on maternity leave and that they are expected to work until the 11th hour and resume work in a month's time.

There is lack of cooperation by the communities in villages such as Middeldeel, Potsane, Rietfontein and Tweefontein as highlighted by the participants from those respective villages. Middeldeel and Tweefontein participants noted that the community rejects home based-care services. On the other hand, in Potsane the community members litter rubbish deliberately and expect the participants to clean up after them. It was further mentioned that the community is expecting too much from them. To add to this, the number of participants has reduced from 16 to eight. An additional problem is that some of the participants are not working, but just enjoying government money. Rietfontein participants also stated that the community refuses to borrow them tools even when assisting them in their own yards.

The participants pointed out that there are no site visits by programme managers (site facilitators and the IA) in any villages to monitor the progress of the programme. They have also noted that rural areas are neglected because the programme managers visit only the CWP in townships, and even uniforms are provided to the CWP in townships. Supervisors mentioned that they hold meetings every Friday but the IA does not attend and these meetings are a fruitless expenditure because some of the

concerns need their attention. But on the other hand, irrespective of the challenges faced, performance is expected from the participants. All participants stated that they struggle to open accounts because they need a stamp from the employer and they cannot access it as there is no office in Thaba Nchu.

Paradys and Tweefontein participants complained about not getting the training they were promised which would ensure that the participants are working correctly. Paradys participants raised a further concern that in other areas when appointing the participants, certificates such as grade 12 and others are recognized. They stated that the participants with such certificates in other areas earned more money but to them it was not applicable.

Potsane and Tweefontein participants stated that supervisors are faced with a serious challenge of being responsible for 2 scattered villages, where they have to travel long distances at their own costs or use a bicycle which is not user-friendly.

Contrary to this, COGTA is faced with a serious challenge of budget constraints as highlighted by the COGTA official. The budget is too little to afford the required number of uniforms and working tools. The IA highlighted the following as the main challenges impeding the progress of CWP:

- Budget constraints for training. The money is too little to accommodate all areas
- Lack of enough working tools (garden, construction and cleaning) for participants. The matter has been referred to the provincial CWP coordinator but to date it has not been addressed.
- No stakeholder relationship. There are issues that need support from the stakeholders. For example, the municipality for waste management.
- No fencing for legal dumping sites – the municipality does not assist with waste management
- No law enforcement for illegal dumping sites. Waste is dumped everywhere and this hampers the impact of CWP
- The programme will last until 2020 but there is no exit strategy. The idea is that when the participants exit the programme, they start their own businesses and give others chance to participate in CWP

The IA (2015) identified lack of support from major stakeholders from both private and public sectors such as Agriculture, Social Development, Health, Municipality, academic institutions, Police and local businesses. Potsane participants noted that they have not learned anything through the CWP because they are doing the work on their own without being guided and they are not even sure if they

are doing the right thing. They also mentioned that there has not been even a single training session conducted since they started working. In a similar way, Mothusi participants pointed out that CWP is not useful because the income earned is too little. According to Paradys participants, the income from CWP deepens poverty especially in households with many members, because the income is too little to handle big families. The COGTA official stated the following as the negatives of CWP:

- The participants get demoralized by the way they are treated by the community. For instance, community members littering deliberately and expecting CWP participants to clean up afterwards.
- Misunderstanding of CWP objectives, for example, blaming CWP participants when the community environment is not clean. People misunderstand because this is the role of municipality not CWP.
- Unwillingness of the participants to fully gain the knowledge and skills which will allow them to search for other opportunities outside of CWP. Some of the participants have been participating in CWP since it was introduced and they are relaxed without intentions of further improvement away from CWP.

Views on how to improve the CWP

There are various ways in which the CWP could be improved. The first factor participants proposed is that there should be equal distribution of working tools, uniforms and production inputs amongst participants in various areas, both in urban or rural areas. Uniform and working tools should be replaced annually or whenever there is shortage. If there is shortage of uniform and working tools, immediately when available, the areas in need should be given the priority. This would help solve participants immensely, whilst giving them motivation to work.

Another area which could be addressed is that Mothusi participants urged that the issue of unequal stipends be addressed. It was also proposed the participants that the number of working days should be increased to all for a higher income. Similarly, participants showed much interest in agriculture and as result they recommended the establishment of other agricultural projects which could raise their income and thereby improve food security. In addition, Middeldeel and Potsane participants recommended that campaigns on the importance of home-based care should be organized. According to them home-based care is important because it assists the needy people within the communities especially the elderly, vulnerable children and disabled people.

Furthermore, participants are faced with a challenge of the IA's lack of visits to the site in order to monitor progress. According to participants, regular site visits would lead to solving the many challenges they encounter as well as improving the implementation of CWP. The AI should also keep all promises kept regarding uniforms, tools, increasing income and training provision. Training should be provided as promised to ensure skills development and proper implementation of activities. In fact, training provision can serve as an important exit strategy because the skills gained can be used in future.

Grotdam, Rietfontein and Tweefontein participants proposed that other departments and private sectors such as the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Bloem Water assist in addressing the water problem. They also noted that exposure to water harvesting and saving techniques will be added advantage. In a similar way, Motlatla and Rietfontein participants recognized that provision of infrastructure such as fencing and vegetable tunnels can result in sustainable agricultural activities. The following recommendations were pointed by the IA as ways to improve CWP:

- There should be additional operational management to oversee CWP activities regularly on a daily basis to ensure that targets are met.
- The establishment of stakeholder partnerships would assist in dealing with CWP at a local level. The forum should meet regularly to address challenges.
- In order to maximize the impact of the programme, the number of special projects, such as the building of houses, should be increased so that participants can be subcontracted and receive an extra income.
- It is also recommended that the municipality should prioritize CWP participants when there are employment opportunities if whereby they meet the requirements.
- Provision of transport to visit sites to monitor the progress of activities and distribute tools to sites is necessary.
- The municipality should assist with waste management for clean-up activities and law enforcement for illegal dumping sites
- Relevant stakeholders should provide training to the participants

The COGTA official recommended the following to improve CWP:

- The establishment of a stakeholder forum to deal with CWP and also develop monitoring and evaluation strategies for CWP.

- The establishment of partnerships between public and private sectors
- Active involvement of the private sector in CWP

5.3 ANALYSIS

The responses from both CWP participants, the COGTA official and the IA will be analysed in using the specified themes. In the findings discussion, the referencing was done per each village, but now for the purpose of analysing, the findings will be summarized comprehensively. The purpose is to outline the views of people about CWP.

5.3.1 Theme 1: CWP as poverty alleviation strategy

As pointed out by Philip (2013b: 12), the CWP was specifically designed to react to the state of unemployment. It did this by targeting the poorest and most marginal areas by offering continuous access to a minimum level of part-time work. The main objective of CWP is to provide an income safety net to the poor (COGTA, 2014: 2; David, 2015: 28). According to Naude (2012: 7) the objective of CWP is to improve the livelihood of people especially in rural areas through provision of training, work experience and promoting economic inclusion. As per the findings, the objective of CWP is to provide the minimum income, eradicate poverty, allow empowerment, offer fast tracking service delivery within the municipality, provide skills development through training, contribute to a social, community and environmental development and lastly, to complement the current livelihood strategies.

From the findings, it is clear that CWP is regarded as poverty alleviation. The following is the summary of the reasons why the CWP is regarded as a poverty alleviation strategy:

- a. CWP is a poverty alleviation strategy because it provides job opportunities to the needy – the income received enables the participants to address basic needs. Activities such as vegetable production, provides foods which plays a critical role in combating hunger which is seen as the main characteristic of poverty.
- b. The criteria used to select the participants clearly indicates that CWP is poverty alleviation programme as it targets poverty stricken areas. The programme targets marginalized areas, the unemployed, the under-employed, child headed families and vulnerable children.
- c. The CWP also contributes to community development through various activities such as promoting a clean environment, taking care of the elderly, disabled and vulnerable children,

food security and social cohesion. Therefore, CWP develops communities through various activities and this results in reduced poverty rates.

d. The CWP improves the livelihoods of the participants.

Through the CWP, various activities are implemented. These include agriculture, care for the environment, construction and home-based care. The main focus is on agriculture, clean-up and construction, and less on home-based care activities. These activities contribute to poverty reduction and community development. The following table indicates the CWP activities implemented per village:

Table 10: CWP activities per village

Village name	CWP activities			
	Agriculture	Clean-up	Construction	Home-based care
Mothusi	X	X	X	-
Paradys	X	X	X	-
Middeldeel	X	-	X	-
Potsane	X	X	X	-
Tabane	X	X	X	-
Motlatla	X	X	-	
Grootdam	X	X	X	X
Rietfontein	X	X	X	X
Tweefontein	X	x	X	X
Total	9	8	8	3

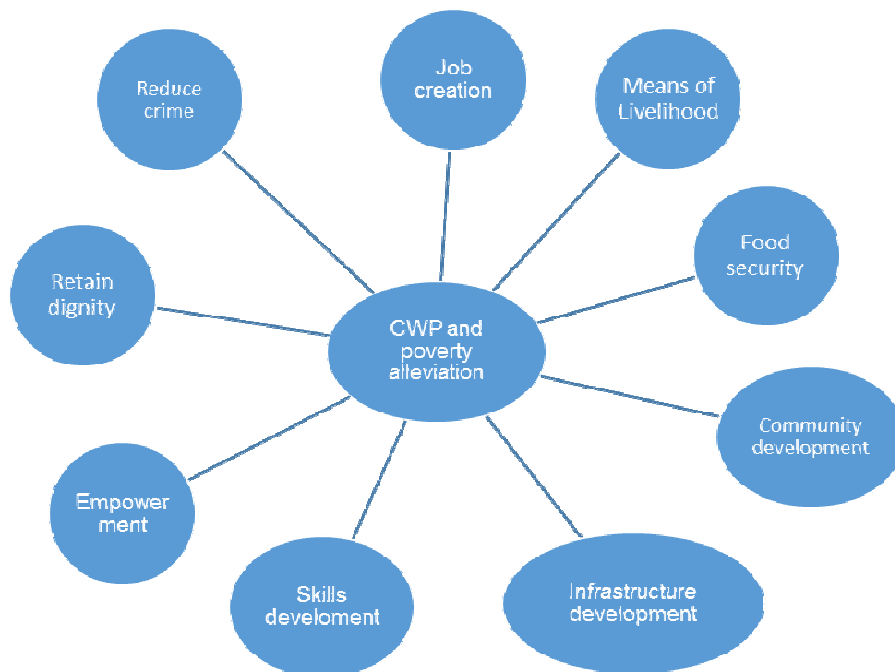
The above table shows that agriculture is implemented in all nine villages; clean-up is occurs in eight villages, (not Middeldeel); construction is employed in eight villages, with only Motlatla excluded; whereas home-based care is only undertaken in three villages and are all in south part of Thaba Nchu. As stated by the participants, home-based care is not in practice in those villages because of rejection from the community members.

5.3.2 Theme 2: The importance of CWP

Unemployment is one of the main factors contributing to deepening poverty (Dlamini, 2001: 17-27; Frye, 2006b: 6). Dicks *et al.* (2011: 77) note that employment programmes are important interventions

for fighting against poverty. It is acknowledged in this study that the CWP as one of the employment creation programmes has brought positive changes in the livelihood of many. Furthermore, other studies confirm the positive changes brought by the CWP in the livelihood of the people (COGTA, 2014: 1). Moreover, the CWP stipend is used to supplement other household income sources such as social grants. This enables poor households to provide better for their families (David, 2015: 31). On the other hand, the skills and experience gained from the CWP is invaluable. CWP also encourages social and spiritual related activities, such as respecting each other, praying and helping each other. The following figure summarizes the major contribution of the CWP in poverty alleviation as identified in this study:

Figure 3: The relationship between CWP and poverty alleviation



It is clear that the CWP is an important poverty alleviation programme because it improves the livelihoods of its participants, ensures food security, income generation, and community and infrastructure development. Even the study conducted by Cochrane (2011: 18) reveals that the CWP has made a noticeable difference in the lives of its participants by improving their living standards through the economic, social and emotional benefits offered by the programme. Phillip (2013: 33) notes that access to income coupled with the skills and experience acquired from the CWP strengthens the livelihood strategies of the participants.

This shows that the expansion of CWP could make a significant contribution to the SA development agenda by raising the incomes of the poor households. Thus, the deepest levels of poverty will

eventually be addressed. However, the study conducted by David (2015: 31) reveals that some of the CWP participants regard the work offered by this programme as uninspiring. According to those participants the income provided is too little and is not worth the effort. Yet, David (2015: 31) also notes that even though CWP income is relatively low, it is regular and predictable. Therefore, CWP enables participants to depend on a small and stable income while allowing them to use the additional time for other income generating activities. The CWP stipend also supplements other household income sources such as social grants which enable poor households to provide better for their families. Thus, CWP has brought hope to many distressed situations (COGTA, 2014: 1).

5.3.3 Theme 3: Improving CWP

The researcher observed that the CWP is making a meaningful contribution to people's lives, however there are many challenges encountered. In summary, the following are the major challenges faced with regard to the CWP:

- A shortage of working tools and uniforms which hampers the execution of the CWP activities
- Lack of training which impedes the skills development of the participants
- Shortages of water and fencing for agricultural activities
- Non-cooperating communities who reject the participants, especially for rendering home-based care services. This demoralizes the participants. Community members also seem to misunderstand the CWP objectives.
- There is a smaller stipend compared to other areas, as well as inconsistency in receiving this income. This situation is an inconvenience to participants in addressing their own monthly commitment, for instance in the case of funeral policies
- A lack of stakeholder support is evident: there is a gap when it comes to local stakeholders and this hampers the success of the programme
- Budget constraints faced by the implementers and COGTA: The budget is too little to afford the required number of uniforms, working tools and training. This clearly shows that the issue of budget constraints poses a serious challenge to the implementation of CWP activities especially training, purchasing of uniforms and working tools.
- Skills, qualifications and experience is not recognized in appointing the participants in Thaba Nchu
- Lack of transport for the conveyance of working tools to sites and lack of transport for supervisors: shortage of transport creates an environment not conducive to the monitoring of the programme

The following are the proposed ways of improving the CWP and are summarized as follows:

- a. The establishment of a stakeholder forum which consists of critical stakeholders, such as the departments of Agriculture, Social Development, Rural Development and Land Reform, Health and other private sectors, is necessary. This forum should complement each other's plans to give maximum support to the CWP. The CWP should be a joint effort because COGTA cannot manage alone.
- b. The local municipality should support and complement CWP activities especially with waste management. It is vital that the municipality be part and parcel of the programme. This can be done by aligning their Integrated Development Plan (IDP) with the CWP activities which complement the municipality activities, rather than replacing them.
- c. COGTA should secure the budget through the assistance of other stakeholders in order to address the shortage of working tools, transport and training. This will ensure a smooth working environment and transport for both site supervisors and the IA to visit the CWP sites which is a serious challenge. However, in terms of transport provision for the IA, it is not clear whether this is the responsibility for COGTA or the IA. This is because the IA was appointed by COGTA to implement the programme, meaning COGTA pays the implementing agent to do the work.
- d. Monitoring and evaluation of the programme is necessary in order to make sure that the activities are implemented as expected and also to address the challenges encountered at the CWP sites. This can be achieved by regular site visits by both COGTA and the IA. In addition, the establishment of a local office is necessary so that when the participants need assistance, they can easily access the office.
- e. Agriculture is the activity given priority because it provides people with food. There is enough evidence that the engagement in food security projects in the CWP has a spillover effect in diversifying the livelihood strategies of the participants (Phillip, 2013a: 17). Therefore, in order to maximize the impact of the programme, it is necessary to establish other agricultural related projects such as piggery and poultry production, as well as other special projects such as the building of houses. Special projects will allow the participants to be employed elsewhere and to

generate an extra income. This will contribute to reducing unemployment and hunger.

- f. With regard to uncooperative communities, it is important CWP campaigns are held in communities. This will help to inform communities about the objectives and importance of the CWP in order to address the misunderstanding community members have about the CWP.
- g. Provision of training can also play an important role in ensuring skills development, as well as enabling participants to execute CWP activities accordingly.
- h. Reviewing of the criteria used to appoint the participants should be revised. According to the programme, only one member per household should be given the opportunity to participate irrespective of whether the household is large or small. There should be exception in larger families in order for the CWP to make a difference in those particular households.

5.4 CONCLUSION

Evidence shows that before the intervention of CWP all participants were struggling to live. They were unemployed, relying on social grants, food was insecure and they were unable to afford basic needs such as food, clothes and electricity. The programme is proved to be very useful and important in the livelihood of participants. Income is regarded as the key to managing a household. With the implementation of agricultural activities, the participants are able to eat and feed the needy within their communities. Thus, the skills and experience gained through the programme is invaluable.

It is clear that CWP is seen as a poverty alleviation programme through job creation, food security, community development and skills development. The income received enables the participants to address their basic needs, thereby improving their livelihood. In a similar way, the CWP affords its participants the opportunity to gain skills and experience which in turn results in reduced poverty.

Though the CWP has had flourishing results, there are major challenges faced. These include the following: a shortage of working tools and uniforms; lack of training; a shortage of water for agricultural activities; lack of cooperation from communities and a misunderstanding of the CWP objectives; a smaller stipend as compared to other areas; lack of stakeholder support; budget constraints; skills, qualifications and experience not recognized in Thaba Nchu when appointing the participants; and, lack of transport for the conveyance of working tools to sites and moving

supervisors from one place to another.

Having discussed and analysed the findings of the study, it is important to draw the conclusion and recommendations. Thus, the next chapter will present the conclusion and recommendations based on the findings of the study. This will finally determine or answer the aim and objectives of the study.

CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

The previous chapter presented the methodology and research findings. The aim of this chapter is to draw the conclusion by summarizing the findings and providing the recommendations. The chapter will be outlined in four subsections. The first section will summarize the discussions and literature review. The second section will link the findings with the research objectives. The third section will discuss the recommendations and the last section will suggest areas for further research.

6.2 THE POVERTY DEBATE AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Poverty has remained a major topic for debate globally, especially in developing countries including South Africa. As outlined in previous chapters, the causes of poverty are to be found in social, economic and political factors. It is therefore important to explore poverty definitions, indicators, types and its causes in order to have a better understanding of the complexity of the poverty phenomenon. This holistic approach to poverty has resulted in various poverty alleviation strategies. Binza (2013: 15) observed that the process of combating poverty requires integrated and participatory approaches in order to create a conducive environment to unlock opportunities for marginalized and poor people to access social, economic, and political and natural resources.

The complexity of poverty shows that alleviating it is not only about having food, shelter, education, security and health facilities (Yadav, 2008: 117). Just like poverty definitions, poverty alleviation is also complex, that is why it has been a major challenge facing South Africa post 1994 (Burger, Mahadea & Neill 2004: 187). Agupusi (2007: 2) believes that the persistent level of poverty in South Africa is due to unemployment growth and poor economic growth. Much of the literature confirmed unemployment as the major cause of poverty because it is believed that without income one would not afford basic human needs (Dlamini, 2001: 17-27; Friedman & Bengu, 2008: 9-11; Frye, 2006b: 6). This shows that job creation is very critical in poverty alleviation. Therefore, income security through the provision of safety nets to poor people is recognized as the most critical pillar in poverty alleviation.

In responding to the high levels of poverty prevailing in South Africa, the government has initiated many job creation programmes such as CWP. The CWP was specifically designed to address the

nature of unemployment in South Africa by enabling community-driven development and inclusive economic growth (Phillip, 2013a: 36). Thaba Nchu is one of the areas where the CWP has been implemented (Peterson, 2014). Thus, the aim of this study was to investigate the CWP as a poverty alleviation strategy. Therefore, the next section will summarize the main findings in relation to the study objectives.

6.3 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

From the literature consulted, it is clear that job creation is critical for poverty alleviation. It was even recommended by The Presidency (2008: 6-56) that in addressing poverty, the government should give more attention to critical interventions which address the` expansion of job opportunities, self-employment and skills development, more especially to rural and poor communities.

The findings of this study reveal that CWP as a job creation programme is an important poverty alleviation strategy. It has improved the livelihoods of its participants by making a contribution to the eradication of poverty and hunger, retaining dignity, reducing crime, infrastructure and community development, providing the participants with the opportunity to gain experience and develop skills and improving livelihoods. In addition, it has made a positive impact on the lives of its participants in areas such as finance, skills development and work experience. Furthermore, the combination of a CWP stipend and social grants make a huge difference in improving the living standards of the participants.

Part of the policy rationale for public works programmes is to provide the participants with an income that allows them to solve the vilest depredations of poverty. Generally, combating hunger is the first priority in addressing poverty. Within the CWP, fighting against hunger is not only achieved through the income received but also by the activities undertaken, such as vegetable production. The impact made by the CWP is therefore invaluable.

The aim of this study was to determine the importance of CWP as a poverty alleviation strategy in Thaba Nchu. To achieve the main aim of the study, four objectives were set. It is then important to discuss the findings of each objective in order to make the final conclusion of the study. The following are the objectives and findings of the study.

6.3.1 To determine what poverty means

Various definitions of poverty exist. Defining it depends on what needs to be achieved. Many definitions, types and causes of poverty were explored in chapter two. However, this study adopted the definition by the World Bank, which states that poverty refers to being in hunger, lack of shelter, being sick and not able to afford health care, as well as having a low income level which cannot meet basic life necessities (World Bank, 2010: 1). Poverty is the lack of income (Bhuiyan & Bakar, 2014: 559; Masipa & Jideani, 2014b: 559; Sirajo & Zayyanu, 2014: 199). Thus, poverty in this study is associated with the lack of income to afford the basic needs of life. Poverty is caused by various factors, but this paper argues that unemployment is the single greatest contributor to poverty. One of the signs of poverty is receiving social grant support because in South Africa social assistance is target poor and the marginalized areas.

As confirmed by this study, before the introduction of the CWP the participants had very limited means to live. They were unemployed, relying on social grants, food was insecure and they were unable to afford basic needs such as food, clothes and electricity. This situation reveals that the participants from all villages were living in poverty conditions according to the definition provided by the World Bank. It also shows that CWP participants were living in absolute poverty because they were unable to afford basic human needs due to a lack of income. Furthermore, poverty in Thaba Nchu is complicated by high rates of unemployment.

6.3.2 To investigate poverty alleviation mechanisms in South Africa

The process of combating poverty requires integrated and participatory approaches in order to create a conducive environment to unlock opportunities for marginalized and poor people to access social, economic, and political and natural resources (Binza, 2013: 15). In South Africa, various strategies have been employed in the fight against poverty. These include social security programmes such as grants for children and the elderly and job creation programmes such as EPWP, Working for Water, Working for Fire, land care and CWP. According to SPII (2007 14) the provision of social assistance is one of the approaches to provide immediate relief from poverty and has been used by the government as one of the most successful poverty alleviation strategies.

Binza (2013: 15) and Karnani (2011: 17) note that it is necessary to create employment opportunities to fight against the prevailing levels of poverty. According to Binza (2013: 15) and UNDP (2015: 1) income enables people to improve their livelihoods and to be secure economically. Moreover, it allows

people to participate fully within society, to contribute to public good and it enhances cohesion. Hence, it is without a doubt that job creation is critical for poverty alleviation.

The core focus of this study is CWP and its broader aim in community development (David, 2015: 28). While its main objective is to provide an income safety net to the poor, the programme also contributes to various core strategic goals of government in fighting against unemployment and poverty.

6.3.3 To assess the CWP as a poverty alleviation initiative in Thaba Nchu

CWP is one of the key job creation programmes in South Africa. The implementation of CWP has brought positive changes to the lives of its participants. Most importantly, the programme has reduced poverty through the income provided. Thwala (2008: 110) noted that public works programmes such as CWP play a major role in creating job opportunities for the majority of people in South Africa. Thus, the findings of this study reveal that CWP as an employment opportunity has improved people's livelihoods. Most participants were unemployed and had been depending solely on social grants (child or elderly grants). Some of the participants did not even have any means to survive. Therefore, access to income has improved their lives. There is no doubt that an income plays a huge role in enabling people to access the basic needs of life. Similarly, those who have access to social grants have significantly improved their livelihoods as a result of combining social grants with CWP income to better manage their basic needs.

6.3.4 To supply recommendations on how the CWP can be improved

It is clear that no proper monitoring or evaluation exists which would ensure that the programme is achieving its objectives. As a consequence, there is a need to review the programme on quarterly basis which would assist in controlling and addressing the challenges faced by both implementers and participants. In fact, provision of training will also play an important role in ensuring that the participants do what is expected. Moreover, it will develop their skills and afford them the opportunity to search for permanent jobs. It is important that other governmental departments such as the local municipality, Agriculture, Social Development, Rural Development and Land Reform, Health and private sectors should also provide support to the participants in addressing the challenges. This applies especially to production inputs, working tools, infrastructure and provision of technical advice in agricultural activities. It should be considered that CWP is a government programme, therefore

there is a need for a joint effort from other departments to ensure the smooth implementation of the programme.

In order to maximize the impact of the CWP, food security projects should be the priority. Food insecurity is the main factor associated with poverty (Asian Development Bank, 2012: 7). It is also important to increase the number of special projects such as the building of houses. Detailed recommendations are outlined in the next section.

6.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations proposed in this study derive from the findings that were presented in chapter four. It was worth it to conduct this study to determine whether poverty alleviation programmes initiated in South Africa are making a difference in people's lives. Based on the findings, the CWP is recognised as an important poverty alleviation programme in Thaba Nchu. However, several gaps have been identified in the implementation of the programme. The following are the recommendations for improving the CWP:

6.4.1 *Financial and Technical support*

CWP should be a joint effort whereby other organizations especially governmental departments provide both financial and technical support in addressing problems such as the shortage of tools, uniforms, production inputs and infrastructure. The provision of both financial and technical support systems of CWP activities will create an environment for the CWP activities to flourish. The more the activities improve, the more the programme impact is maximized.

As agriculture was identified as one of the most important activities, there is a need for collaborative efforts from relevant government departments such as Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform, Social Development and Health. This will provide support for agricultural activities especially the provision of production inputs, fencing and water for irrigation. The introduction of water harvesting technologies can also contribute significantly to the water shortage problem. There are various existing water conservation technologies which can be employed, these include in-field water harvesting and recycling wastewater.

6.4.2 Stakeholder Relationship

It is important that COGTA establish a stakeholder forum wherein all relevant parties are represented. This forum should serve as a platform to discuss issues pertaining to CWP implementation. Each stakeholder should identify areas to provide support. For example, the Department of Agriculture should financially or technically support the CWP on agricultural related activities. It is recommended that each stakeholder present its strategic plan so that the plans from various stakeholders can be aligned to maximize the support provided. This will also help to avoid the duplication of services. The incorporation of stakeholder plans will also assist in improving CWP implementation. To ensure a strong relationship, the stakeholders should at least meet once per quarter to discuss the progress on CWP. In this way, plans may be amended in case the programme is not being implemented accordingly.

6.4.3 Training

Training is one of the most important ways of empowering people. As alluded to previously, one of the objectives of the CWP is to improve the skills of the participants, and training in this regard is necessary. Therefore, it is important that in-service training and on the job training are frequently conducted for the participants for continuous skills development. Moreover, through the skills acquired from various training sessions, the participants will be employable elsewhere outside the CWP. The training needs of CWP activities can be addressed through the established stakeholder forum. On the other hand, private organizations such as the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) and NGO's such as World Vision provide training support to various development programmes and projects.

6.4.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation serve as an important process in improving performance to achieve the desired objective. This study reveals poor monitoring of the CWP sites. However, the IA highlighted transport as one of the challenges for not being able to monitor sites. It should be noted that the IA is contracted by COGTA to implement the programme for a specified period and the core responsibility of the programme remains with COGTA. This means that COGTA is responsible for instituting ways for monitoring of the programme. In CWP implementation, monitoring and evaluation are important in determining the impact of the programme, identifying the challenges and gaps and putting control measures in place. Therefore, regular site visits serve as one of the most important ways for monitoring and evaluation.

6.4.5 CWP Awareness Campaigns

There is a need for campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of CWP in community development in areas where it is implemented. This will assist in addressing the problems encountered by the participants, especially with activities like home based care. It is imperative that communities should understand that CWP is not only meant to benefiting its participants, but the entire community through implementation of various projects and activities.

6.4.6 Appointment of CWP site supervisors

There should be one supervisor per CWP site. This will help to improve the monitoring of CWP sites. Alternatively, if supervisors are appointed for more than one village, they should be assisted with transport to be able to visits sites frequently.

5.5 AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

It is acknowledged that this study has made a meaningful contribution to understanding whether the CWP is an important poverty alleviation programme. It is clear that CWP has improved the livelihood of its participants through the income received. However, there are some limitations that highlight the areas requiring further research. For example, in this study, the data was collected only for nine villages in Thaba Nchu, meaning the applicability of the findings in the other villages of Thaba Nchu are not known. Therefore, future, research should include all villages to enable a larger sample size. This will ensure that the findings are applicable to the broader population of CWP participants. In addition, this study examined the importance of CWP without considering the personal characteristics and gender related information of the participants. Thus, it is important to find out how the programme affects the livelihood of different gender and age groups.

Future research could further include an investigation into the impact of CWP in the other towns of Mangaung Metro Municipality, such as Botshabelo and Bloemfontein. This will enable the exploration of the programme effects in townships versus rural areas and enhance the understanding of the influence of CWP in rural areas and townships.

6.6 CONCLUSION

Countries across the world are experiencing poverty and this includes South Africa. It is well known that South African rural areas are faced with unnerving challenges with regard to the elimination of poverty. Thaba Nchu as one of those rural areas, is known by its extreme poverty and unemployment (Baiphethi *et al.*, 2013a: 53-58). As a result of the poverty problem, many poverty alleviation policies and programmes have been established. These include the establishment of job creation programmes as they are recognized as the most important tool in alleviation poverty. Agupusi (2007: 2) believes that the persistent level of poverty in South Africa is due to unemployment growth and a rise in the number of poor people. This shows that job creation is very critical in poverty alleviation.

In fighting again poverty, South Africa has introduced a number of job creation programmes, including CWP which has been implemented in many areas including Thaba Nchu. The purpose of this study was to investigate whether the CWP is an effective poverty alleviation programme. It is clear as confirmed by the CWP participants as well as the IA and COGTA official responsible for CWP in Thaba Nchu, that CWP is an important poverty alleviation strategy. Therefore, CWP as an employment opportunity has improved the livelihood of its participants and has also contributed in community development. Through a predictable income, the participants are able to address their basic needs. Most importantly, CWP has eliminated food insecurity through the agricultural activities implemented. Thus, this study confirms that job creation programmes play a significant role in poverty alleviation and it is important that the South African government prioritizes job creation as a powerful tool in fighting against the poverty problem.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

CONSENT DECLARATION

My name is Tshwene Bridget Maletle. I am currently studying Masters in Development Studies (MDS) at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein Campus. As part of my studies I am conducting a research on poverty alleviation using the Case of the Community Work Programme (CWP) in the rural areas of Thaba Nchu, Free State Province.

I need assistance in answering questions related to my research. Against this background, you are kindly requested to participate in my research as to help me answer my research question. Please be informed that participation in this research is voluntary. You are also informed that all participants are requested to sign a consent form to ensure that you have understood what is all about this research and what is expected from you as the participant.

Please note that the information provided by you will be kept private and confidential. Participants names will not be used. The information received will only be shared between me and the University of the Free State.

Thank you for your support

Yours

.....

Tshwene Bridget Maletle

APPENDIX B

CONSENT FORM

I.....ID..... volunteer to participate in this research. I declare that I have understood what is expected from me in this research. I will therefore provide valid and accurate information in answering questions. I will answer all questions and the information provided will be the true reflection of my opinion.

Signature of the respondent.....

Date.....

APPENDIX C

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION: QUESTIONS GUIDE

My name is Tshwene Bridget Malete. I am currently studying Masters in Development Studies (MDS) at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein Campus. As part of my studies I am conducting a research on poverty alleviation using the Case of the Community Work Programme (CWP) in the rural areas of Thaba Nchu, Free State Province. This focus group discussion is in partial fulfilment of my studies. I will be facilitating this discussion and I will be asking questions during the course of our discussions. I will also be noting down your responses to ensure accurate gathering of the information. I am humbly requesting that you state your honest opinion as this will help in determining the facts about CWP and recommendations thereof.

1. How were you selected to participate in CWP?

.....
.....

2. What is your understanding about CWP?

.....
.....

3. What CWP activities are you engaged with?

.....
.....

4. Which activities are more important to your livelihood?

.....
.....

5. How was your livelihood situation before participating on CWP?

.....
.....

6. What influence has the programme brought into your lives?

.....
.....

7. Is the programme useful and important to you?

.....
.....

8. Are there any challenges you encounter with CWP?

.....
.....

9. In general, what are your comments to improve CWP?

.....
.....

Thank you for your time

Research study conducted by Tshwene Bridget Malete

Number of participants.....

Date.....

APPENDIX D

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CWP COGTA OFFICIALS AND IMPLEMENTING AGENT

My name is Tshwene Bridget Malete. I am currently studying Masters in Development Studies (MDS) at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein Campus. As part of my studies I am conducting a research on poverty alleviation using the Case of the Community Work Programme (CWP) in the rural areas of Thaba Nchu, Free State Province. This interview is in partial fulfilment of my studies. I am humbly requesting that you state your honest opinion as this will help in determining the facts about CWP.

1. Indicate your views on CWP as a poverty alleviation strategy

.....
.....

2. What is the criteria used to select the participants?

.....

3. What are the CWP focal activities?

.....
.....

4. According to your experience, what are the priority activities for the participants?

.....

5. What are the positives about CWP?

.....
.....

6. What are the challenges faced with regard to CWP implementation?

.....
.....

7. In general, what are your comments to improve on CWP?

.....
.....

Thank you for your time

Research study conducted by Tshwene Bridget Malete