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Youth and social entrepreneurship: The case of Phuthaditjhaba, Free State

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Ngaka Martin Mosia, declare that the coursework of mini dissertation that I herewith submit for Master's Degree qualification in Development Studies at the University of the Free State is purely my independent work and I have not previously submitted it for a qualification at any institution of Higher Learning.

N.M Mosia

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DEDICATION

Since they are our society's future leaders and change-makers, I dedicate this study to both young and prospective social entrepreneurs. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and fortitude motivated me to investigate potential challenges and opportunities linked to their pursuits to address socio-economic challenges facing Phuthaditjhaba.



ACRONYMS

ASE	Aspiring Social Entrepreneur
BACO	Best Available Charitable Option
DSD	Department of Social Development
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
NEMISA	National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa
NPO/NPC	Non-Profit Organisation/ Non-Profit Company
SAHO	South African History Online
SEDA	Small Enterprise Development Agency
SE	Social Enterprise
SEIL	Social Entrepreneurship Impact Lab
SROI	Social Return on Investment
PA	Personal Assistant
TA	Tribal Authority
TIA	Technology Innovation Agency

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ABSTRACT

As young people will determine the future of social entrepreneurship, gaining an in-depth understanding of their engagement is essential. The study aimed to explore the youths' awareness and insights of social entrepreneurship to be able to address Phuthaditjhaba's socio-economic difficulties. Through an adopted exploratory case study and purposive sampling, data was collected from 13 research participants, using a qualitative research method and thematic analysis was used to analyse data. The research discovered that the good relationship between young aspiring social entrepreneurs, young social entrepreneurs and relevant stakeholders in social entrepreneurship can unlock the potential of youth social entrepreneurship to address socio-economic challenges to enhance community development in Phuthaditjhaba, Free State. The study recommends that to enhance community development through social entrepreneurship, effective management strategies on organisational and community level should be formulated that inform a good practice to solve socio-economic challenges and maximise impact. The study closes the limited research gap by laying down and documenting youth social entrepreneurship understanding and experiences in addressing socio-economic challenges facing communities, especially in the South African context. Therefore, further study about young social entrepreneurs' relationship-building skills with stakeholders is required.

Keywords: Community development, youth social entrepreneurship, socio-economic challenges, relevant stakeholders and Phuthaditjhaba.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1. Introduction

As young people will determine the future of social entrepreneurship, gaining an in-depth understanding of their engagement is essential. A considerable amount of research has been conducted on existing social entrepreneurs to achieve social goals (Saebi, Foss and Linder, 2018; Gigauri et al., 2022; Ahmad and Alam, 2022; Agarwal and Mulunga, 2022). It has yet to be specifically studied how young people understand and respond to social entrepreneurship, especially those who desire to be social entrepreneurs in South Africa, Phuthaditjhaba. Despite this, significant research on the subject has been conducted at an international level (Bacq, Wasieleski and Weber, 2022; Fridhi, 2021), including in Africa as a continent, (Urban and Bukula, 2022; Mefi and Asoba, 2020). According to Magaiza and Crause (2017), social enterprises are an asset-based strategy that illustrates a human figure in Africa. Social work could serve as a link between communities, business, and policymakers, utilising civilised free-market capitalism to increase opportunities for livelihood and promote inclusivity, especially for young people. The United Nations (2020) notes that social entrepreneurship among young people could provide enormous social and economic favourable circumstances.

The concept of social entrepreneurship as it exists today, cannot be defined by one consolidated definition that is embraced across the board. However, Lumpkin et al. (2011) explained social entrepreneurship as a resource collection and utilisation in innovative ways to meet social needs, create social change, or create a new organisation. Certo and Miller (2008) defined it as a process of identifying, evaluating, and exploiting opportunities that result in social value, such as the provision of basic human needs like education, health services, food, shelter, and water to communities in need. A social entrepreneur is an individual who initiates social ventures to bring about a specific social change within a particular community to the desired outcome, (Khare and Joshi, 2017). A social entrepreneur is a person who has a mission to serve

the less privileged through a business venture that delivers social value in a way that is financially independent, self-sufficient, or sustainable (Abu-Saifan, 2012).

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) (2020), in 2021, 13.1% of youth between 15 and 24 experienced unemployment worldwide. Youth between the ages of 15 and 24 contribute to more than 20% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa and more than 30% of the working-age population in most developing countries. Despite this, Ighobor (2013) expressed that youngsters, who account for 60% of the continent, are jobless. Around 70% of youth are categorised as working poor, meaning they earn less than \$3.10 per day, because of underemployment, low wages, and other factors, (Ighobor, 2013). According to Stats SA (2021), the youth unemployment rate in South Africa is 64% for those ages between 15 and 24, 42.1% aged 25 and 34 are experiencing unemployment, while the official national unemployment is 34.5%. Towards the end of 2022, the World Bank released new records of youth unemployment in South Africa; 66.5% of young people aged between 15 and 24 are unemployed (World Bank, 2022). This gives rise to the idea of young people being involved in social entrepreneurship to fight the unemployment and solve socio-economic challenges facing their communities.

Institutional reforms, abilities imbalances among youth and professions, and imbalances among increased market needs and youth training, are all issues that lead to youth unemployment (ILO, 2013). Those youngsters, who have a shortage of job experience, education, expertise, and abilities, are often left out of the labour market, as are underprivileged, underperforming, and self-conscious youngsters, who are unsure about their future career paths. Social entrepreneurship does have the promising power to revitalise these young people's competence and capability as social entrepreneurs.



1.2. Problem statement

The socio-economic challenges are a widespread and pressing matter in Phuthaditjha, particularly for the youth. Socio-economic issues faced by the people of Phuthaditjha further threaten society, economy, the environment, and humanity (Tsotetsi and Omodan, 2022). It creates economic, social, and environmental unrest that hinders the growth and success of individuals, youth, families, communities, society, and the environment. Khan and Pillay (2019), and the World Bank (2018) stated that South Africa's socio-economic development limitations are inequality, poverty, and unemployment. Unemployment leads to other related problems, such as crime, substance abuse, and gangsterism. Seore's (2019) findings illustrated that poor economic performance, an increasingly young population, a poor-quality youth labour supply (lack of adequate skills), and the youth's socio-economic backgrounds are all factors that contribute to high unemployment in the Free State. According to De Lannoy et al. (2018), such a situation is acknowledged in the existing National Youth Policy (NYP), which placed those three principles of youth development (assets-based sustainable development, resilience, and responsiveness) at the centre of its approach to economic participation and inclusion, training, abilities, and education, well-being and state of health.

Despite this, the national youth policy strategy has yet to be executed, and the nation lacks a comprehensive grasp of the wide range of misfortunes that youths endure, and the intricate interactions between them. Youth engagement in social entrepreneurship has powered possibilities of bringing about desired livelihoods for young people. Social entrepreneurship can encourage young people to participate in attempts to improve vital social goals, such as job creation, reducing poverty, inclusiveness, and cooperation, (Kruse, 2019). Participation and engagement of young people in social entrepreneurship will contribute to Sustainable Development Goals number one (no poverty) and number eight (decent work and economic growth). Therefore, this study explored the perceptions of youth, who desire to be social entrepreneurs at Phuthaditjha as a catalyst to manage socio-economic issues.



1.3. Research aim

The study aimed to explore youths' awareness and insights of social entrepreneurship to be able to address Phuthaditjhaba's socio-economic difficulties.

1.4. Research objectives

- To understand youth and social entrepreneurship on an international level.
- To explore challenges and opportunities that youth experience in becoming social entrepreneurs.
- To determine whether youth in Phuthaditjhaba aspire to become social entrepreneurs.
- To recommend how rural youths, particularly in Phuthaditjhaba, could become social entrepreneurs.

1.5. Conclusion

The chapter has provided the introduction and background of the study to claim that understanding young people's engagement with social entrepreneurship is essential to solving socio-economic challenges, like unemployment in their communities. The chapter further discusses the problem statement, aim and objectives of the research study. The following chapter is chapter two, the literature review where surrounding social entrepreneurship and youth is explained in detail.



CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

This chapter covers the literature review, same as the preceding chapter covered the study's background and introduction. The five themes that have surfaced in writing on the phenomena of social entrepreneurship will be covered in this review of the literature. The themes examine the current status of social entrepreneurship, youth and unemployment, social entrepreneurship in South Africa, youth social entrepreneurship, and obstacles and difficulties that young social entrepreneurs face. A new trend that has the power to completely change society is youth social entrepreneurship (World Youth Report, 2020). To solve certain social, economic, and environmental issues, it refers to the process of establishing and running a commercial endeavour with a social mission (Martin and Osberg, 2007; Zaefarian et al., 2015). The significance of this problem and its possible effects on society are highlighted by the literature review on youth ambitions for social entrepreneurship (World Youth Report, 2020; OECD, 2022). According to the literature review, young people engaging in social entrepreneurship may benefit the economy, reduce poverty, create jobs, and preserve the environment (GIBS, 2019; Akhmetshin, et al., 2018). It also shows that if young people have access to finance, mentoring, education, and training, they are more likely to participate in social entrepreneurship (ILO, 2016; and Carpenter, 2018).

Therefore, by providing resources and fostering an atmosphere that is supportive of young social entrepreneurs, governments and stakeholders may play a critical role in supporting youth social entrepreneurship efforts. Individual social entrepreneurs will gain from this, and it will also improve society. The literature review on youth social entrepreneurship intentions provides compelling evidence of the importance of this phenomenon (Carpenter, 2018; World Youth Report, 2020 and Bublitz, et al., 2020). Young people who are passionate about making a positive impact through their social entrepreneurial ventures, should be encouraged, and supported.

2.2. The State of social entrepreneurship overview

Nations around the globe, consisting of different leaders, are using social entrepreneurship to respond to issues affecting the wellbeing of their communities. Currently listed among the top 17 countries with the best conditions for the growth of social entrepreneurship are Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Poland, Singapore, Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands, Finland, Indonesia, Chile, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and Sweden (Defourny and Nyssens, 2008; and Thomson Reuters Foundation, 2019).

As more people and organisations take on the challenge of resolving pressing social challenges, social entrepreneurship has gained in popularity in Canada (Hervieux and Voltan, 2018). The objective of these social entrepreneurs is to develop long-term solutions that are advantageous to both people and communities (Karina, 2023). In Canada, social entrepreneurship may be achieved, for example, by developing creative business models that put social benefit ahead of profit (The Royal Bank of Canada, 2014). Rather than dividing their earnings among shareholders, these businesses often function as non-profits, for-profits, cooperatives, charities, or hybrid organisations (Manwaring, Valentine and Thomson, 2011). The Canadian Government has put in place a number of laws targeted at encouraging social entrepreneurship in order to assist this expanding industry. For example, businesses with a defined social objective and quantifiable impact might qualify for tax advantages (Manwaring, Valentine and Thomson, 2011). Additionally, funding programmes, specifically targeted towards social enterprises that have been established to provide financial support and mentorship opportunities through social innovation and social finance, were developed (Canada, 2018).

One of the plans to promote and assist social entrepreneurship in Australia is the Victorian Social Enterprise Strategy 2021–2025 (The Victorian Government, 2021). The Australian Government has implemented several initiatives since it recognises the sector's importance in fostering positive transformation. For instance, emerging businesses with a clear social objective can apply for funding through the Social Enterprise Development and Investment Funds (The Centre for Social Impact and

Social Policy Research Centre, 2016). Furthermore, Social Traders and Impact Investing Australia are two well-established networks and platforms in Australia that link social entrepreneurs with mentors, investors, and other resources (Addis, McCutchan and Curatolo, 2017; and Social Traders, 2023). Those organisations are essential for encouraging cooperation among businesses, providing access to financial sources, and promoting social procurements. To practise social entrepreneurship, organisations and individuals must first identify a specific issue they want to address and then create creative solutions for it (Barraket, Mason and Blain, 2016). In Australia, the School for Social Entrepreneurs offers educational opportunities aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of social entrepreneurs and their social enterprises (Goldman, 2017). A social enterprise is a business for their benefit. Like any other business, they trade, but their primary objective is to make the world a better place. Australia's Social Enterprise, 2023. Working together to ensure the prosperity of all people, places, and the environment is the aim of the social entrepreneurship sector (Social Enterprise Australia, 2023).

France has put in place legislative structures that acknowledge and control social enterprises (European Union, 2017). These frameworks permit freedom for innovation and expansion, while guaranteeing accountability and transparency. In France, a notable policy that was enacted in 2014 is the Social Solidarity Economy Law (Chaves-Avila and Gallego-Bono, 2020). This law gives social businesses legal status and grants them access to contracts for public procurement (European Union, 2017). In France, the term 'social entrepreneurship' describes private enterprises whose primary goal is to fulfil unmet societal needs rather than maximum profit (Defourny and Nyssens, 2008). In France, social economy is widely practised through a variety of businesses, including business organisations, foundations, cooperatives, and mutual societies (Fraisie et al., 2016). The economic activity is carried out for the benefit of the society, not only the members of the organisation, and public authorities recognise the social-utility aspect of the output (Fraisie et al., 2016).

In the United Kingdom, social enterprises are usually believed to be businesses that trade, to promote a main social and/or environmental objective and they can take

many different forms and have varying definitions, depending on the national context (Centre for Enterprise and Economic Development Research, 2021). Social entrepreneurs can get lobbying and assistance from organisations, such as Social Enterprise UK (Neves et al., 2022). In the UK, social enterprises use a wide range of legal structures. Some of these include corporations limited by guarantee (CLGs), partnerships, sole traders, corporations limited by shares, community interest companies (CICs), industrial and provident societies (I&PSs), charities, and charity incorporated organisations (Aiken et al., 2021). The Social Value Act of 2012 is one important law that governs social entrepreneurship in the United Kingdom (Hannah, 2021). When acquiring products and services, public sector organisations are required by law to consider how they might optimise their positive social effect (Public Health England, 2015). Collaboration between public sector organisations and social entrepreneurs is promoted, giving these companies the chance to provide public services (Public Health England, 2015).

Halunko, Ivanyshchuk, and Popovych (2018) report that males (66.7%) between the ages of 18 and 28 make up the majority of successful social entrepreneurs worldwide, with women (33.3%) between the ages of 20 and 29 making up the minority. They go on to say that each of the representatives (70.0%) is a founder or co-founder of a social entrepreneurial structure, and that they come from Asia (12.9%), Europe (6.5%), Africa (6.5%), and other continents (4.1%). Within the selected social assistance domains, medicine (20%), education and learning (20.0%), the proliferation of information technology (20.0%), energy conservation (10.0%), ecological and environmental protection (6.7%), solving food supply issues (6.7%), infrastructure development (6.7%), and other services (10%) are ranked as the most important. The focus of social entrepreneurship activity is on developing global solutions to issues, depending on the level of development of social assistance.

Moreno and Agapitova (2017) and Palacios-Marqués et al. (2019) claim that social entrepreneurship in Africa has steadily discovered innovative approaches to close gaps in the provision of services for the impoverished. South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, and Kenya are the top four countries in the world for social entrepreneurship. In Kenya,

social entrepreneurship is defined as using innovative business ideas to solve societal problems and offer sustainable solutions (Wawira, 2016). In Kenya, social entrepreneurs are addressing problems, including environmental sustainability, healthcare, and education (British Council, 2017). For instance, maternity mortality rates are dramatically declining, because of initiatives like Jacaranda Health offering low-income women access to affordable maternity healthcare treatments (Kearns et al., 2014). Kenya does not have any laws or policies that are particularly focused on social entrepreneurship (British Council, 2017). Additionally, aspiring social entrepreneurs benefit from networking opportunities and training programmes provided by organisations, such as Ashoka East Africa. (British Council, 2017).

Determining what social entrepreneurship means in Nigerian terms, is crucial. Social entrepreneurs are those who recognise issues in society and apply the concepts of entrepreneurship to provide long-lasting solutions (Idoko, 2023). Those solutions seek to improve social, economic, and cultural problems, including unemployment, poverty, and the advancement of technology, to effect good change (Osabohien, Worgwu and Saleh Al-Faryan, 2022; and Idoko, 2023). However, the term social enterprise lacks an established definition (British Council, 2022). Furthermore, there is currently no regulation in Nigeria that deals explicitly with social business. However, as social enterprises are commercial entities, they need to have access to and benefit from the same legal framework that other companies do (British Council, 2022). To create jobs, it is recommended that efforts and policies promoting social entrepreneurs in Nigeria be implemented and managed well (Worgwu et al., 2023).

With the development of the Ghana Social Enterprise Policy (GSEP), the government has fulfilled its promise to supporting and growing social companies as a means of improving lives, especially for Ghana's youth (Ministry of Trade and Industry Ghana, 2017). In Ghana, social entrepreneurs may be found in many different economic areas, such as clean technology, agriculture, banking, health, education, justice, and water and sanitation (Opoku, Fienberg, and Hanspeter, 2016). According to the Ministry of Trade and Industry Ghana (2017), social enterprises in Ghana can be co-ops, mutual organisations, charity organisations, or they can be established as for-

profit or non-profit businesses. The Ghana Social Enterprise Policy defines social enterprise as an entity that use commercial strategies and procedures to achieve environmental and social objectives and impacts while also seeking to make a profit (Ministry of Trade and Industry Ghana (2017)).

Social entrepreneurship, as defined by SME South Africa (2022), is the process of recognising societal problems and applying entrepreneurship to find solutions for these changes in society. To better South Africa, social entrepreneurs pick a specific social issue they want to address and start a business. According to Steinman (2010) and The Bertha Centre (2016), social enterprises are presently registered in South Africa as trusts, sole proprietorships, closed companies, Section 21 NPOs, voluntary groups, and private enterprises, among other entity kinds. According to Littlewood and Holt (2018), the South African government still does not specifically target social entrepreneurship in its laws or policies. Nonetheless, South Africa's social entrepreneurship policy is still in its beginning stages and is based, among other things, on the concepts of reciprocity, solidarity, and social cohesion (University of Pretoria, 2023). According to Wanyoike and Maseno's (2021) research, social entrepreneurship is largely sparked by deep personal experiences that are linked to past events and a strong dedication to changing lives and having an impact. In line with Pangriya's (2019) research, the key characteristics of a social entrepreneur are education, exposure to the world, prior job experience, creativity, empathy, a sense of community, and satisfaction. Pangriya (2019) has also shown that self-transcendence, creative problem-solving, original ideas, personal experience, and inspiration are what drive people to start their own social enterprises.

2.3. Youth and unemployment

Millions of young people throughout the world are impacted by the global problem of youth unemployment. It was projected by ILO (2022) that 73 million young people under the age of 25 will be unemployed in 2022. In Africa, 286 million people (or 40%) are jobless and 33 million people (or 4% of the population) do not have access to the employment market (Kappel, 2021). South Africa experiences the highest rates of young unemployment globally (Naidoo, 2021; Habiyaemye et al., 2022), with over

63% of young people aged 15-24 and over 42% youth aged 25-34 are out of work, (StatisticsSA, 2022). The consequences of youth unemployment are severe and far-reaching (United Nations, 2020). It can lead to inequality, poverty (Hall, 2019), increased crime rates (Anser et al., 2020), substance abuse (UNODC, 2020), reduced economic growth, and social unrest (Mbotu, 2022). It has a negative impact on young people's mental and social wellness in addition to being bad for a nation's economic progress (Dlamini et al., 2020). Additionally, it deprives youth of the chance to advance their education and have a positive impact on their communities and economy. Poor economic performance, the effects of global recessions, labour demand-supply mismatches, trade union involvement in government activities, a lack of promotion of entrepreneurship, and inadequate education and training programmes are some of the factors contributing to unemployment in South Africa (Khalid et al., 2021).

Youth unemployment is a major global, continental, and national challenge that requires urgent action (Statistics SA, 2020; Donkor, 2021; DESA, 2023). In order for young people to realise their full potential and make significant contributions to economies and communities, it is imperative that society as a whole work together to offer them with opportunities (World Report, 2020). Governments and corporations should place a high premium on addressing youth unemployment by creating industries and regulations that allow young people to engage in the creation of gainful employment (Rajaram et al., 2022). Young people are often innovative and bring fresh ideas to the table. By providing them with opportunities for employment and/or entrepreneurship through social entrepreneurship, they can contribute to the growth of industries and create new jobs. Moreover, addressing youth unemployment is crucial for ensuring a sustainable future (De Lannoy et al., 2018). The skills and knowledge that young people acquire through employment will enable them to contribute positively to society as they grow older (De Lannoy et al., 2018). Furthermore, addressing youth unemployment is essential for creating a prosperous future for individuals, communities, and nations. Youth unemployment is a major issue in many countries, with millions of young people struggling to find work. Social entrepreneurship can provide a solution by creating new job opportunities and

empowering young people to become self-employed. Social entrepreneurship may assist young people in launching their own social businesses and become prosperous young social entrepreneurs by offering training, mentorship, and finance access (World Youth Report, 2020).

2.4. Social entrepreneurship as a solution to youth unemployment crisis

Zaefarian et al. (2015) define social entrepreneurship as an activity that creates social value in a way that benefits society and raises people's income by creating job opportunities and putting innovation into practise to achieve better outcomes and solve challenging problems.

As stated by Bechir, (2020), social entrepreneurs are those who employ cutting-edge commercial strategies to improve society. They concentrate on developing economically viable, long-lasting solutions that meet social demands. Utilising business as an opportunity for doing good and developing long-term solutions to societal issues are the goals of social entrepreneurship. Social entrepreneurship may assist in uplifting communities to overcome poverty and enhancing access to education by establishing social enterprises that offer products or services that satisfy fundamental need. According to Dobele (2012), the non-governmental organisations and government organisations and markets are less likely to solve the poverty and unemployment rates, but instead, the development of social entrepreneurship holds a potential to solve both unemployment and poverty issues.

Carraher et al. (2016), on the other hand, do not hold the same opinion. They contend that social entrepreneurship cannot totally solve the challenges of widespread joblessness, but they cannot dispute that it can help to mitigate this unemployment problem. Considering this, a significant amount of literature has recognised social entrepreneurship as a key instrument for reducing both the unemployment and poverty rates (Oghojafor et al., 2011; Yiu et al., 2014; Najafizada and Cohen 2017; and Akhmetshin et al., 2018). A linkage can be achieved by starting social businesses that will generate a variety of employment opportunities and, as a result, lessen the unemployment problems that are contributing to poverty (Lateh et al., 2018; and Tanchangya et al., 2020).

A growing idea of social entrepreneurship has promise for addressing several societal issues, including youth unemployment. Social entrepreneurs enable young people to become change agents in their communities and create job opportunities by fusing social impact with commercial innovation. The research outcomes by Fiseha (2022), showed that social entrepreneurship create numerous employment opportunities, especially for vulnerable and disadvantaged people. Social entrepreneurship is considered as a fantastic route for doing business and a good idea to decrease the unemployment rate, facing young people (Institute of Entrepreneurship Development, 2020). It gives young people the know-how, tools, and encouragement they require to launch their own social enterprises and have a good influence on their communities.

According to Listiorini and Minan (2019), empowering young women through social entrepreneurship is the strategy that the city of Medan utilise to lower unemployment. Social entrepreneurship is essential to the job market because it may create new jobs, improve the social and economic standing of marginalised groups in society, and promote economic growth (Zainea et al., 2020). Other social problems like poverty and illiteracy that lead to young unemployment may also be addressed by social entrepreneurship (Carpenter, 2018). Social entrepreneurship offers a promising solution to youth unemployment by creating new job opportunities and empowering young people to become self-employed (IED, 2020). It also has the potential to address other social issues that contribute to youth unemployment, making it an effective tool for creating positive change in society (British Council, 2020). This issue may be resolved by giving young people the chance to start their own social enterprises, earn money, and improve society through social entrepreneurship. Therefore, investing in social entrepreneurship is not only an investment in youth, but also an investment in the future. By supporting the social entrepreneurship idea, more jobs can be created, reducing poverty levels, and stronger communities will be developed. Social entrepreneurship is indeed a solution to youth unemployment, and it can work towards building a better future for all.

2.5. Youth social entrepreneurship

Youth enthusiasm in engaging in social entrepreneurship to better the world, is growing (Lahiri and Schwartz, 2018). Because it provides more leadership opportunities for younger individuals and women than other fields, the industry is increasingly diverse and vibrant (British Council, 2018). To solve the socioeconomic issues that communities worldwide are experiencing, young social entrepreneurs are essential (ILO, 2017). These young people are promoting community development and having a good social influence by utilising their creative ideas, abilities, and resources. Ramadani et al. (2022) assert that social entrepreneurs are endowed with sustainable capabilities that they employ to promote sustainable development. These skills include problem-solving, entrepreneurial resilience, emotional intelligence, empathy, self-efficacy, creativity, leadership, and strategic thinking. Young social entrepreneurs may solve poverty, unemployment, inequality, environmental degradation, and other urgent challenges affecting communities by using their creativity and excitement to come up with innovative solutions. In addition to providing young people with possibilities in the workforce, youth-based social entrepreneurship has the ability to address significant social and environmental issues (OECD, 2022). Additionally, they are giving disadvantaged people much-needed help by facilitating access to necessities like food, housing, healthcare, employment opportunities, and education. Young social entrepreneurs are changing people's lives in the here and now, but they are also motivating others to take action for a better future through their work.

According to the World Youth Report (2020), youth social entrepreneurship is an innovative strategy to social and economic development because it gives young people a special opportunity to directly influence their communities by creating long-term, sustainable solutions to social, economic, and environmental problems. Young social entrepreneurs are driven to make meaningful change in their societies and are committed to creating a positive social impact by solving intractable social, economic, and environmental challenges. According to a research by Ong et al. (2020), social entrepreneurship helped young people transition by providing them with experience

and igniting their desire to approach these problems in an entrepreneurial way. This allowed youth to be integrated into the process of solving complex social and environmental problems in society. Youth social entrepreneurship promotes innovation and creative problem-solving to promote economic opportunities, create equitable access to resources, reduce youth unemployment, and improve access to health and educational services (World Youth Report, 2020). Furthermore, these young social entrepreneurs are dedicated to developing and implementing long-term business models that increase the role of youth in social impact, as well as fostering collaboration to find innovative ways to solve complex societal challenges (World Youth Report, 2020). Young social entrepreneurs may drive sustainable development and promote equitable growth by fusing their business abilities with a social mission (World Youth Report, 2020).

Youth social entrepreneurship is crucial in addressing the root causes of socio-economic challenges that communities face. By empowering young people to create sustainable solutions, it can lead to the promotion of economic growth, reduced poverty, inequality and building stronger and more resilient communities. Rajkhan and Tarifi (2021) found that 74% of participants said that young social entrepreneurs are significant and that the public is aware of and supportive of the idea. By giving young people the tools, they need to recognise and take on the most important social, economic, and environmental problems in their neighbourhoods, it can have a beneficial societal influence. To foster sustainable young social entrepreneurship and build long-term solutions that will improve communities and advance societal development as a whole, certain competencies, materials, and assistance are required. Young social entrepreneurs have a great deal of potential to positively impact the world today, but their success is mostly dependent on their ability to acquire resources, network influencers, and have a deep grasp of their own mindset (Bublitz et al., 2020).

Youth social entrepreneurship can lead to creation of innovative solutions to community problems, while also providing young people with valuable skills, and experiences that can enhance their personal development and future career

prospects. Recent research showed that involvement in social entrepreneurship could improve young people's personal capital development and give them more managerial abilities (Lewis, 2016 and Chandra and Shang, 2017). Additionally, effective youth social entrepreneurship programmes can have a good knock-on impact by inspiring other young people to get engaged with community development activities (Carpenter, 2018). In addition to encouraging a culture of cooperation, creativity, and resilience among young people, it can enable young people to become change agents and, eventually, contribute to sustainable development. Because social entrepreneurship allows young people to play a role as direct change agents in their surroundings and larger communities, it has recently become an alternative method for youth to cultivate and practice agency and leadership (Kruse, 2018).

2.6. Barriers and Challenges facing Young Social Entrepreneurs

There are barriers and challenges facing young social entrepreneurs, which limits them from making the social change that they are aiming to achieve. These does not only limit their social impact, but it also hinders them from accomplishing the social mission and goals that they want to obtain. The following sub-sections discuss some of these challenges.

2.6.1. Mobilising resources

Among the biggest problems young social entrepreneurs face is mobilising resources. Mobilising resources is an issue confronting social entrepreneurs in their start-up phases of the social venture for numerous reasons, such as scarce resources, and the kind of legal forms or categories that social entrepreneurs choose to adopt, creating a challenge for social entrepreneurs to access and mobilise the needed resources (Drencheva et al., 2022). Social entrepreneurs are confronted with a lack of needed resources to tackle arising social problems, especially during crises or emergencies, (Kamran et al., 2022). Infrastructure with speedy internet access and physical spaces (offices) are needed, since they play a significant role in forming networks between social entrepreneurs for the purpose of solving social problems, facing the communities (Audretsch et al., 2021). The study by Nuccio (2022), emphasised social capital (community, partnership, network, scaling and growth,

access to market, and consistency to supply chain) as a key and significant resource that social entrepreneurs need to utilise, for them to grow and be sustainable in their social mission and social goals.

2.6.2. Funding

Funding remains a main challenge that hinders the progress and growth of social entrepreneurs, particularly young social entrepreneurs. According to Lamio and Sebillio (2022), 65% of respondents have difficulty accessing funding. Many young social entrepreneurs struggle with a lack of start-up funds (World Youth Report, 2020). Funding frameworks are based on grants that seem to be unsustainable in the long term and funders usually set standards that limit young social entrepreneurs to qualify for funding (Dajani, 2022). It is quite evident that current funding frameworks and strategies that are currently in place are not responding to young social entrepreneurs' funding needs. Therefore, there is a need to establish and formulate frameworks and strategies that meet the funding needs of young social entrepreneurs.

2.6.3. Long-lasting team

Young social entrepreneurs struggle with establishing a long-lasting team for the purpose of operations and carrying out their social entrepreneurship activities. Creating strong leadership teams is often difficult for social entrepreneurs (Below and Tripp, 2010). Social entrepreneurs often find it hard to build a senior professional management team and it is a key challenge facing social entrepreneurs (Heinecke et al., 2014). Getting a team of volunteers that has a common understanding, and desirable and essential skills at the start of a social entrepreneurship project, remain a critical challenge in forming a sustainable team for social entrepreneurs (Rivna and Gress, 2022). To thrive in social entrepreneurship endeavours, it is imperative that youthful social entrepreneurs endeavour to form enduring teams.

2.6.4. Lack of knowledge and information on legal procedures and administration processes

Young social entrepreneurs lack knowledge and information on legal procedures and administration processes, pertaining to social entrepreneurship functioning and/or operations. This issue is observed to affect young social entrepreneurs in rural and

township areas. Social entrepreneurs find it hard to fit their social organisations or enterprises into the existing legal forms to establish an organisation (Abramson and Billings, 2019). Social entrepreneurship's legal procedures and administration processes vary from place to place around the globe. In regions like South Africa, social entrepreneurship operates within the Corporate Social Responsibility environment, NGO sector, NPO, PBO, and hybrid structures (The Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, 2016; Littlewood and Holt, 2018).

2.6.5. External factors

There are external factors that put a strain on young social entrepreneurs, such as geographic backgrounds, as well as socio-cultural, economic, political, environmental, and technical constraints. The sustainability, development, growth, and progress of young social entrepreneurs, is challenged by institutional norms, values differences, and business models (Davies and Haugh, 2018). For social entrepreneurs to launch and grow their social enterprises, a supportive and encouraging environment is essential. The study by Meallem and Herpich (2022), showed that social entrepreneurs of Thailand and Myanmar had different opinions with regards to government policy supporting social entrepreneurs in both regions. Meaning, 79% of social entrepreneurs in Myanmar disagreed with the statement of government policy, supporting social entrepreneurs, while 72% of social entrepreneurs in Thailand agreed to government policy, supporting social entrepreneurs, since the area has the Office of Social Enterprise Promotion agency that promotes social entrepreneurship development. In other regions, an unclear social entrepreneurship definition turns into a challenge that negatively affects social entrepreneurs to scale-up and grow in their activities of social entrepreneurship. Uncertainty around Georgia's definitions of social business and social entrepreneurship presents challenges for social entrepreneurs, claim Gigauri et al. (2022).

2.6.6. Policy-making processes

When decisions and policies are formulated in the social entrepreneurship sector, young social entrepreneurs are not consulted and are not included in decision-making and policy-making processes. This is a challenge because it undermines and presents

ongoing obstacles to the ability and potential of young social entrepreneurs to solve and address the issues they encounter if they are kept out of the policy-making and decision-making processes within the social entrepreneurship sector. The distribution of an appropriate legislative framework that is tailored to the unique requirements and characteristics of social entrepreneurs running the social businesses provides a solid basis for the development of social enterprises (European Union, 2013). The European Commission (2016) states that effective regulations must support the demands of social entrepreneurs who wish to expand their operations and emphasise effective models that can be replicated by new operators in new sectors. Policies must also acknowledge the value or usefulness of social businesses to society and support start-up social enterprises' scaling initiatives as a primary goal (European Commission, 2016).

2.6.7. Support system

The lack of support systems (mentors, family, government, and civil society) poses a challenge to the performance and success of young social entrepreneurs. A study by Pelagia and Mzomwe (2017), highlighted that poor support from stakeholders is a serious challenge facing the social entrepreneurs. One major obstacle to the growth of social enterprise is government inactivity (Saud et al., 2022). Social entrepreneurs are confronted with several challenges of partnership and collaboration, due to cultural difference, different interests, misconceptions, and practical challenges when forming partnerships and collaboration with potential stakeholders (Daan, 2022). On the other hand, it was observed by Manyaka-Boshielo (2017), that people in township areas prefer doing business alone which limits their capacity to network and build sustainable partnerships that are aimed to grow and sustain their social enterprises.

2.6.8. Burnout

Young social entrepreneurs lack the capacity to withstand the difficult and tough times that comes with making a social impact and attaining social goals. Compared to entrepreneurs who prioritise their business, social entrepreneurs are more susceptible to mental health issues such as burnout due to stressful problems (Vandor and Meyer, 2021). According to Janošev (2019), over 40% of social entrepreneurs experienced

burnout to some extent, and 5% may have gone so far as to experience severe burnout. Social entrepreneurs frequently see terrible suffering, experience unfavourable feelings, and eventually encounter burnout (Chan Au, 2021). Moreover, the setting of society finds it hard to accept the existence of social entrepreneurship ideas, they have doubts about the idea of social entrepreneurship, which creates a challenge to young social entrepreneurs to survive and grow. According to Mthembu and Barnard (2019), there is a lack of trust in social entrepreneurs, they are not given a fair opportunity, and people are not ready to wait for their social projects to pay off. Since many still believe that social entrepreneurship is just another name for the nonprofit sector, Pybus (2022) points out that it might be challenging for social entrepreneurs to educate the public about their mission and methods.

2.6.9. Professional training and skillset

The lack of comprehensive formal training, a restricted professional skill set, and limited exposure to social entrepreneurship hinder the ability of young social entrepreneurs to achieve and succeed in their mission and goals. Social entrepreneurial intention has been shown to be influenced by prior experiences, social support, empathy, self-efficacy, and moral judgement (Savitha and Savitha, 2022). Manyaka-Boshielo (2017) asserts that socially aware entrepreneurs are necessary to grow the township economy. Such entrepreneurs would be produced via entrepreneurial training that begins with the development of a personal identity and includes modules on intra- and interpersonal relationships. Some groups remain underrepresented in the distribution of knowledge, experience, funds, and social capital often required for venture start-ups, including social enterprises in South Africa, because of historical injustices and the legacy of apartheid (Littlewood and Holt, 2015). In addition to having the skills, passion, and desire to become social and civic leaders, students can foster an atmosphere that is supportive to the growth of social entrepreneurship (Urban and Kujinga, 2017). Carpenter (2018) thought that start-up incubation programs and youth social entrepreneurship were crucial components of the process that would eventually help create more inclusive entrepreneurial possibilities for young people in South Africa from disadvantaged backgrounds. It is

essential to expose young people to original and imaginative concepts so they may cultivate a mentality that supports their social entrepreneurship (Agbenyegah, 2022). Youth are highly aware of local social entrepreneurship possibilities and programs, but they have not yet taken any action to participate in them (Ntlemeza, 2018). Current resources and new actors may be able to utilise the social entrepreneurship framework to provide a developmental transitional service that fosters youth resilience and assists them in breaking the cycle of poverty (Lesea, 2017). It is time for governments and businesses worldwide, specifically in South African communities to act towards this issue before it becomes too late. Especially, South African communities that are experiencing severe socio-economic problems.

2.7. Occurrence of social entrepreneurship in South Africa

In South Africa, social entrepreneurship is gaining traction as a movement that uses creative business models to address social, economic, and environmental issues (GIBS, 2018; Quacoe et al., 2022). This movement's history and roots may be discovered in the 19th century, when groups like the Ashoka Foundation were founded with the goal of enhancing South Africans' quality of life (Littlewood and Holt, 2018). Another notable social entrepreneur was Mahatma Gandhi, who established the Phoenix Settlement in Durban in 1904 (Ela, 1994; Patel, 2020). This settlement was a community-based project that aimed to promote self-sufficiency and economic independence among local people (Ela, 1994; Patel, 2020).

The formation of Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in townships and rural regions throughout the 1990s is considered one of the first instances of social entrepreneurship in South Africa (Kahn, 2016). These organisations provided essential services, such as healthcare, education, and housing to marginalised communities that were neglected by the government (Ngcobo, 2014; Kahn, 2016). Over time, these CBOs evolved into more sophisticated social enterprises that combined business principles with a social mission (ILO, 2013; Shahidullah and Haque, 2016). Today, South Africa is home to more than 140,000 prosperous social companies that operate in a variety of industries, such as technology, healthcare, and agriculture (Barran et al., 2020).

After apartheid ended, social entrepreneurship continued to thrive with initiatives, such as Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator. Harambee focused on reducing youth unemployment through skills development and job placements (Altbeker, 2015). Initiatives for social entrepreneurship that addressed unemployment, poverty, and inequality increased in the post-apartheid era (Ngema and Adetiba, 2020). Organisations, such as Ebonoko Foundation and The Clothing Bank, amongst others were established during that time. The mission of the Ebonoko Foundation is to effect transformation through leadership development, education, and community service. By enabling them to transform into self-employed businesspeople, develop their talents, and start their own informal business, The Clothing Bank (TCB) offers unemployed South Africans a substitute for official employment that will help them break the cycle of poverty.

In the 20th century, social entrepreneurship took on a more formal structure with the establishment of organisations, such as SiyaBuddy (SME South Africa, 2022) and Africa Teen Geeks (Africa Teen Geeks, 2023). These organisations focused on issues, such as access to technology education, and clean environment and waste management. Another example is the non-profit organisation, IkamvaYouth, which provides after-school tutoring and mentorship programs for disadvantaged youth (Ikamva Youth, 2019). This has helped many young people achieve academic success and break out of poverty (Ikamva Youth, 2019). In recent years, South Africa had a vibrant social entrepreneurship ecosystem that includes organisations, such as SAB Foundation, Youth, Innovation and Entrepreneurial Development Institute and Social Enterprise Academy South Africa (Lovasic and Cooper, 2020). These organisations provide support and resources for existing social enterprises and social entrepreneurs to create sustainable solutions to address societal challenges. The South African timeline of social entrepreneurship, seen as a whole, demonstrates the nation's dedication to finding creative ways to solve societal problems.

However, despite the progress made in this field, there are still several areas that have not been fully explored or discovered. The potential of social entrepreneurship to solve challenges of poverty and inequality in rural communities is one of the primary areas

that has not yet been adequately investigated (Zhang et al., 2022). While there have been some successful initiatives in urban areas, rural communities continue to face significant challenges that require innovative solutions. Measuring the impact of these efforts can be challenging in South Africa (Ngatse-Ipangui and Dassah, 2019). One way to measure social entrepreneurship in South Africa, is through the number of successful ventures that have been established (Barran et al., 2020). This includes businesses that have been able to create jobs and generate income for disadvantaged communities (Barran et al., 2020). Another way is by looking at the level of innovation and creativity displayed by social entrepreneurs in addressing social issues (Lovasic and Cooper, 2020). Another way is through financial metrics, such as revenue generated, or profits made (Lovasic and Cooper, 2020). Assessing the degree to which social entrepreneurship has aided in the decrease of poverty, enhanced accessibility to healthcare and education, and heightened environmental sustainability are some ways of evaluating its influence (GIBS, 2018). The degree to which these efforts are incorporated into current structures and processes must also be taken into account. It's crucial to remember, though, that social entrepreneurship is about more than simply statistics and measurements. It involves creating sustainable solutions that address systemic issues and create long-term change in communities. Therefore, measuring the success of social entrepreneurship should also consider qualitative factors, such as community engagement and empowerment.

2.8. Social entrepreneurship in South Africa

In recent years, social entrepreneurship has become increasingly popular in South Africa. It is the process of using business concepts to produce financial gains in addition to positive social and environmental effects (GIBS, 2019). Social entrepreneurship has a special chance to solve poverty, unemployment, and inequality in a nation where these problems are still major challenges in a sustainable and meaningful way (Dzomonda, 2021; and Zhang et al., 2022). One of the key benefits of social entrepreneurship is that it allows for innovative solutions to be developed that can tackle complex social problems (Kostetska and Berezyak, 2014; and Elliott, 2019). By combining business acumen with a passion for creating positive change (Lovasic

and Cooper, 2020), social entrepreneurs possess the ability to recognise holes in the market and create services or products that cater to the requirements of marginalised populations (Littlewood and Holt 2018). Additionally, in places where traditional enterprises might not be feasible, social entrepreneurship has the ability to boost economic growth and create jobs (Urban, 2008). Social entrepreneurs may contribute to the development of more resilient and inclusive economies by concentrating on generating value for both society and shareholders (Moloi-Motsepe et al., 2023). One useful strategy for tackling some of South Africa's most urgent development issues is social entrepreneurship (Urban, 2013; Rivera-Santos et al., 2015; and Essa, 2021). All South Africans can have a more sustainable and equitable future by endorsing and advocating for this strategy.

2.9. Importance of youth social entrepreneurship in South Africa

South Africa's growth depends on the social entrepreneurship of its youth (Carpenter, 2018). The nation has several issues, including high unemployment, poverty, and inequality (Barnard, 2019). Youth social entrepreneurship programmes that enable young people to develop long-lasting solutions can help solve these problems. Giving young people the tools, they need to seize their own chances and make positive contributions to society and the economy is crucial (ILO, 2017). Young people may enhance their abilities and talents through youth social entrepreneurship, while having a good effect on their communities (Urban and Kujinga, 2017). They may help the nation's economy thrive while simultaneously tackling urgent societal challenges by starting social businesses or projects that deal with social, economic, and environmental difficulties (Ngatse-Ipangui and Dassah, 2019).

Furthermore, youth social entrepreneurship has the potential to lower crime rates by giving young people, who may otherwise turn to illicit activities owing to high youth unemployment, other sources of income (Mazorodze, 2020). Additionally, it encourages young people to be innovative and creative, as they are frequently shut out of regular job prospects (Ashoka, 2016). South Africa's growth depends on the social entrepreneurship of its youth. In addition to promoting economic growth and lowering societal issues like unemployment and poverty, it gives young people the

ability to become change agents in their communities (Urban and Kujinga, 2017). It is possible to foster a culture of creativity and invention that will propel South Africa's economic growth by promoting young social entrepreneurship (Sheikh et al., 2023). Young social entrepreneurs are more prone to think creatively and take chances, which can result in creative solutions to enduring issues (Saebi et al., 2018). Thus, it is imperative that South Africa's young people engaging in social entrepreneurship activities be encouraged, supported, and promoted.

2.10. The Need for youth social entrepreneurship in South Africa

The unemployment rate in South Africa is high, especially for young people (StatisticsSA, 2022; and Nkosi, 2023). This has led to an increase in poverty, inequality (StatisticsSA, 2018), economic and social issues, such as crime (Mazorodze, 2020), substance abuse, increased dependence on social grants, fewer jobs, and entrepreneurship opportunities (van Heerden, 2020) that require innovative solutions. However, there is hope for the future through youth social entrepreneurship. Youth social entrepreneurs are those who, according to Bublitz et al. (2020) and Ong et al. (2020), utilise their abilities and inventiveness to start social enterprises that benefit society. These social entrepreneurship projects may tackle problems including poverty, inequality, health, education, and the environment, as well as socioeconomic problems (Visser, 2011).

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of young social entrepreneurship in South Africa. It gives young people the chance to start their own businesses and make valuable contributions to society (Bouronikos, 2021). It also promotes innovation and creativity, which are essential for economic growth (Nilsson et al., 2022). By promoting youth social entrepreneurship, South Africa can tap into this potential and create a generation of socially responsible leaders, who are committed to creating positive change within and around the communities they operate (Carpenter, 2018). Furthermore, youth social entrepreneurship can address some of the pressing social issues facing South Africa. For example, youth social entrepreneurship ventures, focused on education can help improve literacy rates, such as the Ebonoko Foundation, while those focused on health can provide access to healthcare services

in underserved areas, such as the Private Practicing Audiologists (SME South Africa, 2016). The Private Practicing Audiologists provide diagnoses and treatments on hearing and balance issues in both children and adults, offering private hearing healthcare services that are both affordable and accessible. Promoting youth social entrepreneurship in South Africa is crucial for addressing unemployment and promoting economic growth while also addressing pressing societal issues (Manyaka-Boshielo, 2017). Young people should be empowered and assisted in their endeavours to use social entrepreneurship to effect good change (GIBS, 2018; and Carpenter, 2018).

2.11. Benefits of youth social entrepreneurship in South Africa

According to Urban and Kujinga (2017), youth social entrepreneurship is a potent instrument for bringing about constructive change in South Africa. Through enabling youth to generate creative solutions to societal issues, South Africa can construct a fairer and more sustainable future for all (Littlewood and Holt, 2018). There are many benefits to youth social entrepreneurship in South Africa, which include job creation and economic growth, community development and empowerment, as well as innovative solutions to social problems.

2.11.1. Job creation and economic growth

Youth social entrepreneurship can help to drive economic growth and development in South Africa. Young people can be given the confidence to launch their own social entrepreneurship projects or businesses (SME South Africa, 2022) and this will open new job possibilities and boost local economic activity. According to Social Entrepreneurship Impact Lab (SEIL) (2021), there are 141 500 social entrepreneurs, who have created 600 000 jobs and it is estimated that more than 76 000 jobs will be created by 2030. These social entrepreneurship projects can boost the nation's overall economic success by producing revenue and new employment (GIBS, 2018). By generating jobs for themselves and others, young social entrepreneurs can lower unemployment rates and accelerate economic growth (Lovasic and Cooper, 2020). This not only benefits individuals, but also contributes to the overall development of our country. According to the United Nations (2020), young people are frequently more

inclined to take chances and think creatively, which may result in the development of innovative goods, services, and business models that propel economic growth. Overall, investing in youth social entrepreneurship is a smart strategy for promoting job creation and economic growth in South Africa. A better future for all South Africans may be achieved by assisting young people who are enthusiastic about improving their communities.

2.11.2. Community development and empowerment

The benefit of youth social entrepreneurship is that it empowers young people to take control of their own futures (UNICEF, 2020). They may now generate their own chances and develop long-lasting social entrepreneurship projects or businesses that benefit both them and other people, rather than waiting on others to do it for them. Therefore, young people engaging in social entrepreneurship can contribute to raising the living conditions of South Africa's underprivileged areas (Mefi and Asoba, 2020). Youth social entrepreneurship can provide solutions to many of the challenges facing South Africa (Elliott, 2019). For example, young social entrepreneurs can create social entrepreneurship ventures that provide access to clean water or affordable healthcare, as well as quality education in underserved communities (Ngatse-Ipangui and Dassah, 2019). They can also develop innovative technologies that reduce environmental pollution. By encouraging, supporting, and promoting youth social entrepreneurship, jobs and economic growth are not only created, but it is also addressing critical social issues (SME South Africa, 2016). This approach empowers young people to become agents of change in their communities and contribute positively to society. Improving standards of living through youth social entrepreneurship is an effective way to tackle the challenges facing South Africa (Manyaka-Boshielo, 2017). By launching their own social entrepreneurial endeavours or projects, young people may solve urgent societal concerns including inequalities, joblessness, and poverty (Elliott, 2019). Young people who are passionate about social entrepreneurship can also start profitable social enterprises that benefit society.

2.12. Challenges faced by youth social entrepreneurs in South Africa

The benefits for youth social entrepreneurship in South Africa were covered in the preceding section. As a result, the difficulties young social entrepreneurs face are covered in the next section.

2.12.1. Limited access to funding and resources

Particularly in South Africa, social entrepreneurship is a potent strategy for bringing about constructive social change (Manyaka-Boshielo, 2017). However, limited access to funding and resources can be a significant barrier for young social entrepreneurs in the country (Ivankovic and Essa, 2021). Without adequate financial support, many young social entrepreneurs struggle to get their social impact ideas off the ground and make a meaningful impact, leaving critical problems unaddressed. One of the main reasons for this limited access is that traditional funding sources often prioritise profit over social impact (ILO, 2016). This means that young social entrepreneurs may struggle to secure funding from banks or venture capitalists, who are primarily interested in maximising returns on their investments. Another issue is that many social entrepreneurs lack the business skills and networks needed to attract investors and secure funding (Akoh and Lekhanya, 2022a; and Akoh and Lekhanya, 2022b). This can lead to a vicious cycle where they are unable to grow their ventures, due to lack of resources, which in turn makes it harder for them to attract investment, particularly young social entrepreneurs, who have started their social entrepreneurship ventures in under-developing communities. Moreover, the lack of funding and resources disproportionately affects marginalised communities, perpetuating inequality, and hindering progress towards sustainable development. To overcome these barriers, more innovative financing models are needed that prioritise social impact alongside financial returns (ILO, 2016). To assist social entrepreneurs, acquire the abilities they need to be successful, more funding is also required for mentoring programmes and training efforts (Carpenter, 2018). The full potential of social entrepreneurship as a driver for good in South African communities may be realised by granting more access to resources and finance.

2.12.2. Lack of support from government

One of the biggest obstacles to the success of social entrepreneurs in the nation is the absence of institutional and governmental support (Dzomonda, 2021). Littlewood and Holt (2018) highlight how this lack of support is especially noticeable when it comes to social entrepreneurship regulatory frameworks. The regulatory frameworks that are not conducive to social entrepreneurship make it difficult for these social businesses or enterprises to operate effectively (ILO, 2017). According to Lovasic and Cooper (2020), social businesses frequently operate in complicated and dynamic situations, and these frameworks are not made to meet their specific demands. This is especially troubling because such social businesses are crucial in tackling some of the most serious problems that South Africa is currently confronting, such as unemployment, poverty, inequality, education, and technology. The government must recognise the importance of supporting social entrepreneurs by creating favourable regulatory environments (Esau and Tengeh, 2022). Moreover, it is essential that policymakers develop regulatory frameworks that are tailored to the needs of social entrepreneurs. This includes creating tax incentives for investors, who support social enterprises and simplifying bureaucratic processes for registering these social entrepreneurship ventures, especially for young social entrepreneurs.

2.13. Conclusion

This literature review has discussed the five themes that emerged in literature on the social entrepreneurship phenomena. The themes consisted of the state of social entrepreneurship overview, youth and unemployment, social entrepreneurship as a response to youth unemployment crisis, youth social entrepreneurship and barriers and challenges facing young social entrepreneurs. Even while research shows that social entrepreneurship benefits people worldwide, particularly in South Africa, and that it is crucial for young people, there are still issues that need to be resolved. It has been demonstrated that youth social entrepreneurship has several advantages, including resolving social concerns, generating job opportunities, promoting community development, and stimulating economic growth. The lack of resources and finance available to young social entrepreneurs is one of their biggest obstacles. Many

of these people do not have the resources to launch or maintain their businesses over the long term. This makes it more difficult for them to have a big influence on society. The research methodology adopted in this study is discussed in the next chapter.



CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Introduction: Research methods and procedures

Since the previous chapter discussed the literature review, this chapter explains the research methodology adopted by this study. The following discussion is on the methods and procedures deployed in the study, including the research approach, design, data collection methods, population, and sampling.

3.2. Research approach

This study followed a qualitative research approach. This strategy helped the researcher study and articulate the experiences of young people, who aspire to be social entrepreneurs, active young social entrepreneurs, the Youth in Action organisation, and the Youth Development officer to address socio-economic issues facing Phuthaditjhaba, Free State. According to Merriam (2002), the purpose of qualitative research is to comprehend how people perceive, make meaning of, and construct worlds around their experiences. The researcher was interested in young people's experiences, as well as the challenges and opportunities they face when becoming social entrepreneurs, being active social entrepreneurs, and suggestions and recommendations they make to enhance their state of being social entrepreneurs in the area. The researcher was interested in the description, meaning, and comprehension of the research participant's words. The researcher's perception was inextricably linked to his background, history, culture, and preconceived notions. Because he was dealing with young people, who desire to be social entrepreneurs and active young social entrepreneurs, and his interest could influence the study's procedure and outcome, the researcher used reflexivity throughout the investigation, (Olmos-Vega et al., 2022).

3.3. Research design

The study used a case study as a research design. A case study is a one-of-a-kind, specific, and singular study that entails an in-depth analysis of a particular social

group, organisation, occasion, or circumstance, (Gilgun, 2015; Alexander et al., 1987; Handel; 1991 Yin, 1989). A case study design tries to build a thorough, in-depth understanding of the situation by examining numerous aspects of the case. This is consistent with the aim of the study, which are to solve the socio-economic problems impacting Phuthaditjhaba by offering a thorough knowledge and description of young people who wish to launch and manage their own social businesses. Three different kinds of case studies were proposed by Yin (2014), which are exploratory, explanatory, and descriptive. An exploratory case study design was used for the study. An exploratory case study design tries to examine and comprehend complicated phenomena in the context of a real-world experience (Seaton and Schwier, 2014). Researchers can learn more about the underlying elements, processes, and relationships by delving deeply into one or more examples using this design (Seaton and Schwier, 2014). The primary advantage of employing the case study approach is that, by concentrating on one or a small number of examples, the researcher may address the complexities and characteristics of challenging social settings (Descombe, 2007). The research participants can give information on their day-to-day experiences as aspiring social entrepreneurs and as active young social entrepreneurs, as well as what support services they have, to enhance their capacity and capabilities, whether they obtain any benefits from these services, and how often they receive them. Case studies can be used to answer "how," "why," "what," and "who" questions, according to Yin (2014). The "how" and "what" questions are answered in the exploratory case study. The researcher avoided being judgmental and biased regarding the values and beliefs relevant to the phenomenon in issue by engaging in self-reflection.

3.4. Data collection methods

The data for this study came from semi-structured interviews using an interview guide to ask open-ended questions to research participants of the proposed study. Magaldi and Berler (2020) state that a semi-structured interview is typically oriented around a main problem that provides a broad pattern and is typically guided.

The use of semi-structured interviews helped to keep the conversations on track with the study's objectives. The benefits of participating in the study was explained to the participants, who would aid in the development of suggestions that would be utilised to improve the phenomenon of social entrepreneurship among the youth of Phuthaditjhaba to address the socio-economic challenges facing the area. The participants' verbal and nonverbal communication were observed by the researcher. The interviewer and interviewee(s) held a face-to-face conversational dialogue as an alternative to the prearranged formal questions; this kind of talk is referred to as the conversation with a purpose (Burgess, 1984). The interviews were held face-to-face in Sesotho and English and lasted between 50 minutes to an hour, allowing participants to discuss their experiences, issues, and recommendations as upcoming social entrepreneurs and active social entrepreneurs in Phuthaditjhaba, (see Appendix 3 and 4). Semi-structured interviews are done once with a person or group and can last anywhere from thirty minutes to over an hour (DiCicco-Bloom and Crabtree, 2006).

Qualitative research is often regarded as the most important tool for gathering and analysing data (Wong, 2008). Rather than surveys, questionnaires, or gadgets, data was gathered through human interaction, such as interviews. Given the researcher's interests in social entrepreneurship and youth development, he understood his interest could be perceived as biased in his study. As a result, he engaged in a continual self-reflection processes and used an open-minded mind-set when collecting data from research respondents and analysing data to reduce researcher bias. To mitigate the impacts of confirmation bias, researchers must have an open mind and evaluate all evidence while evaluating current hypotheses, while also accepting that they may be disproven throughout analysis (Chipeta, 2020).

After thirteen participants gave their permission through signing a consent form for audio recording of interviews (see Appendix 2), the researcher utilised the audio recordings to record the interviews and to transcribe the exact words that were spoken by the participants. The information to be gathered was primarily based on the experiences of young people, who aspire to be social entrepreneurs, active social entrepreneurs, Youth Development Officer, and Youth in Action organisation at

Phuthaditjhaba to address the socio-economic challenges facing the area. The preparation and data collection procedures used in this study are covered in the section that follows.

3.4.1. Data collection preparation

The researcher conducted interviews and introduced himself to the research participants as a researcher. The Youth Development Officer of the Maluti-a-Phofung Municipality, the representative of Youth In Action organisation, Bakoena Royal Council, five aspiring young social entrepreneurs, and five active social entrepreneurs were the research respondents. Bakoena Royal Council, known as gatekeepers (see Appendix 7), controls entrance to the location, particularly young people at Phuthaditjhaba. Creswell (2013) defines gatekeepers as those who provide researchers with access to a location. To conduct interviews with the identified individuals at Phuthaditjhaba, the researcher wrote request letters to the Maluti-a-Phofung Youth Development Officer, Youth in Action organisation, and Bakoena Royal Council, telling them of the study and its purpose and requesting approval to carry out interviews with aspiring young people, who desire to be social entrepreneurs and active social entrepreneurs. The researcher wrote request letters to individual research participants telling them of the study's objective and how they might participate. He also explained what will happen with the research findings and asked individuals to volunteer for the study.

The researcher went to the research participants to explain the study and asked them to sign the consent form (see Appendix 2), if they accept to participate. This was done to make research participants feel that they are more valued, and that they have no need to feel threatened by the researcher's position. The researcher developed a consent form for the volunteers to sign, as well as provided debriefing to the participants. The request letters were detailed, including the interview dates, locations, and times. The goal of the study and the requirements for participation were communicated to the participants. He described the purpose of the research's findings and usefulness, as well as how they would be communicated. The research participants' confidentiality would be protected.

The researcher was aware of his continuous interaction with participants when preparing individuals for data collection, and how this would influence the study's outcome (Haynes, 2012). The researcher was conscious of the potential impact he could have on the data collecting process, so he looked at his relationship with the participants and how the dynamics of that relationship would influence responses to his questions. The researcher thought on his powers of observation, as well as the methodological components of his research and his behaviours during the interviews, among other things. Self-reflection was used by the researcher to identify his own biases, differing viewpoints, and interests in the youth development, reactions to the questions, and position in the social sciences field.

The shortcomings of qualitative semi-structured interviews are as follows. The interview is conditioned by the interviewer's interest and opinions while conducting qualitative interviews using open-ended questions, which is a common problem (Denzin, 2017). The themes covered in semi-structured interviews are more prearranged, but the interviewer's opinions will determine the follow-up questions (Ritchie and Lewis, 2003). Misunderstandings and misinterpretations of words are another potential issue (Marshall and While, 1994). Persuasive research performed in Vietnam by Nguyen (2015) indicates that common behaviours such as looking someone in the eye directly during a semi-structured interview might reduce the likelihood of building a good connection with them. The study's population and sample are covered in the next section.

3.4.2. Population and sampling

The following section is divided into two parts, namely population and sampling.

a) Population

The South African National Youth Policy (DWYPD, 2020) defines youth as everyone between the ages of 14 and 35. Thus, youth under the age of 21 were not included in this study, who are not interested in and not involved in social entrepreneurship activities. It is because they might have limited knowledge about social entrepreneurship, which would pose threat to quality of data. This meant that young people who did not aspire to be social entrepreneurs in Phuthaditjhaba, Free State,

were excluded. Exclusion criteria are "the characteristics that the respondents lack in order not to be included in the study" (Burns and Grove 2001:367). The study was concentrated on young people who desire to be social entrepreneurs at Phuthaditjhaba and who have little or no experience in social entrepreneurship and young active social entrepreneurs who are running their own social enterprises. The following section explains the sampling methods that were used.

b) Sampling

Ten young people (mixed gender) between the ages of 22-40 years old, who desire to be social entrepreneurs, and active social entrepreneurs who reside at Phuthaditjhaba, were chosen. The traditional method for estimating a sample size, as well as theoretical saturation, was defined by Stebbins (2001), as the point at which more cases do not yield any extra information. If fresh information was provided by research respondents, the researcher for this study raised the number of research participants until no new information was provided by respondents. However, if there was no new information added, the researcher stuck to 10 young people. Other scholars contend that the number of instances might be as little as three to five, while some assert that case studies need up to 30 research participants (Marshall et al., 2013; and O'Reilly, and Parker, 2013). However, over 15 cases, according to Miles and Huberman (2009), could make analysis difficult to handle. The participants in this study consisted of five young people, who aspire to be social entrepreneurs, five young active social entrepreneurs, the Youth Development Officer of the Maluti-a-Phofung Municipality, the representative of Youth In Action organisation, and Bakoena Royal Council, who has the potential to address socio-economic challenges facing Phuthaditjhaba, Free State. The following section explains the sampling methods that were used.

c) Sampling methods

Non-probability sampling, in contrast to probability sampling, offers each unit in a population an equal chance of being chosen and does not contain a list of potential participants (Surbhi, 2016). Non-probability sampling techniques include convenience, quota, snowball, and purposeful sampling (Creswell, 2009). For this study, to

understand the experiences, knowledge, and understandings of young people who aspire to be social entrepreneurs, active young social entrepreneurs, Youth Development Officer, Bakoena Royal Council and Youth in Action organisation, the sample came from non-probability sampling. According to Blumberg et al. (2005), the employment of sampling methods has the following advantages: reduced costs, higher results accuracy, faster data collecting, and accessibility to population components.

Purposive sampling under non-probability sampling, was utilised by the researcher for this research. To meet the objectives and aims of the study, the researcher used purposeful sampling to identify the participants who would be most suited to provide the most pertinent information on the phenomena being studied. Typically, the non-probability sampling approach is used to choose a limited group of participants, such as those who will provide very useful information (Neuman, 2014). Five young people who aspire to be social entrepreneurs, and five young active social entrepreneurs were interviewed. Other young social entrepreneurs and aspiring social entrepreneurs, the researcher already knew about and reached out to them to request their participation in the research and others, the researcher identified through requesting relevant support organisations (see Appendix 8) to connect the researcher with young social entrepreneur and aspiring social entrepreneurs to participate in the study.

3.5. Measurement map

Below is a summary of the research map, including objectives, construct, variables, data sources, questions, and data analysis.

Table 3.1: The summary of the research map

Objectives	Construct	Variable	Data Sources	Questions/Data	Data Analysis
To understand youth and social entrepreneurship on an international level.	Social Entrepreneurship and Youth.	Reviewing literature on Youth and Social Entrepreneurship worldwide, in South Africa and Phuthaditjhaba.	Journals and Articles.	How does social entrepreneurship and youth is perceived in the world, South Africa, and in Phuthaditjhaba? What is the scope of social entrepreneurship and youth globally, and South Africa? What are the insights of social entrepreneurship in the world?	Systematic Review/ Thematic Analysis.
To explore limitations and opportunities that youth experience in becoming social entrepreneurs.	Limitations experienced by youth in becoming social entrepreneurs.	Numerous limitations are explained.	Conduct semi-structured interviews with youth. Journals and books	What are the limitations and challenges that you as young person face in becoming social entrepreneur?	Thematic Analysis Systematic review
	Opportunities encountered by youth in becoming social entrepreneurs.	Several opportunities are described.	Conduct semi-structured interviews with youth.	What are the opportunities that you face in becoming social entrepreneur as a young individual in this area?	Thematic Analysis
To determine whether youth in Phuthaditjhaba	Aspirations of youth to be social entrepreneurs at Phuthaditjhaba.	Various aspirations are discussed	Conduct semi-structured interviews with youth.	As a young person do you want to become social entrepreneur,	Thematic Analysis

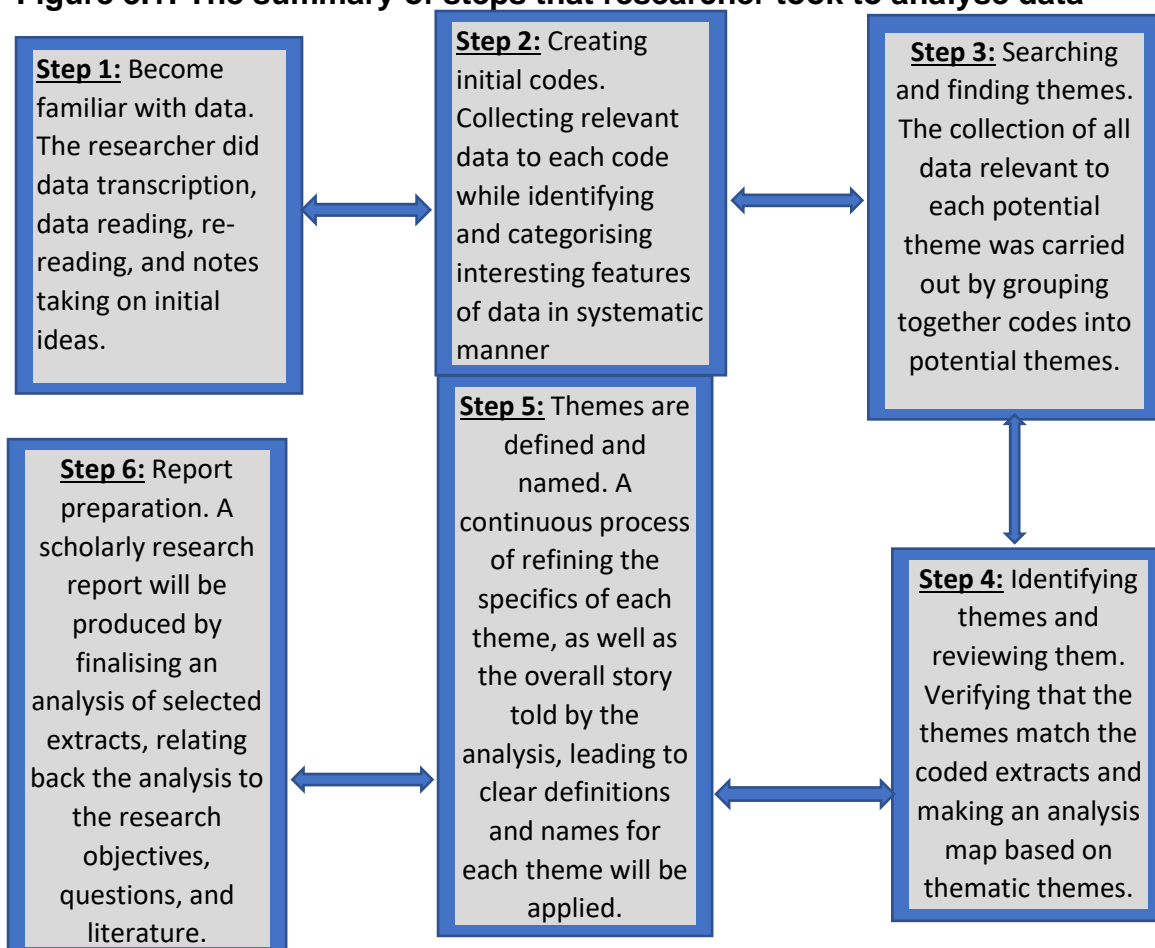


aspire to be social entrepreneurs				please explain further what makes you what to be social entrepreneur at Phuthaditjhaba?	
To recommend how youths in Phuthaditjhaba could aspire to become social entrepreneurs.	Recommendations to youth to become social entrepreneurs in Phuthaditjhaba.	Bulk of recommendations listed and identified.	Conduct semi-structured interviews with YIA Representative, and YDO-MAP	How youth in Phuthaditjhaba could aspire to be social entrepreneurs, what do you recommend for them to become social entrepreneurs?	Thematic Analysis

3.6. Data Analysis

The data gathered from study participants was analysed using thematic analysis. Thematic analysis, according to Braun and Clarke (2012), is a technique for methodically identifying, classifying, and offering insight into patterns of meaning themes within a dataset. Using this method, the researcher was able to see and comprehend the common meanings and experiences that the research participants had. In the proposed study, thematic analysis was used, due to its accessibility and flexibility. A thematic analysis allowed the researcher to explore a way of conducting research that otherwise might seem ambiguous, conceptually, mystifying, challenging, or overly complicated. The researcher applied six steps of thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006) to attain research objectives and answer research questions in this study. The researcher's overview of the methods they followed to evaluate the data thematically is shown in Figure 3.1 below. According to Braun and Clarke (2006), the thematic analysis was carried out in the following steps (see figure 3.1): familiarisation, initial code generation, theme search, theme review, theme definition and name, and report preparation.

Figure 3.1: The summary of steps that researcher took to analyse data



3.7. Research ethics

The proposed research adhered to the research ethics that guided the involvement of the researcher on gathering data from people, who were regarded as research participants. To begin, the research adopted the following research ethics, principles, and morals by Belmont Report, (1978) and Freed-Taylor, (1994). The researcher applied research ethics step-by-step by (Bos, 2020) to adhere with research ethical procedures in this study. Participant protection and respect were given top priority by the researcher. During research interviews, the researcher acted in a mannered generosity, kindness and did good to research participants. The proposed study equitably allocated its benefits and risks to all participants who were participating in the research fairly. The proposed research did not cause any harm and pain to research participants as emphasised by Buchanan and Warwick, (2021). The researcher made sure that the study did not put research participants under exploitation. Moreover, the researcher abided by the research ethics, principles, and morals (National Research Ethics Committee, 2019). The researcher ensured that protection and respect for research participants' and institutions' rights, privacy, dignity, confidentiality, and interests were considered and acknowledged. The POPI Act of 2013 states that researchers must take reasonable precautions to safeguard participants personal information used for research purposes against loss, damage, and unauthorised access.

Before beginning the research interviews, study participants had the opportunity to sign informed permission forms (refer to Appendices 1 and 2) as part of the research activities. The research participants in this study signed the informed consent forms that comprised of a sufficient grasp and enough knowledge of the investigation (see Appendix 1 and 2). This served as confirmation that research participants were agreeing to take part in the proposed research (see Appendix 1 and 2). The researcher in this study recorded audio conversations with research participants, therefore in order to respect their privacy, he politely requested permission before starting any interviews. Research participants in this study voluntarily participated in it and it was free from threats, free from harm if not participating and free from bribery, as explained

by Arellano, Alcubilla and Leguizamo, (2023). The study's participants were free to discontinue taking part in the interviews at any moment. The anonymity of research participants in this study was protected as outlined by Barrow, Khandhar and Brannan, (2022). The researcher made use of ASE 1, ASE 2, ASE 3, SE 1, SE 2, SE 3 etc., Youth in Action representative (NGO), Bakoena Royal Council (TA) and Youth Development Officer MAP (YDO-MAP), to identify his participants. This indicates that the researcher did not utilise the research participants' true names, who participated in the study when compiling and completing interview transcripts to analyse data as highlighted by Heaton, (2021). Additionally, the researcher applied to the institution for ethical approval (see Appendix 6).

3.8. Limitation of the study

The researcher was conscious of potential obstacles to overcome when conducting the study. The following are the study's limitations. The researcher was aware that research participants like the Youth Development Officer and director of Youth in Action might be too busy to participate in research interviews. This has high chances of affecting the quality of research findings. However, if this happened the researcher would keep on rescheduling the research interviews with them until they could diarise the researcher in their busy schedule. Though some study participants likely insisted on having the interviews audio recorded, the researcher would make sure to remind them that the interviews are only recorded for the purpose of transcribing the data collected, after all, this is first-hand knowledge.

In addition, the researcher ensured that the data was protected and stored safely so that no one other than the researcher could access it. Reading from the past observations in Phuthaditjhaba, it is possible that local unrest arose, like community strikes on service delivery and local taxis strikes. This would impact the researcher on collecting data from research participants, since it would be quite difficult to get access to transport and roads might be closed, or taxis would be unavailable to transport the researcher to research participants. If this happened the researcher would re-arrange research interviews with participants and reschedule them when things went back to normal. A constraint on the study's findings is the absence of awareness regarding the

topic of social entrepreneurship in the area. However, the researcher targeted young people who were familiar with the phenomenon of social entrepreneurship in Phuthaditjhaba.

3.9. Conclusion

The methodologies and processes utilised in this study were covered in this chapter. These included population and sampling methods (Purposive non-probability sampling), exploratory case study design, data gathering techniques (semi-structured interviews), and qualitative research. It also included data processing, research ethics, a measuring map, and the study's limitations. The study's findings are given in the chapter that follows.

CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS

4.1. Introduction

The preceding chapter elaborated on the utilisation of a qualitative research technique and thematic analysis for data analysis. This approach yielded significant insights into the realm of youth social entrepreneurship in Phuthaditjhaba. The use of a qualitative research technique facilitated a profound comprehension of the viewpoints, experiences, and incentives of persons engaged in youth social entrepreneurship. The researcher gathered rich, detailed data that went beyond mere numbers or statistics by conducting semi-structured interviews. The approach was relevant, since the topic of social entrepreneurship is multifaceted. The personal stories and lived experiences are crucial. A systematic approach to finding themes and patterns in qualitative data was offered by thematic analysis. It allowed the researcher to organise information into meaningful categories that captured the essence of participants' responses. Therefore, this chapter analyses the data that was produced and collected.

4.2. Description of Phuthaditjhaba area

Phuthaditjhaba is a town in South Africa's Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality, in the Thabo Mofutsanyana District of the Free State Province. The name of this town is Sotho (Siyabuswa, 2023), which translates to Phuthaditjhaba- "Meeting Place of the Nations." Because of the regular snowfall on the mountain summits, the ancient San people called this area Qwa-Qwa (Raper, 2014), which translates to "whiter than white." Phuthaditjhaba is tucked away in a section of the Drakensberg, surrounded by the dramatic Drakensberg and Maluti Mountains (SAHO, 2020). This gives the surrounding landscapes a unique sense of respect that appeals to tourists and creates excellent picture opportunities. Lesotho is to the town's southwest, while KwaZulu-Natal Province borders it to the southeast (SAHO, 2020). Lephatoana Oetsi, also known as Witsie, led a group of Basotho, who were the first immigrants to arrive here. Hence, the region was known as Witsieshoek until it was renamed Phuthaditjhaba. That was about 1838, when Witsie's arrival uprooted the local San population. His

group remained there until 1856. The residents were driven away by the Boers, who were suffering from livestock theft.

Chief Paulus Mopeli and President Brand signed a separate peace deal (the Basotho war) in 1867, which permitted the tribe to hold a portion of the territory. Chief Koos Mota was granted access to the eastern portion of the land later in 1873. Later, a native commissioner with his headquarters in Harrismith oversaw the region. To serve the two local tribes, a self-governing tribal authority was founded in 1953 in two districts. The Basothu ba Borwa territorial authority was established in 1969 by the union of these two governmental entities. Subsequently, this served as the foundation for the Qwaqwa homeland, which was publicly declared to exist in 1974. A few ministers, a legislative assembly, and Wessels S. Mota, the chief minister, and the grandson of the first chief, Koos Mota were there.

Between 1987-1990, Phuthaditjhaba was an energetic area. Progressive development took place, the parliament was built on top of a small hill of Phuthaditjhaba (Membretti, Taylor and Delves, 2023). Another four noticeable representations of nationalism and power were established, which included Charles Mopeli Stadium, Mofumahadi Manapo Mopeli Hospital, Elizabeth Ross Hospital, and Qwa-Qwa Stars football club (Membretti, Taylor and Delves, 2023). Additionally, the area of Phuthaditjhaba sought excellent services through the form of a university and training institution that were built by the Qwa-Qwa administration (Membretti, Taylor and Delves, 2023). For the people of the area, the economy was established through industries and/or factories, employing a large number of people. A crucial local amenities function, supporting rural areas was developed by Phuthaditjhaba. The area function was aided by the university, colleges, schools, clinics, hospitals, and shopping centres. Entrepreneurs were given opportunities by Phuthaditjhaba, they were able to make use of them to expand their business and meet local demand. The region is well known for its beef production in the agricultural industry and serves as more than just a tourist destination. It also significantly contributes to the Free State Province's overall gross agricultural income (Membretti, Taylor and Delves, 2023).

During the 1990-1994 transitional era, the Qwa-Qwa Government and ANC-ruling party were at odds with one another (Membretti, Taylor and Delves, 2023). The newly elected provincial government, which was dominated by ANC did not get along well with the Dikwankwetla Party of South Africa. As a result, in Phuthaditjhaba in the Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality, there has been widespread political disagreement, mismanagement, and inadequate leadership. The municipality is currently administered, which means that an administrator chosen by the Free State Provincial Government makes decisions rather than the council, at this moment (Membretti, Taylor and Delves, 2023).

4.3. Demographics of Phuthaditjhaba

According to World Population, (2023) the current projection for Phuthaditjhaba's population in 2023 is 62,277. 51,677 people called Phuthaditjhaba home in 2001. Every year, Phuthaditjhaba has increased by 0.85%. Black Africans make about 99% of the Phuthaditjhaba people group. Although there are also speakers of SiSwati, IsiXhosa, and other languages, the majority of people residing in Phuthaditjhaba are Sesotho and IsZulu speakers, (Lesupi, 2015; Britannica, 2022).

4.4. Socio-economic status in Phuthaditjhaba

A community's socioeconomic standing is essential to its growth and development. It is evident that socio-economic disparities exist and need to be addressed urgently. Addressing socio-economic status in Phuthaditjhaba is essential for promoting equality and social justice. The township is characterised by high levels of poverty (52.1%), unemployment (44.1%), crime (20 422 serious crimes), and restricted availability of necessities including electricity, water, and health services (IDP, 2016; and COGTA, 2020). This creates a cycle of disadvantage that perpetuates inequality among its residents. Improving socio-economic conditions can break this cycle and provide equal opportunities for all individuals. Addressing socio-economic status will lead to improved living standards for the entire community. Better access to employment, education, business, and social entrepreneurship options allows people to secure stable incomes and improve their quality of life economically, socially and environmentally (Department for International Development, 2008; Su, Zhou and

Zhang, 2019; ILO, 2021; and OECD, 2023). Addressing socio-economic disparities will reduce social tensions and promote social cohesion within Phuthaditjhaba. When there are significant gaps between different groups within society, it can lead to resentment and conflict (Tsotetsi and Omodan, 2022).

4.5. The overall socio-economic status of Phuthaditjhaba residents

Phuthaditjhaba, a township located in the Free State Province of South Africa, is home to thousands of residents, who face various socio-economic challenges. The overall socio-economic status of Phuthaditjhaba residents can be characterized by low-income levels, high unemployment rates, widespread poverty, limited access to education, elevated crime rates, as well as community protests (IDP, 2016; and COGTA, 2020). These issues are interconnected and require urgent attention from both the government and society, as a whole. Firstly, income levels in Phuthaditjhaba are significantly lower compared to other areas in South Africa (IDP, 2016; and COGTA, 2020). Many residents struggle to make ends meet, due to limited job opportunities and low wages. This leads us to the second issue, namely high unemployment rates. The lack of employment opportunities exacerbates poverty levels within the community. Poverty is pervasive in Phuthaditjhaba, with many families living below the poverty line (IDP, 2016; and COGTA, 2020). This not only affects their access to basic necessities, but also restricts their ability to invest in education for themselves and their children. Limited access to quality education perpetuates the cycle of poverty, as it hinders individuals from acquiring skills necessary for better job prospects. Furthermore, the combination of high unemployment rates and poverty contributes to an increase in crime rates within Phuthaditjhaba (IDP, 2016; COGTA, 2020; and Tsotetsi and Omodan, 2022). Desperate circumstances often drive individuals towards illegal activities as a means of survival.

4.6. Service delivery in Phuthaditjhaba

The collapse of service delivery in Phuthaditjhaba, a town in the Free State Province of South Africa, is a pressing issue that demands immediate attention.

YDO-MAP: *“At the moment the services are being delivered by municipality, but they are not on that level the executive mayor expects them to be, like to reach the area of Phuthaditjhaba at large and if I were to rate service delivery from 1 to 5, it would be 3, because we have challenges of tools, vehicles sometimes are vehicles are broken as a result they will give the executive mayor a problem of service being rendered to the community.”*

Various sectors, such as healthcare, waste management, road infrastructure, human settlement, water sanitation and electricity, have all been affected by this breakdown. One of the most critical areas impacted is healthcare. The lack of adequate medical facilities and resources has resulted in limited access to quality healthcare for the residents (IDP, 2016; and COGTA, 2020). This has led to an increase in preventable diseases and a higher mortality rate (COGTA, 2020). The town has only a few clinics that are often overcrowded and understaffed. This results in long waiting times for patients seeking medical attention. Additionally, there is a shortage of specialised healthcare facilities, such as hospitals or trauma centers, forcing residents to travel long distances for critical care (COGTA, 2020). Similarly, waste management has deteriorated significantly. Garbage collection services are irregular or non-existent in some areas, leading to unhygienic living conditions and environmental pollution (Mosia, 2023). The accumulation of waste poses health risks (Mosia, 2023) and contributes to the spread of disease.

Road infrastructure is another area that has suffered greatly. Potholes and deteriorating roads make transportation difficult and dangerous for both pedestrians and motorists (Mdakane, 2020). This not only hampers economic growth, but also puts lives at risk (Mdakane, 2020). Moreover, human settlement issues have worsened over time. Informal settlements in the area experience significant obstacles as a result of climate change, namely drought and poverty (Melore and Nel, 2020). Water sanitation is yet another area where service delivery has collapsed (Mocwagae, 2020).

Because of poor infrastructure or pollution problems, many households lack access to safe drinking water (Mocwagae, 2020). Lastly, electricity supply remains unreliable with frequent power outages affecting businesses and daily life activities (Mdakane, 2020).



Table 4.1: The summary of research participants description

As discussed in Chapter 3, purposive sampling was used to properly choose the research participants. The research study interviews included 13 research participants. The research participants consisted of five females and eight males, and the age of the research participants was between 24-40 of age. Out of 13 research participants, three participants are supporting stakeholders, five are young social entrepreneurs, and five are young aspiring social entrepreneurs coming from different villages of Phuthaditjhaba. The below Table 2 shows the summary of the research participants' description.

Key: NS- Not Specified

Participants Codes	Details	Ward no.	Village	Age	Gender	Educational Level	About	Period of Residence	Employment Status/Role
TA	Tribal Authority		Namahadi	NS	Male	NS	The tribal authority of Phuthaditjhaba which provides different community services which include agricultural services, food security, and others.	"I was born here" TA	Tribal Chief/King
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation	26	Boiketlo	34	Female	Grade 12	NGO that renders the variety of services on food security, Gender-Based Violence, teenage pregnancy, social cohesion, art, craft, sports, entrepreneurship, and others in the community.	34 years	NGO Representative
YDO-MAP	Youth Development	23	Moremoholo and Motloug	NS	Female	Diploma	The Youth Development Office works to ensure a wide range of developmental	"I can say more than 30	Youth Development Officer



	Officer, Maluti-a-Phofung		Street, Setsing Complex				initiatives, such as sports, cultural activities, performing arts, and skill development, also communicates with young people to ascertain their needs and interests in terms of empowerment and growth.	years." YDO-MAP	
SE1	Social Entrepreneur 1	NS	Makong	34	Female	Grade 12	Crop farming and empowering youth through kitchen food farming.	34 years	Active Social Entrepreneur
SE2	Social Entrepreneur 2	27	Phuthaditjhaba	35	Male	Diploma	Waste collection and cleaning, farming community, food gardens, organic compost manufacturing, tourism, and sports.	35 years	Active Social Entrepreneur
SE3	Social Entrepreneur 3	35	Makwane	28	Male	Diploma	Chicken layers farming and egg production, assistance with agricultural-related knowledge to the community.	28 years	Active Social Entrepreneur
SE4	Social Entrepreneur 4	35	Makwane	30	Male	Diploma	School-work assistance programme, sports, drama, art, reducing teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and TB education.	30 years	Active Social Entrepreneur
SE5	Social Entrepreneur 5	21	Tsheseng	40	Male	Tertiary education	Crime Prevention Programme	40 years	Active Social Entrepreneur
ASE1	Aspiring Social Entrepreneur 1	35	Makawane	24	Female	Bachelor's degree	Establishing employing, affordable and	24 years	Unemployed



							environmental friendly agricultural cooperative.		
ASE2	Aspiring Social Entrepreneur 2	32	Bluegumbosch	22	Female	Bachelor's degree	Minimising or eradicating waste dumping and encourage people to recycle.	24	Studying
ASE3	Aspiring Social Entrepreneur 3	07	Makgalaneng	24	Male	Degree	<i>"...employing young people who are at risk of commuting crimes through my business and uplifting my community."</i> ASE3	24 years	Partial Employed
ASE4	Aspiring Social Entrepreneur 4	27	Bonamelo	32	Male	Diploma and other Certificates	<i>"Making difference in the community is a joy for me."</i> ASE4	32 years	Unemployed
ASE5	Aspiring Social Entrepreneur 5	31	Makwane	29	Male	Senior Secondary School	Means of living skills development and knowledge sharing.	29 years	Unemployed/Self-employed

Source: Generated by the researcher

The period of residence from research participants is between 24 years and 40 years. As they are serving different roles, other research participants are partially employed, fully employed, self-employed, unemployed, and studying.

4.7. Defining social entrepreneurship

Verifying that the research participants comprehended social entrepreneurship together with what the phenomenon is, was necessary. The paragraphs of the opinions of some of participants, both aspiring and active social entrepreneurs, are provided below.

ASE2: *“Social entrepreneurship is a new innovative way of doing business to bring about change in solving pressing community issues and not just a change, but lasting change, long term change in communities, even though social entrepreneurship it does not prioritise profits, but somewhere somehow profit is needed in the business, with social entrepreneurship is about to bring change.”*

ASE1: *“...social entrepreneurship is starting a business that seek to solve the challenges faced in the community, in such a way that as much as you are going to make the profit, the community is going to benefit from it by having their issues eradicated or solved...”*

SE2: *“Social entrepreneurship like I said in the beginning that our profit we calculate it through the impact we have made, you know. So as a social entrepreneur, sort of impact becomes our profit, how many were we able to assist, working not just for personal gain, but for the gain for someone else and the community as a whole...”*

In addition to shared opinions, the term ‘social entrepreneurship’ has several interpretations. It entails recognising and comprehending urgent societal challenges, including inequality, poverty, environmental destruction, accessibility of healthcare, education and harmless energy and other essentials (Patil, 2023). The participants also acknowledged this.

ASE3: *“...I do understand the social entrepreneurship, being social entrepreneurship is not about making more and more money and making more profits, is about uplifting the community. I find the problem that is existing in our environment and through the business that I establish, I solve the problem that exists in the community.”*

SE5: *"...it is a kind of a business that does not aim to make profits...when you take it to our organisation we will call it income-generating programme that makes a certain amount of money that is going to sustain the community programmes..."*

ASE4: *"I understand it is an established business that is employing people within the community and the kind of that business is making profit, active and changing people's lives."*

Other research participants shared a different vision of social entrepreneurship definitions. Their different idea of social entrepreneurship definitions is presented below. Collaboration with various stakeholders, such as local communities, non-profit organisations and governments, is a common aspect of social entrepreneurship (Schin, Cristache and Matis, 2023).

SE4: *"Let me say it's difficult, but let me explain it even though it's difficult, social entrepreneurship is something that combines stakeholders so that they can work together for the good of the community."*

ASE5: *"I could say yes, because I have been in social entrepreneurship for a long time, like socially is about how you socialise with other people, like how to communicate with others, in order to get the project contract that you have to acquire or pitch about."*

While other research participants did not have any idea what social entrepreneurship meant to their understanding.

SE3: *"No, I am not aware about the concept of social entrepreneurship. But if you can explain it to me, I can manage to understand it."* However, after the researcher explained the phenomenon to research participant, the participant added to say: *"As I have identified earlier that we educate more about this practice of organic, since we are aware that people are eating food that is modified"*.

Even if social entrepreneurship has specific issues with definitions (Thao, 2023), this should not stop people from appreciating its potential to have a beneficial social impact.

4.8. Motivation to start and run social enterprise

In Phuthaditjhaba, young social entrepreneurs and aspiring social entrepreneurs have both revealed their various driving forces for establishing and operating social enterprises. Below are paragraphs from research participants' comments on motivations. Depending on where their businesses are in the life-cycle, social entrepreneurs have a variety of reasons for starting and maintaining them (Larissa Martins Lehmen, Petrini and Silva, 2023).

SE2: *“We understood that our community need organisation... that is going to focus on their needs, and an organization that is going to help them help themselves, hence, we started the NPC, because we wanted to serve the people more than me just make money for myself.”*

SE1: *“...it’s painful when somebody comes to me and say I did not eat last night, like can you give me one bunch of spinach or green beans. I want to change their mentality of being given, like I what them to notice that they can also do it, take action in order to get what you want, our impoverished place, like the high number of unemployment it’s disheartening.”*

ASE2: *“...my main motivation is the thing of lack job opportunities, jobs are scarce...that thing gives me a motive, like if I can open social enterprise I can employ myself and employ others...doing community development course has given me the motivation, because I had a chance to see communities and their issues and I realised that I need to be creative as a young person in terms of coming with solutions that will help solving community problems.”*

ASE1: *“...what motivate me to become social entrepreneur is that from the community I am from in the Eastern Free State, Phuthaditjhaba is very disadvantaged... I want to solve several issues in this community through my idea.”*

SE5: *“We found out that there is a high number of children committing crime in this area and the result of that is children, who are abandoned, are not well informed. So, we saw the need to help these children in a manner that we make them to stay away from criminal activities.”*

The desire to change the world around them is one of aspiring social entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs' main driving forces. They are driven to act when they witness societal issues like poverty, education, injustice, unemployment, environmental issues, and climate change. Social entrepreneurs are motivated by social issues and seize opportunities to achieve both economic and social progress (Manoto, 2023).

ASE3: *“What motivates me about becoming social entrepreneur is uplifting the community, finding the gap, closing the gap and developing our community bit by bit will get there, no rush.”*

SE3: *“...due to high demand of eggs, not local only, but the whole of South Africa and since you are aware that there is no employment. Also, high prices of eggs.”*

ASE4: *“...to always to solve problems, so the problem that I saw here at Phuthaditjhaba motivated me.”*

SE5: *“...in the level community there is a crisis of parents, current syllabus is difficult for parents to help their kids with homework, so us we brought this into the community to help kids with their homework, we saw the crisis of kids failing core subjects like English, Sesotho, Math, Physics, and other subjects.”*

ASE5: *“...the opportunities like how I could earn a living out of it.”*

It is evident that the will to invent and come up with original solutions, such as community upliftment and meeting the demand for challenging community issues, is what drives the founding and operation of a social enterprise. Since social entrepreneurship creates new avenues for community empowerment, it has been recognised as a solution to environmental problems and social injustice in society (Halsall et al., 2022).

4.9. Kinds of enterprises

Young active social entrepreneurs shared and discussed the kinds of enterprises that they are running with different structures, registration, aims and purposes, business

approaches, and legal forms. Below are responses from the young active social entrepreneurs.

4.9.1. Structure

When asked about the structure that young social entrepreneurs use to run their social enterprise, participants shared dynamic insights. A carefully planned social business structure is important, because it may generate lasting solutions to urgent societal problems. A lot of social enterprise managers or social entrepreneurs are hesitant to form a board (The World Economic Forum and The Schwab Foundation, 2012). Below are responses from research participants.

SE1: *“At the moment, I am responsible for all administration of running the enterprise.”*

SE2: *“...we have the structure that we follow where we have our chairperson being me, there is a treasurer, secretary, and then we have other supervisors who work in different projects that we are doing.”*

SE3: *“We are six individuals, and we established cooperative this year...”*

SE4: *“It is me and the team of facilitators that I am working with...”*

SE5: *“...I am working with my PA, receptionist, and the team of coordinators.”*

Social entrepreneurs adopt different ways to form the structures of their social enterprises to tackle societal issues, while maintaining their financial stability. It is imperative to note that the structures of social enterprises are diverse depending on the problem aimed to be addressed.

4.9.2. Registrations

When asked about the way the enterprise is registered, research participants have shared the way they registered their businesses. Social enterprises are currently registered as one or more of the following entity categories in South Africa: trusts, closed corporations, Section 21 NPOs, voluntary groups, and private businesses (Steinman, 2010).

SE1: *“It’s registered as a Sole Proprietorship.”*

SE2: *“it was registered NPC.”*

SE3: *“Yes, we are already registered as Cooperative long time ago and all the things that are associated with tax.”*

SE4: *“We were registered as NPC, since we were chasing the sake of registering, but now, we are registered as NGO.”*

SE5: *“We are registered as NPO, but I am looking forward to register as NGO, since they differ and the work that we do I see fit for NGO.”*

Registering social enterprises in Phuthaditjhaba comes with difficulty in deciding and choosing the right business registration format, as highlighted by the research participants above. Social enterprises' ability to bring positive change is limited and their capacity to effectively address critical societal challenges is hindered by the difficult nature of the registration process. For example, the process of registering an NGO is more complex and time-consuming, and it involves more stringent government oversight and restrictions on foreign borrowing (Smith and Darko, 2014).

4.9.3. Aim and purpose

When asked about the aim and purpose of the social enterprise, research participants shared their aim and the purpose of their social enterprise. Social enterprises are local and community-based in nature, with an emphasis on providing for fundamental necessities in the housing, health and education sectors (GIBS, 2018).

SE1: *“I want to add more employees on a permanently, employ people from this community, and add chicken layers project to balance my operations. My main objective is to be able to create employment opportunities.”*

SE2: *“The goal is to build economically independent and self-reliant communities...”*

SE3: *“to educate about agriculture, because it’s not something that is difficult to do and to teach someone. To develop youth, reduce crime with a route of employing people. We believe that if we help certain individuals, they can also open their cooperatives in future.”*

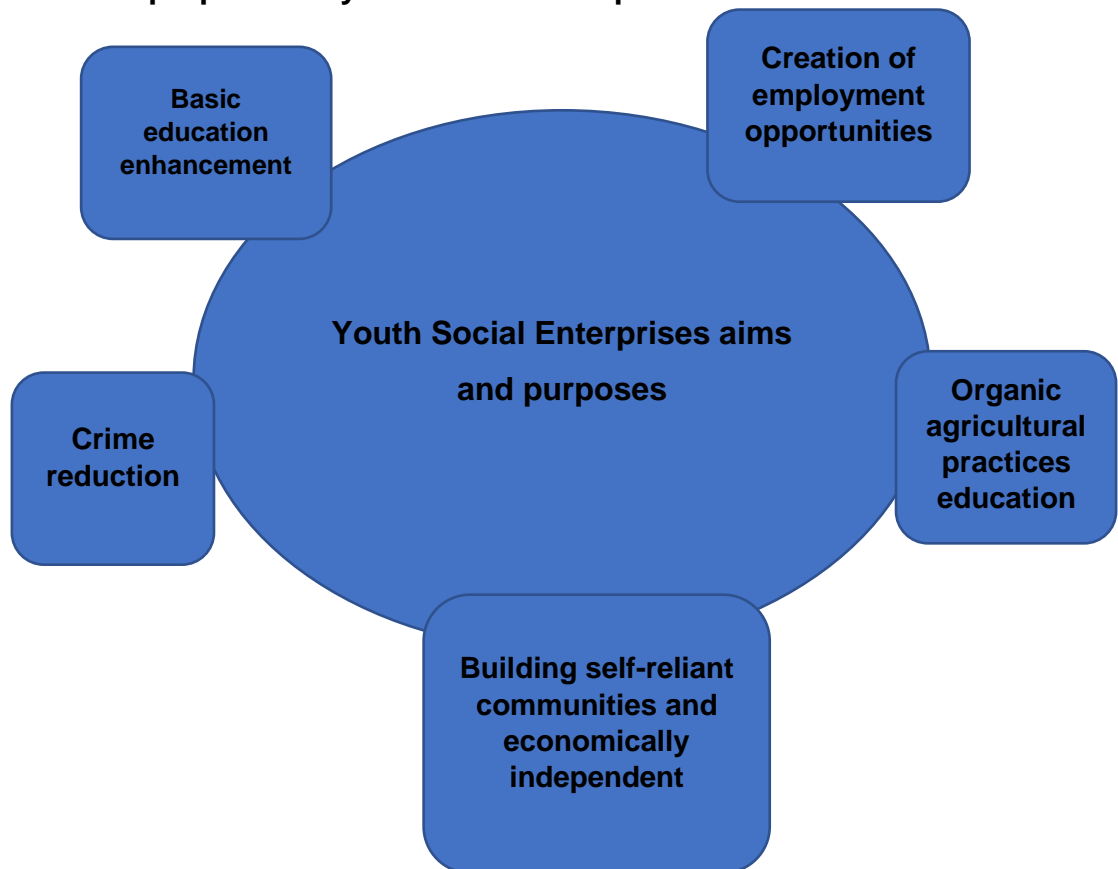
SE4: “Let me say it like this to assist children to excel in their school by assisting them do their schoolwork, since we are dropping centre.”

SE5: “Reducing the level of crime committed by children.”

Social enterprises from Phuthaditjhaba aim to enhance employment opportunities, basic education, organic agricultural practices, education, reduce crime, building economically and self-resilient communities. Social entrepreneurship aims to develop workable socio-economic relationships, institutions, organisations, and practises that produce and maintain social benefits (Mthembu and Barnard, 2019).

The figure below demonstrates aims and purposes of youth social enterprises, extracted from research participants from the interviews.

Figure 2: Aims and purposes of youth social enterprises



Source: Generated by the researcher

4.9.4. Business approach

The social enterprise business model is an innovative and dynamic method that blends the principles of entrepreneurship with social impact (Deladem, 2023).

SE1: *“they just put their orders and I supply.”*

SE2: *“...as social entrepreneur, more than anything we are here to serve the community. In everything that we do, it’s for the benefit of community, it’s not for us making profits, we measure our profits through the impact that we have done as a company, like how many programmes that we have run and how many people of those programmes you have assisted and living in a clean environment that has food.”*

SE4: *“...posting via social media like Facebook page, we go to school and in community meetings to distribute pamphlets, those are the ways we mostly use. Making T-shirts for our kids that have our brand name and logo. And I see it being the easiest way to reach the community.”*

SE5: *“...we normally approach schools and community based on the challenge that a school has, or parents have about children. We also do door-to-door campaign with my team assessing troubling behaviour of the child per home in the community and if the child is troubling at school, we go to school as the school request us to intervene learners collectively.”*

It is clear that social enterprise led by young people inherits a triple bottom line approach into their business approach that takes into account profit and/or funding (financial stability), people (social impact) and the planet (environmental stability).

4.9.5. Legal form

Social enterprises in South Africa can fall under different legal formats, consisting of governing regulations, like NGO, NPC, charitable trust, voluntary association, business trust, private company, sole proprietorship and cooperative (The Bertha Centre, 2016).

SE1: *“We work on contracts, like first thing when the person arrives like she/he sign contract. My contract is literally one page long, that consist of personal information, and rules. The rule is we work six hours per day, and I pay rates per hour, and you get on time, sign timesheet...”*

SE2: *“...with every NPC there is constitution, so we are working with constitution of NPC/NPO as the organisation.”*

SE3: *“It’s important to have the constitution, because if there is no constitution or rules and regulations to avoid different conflicts.”*

SE4: *“We run our organisation with the rules of NGO, but we are looking forward to learn about policies of education, since we are working with children from different schools.”*

SE5: *“Us we work closely with Child Justice Act, and we are governed by regulations of NPO. Then we have our own policy that outline the way we are expected to work like Code of Conduct...”*

Despite available legal format guides (The World Economic Forum and The Schwab Foundation, 2012; and The Bertha Centre, 2016), young social enterprises have not yet utilised these guides to successfully manage and govern their social enterprises, because the above data shows that there is a lack of awareness around establishing a detailed and understandable legal format and governance.

4.10. Measuring social enterprise effectiveness

When asked about how social entrepreneurs measure their effectiveness, the participants shared and discussed the way they measure the effectiveness of their enterprises. The survey's findings indicate that the social enterprise sector uses impact assessment tools poorly (Bertotti et al., 2011).

SE1: *“I have production plan one and I record the amount of produce that has left and their sales.”*

SE2: *“It’s through reporting, because we report on weekly basis, we report monthly so that we can be able to build our annually report, that is where we see there is like you have impacted this week or this month and for the entire year.”*

SE3: *“In terms of finances bookkeeping is important aspect of it, because remember in the business our work is to make profit and minimize the cost of production so that we can continue running the enterprise. To measure the effectiveness of people we help, to see indeed they received the assistance. Before they go, they present to us what they think about the business of agriculture, what have you learned from us. Then us we comment to say maybe you are not yet there, you need to be with us for certain period.”*

SE4: *“When we see our learner from here passing, achieving and making it to top 10 achievers that makes us see we are doing well, and it makes other learners want to come to use to help them pass and do school work.”*

SE5: *“Assess the work we do to say how many kids we have reached and check in the community and at school to say the programme has made impact and effective in school A and B, for example there where ten kids that were troubling and now but now, we have nine kids who are troubling, meaning the programme was effective, because one kid is out ten kids who were troubling.”*

It is evident that young social entrepreneurs measure the effectiveness of their social enterprises through entrepreneurial measures and social impact measures. By having production plans, sales and produce records, finance book-keeping, social impact assessing and reporting, and an increasing number of beneficiaries. Cost effectiveness and cost benefit analyses, social accounting, and auditing, SROI, balanced scorecard, SIMPLE, benefit-cost ratio, BACO ratio, expected return metric, cost per impact, and blended value, are some of the most widely used techniques for measuring social impact (Öncer, 2018).

4.11. Impact made to beneficiaries

When asked about the assistance social enterprise provide to assist their beneficiaries, research participants explained the way they make an impact on their

beneficiaries. Public value, social value, social performance, social returns, social output, environmental performance, triple bottom line, social performance, environmental impact, social accounting, non-financial performance, and other terms, are used to describe the social impact of social enterprises (Hertel, Bacq and Lumpkin, 2020). Below is the information gathered.

SE1: *“We give advices on agricultural related matters, such as agricultural knowledge and business knowledge”.*

SE2: *“We have the relationship with Maluti Crescent Mall, so there we take 20 young unemployed people per month and then we just go and clean around the mall and then in return they get R250 vouchers from Spar, I mean grocery vouchers. So far those are the partners that we have.”*

SE3: *“We make sure that they practice the correct way of farming, the correct production system that is not going to be expensive for them to avoid loss in their business, a good and healthy maintenance of chicken layers houses to avoid things like chicken diseases. Guide them on how to identify their market.”*

SE4: *“Extra-classes on education, health TB and HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, sport, drama, art and helping learners from Grade 3 to transition to English teaching method.”*

SE5: *“Psycho-social support my brother we offer that to them for now nothing else through the programmes that we are doing and if the problem still persists, we refer them to qualified professionals to deal with them.”*

It is evident that the social impact made to beneficiaries through youth-led social enterprises is in spheres of education, agriculture, health, environment, and social protection. They offer advice, support on crop farming, job creation and waste management, good egg and chicken farming practices, education, psycho-social support, social (drama, sports, and art) entertainment support, health, TB and HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy prevention support. According to Halunko, Ivanyshchuk and Popovych (2018), spheres of social impact are on the field of

medicine, education and learning, the spread of information technology, energy preservation, issues of ecology and environmental protection, the resolution of food supply problems, and issues of infrastructure development and others.

4.12. Stakeholder relationship

The research participants shared the status of their stakeholders when asked about the identification of stakeholders and their relationship with stakeholders. Since stakeholders play a major role in facilitating business success, enterprises need to come up with persuasive strategies to deal with stakeholder pressure (Fernando et al., 2023).

SE3: *“Our relationship is very good with them and we are looking to have relationships with other stakeholders as we grow.”*

SE5: *“We assess the effectiveness of working with our stakeholders by getting response from them, because whenever we call them, they come and whenever they call us, we go and we host meetings and sit down and engage.”*

Research participants reveal that the relationship with their stakeholders is good. This provides valuable insight that it is vital for social enterprises to build good relationships with their stakeholders for the success of the social enterprise to grow, to better solve and address community problems.

4.13. The support the social enterprise receives

When asked about the support social enterprises receive, research participants shared and explained the support that they receive from interested stakeholders. For social enterprises to prosper, they require three things: customers (for the products and services they provide), funding, and support (Millson, 2019).

SE1: *“Department of Agriculture and Rural Development we have extension officers who provides advises, technical advises or arrange trainings.”*

SE2: *“The first was training support that we received it comes from Complexity University, they are university in UK, so it the project that we are doing with them*

together, the objective is to make sure that there is food security in conjunction with carbon emissions.”

SE3: *“For now, there is no support, but we went to SEDA and other institutions, but we haven’t got the support, but it something that we would appreciate. For training we have worked with NGO of Agape Foundation for Community Development and a Lecturer from UFS to teach us about financial management and how the cooperative business function.”*

SE4: *“Support that we get is from community, especially parents from contribution that they desire to contribute for the organization to be functional. So far, we have not received any funding. We are going to receive a capacity building training from Beyond Zero next year on topics of leadership, financial report, risk management, and HIV/AIDS testing training.”*

SE5: *“Department of Social Development, they are carrying us in terms of training and funding, including UFS if they have a chair or table, they give it to us.”*

Capacity building trainings, resources sharing, and technical advices from interested stakeholders play a significant role in shaping and grooming social enterprises for them to further operate to solve problems facing communities. The main responsibility of the field of social entrepreneurship is to assist entrepreneurs with practical aspects like funding, marketing, and experience sharing (Johansson and Gabriellsson, 2021).

4.14. Plans for growth

When asked about social enterprise plans for growth, research participants shared their plans for growing their enterprise. The goal of social entrepreneurs is to expand their business, although this expansion is viewed from several angles and is mostly supported by the provision of a perceived social benefit (Hynes, 2009). Below information collected from research participants, is presented.

SE1: *“I plan to have the bigger space you know, I mean like big land... introducing layer chickens”*

SE2: *“We want to expand into other wards. We want to start composts parks; more community food gardens in all other wards in Maluti-a-Phofung. We want to occupy much land as possibly we can, so that we can have food inside Qwa-Qwa, like fruit and vegetables.”*

SE4: *“We are planning to start the program of robotics and computer next year at the community level, so that when they are introduced to learners at school it is something that they know and are familiar with it.”*

SE5: *“I have spotted out a land, with that land I want to start with this thing I was telling you about of income-generative programs. I know if I do that raise funds more people will be employed in the community and minimize poverty through this initiative.”*

Young social entrepreneurs plan to grow their enterprises and maximise their impact, like reducing poverty, increasing food security, and creating more jobs for community members. They aim to do this by expanding the use asset (land), composts parks to manage waste, community food gardens to increase food security, venturing into programmes that enhance the use of technology in the community and income-generative programmes to sustain the enterprise, and raise funds to employ community members and minimise poverty. However, government regulation prevents social companies from just starting up and taking advantage of economies of scale on their own (Teck, 2023).

4.15. The way social enterprise is funded

When asked about the way social enterprise is funded, research participants expressed their experiences when it came to the way their enterprises is funded. For start-ups and new enterprises without any assets or track record, funding might be more challenging, yet these organisations can also access a variety of funding and assistance alternatives, such as grant funding, debt funding, quasi-equity funding, crowdfunding, friends and family funding and patient capital (ILO and Greater Capital, 2016). Below are experiences expressed by research participants.

SE3: *“Right now, we are not receiving funding.”*

SE5: *“DSD is funding us in the form of giving us capital through the Memorandum of Agreement to run and operate as an enterprise”*

Out of five, only one social entrepreneur is funded. Social enterprises are confronted by several significant challenges, one of which is the inability to fully finance themselves through sales or investments, and funding opportunities are scarce (Bugg-Levine, Kogut and Kulatilaka, 2014, and Millson, 2019).

4.16. Opportunities for young social entrepreneurs

Social entrepreneurs mentioned and discussed a few opportunities they came across in running their social enterprises. Young social entrepreneurs have plenty of diverse and expansive opportunities that present them with the possibility of making significant changes inside and outside their communities (Bublitz et al., 2021).

SE1: *“The fulfilment that I get, you know from being able to give, its higher than you know the money, and I got a benefit of learning more in this sector.”*

SE2: *“...it’s shocking that there are companies that are out there international who take the work that we do seriously and the brand has grown.”*

SE3: *“Building the relationship with good stakeholders, people and getting feedback from the customers, is what we are getting that benefit our cooperative.”*

SE4: *“Okay let me say bit-by-bit the community is being refreshed through education.”*

SE5: *“For me I can say there are no opportunities, in this area we are living in opportunities are very limited.”*

Building good relationships with stakeholders, community education, brand growth, international recognition and making a positive impact on others, are the opportunities encountered by young social entrepreneurs while running their enterprises. On the other hand, it is clear that opportunities for young social entrepreneurs are few in rural regions of Phuthaditjhaba. Youth social entrepreneurs might be negatively affected by only a few opportunities available for social entrepreneurship in rural areas. However, difficulties in rural areas could be turned into opportunities for community development and social entrepreneurship (Steiner and Teasdale, 2019).

4.17. Challenges faced by young social entrepreneurs and their social enterprises

Social entrepreneurs expressed the challenges they come across in running their social enterprises. Numerous obstacles that social entrepreneurs must overcome might hinder their progress and reduce the social impact of their work (Murillo-Luna, García-Uceda and Asín-Lafuente, 2021).

SE1: *"...its theft I fence is nothing to somebody who want to come in, there is no money, the economy is so slow you know its financial means and water yoooh water is the problem in the area."*

SE2: *"The government is not really putting in the work you know not coming to join forces with us, the community as well is not willing to play their part and not having enough funds to run the enterprise and projects and resources as well."*

SE3: *"The major problem is the cost of feeds and accessing the market to other retailers."*

SE4: *"Our community has parents who are unemployed and that affects the operation of the organisation since the parents will be unable to contribute to our effort, we do not have the infrastructure this one is not ours. The problem of discriminating people based on education, this one is educated this one is not educated, that thing is discriminatin,g because its affect the community by making it collapse."*

SE5: *"...in this area people still have that mentality so say 'I won't make someone rich' that mentality makes the organization to lose meaning, whereas our organisation stands for benefitting the community and you come across people who undermine what you are doing for the community."*

Theft, slow economy, water crisis, cost of essentials for operations, limited funding, resources, difficulties in accessing the market, negative impact of unemployment on the community, and unavailability of infrastructure needed, are major obstacles. In addition, discrimination based on academic education status, as well as unwillingness of government to partner and the community to be responsible, are challenges facing

young social entrepreneurs. The young social entrepreneurs are also experiencing the challenges of community stereotypes of believing they are making social entrepreneurs rich. Furthermore, they are confronted with community misunderstanding the social enterprise's objective or mission and undermining the social impact created by social entrepreneurs. Numerous challenges that social entrepreneurs encounter may negatively affect their ability to make a social impact and the success of their social businesses (Dzomonda, 2021).

4.18. Dealing with discouragement and problems facing social enterprise

Young social entrepreneurs revealed the way they deal with discouragement and problems facing their social enterprises. Social entrepreneurs provide a variety of approaches and ideas to address obstacles. (Korstenbroek and Smets, 2019). Below are responds gathered from young social entrepreneurs.

SE1: *"There has to be solution, otherwise I do not know, yes you can be down for a day or two on the third one, you have to be back yes, these challenges are not limiting, but they are painful. Moreover, you know eradicating challenges we are going through a lot, like for us we work regardless of what we are going through we just keep on going you know."*

SE2: *"It has to come with opening communication channels to deal with these challenges between the community, government and the private sector and businesses, because the betterment of the community is the responsibility of everyone inside it. So, I think it is the very same thing of if NPOs could be empowered it would be much easier for us to deal with most of the challenges. We just keep reminding ourselves why we started doing what we are doing and once we remember that it's not easy that we could be discouraged by reminding us why we started, and this is where we are going."*

SE3: *"...when we find land, then we plant and make our own feeds and we can establish a platform for small farmers for them to take their produce with the help of relevant agencies and have a certain standard you need to meet for your produce."*

SE5: *“You know my brother the objective it is the one pushes me, and passion I would say that. And I tell myself under this situation I am hoping there will be something good that will show up.”*

These social entrepreneurs highlight the need for personal resilience, community collaboration, personal development, resources accessibility, adaptability, and stakeholder engagement, to address and overcome the discouragements and challenges they encounter in their social enterprises. Their unwavering dedication to their mission and their passion drive them to persist in the face of adversity.

4.19. Knowledge and skills needed

When asked about the knowledge and skills needed to become active social entrepreneurs, aspiring social entrepreneurs discussed the areas of knowledge and skills they need to improve. It takes a particular combination of knowledge and abilities for social entrepreneurs to make a difference and accomplish their goal of having a social impact (Ndou, 2021). Below is information about knowledge and skills.

ASE1: *“I need trainings and workshops that train me on how to manage soil, how to work with people, how to improve on making change for the community. Those trainings that will certainly certify me to do the work of social entrepreneurship.”*

ASE2: *“I have been studying this online course at Corsera, trying to improve my skills on social innovation and social entrepreneurship. Also, we had internship at Tsia, it has helped me a lot with regards to knowledge and experience on how to deal with community with regards to social entrepreneurship.”*

ASE3: *“I really need improvement in marketing strategies.”*

ASE4: *“I need a knowledge on how to make my idea be in line with social way when I turn into business and running that business hand-in-hand with the objective of social way of making business. I just want to make a difference, it’s something that I want.”*

ASE5: *“Getting more experienced with making impact to community, like giving job to the people and developing people to open their own business.”*

Education on marketing strategies, making a change, social innovation, social systems, and experience with making an impact and working with communities, focusing on social entrepreneurship, are the skills and knowledge needed for aspiring social entrepreneurs to become active social entrepreneurs. Nurturing these qualities can lead to increased impact on communities, economy, and the environment.

4.20. Support needed for aspiring social entrepreneurs

When asked about the support needed for aspiring social entrepreneurs, aspiring social entrepreneurs identified the support they need to begin their operations. Below are comments extracted from research participants. Establishing a prosperous social enterprise needs considerable support from multiple stakeholders (European Commission, 2020).

ASE1: *“funding whether it comes in form of money or assets that I need for me to start, like machinery and tools that I am going to need.”*

ASE2: *“Private institutions can invest on the idea.”*

ASE3: *“...we need someone who will guide us through the process of the social entrepreneurship and the support other institutions that they can provide us with like getting funding, and other resources.”*

ASE4: *“I need support in monetary funding, resources like data, laptops and other equipment that is needed to build the prototype of the product.”*

ASE5: *“Funds are things that we need so that operations can carry on, if there is no funding you stuck on one place, and there is no employee that is going to stay around getting nothing, because at the end of the day the person would want to put something on the table.”*

Aspiring social entrepreneurs, who desire to make a positive impact in their communities, require a certain support to get started with their unique social entrepreneurship’s related objectives. This support ranges from social entrepreneurship mentorship, investment from private sector to support the idea, capital, resources and/or assets funding.

4.21. Opportunities for young aspiring social entrepreneurs

Aspiring social entrepreneurs mentioned and discussed a few of the opportunities they come across in becoming social entrepreneurs. Exploring such opportunities for young aspiring social entrepreneurs is vital, since they provide insights that hold the potential for them to be active social entrepreneurs. Below are opportunities that were shared by young aspiring social entrepreneurs.

ASE2: *“I was using TIA funds for starting my prototype.”*

ASE3: *“Learning more about machines, and other things are needed to operate the business daily.”*

ASE4: *“...other organisations will provide you with training about entrepreneurship and distribute certificates. I have managed to protect my work and idea with TIA and I am recognized, in that way I feel free that my work is protected.”*

ASE5: *“Working with different companies and getting more experience that inspire me to start my own company. The opportunity of selling my work to potential clients who are on a lookout for my skills.”*

Funds, learning business operations, idea security, selling, working and gaining inspiring experience to start a business, are the opportunities that young aspiring social entrepreneurs encounter in their journey of becoming social entrepreneurs. Through these opportunities, they can pursue their dreams and make them turn into reality.

4.22. Challenges faced by young aspiring social entrepreneurs

Young aspiring social entrepreneurs expressed the challenges they experience in their journey to becoming social entrepreneurs. Aspiring social entrepreneurs frequently face multiple challenges in their path. The data below presents the challenges facing young aspiring social entrepreneurs.

ASE1: *“Crime, because things that I have worked with they were stolen, the space that I had was small and that discouraged me.”*

ASE2: “...limited funding to complete the prototype, struggling to protect this idea and the people they want to partner with me, but they want to personally benefit from, it but not bring change in the community as a whole.”

ASE3: “...registering the business in order to get started and exploit funding opportunities, I don’t get the target market that the business need to reach, getting funding to start and expand my business and getting right individuals, are challenges I face.”

ASE4: “...lack resources when I talk about resources, I am referring to capital, start-up capital, affordability of data, internet data is very expensive.”

ASE5: “...is electricity, when electricity goes off, I find it hard to carry on with operations, because the work that I do depends more on electricity.”

Crime/theft, space, discouragement, limited funding, protection of ideas, business registration, marketing issues, finding the right team, expensive resources, and load shedding, are challenges that aspiring social entrepreneurs experience as they partake in the journey of social entrepreneurship. Aspiring social entrepreneurs should carefully navigate various challenges along their journey towards creating a positive impact in the community to overcome these challenges with resilience and determination.

4.23. List of opportunities and challenges for aspiring social entrepreneurs

The below table presents the list of opportunities and challenges that aspiring social entrepreneur experience in their journey of social entrepreneurship.

Table 4.2: The list of opportunities and challenges

Opportunities	Challenges
Funds	Crime/theft
Learning business operations	Space
Idea security	Discouragement
Selling	Limited funding
Working and gaining inspiring experience	Idea protection
Opportunity to start a business	Business registration
	Right team
	Load shedding
	Expensive resources

Source: Generated by the researcher

4.24. Socio-economic challenges young aspiring social entrepreneurs aspire to address

Young aspiring social entrepreneurs aspire to address several socio-economic challenges facing Phuthaditjhaba with innovative ideas. Below are socio-economic challenges, aspiring social entrepreneurs desire to address.

ASE1: *“Unemployment, if I were to start a social enterprise, I would come up with that one I mentioned of agriculture. I will hire young people and others will be taught and given skills on how to open their own agricultural businesses that also help in bringing change.”*

ASE3: *“...employing young people who are at risk of committing crimes through my business and uplifting my community.”*

ASE4: *“I see myself making a machine that turn waste into fertilisers in form of liquid, powder and it will depend on how customer expect it to be in which form.”*

ASE2: *“I want to minimise or eradicate the problem of dumping waste through the idea that will help people who are recycling waste.”*

ASE5: *“Sharing the skills that I have with other people so that they can make the means of living and open a workshop that is dealing with mending them to have the skills with certificates that can open doors for them somewhere.”*

Young aspiring social entrepreneurs desire to make social and environmental impacts through their creative and innovative ideas by addressing and solving socio-economic challenges, like unemployment and waste littering. The outcomes of creativity and innovation in social entrepreneurship can be incredible, resulting in essential breakthroughs and enhancements in communities.

4.25. Socio-economic challenges/problems in communities

The group of research participants ranging from supporting stakeholders, social entrepreneurs, and aspiring social entrepreneurs, shared socio-economic challenges facing the communities of Phuthaditjhaba. The three main obstacles to South Africa's socio-economic development are unemployment, poverty, and inequality (Khan and Pillay 2019, and the World Bank 2018). The socio-economic challenges facing the communities of Phuthaditjhaba are discussed below.

NGO: *"...just that there are no jobs. Most of them they are unemployed, but they went to school and teenage pregnancy is high amongst them. Most of them they are smoking and drinking alcohol, so these are the problems that they are facing deeply."*

YDO-MAP: *"Mental health issues I can say it is contributing to this crime and most men encounter severe mental challenges that lead to stress, from stress to depressions, from depression to mental health issues. Teenage pregnancy is another problem facing the area, at schools here teenagers around the age of 11-12 years they are getting pregnant and others around 12 years and above are exposed to substance abuse. Problems that are facing the area of Phuthaditjhaba, which is HIV/AIDS is a major one, crime let me say crime is the biggest problem that is beyond HIV/AID."*

TA: *"Poverty in our area of Phuthaditjhaba is extreme like the poverty of Maluti-a-Phofung, Thabo Mofutsanyana is heartbreaking, there are no jobs, no projects that are coming for the people, and even if they arrive they don't arrive in a manner that they would have an impact to the people, they come and go, they don't have stability in the life of the community members. Seriously poverty is high in this area."*

Research participants SE3, ASE1 and ASE2 also added, **SE3**: “*There is lot of crime in the community, people are not working lot of them, especially young people that is a challenge...*”

ASE1: “*Unemployment is the one that lead to other problems of poverty, crimes, substance abuse and so on.*”

ASE2: “*Phuthaditjhaba has a lot of waste dumping, drop-outs from school, and inadequate skills.*”

Several socio-economic challenges experienced by the communities of Phuthaditjhaba distract the state of development and wellbeing. These include unemployment, high teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, mental issues, HIV/AIDS, crime, poverty, littering of waste, drop-outs, and inadequate skills. The findings suggested that poverty as a socio-economic determinant, impacts youth development and their chances of making a significant contribution to South Africa's economy (Kanjere and Choenyane, 2021).

4.26. Youth social entrepreneurship as key to solve the socio-economic issues

Research participants expressed different views on youth social entrepreneurship being the key in solving communities' socio-economic challenges. Social entrepreneurs' role in tackling societal issues and offering creative, long-lasting, and practical solutions, is growing (Ngatse-Ipangui and Dassah, 2019). The extracted data is presented below.

ASE1: “*I think as young people we are more creative, and if we can combine our mind together, we can come up with many things that can help solve the problems of today to the future and If youth come together and or open those social enterprises it's going to solve problems of the community, because young people are the ones who are involved in use of drugs, unemployment, crimes.*”

ASE4: *“I think idea is not just an idea, if you can get all resources you need as a business owner, enough resources and knowledge, being equipped with skills, the idea its already a success itself.”*

ASE5: *“For issues like crime I can say yes it can because if we are coming together to create employment for ourselves, it will be rare for people to go do crimes.”*

ASE2 argued that *“when they start entrepreneurship their targets are just to make profit and despite that they solving socio-economic issues or challenges that faces their communities it’s not their concern now. That’s what is happening, they want to make money to survive, because they are not working their focus is not on solving this issues.”*

However, **ASE3** added: *“When it comes to income, which means income has to go hand-in-hand with employability. So, If us as youth social entrepreneurs as we will employ, we will employ only one or two people since our businesses are small, which means it cannot cover the whole unemployed people. But on the other hand, it can solve the problem of unemployment, depending on how large your business is, if the business grows, obviously the employability grows.”*

SE2: *“In the coming years definitely social entrepreneurship will be solving problems of the community”*

Youth binding together for the aim of the community enhancement and youth empowerment through resources, have the promising potential to use social entrepreneurship to respond to socio-economic challenges in the community. However, the worse state of socio-economic issues can lead to survival purposes among young people and disregard the mission of social entrepreneurship. The magnitude and scope of the social effect produced are determined by the social enterprise's capabilities and size.

4.27. Enhancing community development in the community

It is essential to concentrate on important areas, including social programmes, healthcare, infrastructure, and education, to improve community development (Hasan,

2022). Below are responses shared by research participants when asked about enhancing community development in the community.

SE1: *“Eliminating that competitiveness by having either one client or more we work together.”*

SE2: *“I think if NPCs and NPOs out there like these organisations could be empowered in the sense of assisting with resources, training, skills, and assisting with funding, so that we can meet the needs that are in the community. I think if more NPOs can be empowered it would be easier for them to empower the community.”*

SE3: *“There should also be the establishment of agricultural programmes in the community, such as crops farming, meat farming, you mention them, this can help to reduce unemployment and poverty or hunger.”*

SE4: *“What is needed, are workshops of art education, and parents need workshops like being taught why a kids need to study, reminding them about their responsibilities in education, and health related matters we are going to see ourselves defeating a lot of things. Do workshops for these kids who have dropped out of school. Community Expo is also needed and be done for young people in the community.”*

SE5: *“Skills development programmes are needed in this area because people here they do not have skills and unfortunately there are no such organizations that provide skills development and empowerment programmes. There is a shortage in that area of skills.”*

These participants are all focused on enhancing community development through different means, such as collaboration, empowerment of NPOs, promoting organic agricultural programmes, education and workshops, and skills development programmes for community. Their efforts are to meet diverse community needs, lower unemployment, and improve the quality of life.

4.28. Facilitating community development through social entrepreneurship

Initiatives focused on social entrepreneurship are believed to be able to provide lasting solutions for community development (Munoz, Steiner, and Farmer, 2014). Research participants shared on means to facilitate community development through social entrepreneurship below.

SE1: *"I mentioned that I have lowered my inputs costs so that I do not exact the pressure of high prices on the customers. This is also encouraging that your neighbor is also your friend like we are not gonna create competitive spirit, instead its working together spirit, because at the end of the day we could formulate a cooperative out of the same people and actually operate in the bigger scale. Is empowering the youth to plant and grow their own food kitchen gardens and feed themselves."*

SE2: *"As you see here is community food garden its more about helping people having access to food than us selling the food. So other people come and water the crops and he/she know that eventually I am going to get food out of it. Others instead of giving them food, we give them seeds and go plant them at their home gardens so that they can have food. So, in return they teaches others in their communities to make their own food."*

SE4: *"We work with it by looking at each other as organisations, to share the work we do, when we see there, they work with what we do not have in our organisation and our beneficiary need assistance we refer the beneficiary to relevant support in the community"*

The focus is on fostering collaboration, a cooperative spirit, and mutual support. Initiatives include lowering input costs to decrease high price pressure, creating community food gardens, and collaborating among organisations to share resources and support to benefit community members in achieving self-sufficiency. The overarching goal is to empower the community through collective efforts and shared resources. Social entrepreneurs use social investment to make up for deficiencies in social development by offering creative and alternative services that empower and

enable marginalised populations, such women, and young people, to advance socio-economic emancipation (Kajiita, 2022).

4.29. Reason for social enterprise to use social entrepreneurship to facilitate community development

The development of communities has been found to be positively impacted by social entrepreneurs in a number of ways, consists of education, training, and encouraging community participation in a range of endeavours, such as home-based care, fostering children's mental development, and creating space for individuals to grow (Ngatse-Ipangui and Dassah, 2019).

SE1: *“I want to change their mentality of being given like I what them to notice that they can also do take action in order to get what you want. So, our impoverished place like you know that the high number of unemployment they are disheartening. So, given the way I do things is you know to make that better.”*

SE2: *“It is quite difficult for people in our country right now with high level of unemployment you know, with poverty and all of those.”*

SE4: *“It is because there is a need in our community for organizations to work together since the issues facing our beneficiaries they are related.”*

The social entrepreneurs share a common concern for addressing issues like high unemployment and poverty in their communities through social entrepreneurship. They emphasise the need to shift the mentality from dependency to taking proactive action. The overarching goal is to make a positive impact on their impoverished areas by fostering self-reliance and addressing the interconnected issues faced by the community through collaborative efforts. They highlight the value of social entrepreneurship as a strategy for empowering local communities and tackling common issues. Social enterprises provide a mission-driven community (Nweke Prince Onyemaechi et al., 2021).

4.30. Policies and regulations: social entrepreneurship

When asked about policies surrounding social entrepreneurship, two themes emerged, namely policies issues and policy recommendations from research participants.

4.30.1. Policies issues

Policy issues information was gathered from research participants when asked about the policy limitations surrounding social entrepreneurship. Policy issues pose a significant threat and challenge to effectiveness and development of social entrepreneurship (Egharevba et al., 2022). Below are responses from the research participants about policy issues they are facing in the sector of social entrepreneurship.

ASE1: *“...here at Phuthaditjhaba, those policies of Women Empowerment Fund and BBBEE they are not active in our area.”*

ASE2: *“Some sponsors will tell you that they are only funding a project or a social enterprise for a certain amount and this limits the social entrepreneur as some enterprises require more. Another one is the standard of reporting on the progress of the social enterprise. They require a lot of reporting, which takes a lot of time from the social entrepreneur to carry on with the tasks of the enterprise.”*

ASE4: *“There are no policies or regulations that speak for prototype development support for people who have ideas that can make difference.”*

ASE5: *“I don’t have much idea and knowledge when it comes to policies and regulations for social entrepreneurship.”*

SE2 argued: *“Sometime you can’t do, because there are environmental laws that we do know about. You see the land, want to work that land for particular community you find out its land that belongs to state and you cannot touch the land that belongs to the state you know. When they get there placing your staff there they remove it. There are quite a lot of things that policies that are limiting us social entrepreneurs, because*

as much as we would love to do lots of things but there are things that we are unable to do because of current policies.”

The adopted national policies for empowerment and development, especially for women are not reaching rural communities in Phuthaditjhaba. Funding limiting standards, time consuming reporting, and absence of policies for social entrepreneurial prototype and/or idea support, lack of awareness surrounding social entrepreneurship policies, the present policy limitations that restrict social entrepreneurs' ability to operate also stand in the way of social entrepreneurship's capacity to address community concerns. It is necessary to deal and address this policy issues to unlock the effectiveness and development of social entrepreneurship.

Table 4.3: Main findings of study

Table 4.3 presents the main findings of the study according to theme generated from the collection of data.

Headings/Themes	Main Findings
Definition of social entrepreneurship	Innovative way of doing business to maximise social impact through addressing and solving pressing community issues using business methods and principles. The combination of stakeholders to facilitate community projects and work together for the development of the community.
Kind of enterprise: Structure	Social enterprises structures are different and unique in nature and common in tackling community problems.
Stakeholder relationship	There is a good stakeholder relationship among young social entrepreneurs and their stakeholders.
Plans for growth	Reduce poverty, increase food security, creating more jobs, enhance the use of technology in the community and income-generative programmes to sustain the enterprise.
Challenges and Opportunities for social entrepreneurs	<p>Challenges for young social entrepreneurs are undermining the social impact generated social enterprises, community members are stereotype believing they are making social entrepreneurs rich and misunderstanding the objective or mission of social enterprise.</p> <p>Opportunities are building good relationships with stakeholders, community education, brand growth, international recognition and making a positive impact on others.</p>
Knowledge and Skillset needed for aspiring social entrepreneurs	Education on marketing strategies, making change, social innovation, social way, and experience with making an impact and working with communities focusing on social entrepreneurship are needed skills and knowledge for aspiring social entrepreneurs to become active social entrepreneurs.
Challenges and Opportunities for aspiring young social entrepreneurs	<p>Challenges are crime/theft, space, discouragement, limited funding, protection of ideas, business registration, marketing issues, finding the right team, expensive resources, and load shedding.</p> <p>Opportunities are funds, learning business operations, idea security, selling, working, and gaining inspiring experience to start a business.</p>
Youth social entrepreneurship as a key to solve socio-economic issues	Through collective youth, there is a promising potential to use social entrepreneurship to respond to socio economic challenges in the community for community enhancement and youth empowerment with available resources. But, the worse socio-economic situation in the area can lead to survival purposes to make profits among youth and disregard the mission of social entrepreneurship.
Facilitating community development through social entrepreneurship	To empower the community through collective efforts and shared resources by lowering cost to decrease high prices pressure, creating community food gardens, and cooperating among organisations to benefit the community members in enhancing self-sufficiency.



Reasons to use social entrepreneurship to facilitate community development	To make a positive impact on impoverished areas by fostering self-reliance and addressing the interconnected issues like poverty and high level of unemployment faced by the community through collaborative efforts.
Policy issues	Lack of awareness surrounding social entrepreneurship policies, current policies limitations for social entrepreneurs to operate hinder the potential of social entrepreneurship to solve community problem and absence of policies for social entrepreneurial prototype and/or idea support.

4.31. Conclusion

The findings of the research were covered in this chapter. This research started with the description of the area, and the description of research participants, all the way to social entrepreneurship policies and regulations. The experiences, understandings and awareness of research participants were presented and analysed thematically. By utilising business ideas and methods to address and resolve urgent community issues, social entrepreneurship is an innovative method of doing business with the goal of maximising social impact. By combining the force of entrepreneurship with a resolute commitment to social change, it generates long-lasting solutions that enhance society.

Fundamentally, social entrepreneurship uses entrepreneurial methods to identify and address societal issues to bring about good change. This entails applying commercial techniques, such as financial management, product and/or service creation, and market research, to create long-lasting solutions that meet community demands. Interaction amongst stakeholders is a crucial component of social entrepreneurship. This is the coming together of individuals, communities, governments, and organisations to promote local endeavours and progress society. Through the combined use of their networks, resources, and knowledge, these parties can have a bigger effect than they could on their own. Furthermore, social entrepreneurship acknowledges that success may be measured in ways other than financial gain. Rather, its primary objective is to provide favourable social impacts while maintaining financial viability. This strategy makes it possible to find solutions that last and may benefit communities in the long run. Up next is last chapter, which goes over the study's conclusions and recommendations.



CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS

5.1. Introduction

The data that was generated and gathered was examined in the previous chapter. The study's findings and recommendations are presented in the current chapter. This chapter's contents provide a review of the previous chapters, the key conclusions, suggestions for more research, and suggestions for the study.

5.2. Overview of chapters

This research report is divided into five chapters. The overview of each chapter is discussed below.

Chapter one

The study highlighted how crucial it is to comprehend young people's involvement in social entrepreneurship in order to combat unemployment. Young people have the creative ability and passion to start effective businesses that improve the community and provide employment. The problem statement emphasises pressing socio-economic issues facing communities and claims the need to study and comprehend young people's participation in social entrepreneurship to solve socio-economic issues. The goal and objectives of the research project directed the researcher in setting goals, creating methods, and gathering information to address socio-economic problems, like unemployment.

Chapter two

Five themes linked to social entrepreneurship were covered in chapter two of the literature review: the state of the sector, youth unemployment, the need for youth social entrepreneurship in South Africa, adoption of social entrepreneurship in South Africa, and challenges faced by young social entrepreneurs. The first item gives a summary of the state of the sector today and emphasises the methods used by social entrepreneurs to address social concerns. The second issue is youth unemployment,

with an emphasis on how social entrepreneurship can support young people in starting their own businesses and boosting communities and the economy. The fourth theme emphasises how social entrepreneurship may empower young people and alleviate their unemployment. The last theme emphasises the needs of youth social entrepreneurship in South Africa in addressing socio-economic issues, experienced by communities.

Chapter three

The research report's third chapter described the research's methodology, which included theme analysis, semi-structured interviews, purposive non-probability sampling, and an exploratory case study design. The research followed ethical guidelines, preserved participants' identities, and got their informed permission. However, limitations included the inability to generalise results from non-probability sampling, sample size restrictions, and bias, due to subjectivity.

Chapter four

Strong relationships with stakeholders may unlock the potential of young and aspiring social entrepreneurs to address socio-economic problems and improve community development, as demonstrated by the analysis of data presented in chapter four of the research. These entrepreneurs are confronted with a number of obstacles, such as a lack of capital, little resources, theft, space, infrastructure and little assistance, to mention a few. Current stakeholders enable them to grow their impact and bring about long-lasting change by offering networks, training sessions, and mentoring. Innovative solutions are produced in social entrepreneurship when relevant players collaborate.

Chapter five

The study's fifth chapter emphasised how important youth social entrepreneurship is for addressing socio-economic issues and advancing community development in Phuthaitjhaba. The significance of young social entrepreneurs in promoting change and sustainable solutions is one of the main conclusions. The suggestions include offering funding and mentoring opportunities, educating young people about social

entrepreneurship, and carrying out further study to investigate creative methods and tactics for resolving socioeconomic issues in Phuthaitjhaba. Community development may be further enhanced by collaboration between local communities, non-profit organisations, and government organisations through social entrepreneurial initiatives.

Research objective one: To understand youth and social entrepreneurship on an international level. Young social entrepreneurs are confronted with the difficulty of accessing funds like start-up funds and funders set standards that limit young social entrepreneurs to qualify for funding (World Youth Report, 2020; Lamio and Sebillo 2022; and Dajani, 2022). This study has discovered that out of five young social enterprises in Phuthaditjhaba, there is only one young social enterprise that is funded.

Research objective two: To explore challenges and opportunities that youth experience in becoming social entrepreneurs. Young social entrepreneurs face obstacles, like juggling their careers and personal lives, as well as not receiving family support (Nawi et al., 2021). However, being a social entrepreneur also presents opportunities to improve people's lives, improve the world, create fair and decent jobs, improve social inclusion, and foster innovation (Bublitz et al., 2021; and Lamio and Sebillo, 2022). In this study, challenges and opportunities facing young social entrepreneurs and aspiring social entrepreneurs are undermining the social impact generated by social enterprises, community members are stereotyping in believing they are making social entrepreneurs rich and misunderstanding the objective or mission of social enterprise. Other challenges include crime/theft, space, discouragement, limited funding, protection of ideas, business registration, marketing issues, finding the right team, expensive resources, load shedding and opportunities for building good relationships with stakeholders, community education, brand growth, international recognition, making a positive impact on others, funds, learning business operations, idea security, selling, working, and gaining inspiring experience to start a business.

Research objective three: To determine whether youth in Phuthaditjhaba aspire to become social entrepreneurs. This study found that young aspiring social entrepreneurs desire to make social and environmental impacts through their creative and innovative ideas by addressing and solving socio-economic challenges like unemployment and waste littering.

Research objective four: To recommend how rural youths, particularly in Phuthaditjhaba could become social entrepreneurs. A recommendation to young people who want to establish their own social enterprises, is to have a compelling and clear idea of the kind of difference they want to make, as well as to focus on creating a robust network of allies, partners, and mentors after that (Kotlarska, 2023). This study discovered three recommendations, which are working with people who share a common vision, be persistent, and have a strong and supporting team to work with. Secondly, have passion, love, and courage for social entrepreneurship; be sustainable with a product and social impact. Lastly, develop plans and processes to run the enterprise in a manner that solves the problems of the community, know the objective, focus on the vision and objective; and find the mentor to assist and guide you in running your social enterprise.

5.3. Main findings

The study in youth and social entrepreneurship, the case of Phuthaditjhaba, Free State, has been successful. The aim and objectives of the study are obtained through the presented main findings below.

Firstly, defining social entrepreneurship vary from people's understandings, the phenomenon is complex, but seeks to make a social impact, difference and sustainable development of social, economic and environmental through the means of entrepreneurship processes and procedures. Social entrepreneurship seeks to develop, resolve, and address complex developmental issues that are negatively affecting the living conditions of humanity. The term 'social entrepreneurship' refers to a new, hybrid type of entrepreneurship that combines the goals and aspirations of society with the ability to make money and finance social action on its own (Wang and

Yee, 2023). Another aspect of social entrepreneurship's definition is the combination of stakeholders to facilitate community projects and work together for the development of the community as per the findings of this study. Social entrepreneurs provide a welcoming atmosphere that encourages cooperation and guarantees sustainable development for all parties concerned by incorporating a range of groups with different interests and levels of experience in decision-making procedures and community project execution phases to address and resolve community issues that hinder community progress. Collaboration with various stakeholders, such as local communities, non-profit organisations, and governments, is a common aspect of social entrepreneurship (Schin, Cristache and Matis, 2023).

Secondly, this study found that social enterprise structures are different and unique in nature and common in tackling community problems. Choosing a social enterprise's organisational structure is crucial, as structure both impacts and is impacted by diffusion and logical compatibility, and structure has a big impact on how decisions are made and how resources are distributed, which includes who works for the social business (Fitzgerald and Shepherd, 2018). Because social enterprise forms, prioritise resolving community issues above maximising profits, they differ from standard commercial arrangements. Their distinctiveness is seen in the way they prioritise accountability and openness in reporting procedures, reinvest revenues for long-term effect, and use creative problem-solving techniques (Hall and Alexander, 2023). These qualities enable them to address urgent problems while staying within the boundaries of business, making them a powerful force for good in society.

Thirdly, the study found that through collective youth, there is a promising potential to use social entrepreneurship to respond to socio-economic challenges in the community for enhancing community and youth empowerment with available resources. However, the worse socio-economic situation of poverty, unemployment and limited opportunities in the area can lead to survival purposes to make profits among youth and disregard the mission of social entrepreneurship. Social entrepreneurship has the ability to inspire young people to take part in initiatives aimed at achieving important societal goals, such as job creation (World Youth Report, 2020).

Young social entrepreneurs may take advantage of already-existing resources like local networks, talents, and skills by putting more of an emphasis on social impact than profit maximisation. Training in social entrepreneurship has a good and promising impact on the resilience and self-worth of marginalised youth, as well as their entrepreneurial knowledge and abilities and general self-perceived employability (Tam, Asamoah and Chan, 2021).

Fourthly, this study revealed that social entrepreneurship initiatives facilitate community development by empowering the community through collective efforts and shared resources through lowering costs to decrease high prices' pressure, creating community food gardens, and cooperating among organisations to benefit the community members in enhancing self-sufficiency. In addition to educating, training, and assisting communities in a variety of activities including home-based care, cultivating a child's attitude, and creating space for individuals to grow, social entrepreneurs have a positive impact on community development (Ngatse-Ipangui and Dassah, 2019). However, when social business development is not always in line with community needs, it can be disempowering when it comes from outside communities and is supported by outside players (Finlayson and Roy, 2019).

Fifthly, this study discovered how to make a positive impact on impoverished areas by fostering self-reliance and addressing the interconnected issues like poverty and high levels of unemployment faced by the community through collaborative efforts, as a major reason to use social entrepreneurship to facilitate community development. The social businesses enable and empower marginalised populations, including women and young people, to advance socio-economic independence, jobs are generated, inequity is decreased, and community involvement and inclusion are achieved through these facilitative activities (Kajiita, 2022). Social entrepreneurship has the promise as a practical, long-lasting, and significant response to community development issues (Aziz, Zulkifle and Sarhan, 2023).

Lastly, the study discovered that there are policy issues surrounding social entrepreneurship, which are lack of awareness surrounding social entrepreneurship policies, current policies limitations for social entrepreneurs to hinder the potential of

social entrepreneurship, to solve community problems and absence of policies for social entrepreneurial prototypes and/or idea support. Conflicting political agendas and ownership struggles between the various ministries are partially reflected in the insufficient policy cooperation and coordination among the key ministries involved, due to the different definitions of social enterprises adopted in the policy and legal documents previously mentioned (OECD/EU, 2019). Since the majority of social entrepreneurs in the nation are officially recognised as non-profit organisations, they frequently face restrictive rules and lengthy processes that impede their ability to grow and establish a sustainable social business (Seda and Ismail, 2020).

5.4. Recommendations

This section presents recommendations for the findings of the study, and recommendations for research groups (young aspiring social entrepreneurs, young social entrepreneurs, Youth Development Officer, NGO, and tribal authority). Recommendations for the study findings are presented below.

There is a need to formulate and establish a clear defining criterion for the phenomenon of social entrepreneurship within the context of South Africa through collaborative and consultative efforts. This needs to be done to address and harness issues associated with defining the concept of social entrepreneurship. To facilitate fast decision-making processes and encourage creativity and innovation, young social companies require a regular organisational structure. Cross-functional teams must be given priority for addressing complicated societal challenges. It is important to define roles and duties clearly to improve responsibility and comprehension of individual contributions. Flexible work schedules help draw in top talent, and mentoring and training programmes help provide staff members the skills and knowledge they need. Lastly, tackling social challenges and guaranteeing financial sustainability require cultivating a culture of ongoing learning and improvement. These suggestions will help emerging social companies prosper in a dynamic environment.

One effective strategy for solving social and environmental issues, is social entrepreneurship. Although they are vital in bringing about positive change, young

social entrepreneurs must establish trusting bonds with stakeholders to succeed. Their success depends on developing long-term relationships, responsibility, openness, teamwork, and trust. While cooperation requires actively soliciting feedback from stakeholders, trust-building entails providing information about social objectives, methods, and social impact measuring techniques. Partnerships that last a long time provide chances for ongoing assistance and education. Being accountable entails keeping your word and sharing your successes and setbacks on a regular basis. New government regulations need to be formulated that cater for social enterprises growth and take advantage of economies of scale for the benefit of maximizing social impact generated.

To eradicate the stereotype and undermining nature of social impact by community members towards social enterprises, there should be an establishment of community engagements. This can be done where a social enterprise actively participates in local events and initiatives to raise awareness about their work. By interacting with community members directly, they can address any misconceptions, misunderstandings or concerns while showing the tangible benefits their enterprise bring.

The establishment of an Association for Social Entrepreneurship that is committed to assisting these change-makers is desperately needed to guarantee sustainable community development in Phuthaditjhaba. An organisation of this kind would offer mentorship opportunities, access to resources designed especially for social entrepreneurs, and specialised training programs. Young aspiring social entrepreneurs can learn vital skills in project development, financing, marketing, business management, and company administration through extensive training programmes. With this understanding, they are better equipped to create long-lasting solutions that successfully meet the demands of the community. Mentoring is essential to developing new talent. The Association for Social Entrepreneurship would link up seasoned experts with aspiring social entrepreneurs to offer direction and encouragement along the way. Mentors can help overcome potential barriers and provide insightful advice, based on their personal experiences. The availability of

resources is essential to any endeavour's success. Linking entrepreneurs with possible investors or funding opportunities would be facilitated by an organisation devoted to promoting social entrepreneurship.

It is crucial to create awareness about various funding options available for social entrepreneurs, such as grant funding, quasi-funding, and others. Also, awareness on registering social enterprise as a social entrepreneur, is important. Furthermore, it is vital to capacitate young social entrepreneurs on how to apply for funding and on how to register social enterprise. This awareness can take the form of workshops, webinars and conferences, targeting young social entrepreneurs to make them aware and inform them in a comprehensive manner about funding options and registering a social enterprise. While looking for funding, young social entrepreneurs should be capacitated on developing non-funding resilience strategies, such as diversifying revenue streams and investing in capacity-building to enable them to overcome challenges and create lasting social impacts in their society. Moreover, educating the public on the significance of young social entrepreneurship is essential to winning over the general public. Media campaigns that tell the inspiring tales of young people who are making a difference in the world, and in Phuthaditjhaba, might encourage others to do the same and help resolve socio-economic problems.

Collaboration between local communities and social enterprises must be established and nurtured. Social entrepreneurs may create solutions that have a real impact by recognising the requirements of the community and incorporating individuals in the decision-making process. Regular communication, workshops, and partnerships with local organisations can all help to develop this kind of cooperation.

There is an urgent need to develop a social impact policy on community level to address challenges facing communities, effectively, to allow tailored solutions that address specific needs. Communities are faced with challenges, such as crime, waste littering, limited skills, and limited access to healthcare, poverty, and unemployment. By developing a social impact policy that is specific to the community, social entrepreneurs will have a clear direction on the issues that they need to solve and address.

Policy recommendations information was collected from research participants when asked about policy recommendations that can be shared for formulation of social entrepreneurship policies. Policy recommendations for social entrepreneurship are vital and crucial for shaping the landscape of the sector to progress effectively. Below are responses from the research participants on policy recommendations for social entrepreneurship policies.

ASE3: *“When it comes to funding there should be policies that are unique, something that will uplift the society, create more jobs and when it comes to age increase it to 45 of age. There should be regulations that are guiding certain businesses that may harm the community welfare, I mean like putting the welfare of the community at risk.”*

NGO: *“When you look for funding and applying for it. It is restricting you and say at least you must be youth and their youth age restriction is 18-35. So, maybe if they can lift age restriction, they should not only make it to 35, maybe extend it from 18-40.”*

NGO: further recommend that, *“They should not only focus on the people who have been in the business for years, they also look on the ones who are starting, because I think they are the one who are in need of attention.”*

YDO-MAP: *“...you see when they can work out this thing of age like make it from 21-45.”*

TA: *“By-laws I mean like using the example of mining the sand there should be rules and regulations that are in place that facilitate the mining of sand, people can’t be mining sand as if there is no earth tomorrow.”*

SE2: *“I think through opening communication channels for us to utilise between social entrepreneurs, the state and businesses so that there is an easy and accessible movement of communication.”*

Unique funding policies that foster community upliftment, community welfare, regulations for businesses, lifting age restriction on funding related policies, pay more attention to start-up social enterprise, sustainable by-laws regulations for social enterprises and formulation of easy and accessible communication channels between

government, social entrepreneurs and businesses are policy recommendations for adoption of social entrepreneurship policies. To foster an environment that is favourable to social entrepreneurship, policy recommendations are crucial, because they hold the potential to advance the development of social entrepreneurship. The table 5.1 below presents the main findings and recommendations of the study.

Table 5.1: Main findings and recommendations of the study

The table 5.1 below presents the main findings and recommendations of the study.

Headings/Themes	Main Findings	Recommendations
Definition of social entrepreneurship	Innovative way of doing business to maximise social impact through addressing and solving pressing community issues using business methods and principles. The combination of stakeholders to facilitate community projects and work together for the development of the community.	There is a need to formulate and establish a clear defining criterion for the phenomenon of social entrepreneurship within the context of South Africa through collaborative and consultative efforts. This need to be done to address and harness issues associated with defining the concept of social entrepreneurship.
Kind of enterprise: Structure	Social enterprises structures are different and unique in nature and common in tackling community problems.	Adopt a flat organisational structure, prioritise cross-functional teams, establish clear social impact roles and responsibilities, implement flexible work arrangement, and the culture of continues learning and development.
Stakeholder relationship	There is a good stakeholder relationship among young social entrepreneurs and their stakeholders.	Young social entrepreneurs should establish continued trust, fostering healthy and impactful stakeholder relationship, prioritising long-term stakeholder relationship, and demonstrating accountability to their stakeholders.
Plans for growth	Reduce poverty, increase food security, creating more jobs, enhance the use of technology in the community and income-generative programmes to sustain the enterprise.	New government regulations need to be formulated that cater social enterprises growth and take advantage of economies of scale for the benefit of maximizing social impact generated.
Challenges and Opportunities for social entrepreneurs	<p>Challenges for young social entrepreneurs are undermining the social impact generated social enterprises, community members are stereotype believing they are making social entrepreneurs rich and misunderstanding the objective or mission of social enterprise.</p> <p>Opportunities are building good relationships with stakeholders, community education, brand growth, international recognition and making a positive impact on others.</p>	To eradicate the stereotype and undermining nature of social impact by community members towards social enterprises. There should be establishment of community engagements. Where social enterprise actively participates in local events and initiatives to raise awareness about their work. By interacting with community members directly, so that they can address any misconceptions, misunderstandings or concerns while showing the tangible benefits their enterprise bring.



Knowledge and Skillset needed for aspiring social entrepreneurs	Education on marketing strategies, making change, social innovation, social way, and experience with making an impact and working with communities focusing on social entrepreneurship are needed skills and knowledge for aspiring social entrepreneurs to become active social entrepreneurs.	The establishment of an Association for Social Entrepreneurship that is committed to assisting these change makers is desperately needed to guarantee sustainable community development in Phuthaditjhaba. An organisation of this kind would offer mentorship opportunities, access to resources designed especially for social entrepreneurs, and specialised training programmes. The Association for Social Entrepreneurship would link up seasoned experts with aspiring social entrepreneurs to offer direction and encouragement along the way. Mentors can help overcome potential barriers and provide insightful advice based on their personal experiences.
Challenges and Opportunities for aspiring young social entrepreneurs	Challenges are crime/theft, space, discouragement, limited funding, protection of ideas, business registration, marketing issues, finding the right team, expensive resources, and load shedding. Opportunities are funds, learning business operations, idea security, selling, working, and gaining inspiring experience to start a business.	
Youth social entrepreneurship as a key to solve socio-economic issues	Through collective youth, there is a promising potential to use social entrepreneurship to respond to socio economic challenges in the community for community enhancement and youth empowerment with available resources. But, the worse socio-economic situation in the area can lead to survival purposes to make profits among youth and disregard the mission of social entrepreneurship.	Creating available funding opportunities awareness for young social entrepreneurs through workshops, webinars and conferences. Creating public awareness campaigns about youth social entrepreneurship in solving socio-economic issues in the community.
Facilitating community development through social entrepreneurship	To empower the community through collective efforts and shared resources by lowering cost to decrease high prices pressure, creating community food gardens, and cooperating among organisations to benefit the community members in enhancing self-sufficiency.	Establishing and fostering collaboration between young social entrepreneurs and local communities that will results in increased empowerment, participations and commitment of community members while enhancing the effectiveness of the social enterprises.
Reasons to use social entrepreneurship to facilitate community development	To make a positive impact on impoverished areas by fostering self-reliance and addressing the interconnected issues like poverty and high level of unemployment faced by the community through collaborative efforts.	
Policy issues	Lack of awareness surrounding social entrepreneurship policies, current policies limitations for social entrepreneurs	There is an urgent need to develop social impact policy on community level in order to address challenges facing



	<p>to operate hinder the potential of social entrepreneurship to solve community problem and absence of policies for social entrepreneurial prototype and/or idea support.</p>	<p>communities effectively. To allow tailored solutions that address specific needs. Communities are faced with challenges such as crime, waste littering, limited skills, and limited access to healthcare, poverty, and unemployment. By developing social impact policy that is specific to community, social entrepreneurs will have a clear direction on the issues that they need to solve and address.</p>
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Recommendations for young aspiring social entrepreneurs to be social entrepreneurs

When the researcher asked about recommendations for young aspiring social entrepreneurs to be active social entrepreneurs, young social entrepreneurs shared different recommendations. Recommendations for young aspiring social entrepreneurs can play a significant role in young people who want to make a social impact by solving problems facing their communities. Below are recommendations shared by young social entrepreneurs.

SE1: *"...be sustainable as possible in terms of the products and making difference."*

SE2: *"It's about working with people with similar vision, be persistent with what you do, and have the strong and supporting team to work with."*

SE3: *"...you must have the love, courage, and passion for what you are doing. Find a mentor from the people who are already in the space you are working in."*

SE4: *"I would say find someone who can assist you with what you want to start, look for that person who is doing the similar work that you want to do and ask for assistance and guidance."*

SE5: *"I would say know your objective, be focused on the vision and work on achieving the objective. Do something you love and reach the point where you want to see yourself in, do not entertain what is making you lose focus. Give birth to that vision and grow it, take it with you."*

NGO: *"I think they should make plans and processes to run their business to be able to run more like businesses that solve the problems of the community unlike businesses that have plans and processes that make more profits."*

The following are recommendations made by young social entrepreneurs. Firstly, work with people who share a common vision, be persistent, and have a strong and supporting team to work with. Secondly, have passion, love, and courage for social entrepreneurship; be sustainable with product and social impact. Lastly, develop plans and processes to run the enterprise in a manner that it solves the problems of the

community, know the objectives, focus on the vision and objectives; and find a mentor to assist and guide you in running your social enterprise. These recommendations can assist young people, who desire to be social entrepreneurs to succeed when establishing their social enterprises.

Recommendations for young social entrepreneurs

Young social entrepreneurs must actively participate in their communities. This will enable young social entrepreneurs to create focused projects that make a significant difference by having a thorough awareness of the needs and goals of the people they seek to assist. To ensure that the viewpoints of the community members are heard and taken into consideration during the decision-making process, calls for attentive listening and teamwork. Social entrepreneurship needs to be supported as an efficient way to deal with socio-economic issues. Young social entrepreneurs may start businesses that address systemic problems like poverty, social injustice, and unemployment, while simultaneously creating job possibilities by fusing commercial principles with a focus on social impact. This will lead to attainment of sustainable development communities.

Recommendations for collaborated Non-Governmental Organisation, Youth Development Officer, and Tribal Authority

NGOs, YDOs and TAs have to concentrate on offering thorough training and mentoring programmes to youth, who are considering careers in social entrepreneurship. Numerous topics, including financial management, marketing tactics, social business planning, and leadership abilities, are to be included in these programmes. NGOs, YDOs and TAs can increase young social entrepreneurs' chances of success in developing long-term solutions to community problems by providing them with the essential and relevant information and skills. NGOs, YDOs and TAs have to push for national legislation that encourages young people to engage in social entrepreneurship. This involves advocating for advantageous tax breaks or grants, meant especially for young social entrepreneurs in solving community development problems. To guarantee that their initiatives are effective, NGOs, YDOs

and TAs need to give priority to impact assessment and evaluation. NGOs, YDOs and TAs can prove social enterprises' worth to potential funders or investors by gathering data on the results of youth-led social enterprises in terms of employment creation or rates of poverty reduction within the communities these social enterprises serve.

5.5. Further research

To successfully study strategies to establish these linkages between young social entrepreneurs, aspiring social entrepreneurs and relevant stakeholders, more study is required. Exploring digital platforms, for example: with the development of technology, it may be beneficial to study how digital platforms might help young social entrepreneurs and stakeholders interact. More research is necessary about the administration of social entrepreneurship initiatives overseen by youthful social entrepreneurs. Every venture needs effective project management to be successful. The main goals of research should be to determine the ideal methods for organising projects, allocating resources, keeping track of developments, and assessing social impact results.

Furthermore, via social entrepreneurial projects, community members might contribute significantly to the advancement of community development. They are active players who might offer ideas, resources, and support, rather than only being passive consumers. Further studies must go deeper into strategies for really incorporating community people in decision-making procedures and enabling them to assume social entrepreneurial project ownership.

In conclusion, for the field to advance, further study about young social entrepreneurs' relationship-building skills with stakeholders, is required. Additionally, young social entrepreneurs' efforts will be implemented successfully if they comprehend excellent project management procedures. Finally, more inclusive, and long-lasting solutions will result from acknowledging the part that community members can play in advancing community development through social entrepreneurship projects.



5.6. Conclusion

The study's findings and recommendations were presented in this chapter. The sections of this chapter consisted of the overview of chapters, main findings, recommendations for the study and further research. The research report consisted of five chapters namely, chapter one: introduction and background of the study, chapter two: literature review, chapter three: research methodology, chapter four: presentation and discussion of findings, and chapter five: conclusions and recommendations. The research discovered that a good relationship between young social entrepreneurs, aspiring social entrepreneurs and relevant stakeholders in social entrepreneurship, can unlock the potential youth social entrepreneurship to address socio-economic challenges to enhance community development in Phuthaditjhaba, Free State. The study recommends that enhancing community development through social entrepreneurship, effective management strategies on social enterprise and on community level, should be formulated that inform the good practices to solve socio-economic challenges and maximise impact.

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APPENDICES

ANNEXURE 1: RESEARCH STUDY INFORMATION LEAFLET AND CONSENT FORM FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

DATE:

Date of research project: 1 June – 30 November 2023

TITLE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP, UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ZP Duma Social Entrepreneurship, a catalyst for community development: the case of Mdukatshani NGO in uThukela District.

NM Mosia Youth and Social Entrepreneurship: The case of Phuthaditjhaba, Free State. LA

George Supporting Aspiring Social Enterprises in the Free State

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FACULTY AND DEPARTMENT:

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Centre for Development Support*

STUDY LEADER(S) NAME AND CONTACT NUMBER:



Prof Deidre van Rooyen (Staff Number: 0748525)

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WHAT IS THE AIM / PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

The main aim of the study is to explore the role of social entrepreneurship on community development and poverty, and highlight the support these organisations receive (funding, training and advice). And to address the gaps and offer recommendations to policy makers such as government institutions and non-profit organisation that there is a link between these concepts.

WHO IS DOING THE RESEARCH?

We are master's students at the University of Free State. The study is conducted for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of master's degree in development studies. It is a research on Social Entrepreneurship, Unemployment, Community Development and Poverty.

HAS THE STUDY RECEIVED ETHICAL APPROVAL?

This study has received approval from the Research Ethics Committee of UFS. A copy of the approval letter can be obtained from the researcher.

Approval number: *UFS-HSD2021/0803/21/3*

WHY ARE YOU INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THIS RESEARCH PROJECT?

Participants for this study include all individuals exposed to the work of _____(organisation). The exposure should be in the form of beneficiaries, NGO founder and employees, other stakeholders, government officials and local leaders. The invitation is extended to you because you meet the said criteria and you will be able to provide

the required information to answer the research questions. The appropriate number of respondents that will be interviewed will be between 10 and 15 people. Each of these studies will be working with cases to represent best practice and recommendation. for other social enterprises to improve the operations and services they provide, as well as for policy makers.

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY?

The participant will be requested to respond to the question as per the interview schedule. Interviews will be recorded in order to assist the researcher when doing data analyses. The field work exercise is anticipated to last for a period of the month but the study will be completed by the end November 2021. To achieve the broad aim of the study participants would be require to share their experiences, perceptions, knowledge and motivation on social entrepreneurship, community development and poverty. Each of the interviews will take approximately one hour.

CAN THE PARTICIPANT WITHDRAW FROM THE STUDY?

Participation in the study is voluntary and the participant is under no obligation to consent to participation. By participating, the participants will be granting the researcher permission to use their responses. Participants may refuse to participate or withdraw from the study at any time with no negative consequence. If you decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a written consent form. You are free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?

There will be no direct materialistic or monetary benefits for participating in the study. However participation may be beneficial to the organisation in terms of findings and recommendation. Findings and recommendation may be of assistance to the organisation by getting the feedback on community development and poverty issues. They can also assist in future planning and implementation of community development programmes.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL RISKS OF TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?

The is no risk or harm anticipated in participating in this study. The researcher will ensure that harm is avoided to the participants at all costs. In the case of any possible unforeseeable risks that are beyond the researcher's control, such as natural disasters due to climate change activities; in such cases, the data collection process will be halted until participants are deemed safe to proceed. Participation in the study will be allowed when informed consent is given in writing, whereby participants will sign the consent form.

WILL WHAT I SAY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

The consent of the participants will be sought prior to the study. The participants' anonymity will be protected by substituting their personal information with pseudonyms within the dissertation and future publications. In terms of confidentiality, data collected from the participants will be used only for its intended purpose. The transcribed data will be stored on password secured computer and will be kept at a secured cupboard in the study of the researcher. Participants' answers will be given a fictitious code number or a pseudonym and they will be referred to in this way in the data. Participant's answers may be reviewed by people responsible for making sure that research is done properly, including the transcriber, external coder, and members of the Research Ethics Committee. Otherwise, records that identify participants may be available only to people working on the study, unless participants give permission for other people to see the records. A report of the study may be submitted for publication, but individual participants will not be identifiable in such a report: While every effort will be made by the researcher to ensure that participants will not be connected to the information that will sought during interviews especially on the side of the beneficiaries, We cannot guarantee that other participants will not share given information. We shall, however, encourage all participants to keep their responses confidential. We will explain to the participant they can withdraw from the study at any time with no negative consequences.

HOW WILL THE INFORMATION BE STORED AND ULTIMATELY DESTROYED?

All data, both electronic and hard copy, will be securely stored during the study and archived for 5 years. After this time, all data will be destroyed. Hard copies of your answers will be stored by the researcher for a period of five years in a locked cupboard/filing cabinet for future research or academic

purposes; electronic information will be stored on a password protected computer. Future use of the stored data will be subject to further Research Ethics Review and approval if applicable. Indicate how information will be destroyed.

WILL I RECEIVE PAYMENT OR ANY INCENTIVES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY?

There is no reward in the form of financial gain or otherwise that will be offered for participating in the study. The study will be held in the local place of the participants to limit unnecessary costs that can be incurred because of participation in the study. The role of participants in the study includes sharing information about their economic, social justice and equality. There is a potential for discomfort due to sharing this kind of information. The counselling referral will be offered during or after the data collection process should the need arise because of participating in the study.

HOW WILL THE PARTICIPANT BE INFORMED OF THE FINDINGS / RESULTS OF THE STUDY?

If you would like to be informed of the final research findings, please contact the researcher: Zithobile Peggy Duma, Ngaka Martin Mosia OR Leslie-Ann George. The findings are accessible for two months. Please contact the researcher if you require further information or want any other aspect of this study. Should you have concerns about the way in which the research has been conducted, you may contact Prof. Deidre (the supervisor) at griesd@ufs.ac.za.

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet and for participating in this study.



ANNEXURE 2: CONSENT FORM

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY

I, _____ (participant name), confirm that the person asking my consent to take part in this research has told me about the nature, procedure, potential benefits and anticipated inconvenience of participation.

I have read (or had explained to me) and understood the study as explained in the information sheet. I have had sufficient opportunity to ask questions and am prepared to participate in the study. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without penalty (if applicable). I am aware that the findings of this study will be anonymously processed into a research report, journal publications and/or conference proceedings.

I agree to the recording of the *insert specific data collection method*.

I have received a signed copy of the informed consent agreement.

Full Name of Participant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Participant: _____ Date: _____

Full Name(s) of Researcher(s): _____

Signature of Researcher: _____ Date: _____

ANNEXURE 3: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR YOUNG SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

Municipality		Marital status	
Ward		Age	
Village		Gender	
Consent (Y/N)		Education level	

1. What are the dominant households' demographics and individual characteristics in the community?
2. Tell me more about your enterprise... When and how did you start?
3. What is the aim and purpose of your enterprise?
4. How is your enterprise structured? Registered?
5. Mention some of the support your enterprise receives (funding / services / training)?
And from who?
6. Elaborate on how your enterprise is funded? (Non-profit and for-profit)?
7. Is a youth enterprise funded in a different way to a normal social enterprise?
8. What business approach do you use? Why?
9. What legal form do you use to run your enterprise? Why?
10. How do you measure your effectiveness as the enterprise?
11. Who are the stakeholders that you work with in your region? How is the relationship?
12. How is your effectiveness accelerated through working with your stakeholders?
13. Who are the beneficiaries of your services?
14. How are these beneficiaries identified?
15. What kind of assistance does the enterprise give the beneficiaries?
16. Do you measure the influence you have in the community? How?
17. Do you understand what is meant by social entrepreneurship? Elaborate.

18. Tell me how the enterprise uses social entrepreneurship to facilitate community development in the area.
19. Why does the enterprise use social entrepreneurship to facilitate community development?
20. What role does the enterprise play in developing the community in the area?
21. What else do you think can be done to enhance community development in your area?
22. What are your plans for growing the enterprise?
23. What are your greatest challenges that you experience as a social enterprise?
24. What do you think can be done to eradicate these challenges?
25. In your experience as a social entrepreneur what are the opportunities and/or benefits you could share with me and what can be done to sustain these opportunities and/or benefits you come across in your social entrepreneurial activities?
26. What discourages you sometimes about being young social enterprise and how do you deal with the feeling of being discouraged?
27. What do you think you can do to improve the work that the enterprise is doing?
28. If you were to share strategies you used to establish and sustain your enterprise to aspiring youth, what would you share and recommend?



ANNEXURE 4: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR YOUNG ASPIRING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

District		Marital status	
Ward		Age	
Village		Gender	
Consent (Y/N)		Education level	

1. Do you understand what is meant by social entrepreneurship? Elaborate.
2. What motivates a young person to become a social entrepreneur?
3. In your opinion, as an aspiring social entrepreneur, do you see youth social entrepreneurship solving the socio-economic issues facing young people and their communities? if yes, kindly explain further how and if no, please explain it further.
4. If you were to start a social enterprise as a young social entrepreneur, What socioeconomic challenges do you see yourself addressing in Phuthaditjhaba?
5. What kind of support do young aspiring social entrepreneurs need from the government and other organisations?
6. What area of knowledge and skillset do you need to improve to become an active social entrepreneur?
7. Have you attempted to start a social enterprise? If yes, what have been the major challenges in starting your social enterprise?
8. What are the opportunities that you come across in starting your social enterprise as young aspiring social entrepreneur?

ANNEXURE 5: INTERVIEW GIUDE FOR SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

District		Marital status	
Ward		Age	
Village		Gender	
Consent (Y/N)		Education level	

1. How long have you been residing in this area?
2. What are the dominant households' demographics and individual characteristics in the community?
3. What are the main problems that the area experiences?
4. What is the level and rate at which essential services are delivered to the community? By whom?
5. Do you know of community projects currently running in this area?
6. What programmes (support/services/ funds/ training) does your organisation/institution/council deliver to the community?
7. What services and programmes does organisation facilitate in the area?
8. How does the community benefit from the work of organisation in developing the community?
9. What needed to be done to groom the development of young social entrepreneurs/ social entrepreneurship in Phuthaditjhaba?
10. What role can you play in conserving and/or preserving the growing ecosystem of young social entrepreneurship in Phuthaditjhaba?
11. What strategies and procedures do you think can be helpful to aspiring young social entrepreneurs to utilise to become active young social entrepreneurs?
12. What strategies and procedures do you think can be helpful to young social entrepreneurs to utilise to maximise their social impact?
13. How can young social entrepreneurs access resources to support their social entrepreneurship initiatives?

14. What policies and regulations do you recommend being formulated by the government and/or critical partners/stakeholders suitable to youth social entrepreneurship and aspiring social entrepreneurs?



ANNEXURE 6: ETHICAL CLEARANCE



GENERAL/HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (GHREC)

08-May-2023

Dear Dr Deidre D Van Rooyen

Amendment Approved

Research Project Title:

Social entrepreneurship, unemployment, poverty, and community development

Ethical Clearance number:

UFS-HSD2021/0803/21/3

We are pleased to inform you that your amendment application for ethical clearance has been approved. Your ethical clearance is valid for twelve (12) months from the date of issue. you are requested to submit the final report of your study/research project to the ethics office. Should you require more time to complete this research, please apply for an extension. Thank you for notifying the ethics committee of the changes/amendments that have been made to your study; we wish you the best of luck and success with your research.

Yours sincerely

Dr Adri Du Plessis

Chairperson: General/Human Research Ethics Committee

Adri
Du
Plessis

Digitally
signed by
Adri Du
Plessis
Date:
2023.05.11
19:14:09
+02'00'

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Bloemfontein 9301 Tel: +27 (0)53 401 9331
South Africa adriplessis@ufs.ac.za
www.ufs.ac.za





ANNEXURE 7: PERMISSION TO DO RESEARCH IN THE COMMUNITY

FREE STATE PROVINCE TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

LEKGOTLA LA NAMAHADI



ENQ LS MOPELI
CELL 0731503795

To whom it may concern

I have read and understood the purpose of the academic research. Therefore, I grant Ngaka Martin Mosia, 2017487881 a permission to continue with his academic research in this area. I further confirm that the researcher has conducted a research interview with me.

Kind regards

Morena Lerothodi



ANNEXURE 8: CONFROMATION LETTER FROM ORGANSISATION

AGAPE FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CELL: 081 590 3563/ 073 296 5474
Fax: 086 731 7279

E-mail: agapefordevelopment@gmail.com
Registration: 166-273 NPO / 930055102 PBO



P.O.BOX 15461
WITSIESHOEK
9870

06 November 2023

To whom it may concern,

Agape Foundation For Community Development hereby confirm that **Ngaka Martin Mosia, 2017487881** conducted the research interviews with us and few of our beneficiaries for the purposes of him meeting the academic requirements outlined.

We further acknowledge that he was able to produce his ethical clearance and on the basis of that we granted him opportunity to conduct his research with and some of our beneficiaries.

You are welcome to contact me directly at cell no : 081 590 3563 or email : agapefordevelopment@gmail.com for any clarity.

Thank you very much and we hope you will find this in order

Kind Regards,

Director
MR SD Moloji
(Cell: 081 590 3563)