

# Livelihood strategies of unemployed youth: The case of Cradock, Eastern Cape

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## Declaration

I, **Geraldine Jocelyn Meyers-Mashamba**, declare that the coursework Master's Degree mini-dissertation that I herewith submit for the *Master's Degree qualification in DEVELOPMENT STUDIES* at the University of the Free State is my independent work, and that I have not previously submitted it for a qualification at another institution of higher education.

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## List of Acronyms

DFID:	Department for International Development
EPWP:	Expanded Public Work Programme
ILO:	International Labour Organization
NPC:	National Planning Commission
NDP:	National Development Plan
SASSA:	South African Social Security Agency
SA:	South Africa
SSA:	Statistic South Africa
SL:	Sustainable Livelihoods
SLA:	Sustainable Livelihoods Approach
SLF:	Sustainable Livelihoods Framework

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# Chapter I: Introduction and background

## 1.1 Introduction

The development of youth depends severely on employment and the employability of the youth (Mlatsheni & Leibbrandt, 2011). Youth unemployment as a phenomenon has become normalized in developing countries such as South Africa, where unemployment, poverty and inequality were identified as the main socio-economic issues that deter development and economic growth (Masipa & Jideani, 2014). The magnitude of unemployment and poverty is due to historical events such as apartheid, which has led to the prevalence of high levels of inequality and poverty (Rodney, 1973). Livelihoods within rural parts of South Africa have long been a topic of interest (Francis, 2002; Masunungure & Shackleton, 2017; Hajdu, Neves & Granlund, 2020). Livelihoods are effective systems that consist of the assets, both material and social resources and strategies (activities) used to make a living, which does not only emphasize income and consumption, but it also emphasises the means through which a living is secured (Shen, 2009). The Eastern Cape Planning Commission (2014) states that unemployment is worse in rural areas, where most of the province's population resides. This study postulates that rural unemployment is inherited through historical events like apartheid. A long tradition of inquiry and development initiatives have failed in addressing the historical legacies of apartheid, poverty and inequality (Hajdu et al., 2020). Towns like Cradock, which has an apartheid spatial distribution, are feeling the combined effects of reduced economic growth and increasing youth unemployment (Eastern Cape Planning Commission, 2014).

In addition, the failure of development in previously disadvantaged semi-arid rural towns such as Cradock, partly stems from an inadequate understanding of local contexts and livelihoods (Shackleton & Lukert, 2015). In the year 2020 alone, the youth, which almost makes up a third of SA's population's (17,84 million youth) unemployment rate stood at a staggering 55,75% (ILO, 2020). Youth unemployment is not a phenomenon that can be addressed in isolation, as it is a global problem. The role of development planning is thus vital in ensuring youth livelihoods. There is infinite value to be gained through the coordination of rural development initiatives that will contribute to sustainable livelihoods through efforts at the local, regional and global levels, as appropriate (ILO, 2020).

Strategies directed towards rural development should deliberate on the remoteness and potentials of youth in rural areas and provide targeted differentiated approaches (United Nations, 2015). The inclusion of the youth in development strategies was said to have the potential of accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal or SDG targets, promoting livelihood sustainability and ownership of interventions, and it enables the exercise of active citizenship (United Nations, 2015; ILO, 2020). Livelihood research is therefore perfectly suited to better understand local contexts, adequately understand livelihoods and the impact unemployment have on them, additionally to inform development interventions for the youth (Hajdu, 2020).

## 1.2 Background and choice of study area

The study area is one which is well known for its historical events related to apartheid and characterized by the ‘Cradock Four’ who fought against racial and spatial distribution in the apartheid era (Butler, 2017). The townships of Cradock, namely Lingelihle (established in 1960) and Michausdal (established in 1970), are both located on the edge of the town along the Great Fish River (GFR) and buffered from the town by farmlands (Butler, 2017).

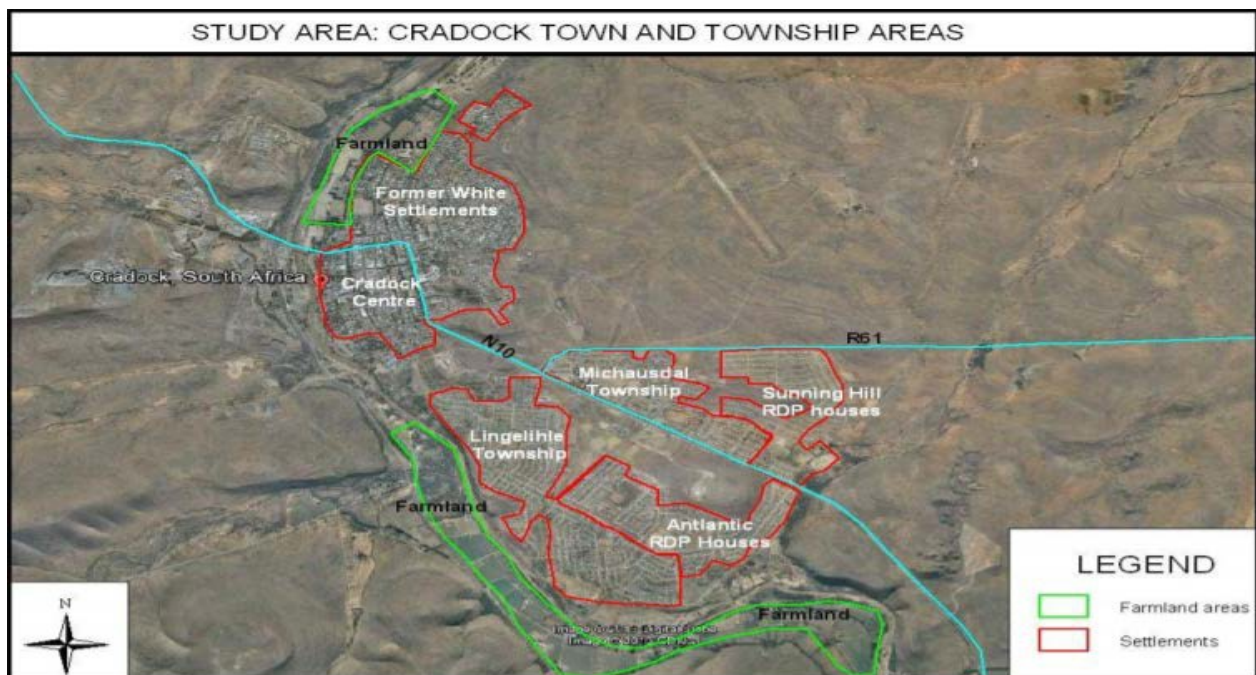


Figure 1: Map of the selected study area adapted from Nel and Hill (2008)

Cradock is a small, semi-arid rural town located in the Eastern Cape province, which is known to have had farms for the past two hundred years, producing agricultural products. The agricultural products consisted of sheep, wool, and mohair, which turned the town into an epicentre of the agrarian economy in South Africa (Butler, 2017).

This period (the 1960s and upward) in the study area was also marked by the generation of several off-farm activities, which includes local business such as skin and wool processing, butcheries, as well as shop outlets for agricultural kits (Butler, 2017; Scogings, 2004). People in the study area sustained their livelihoods primarily through agricultural production, and despite the past declining state of the agricultural economy in South Africa black African and Coloured people in Cradock continued to sustain their livelihoods through commercial agriculture (Butler, 2017).

The town's people primarily benefited from commercial agriculture through accessing material resources from the farms, partaking in both informal and formal off-farm activities, and accessing off-farm employment. Xhosa people residing in the Old Location of Cradock were reported to be making a living as independent informal traders selling meat, vegetables, and homemade alcohol (Marsden, 1986). Commercial agriculture in Cradock, particularly sheep and livestock farming, is predominantly viewed by many people as the main source of their livelihoods. The same applies to towns such as Beaufort West, in the Western Cape, where the primary source of livelihoods consists of sheep and livestock farming, and where agriculture forms the backbone of the town's economy (Integrated Development Plan, 2009).

The aforementioned livelihood strategies are the primary sources for sustaining livelihoods because most individual household members from the townships of Cradock have over many years, benefited from commercial agriculture through having access to material supplies. A shift in agricultural production following from the 1980s onwards has led to the rate of unemployment increasing amongst the township people, since a decline of off-farm activities was evident (Butler, 2017). The shift in agricultural produce could be as a result of various factors, including the effects of migration of young rural residents to urban areas in search of employment and better living conditions (Molotsi et al., 2019). Moreover, small-holder farmers mostly fell between the ages of 40 and 60 years, and in general the rural youth are not interested in agriculture as a career (Marandure et al., 2016; Motiang & Webb, 2016, Molotsi et al., 2019). Economies prosper when

individuals move from farms to firms (World Bank, 2012); limited prospects exist for feasible livelihoods in subsistence farming, and in South Africa this view is very much alive, since South Africa is a country that has exhibited all the signs of a transformed economy (Chitonge, 2013).

The shift in employment opportunities has contributed towards higher rates of youth unemployment in the study area, impacting on various households and impeding on their livelihoods. Since these shocks (apartheid spatial distribution, the shift in the nature of agricultural production, a shift in employment opportunities, and the economic downfall) from past events in Cradock still impacts the lives of inhabitants in the study area, it is important to ask how the unemployment or youth unemployment has impacted on the livelihood strategies employed by the youth. Another important question posed pertains to which livelihood strategies are currently applied by youth in an attempt to survive in a province characterized as having the highest unemployment rate yearly (Statistics South Africa, 2019). An exploration of these questions in addition to other research questions, will occur in the rest of the research document.

### 1.3 Problem statement

The employment prospects of inexperienced, unskilled and undereducated youth in South Africa's economic environment are severely limited. Just after young person leaves school, a majority of them (55,75%) face difficulties of admission to post-matric education and labour market entry (Kheswa, 2017; ILO, 2020). According to Statistics South Africa (2020), out of the 10,3 million youth aged 15–24 years in the first quarter of 2020, roughly 3,5 million, or 34% were not in employment, education or training (NEET). Additionally, of the 20,4 million young people aged 15–34 years, approximately 8,5 million, or 42% were not in employment, education or training (Statistics South Africa, 2020). When one considers the NEET rate specifically, in combination with high rates of unemployment, it indicates that the youth in South Africa face major difficulties accessing the labour market.

In South Africa, the target market for employment is mainly focused on people holding Bachelor degrees and/or National Diplomas, and even these individuals struggle to find employment (Lauder & Mayhew, 2020; Kousiakis, 2015). Ismail and Kollamparambil (2015) state that a significant element of career development lies within employability and the skills that make

individuals employable; hence a lack of experience coupled with the duration of unemployment increase the vulnerabilities of youth in the labour market (Lauder & Mayhew, 2020; Statistics South Africa, 2020).

Over the years, a lot of worry has been invoked in South Africans as a result of the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate at the end of 2017 stood at 27,7%, whereas in the second quarter of the year 2018, the unemployment rate had declined to 27,1% (Statistics South Africa, 2018). Statistics for the first quarter of 2019 indicated that the unemployment rate stood at 27,6%, which indicates a rise of 0,5% in the unemployment rate, whilst the Covid-19 pandemic has since increased the unemployment rate to 32,6% (Statistics South Africa, 2019, 2021). In South Africa, just like Cradock, unemployment remains the highest amidst the youth, regardless of their level of education, this being the reality in the Eastern Cape (EC) Province (Statistics South Africa, 2018; 2020).

The town named Cradock in the EC province is prone to high levels of unemployment and poverty (Eastern Cape Socio Economic Consultative Council, 2017). Reynolds (2013) notes a number of factors like the persistent spatial history of apartheid which has always been a major factor in the province as well as other factors such as the weak education, skills shortages, and little employment opportunities amongst others, as contributing factors. According to the Inxuba Yethemba's Local Municipality Socio-Economic Review and Outlook, it is evident that a quarter of the youth population between the ages of 20 and 34 are not employed (Eastern Cape Socio Economic Consultative Council, 2017). The extent of youth unemployment thus serves as a major issue in society. Unemployment has also been identified as a contributing factor towards various social issues such as crime and violence, extreme poverty and other psychosocial issues.

The rural town named Cradock has a lengthy history of crime and violence emanating from the apartheid era, it is notorious for its lengthy tradition of apartheid resistance (Eastern Cape Socio Economic Consultative Council, 2017). The dead's of leaders who fought against oppression today known as 'the Cradock Four', led to increased crime and violence in the town (Butler, 2017; Eastern Cape Socio Economic Consultative Council, 2017). Lauder and Mayhew (2020) states that crime and violence have been intensified amongst unemployed youth in the Eastern Cape who lack

sustainable livelihood strategies, recreational facilities and sustainable skills development programmes to keep them industrious.

The lack of opportunities, skills development, and being unemployed specifically amongst youth living in impoverished environments can lead to life-long experiences of marginalization, as well as an incapacity to lift themselves out of poverty (Kousiakis, 2015; National Youth Policy, 2015). The Eastern Cape has been classified as the poorest province in South Africa, this according to former Statistician-General Pali Lehohla is mainly driven by unemployment (Statistics South Africa, 2017). The Matthew Goniwe-Cradock Trust Fund was intended to assist needy students in Cradock, with the view of creating employment for the multitude of unemployed youth in the small town (IOL, 2000). This, however, has not made a considerable impact, since more than a decade later youth unemployment is still on the rise. In 2017, SSA revealed that 30,4 million people in South Africa still live in poverty and that most inhabitants of the Eastern Cape province rely heavily on child support grants (Statistics South Africa, 2017). This trajectory is assumed to be what is apparent in a rural small town like Cradock, where youth unemployment and poverty flourishes to such a degree that pregnancy is perceived to be a livelihood strategy which brings an income through child grants.

There is an abundance of research work on youth livelihoods, but very little research exists on youth unemployment and the livelihood strategies, especially in small towns like Cradock in the Eastern Cape. Furthermore, traditional approaches to poverty reduction, such as income-generating activities and employment schemes, have paid diminutive attention to how people live and construct their livelihoods, the assets they have, or the human and financial costs associated with the implementation of national programmes. Sustainable livelihoods have the potential to close these gaps, as one's focus is to examine how macro- and sectoral policies affect the micro-level livelihood options available to a particular community or individual (Singh & Gilman, 1999).

This research study seeks to fill the above-mentioned gaps through researching such phenomena, namely youth unemployment and youth livelihood strategies in small rural towns like Cradock. As stated previously, Cradock is identified as a small town in which the agricultural sector has traditionally been the largest employer (Butler, 2017). The livelihoods of many households in the town have always been dependent on farm employment. However, even with the provision of

employment by the agriculture sector, unemployment is still very high (Chris Hani District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014–2015). According to Statistics South Africa (2019) the Eastern Cape's unemployment rate currently sits at 37,4%, which is the highest amongst all the provinces in SA, and which has consistently been the highest for the past ten years.

This trend of unemployment prevalent in the Eastern Cape is worrisome as it indicates the magnitude of unemployment within the province for more than a decade. The problem of youth unemployment is aggravated by low percentages of skilled and educated youth, which translate to low household incomes and unsustainable livelihoods. The Inxuba Yethemba Municipality stated that more than three-quarters of households in the study area earn an income of less than R2 000 per month, whereas more than 15% have no formal income (Eastern Cape Planning Commission, 2014; Chris Hani District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014–2015). The government has thus identified the study area as an area in need of social and economic development as well as upliftment (Chris Hani District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014–2015). This study, therefore, seeks to undertake an analysis of the livelihood strategies employed by the unemployed youth in Cradock and to assess which livelihood strategies are employed by unemployed youth, and lastly, to establish whether the youths' unemployment status impacts on their respective livelihood strategies employed, in an attempt to establish what kind of assistance can be provided to alleviate youth unemployment and to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

#### 1.4 Aim of the study

The study aims to gain a broad understanding of the livelihood strategies of unemployed youth in resource-poor communities with a particular focus on the small semi-arid rural town called Cradock in the Eastern Cape Province.

#### 1.5 Objectives of the study

The literature accentuates the view that youth unemployment is a massive issue, and job creation is vital in dropping the levels of unemployment, and that presents the key pathway out of poverty (Masipa & Jideani, 2014; Ismail & Kollamparambil, 2015). It is further stated that the livelihoods

of households are inadvertently affected by youth unemployment in the study area. In consideration of the above, the following research objectives will be explored:

- 1.5.1 To investigate the livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth in Cradock
- 1.5.2 To investigate and describe the livelihood seeking behaviours, experiences and sources of unemployed youth in Cradock.
- 1.5.3 To investigate and describe the worldviews of unemployed youth in Cradock
- 1.5.4 To provide a theoretical analytical framework for how unemployed youth frame their livelihoods using the Sustainable livelihood framework

## 1.6 Research question

What are the livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth in Cradock, Eastern Cape?

### 1.6.1 Research sub-questions

- 1.6.1.1 What are the livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth in the study area?
- 1.6.1.2 How does the youth's unemployment status impact on their livelihood strategies?
- 1.6.1.3 How do youths sustain and diversify their livelihood sources in the study area?
- 1.6.1.4 How do unemployed youth explain their unemployment?
- 1.6.1.5 What are the livelihood seeking behaviour and experiences of unemployed youths in the study area?
- 1.6.1.6 How do unemployed youths assess the ways in which their livelihood portfolios can be enhanced to reduce unemployment?

## 1.7 Definition of concepts

The purpose of this section is to afford the reader with explanations of the key basic terms used often in this research, and which are explained below:

**Youth:** The youth are defined as individuals from the ages of 14 to 35 years (National Youth Policy, 2015). The United Nations, on the other hand, refers to youth as individuals who fall within

the 15 to 24 age group (Bennell & Monyokolo, 1994). This study will focus on unemployed youth within the age range between 18 to 35 years.

**Livelihoods:** The livelihoods approach defines livelihoods as ‘dynamic systems comprising the assets (material and social resources) and strategies (activities) used to make a living’, which does not only emphasize income and consumption, but it also emphasises the means through which a living is secured (Shen & Hall, 2009).

**Unemployment:** Refers to the measure of the percentage of people who are active economically and available for work but are unable to find a paid job (Giddens, 2009).

**Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF):** The SLF is identified as a systematic tool which is utilised to augment the understanding of people’s livelihoods, predominantly those experiencing poverty (DFID, 2000). The SLF was adopted in this study to accrue more knowledge on livelihoods in Cradock.

## 1.8 Chapter outline

Chapter 2 provides empirical and theoretical information which motivated the study to take place in the first place. It critically engages with the literature that gives an overview of the issues of youth unemployment globally, nationally and locally, as well as information on the livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth. The chapter also presents the theoretical framework that shaped the study.

Chapter 3 offers a methodological outline of how the research was conducted. It presents comprehensive detail of the research design, methods, methodology, data collection techniques and data analysis, and procedures were utilized in answering the research questions and addressing the study’s objectives.

Chapter 4 provides a presentation of the data and findings of this study. The presentation of data and findings was guided by the evidence that was obtained from the research data collection process. This chapter was directed at providing insight into the research questions, it also served as the platform for the analysis of the study.

Chapter 5 offers a discussion of the research findings including some of the critical points emanating from the research, which is followed by a conclusion.

Chapter 6 provides recommendations emanating from the research study and some concluding remarks about the overall research study.

## Chapter II: Literature review

### 2.1 Introduction

Youth across the African continent find themselves at a precarious juncture, having to manage their lives and livelihoods whilst at the same time attempting to move towards their future themselves. Unemployment poses a major burden on the youth, delaying them in their search for better livelihoods and a better future (Banks, 2015). This burden in turn leads to frustration and anxiety when there exist an incongruity between their potential for agency and their inability to act on it (Grant, 2006; Di Nunzio, 2012; Banks, 2015). When reference is made to unemployed youth in the literature, the term ‘waiting’ is used. This term encapsulates their social, economic and physical immovability and their boredom, uncertainty and frustrations that go along with it (Grant, 2006).

Research done internationally highlights the vulnerability of youth, depicting high rates of unemployment following the global economic crisis of 2007 (France, 2016). The nature of youth unemployment continually affects African, female youth the most, and it is found to be the highest for those youth living in rural areas, urban townships or informal settlements, in essence resource-poor communities (OECD, 2018b; ILO, 2020). Similarly, youth residing in South Africa are also considered highly vulnerable, since in the year 2017 alone, South African youth (aged between 15 to 24) had the highest rates of youth unemployment globally, as it stood at 57,4% (World Data Bank, 2018b). Youth unemployment statistics presently indicate that, when including discouraged work seekers, that over half of the youth aged between 15 to 34 years are currently unemployed (Statistics South Africa, 2020). This figure has remained the same, ceasing to decline since the year 2009.

The Covid-19 pandemic has contributed heavily towards an increase in the number of unemployed youth in Africa. This spike in unemployment has affected and threatened the livelihoods of many South Africans to date (ILO, 2020). Adding to this, South Africa has exceedingly high levels of inequality. This is evidenced by the 2014 Gini coefficient of 63,0%, which was the highest globally from 2011 to 2017 (World Data Bank, 2018a). Combined, these data indicate that there is an imbalance between need and supply. The constant high unemployment rate of youth in South

Africa, combined with high levels of income inequality, thus makes it difficult for young people to contribute financially to their households and sustain their livelihoods.

Many labour market factors that affect older workers are applicable to young people, however the unemployed youth face additional barriers that have been found to be particular to them (International Labour Organisation, 2020). The ILO (2020) states that the barriers to unemployed youth exist both on the demand and supply side of the labour market, which leads to lower economic participation rates with long-term, negative consequences for their well-being and employability (ILO, 2020). In such conditions, and taking the above-mentioned factors into consideration, an interest emerges in how youth manage to craft their livelihoods. The study in question's focus is thus on this group, unemployed youth from resource poor communities, and the livelihood strategies that they employ as a means of survival under the 'status quo'.

Against this backdrop, in this chapter the researcher intends to conceptualise youth unemployment, identify livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth, then provide a theoretical and conceptual framework for the research through analysing the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF).

## 2.2 Conceptualising youth unemployment

The challenges of securing and retaining decent work have been a struggle faced by youth globally, and this challenge is even more complex and serious for vulnerable and marginalized youth (United Nations, 2018). Although the global economy had shown promise of recovery, youth unemployment has worsened in recent years, with more than 70 million youth unemployed, and many more millions in precarious or informal work (ILO, 2020). Considering the state of youth unemployment, it is therefore important to establish what constitutes youth, and in which age range this group falls.

### 2.2.1 Different forms of unemployment

To have a systematic understanding of the magnitude and multi-layered nature of unemployment, a distinction needs to be made between different forms/types of unemployment. A view of the various types or forms of unemployment is outlined below:

### *2.2.1.1 Seasonal unemployment*

Seasonal unemployment refers to situations in which certain jobs are high in demand in some seasons and not in others (Borjas, 2010). For instance, the agricultural industry might require additional labour during certain times of the year, depending on what crops are high in demand within a specific season. Borjas (2010) postulates that there are more people employed in the agricultural industry during harvest times, who unfortunately also lose their jobs during winter times.

### *2.2.1.2 Frictional unemployment*

Frictional unemployment is a form of unemployment where people move between various jobs (Borjas, 2010). It is usually brought on as a result of lags in the labour market. It is also short-term by nature, mainly because of difficulties with job searching and matching skills in the labour market (Lindbeck, 2015). In cases where jobs are available, unemployed job-seekers may not always be aware of existing jobs in the economy, due to factors such as the unavailability of information or the imperfect labour market information, which is not readily available (AEO, 2012).

### *2.2.1.3 Demand-deficient (cyclical) unemployment*

Demand deficit or cyclical unemployment refers to unemployment that typically happens during a recession (Lindbeck, 2015). According to Linbeck (2015), companies cut back on their production, when they experience a reduction in demand for their products and services, which makes it necessary to reduce the workforce in the organization. Workers are thus laid off, and end up unemployed. Cyclical unemployment's length is determined by how profound economic declines are, which means that the longer the recession, the more people remain unemployed (Longhi & Taylor, 2013). The worst-case scenario is that if cyclical unemployment persists, it can ultimately result in structural unemployment (Borjas, 2010).

### *2.2.1.4 Structural unemployment*

Structural unemployment occurs when there is a skills mismatch between the demanded jobs available, or in cases where workers are unable to reach the geographical location of available jobs

(Borjas, 2010; ILO, 2020). South Africa's major unemployment is structural, the high-level entry requirements and the skills mismatch are listed as reasons for persistent structural unemployment in the country (ILO, 2020).

### 2.2.2 Defining youth

Defining the term 'youth', assist in establishing the limitations of the research, and provides a richer understanding of the social context (Boyce & Neale, 2010). Youth are perceived as young people who are capable of making decisions for themselves, compared to children who are usually informed by their parents on how to behave. The standard United Nations definition of 'youth' comprises the age group between 15 and 24 years, whilst the operational definition of young people differs widely depending on institutional, political and cultural factors (United Nations, 2018). The majority of organisations theorise ages between 0 and 14 that fall within the childhood range, whereas the United Children's Fund's definition broadens this range to the age of 18 years (UNICEF, 2013). Nonetheless, debates of lowering the legal age from 18 years varies across African countries. Countries such as Nigeria, Mali, and Zambia have retained the legal age limit beyond 24 years of age, whereas South Africa, and Zimbabwe remain at 35 years of age (Bodley-Bond & Cronin, 2013).

### 2.2.3 NEETS in South Africa

NEETS is a term used to refer to the youth who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (OECD, 2018b). This broad definition usually entails youth who fall within the 15 to 24-year age group (United Nations, 2018). Limited information exists about what NEET youth do with their time, or what their livelihood strategies entail (Branson, Ardington, Lam & Leibbrandt, 2013).

The large number of NEET's in South Africa are a widespread concern for the South African government, unemployed youth and academics alike. It is imagined that pent-up frustration, insecurity, feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness, and helplessness are experienced by unemployed youth on both national and provincial levels. On a national level, South Africa consists of over three million young people who are neither working nor enrolled in an educational institution such as a school, college, or university (Statistics South Africa, 2017). Locally rural

provinces such as the Eastern Cape have a youth bulge consisting of NEET's over 400 000, who are not in employment, education, or training (United Nations, 2018).

Branson et al. (2013) state that the youth who do not study or engage in income-generating activities are nevertheless 'productive' within their respective households, examples of their productivity can stretch from assisting in the maintenance of their households or looking after children and elderly in need of care. The absence of income, however, leads to NEET's remaining dependent on the earnings of their household members, of which the earnings consist of government grants directed at children and the elderly (United Nations, 2018).

Most of the literature on NEET youth are aimed at analysing key problems and social preconditions for forming this social group, its needs, main interests, motivations, demographic characteristics, as well as the constraints to learning or entering the labour market (Yates & Payne, 2006; Motivation and Barriers to Learning for Young People Who are Not in Education, Employment or Training, 2013). It is essential to take cognizance of the fact that being NEET makes the youth immensely vulnerable to instability, social exclusion, chronic unemployment, and poverty (Dickens & Marx, 2018).

Youth who are NEET pose one of the biggest threats to South Africa's social and economic stability. The South African government has identified the NEET status among its youth as a serious crisis (Dickens & Marx, 2018). As a serious crisis, youth unemployment has been entrenched within the 2030 National Development Plan of South Africa as a major socio-economic issue (National Planning Commission, 2011). No progress has however been made towards what is currently identified as an explicit target of the Sustainable Development Goals, which is to reduce the amount of youth who are not in employment, education or training significantly by 2020 (United Nations Development Programme, 2017).

Policies and legislation, as well as societal views remain key elements in defining youth. for instance, in many African countries legislation stipulates that the age of 21 years is when adulthood starts. The African Youth Charter, however, defines youth as those between the ages of 15 and 35, whereas in the South African National Youth Commission Act (No. 19 of 1996, sec:1(vi), the broad definition indicates that a youth, is a person aged between ages 14 and 35 years (African Union, 2006; National Youth Policy, 2015). Such deviations in defining youth are thus present at

regional and national levels. The research study at hand however defines youth as those individuals of working age, who fall between the ages of 18 to 35 years of age, when investigating the livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth. Youth unemployment is not a new phenomenon; it has been experienced by youth from various age groups, and youth globally. The section that follows thus provides a global view of youth unemployment.

#### 2.2.4 Youth unemployment: a global view

Development programmes have primarily focused on the growth in employment within the formal sector in the past decades, investing in training the youth for specific jobs that are challenging to enter into, mainly as a result of the private sector's capacity limitations to absorb all potential job seekers (Fox, Senbet & Simbanegani, 2016). Current policy dialogues are specifically centred around job creation and inclusive growth (Fox et al., 2016). As it stands, youth unemployment are continually receiving attention from the highest level of policy making in Africa, including but not limited to the African Union, national governments and the African Development Bank (Fox et al., 2016; SONA, 2020).

In 2019, globally more than one in five youth were not in employment, education or training (NEET) constituting 22,2% of youth worldwide (ILO, 2020). The total rate of NEETS in Africa stands at 20,7% for 2018/2020, and this rate, according to the International Labour Organisation, is primarily driven by high rates of NEET in Northern Africa, which projects rates of above 26%, compared to below 20% of NEETS in Sub-Saharan Africa (ILO, 2020). Barriers and cultural norms, including differences in economic coping mechanisms in Northern Africa also explain such disparities between regions (OECD, 2018b; ILO, 2020). The overall global youth unemployment rate, on the other hand, provides a different picture than the global NEET rate.

In 2019, the global youth unemployment rate stood at 13,6% and it increased by 0,1% in 2020 (13,7%) (ILO, 2020). However, according to the ILO (2020) the youth unemployment rate in Africa declined with 4% from 2019 to 2020 (10,8% and 10,4%, respectively). The ILO (2020) also states that youth unemployment rate in Africa is the lowest worldwide compared to other regions; this, however, also reflects primarily that unemployment is not to be used as a measure of the state of the labour market in economies (e.g. Africa) with high informality and poor social protection schemes where the youth are forced to do petty jobs for survival (OECD, 2018b; ILO, 2020). The

International Labour Organisation also proclaims that Northern Africa exhibited the highest unemployment rates globally standing at above 30% in 2019 (ILO, 2020).

Globally, high levels of youth unemployment, combined with high poverty rates, are a reflection of low-income work young people and their families have to engage in, which is mostly centred around the informal economy (ILO, 2020). This is supported by studies done by the International Labour Organisation, which indicates that 94,9% of youth are informally employed, with little or no education, who are rurally based and primarily engaged in subsistence agriculture (ILO, 2020). This trend is apparent amongst South African youth in rural places such as the study area in question, where no jobs, or informal employment is prominent, with youth holding limited or no education, making use of petty jobs for survival strategies.

### 2.2.5 Youth unemployment in South Africa

Limited capacity of youth to contribute to South Africa's nation-building heavily impacts the future of South Africa and the economic success thereof. The reality of South African youth remains being confronted by the persistent high youth unemployment rate.

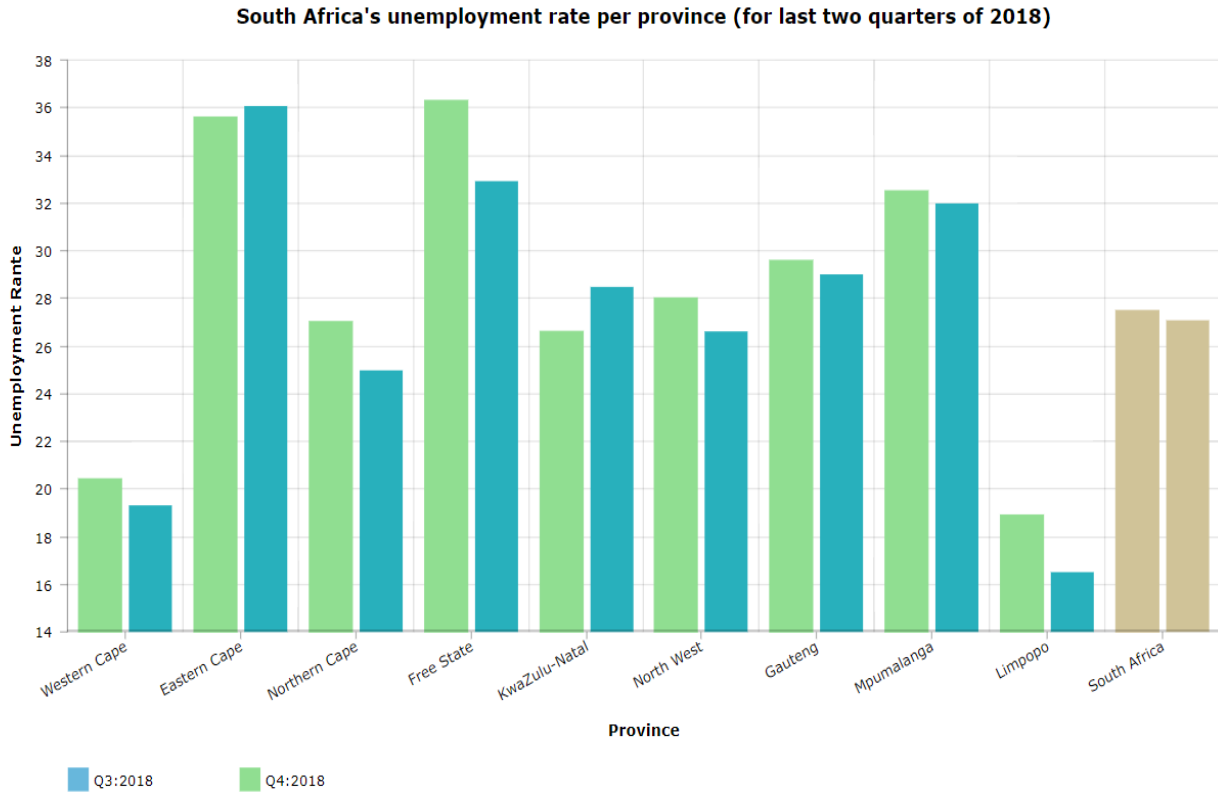
Various definitions for unemployment currently exist. Unemployment includes untapped labour and skills that are not utilised for productive purposes (Burns, Edwards & Pauw, 2010a). Burns et al., (2010a) states that unemployment entails the inclination/readiness of people who prefer to enter the labour force, but the employment opportunities are lacking. Alternatively, unemployment includes the discouragement of people seeking for job opportunities (known as discouraged jobseekers). South Africa's young people comprises over a quarter of the country's population (National Youth Policy, 2015). The National Development Plan (NDP) refers to the inactive youth as the 'youth bulge', who may have the potential to contribute effectively towards decreasing poverty rates (National Planning Commission, 2011). The difficulty with this 'youth bulge' is that these agents of change (the youth) are generally unable to contribute effectively towards poverty alleviation and creating sustainable livelihoods. Lack of opportunities combined with limited skill development prohibit these unemployed youth from contributing actively to the South African economy.

South African youth find it challenging to gain entrance into the labour market. It has been found that the South African economy values a skilled workforce, with more skilled labour (Burns, Edwards & Pauw, 2010a). A study done in Mpumalanga Province in South Africa on rural unemployed youth found that employers require training certificates and work experience, which makes it difficult for youth in rural Mpumalanga to find employment, as they lack the necessary inherent requirements for employment (Wilkinson, Pettifor, Halpern, Thirumurthy, Collinson & Kahn, 2017). This is reiterated by empirical findings of the International Labour Office (ILO) and other researchers, who proclaim that extreme difficulty lies in finding employment for South African rural youth, because the economic growth in rural areas is slower and the sectors that indicate rapid growth require workers who are highly skilled (Burns, Godlonton & Keswell, 2010b; International Labour Office, 2012). Yu (2013) attributes the high level of youth unemployment in South Africa to insufficient networking opportunities to search for jobs, a lack in 'soft skills' such as communication skills and emotional maturity, and a lack in experience.

The activation of the youth has the potential to fight unemployment and build sustainable livelihoods, hence, increased efforts are required to ensure that the majority of the youth has the access to development opportunities that complement their skill sets ((Ismail & Kollamparambil, 2015)). As currently highlighted, a limited number of people engage in work based on unemployment statistics, which revealed that within the Eastern Cape alone, approximately 44% of the youth population were unemployed in the year 2014 (Eastern Cape Planning Commission, 2014). The extent of this problem, has worsen over the years, mainly affecting the black youth, since it is five times that of white youth unemployment (Ismail & Kollamparambil, 2015).

According to Statistics South Africa (2018), a 26,6% unemployment rate was evident in the year 2018, this in a population of 55,91 million people. Attributes of most rural areas in South Africa entail chronic poverty, along with high unemployment levels, South Africa has been recognized for having the third-highest unemployment rate (World Economic Forum, 2014; Statistics South Africa, 2018). Statistics South Africa (2018) also states that 3,1 million (29,7%) of 10,3 million young persons between the ages of 15 to 24 years are not employed or educated (Statistics South Africa, 2018). Compared to other provinces, it was revealed that the Eastern Cape had the highest unemployment rate at the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019, closely followed by the Free

State (Statistics South Africa, 2019). The bar chart below shows the unemployment rates prevalent per province and for South Africa during the last quarter of 2018 (Statistics South Africa, 2019).



*Figure 2: South Africa's unemployment rate per province*

The above numbers have since then increased exponentially across the country. Youth unemployment in South Africa poses a major risk to its economic stability as well as social development. Educational challenges and social unrest heightens this risk. The age group falling between 15 to 24 years of age was identified as the most vulnerable to poverty, social exclusion and, most importantly, chronic unemployment. This study, however, targets the 18 to 35-year population group when exploring the livelihood strategies of unemployed youth.

The South African National Youth Policy (2015) highlights that youth unemployment could increase drug and alcohol abuse, crime, and being pessimistic towards seeking employment. The United Kingdom has national initiatives implemented by policymakers such as the 'New Deal for Young People' (NDYP), and Europe initiated the 'Youth Guarantee' programme to alleviate unemployment amongst the youth (European Commission, 2017). On the contrary, South Africa

has a poor track record of implementing programmes that tackle youth unemployment, and this can be accredited to poor governance (National Treasury, 2011; Kousiakis, 2015).

A variety of youth interventions exist and have been implemented to limit unemployment and poverty in South Africa. The creation of the National Youth Commission, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), and other non-governmental organisation skills development programmes for the youth such as the Youth Development Network (YDN) and the Youth Development Trust have, however, been unable to curb youth unemployment and poverty this far (World Economic Forum, 2014; Ismail & Kollamparambil, 2015).

The South African National Development Plan identified unemployment as one of the key development issues listed as an obstacle the country faces. (National Planning Commission, 2011). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) rolled out in the year 2015 and the Millennium Development Goals outline decent and productive work as targets in Millennium Goal 1, to alleviate poverty. Goal 8 of the SDG specifically speaks to “productive employment and decent work for all” (Kilimani, 2017 page number?). Job creation or employment is thus identified main routes to alleviate poverty in South Africa (Kilimani, 2017).

A disconnect of the African National Congress (ANC) liberation movement aspiration to eradicate poverty and unemployment in its National Development Plan Vision 2030, is clearly reflected in the failed implementation since 1994, when the party came in power (National Planning Commission, 2011). Heightened levels of youth unemployment has led unemployed youth to feel deceived by the South African government, based on the notion that their lives have not transformed for the better since 1994 (Cloete, 2015). Feelings of being left behind are shared amongst many unemployed youth in South Africa, including those youth from the study area. Following the year 1994, the South African government implemented legislative policy and instruments which have in some or other way contributed to the development of the youth. A brief outline of a few of the key legislative instruments and policies which contributes to the development of youth follows:

- The National Youth Development Act 54 of 2008

The National Youth Development Act made provision for the creation of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), an agency which gives meaning to youth development in South Africa. The Act also makes provision for the functions and goals; management and governance; regulation of staff and financial affairs; and making funds available in the NYDA (National Youth Development Agency Act, 2008).

- The National Youth Policy (2015–2020)

The following policy documents must be consistent with the South African Constitution: The National Youth Policy; the United Nations (UN) World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (1995); the African Youth Charter (2006); the National Development Plan of 2012 and several other policies (National Youth Policy, 2015). The NYP 2020 was specifically developed for the youth in South Africa, which also includes affirmative action and addressing current challenges faced by youth in South Africa (National Youth Policy, 2015).

- The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)

The National Youth Development Agency is tasked with initiating, designing, evaluating, monitoring, and providing oversight to all programs directed at integrating youth. Tasks also include creating an Integrated Youth Development Plan and Strategy (IYDS); thus, uniting and assisting the state, private sector and non-governmental organisations on initiatives directed at job creation and skills development; initiating programmes directed at youth development and so much more (National Youth Development Act, 2008; National Youth Policy, 2015).

- Integrated Youth Development Strategy (2011)

The IYDS policy recognises obstacles as well as prospects for young people as acknowledged by various interested parties, comprising experts, state organs, the public, NGOs, and youth groups. The policy further includes obtaining data from diverse national and global apparatuses and study reports (National Youth Development Agency, 2021).

- National Skills Development Strategy III

The National Skills Development Strategy aims to improve access to and enhanced schooling, preparation, skills development opportunities in addition to job experiences. The objective is to permit actual contribution in the economy and the social setting the youth are from (National Youth Policy, 2015).

- Employment Tax Incentive Act, 2013 (“Youth Wage Subsidy”)

The Employment Tax Incentive’s objective was to boost the conception work opportunities as well as meaningful development (especially pertaining to young work seekers), including setting the tone for collaboration with the private sector to create employment (National Youth Policy, 2015).

- The Skills Development Act of 2008

The Skills Development Act, No.97 was initially established in the year 2008, and since then several amendments have come into effect. The Act is aimed at addressing the need to develop and enhance skills for the South African workforce, improve employment prospects, assist the unemployed with finding employment, as well as increasing the levels of investments in education and training pertaining to the labour market (Skills Development Act, 2008). Since its inception, some of the imbalances in inequality have been addressed, however as seen through the literature review, the majority of youth are still unemployed, since they lack the necessary skills which would assist in finding employment and in providing sustainable livelihoods.

## 2.2.6 Policy outcomes on youth unemployment in South Africa

### National Development Plan of 2030

The National Development Plan of 2030 acknowledges the alarming youth unemployment levels that South Africa has, calling for an adjusted approach to change. According to the National Planning Commission (2011) the NDP calls for a new approach to change which emphasises the close link between opportunities, capabilities and employment has on social and living conditions. This link is key in understanding and researching youth unemployment and livelihood sustainability. The NDP 2030 outlines a strong and inclusive economy (decent employment and

economic growth, a skilled and capable workforce, and rural development) and having a capable state and active citizenry as outcomes of the plan, this amongst other outcomes (National Planning Commission, 2011). The National Planning Commission (2011) states that by 2030, South Africa can create 11 million jobs through building collaboration between the public and private sector; through improving policy coordination and implementation; and through improving skills acquisition for the youth (National Planning Commission, 2011). The NDP 2030 goal of creating 11 million jobs by the year 2030 is, however, hampered by the levels of youth unemployment that remain high, the slow economic growth, and the effects that the Covid-19 pandemic had on employment (ILO, 2020).

### National Youth Policy of 2020–2030

The National Youth Policy [NYP] for 2020–2030 replaces the National Youth Policy of 2015. This policy included multiple stakeholder consultations, including young people in South Africa from all walks of life (NYP, 2020). As a step in the right direction this policy is drafted for the youth by the youth, thus entailing the youth voices in the policy. It is a policy which outlines the importance of youth development across all levels of society. The primary goal of the NYP 2030 is the enhancement of the capabilities of the youth, as a means to take responsibility and becoming contributors of their communities and society (NYP, 2020). The NYP 2030 highlights as its desired outcome empowering young people through equipping them with knowledge, skills and information to seize opportunities and making meaningful contributions to the development of South Africa (NYP, 2020). Job creation for the youth is identified as one of the priorities which need to be tackled, and some of the interventions proposed are implementing the residential Youth Employment Initiative, implementing set-asides for youth across sectors (i.e., 30% set asides for youth employment in specific sectors, such as Agriculture, Waste Economy and Tourism) (ILO, 2020; NYP, 2020). In addition, the NYP 2030 prioritises a Mass Employment Strategy, through increasing youth participation in public employment schemes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme and the Community Works Programme (CWP) (ILO, 2020). The National Youth Policy 2030 is a youth-friendly policy; it covers a broad range of youth development challenges. However, the implementation and success thereof, especially in addressing the youth unemployment epidemic in South Africa is still to be realised.

## New Growth Path [NGP] Policy of 2010

The New Growth Path [NGP] plan of South Africa aimed for the creation of five million jobs by the year 2020, bringing about a ‘new’, more inclusive and labour absorbing economy (South African Government, 2010). It is a plan which acknowledges the key economic difficulties that South Africa faces, which include high unemployment, skilled labour shortages, and government inefficiencies, to name a few. The NGP, according to economic analysts, is very vague and, similar to the aforementioned Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) and the Accelerated and Shared Growth South Africa (ASGISA) economic policy, which did not make a major impact on the development of the economy of South Africa (Coetzee, 2010; Rossouw, 2011). Critiques state that the NGP policy lacks implementable steps, and that it will not have the anticipated impact on the economy due to limited detail and a lack of new ideas (Rossouw, 2011; Prinsloo, 2011; Coetzee, 2010). The NGP lacks the provision of an economic model that indicates how future job creation will be achieved (Nattrass, 2011). The plan also focuses strongly on sectors such as construction, commerce, accommodation and catering, and these sectors have also been identified as having the lowest average earnings, in addition to being perceived as not counting as ‘decent’ work (South African Government, 2010; Nattrass, 2011). Inclusive growth will require a strong employment growth, specifically for the many unskilled unemployed youth who have no job experience.

The persistence and magnitude of youth unemployment questions/make one wonder then how the youth makes a living whilst being unemployed. Which strategies do they utilise to contribute to their respective households? And how do they craft their livelihoods? The next few sections that follow are dedicated towards answering these questions through the literature.

### 2.3 Crafting livelihoods

A consequence of unemployment has been the loss of livelihoods for a majority of households, leading to a shift in employing other livelihood strategies (Ngala & Alain, 2016). The notion of livelihood strategies or survival strategies refers to a mixture of individual and household strategies, created over a specific period, enabling the utilisation of available resources and opportunities (Grown & Sebstad, 1989; Kimengsi, Ngala & Alain, 2016). Hence, livelihood

strategies consist of a range and combination of choices and activities that people make or undertake as a means of achieving their livelihood goals (Kimengsi et al., 2016). Unwanted situations such as recessions, urban decline, poverty and unemployment can lead to people resorting to life supporting activities that would enable them to adapt with changing times and economic pressure, as well coping with low incomes. Alternative activities or alternative means of income generation have been termed as livelihood coping or survival strategies (Kimengsi et al., 2016).

### 2.3.1 Youth livelihoods and survival strategies

The youth in South Africa face difficult decisions for survival. Most aspirations of the youth seem to revolve around the need for a sustainable livelihood (Kimengsi et al., 2016). Banks (2015) states that barriers are the means of attaining such a livelihood. Livelihood insecurity has been found to block pathways to marriage, social recognition and family formation (Banks, 2015). Among male youth, there is the preoccupation of looking at migration into the cities as a major option for earning a livelihood (Mathebula, Molokomme, Jonas & Nhemachena, 2017). The well-known difficulties of acquiring a job in urban areas, often result in the city being perceived as a preferred option to living than rural areas. The consequence however is that workers end up staying in informal settlements with ensuing unhealthy living conditions such as “non-existent basic water and sewage services” (Nel, 2015).

South Africa’s violent and fractured society has led to youth becoming socially excluded and at risk of turning to crime, drug abuse and violence (Moller, 2010). According to the United Nations Environment Programme (2020), unemployed youth collect garbage and recyclable bits and pieces for a few rand to survive. Other means of survival entails getting grants which are meant for the purposes of poverty alleviation (De Lannoy, Graham, Patel & Leibbrandt, 2018). The desperation for survival is particularly seen when young unemployed youth risk developing a tuberculosis (TB) infection to gain access to a disability grant as a means of survival. This was indicated in a case study conducted in the Eastern Cape province (Moller, 2010). The pressure to contribute towards family welfare, and the fight against unemployment has led unemployed youth to seek out unhealthy and risky strategies for survival. This notion is confirmed by De Lannoy and others who highlight that unemployed youth between the ages of 20 and 30 years get involved in risky and

unsafe sexual activities as a means of survival, despite the high HIV/AIDS pandemic prevalent in Africa (De Lannoy et al., 2018).

The post-apartheid South Africa has not been able to provide the youth with the livelihood opportunities that they had hoped for (Mathebula et al., 2017). As it stands, the youth remain marginalised in society, resulting in minimal access to resources. Youth from all locations, urban, peri-urban as well as rural areas have limited options to earn a livelihood (Equavoen, 2010). Most remain dependent on their parents well beyond the age of 30 years (De Lannoy et al., 2018). Rural youth have a minimal interest in engaging in farming; instead, they prefer ‘undignified survival strategies’ such as street hawking, motor-park touting, blood touting (roaming around hospitals as well as offering patients’ blood donations for payment) and prostitution as a means of survival and making a living (Equavoen, 2010).

### 2.3.2 Urban livelihoods vs rural livelihoods

Literature on urban livelihoods indicates that there is a difference between rural and urban livelihoods. In urban livelihoods, income and monetary economy are perceived to be of cardinal importance when it comes to securing food, urban services and housing (Kadfak, 2019). Urban livelihoods, however, fall short on natural resources in comparison to rural areas (Hendriks, 2011). Urban dwellers are thus pressurized to partake in a diverse set of entrepreneurial activities and becoming involved in casual wage labour (Kadfak, 2019). Spatial data indicate that rural youth lag behind urban youth when it comes to education, however urban youth lag behind rural youth on employment. However, figures do differ, depending on a specific region (De Lannoy et al., 2018).

A wider range and choice of employment and easier access to consumers and markets are also more prominent in urban living. Kadfak (2019) states that in urban areas a variety of employment opportunities and opportunities to educational institutions are available, which thus caters for various social groups as well as skills. Whilst urban areas depend on rural areas for resources such as water, food production and even waste disposal (UN-habitat, 2012). Migration is one of the livelihood strategies that young people from rural areas utilize as a means of accessing better opportunities and livelihoods (UNESCO, 2015). This approach, however, is not permanent, since migrants from rural to urban areas show little attachment to the places where they find work and have been found to return their rural dwellings several times a year (UNESCO, 2015). The United

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2015) states that small rural towns have the potential of enhancing the diversification of economic activities. Diversification, including specialization, might just become important strategies for the rural poor, whilst human capital (e.g., skill, education and health) appears to be key assets for urban livelihoods (Kadfak, 2019). Human capital like skills, experience or tertiary education are some of the key assets that a number of rural youth do not have, and the youth in the study area are not unfamiliar with this.

## 2.4 Livelihood strategies of unemployed youth

Livelihood strategies, according to Scoones (2009), entail the activities, capabilities and assets that are required for a means of living. Activities and resources utilized by rural youth and their households are what determine their livelihood strategies, and a lack of employment can negatively impact on their livelihoods. As it stands, youth unemployment has become a global and belligerent issue. South Africa as a country has been classified as having one of the highest rates of youth unemployment globally, with more than a quarter of the labour force being unemployed (Mathebula et al., 2017). Research indicates that more than a third of American and Australian youth are unemployed (Wynaan, 2015; Carvalho, 2016). South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa have been found to face major youth unemployment challenges both in terms of population size and the share of youth that are unemployed. According to Kilmani (2017), Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Mediterranean display the highest youth unemployment rates globally. Numerous researchers concede that a significantly high number of young job-seekers are illiterate, inexperienced, and unskilled, which emasculate their employability (Abakari, 2007; Carvalho, 2016; Kilimani, 2017). A lack of employment opportunities can lead to underemployment, inequality, livelihood insecurity, and marginalization of the young population. Thus, limited employment opportunities worldwide has been found to be a major livelihood security and developmental challenge. (Harvard International Review, 2014; Carvalho, 2016; Kilimani, 2017; Ali & Shafi, 2018).

Regardless of South Africa being a developing country and a continuous growth in youth population size, South Africa still faces the biggest challenge of youth unemployment crisis. Researching the phenomenon of youth unemployment becomes vital for attempting to understand youth unemployment in a South Africa context, as well seeking possible solutions to ease the

unemployment burden (Cloete, 2015). Banks (2015) asserts that the normality of unemployment poses a serious threat to future livelihoods and status as adults, which are both dependent on their ability to obtain decent work. Employment insecurity can thus affect young people's struggle for survival negatively (Kimengsi et al., 2016).

Research on youth unemployment within the South African context indicates that high youth unemployment is concomitant with health and economics outcomes which are negative by nature; both in the short and long term constitutes higher crime rates, an increase in substance abuse, higher levels of HIV risk, and a cease in the search for work (Rankin, Roberts & Schoer, 2012; Wilkinson et al., 2017). Longitudinally gaps in youth's completion of school and finding work influences future wages, and the youth's wellbeing in the long-term (Posel & Casale, 2011; Rankin, et al., 2012). The long-term unemployment of young women in South Africa has been associated with an increase in female youth's vulnerability to HIV, through increasing their economic dependence on male partners and possibly increasing unsafe behaviours (Shisana, Rehle, Simbayi, Zuma, Jooste & Zungu, 2014). Young women thus have to engage in unsafe behaviour to make a living as a result of being unemployed, whilst young women are already more vulnerable to unemployment than young men in South Africa (De Lannoy et al., 2018). Youth unemployment can thus have detrimental consequences for those unemployed youth who are forced to seek for alternative ways of making a living. It becomes arduous when people are unable to play an active role in making decisions regarding their livelihoods, and for unemployed youth in rural areas like Cradock, it is imagined to be a harsh reality.

Livelihood strategies can be diverse, notably rural communities in Sub-Saharan Africa are characterized by activity, asset, and income diversification employed in their livelihood strategies (Mathebula et al., 2017). It has been contended that income diversification, meaning that two or more sources of income contribute greatly towards enhancing livelihood strategies (Mathebula et al., 2017). Barrett, Reardon & Webb (2001) classify the motives of livelihood strategy diversification into pull and push factors. Pull factors are related to the reduction of risk, whereas push factors relate to the need to magnify what is known as the production line to produce complementary goods (Barret et al., 2001). Globally in countries such as Ghana and China, rural households pursue various types of livelihood strategies for food security, and to improve livelihood sustainability, these range between on farm and off farm livelihood activities (Dai et

al., 2020; Senadza, 2014). Households in South Africa, on the other hand, diversify their livelihood strategies, as a means of overcoming consumption challenges, which are aggravated by the high unemployment rate (Mathebula et al., 2017). Unemployment within rural towns such as the study area can thus be classified as one of the ‘pull’ factors that coerce households to expand their livelihood activities to put food on the table. This statement is supported by research that holds that various South African households diversify their livelihoods to overcome consumption challenges, which are aggravated by the high unemployment rate (Mathebula et al., 2017). Research has failed to provide information on the variety of livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth in the study area, which indicates that there is a gap in research, which can be filled through the current study on the livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth.

## 2.5 Theoretical framework: the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF)

The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework, along with the concept of Sustainable Livelihoods, was introduced during the 1990s (Scoones, 2009). This research will be analysed within the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework. The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) is identified as a developmental approach for addressing the intricacies of livelihoods in order to identify where interventions can best be made (Scoones, 2009). SLA is a people-centred approach, as it concerns itself with what people possess (i.e., assets/capital) and what people do (i.e., livelihood activities), consequently moving away from what people lack. Instead, it seeks to strengthen and enable people’s capabilities (Bebbington, 1996). According to Brocklesby (2003), the SLA focuses on the local’s perceived strengths, opportunities, local initiatives and coping strategies. Strengths in this context can refer to assets, indigenous knowledge, skills, actions, capacities, potentials, and gifts that a household or community has as a whole (Scoones, 2009).

The SLA takes into account all the indigenous knowledge, capabilities, strengths and other qualities of the households or individuals to assess where assistance can be provided to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Hence the SLA focuses on people, what they do, and what methods or strategies they employ to make a living. The SLA is a holistic approach, which takes into consideration the ties that individuals have with their families and communities. It therefore recognizes the several interconnected factors that influence peoples’ livelihoods (Scoones, 2015).

Scoones (2015) delineates a livelihood as consisting of the capabilities, assets (which include material and social resources) and activities required and employed to make a living, which is sustainable only when it can deal with and recover from stresses and shocks (such as unemployment). A livelihood, according to Scoones (2015), is sustainable when it can enrich its capabilities and assets, whilst not undermining the natural resource base. The SLA's definition is enthused by Amartya Sen's capabilities or entitlement approach, which comprehends that livelihoods are the assets and capabilities required to support the lives of individuals (Scoones, 2009; Scoones, 1998; Sen, 2000). Sen (1989) states that the capabilities of an individual refer to what the individual can do with his or her skills or 'entitlements' as a means of attaining what he or she perceives to be a good quality of life. Additionally, assets in this context not only refer to financial capital, but also to social ties and resources. Assets thus consist of social, natural, human, political, physical and financial capital as a whole (Sen, 1989).

### Sustainable livelihoods framework

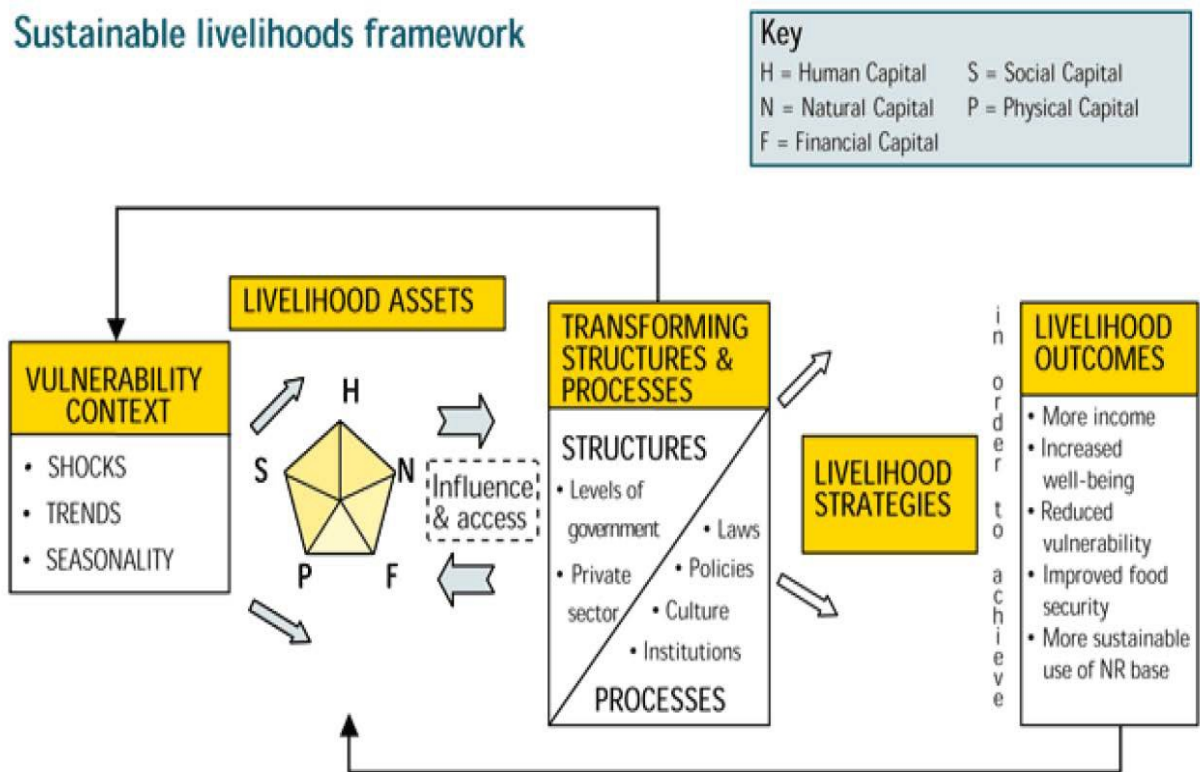


Figure 3: The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (Adapted from Farrington et al., 1999)

The assumption in analysing unemployed youth's livelihoods using the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework lies in the fact that people draw on various livelihood assets, which are sifted through

processes or structures and become livelihood strategies in search of various livelihood outcomes. The outcomes can include monetary outcomes, or even a sense of empowerment to make choices. People are, however, influenced by their vulnerability contexts which they find themselves in (such as being unemployed or having only one source of income in a household), which hinders their livelihood outcomes and respective households. The SLF provides an all-encompassing understanding of people's situations. It therefore recognises people's livelihoods and how they change over time, but it also focuses on how different policies impact on people's livelihoods (Scoones, 2015).

The rural unemployed youth within the study area are already at a disadvantage, their unemployment status and the rurality of the setting places them in a vulnerability context. In addition, those youth who only have one source of income in the household acquired through doing odd jobs here and there are still at a disadvantage, since the sustainability of 'piece jobs', is questionable. The youth's vulnerability contexts therefore influence and hinder their livelihood outcomes and respective households.

The livelihood outcomes of unemployed youth within the study area can, however, be advanced through employing livelihood diversification. Originally the interpretation of livelihoods diversification is derived from Ellis' (1998) work on the "process by which rural families construct a diverse portfolio of activities and social support capabilities in their struggle to survival and in order to enhance their standards of living" (Ellis, 1998, in Kadfak, 2019). Livelihood diversification is believed to be at the heart of the poor and the unemployed strategies to reduce risk or to survive in rural conditions (Kadfak, 2019).

According to Allison and Ellis (2001) the risk of livelihood failure is reduced by diversification of livelihoods since income is spread across more than one income source. Research done in Tota-Bengre and rural Congo supports the findings of Allison and Ellis, by indicating that fishers who engage in multiple activities, i.e., fishing and farming, have a higher cash income in comparison to fishers who only get an income through fishing alone (Kadfak, 2019). Hence, having multiple livelihood strategies or diversifying one's livelihood strategies puts households in a better situation than those who only have one source of income, therefore contributing towards the sustainability of a household. The Sustainable Livelihood Framework as a theoretical underpinning in this study

thus assists greatly in establishing and explaining the livelihood strategies that unemployed youth employ in search of various livelihood outcomes.

Even though the SLF has proved to be beneficial in livelihood research, various criticisms have however been raised regarding sustainable livelihoods and are discussed in the next section.

### 2.5.1 Critique on the Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF)

Sustainable Livelihood Approaches (SLAs) draw on a range of analytical tools; they are not intended as replacements for other approaches (Carney, 2003). SLAs, however, has been criticized for underplaying critical factors such as vulnerability, gender, and markets. According to Carney (2003), unfamiliar areas such as household financial flows are often overlooked, even though they are crucial to people's livelihoods. To use SLAs such as the Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF), it is imperative to understand economics, markets and the private sector, as a lack in knowledge of these factors can result in the downgrading of the market and economic issues.

This is unfortunate because economics is as much a part of SLAs as other dimensions. Carney (2003) argues that markets are crucial in assisting disadvantaged people meet their consumption and production needs. The majority of the poor in urban areas are net buyers of food and therefore require food markets that are efficient, accessible and provide a degree of price stability and predictability. When members of a food garden, for instance, cultivate one crop rather than another, or a dressmakers' group decides to sew uniforms, they are making economic decisions, set within social and cultural contexts and constraints. How well the markets function depends on many factors related to trust, information, contract enforcement, application of the rule of law, freedom of movement of goods and people, and the market structure.

According to Hamilton (1989) and Harrison (1997), globalisation influences local markets with new forms of competition and volatility, which in turn increases the vulnerability of poor people's livelihoods in developing countries. However, experience has shown that unqualified reliance on market forces as advocated by globalisation to allow the benefits of economic growth to 'trickle down' to the poor is not effective where the underlying institutional context has remained the same. In South Africa, while many of the institutional requirements for efficient markets are present,

institutional discrimination remain strongly influenced by existing positions of power and influence.

The critique surrounding livelihood interpretations state that livelihood frameworks are static because they tend to focus on the fundamental, immediate needs of a particular kind of people, 'the poor' (Scoones, 2009; Christen & Schmidt, 2012; Lienert & Burger, 2015). In the process they fail to give any thought to the fact that those who are impoverished, like others, often aspire to ways of living that are above what they can actually afford (Lienert & Burger, 2015). This is true, especially within the South African context, where we oftentimes live above our means. Youth in the study area put so much pressure on themselves and others to attain material things, and live a 'lavish lifestyle', whilst it is above their means and their affordability. The critique provided by the researchers also serves as an important reminder that various factors do influence people's perceptions of themselves, and that these perceptions have a major impact on the kind of assets that they want to accumulate, including the kinds of jobs they aspire to have, independent of the living conditions in which they are situated (Christen & Schmidt, 2012).

In addition, the critique provided towards the theoretical framework does not take away the fact that the Sustainable Livelihood Approach does recognise that people do pursue multiple activities in their daily lives. It notes that there are a variety of factors that affect people's ability to create a life for themselves (Scoones, 2009; 2015). More significantly, SLAs seek to involve people in the analysis of their situations, which is important for livelihoods research, and in identifying policy recommendations for change.

The general criticisms surrounding the SL Framework are that 'unpacking the pip box' is not easily transferable in real-life situations, since identifying specific constraints that impact people's livelihoods is a complex task (Christen & Schmidt, 2012; Lienert & Burger, 2015). In addition, critiques also state that people are invisible in Sustainable Livelihood Frameworks; how to analyse assets is unclear, and the framework is not sufficiently directed towards alleviating poverty (Christen & Schmidt, 2012; Morse & McNamara, 2013). Jones (2002) argues that the practical implications of utilising SLAs becomes complicated because of the range of debates about poverty responses and their effectiveness. One may argue that this postulation is based on notion that no clear policy guidelines exist and the livelihoods debate is an evolving one. Krantz (2001) further

argues that the SLAs do not address the issue of how the poor are identified. This relates to the importance of how resources and other livelihood opportunities are distributed locally, which are influenced by the informal structures of social dominance and power within communities.

The researcher is of the opinion that the critique directed towards the SL Framework is not unfounded. Unpacking the framework and applying it to real life situations such as the research context being studied are a daunting task. Analysing assets in various contexts also poses difficulties, because rural youths' perceptions of assets may differ from unemployed youths' perceptions of assets in urban areas.

The researcher is also of the opinion that it is of the utmost importance to be aware of and highlight the constraints of the framework. Linking the local realities of unemployed youth and their ways of constructing their livelihoods to central policies and institutions (as is indicated in the SLF diagram) is a major challenge (Scoones, 2009; 2015). Scoones (2015) states that livelihoods do emerge from past decisions and actions within specific historical conditions; however, when taking into consideration the 26 years of democracy in a country like South Africa, one would think that more opportunities would have been created for unemployed youth to contribute effectively towards building sustainable livelihoods for themselves. The framework is considered to build on people's strengths and opportunities, and enhancing existing livelihood strategies of the poor; thus, taking the approach of 'what the government cannot do for us, we will do for ourselves', and this should drive unemployed youth in South Africa as a whole.

Despite the different viewpoints by various practitioners, the sustainable livelihoods framework is adopted as the guiding framework for the study as it helps us to identify (and value) what people are already doing to cope with unemployment, risk and uncertainty. The study acknowledges the limitations of the SLA; however, it is the approach adopted by this study, because it places the rural unemployed youth at the centre of development, and it improves the understanding of their livelihoods. It also organises the factors that constrain or enhance livelihood opportunities and shows how they relate.

## 2.6 Concluding remarks

In this chapter the researcher conceptualised youth unemployment, identified livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth, and provided a theoretical and conceptual framework for the research through analysing the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF). Various criticisms have been directed towards the SL Framework, and were noted in the chapter. However, it is important to note that SL Frameworks cannot be expected to ‘magically pinpoint’ all the causes of poverty, unsustainable livelihoods and unemployment.

The SLF does acknowledge that there are multiple factors that impact on peoples’ ability to create a life for themselves, and this is an important point to note when doing livelihood research; people are unique, with different perceptions and different experiences. Also, in spite of all the interventions and policy implementations directed towards youth unemployment and eradicating poverty, rural poverty and youth unemployment remain prominent in Cradock, the Eastern Cape Province, and the Chris Hani Municipality as a whole. It becomes extremely worrisome when almost 86% of unemployed youth have tertiary education, while 75% have zero work experience (National Treasury, 2011). This statistic ultimately means that those young persons who are unemployed tend to be inexperienced, which ultimately serves as a barrier, since employers regard unskilled, inexperienced job seekers as a risky investment (National Treasury, 2011; Masipa & Jideani, 2014). It also means that households and livelihoods are impacted, since a helpful source of income is absent.

Recognising the central role employment plays in the South African economy,; perceiving it as an objective with strategic importance avoids the possibility of it becoming a peripheral outcome of economic growth or policies (Hershberg & Thornton, 2005). Hence, employment creation is the only sustainable solution for the eradication of poverty and the assurance of sustainable livelihoods, as it is the sole foundation for decent work (Hershberg & Thornton, 2005). This elucidates the importance of researching youth unemployment and the livelihood strategies employed by them as a means of alleviating high youth unemployment rates and ensuring sustainable livelihood strategies.

The next chapter outlines the methodology utilised in the research.

## Chapter III: Methodology

### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on describing the qualitative in-depth interview and focus-group interview research methods and approaches that were applied during the collection of data and analysis of data for this study. It also highlights the ethical considerations of this study, including the difficulties encountered in the course of the fieldwork. The selection of the qualitative, in-depth interview method for data collection was influenced by the setting in which the study was conducted. For instance, the study attempted to capture and delineate participants' experiences on the issue under study in their natural setting.

Since the researcher had the aim of gaining more information on the livelihood strategies that unemployed youth employ in Cradock, the exploratory investigation using in-depth interviews became a viable option. The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework as the chosen theoretical framework guides this study, as mentioned in detail in Chapter 2. It provided the necessary guidance in compiling the interview questions in the interview schedules on livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth in the area in question. This theory also promotes a data gathering technique which enables the participants to be at the centre of the research to express their views and needs they consider important in providing a sustainable livelihood. In-depth and focus-group interviews as data collection techniques provided the platform for participants to elicit various views and needs that unemployed youth have on livelihood strategies and the sustainability thereof. The theoretical focus was thus important, as it provided the parameters in the exploration of the research questions in the study.

### 3.2 Methodological approach (Qualitative research)

This study adopted a qualitative approach. Richie and Lewis (2014) define the qualitative approach as a pragmatic informative method concerned with understanding the meaning which people give to manifestations in their social realm. The qualitative method sanctions the researcher to delve into indefinable and obscure dimensions of life. This means that through the utilisation of the qualitative approach, the researcher's interpretation of meanings behind the activity is the one that

generates knowledge. Qualitative research is based on the viewpoint that truths or facts and understanding are comparative and are human constructs (Bless, Higson-Smith & Sithole, 2013). Qualitative research served to be much more pliable than quantitative research, as it provided for this research to be done from the vantage point of the research participants.

Nieuwenhuis (2010) states that qualitative research is naturally interested in understanding the advancement and the societal circumstances that influence different behaviour arrays and is ordinarily concerned with discovering the ‘why’ inquiries of studies. It seeks to understand the importance of practices of people with difficulties by the illumination of societal phenomena from the perceptions of participants (Atieno, 2009). This study had the objective of investigating the livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth as well as to describe the livelihood-seeking behaviour and experiences of unemployed youth. The qualitative method, through the use of in-depth and focus-group interviews, assisted in comprehending the livelihood strategies and practices of unemployed youth. This research method assisted greatly in understanding the social circumstances in which the unemployed youth find themselves, and it helped to discover why the current livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth in Cradock are not sustainable.

Qualitative research is also idiosyncratic, and responses can be biased, more so if the matter under investigation is one that is ‘personal’ and is laden with sentiment, which can make it nearly, if not entirely, impossible to generalize the findings to a larger population. Qualitative research is well placed in a study that seeks to understand the depths of a certain community’s behaviour, which was found to be suitable for this study.

### 3.3 Strengths and limitations of the methods used

This study was based on a qualitative research design. Similarly, the methods selected for the research study were qualitative methods. These were selected on the basis that they would help the researcher to understand how the local youth of Cradock make sense of their livelihoods and unemployment status. It is fundamental to note that the methods used had their limitations and strengths. The strengths and limitations of the methods utilised in this research study are as outlined below. The methods utilised for this research project are methods that were suitable for achieving the aims and objectives of the research study. Research methods which are qualitative by nature

allow for more interaction between the researcher and the participants, resulting in data that are rich and more explanatory (Richie & Lewis, 2014). Another strength of qualitative research is that the researcher learns from the participants' understanding of their perceptions and how they interact with the phenomenon being researched (Bless et al., 2013; Richie & Lewis, 2014).

Since the research set out to establish the views and experiences of the youth in Cradock on youth unemployment and livelihood strategies employed, the data collection method allowed the researcher to collect and manage the data without voiding the intricacy and context of the data. Both in-depth interviews and focus-group interviews allowed for the collection of large amounts of data within a short space of time. Since the study entailed lengthy individual participation, it was able to grasp the complexity and background of individual experiences better (Richie & Lewis, 2014). The qualitative research technique employed in the study provided information that could be understood and interpreted. Moreover, the data collection method used was cost effective, in that the researcher did not have to spend large sums of money to collect the data.

The data collection methods employed also come with limitations, as provided below:

- The findings of qualitative research cannot be extended to make generalisations without a degree of uncertainty. This is primarily because the findings of a qualitative research study are not tested to discover whether they are statistically significant or if they are due to chance (Atieno, 2009). It is, however, not the researcher's intention to generalise these results of individual cases, but to add to the body of knowledge on youth unemployment and livelihood strategies.
- Since the nature of qualitative research deals with experiences, views and interpretations, the validity of the data collected can be questionable (Richie & Lewis, 2014).
- Qualitative research is oftentimes found to be time consuming as a result of complexities such as in-depth issues discussed between the researcher and the participants. Participants are provided with the freedom to express themselves; this frequently takes up more time than expected (Atieno, 2009).
- The quantity of data collected in qualitative research thus makes the interpretation and analysis of data time consuming (Atieno, 2009).

### 3.4 Research design

Bless and Higson-Smith (1995, 46) define a research design as a “plan of how to proceed in determining the nature of the relationship between variables”. This research study was non-experimental in that it did not make use of an experiment or intervention (Maree, 2007). The study utilised a qualitative methodological approach, and data were collected using in-depth interviews, focus-group interviews, observation and document analysis.

Neuman (2006) argues that human beings have reason, motives and awareness; therefore, they should not be treated like objects of study. That argument follows up on the distinction between the qualitative and quantitative way of doing research. While the quantitative approach maintains that valid knowledge is fashioned by our ability to measure and discern factually, the qualitative research design is centred in the interpretative methodology argued for by Neuman above.

Since this study aimed to look at the livelihood strategies of unemployed youth, the qualitative approach provided a basis to collect data that would dig into their (the participants’) experiences. The qualitative research design was favoured to the quantitative approach because it allowed the researcher to investigate the issue, which included thoughts, perceptions and attitudes, including the meaning of certain behaviours of social reality (Neuman, 2006). This is what this study attempted to do: understanding the reality of unemployed youth through an investigation of their livelihood and survival strategies. In-depth interviews were the primary qualitative data collection method that was used to gather information for this study, in addition to a focus group interview/discussion, and these methods will be discussed further later.

### 3.5 Sampling design/technique

The four non-probability samplings identified in the literature is quota sampling, convenience sampling, purposive sampling, and snowball sampling (Bryman & Cramer, 2001; Maree, 2007). According to Silverman (2013), non-probability sampling, and specifically purposive sampling makes use of subjective criteria in sample selections. Non-probability sampling was used for this research because it was difficult to obtain a list of unemployed youth from which to conduct a representative sample, since the researcher had to access the unemployed youth individually rather

than through an institution or the study area municipality. Two sampling strategies that fall under the non-probability technique were used for this study, namely purposive and snowball sampling.

### 3.5.1 Purposive sampling

Purposive sampling was utilised to select the sample in this study. Purposive sampling is a type of non-probability sampling, as stated before. Neuman (2001) describes purposive sampling as the deliberate selection of participants with set experience or information that is needed by the researcher. Benoot, Hannes and Bilsen (2016) state that the partakers in purposive sampling are selected according to the judgement of the researcher, who will be dedicated to selecting only the participants that will best enhance her/his study; therefore, this is also known as judgemental sampling.

For this study, the researcher selected participants who suited particular criteria, i.e., participants had to be unemployed youth in Cradock between 18 to 35 years of age. The selection was primarily based on purposively choosing people with specific characteristics who will better be able to assist with the research study. Crossman (2013) states that purposive sampling is used mostly when a researcher wants to identify her/his participants quickly and when she/he cannot get a sampling framework. Purposive sampling proved to have less strain in the calculation of sampling errors, and the circumvention of bias towards the population group could easily be adhered to (Maree, 2007). The sampling technique was selected for this study to ensure that no bias is displayed towards a specific ethnic group.

### 3.5.2 Snowball sampling

Participants in the study assisted in recruiting other participants from their acquaintances. This is a strategy which is also recognised as referral sampling, chain sampling, or chain-referral sampling because of its nature (Silverman, 2013). Snowball sampling was thus used as a secondary sampling method in this study. Participants already identified through purposive sampling referred the researcher to other unemployed youth who fell within the specified age group in the study area. The initial participants also provided the researcher with contact details of other potential participants, and the researcher contacted and verbally invited the potential participants themselves.

### 3.6 Sample population and research site

#### □ Research Site

The research site was a small semi-arid farming town named Cradock in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. Cradock comprises three areas, the suburb of Cradock, Michausdal township, and Lingelihle township (Eastern Cape Planning Commission, 2014). The town is situated in the Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality, forming part of the Chris Hani District of the Eastern Cape, with a projected population of almost 70 000 inhabitants. The town itself consists of an estimated population group of 35 000 (Eastern Cape Planning Commission, 2014).

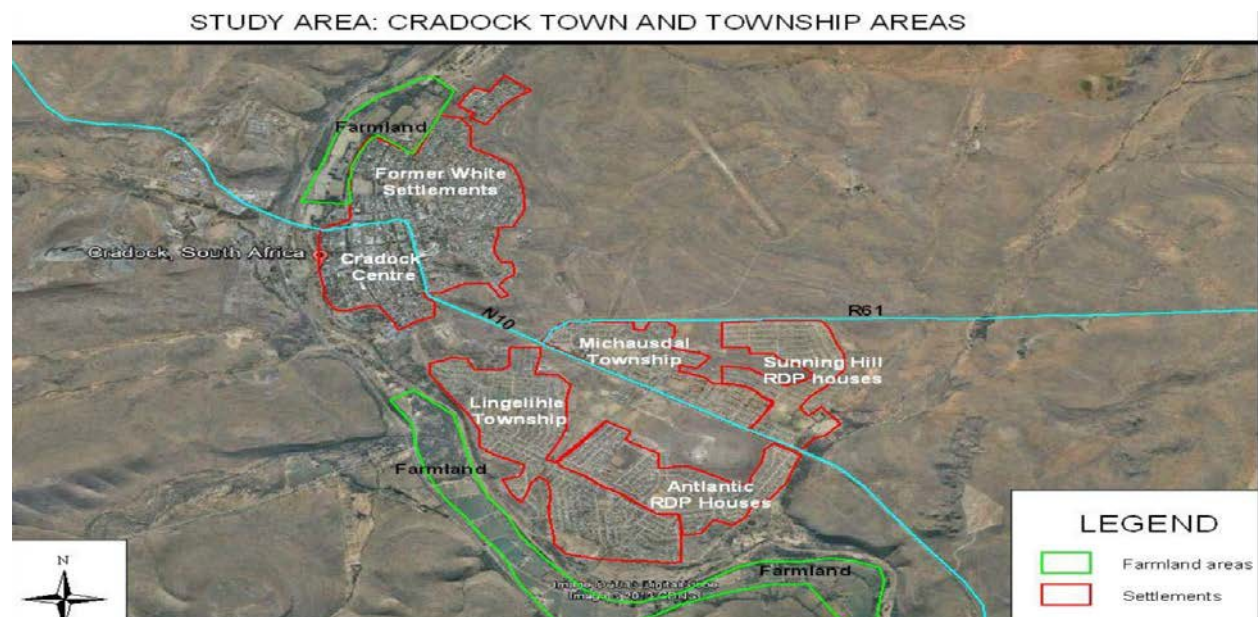


Figure 4: Map of Cradock adapted from Nel and Hill (2008)

#### □ Sample population

Neuman (2011) referred to a target population as the specific elements of collection that will be researched. In this research study, the target population comprised youth who are unemployed, consisting of both males and females (including those individuals who identify as male/female), between the ages of 18 and 35 years, and it depended on their availability. The participants had to be either never employed, previously employed, or had lost their jobs through contracts ending or retrenchment (first-in, last-out approach). The researcher collected data from the participants' respective homes or households in Cradock. The group of participants consisted of unemployed

youth from Michausdal township, Lingelihle township, and the town area of Cradock. Five days, excluding traveling time, was utilised to collect data from the research site.

#### □ Sample size

No conclusive answer exists regarding the size of a qualitative study, since sampling errors are still dependent on the sampling size (Fowler, 2014). This just means that it does not matter how small or large a sampling size is, sampling errors can be prevalent either way. A sample size greater than 10, however, is assumed to be sufficient for normal distribution. For this study, the sample size (n) was estimated at 15 participants, which the researcher deemed large enough (Silverman, 2013). However, as a result of data saturation, only 13 in-depth interviews were conducted. According to Urquhart (2013, 194) saturation is “the point in coding when you find that no new codes occur in the data”. Grady (1998, 26) further provides a similar definition for data saturation as it is the point at which

*[n]ew data tend to be redundant of data already collected. In interviews, when the researcher begins to hear the same comments again and again, data saturation is being reached.*

Data saturation was thus apparent in this research study. All 13 participants also availed themselves for the focus-group interview.

### 3.7 Data collection technique/strategy

Numerous data collection methods exist in research, and these methods should be guided by the specific research objectives, questions, problems and assumptions that guide the entire research process.

#### 3.7.1 In-depth interviews

Interviews are identified as one of the most popular methods used for qualitative social research, as they are flexible and iterative (Richie & Lewis, 2014). The use of interviews allowed the researcher to get first-hand, elaborative information regarding the nature of social life for unemployed youth in Cradock. Furthermore, interviews provided in-depth knowledge about youth

unemployment as a phenomenon, as well as a comprehensive account of the livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth, whilst taking into consideration the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework. Boyce and Neale (2006) note that in-depth interviewing as a qualitative research technique entails conducting interviews that are intense by nature, with a small number of participants, as a means of exploring perspectives on particular ideas, situations and programmes. Boyce and Neale (2006) further state in-depth interviews are suitable when attempting to explore current or new phenomena that embroil the thoughts and behaviours of individuals.

Taking the above into consideration, this study utilised in-depth interviews as a data collection technique. In-depth interviews enabled the researcher to uncover the dynamics of the livelihood activities and strategies employed by unemployed youth in the study area. An interview schedule was used, as it is served as an essential tool in guiding the data collection process. This study made use of 13 participants, whereby each participant had one in-depth interview with the researcher, which took place in the households of the unemployed youth in Cradock. Interviews lasted approximately 30 to 45 minutes.

### 3.7.2 Interview schedule as a research tool

Collecting information from participants in this qualitative study required the use of an interview schedule. Questions posed were open-ended, which allowed participants to dwell deeper in their experiences and thoughts of their livelihoods, strategies and unemployment status (Bryman, 2008). Bryman (2008) contends that in-depth interviews have the capability to produce comprehensive descriptions that allow the researcher to attain a deeper understanding and meaning attached to the participants' social processes. Questions on the interview schedule were standard and thus applied to all the participants, although the youth were of different age groups (between 18 and 35 years), different genders and education backgrounds. The interviews were flexible, allowing the researcher to probe the participants about certain variables. The interview schedule was adjusted and refined as the research unfolded in order to get participants to elaborate on certain questions in the interview schedule. Interview schedules were compiled for both in-depth and focus-group interviews, as well as translated into the three languages used in the study area (English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa).

### 3.7.3 Observation

Observation was not a fundamental part of this research study. However, since interviews were conducted within the households of the respective participants, it is important to mention observation as a qualitative data collection technique. Observation entails observing phenomena and actions within a natural setting (Baker, 2006). This form of data collection places the researcher in the role of either an absolute observer or participant observer (Baker, 2006). Observation served as a handy tool when researching the livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth, since through conducting the interviews in households, the opportunity presented itself to observe where participants live, the environment they live in and the accommodation they occupy. More than 70% of the participants came from poverty-stricken environments and rural households where they had to share space with other family members. Some of the participants stayed in households where one or both parents were deceased, which constituted a lot of difficulty, since they had to care for their younger siblings or cousins. The environmental background from which the unemployed youth stem is one that is not nurtured or cared for; it lacks recreational activities/centres for the youth, broken schools and buildings. They are living in a society that is impoverished and broken, with little hope left for them to thrive in it. This is a sad reality which the youth in Cradock are faced with.

### 3.7.4 Document analysis

Document analysis is viewed as a systematic procedure, which entails the evaluation and review of documents. It can be printed and electronic material (Bowen, 2009). Also known as ‘social facts’, official documentation served as important sources for this research, since they provided essential information within the research process, ranging from the formulation of the research topic, the research questions and analysis, the study area, the literature review, unemployment statistics, and the research findings (Bowen, 2009). In this research study, the researcher made use of journals, articles, books, legislation and government reports as sources of data to make sense of the phenomenon under study.

Various categories of documents were distinguished. Policy documents, for instance, were utilised to document the current policies on youth unemployment. Progress documents were used for

information on policy execution. Journal articles were used to evaluate the extent of research done on the Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF), youth unemployment and livelihood strategies.

Document analysis has the potential of supporting and strengthening research (O’Leary, 2014), data collection or to complement other methods. Document analysis was used in this study to complement the other data collection methods such as the focus-group interview and the individual interviews. Document analysis was thus utilised as a means of providing additional research data, which made document analysis a useful and beneficial method for this study (Bowen, 2009).

### 3.7.5 Focus groups/group discussions

Interviews are of immense use and value in qualitative research studies. Focus-group interviews are a qualitative data collection technique, which comprises individuals with specific characteristics whose focus and discussions are directed towards a given issue or topic (Bryman, 2008). It entails the bringing together of a moderator (the researcher) and a small group of people to explore perceptions, ideas and feelings about a specific topic (Dusku, 2000).

A focus-group interview allowed for and provided a setting in which the youth in the study could reflect on questions posed by the researcher. The emphasis was on reflection. In this study, a focus-group interview was utilised as an additional data collection technique, since it provided a more natural environment for reflection in a group setting, and participants were influencing and influenced one another, just as it is apparent in real life (Krueger & Casey, 2009). Only one focus-group interview was conducted with the group of unemployed youth in the study area. The same individuals that formed part of the individual interviews for the research study formed part of the focus-group interview. Two open-ended questions were posed to the group of unemployed youth, to gain insight into a collective view of their experiences of the phenomenon under study. Focus-group interviews were thus used as a supplementary source of data collection in addition to individual interviews. Ho (2006) state that there are limitations associated with focus-group interviews, and the critique surrounding focus-group interviews points to the fact that group members influence the responses of one another, whilst proponents claim this as one of the advantages of this data collection method. The limitation outlined in the aforementioned sentence was mitigated through doing individual interviews before convening in a group setting. In addition, the focus-group interview allowed for a collective voice from the unemployed youth in Cradock.

A small community hall in Cradock was used as the venue for the focus-group interview. The focus-group interview took place after all the individual interviews had been concluded. Prior to the start of the focus-group interview, the participants and the researcher sat on chairs around a small table in the centre of the hall, sharing fruit as a light midday meal. The arrangement of the seating arrangement produced a circle conducive to conducting the focus-group interview. The moderator started the focus-group interview by firstly explaining the purpose of the focus-group interview and describing the interview format. It was acknowledged that the group consisted of the same participants who had taken part in the individual interviews. The moderator re-emphasised principles of informed consent and voluntary participation to secure the consent of all participants before proceeding with the focus-group interview.

### 3.8 Data analysis

Zamawe (2015) defines data analysis as a process of bringing structure and meaning to the mass of collected data. Data analysis is perceived as an continuing and interactive process in qualitative research. It consists of sorting the data into categories, formatting the data into a coherent story, and writing the qualitative text (Mouton, 1996). To analyse literally means to take apart words, sentences, and paragraphs to make sense of the raw data. Zamane (2015) maintains that an analysis should be rigorous, systematic and disciplined, and documented carefully and methodologically. Richie and Lewis (2014) concur and suggest that qualitative research refers to the act of eliciting meaning from the data in a systematic, comprehensive and rigorous manner.

For this study, the researcher used a software programme called NVIVO to manage and analyse the raw data. In-vivo coding was utilised to identify themes in the research data; it is said that In vivo coding is inductive by nature. This means that the text passage selected was used as the code (Lakeman, 2009). In-vivo coding entails assigning the text that is to be coded to a code whose label is the text itself. This is also referred to as a thematic analysis, which is an important element for qualitative data analysis, especially in studies like the one at hand concerning human behaviour (Richie & Lewis, 2014). Lakeman (2009) states that a few advantages are evident when using thematic analysis. One such example is that thematic analysis allows for findings to be generated out of the interview material (inductively). This was prevalent in this study because the researcher could already identify themes during the interview process. Lakeman (2009) states that one should

take caution and remember that, unlike statistical packages, qualitative data analysis software does not analyse the data per se, but rather serves as a tool that supports the process of qualitative data analysis. Nvivo thus served as a tool in the analysis of the data within this study.

### 3.9 Research ethics

This research adhered to the principles set out by the University of the Free State's General Human Research Ethics Committee. Each participant was provided with an information sheet that outlined the nature of the study and the consequences of partaking in the research. This was provided with an informed consent form. The informants were notified that the research was for the most part for the purpose of obtaining a university degree, and no rewards were thus provided for participating in the study.

In addition, the following ethical considerations were adhered to:

- Avoidance of harm: As a means of adhering to this ethical obligation the researchers constructed the interview questions in a manner that was not offensive to participants. Participants were not in any way asked to do anything that may be potentially harmful to them.
- Voluntary participation: Participants were required to complete an informed consent letter, which included details about the study and its purpose. The informed consent served as a mechanism to inform the participants that only if they wanted to participate in the study they could participate, and if ever they wanted to pull out of the study, they were allowed to do so without any harm whatsoever.
- Informed consent: Nobody was coerced into participating in this study. As with voluntary participation, participants were informed that their participation in the study was completely of their own free will. To ensure that informed consent was adhered to, all the documents that participants interacted with were translated into the languages prominently used in the study area. These languages were Afrikaans, isiXhosa and English.
- Deception of subjects: No information was withheld from participants, nor were any of them misled.

- Violation of privacy/anonymity/confidentiality: The privacy of participants was respected; participants could withdraw from the project if they felt that their privacy was being violated. To maintain the confidentiality of participants, the names or any characteristic of the participant that could identify them was not used in the reporting of results, nor was such information shared with anybody else; in fact, the researchers did not use their names to identify their interview responses.

### 3.10 Conclusion

This chapter focused on describing the qualitative research methods and additional approaches that were applied during the collection of data and analysis of data for this study. It also highlighted the ethical considerations of this study. The selection of the qualitative in-depth and focus-group interview methods for data collection was influenced by the setting in which the study was conducted. It was found that the utilisation of interviews and observation in the data collection process served as effective tools in this livelihoods research.

The study attempted to capture and delineate participants' experiences on the issue of livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth in the study area within their natural setting. Data saturation happened during the data collection period, which led to a smaller number of participants being interviewed than what was initially estimated. The qualitative interviews allowed for richer data and a deeper understanding of the phenomenon under study.

In the next chapter the data will be presented, and the reader will get a view of what the fieldwork entailed, the challenges encountered in the course of the fieldwork and what the perceptions and views of the unemployed youth in Cradock are pertaining to their livelihood strategies employed.

## Chapter IV: Presentation of data and research findings

### 4.1 Introduction

The researcher sought to undertake an analysis of the livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth in Cradock. It also sought to assess the types of livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth. Lastly, the study establishes whether the youth's unemployment status impacted on their respective livelihood strategies, in an attempt to establish what kind of assistance can be provided to alleviate youth unemployment and to ensure sustainable livelihoods. The researcher made use of the software programme called NVIVO to manage and analyse the raw data. The researcher utilised NVIVO coding to identify the core themes in the research data, which means that the text passage selected was used as the code (Lakeman, 2009). This process is also known as thematic analysis (Richie & Lewis, 2014).

Thematic analysis assisted greatly in this research study as it allowed for the findings to be generated out of the interview material. The researcher was thus able to identify themes during the interview process. NVIVO therefore served as a supporting tool in the analysis of the data within this qualitative research study. Tables and figures depicted in the analysis of the data section emanated from the themes identified through NVIVO coding.

This chapter provides a presentation of the results and findings of the research undertaken.

### 4.2 Presentation of study results and findings

In the sections that follow, the researcher presents the findings of the research study to address the main research objectives, as outlined in Chapter 1, namely

- to investigate the livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth in Cradock,
- to investigate and describe the livelihood seeking behaviour and experiences of unemployed youth in Cradock,
- to investigate and describe the worldviews of unemployed youth in Cradock,
- to identify the diversity of livelihood sources in Cradock, and

- to investigate and describe unemployed youths' views of ways in which their livelihoods can be enhanced and youth employment be promoted

#### 4.2.1 Demographic information of participants

Table 1 below outlines the demographic information of the research participants. The researcher intended on interviewing 15 participants; however, data saturation took place. Qualitative literature affirms this as the maximum number of participants is normally 18 (Hammersley, 2007). This occurred after 13 participants had taken part in the study. The sample population included youth, both males and females, from various racial backgrounds, and residing in the Michausdal, Lingelighle or town areas of Cradock.

*Table 1: Demographic information of participants*

<b>Variable</b>		<b>N</b>	<b>100%</b>
Gender	Male	2	20.0
	Female	11	80.0
Age	18–29 years	10	70.0
	30–35 years	3	30.0
Educational Level	Never attended school	0	0.0
	Grade R–Grade 6	1	10.0
	Grade 7–Grade 12	11	80.0
	College	1	10.0
	University	0	0.0
	Other (specify)	0	0.0
Marital Status	Single	12	90.0
	Married	1	10.0
	Never Married	0	0
	Divorced	0	0
	Windowed	0	0
	Other (Specify)	0	0
Employed	Yes	0	0
	No	13	100.0

The following demographic information of participants can be deduced from the demographic data depicted in Table 1. The study had more female participants. Responses from females constituted 80%, whereas only 20% of the responses were provided by males. Approximately 70% (n=10) were between 18 and 29 years of age. Only 20% of the participants were above 30 years. When looking at the educational level of participants, only 10% (n=1) continued onto a higher education institution (i.e., college), and all the participants are unemployed, with little or no income to sustain their livelihoods.

In the literature it is stated that the Eastern Cape has the highest rate of unemployment amongst all the provinces in SA (Eastern Cape Planning Commission, 2014; Statistics South Africa, 2019). Limited skills development initiatives, a lack of opportunity and unemployment specifically for youth living in deprived settings can lead to life-long experiences of marginalisation, and an incapability to lift themselves out of poverty (National Youth Policy, 2015; Kousiakis, 2015). As alluded in the literature, the unemployed youth located in Cradock also form part of the high rate of unemployment prevalent in the Eastern Cape. These youth stem from a disadvantaged setting, that of Cradock with its apartheid spatial distribution, its shift in the nature of agricultural production, its shift in employment opportunities, and the economic downfall of the town. Unemployment is intensified by low skilled and uneducated youth, which can lead to low household incomes and unsustainable livelihoods (Kousiakis, 2015). The results of Table 1 on the demographic information of participants is in line not only with the literature, but also with the situation nationally, since a majority of the participants are low skilled and uneducated.

#### 4.3 Livelihood strategies and livelihood sources of income

In this section the results on the livelihood strategies and livelihood sources of income for unemployed youth in Cradock are presented.

### 4.3.1 Livelihood strategies employed by youths

When responding to the question, ‘*What are the livelihood strategies employed by you as an unemployed youth?*’, the youth in the study area provided a wide variety of answers. A majority of the participants’ livelihood strategies are outlined and presented in the table below:

*Table 2: Livelihood strategies of unemployed youth*

<b>THEME</b>	<b>SUB-THEME/ INTERVIEW QUESTION</b>	<b>QUOTES/PHRASES</b>
4.3.1 Livelihood strategies employed by youths	What are the livelihood strategies employed by you as an unemployed youth?	Participants 1 and 6 stated that they continually submitted their CVs to potential employers, with no luck of finding employment, which leaves them with either selling beer or selling sweets and chips on the streets to make a living. In addition, Participant 1 stated, <i>“I do not have any stable income, I rely on the support from friends and family, and most of the time I am a street vendor, so I sell sweets and chips on the street, and although it is degrading, it at least brings in some money, money that I didn’t have.”</i>
		In response to the question on livelihood strategies pursued by youth, Participant 4 stated, <i>“I receive money from SASSA [child support grants] for my children, and I do odd jobs here and there, like cleaning people’s houses and plaiting people’s hair. Whatever opportunity there is to make a living for us, I make use of it, except illegal strategies for making a living. I have even gone as far as going door to door to seek out piece jobs. But finding a job is difficult.”</i>
		Participants 7 and 8 outlined the following concerning the livelihood strategies they make use of whilst being unemployed.  Participant 7, <i>“I depend heavily on the child support grants, and even though the grant money is for the kids, it helps to</i>

		<p><i>fill a hole here and there. I also do piece jobs, such as domestic work and babysitting people's kids. I do not have much family so the few friends that I do have also offer a helping hand and support where they can."</i></p> <p>Participant 8 stated that he got a portion of the SASSA grant from the mothers of his children, which he uses to make homemade beer and sells it to people, to make a living. He also stated, <i>"I sometimes have to borrow money from friends and mashonisa's [loan sharks] to be able to purchase ingredients to make the beer, and when people take beer on debt and do not pay me, I find myself in a difficult situation with loan sharks being on my neck. Unemployment is really no joke."</i></p>
		<p>Participant 10, <i>"I do not have any livelihood strategies; I have no means of making a living. I don't have any family who care about me or support me, I currently stay in my grandmother's house, she passed away. I have been trying to find a job, but there are no jobs in this place, I am literally just relying on friends and neighbours other than that I just exist. It's really sad that this is what the youth has become, whilst they are supposed to be the future."</i></p>
		<p>Participants 11 and 13 gave similar answers in response to the question on livelihood strategies employed whilst being an unemployed youth. Both indicated that they constantly walked to different businesses to submit their CVs to seek employment, but nothing had come up. Both participants have more than one child, the children's government grant mainly assists in them making a living for themselves. In addition,</p> <p>Participant 11 stated, <i>"I also do odd jobs, like blow drying and plaiting people's hair, cleaning people's houses, washing their clothes at a fee, and babysitting duties for neighbours and friends."</i></p>

		Participant 13 stated, “Aside from my children’s SASSA grant I get assistance from my family and friends, including doing piece jobs or making jewellery.”
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4.3.2 Livelihood sources of income

The results on the livelihood sources of income that unemployed youth have to their disposal are depicted in Figure 5 below:

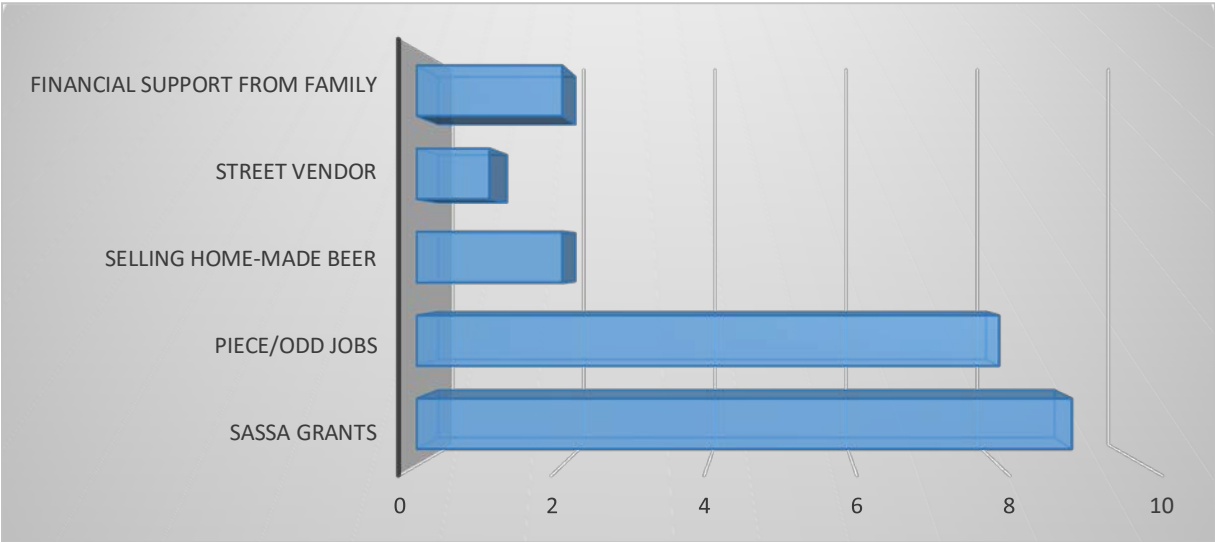


Figure 5: Livelihood sources of income (unemployed youth)

Based on the theme pertaining to livelihood sources of incomes, a majority (9 out of 13) participants, amounting to 60% of participants, indicated that their primary source of income was receiving the SASSA grants (child support grants provided by the Government). In addition to this, they also do piece or odd jobs, which constitute domestic duties such as cleaning, babysitting, plaiting people’s hair, selling items on the streets and selling homemade beer.

Two of the participants indicated that they made use of the social security grants to buy ingredients to make and sell home-made beer, and one participant indicated that he was a street vendor, selling sweets and chips to get an income and make a living. Only two participants indicated that they received financial assistance from their family members.

#### 4.4 Impact of youth unemployment on youth livelihood options and livelihood sustainability

The theme of livelihood options and livelihood sustainability brought about the enormous impact that unemployment has had on the youth in the study at hand. In response to the question on whether or not participants thought that their livelihood strategies were sustainable, all the participants answered no; they did not think that their livelihood strategies were sustainable. They continued to say that being unemployed hindered their ability to improve their livelihood sustainability, as the majority of the youth indicated that their odd/piece jobs were ‘seasonal’ and did not guarantee a fixed monthly income. Participant 2 went so far as stating,

*not having a permanent job, and permanent stream of income leads to us living day by day, not knowing what tomorrow brings. It is no way of living.*

Participant 4 shared the same sentiments, when she stated,

*Our way of living and the strategies employed to make a living is not sustainable, we do not know whether we are coming or going, we are caught in a constant cycle of struggling and poverty, with no prospects of a better tomorrow.*

The fear of continuing as is, to survive and to make a living; the fear of stagnating and remaining in a constant cycle of poverty is very real for the unemployed youth in this study. The majority of the participants are of the perception that having permanent employment, with a fixed monthly income would contribute greatly towards ensuring sustainable livelihoods, and accumulating assets of monetary value (i.e. a house or vehicle). This was also apparent in the responses provided concerning the question on how the youths’ unemployment status has impacted their livelihood strategies.

When assessing the impact of unemployment on youth livelihood options, Participant 4 responded as follows,

*My unemployment status has led to my confidence levels in myself and in society dropping. The constant rejection from potential employers and the community is*

*disheartening and contributes to the heavy load that I have to carry on my shoulders. I feel like there is no hope for the future.*

The lack of livelihood insecurity and lack of options was further emphasised by Participant 7,

*My unemployment status makes my life difficult, and being unemployed for 5 years, makes it even more difficult to get a job. I need to sustain myself, my kids, and my family. Being unemployed does not provide much of a livelihood for us, it does not provide much opportunity for a better life.*

Participant 11 added to this by outlining the possibilities that being employed has, including the emotional turmoil and frustration that comes with being unemployed,

*Having a permanent job opens doors for you, it puts you in a position to provide for your family and enhance your livelihood. It allows you to gain access to bonds and the purchasing of houses and cars (which are assets). Now being unemployed, you have nothing, you are perceived as nothing and your worth is questioned. The government does not assist much, the continual rejection from job applications does not do much for our self-esteem, and you end up feeling like you don't have many options for making a living.*

The direct quotes outlined above from some of the interviewees are a depiction of what resonates amongst all the participants in this study.

#### 4.4.2 What are the reasons for your unemployment status?

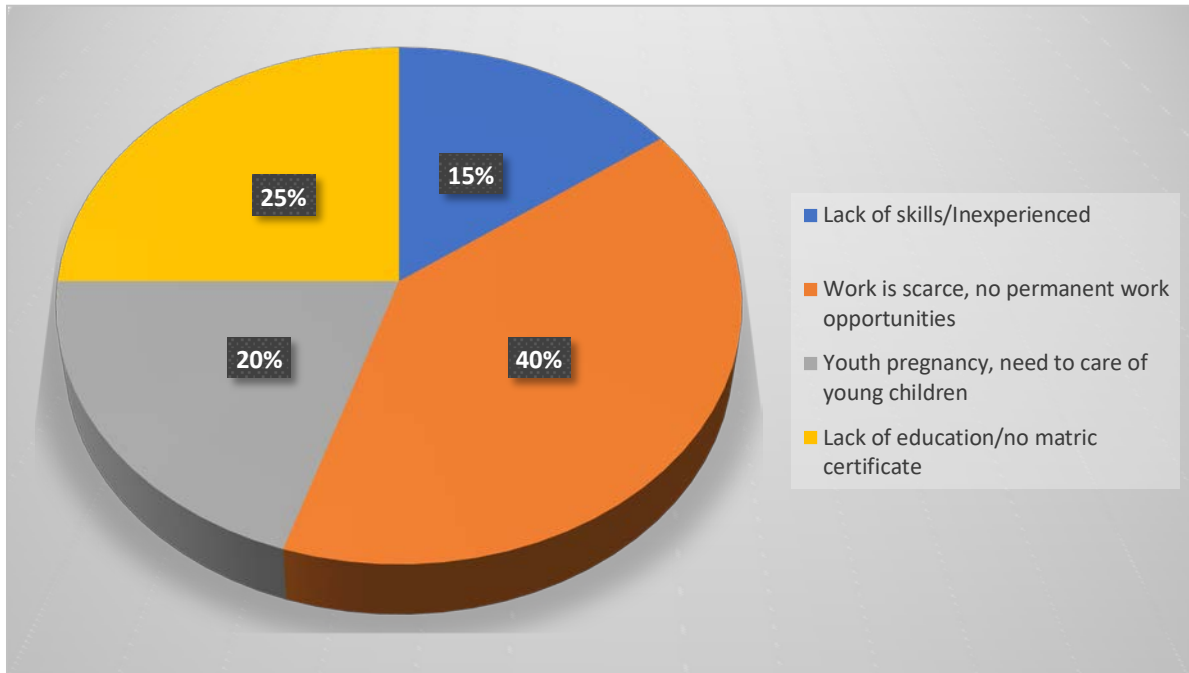


Figure 6: Reasons for unemployment status

The findings to the above question indicate that 40% of the youth mentioned work scarcity, and a lack of permanent job opportunities as the major reason for their unemployment status. Participant 13 responded as follows,

*I believe I am still unemployed because there really are no job prospects here, Cradock is a small town, with too many corrupt officials who keep the vacant jobs for their own people.*

Participant 11 concurred with the statements made by the aforementioned participant,

*I can't find work, even having completed matric, because the jobs are limited in Cradock, whilst corruption thrives. The government projects such as the CPW and EPWP are only temporary opportunities, which we never even get selected for.*

As depicted in Figure 4 on the reasons for the youth's unemployment, 25% of participants stated that their reasons for being unemployed was due to a lack of education and an absence of a matric

certificate since many jobs required a matric certificate, or post-school education. Both Participants 1 and 2 provided similar answers as reasons for being unemployed by saying,

*We do not have matric and finding a job without having a matric certificate makes it even harder.*

Furthermore, 20% of the participants stated that they had young children and siblings to care for, and hiring a babysitter cost money, which they unfortunately did not have. This poses a risk to their ability to seek permanent employment.

Lastly, 15% of the participants listed a lack of skills and experience as reasons for their unemployment status. Participant 7 stated,

*a lot of jobs require experience, and specific skills that I have not been exposed to.*

Participant 12 affirmed this statement by asking:

*how are we supposed to gain experience, and the necessary skills if employers are unwilling to give us a chance by giving us a job opportunity. By giving us the opportunity, we will be able get the experience in the skills that we lack currently.*

The results of this question are in line with what was revealed in the literature as potential reasons as to why so many young people are unemployed; reasons such as skills mismatch, lack of formal education, and a lack of experience are just some of the factors mentioned to be reasons for the prevalence of high youth unemployment in the Eastern Cape (Abakari, 2007; Carvalho, 2016; Kilimani, 2017).

In order to establish whether or not the youth in the study area do seek out job opportunities, the researcher posed the question mentioned below.

#### 4.4.3 What are your jobs-seeking behaviours/strategies?

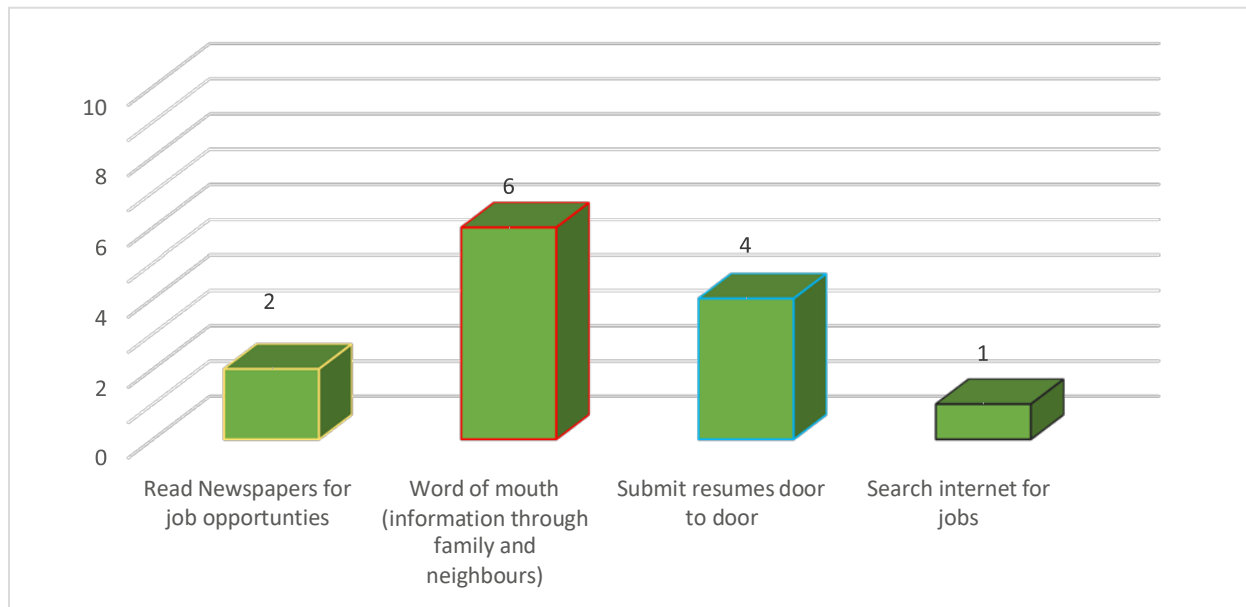


Figure 7: Unemployed youths' job seeking strategies

As stated previously, 13 participants took part in this study. The findings indicate that the most popular job seeking strategy employed by youth in the study area, is done through word of mouth. One of the participants stated the following

*I do not always have the money or resources to print out my CV, or take taxis to town, so aside from submitting my CV to businesses occasionally in town, I also spread the word of the skills I have, and that I am looking for employment, through informing my family members and neighbours.*

Another participant added to this by saying,

*I walk to town to submit my CV, since I do not have taxi money, but I make sure that my neighbours know that I am still looking for employment, that way if they hear of anything they will let me know, or spread the word and let people in the community know that they know of someone who is looking for employment.*

Two of the participants did however allude to the fact that they are tired of submitting CVs to businesses, since they were under the impression that their CVs ended up in a rubbish bin. However they also mentioned,

*[we] use word of mouth to spread the word, either through informing family members, or neighbours to alert [us] of job vacancies or them informing their employers of potential candidates.*

The results on this question group indicate that almost half (n=6) of the participants indicated that they usually received information about job vacancies from neighbours or family through word of mouth. This job-seeking strategy is followed by the submission of resumes door to door (n=4). Both Participants 3 and 4 stated that they tirelessly “o door to door to submit CV’s, and printing CV’s costs money”.

Another participant stated the following,

*I own one of those very old phones, with no internet access, which makes it difficult to look for work on the net, so I usually print out a lot of CVs, with the help of my uncle, and then I walk to town to submit my CVs door to door to every business, whether or not they have vacancies available. That way various business are in possession of my CV, if and when something shows up.*

Searching for vacancies online was not a popular job-seeking behaviour amongst the group of unemployed youth, which is why only one participant stated that they made use of the internet search engines when searching for job opportunities.

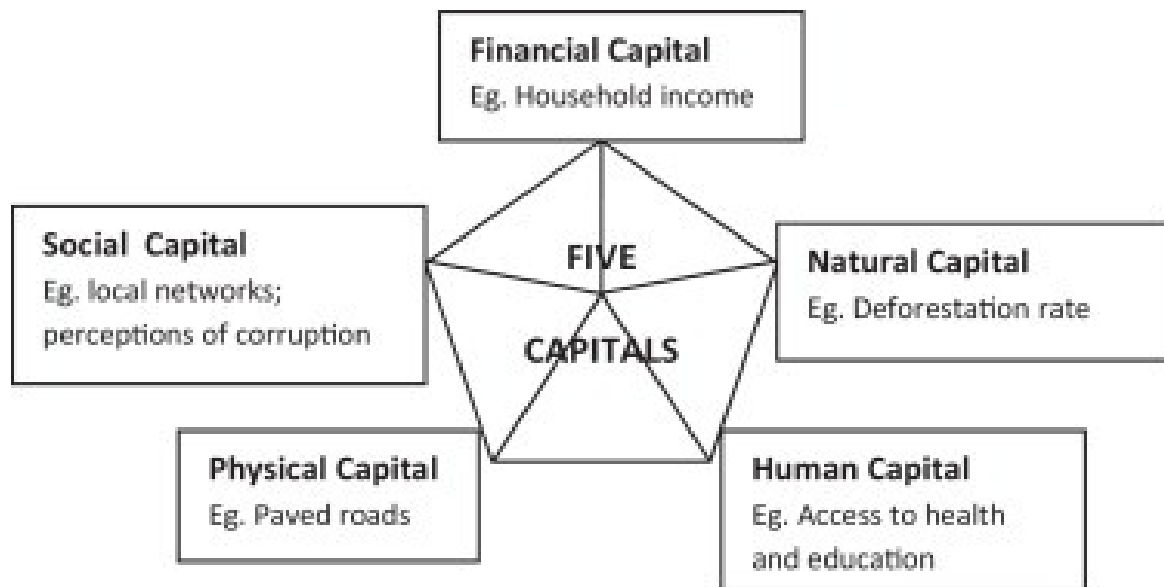
In order to establish the capabilities and assets that the study area has, according to the unemployed youth, the researcher went further by asking the participants which capabilities and assets they had.

#### 4.5 Identification of livelihood capabilities and assets

Assets and capabilities were explained to the unemployed youth as follows:

- Assets consists of social, natural, human, political, physical, and financial capital as a whole; and
- capabilities refer to what an individual can do with his or her skills or ‘entitlements’ as a means of attaining what he or she perceives to be a good quality of life.

Figure 4 below provides a depiction of the analysis framework of livelihood capitals. Livelihood capitals consist of five (5) categories, namely human, social, financial, physical, and natural capital (Ellis, 2000).



*Figure 8: Analysis framework of livelihood capitals (Ellis, 2000)*

From the results indicated in this theme, it is apparent that not all five categories of livelihood capital were touched on. Table 3 on the livelihood capabilities and assets that the participants and Cradock possess, proves the afore-mentioned observation made by the researcher.

Table 3: Possession of livelihood capabilities and assets

THEME	SUB-THEME/ INTERVIEW QUESTION	QUOTES/PHRASES
4.5 Identification of livelihood capabilities and assets	4.5.1 Which capabilities and assets do you possess?	<p>Participants 2 and 13 stated, “[We] <i>do not own cars or houses, and have no formal qualifications because [we] did not complete high school, but the soft skills [we] have like communicating effectively, teamwork, and taking accountability, are skills that [we] have.</i> In addition, Participant 13 also indicated the following, “<i>I can make jewellery with my hands, with various waste material, that is a capability that is unique to me.</i>”</p> <p>Participant 7 added by saying, “<i>I do not have a vehicle, my own house or permanent employment, but I am good with children, which is how I make a little money through babysitting activities, I am also very diligent and good with my hands, which is why people sometimes hire me for doing domestic work in their homes.</i>”</p> <p>Participant 11 alluded to the fact that a lack of education equals no opportunity when stating, “<i>I do not have a matric certificate, because I dropped out of school, and as a result of this job prospects are very low. I have done some part-time work at different hair salons and have therefore improved the skills of hairstyling. I would like to own my own hair salon one day, because I have a passion for doing people’s hair, and I believe that I can use this skill to empower other young people who want to develop this skill.</i>”</p> <p>Participant 1, “<i>When I look at people my age, owning their own cars and houses then it saddens me, because those are assets that I do not possess. I am above 30 and still stay under my mother’s roof. I failed my matric twice and decided to give up and go into the world of work to help out more in the household. Permanent employment is just something that never came, and projects like the Community Project Works</i></p>

		<p><i>(CPW) only employed me for 6 months. I have computer skills, which I use to help other unemployed people to type their CVs (as a hobby), and to make money I do street vending. I sell sweets and chips, especially during the busy times of the month when the government grants are paid out. I believe I have the capabilities to be an entrepreneur, if someone would just provide me with the start-up capital and believe in me.”</i></p>
	<p>4.5.2 What are the assets and capabilities in Cradock?</p>	<p>Half of the participants stated that Cradock did not have any assets and capabilities, similarly, responding as follows, <i>“Cradock is a small town, with no opportunities and job prospects, [we] do not think that this town has any assets or capabilities apart from a history of apartheid.”</i></p> <p>Another participant stated the following, <i>“Cradock is dead with no prospects of a future for the youth, the town receives its water from the Gariep Dam, and has experienced a lot of water shortages because of the drought, so the term water shedding is very prevalent in the town. We even struggle with the basic right of access to clean water.”</i></p> <p>Participant 11 responded as follows, <i>“I honestly do not think that Cradock has much to offer. It has a big group of youth that are able to work, with limited opportunities for these youth. I suppose that why a lot of us choose to abuse substances, since there is nothing else to keep ourselves busy with.”</i></p> <p>Participant 6 highlighted the following in her response, <i>“Cradock is a very small town with the suburb (town area), Michuasdol and Lingelihle communities. It has a major apartheid and spatial division history, and a lack of proper road infrastructure, lack of job opportunities, and a lot of crime and substance abuse. The crime rate is intensified by corrupt police officials and inadequate street lighting in the town.”</i></p>

		Other participants did answer more comprehensively and in a positive way by stating, <i>“Cradock has some very nice tourist attraction sites, such as the fish river museum with the Cradock four gallery, Cradock Spa (which is a bit run down now), including the Cradock 4 garden of remembrance. Those are some of the assets that the town has”</i> .
		<i>“Participant 4 outlined the following, “Cradock is one of those small places where everyone knows everyone’s business. A small town with a caring community, I perceive this as an asset. The economy in Cradock is largely based on agriculture, however a lot of the youth today have no skill in agriculture or have no intentions of going into the agriculture occupation. “</i>
		Participant 13, <i>“The capabilities that Cradock has is a massive youth group just waiting to be activated for the world of work. There is a lot of people who have the skills for the informal sector (security officer jobs, construction, agricultural workers, waitressing, and shop attendance jobs), which is not always very sustainable. The asset that I believe the town has is sporting facilities of a high standard. Which different town makes use of for interstate sports, I assume it brings in money for the town.”</i>

On this theme, many of the participants had limited views of the opportunities, livelihood capabilities and assets that the study area provides. Some of the participants alluded to the realities of not having a matric certificate, which makes it extremely difficult to gain employment. The unemployed youth in the study area stated that they did not poses any assets, they had no jobs, and they perceived assets as the ownership of material goods such as houses and cars.

In addition, it was indicated that recreational and skills development centres were lacking in the study area, and this is something that the researcher also observed. Community halls are worn down, and not used to capacitate the youth or develop their skills. The environment that the unemployed youth live in is not one that is enabling, and this also influences the outcomes of the

youth's livelihood strategies. The livelihood capabilities emphasised by unemployed youth in the study area are the skills that they have for informal employment/jobs (such as selling goods and using their domestic work and hairdressing skills). One of the participants outlined the **lack of livelihood capitals** eloquently by stating the following:

*The town has a lot of potential, however proper governance and administration is lacking. There is a lot of corruption, looting and nepotism happening in the municipality. The municipality does not fix the roads, and streetlights, they do not attend to people's basic needs and human rights, the hospitals are in shambles, the roads are bad, we constantly experience load shedding and water shedding for days on end. There are no jobs for the youth, so no steady household income. We do not have any recreational centres or sustainable skill development opportunities for the youth. A lot of my friends migrated to cities, because of the lack of prospects that the town offers to the youth.*

In order to identify the support that the unemployed youth receives, the researcher investigated which social networks or means of support the unemployed youth have, which also contributes towards them making a living or which contributes towards them enhancing their livelihood strategies. What follows is a delineation of the social networks that the unemployed youth have to their disposal in their search for employment and constructing their livelihood strategies.

## 4.6 Identification of social networks at the disposal of unemployed youth

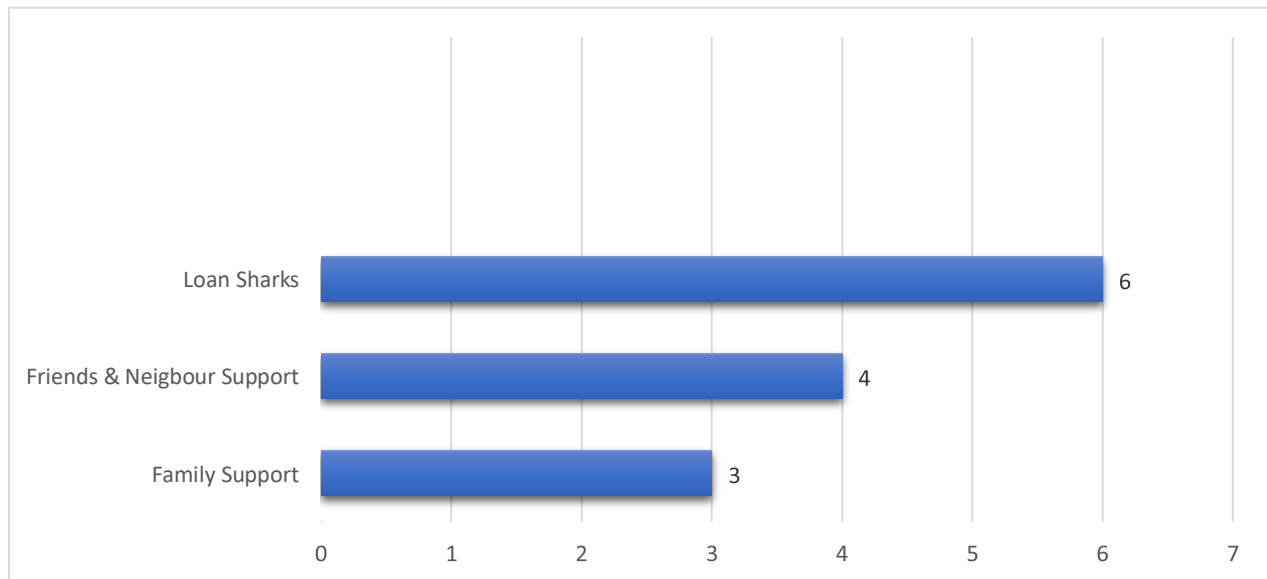


Figure 9: Social networks established by unemployed youth

It was found that only three of the participants in the study area receive support from their family members to assist them in surviving and making a living for themselves. Four participants stated that they had friends and neighbours who were supportive in assisting them in times of need and in seeking employment. Expressing their social networks and the support they had at their disposal, phrases like this were recurring in the data,

*I don't have much family so my friends and neighbours have become more like family, they support me when I need assistance, whether its emotional or financial support.*  
(Participant 3)

*With the limited family support at my disposal, I count on friends and neighbours for support in both good and bad times. They alert me of vacancies, they help me when I need something to eat, and they go as far as assisting with transport money to deliver CVs.* (Participant 7)

The youth indicated that the government or municipality did not do anything to support them whilst being unemployed. The government has failed in providing them with opportunities to upskill and gain employment. There are no youth development programmes that they are aware of and the

community has given up on the youth. It was stated that if one does not have a connection in the work industry then it becomes extremely difficult to secure employment,

*I don't have connections with people in high places, I bet if I did then I would probably be permanently employed right now. All jokes aside, I rely heavily on my friends for their support. I only have my grandmother, and she can only do so much with the elderly grant she receives. (Participant 13)*

The majority of the participants went as far as stating that the loan sharks (*mashonisa's*) are the only other 'unhealthy' means of assistance in securing money and making a living in times of need, aside from family and friends. They stated that loans sharks are an unhealthy means of support, since borrowing money from them puts their lives in danger in the event where they are unable to pay back the money or food borrowed.

Unemployed youth were found to barely have social networks and support at their disposal, and this impacts their ability to make a living negatively, to the extent that they have to risk their lives just to put bread on the table.

#### 4.7 Strategies to be put in place to ensure livelihoods sustainability

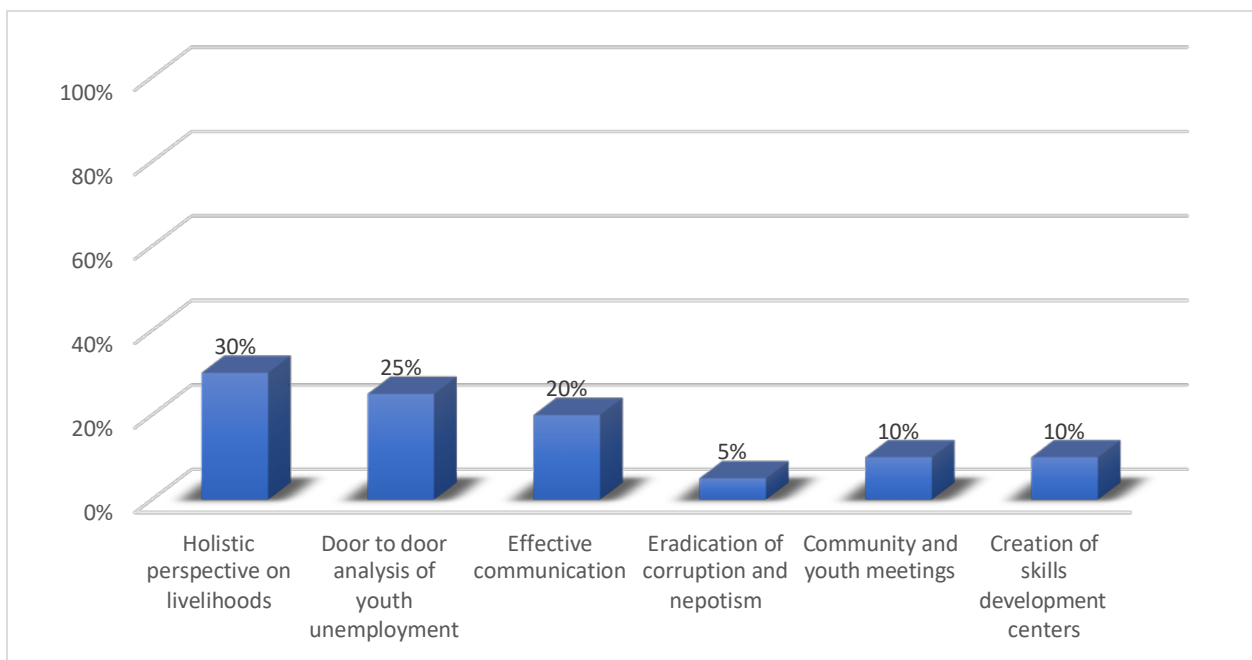


Figure 10: Strategies to ensure livelihood sustainability

In the analysis of the data the above-mentioned responses were provided for strategies to be put in place to ensure livelihoods sustainability for the unemployed youth in the study area. Firstly, almost a third (30%) of the participants indicated that a holistic perspective is needed to assess their livelihoods. In this context a holistic perspective refers to all the role players (private sector, public sector, the community and the youth) working together to bring forth sustainable solutions for youth unemployment:

*I believe that a holistic perspective is needed to ensure that our livelihood strategies are sustainable. Both the private and public sector need to work with the communities to deal with youth unemployment, since it is not an individual problem. The government is not doing enough in job creation, there are funds made available towards this cause for robust change and improvement in people's lives, but these funds are mismanaged and do not go towards bettering the lives of the community and unemployed youth. (Participant 6)*

In addition, Participants 5 and 9 postulated,

*'We need to work together. The community in Cradock, the Municipality (government) and the private sector have to create opportunities for the youth. In terms of development, I can state that we do have the CPW and the EPWP initiatives, however these initiatives for skills development or job creation are not afforded to all the youth, and they are certainly not sustainable. With a holistic approach to development and job creation we can unite and form more long term initiatives to ensure sustainable livelihoods for all (Participant 9).*

*I am unemployed, and unable to attain assets, barely getting by and not being able to support myself. The minor development initiatives that are there, are held by corrupt officials' family members. I would thus say we must firstly eradicate the corruption and mismanagement of funds by officials in the government structures, and then various stakeholders such as the municipalities, communities and the private sector collaborate to come up with a holistic approach to ensure sustainable livelihood strategies for all. This will help future generations, like our children. (Participant 5)*

Being unemployed already poses a barrier for unemployed youth and it puts them in a position where they are unable to secure material assets since their unemployment status makes it difficult to secure loans, cars, or houses. Their livelihoods and their livelihood strategies are thus impacted by their unemployment status, and they fear that this will affect generations to come after them. A holistic perspective of livelihoods will thus require a look into what the private sector, government and local municipality are doing with regards to enhancing the unemployed youth's livelihood strategies, and in providing opportunities for the youth in rural areas such as the study area in question.

Door-to-door analyses of the number of unemployed youth was the second strategy identified in ensuring sustainable livelihoods for the unemployed youth in the study area, followed by proper communication from the municipality concerning which vacancies are available. The unemployed youth in the study area indicated that they were uninformed about job opportunities available, so they stated that businesses and the local municipality should do a better job in communicating to the youth about the opportunities and resources available to the youth,

*In this rural and small town called Cradock, we are not aware of the opportunities for youth that might exist, so the municipality should do a better job of communicating development initiatives and vacancies available for the youth.*  
(Participant 5)

*We are rarely informed about vacancies at local businesses, the employees working for those businesses usually inform their own family members. This is the same thing that happens within our local municipality where nepotism and corruption thrives. Before the opportunities or vacancies reach the public, officials within the organisations already informed and captured their close relatives into those opportunities. The end of corruption and equal access to information will be the dawn of endless opportunities and possibilities for unemployed youth in Cradock.*  
(Participant 11)

The infrastructure available in the study area is not utilised optimally, which is why the creation of skills development centres for the youth was identified by the youth as one of the strategies to enhance their livelihoods. The skills mismatch that is evident amongst the youth can be addressed

through skills development centres which can be utilised to upskill unemployed youth in the area. Lastly, community and youth meetings were raised as another strategy which would contribute towards sustainable livelihoods and in addressing the issues of youth unemployment. It was stated that youth unemployment is not an individual problem, it becomes a problem for the whole community since it can translate into crime and drug abuse, which affects the community as a whole,

*Cradock is a very small town with the suburb (town area), Michuasdol and Lingelihle communities. It has a major apartheid and spatial division history, and a lack of proper road infrastructure, lack of job opportunities, and a lot of crime and substance abuse. The crime rate is intensified by corrupt police officials and inadequate street lighting in the town. (Participant 6) If the community work with the unemployed youth then they can together construct positive strategies which could contribute towards sustainable livelihoods for all.*

The next section of this paper outlines the findings which emanated from the focus group interview, which was utilised as an additional data collection method.

#### 4.8 Group discussion/focus-group interviews analysis

Two questions were posed to the group of unemployed youth in the focus-group interview. The two questions were:

- As a collective is there anything else that you would like to say about youth unemployment and livelihood strategies in Cradock, and.
- How do you think youth unemployment can be promoted?

A collective perspective on the aforementioned questions are presented in the section that follows.

##### 4.8.1 Collective perspective on youth unemployment and livelihood strategies in Cradock

Participants in the research study were asked the following question in the focus group discussion,

*As a collective is there anything else that you would like to say about youth unemployment and livelihood strategies in Cradock?*

In response to the above-mentioned question Participant 1 stated the following:

*Youth unemployment impacts our way of making a living. The youth in Cradock, go as far as committing crime, selling drugs, prostituting themselves, and making babies to get the SASSA grant, just to make a living. Unemployed youth in Cradock are depressed and frustrated', to such an extent that they numb their pain and suffering through alcohol and drug abuse.*

A majority of the other participants in the focus group, agreed with the above-mentioned truths stated by Participant 1. Participant 7 went even further, stating,

*Some of the unemployed youth in Cradock are so desperate that they steal from their own parents, and families, stealing their money and possessions.*

Others expressed that the youth need to come together to help each other in addressing their unemployment situation, and that talking about their frustrations would also assist, since the government has given up on helping unemployed youth in general,

*If we can have debates or workgroups where we gather at the community hall, to discuss the challenges that we face as the youth, we can perhaps find solutions to draw the right attention. We need both the public and private sector to work with communities to establish sustainable livelihood strategies, to create jobs and to invest in the development of the youth. (Participant 4)*

Although talking about the challenges of youth unemployment assists the youth, Participant 7 felt that there is more that the youth can do to improve their lives,

*Talking helps, but actions would be more helpful. As the youth we need to take our futures in our own hands, cause an uproar if needs be, perhaps then the government will take us seriously. A lot of the youth have complained to the development officials in Cradock, and not much has been done, because government both nationally and locally have given up on helping us. We have to make them listen to us and take us*

*seriously. This approach has helped struggling youth in the past and can be effective today still.*

#### 4.8.2 Promoting youth unemployment

As a collective, when asked, “*How do you think youth unemployment can be promoted*”, the participants stated that the onus was on the municipality to communicate effectively and create job opportunities for unemployed youth. Participants in the focus groups agreed that if the municipality communicated which jobs are available and being advertised, then it would encourage them to apply. The government should go from door to door to establish how many youths are unemployed. The group also stated that nepotism and corruption should cease, because it steals away opportunities from the youth and adds onto the unemployment problem,

*If the corruption and nepotism amongst government officials such as the municipality would cease then youth employment can be promoted, (Participant 4)*

*Corruption should end, and better communication strategies need to be implemented concerning the resources and jobs available for youth. The government should do proper research to see how many youths in the area are unemployed and work with the private sector to create awareness concerning skills development and sustainable job opportunities for the youth. In that way if we all work together to address the issue, then we would have decreased the youth unemployment burden that our country faces. (Participant 7)*

In agreement to Participant 7, Participant 4 added,

*In many cases the available job opportunities are advertised in places that we do not have access to. For example, we hear about jobs from people who work at the municipal offices like groundskeepers. And even then the posts are already filled. To provide an equal opportunity to everyone, the posts must be advertised in a newspaper or at least distribute a list of available vacancies to youths in the townships. If going door to door is too much work for them, they can always give such a list to churches and local small businesses in the township because we have access to those places.*

*No recreational activities or skills development opportunities are made available to the youth that we are aware of, more needs to be done to create such opportunities and draw the attention of the youth. This can be done through going door to door, or gathering the community in the community hall, to spread the word. Granted, we have the Community Works Programs (CWP) and Extended Public Work Programs (EPWP) initiatives, which absorbs some of the youth for 3 to 6 months, but these are not sustainable because those very same youth end up in the unemployment pool.*

(Participant 1)

Drawing on the information presented above, the youth in the study area are uninformed about jobs and development opportunities available in the study area, and support is thus sought from the community, the government and the private sector. Based on the participants' lived experiences there is no relationship between young people and the public or private sector; instead, they are seen as barriers for some of their challenges. The only work opportunities they are aware of pertains to the Community Works Programme (CWP) and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The youth stated that the afore-mentioned programmes were only temporary employment, and not sustainable at all; it enhanced livelihoods (i.e. provides food security) for a little while, just to push them back into the unemployment pool after three to six months.

The perceptions in the group discussion also show that the community, and both the public and private sector should take accountability for youth job creation and youth development in the area. The lack of support provided is deafening and does not resonate with the arguments made by NYDA, that the support and collaboration between public and private sector is crucial to assist the youth with mechanism to increase their potential for self-development initiatives (NYDA, 2015).

#### 4.9 Summary

This chapter focused on data presentation and interpretation. The findings obtained during the data collection are rich in detail and has contributed to knowledge on youth unemployment and the livelihood strategies that they make use of. The research findings are a direct result of the verbal text, observations, and interviews. As a means of organising the data, various themes aligned to the research questions and objectives are used. These include livelihood strategies and livelihood

sources of income, livelihood capabilities and assets, social networks at the disposal of unemployed youth and strategies to be put in place to ensure livelihood sustainability. Some of the themes comprised of sub-themes which were beneficial in organising the data in a logical manner. More understanding and discussion on these findings will be presented in the chapter that follows.

## Chapter V: Discussion of findings

### 5.1 Introduction

In Chapter IV, a comprehensive presentation of data was provided, to complete the project Chapter V provides a comprehensive discussion of the findings and a conclusion. The study has reached its peak, and rich detailed information has been presented on the fulfilment of the research objectives. These were aligned with the aim of the study, which is to investigate the livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth in resource poor communities in a small semi-arid rural town called Cradock in the Eastern Cape Province.

### 5.2 Discussion

This section outlines a comprehensive discussion of the findings and a conclusion as per the various themes identified in the research study.

#### 5.2.1 Livelihood strategies pursued by unemployed youth

Social exclusion of the youth from employment has posed a major threat to their livelihoods and their ability to become independent adults, forcing them into engaging in unsustainable economic activities for survival (Luebker, 2008). The livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth in the study area included depending on the Social Relief Grants or Child Support Grants, depending on family and friends (for support), and making use of odd jobs such as babysitting, doing domestic work, selling home-made beer, selling sweets/chips on the streets (street vendors) and plaiting hair. In a study done by Griffin (2011) it was revealed that with an estimate of 53 million workers worldwide, domestic work employs between 4% and 10% percent of the total workforce in developing countries, and between 1% and 2,5% percent in developed countries. The aforementioned study also indicates that most of the available jobs globally, including in South Africa involve domestic work and odd jobs (Griffin, 2011). This study's findings are in line with the literature, since participants engage in part-time or piece jobs work (including domestic work) as a livelihood coping strategy.

In addition, participants also indicated that they had resorted to employing a ‘door-to-door’ strategy to offer their services to the community. As discussed previously, these services include cleaning, doing laundry, and babysitting, amongst others. After lengthy attempts of submitting their resumés to various businesses for potential employment and being denied, this strategy has become a viable technique to unemployed youths. One of the participants indicated that they did not have any livelihood strategies, since they had no means of support, and had reached the point of not even trying to look for employment or ways of making a living anymore, since jobs and opportunities in Cradock are very scarce.

### 5.2.2 Impact of youth unemployment on livelihood strategies

The literature indicates that a lack of employment opportunities has been found to be a major livelihood security and developmental challenge, since the lack of employment opportunities can lead to underemployment, inequality, livelihood insecurity, and marginalisation of the young population (*Harvard International Review*, 2014; Carvalho, 2016; Kilimani, 2017; Ali & Shafi, 2018). The findings of this study support the literature as the results indicate that there was 100% consensus amongst participants in that their unemployment status did impact their livelihood options and means of surviving negatively.

Unemployment has contributed towards the unemployed youth in the study being perceived as outcasts in the community. This is due to the fact that they cannot contribute towards the economy and their respective households. In essence, the youth’s unemployment status cripples them in many ways emotionally through feelings of depression, frustration, and hopelessness. This was affirmed by one of the participants who mentioned,

*Being unemployed makes living and surviving difficult. My level of education also poses difficulty in finding employment. It is extremely frustrating, depressing and annoying to have to depend on others for survival or to make a living. I can see how the youth in Cradock resort to crime because livelihood options are minimal and even non-existent when you are unemployed.*

The fear of the youth in this study becoming part of the discouraged work seekers becomes very real at this point and time, as the narrative moves towards wanting a job, but at the same time being

so hopeless that there are thoughts of ceasing the search for one, because the youth are discouraged or deem their qualifications and education level insufficient (Lloyd & Leibbrandt, 2013). Posel, Casale and Vermaak (2014) add by stating that many youth do not search for jobs actively because of the literal and figurative costs of job searches, mixed with the low chances of success; instead, they rely on their social networks for sustenance (Lloyd & Leibbrandt 2013, Merten 2016), which has become a lived experience for a number of the youth in this study, because they depend on their social networks for both sustenance and job-seeking.

### 5.2.3 Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF) and the search for livelihood outcomes

#### 5.2.3.1 *Vulnerability context*

Transforming structures and processes as identified in the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF), have had little impact on the livelihoods and employment status of the youths. Scoones (2015) states that livelihoods do emerge out of past decisions and actions within specific historical conditions, and the legacy of apartheid has undeniably also contributed towards the study populations' devastating livelihoods and employment realities. Unemployed youth in Cradock are already disadvantaged as a result of their context of vulnerability, which inadvertently influences and hinders their livelihood outcomes and respective households. The town of Cradock with its historical apartheid spatial distribution, its shift in the nature of agricultural production, lack of employment opportunities, and the economic downfall in the town inadvertently predisposes the youth to their unsustainable livelihoods and bleak employment realities (Inxuba Yethemba Municipality, 2019). These realities are threats to positive livelihood outcomes for the youth in the study.

#### 5.2.3.2 *Livelihood assets and capabilities*

The participants in the study area indicated that they did not have much access to financial support or credit facilities as a result of their unemployment status. Their current dilemma incapacitates them to a point where they cannot acquire any material assets. More importantly, they are not in any position to support themselves financially. Sen (2000) contends that access to finances has a vital effect on the economic entitlements that economic agents are practically able to secure. For instance, the participants narrated that they had no means of accessing credit facilities nor any

financial support; hence, they were unable to benefit from the financial entitlements that other individuals made use of in Cradock.

The RDP houses that some of them stay in belong to family members who are either deceased or still alive, and they do not own any other properties or vehicles. Some of the participants reported that they had social assets, such as family and neighbour support, and although the town has a small, caring community, not much attention is paid to the youth and their unemployment status; instead, unemployed youth are perceived as a menace to society. Very little is done in terms of recreational activities to develop the skills and capabilities that the youth have, which leads to a youth population which feels hopeless, and discouraged.

The lack of job opportunities, proper road infrastructure, lack of stormwater channelling, ageing electricity infrastructure, inadequate street lighting and lack of recreational and skills development centres listed by participants in the study poses a risk to the town and the ability of the youth to create sustainable livelihoods for themselves. These realities are listed as challenges faced in Cradock in the Inxuba Yethemba Integrated Development Plan of 2017/2018–2021/2022 (Inxuba Yethemba Municipality, 2019).

The town has a close-knit community, as highlighted by participants in the study. This serves as one of the social capitals/assets the town has. Social networks such as family and neighbours support both in assisting the youth and making use of their skills and services serves as additional social capital. The capabilities that the participants and the town possess are more geared towards the informal sector. However, informal work, according to the study population, does not provide security, and the majority of the participants do not have the skills and experience required for the more secure, better-paying jobs they aspire to.

According to the Inxuba Yethemba Municipality IDP (2017/2018-2021/2022), the town of Cradock does have a number of assets and opportunities, such as agriculture (natural capital), tourist attractions sites such as the Cradock Spa, the Cradock 4 Garden of Remembrance, the Fish River Museum with the Cradock 4 gallery, sporting facilities of a high standard and other historical sites (physical capital) (Inxuba Yethemba Municipality, 2019). The study population corroborates the above mentioned assets. The lack of skills and an illiterate workforce do, however, impede the human capital of the town (Inxuba yethemba IDP, 2018).

Livelihoods capture the capital available to individuals with the ability to create an acceptable living, livelihoods research looks into the risk factors that need to be considered in the handling of available resources, including the policy and institutional setting that might assist individuals in the quest of worthwhile living conditions (Mutenje, Ortmann, Ferrer & Darroch, 2010). A lack of livelihood capabilities and assets as identified by the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF) contribute to an inability to establish a sustainable livelihood, is evident in the findings on the livelihood capabilities and assets identified by unemployed youth (Tanner et al., 2014).

#### *5.2.3.3 Threats to livelihood opportunities, outcomes, and sustainability*

In this section the various threats to livelihood opportunities, livelihood outcomes and livelihood sustainability are discussed.

##### *5.2.3.3.1 Unemployment as a threat to livelihood security*

As part of the data collection process, interviewees were questioned on whether or not they believed that their livelihood strategies were sustainable. In response, all the participants in the study answered ‘no’; they do not think that their livelihood strategies were sustainable. They reported that being unemployed hindered their ability to improve their livelihood sustainability, as a majority of the youth indicated that they were not permanently employed, their livelihood strategies and income were ‘*seasonal*’ and did not guarantee a fixed monthly income.

Participants also reported that they feared that continuing as is, to survive and make a living will make them stagnate and that, as a result, they would also remain in a constant cycle of poverty. The participants are of the perception that having permanent employment, with a fixed monthly income, would contribute greatly towards ensuring sustainable livelihoods, and accumulating assets of monetary value (i.e. a house or vehicle). The Inxuba Yethemba Municipality’s Integrated Development Plan for 2018–2022 lists the lack of job opportunities in Cradock as a challenge that the town faces, and further reports that the youth unemployment in the town, creates ‘great’ discontent amongst the youth (Inxuba Yethemba Municipality, 2019). Youth unemployment thus threatens livelihood security.

#### 5.2.3.3.2 Processes and structures as a threat to livelihood opportunities

The lack of education is not the only barrier to employment and sustainable livelihoods. The lack of good corporate governance was indicated as one of the things that threaten unemployed youths' livelihood opportunities. Corruption, looting and nepotism are some of the key aspects listed by participants that prevent the youth from achieving livelihood security. This is consistent with what Dube, Lester & Reich (2010) have found, as there are various disruptions to livelihoods that are caused by human agents, which includes amongst others nepotism, corruption, mismanagement of resources, and bad governance (Dube et al., 2010). The youth in the study area noted that the job recruitment process was not one that was open and fair by nature, and that they were barely aware of the few jobs available, as those jobs were made available to those relatives and friends who had social connections with the persons in charge of recruiting. It is apparent that a majority of the youth in the study lack the right social capital to assist them in their pursuit of permanent employment. These findings are corroborating the United Nations Report (2018) report, which postulates that globally the youth face difficulties when seeking employment as a result of a lack of business and social connections.

The youths' livelihoods and their search for employment opportunities are thus compromised, leaving them in a space where they lack financial capital, which is identified as one of the five categories necessary for pursuing and maintaining positive livelihood outcomes (Ellis, 2000). The municipality's governance and administration of the resources allocated to addressing the needs of the town and the process of employment needs to be managed effectively. This can contribute towards the youth believing in the processes and structures (such as the government or municipality) ability to assist them in their struggle of unemployment.

The unemployed youth in the study area are still trying to seek out job opportunities; however, a lack of resources and efficient support from the government and the private sector will soon result in these youths becoming discouraged and ending up in the discouraged work-seekers' statistics. The cries from the youth for assistance by both the public and private sector is very real in the study, and although the public sector invests in youth employment through the adoption of programmes like the extended public works programme (EPWP), the reality is that these programmes do not absorb the majority and they do not contribute much towards creating

sustainable livelihoods for the youth. This notion of public-private sector response is supported in the debates by NYDA (2015), where they accentuate the review of the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2020. Their argument is that as part of the NYP 2020, there should be a government/public and private-sector response on youth development, as young people proclaim to need a hand-up not a hand-out. This is an indication that the cries from the youth should be heard. Subsequently, the SLF postulates that institutions and organisations like the public and private sector have a role to play in the implementation of a strategy for development (DFID, 2018); whether it is on youth development, livelihood sustainability or employment creation, these sectors need to collaborate in tackling development issues, which is also apparent in the voices of participants in this study.

#### *5.2.3.4 Strategies to be put in place to be ensure livelihoods sustainability*

This study indicates that a holistic perspective and approach to livelihood sustainability and employment creation will require a look into what the private sector, government and local municipality do with regard to enhancing the unemployed youths' livelihood strategies, and in providing opportunities for the youth in rural areas such as the study area in question. The effectiveness of development and poverty alleviation strategies rely heavily on improving livelihoods through the enhancement of people's capabilities and increasing the sustainability of resources uses (Tanner et al., 2014). National state governments have the obligation to protect peoples' human rights.

In an attempt to capture what might be the leading livelihood sustainability and youth employment challenges, one notes that a number of the challenges relate to structural deficiencies and issues related to processes. The youth and the support structures that are liable for their growth are often exposed to national or provincial institutions that pose a variety of red tape. This is a perception or reality that is very similar to that of Somalia where the youths' potential was constrained due to structural marginalization such as the denial of adequate resources by the supporting structures as well as social exclusion (Mohamed, 2014). There is no or limited deregulation of power and policy formation and implementation to the local government. This is an error that which arises when the government assumes that one policy fits all and neglects the idea that communities differ and cannot be treated the same. The structural backlog is the reason why the SLF necessitates a look

into institutions and organisations because they can either hamper or develop livelihood strategies (DFID, 2008).

It is essential to mention that, during the investigation, no mention was made of the role of Community Based Organisations (CBOs). A lack of assistance from the CBOs towards livelihood and employment creation strategies was thus unfounded in this study. Drawing from the literature, CBOs, as discussed by Entwistle (2008), do, however, also have a role to play towards the development of a marginalized civil society such as the youth through offering the required assistance such as resources and guidance to youth, in essence contributing towards development and livelihood sustainability.

### 5.3 Summary of critical factors

A summary of critical factors identified in the research study are outlined below. The critical factors were identified through a thorough analysis of the data.

#### 5.3.1 Social grants and hand-outs

The unemployed youth who have children receive child support or grants from the Department of Social Welfare to assist in supporting their children until they are 18 years old (*South Africa Yearbook*, 2018). The situation amongst unemployed youth in the study area is so dire that they have children to receive these social grants, so that they can make a living for themselves. A few of the youth stay with old-age pensioners and thus benefit from their grants. These grants assist in some of the youths' survival. Social grants are thus identified as the primary source of income and livelihood strategy available and employed by the youth in the study area. The unemployed youths in the study area who do not have children receive hand-outs from their relatives, friends, and support from neighbours to make a living and as a means of support.

#### 5.3.2 Odd jobs

As it is evident in the data collected, a majority of the unemployed youth in the study area are doing odd jobs. This is in the form of piece jobs, selling beer, doing people's hair, domestic work or looking after children. They then receive subsistence, which is a small income for a little while to help them survive. Hence, it is assumed that odd jobs have diversified and changed the lives of

these unemployed youth. Their livelihood is increasingly understood to consist of diverse livelihood strategies, which include being street vendors.

The unemployed youth in the study did, however, indicate that doing odd jobs/piece jobs and depending on social grants are not sustainable livelihood strategies. They believed that permanent employment could open doors to them to accumulate assets, which odd jobs do not provide, since they are temporary or seasonal. A lack of information on job availability, resources and lack of education is found to be the contributing factor that play against the youth, as these factors are perceived to be reasons for their unemployment, impacting their ability to create a sustainable livelihood for themselves. As a result of these factors, it is assumed that the only place where they can be absorbed is in informal employment, domestic work, temporary employment, and other odd jobs.

### 5.3.3 Livelihood diversification and sustainability

The majority of the participants make use of a number of livelihood strategies to diversify their livelihoods. As derived from the interview, the majority (more than 50%) of the unemployed youth in Cradock do odd jobs in addition to the social grants that they get from the government to create an income. A small number of individuals do, however, attempt to make an extra revenue by selling products, in an attempt to increase monthly cash flow. Kadfak (2019) states that livelihood diversification is believed to be at the heart of the poor and the unemployed strategies to reduce risk or to survive in rural conditions (Kadfak, 2019). The risks of livelihood failure has been said to be reduced by diversification of livelihoods, since income is spread across more than one income source, in this case more than the primary source of income, namely SASSA grants (Allison & Ellis, 2001).

In this research study, it was found that the unemployed youth in the study area have two motives to pursue various types of livelihood strategies, either for food security, or to improve their livelihood sustainability. Livelihood diversification was thus found to be a contributing factor towards better livelihood outcomes (i.e. improved food security and more income).

## 5.4 Conclusion

The unemployed youth in the study area do not have much going for them, and the fear that their current situation may impact the generations coming after them is considered a major risk. The livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth in the study area allow for them to survive temporarily, which means that it is not sustainable livelihood strategies, as they still remain living below the breadline. It is safe to conclude that the livelihood strategies that the unemployed youth in Cradock utilise does not have the potential to meet positive livelihood outcomes such as permanent food security, stable employment, or improved livelihood sustainability. The research tools utilised to gather data for this study provided vital information to guide the researcher's understanding of how to contextualize livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth. The data from the individual interviews assisted the researcher to understand how unemployed youth make a living and diversify their livelihoods. It gave the researcher insights into some of the reasons underlying youth unemployment, and revealed the challenges the youth experience as a result of their unemployment status. Data collected through focus group interviews allowed the researcher to verify the data from the individual interviews on participant's views on youth unemployment and the impact it has on constructing sustainable livelihoods.

## Chapter VI: Recommendations and Conclusion

### 6.1 Introduction

The ensuing recommendations are a result of the inferences that are made from the previous chapters. The interviews both individual and focus groups served as a platform to thoroughly understand the phenomenon under study. The unemployed youths' willingness to take part in the study made it easier to derive the following recommendations.

### 6.2 Recommendations

What is apparent in this study is that the youth are not lazy. Unemployed youths attempt to be proactive in finding alternative solutions to challenges that confront them. This is confirmed by the literature that states that young people have agency and are not apathetic (Grant, 2006; Di Nunzio, 2012; Banks, 2015). The unemployed youth in Cradock acknowledge that in order to get out of any sort of deprivation, one must create one's own way out. The young people in the study have the potential of implementing and executing various livelihood strategies. Even though their livelihood strategies are not sustainable, they do serve a purpose in bringing forward livelihood diversification or alternative livelihood and employment strategies for young people, as they could not find proper and sustainable jobs in other sectors. A holistic approach to livelihood research is required to pinpoint effectively what has been done and what can be done to create employment and opportunities for unemployed youth, since this will contribute heavily towards the youths' ability to construct sustainable livelihood strategies. Research on livelihoods should include voices and efforts by the individual, community, and government level. Such an approach would assist greatly in the construction of interventions directed at unemployed youth.

Considering the structural backlogs that hamper livelihood strategies, there should be a governing body that monitors and tracks the performance and collaboration between the communities, public and private sector. For instance, dedicated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) or Corporate Social Investment (CSI) by the private sector can be directed towards youth development, which could make an exponential difference in the youths' lives. Alleviating the burden of youth unemployment and contributing towards sustainable livelihoods require the assistance of various

role-players, which is why it is recommended that Community Based Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations should also play a part in youth development and assist the youth in seeking employment. The community does not realise the potential and wealth of knowledge it has; if community members should take the time and effort to engage with the youth (through community meetings and recreational activities, for example), then there will be opportunities for knowledge and skills transfer. If the community members come together and assist in drafting, printing and sending resumés for the unemployed youth, then that would already alleviate the physical, financial and emotional burden of the youth.

There should be a thorough and regular assessment on unemployed youth, in both rural and urban areas, even if it means going from door to door to establish how many youths are unemployed and how they survive without assistance from the government. This should also entail proper feedback and follow-up on the assessments done and the way forward. In addition, the municipalities should create public spheres where state-citizen relationships will be enhanced. This can include meetings with the youth and youth representatives where difficulties experienced by the youth are discussed and addressed, where young people will also be given delegated power in decision making from the initial youth development programmes. This will contribute towards improving social capital and access to information. Still on the notion of delegated power to the youth, it is recommended that there should be participatory implementation of the agreed-upon initiatives and participatory monitoring and evaluation to get trustworthy feedback on the progress of youth development for the benefit of reviewing the implemented strategies if needs be.

Evident in the data collected from interviews, a lack of education, skills and necessary experience contribute to the unemployment of youths. It would be remiss of the researcher to not acknowledge this as a significant finding. This finding is two-fold. First, it shows an apparent lack of access to education; a violation of the human right enshrined in section 29(1)(b) of the South African Constitution. The aforementioned section places an obligation on the government to make sure that youths are not denied their right to higher learning (The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996). A provision of this right by the government would solve the issue of lacking a good education. A good education is the first step towards providing youths with a much-needed boost towards employment opportunities. However, a good education is not enough.

The national, provincial and local government should work together in linking education and training and the workplace for a longer period than the temporary learnerships, internships and community programmes such as the CW and EWPW. This linkage needs to be long enough to be considered as a viable period of work experience. It isn't enough to provide a 6 to 12-month internship when employers seek a minimum of three years' work experience in order to consider an applicant. Internships provide temporary relief to unemployed youths, but do not eradicate unemployment.

Perhaps practical training linked to a prospective job is a starting point; however, going further in assisting unemployed youth in securing jobs in both the private and public sector would assist greatly in constructing sustainable livelihoods. As is evident from participants' perspectives and experiences in this study, unemployment does impact and limit the youths' livelihood options and strategies; it leaves them in a space of hopelessness, bitterness and despair.

### 6.3 Concluding remarks

This research study is limited firstly, because of its sample size, which makes it difficult to generalize to the wider population. Secondly, it is limited because it does not capture a holistic perspective from various stakeholders, such as the individual, community, government, and private sector in analysing youth unemployment and livelihood strategies employed. The various structures and authorities should work closely together to support the needs of unemployed youth. The youths' voices need to be heard, and they should form part of resolving the unemployment epidemic in South Africa.

The perception of nepotism, corruption and misadministration of resources by officials, as expressed by the participants, creates a negative perspective of the government. Continuous consultations by the government with unemployed youth and communities will assist in changing the negative narrative and perspective that they have of the government, and it will also assist the government in knowing what the people need in order to act on their needs.

Whilst livelihood diversification and piece jobs or odd jobs, and even side-hustling can be perceived as the youths' way of reacting to the livelihood adversity and uncertainties, it is also an indication of how the state or government has failed in upholding their end of intergenerational

bargain. Future research should be directed at livelihood diversification and side-hustling, two means which the contemporary youth use to construct their livelihoods in pursuit of sustainable livelihoods (Mwaura, 2017; Prince, 2013).

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## Appendix 1: In-depth Interview Guides

In-depth Interview Guide: English\*

### Instructions:

**Kindly respond to all questions.**

### Section 1 - BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

**Gender:**                                      Male                                      Female

**Age** .....

### Educational Level

Never attended school	
Grade R – Grade 6	
Grade 7 – Grade 12	
College	
University	
Other(specify)	

### Marital status

Single	
Married	
Never Married	
Divorced	
Widowed	

Other, Specify	
----------------	--

Are you employed?

Yes	
No	

If not employed, what is your source of income?

**Section 2 – QUESTIONS**

2.1 What are the livelihood strategies employed by you as an unemployed youth?

*(Livelihood includes the capabilities, assets (including both material and social) and activities required for a means of living. It can be the proposed action or plan for getting support, a source of income or a job to make a living).*

2.2 How does your unemployment status impact on your livelihood strategies?

2.3 What are your sources of income?

Are there other sources of income derivation for you?

2.4 How do you sustain and diversify your livelihoods in Cradock?

- Do you think that your livelihood strategies are sustainable?

2.5 What are the reasons for your unemployment status?

2.6 What are your job-seeking behaviours/strategies?

*(Job-seeking strategies refer to the plans and actions employed to look for jobs, it can entail a door-to-door approach, looking at newspaper advertisements or searching the internet for work).*

2.7 Do you think a job is the best form of livelihood for you?

2.8 Which capabilities and assets do you possess?

*(Assets consists of social, natural, human, political, physical and financial capital as a*

*whole; capabilities refer to what an individual can do with his or her skills or 'entitlements' as a means of attaining what he or she perceives to be a good quality of life).*

- 2.9 What are the assets and capabilities in Cradock?
- 2.10 What strategies should be put in place to ensure that your livelihoods are enhanced?
- 2.11 Are there any development initiatives in the community? If yes, in what way are they involved in unemployment eradication?
- 2.12 Which social networks do you have to your disposal? (Networks you utilise in cases of hardships or crises)?

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION**

\*The questions will be asked during the individual interviews.



Weduwee/Wewenaar	
Ander (spesifiseer)	

Is jy werksaam?

Ja	
Nee	

Indien jy nie werksaam is nie, wat is jou bron van inkomste?

--

## Afdeling 2 – VRAE

2.1 Watter lewensbestaanstrategieë span jy in as 'n werklose jongmens?

2.2 Hoe beïnvloed jou werkloosheidstatus jou lewensbestaanstrategieë?

2.3 Wat is jou bronne van inkomste?

Het jy ander bronne van inkomste?

2.4 Hoe handhaaf en diversifiseer jy jou lewensbestaan in Cradock?

- Dink jy jou lewensbestaanstrategieë is volhoubaar?

2.5 Wat is die rede vir jou werkloosheidstatus?

2.6 Wat is jou werksoekstrategieë of -metodes?

2.7 Dink jy 'n werk is die beste vorm van lewensbestaan vir jou?

2.8 Oor watter vermoëns en bates beskik jy?

*(Bates bestaan uit sosiale, natuurlike, menslike, politiese, fisiese en finansiële kapitaal in geheel. Vermoëns verwys na wat 'n individu kan vermag met sy/haar vaardighede of 'aansprake' ten einde dit wat hy/sy as 'n goeie lewensgehalte ag, te bekom.)*

2.9 Wat is die bates en vermoëns in Cradock?

2.10 Watter strategieë moet in plek gestel word om te verseker dat jou lewensbestaan verbeter word?

2.11 Is daar enige ontwikkelingsinisiatiewe in die gemeenskap? Indien wel, op watter manier is hul betrokke in die uitwissing van werkloosheid?

2.12 Watter sosiale netwerke het jy tot jou beskikking? (Netwerke wat jy gebruik in gevalle van krisis of teëspoed)?

### **DANKIE VIR JOU DEELNAME**

\*Die vrae gaan tydens die individuele onderhoude gevra word.



Wohlukela neqabane lakho / waqhawuka umtshato	
Ungumhlolo / umhlokazi	
Okanye (Cacisa)	

**UYASEBENZA NA?**

Ewe	
Hayi	

**UKUBA AWUSEBENZI YINTONI EKWENZELA INGENISO?**

--

**ISIQCENDU 2: IMIBUZO**

- 2.1 Zintoni ezingasebenziyo, njengolutsha, ongazisebenzisa? (Njengezinto okwazi ukuzenza , izinto onazo zonke eziphathekayo nezenziwayo) kunye Ne nxaxheba efunekayo ukwenza indlela zempilo. Ingaba ngezi celwayo intshukumo okanye inzame zokufumana inkxaso, into ezisa imali okanye umsebenzi ukwenza indlela zokuphila)

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- 2.2 Ingaba ukungasebenzi kwakho kuphazamisa njani intlalo yakho?

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2.3 Zintoni ezikuzisela ingeniso?

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Ingaba kukho ezinye indlela ezahlukileyo zengeniso onazo:

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2.4 Nizigcina njani kwaye nizihlula njani indlela zenu zempilo eKaradokwe?

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Ucinga ukuba zingani-sebenzela ixhesha elide?

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2.5 Zintoni ezibangela ukungasebenzi kwakho?

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2.6. Zeziphi indlela ozisebenzisayo ukufuna/ukukhangela umsebenzi? (Indlela zokufumana umsebenzi jonga kwi Plani, intshukumo ekwenza ufune umsebenzi, Umnyango no mnyango, ukukhangela kumaphephandaba okanye kwi-internet)

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2.7 Ucinga ukuba umsebenzi yeyona ndlela yokuphila kuwe?

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2.8 Ngeziphi imbonakaliso nezinto eziluncedo? (iimbonakaliso ziqulatha izinto zasenkohlaleni, ezemvelo, Ubuntu, ipolitiki, kunye nemali nazo zonke izinto onokuzenza uwedwa njenegezakhono ezibonakala ngokwendlela elungileyo yokuphila)

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-----  
2.9 Zintoni eninazo neningazenza eKaladokwe?

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-----  
2.10 Zintoni ezingabekelwa ecaleni ukuqinisekisa ukuba impilo zenu zikhuselekile?

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-----  
2.11 Ingaba zikhona iindlela zokukhuphuhlisa uluntu kwisixeko? Ukuba kunjalo ngeziphi izindlela abalwisana ngazo nentswela ngqesho?

2.12 Ngeziphi indlela enizisebenzisayo ukuziveza ukuhlaleni(indlela ezisetyenziswa ukuzibonakalisa ebunzimeni nase zingxakini?  
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## Appendix 2: Focus-Group Interview Guide

### Focus-Group Interview Guide

#### **Section 1 – Questions: English**

- 1.1 Is there anything else you would like to say about youth unemployment and livelihood strategies in Cradock?
- 1.2 How do you think youth employment can be promoted?

#### **Afdeling 1 – Vrae: Afrikaans**

- 2.1 Hoe dink jy kan jeugindiensneming bevorder word?
- 2.2 Is daar enigiets anders wat jy wil sê oor jeugwerkloosheid en lewensbestaanstrategieë in Cradock?

#### **Isahluko 1 - Imibuzo: IsiXhosa**

- 3.1 Ucinga ukuba ingakhululwa njani intsha esebenzayo?
- 3.2 Ingaba ikho enye into ofuna ukuyitsho ngentsha engasebenziyo kunye neindlela ezizezinye zokuphila e-Kaladokwe?

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION**

\*The questions will be asked during the focus group interviews.

## Appendix 3: Informed Consent Forms

### **RESEARCH STUDY INFORMATION LEAFLET AND CONSENT FORM**

#### **DATE**

*July - October 2019*

#### **TITLE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT**

*Livelihood Strategies of Unemployed Youth: The Case of Cradock, Eastern Cape.*

#### **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR/RESEARCHER(S) NAME(S) AND CONTACT NUMBER(S):**

*Miss Geraldine Meyers*                      *2009053543*                      *+27 83 599 1665*

#### **FACULTY AND DEPARTMENT:**

*Economic and Management Sciences*

*Centre for Development Support*

#### **STUDYLEADER(S) NAME AND CONTACT NUMBER:**

*Dr. G Magaiza*

*058 718 5436 / 071 957 4190*

#### **WHAT IS THE AIM/PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?**

*The aim of the study is to investigate the livelihood strategies employed by unemployed youth in resource poor communities in a small semi-arid rural town called Cradock in the Eastern Cape Province.*

#### **WHO IS DOING THE RESEARCH?**

*My name is Geraldine Meyers from the University of the Free State. I am a final-year student doing a Master's in Development Studies in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences.*

#### **HAS THE STUDY RECEIVED ETHICAL APPROVAL?**

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

**Approval number:** *UFS-HSD2019/0926*

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

*Numerous studies conducted in the past indicate that youth unemployment is a major concern, and that it impacts on the livelihood strategies employed by the unemployed youth. You are thus purposively selected or identified through referral to be one of 15 participants to participate in this research study as you are young and unemployed. This validates your participation in the research. participants to participate in this research study as you are young and unemployed. This validates your participation in the research. Numerous studies conducted in the past indicate that youth unemployment is a major concern, and that it impacts on the livelihood strategies employed by the unemployed youth.*

### **WHAT IS THE NATURE OF PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY?**

*Your participation in this research requires of you to engage with the researcher in an in-depth interview and focus group discussion which will take place at your household for approximately 45 minutes. The interview will be held at a date and time that is convenient for all the unemployed youth who will be participating. In addition, a short focus group interview will be required depending on your availability.*

### **CAN THE PARTICIPANT WITHDRAW FROM THE STUDY?**

*Participation in the research study is voluntary and you are under no obligation to consent to participation. You are free to withdraw from the study at any given time. You are also free to decline to answer any questions that you are not comfortable answering, without giving any reason to the researcher. If you decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a written consent form.*

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

*Please note that there is no direct benefit or incentive being given for participating in the interview. Participants will benefit indirectly as the findings will be shared with the Local Government of Cradock with the hope that they may be used to improve youth employment initiatives. The study will also contribute to the existing body of knowledge on youth unemployment and livelihood strategies employed in South Africa.*

### **WHAT IS THE ANTICIPATED INCONVENIENCE OF TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?**

*Participation in this study poses no risk or inconvenience to the participant.*

### **WILL WHAT I SAY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?**

*Information shared with the researcher will be kept confidential. Confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudonyms during the in-depth interviews and by setting ground rules at the start of each interview. Personal information (such as the names and surnames, date of birth or South African national identification number) that can be used to identify a participant will not be collected in the interviews. Furthermore, the data will be collected from a big cohort of peers that share very similar demographics as you as a respondent. This will also ensure that you cannot be connected to a specific interview. In addition, all the data collected will be reported in the mini-dissertation in the aggregate enabling the maintenance of confidentiality and anonymity.*

### **HOW WILL THE INFORMATION BE STORED AND ULTIMATELY DESTROYED?**

*Hard copies of your responses to questions will be stored by the researcher for a period of 6 months in a UFS locked cupboard at the office of the principal investigator in order for her to complete the full-length mini-dissertation paper. Before the end of the six-month period all hard copies will be destroyed through shredding. The electronic captured data from the interviews will be stored on a UFS password protected computer. Note that all the data collected during the study will be kept electronically for a period of five years in a password-protected computer. Future use of the stored data will be subject to further Research Ethics Review and approval if applicable.*

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

*Respondents will receive no payment or incentives to participate in the research. Participants will not incur any cost to be part of the study. The researcher will cover transport costs incurred to attend interview discussions.*

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

*Should you want to be informed of the final research findings, you can contact the researcher at 0835991665 or [MeyersGJ@ufs.ac.za](mailto:MeyersGJ@ufs.ac.za). Alternatively, you may contact Dr van Rooyen, the Program Director for Development Studies at: 051 401 3812 or [griesd@ufs.ac.za](mailto:griesd@ufs.ac.za). Should you have any concerns about the way in which the research has been conducted, you may contact: Mr Grey Magaiza: 058 718 5436 or [magaizag@ufs.ac.za](mailto:magaizag@ufs.ac.za) (Supervisor) or Charné Vercueil: 051 401 7083 or [VercueilCC@ufs.ac.za](mailto:VercueilCC@ufs.ac.za) (Ethics Committee)*

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

### **CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (participant name), have been informed about the study entitled 'Livelihood strategies of Unemployed Youth: The Case of Cradock, Eastern Cape', conducted by Geraldine Meyers. I confirm that the researcher 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.

In the event whereby I have further questions or concerns /queries related to the study, I understand that

I may contact the researcher at 0835991665 or [MeyersGJ@ufs.ac.za](mailto:MeyersGJ@ufs.ac.za). If I have questions or concerns about my rights as a study participant, or if I am concerned about an aspect of the study or the researcher then I may contact: Dr Deidre van Rooyen (Programme Director for Development Studies): 051 401 3812 or [griesd@ufs.ac.za](mailto:griesd@ufs.ac.za); Mr Grey Magaiza: 058 718 5436 or [magaizag@ufs.ac.za](mailto:magaizag@ufs.ac.za) (Supervisor) and/or Mrs Charné Vercueil (Ethics Committee): 051 401 7083 or [VercueilCC@ufs.ac.za](mailto:VercueilCC@ufs.ac.za). I am aware that the findings of this study will be anonymously processed into a mini-dissertation/ journal publications and / or conference proceedings.

I agree to the recording of the *interviews*. I have received a signed copy of the informed consent agreement.

Full Name of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name(s) of Researcher(s): Miss Geraldine Jocelyn Meyers

Signature of Researcher: G.J Meyers

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## NAVORSINGSTUDIE INLIGTINGSBLAD EN INSTEMMINGSVORM

### **DATUM**

*Julie – Oktober 2019*

### **TITEL VAN DIE NAVORSINGSPROJEK**

*Lewensbestaanstrategieë van Werklose Jeug: Die geval van Cradock, Oos-Kaap.*

### **HOOFONDERSOEKER / NAVORSER SE NAAM EN KONTAKNOMMER:**

*Me Geraldine Meyers*

*2009053543*

*+27 83 599 1665*

### **FAKULTEIT EN DEPARTEMENT:**

*Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe*

*Sentrum vir Ontwikkelingsondersteuning*

### **STUDIELEIER SE NAAM EN KONTAKNOMMER**

*Dr. G Magaiza*

*058 718 5436 / 071 957 4190*

### **WAT IS DIE MIKPUNT/DOEL VAN DIE STUDIE?**

*Die doel van die studie is om die lewensbestaanstrategieë te ondersoek van werklose jeug in hulpbronarm gemeenskappe in die klein, semi-ariëde plattelandse dorp, Cradock, in die Oos-Kaap.*

### **WIE DOEN DIE NAVORSING?**

*My naam is Geraldine Meyers van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat. Ek is 'n finalejaarstudent besig met 'n Meestersgraad in Ontwikkelingstudies in die Fakulteit van Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe.*

## **HET DIE STUDIE ETIESE GOEDKEURING ONTVANG?**

**Nota: In proses.** Hierdie studie sal etiese goedkeuring van die UV Navorsingsetiëkkomitee ontvang. 'n Kopie van die goedkeuringsbrief kan van die navorser verkry word.

**Goedkeuringsnommer:** UFS-HSD2019/0926

## **WAAROM IS JY UITGENOOI OM AAN HIERDIE NAVORSINGSPROJEK DEEL TE NEEM?**

*Talle studies wat in die verlede uitgevoer is, dui aan dat jeugwerkloosheid 'n hoofbepommernis is, en dat dit die lewensbestaanstrategieë van werklose jeug beïnvloed. Omdat jy jonk en werkloos is, is jy dus deur verwysing doelbewus geselekteer of geïdentifiseer om een van die 15 deelnemers aan hierdie navorsingstudie te wees. Dit maak jou deelname aan die navorsing geldig. Talle studies wat in die verlede uitgevoer is, dui aan dat jeugwerkloosheid 'n hoofbepommernis is, en dat dit die lewensbestaanstrategieë van werklose jeug beïnvloed.*

## **WAT IS DIE AARD VAN DEELNAME AAN HIERDIE STUDIE?**

*Jou deelname aan hierdie navorsing vereis slegs van jou om 'n onderhoudsgesprek met die navorser te voer, wat vir ongeveer 45 minute in jou huishouding sal plaasvind. Die onderhoud sal plaasvind op 'n datum en tyd wat gerieflik is vir al die werklose jeug wat gaan deelneem. Daarby sal daar verwag word dat jy deelneem in die fokusgroep onderhoud afhangende van jou beskikbaarheid.*

## **KAN DIE DEELNEMER VAN DIE STUDIE ONTTREK?**

*Deelname aan die navorsingstudie is vrywillig en jy is onder geen verpligting om deel te neem nie. Jy is vry om in enige stadium van die studie te onttrek. Jy is ook vry om enige vrae waarmee jy ongemaklik is, nie te beantwoord nie, sonder om vir die navorser enige rede te gee. As jy besluit om deel te neem, sal jy hierdie inligtingsblad ontvang om te hou en gevra word om 'n geskrewe instemmingsvorm te teken.*

## **WAT IS DIE MOONTLIKE VOORDELE VAN DEELNAME AAN DIE STUDIE?**

*Neem asseblief kennis dat daar geen direkte voordeel of aansporing is vir deelname aan hierdie onderhoud nie. Deelnemers sal indirek bevoordeel word, omdat die bevindinge met die plaaslike regering van Cradock gedeel gaan word, met die hoop dat dit gebruik kan word om jeugindiensnemings-inisiatiewe te verbeter. Die studie sal ook bydra tot die bestaande kennisbasis oor jeugwerkloosheid en lewensbestaanstrategieë wat in Suid-Afrika ingespan word.*

## **WAT IS DIE VERWAGTE ONGERIEF VAN DEELNAME AAN DIE STUDIE?**

*Daar is geen risiko of ongerief verbonde aan deelname aan hierdie studie nie.*

## **IS MY ANTWOORDE VERTROULIK?**

*Inligting wat met die navorser gedeel word, is vertroulik. Vertroulikheid sal gehandhaaf word deur die gebruik van skuilname gedurende die in-diepte onderhoude asook deur die vasstelling van grondbeginsels aan die begin van elke onderhoud. Persoonlike inligting (soos naam, van, geboortedatum of Suid-Afrikaanse nasionale identiteitsnommer) wat gebruik kan word om 'n deelnemer te identifiseer, sal nie tydens die onderhoude ingewin word nie. Verder gaan data ingewin word vanaf 'n groot kohort van eweknieë, wie se demografiese inligting baie eenders is as joune as respondent. Dit sal ook verseker dat jy nie aan 'n spesifieke onderhoud verbind kan word nie. Daarbenewens, gaan al die versamelde data as geheel in die mini-verhandeling weergegee word, wat die handhawing van anonimiteit verder bewerkstellig.*

## **HOE GAAN DIE INLIGTING GESTOOR EN UITEINDELIK VERNIETIG WORD?**

*Harde kopieë van jou antwoorde op vrae gaan vir 'n periode van ses maande deur die navorser/hoofondersoeker gestoor word in 'n geslote kas in haar UV-kantoor, sodat sy die vollengte mini-verhandeling kan voltooi. Voor die einde van die ses-maande periode, gaan alle harde kopieë met 'n snippermasjien vernietig word. Die data van die onderhoude wat elektronies vasgevang is, gaan op 'n wagwoordbeskernde UV-rekenaar gestoor word. Neem kennis dat al die data wat tydens die studie ingewin word, vir 'n periode van vyf jaar elektronies op 'n wagwoordbeskernde rekenaar gestoor gaan word. Toekomstige gebruik van die data wat gestoor word, sal onderhewig wees aan verdere navorsingsetiek-hersiening en goedkeuring indien toepaslik. Harde kopieë van jou antwoorde op vrae gaan vir 'n periode van ses maande deur die navorser/hoofondersoeker gestoor word in 'n geslote kas in haar UV-kantoor, sodat sy die vollengte mini-verhandeling kan voltooi. Voor die einde van die ses-maande periode, gaan alle harde kopieë met 'n snippermasjien vernietig word. Die data van die onderhoude wat elektronies vasgevang is, gaan op 'n wagwoordbeskernde UV-rekenaar gestoor word. Neem kennis dat al die data wat tydens die studie ingewin word, vir 'n periode van vyf jaar elektronies op 'n wagwoordbeskernde rekenaar gestoor gaan word. Toekomstige gebruik van die data wat gestoor word, sal onderhewig wees aan verdere navorsingsetiek-hersiening en goedkeuring indien toepaslik. Harde kopieë van jou antwoorde op vrae gaan vir 'n periode van ses maande deur die navorser/hoofondersoeker gestoor word in 'n geslote kas in haar UV-kantoor, sodat sy die vollengte mini-verhandeling kan voltooi. Voor die einde van die ses-maande periode,*

### **GAAN EK BETALING OF ENIGE AANSPORING ONTVANG VIR DEELNAME AAN HIERDIE STUDIE?**

*Respondente gaan geen betaling of aansporing ontvang vir deelname aan die navorsing nie. Deelnemers sal geen kostes hoef aan te gaan om aan die studie deel te neem nie. Die navorser sal vervoerkoste wat deelnemers aangaan om die onderhoude by te woon, dra. Respondente gaan geen betaling of aansporing ontvang vir deelname aan die navorsing nie. Deelnemers sal geen kostes hoef aan te gaan om aan die studie deel te neem nie. Die navorser sal vervoerkoste wat deelnemers aangaan om die onderhoude by te woon, dra. Respondente gaan geen betaling of aansporing ontvang vir deelname aan die navorsing nie. Deelnemers sal geen kostes hoef aan te gaan om aan die studie deel te neem nie. Die navorser sal vervoerkoste wat deelnemers aangaan om die onderhoude by te woon, dra.*

### **HOE GAAN DIE DEELNEMER INGELIG WORD VAN DIE BEVINDINGE/RESULTATE VAN DIE STUDIE?**

*Sou jy ingelig wou word oor die finale navorsingsbevindinge, kan jy die navorser kontak by 0835991665 of [MeyersGJ@ufs.ac.za](mailto:MeyersGJ@ufs.ac.za). Alternatiewelik, kan jy die Programdirekteur vir Ontwikkelingstudies, dr van Rooyen, kontak by: 051 401 3812 of [griesd@ufs.ac.za](mailto:griesd@ufs.ac.za). Sou jy enige bekommernisse hê oor die manier waarop die navorsing gedoen is, kan jy die volgende persone kontak: Mnr Grey Magaiza: 058 718 5436 of [magaizaq@ufs.ac.za](mailto:magaizaq@ufs.ac.za) (studieleier) of me Charné Vercueil: 051 401 7083 of [VercueilCC@ufs.ac.za](mailto:VercueilCC@ufs.ac.za) (Etiëkkomitee).*

**Dankie vir die tyd wat jy geneem het om hierdie inligting te lees en vir jou deelname aan die studie.**

## INSTEMMING TOT DEELNAME AAN DIE STUDIE

Ek, \_\_\_\_\_ (deelnemer se naam), is ingelig van die studie getitel 'Lewensbestaanstrategieë van Werklose Jeug: Die Geval van Cradock, Oos-Kaap', uitgevoer deur Geraldine Meyers. Ek bevestig dat die navorser my ingelig het van die aard, prosedure, moontlike voordele en verwagte ongerief van my deelname.

Ek het die inligtingsblad gelees (of dit is aan my verduidelik) en ek verstaan die studie soos dit daarin uiteengesit is. Ek het voldoende geleentheid gehad om vrae te vra en ek is bereid om aan die studie deel te neem. Ek verstaan dat my deelname vrywillig is en dat ek vry is om te onttrek in enige stadium sonder gevolge (indien toepaslik). Ek is bewus dat die bevindinge van hierdie studie anoniem verwerk gaan word in 'n navorsingsverslag, joernaalpublikasies en/of konferensieverrigtinge.

Sou ek verdere navrae of bekommernisse hê, verstaan ek dat ek die navorser kan kontak by 0835991665 of [MeyersGJ@ufs.ac.za](mailto:MeyersGJ@ufs.ac.za). Sou ek vrae oor my regte as deelnemer hê, of bekommerd wees oor enige aspek van die studie of die navorser, kan ek die volgende persone kontak: Dr Deidre van Rooyen (Programdirekteur vir Ontwikkelingstudies): 051 401 3812 of [griesd@ufs.ac.za](mailto:griesd@ufs.ac.za); mnr Grey Magaiza: 058 718 5436 of [magaizag@ufs.ac.za](mailto:magaizag@ufs.ac.za) (studieleier) en/of me Charné Vercueil (Etiëkkomitee): 051 401 7083 of [VercueilCC@ufs.ac.za](mailto:VercueilCC@ufs.ac.za). Ek is bewus daarvan dat die bevindinge van hierdie studie anoniem verwerk gaan word in 'n mini-verhandeling/joernaalpublikasies en/of konferensieverrigtinge.

Ek gee toestemming vir die opname van die *onderhoude*. Ek het 'n getekende kopie van die ingeligte toestemming-ooreenkoms ontvang.

Volle naam van die deelnemer: \_\_\_\_\_

Handtekening van die deelnemer: \_\_\_\_\_ Datum: \_\_\_\_\_

Volle name van navorser: Me Geraldine Jocelyn Meyers

Handtekening van navorser: GJ Meyers Datum: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Kutheni umenyiwe ukuba uthathe inxaxheba koluphando?**

Izifundo eziphangaleleyo ezenziweyo kamva nje zicacisa ukuba ukungasebenzi kolutsha zezona ngxaki eziphezulu kwaye lento eyaphazamisa ngakwicala lempilo yabo.

Ucho-ngiwe ngenjongo okanye ngemboniso ukuba ubengomnye wabathathi nxaxheba abalishumi elinesihlanu koluphando njengomnye wabantu abatsha abangasebenziyo. Le yinto ebonakalisa inxaxheba yakho kuphando olu.

### **Zintoni ezilindelekileyo kumthathi nxaxheba koluphando?**

Inxaxheba yakho kolumphando ifuna kuphela ukuba wena uzibandakanye nomphandi kudliwano ndlebe olunxulumene loluphando oluya kwenziwa endlini yakho ngesithuba semizuzu engamashumi amane anesihlanu. Uvavanyo luyakwenziwa ngomhla ne xesha elifanelekileyo kubo bonke abantu abatsha abangasebenziyo abathatha inxaxheba koluphando.

### **Ingaba umthathi nxaxheba angarhoxa koluphando?**

Ukuthatha inxaxheba koluphando akunasinyanzelo kwaye uvumelekile ukuba uzikhethete nangaliphi na ixesha ukuba urhoxe koluphando, kwaye awuyi kubaphantsi kwangcinezelo ukuba uthe warhoxa.

. Uvumelekile ukuba ungawuphenduli umbuzo ongafuniyo ukuwuphendula ukuba awuziva kakuhle ngawo, ngaphandle kokunika inkcazo kumphandi wophando olu , ukuba ke uyakufuna ukuthabatha inxaxheba uyakunikwa elicwecwe nengcazelo ngesivumelwano sokuthatha inxaxheba ukuba uyigcine kwaye uyisayine

### **Zintoni ezithenjiswa ngokuthatha inxaxheba koluphando?**

Nceda yazi ukuba akukho mivuzo okanye zithembiso ezijongene ngqo nawe njengomthathi nxaxheba kolu phando. Abathathi nxaxheba bayokuvuzwa ngendlela engajongenanga ngqo nabo njengoba imiphumela iyakunikezelwa kuMasipala wase Mpumaloloni eKaladokwe ngeenjongo zokuba iyakusetyenziswa ukuba baphuhlise ulutsha olungasebenziyo. Oluphando luyakuncedisa kolulwazi olukhoyo kulutsha olungenamisebenzi neendlela zokuphila ezisetyenziswa eMzantsi Afrika.

### **Zintoni ezingalindelekanga ekuthatheni inxaxheba koluphando?**

Ukuthabatha inxaxheba koluphando akunbungozi okanye imivuka engamihlanga kumthathi nxaxheba

### **Ingaba endiyakuthetha kuya kugcinwa njengemfihlo?**

Ingcazelo oyinike umphandi woluphando iyakugcinwa njengemfihlo. Imfihlo ke o iyakugcinwa njengoba kuya kusentyenziswa amagama anagsingayo ngexesha lokuvavanywa nangokubeka imiqathango ekuqaleni kwalo lonke uphando. . Ingcazelo afana (namagama, ifani, usuku lokuzalwa) Ndifundile (okanye ucacisile kum) ndiyaluvisisa oluphando njengokuba ecacisile kweli phepha lwazi. Ndinethuba eliphangaleleyo lokubuza imibuzo kwaye ndikulungele ukuthatha inxaxheba koluphando . Ndiyayazi ukuba ukuthatha inxaxheba kuku volontiya kwaye ndikhululekile ukubuya umva naninina ngaphandle kokuhlawula (ukuba kukhona) ndiyayazi ukuba iziphumo zolufundo zizoba yimfihlo kwimfumaniso yoluphando kunye nemiphumela yalo.

Apho ndinemibuzo ephangaleleyo okanye ukunqondisi ngalo oluphando ndiyayazi ukuba ndingaxhumana nomphathi wophando olu kulenombolo, 083 599 1665 okanye [MeyersGJ@ufs.ac.za](mailto:MeyersGJ@ufs.ac.za) ukuba ndinemibuzo okanye ndifuna ingcaciso ngamalungelo am njengomthathi nxaxheba, okanye ndifuna ingcaciso ngophando olu ndingaxhumana no Dr Deidre van Rooyen (umphathi luhlelo) kwi nombolo 051 401 3812 okanye [griesd@ufs.ac.za](mailto:griesd@ufs.ac.za) ; Mr Grey Magaiza ku 058 718 5436 okanye [magaiza@ufs.ac.za](mailto:magaiza@ufs.ac.za) (umphathiswa) kunye Mrs Charne Vercueil (kwikomiti yama etiki) 051 401 7083 okanye [VercueilCC@ufs.ac.za](mailto:VercueilCC@ufs.ac.za). Ndiyazi ukuba iziphumo zoluphando zizoba yimfihlo kwicandelo eliveza izinto ezishicilelweyo kunye nalapho kukho abantu bemvaba ezahlukeneyo

Ndiyavumelana nodliwano ndlebe olunxulumene noluphando . Ndifumene icwecwe elisayiniweyo lwesivumelwano.

Igama elipheleleyo lomthathi nxaxheba \_\_\_\_\_

Sayina mthathi nxaxheba \_\_\_\_\_ Umhla \_\_\_\_\_

Igama elipheleleyo lomphandinzulu: Nkosazana Geraldine Joycelyn Meyers

Sayina Mpandinzulu: G.J. Meyers Umhla \_\_\_\_\_

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## Appendix 4: Ethical Clearance Letter



### **GENERAL/HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (GHREC)**

11-Oct-2019

Dear Miss Meyers, Geraldine GJ

#### **Application Approved**

Research Project Title:

**Livelihood strategies of unemployed youth: The case of Cradock, Eastern Cape.**

Ethical Clearance number:

**UFS-HSD2019/0926**

We are pleased to inform you that your application for ethical clearance has been approved. Your ethical clearance is valid for twelve (12) months from the date of issue. We request that any changes that may take place during the course of your study/research project be submitted to the ethics office to ensure ethical transparency. Furthermore, 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 submitting your proposal for ethical clearance; we wish you the best of luck and success with your research.

Yours sincerely

**Prof Derek Litthauer**

**Chairperson: General/Human Research Ethics Committee**

Digitally signed  
by Derek  
Litthauer  
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