

**THE EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF A
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME ON
RURAL COMMUNITIES**

BY

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SUMMARY

The goal of this study was to investigate the impact of the Public Works Programme on the lives of the poor in the community. The objectives were to determine the extent of the programme's reach, to investigate the reasons for the programme's success or failure, and to determine the most effective way of implementing the programme.

The study was conducted in a rural area which required a great deal of effort to reach the target population. The study was carried out in a rural area which required a great deal of effort to reach the target population.

DEDICATION

In my dreams, I was flying high above the clouds, like an eagle, floating and gliding. I felt great.

Awake, I felt thirsty of learning more and more, on uncovering and discovering human behaviour. I felt strongly desirous.

I drunk as much as I could of it, becoming more thirstier than before, as I did. I felt challenged and complete.

I now know that at the end of my drinking, I would have accumulated much of it, flying, floating, and gliding above those clouds. Feeling more freer than before.

These achievements are dedicated to my family members. My lovely wife, Mosley and our two sons, Pfano and Thabang, and little baby Muofhe, my mother Phophi and my six sisters, Muofhe, Tshinakaho, Alidzulwi, Annah, Elisa and Jeaneth.

Thank you for the support, I will always love you.

DN Mamburu

SUMMARY

The goal of this study was to evaluate the impact of the Community Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP) on rural communities. The study's objectives were to investigate through a literature study issues regarding community empowerment and community empowerment programmes; to investigate through an empirical study, the impact of the CBPWP on rural communities; and finally to formulate guidelines and make recommendations on the most effective implementation of the CBPWP on rural communities.

The researcher hypothesised that rural communities which received adequate CBPWP tend to be empowered, therefore this study aimed at establishing whether the CBPWP had an impact on the rural communities that it was intended to empower.

The researcher conducted an in-depth theoretical study on the concept community empowerment which is a new and an effective approach in empowering communities. The community empowerment approach emphasises strong community participation in the processes of the programmes, after which communities will gain enhanced capacity building, full ownership of the assets and minimized reliance on outsiders, and have sustainable development.

Community empowerment was elaborated through the discussion of its elements, its historical background, the process and the empirical outcomes. From a literature study, it was delineated that the CBPWP can effectively empower rural communities if their projects adequately satisfy its six objectives, namely; strong community participation, labour intensive methods of construction, education and training, management and maintenance of assets once they are completed, targeting the most needy within communities and sources of funding.

The population for this study was composed of all the communities who applied for the CBPWP from the Department of Public Works in the Northern Province. Forty eight communities applied for the programme. Twenty one received, and twenty seven did not receive the programme. These two groups represented the experimental and the control groups, respectively. The stratified random sampling method was utilized to draw five communities from each the experimental and the control group. Each of these ten selected communities contributed six of its steering committee members as respondents for this study. A total of sixty respondents participated in this study.

The method of data collection that was implemented was a triangulation of quantitative and qualitative methods, but the main focus was on qualitative, namely; focus group interviews. The respondents' opinions and feelings about the objectives of the CBPWP were captured through asking them questions which were formulated around the objectives.

Through coding procedures, data were reduced from twelve pages transcriptions to a manageable size. Data were presented in themes, tables and figures, and were then interpreted.

The study formulated guidelines and made recommendations regarding the impact and the implementation of the CBPWP on rural communities.

KEY TERMS

Community empowerment

Community empowerment programme

Capacity building

Community participation

Impact evaluation

Affirmative action

Rural community

Grassroots

Community projects

Programme evaluation

OPSOMMING

Hierdie studie het ten doel om die impak van die Community Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP) op landelike gemeenskappe te evalueer. Die doelstellings van die studie was om deur middel van 'n literatuurstudie kwessies rakende gemeenskapsbemagtiging en gemeenskapsbemagtigingsprogramme te ondersoek; om met behulp van 'n empiriese ondersoek die impak van die CBPWP op landelike gemeenskappe te ondersoek, riglyne te formuleer en aanbevelings te maak ten opsigte van effektiewe implementering van die CBPWP in landelike gemeenskappe.

Die navorser het hipoteties veronderstel dat landelike gemeenskappe wat betrokke was by die CBPWP, 'n geneigtheid tot groter bemagtiging toon. Gevolglik het hierdie studie ten doel om vas te stel of die veronderstelde bemagtiging wel plaasgevind het.

'n In-diepte teoretiese studie oor die konsep van gemeenskapsbemagtiging is deur die navorser onderneem. Die gemeenskapsbemagtigingsbenadering lê sterk klem op gemeenskapsdeelname in die prosesse van die programme, met die gevolg dat gemeenskappe verhoogde bekwaamheid, volle eienaarskap van bates met minimale afhanklikheid van buitestaanders en voorgesette ontwikkeling het.

Gemeenskapsbemagtiging is verder ondersoek deur die kenmerke, historiese agtergrond, die proses en die empiriese uitkomst te bespreek. Uit die literatuurstudie kan afgelei word dat die CBPWP landelike gemeenskappe effektief kan bemagtig indien die projekte aan die volgende ses vereistes voldoen: aktiewe gemeenskapsdeelname, arbeidsintensiewe konstruksiemetodes, opvoeding en opleiding, batebestuur en batebeheer, die identifisering van behoeftiges binne die gemeenskap en bronne vir befondsing.

Impak-evaluering

Die populasie bestaan uit al die gemeenskappe wat aansoek gedoen het vir die CBPWP by die Departement van Openbare Werke in die Noordelike Provinsie. Agt en veertig gemeenskappe het vir die CBPWP aansoek gedoen. Een en twintig gemeenskappe is toegelaat tot die program en sewe en twintig was onsuksesvol. Hierdie twee groepe verteenwoordig respektiewelik die eksperimentele groep en die kontrolegroep.

Program-evaluering

Deur middel van 'n gestratifiseerde willekeurige steekproefmetode is vyf gemeenskappe van die eksperimentele groep en die kontrolegroep respektiewelik gekies. Elk van hierdie tien groepe is deur ses gemeenskapsreëlingskomitee-lede as respondente verteenwoordig. In totaal het sestig respondente dus aan hierdie studie deelgeneem.

'n Kwalitatiewe datainsamelingsmetode naamlik fokusgroeponderhoude is gevolg. Die respondente se menings en gevoelens is getoets deur vrae wat rondom die doelstellings van die CBPWP program geformuleer is.

Deur middel van koderingsprosedures is die data vanaf twaalf getranskribeerde bladsye gereduseer na 'n hanteerbare hoeveelheid data. Die data is aangebied en geïnterpreteer met behulp van temas, tabelle en figure.

Uit die navorsing is riglyne en aanbevelings geformuleer met betrekking tot die navorsingsmetodiek wat toegepas is asook die impak en die effektiewe implementering van die CBPWP op landelike gemeenskappe.

SLEUTEL TERME

Gemeenskapsbemaagtiging

Gemeenskapsbemaagtigingsprogramme

Kapasiteitsbou

Gemeenskapsdeelname

Impak-evaluering

Regstellende aksie

Landelike gemeenskappe

Grondvlak

Gemeenskapsprojekte

Program-evaluering

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