

CHAPTER 1: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Poor communities in South Africa are subject to a plethora of adversities which include ill health and community violence (May, 1997:133). The high rate of unemployment amongst the poor contributes to their plight. In addition, a lack of clean water and sanitation, affordable energy sources, transport as well as poor communication structures are added problems for the poor. The disparity between the rich and the poor in South Africa is one of the highest in the world (Barberton, Blake & Kotze, 1998:25). The Gini coefficient, which indicates a country's levels of income from various occupations, shows a skewed distribution in South Africa, compared to similar countries such as Poland and Thailand, which have an equitable income distribution.

Setai (1998:25, 35, 110) expands on the problems encountered by the indigenous people in South Africa since the arrival of the Dutch settlers in the fifteenth century, the various Anglo-Boer Wars, the discovery of gold in South Africa and the protection laws which prevented Africans access to appropriate skills for the job market. Further literature on this aspect (May, 1997:133; Barberton *et al.*, 1998:18; Setai, 1998:7) state unequivocally that the apartheid situation in South Africa during the past four centuries contributed in a large measure to poverty. Presently, the poor in South Africa are not faring better. Fitzgerald, McLennan and Munslow (1999:41) argue that the government's initial concern to implement development programmes for the poor during 1994 was abandoned. In addition, the pursuit of Gear (Growth, Employment and Redistribution – An Economic Strategy for South Africa) by government during 1996 to develop a competitive economy to benefit the poor did not materialise.

Whilst the government wrestles with poverty issues in South Africa, social researchers have their own difficulties in measuring poverty as a social phenomenon. They rely on traditional income instruments, which fail to explain the complex socio, cultural and political aspects that have a negative influence upon poverty. Seipel (2003:191) maintains that owing to a lack of standardised data-collection methodologies accurate figures for global poverty are not available.

In light of the above aspects, this research focuses on how poverty alleviation is addressed in South Africa. More specifically, it focuses on an evaluation of the Integrated Food and Nutrition Programme (IFNP) in Kungwini, which is situated in the Metsweding Municipal District on the border between Mpumalanga and Gauteng. The IFNP was a joint effort between the National and the Gauteng Provincial Departments of Social Development. The IFNP was established as a result of the second United Nations World Conference on Sustainable Development held in South Africa during 2002. One of the goals of the conference was the reduction of world hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity by 50% by 2015 (United Nations Progress Report: Millennium Development Goals 2004/2005). Towards this end, the IFNP aimed to increase household food production and income generating initiatives to assist poor communities. This research was guided by theory and a research question about the presumed relationship between the IFNP and poverty alleviation in Kungwini.

The researcher was motivated to choose poverty alleviation as her research topic as she is of the opinion that effective service delivery to the poor needs to be addressed urgently by government and non-governmental agencies. Employed by the National Department of Social Development, the researcher had to contend daily with the adverse situation of the poor. The current socio-political climate prevailing in South Africa and its adverse impact upon the poor was an added impetus for the researcher to choose poverty alleviation as her topic.

During 1994 the poor were provided a glimmer of hope, as the new government was committed to addressing poverty alleviation through the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). The RDP held much hope, as many homes were built for the poor. However, the backlog in housing could not be addressed by the RDP. In addition, there were inadequate resources to address the needs of the poor. The government then focused on the economic growth of South Africa through GEAR (Growth, Employment and Redistribution) during 1996. The rationale was that through an improved economy, the benefits would filter down to the poor. The good intentions of the government were not realised, as there were other pressing problems in South Africa apart from poverty alleviation. These included HIV/AIDS and spiralling crime.

The situation facing the poor in South Africa remains grim, despite government's poverty alleviation efforts, which include extending the qualifying ages of the child

support grant programme and creating employment through the Extended Public Works Programme. The poor however, remain poor (Barberton *et al.*, 1998:15-35; Bhorat, Leibbrandt, Maziya, Van der Berg & Woolard, 2001:36-55). Relative to poverty, unemployment in South Africa remains an acute problem.

A comparison of the unemployment statistics for the period 2008 to 2009 provides a synopsis of the unemployment situation in South Africa. The annual report of Statistics South Africa, 2008-2009 (11-16) provides the following gender unemployment rates:

Table 1: Unemployment by gender (2008-2009)

Unemployed	Oct-Dec 08	July-Sept 09	Oct-Dec 09	Qrt-to-Qrt change	Year-on-year change	Qrt-to-Qrt change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand				Percent		
Total	3 873	4 192	4 165	-27	292	-0,6	7,5
Women	2 070	2 080	2 033	-47	-37	-2,3	-1,8
Men	1 804	2 113	2 131	18	327	0,9	18,1

(Statistics South Africa, 2009:11-16)

Table 1 above indicates that during the third quarter in 2009, the number of unemployed women decreased by 47 000, while the number of unemployed men increased by 18 000, resulting in an overall decrease of 27 000 unemployed persons. The year-on-year comparisons indicate that the number of unemployed persons increased by 292 000, with the annual increase of 18,1% (327 000) among men and a decrease of 1,8% (37 000) among women.

Table 2: Unemployment rate by population group (2008-2009)

	Black/African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	South Africa
Q4: 2008	25,9	17,9	11,7	3,0	21,9
Q3: 2009	28,8	21,6	12,7	4,8	24,5
Q4: 2009	28,6	20,8	11,1	4,9	24,3

(Statistics South Africa, 2009:11-16)

Table 2 indicates that between the third quarter of 2009, the unemployment rate remained unchanged for the Black/African population and White population, while it decreased among the Indian/Asian and coloured population by 1,6% and 0,8% respectively.

The above figures suggest that unemployment and poverty are linked and cut across all racial and gender groups in South Africa. The black population group is most affected by unemployment and the poverty rate is therefore higher amongst this population group.

The researcher is of the opinion that public service delivery to the poor should be strengthened to address their plight. The current socio-political climate prevailing in South Africa does not benefit the poor, as they remain a marginalised group in society. In addition to poverty, the scourge of HIV/AIDS impacts negatively upon the poor, who have to contend with a disease that devastates families and communities.

The social development paradigm formed the theoretical base for the research study. Social development empowers welfare clients to improve their adverse circumstances despite the structural adversities that have a negative impact on their lives. This is accomplished through planned social change that promotes their welfare in conjunction with economic development. In terms of modernizing welfare services, social development enables clients to take decisions that affect their wellbeing in an enabling environment. The strengths of the social development paradigm is based on intervention strategies that address the macro, meso, and micro levels which include local communities in public strategies to address social issues.

Social development as a principle was widely recognized following the United Nations Copenhagen Declaration-World Summit for Social Development in 1995. The premise of social development was that communities should live in peace and their basic rights respected. Social development would ideally be individually based, where a number of persons would be enabled through capacity building and development, to reach out to their communities and, together, strive to achieve social and economic development.

Social development is linked to social work, both in theory and practice. However, where social work has a narrow function in terms of being reactive and clinical in its approach to assisting individuals and groups to cope with their problems, it can become a dynamic force for social change when it takes on a proactive function through social development to maximize their potential to change their

circumstances. As the developmental welfare paradigm redefines welfare as social development, national policies and initiatives should therefore be broadly aligned accordingly (Homefeldt & Reutlinger, 2011:1-3; Gray, 2005:53-5).

Strydom and Delport (2002a:337) claim that the contributions of experts will add valuable information in qualitative research. The knowledge and experience of experts in the field of poverty alleviation assisted the researcher to gain a broader perspective and to review and refine the research question. The Gauteng Department of Social Development established the IFNP in Kungwini without broader consultation with experts in the poverty alleviation field. The researcher has shared the goal and objectives of this research with the following experts.

An interview with Dr. Andrew Paterson, Chief Research Specialist, Human Resource Development Research Programme, and Human Sciences Research Council was conducted on the 14th May 2005. Dr. Patterson was of the opinion that the IFNP provides an ideal vehicle to develop the capacity of the poor in Kungwini. This depends, however, on effective policy implementation and the working relationship between the various government departments involved in the programme and the sustainability of the programme.

Prof. O Akinboade is the co-ordinator for research regarding economics and poverty alleviation at the University of South Africa (UNISA). During the 1990s, Prof. Akinboade was actively involved in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Gambia on poverty alleviation issues. His experiences in Gambia are being utilised in the South African context regarding economic development in poor communities. A telephonic interview was held with Prof Akinboade on the 16th May 2005. Dr. Akinboade expressed the opinion that poverty alleviation policies require an integrated approach with the active involvement of poor communities. The IFNP's policy implementation should therefore be viewed in this light to ensure its impact.

Dr. Sheryl Hendriks is the co-ordinator for the Food and Security Programme, School of Agricultural Sciences, Pietermaritzburg Campus, University of KwaZulu-Natal. A telephonic interview was held with Dr. Hendriks on the 11th June 2005, in which she proclaimed that poverty alleviation programmes require practical policy approaches in order to make an impact on poor communities. Though the IFNP appears to be a

practical approach by government to alleviate poverty in Kungwini, there is a need for a concerted effort by all stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

During the above interviews with Dr. Patterson, Dr. Akinboade and Dr. Hendriks, they agreed unanimously that the IFNP should ensure sustainable implementation.

This research will assist the National and Provincial Departments of Social Development to review their strategies regarding poverty programmes, in order to render effective services to the poor. In addition, the research findings may assist the poor in the community of Kungwini to attain an improved quality of life, as the National and Gauteng Provincial Departments of Social Development will assess the research recommendations.

1.2 PROBLEM FORMULATION

In addition to the dire plight of the poor in South Africa, which is expanded upon in the introduction to this research report, social researchers have their own conceptual difficulties to measure poverty. They rely on traditional income instruments to measure poverty, which do not explain the complex social, cultural and political aspects that have a negative influence upon poverty. As a result, the methodological and conceptual difficulties with the measurement of poverty remain. According to Estes (1999:17), there is a need for a comprehensive measurement of poverty, which utilises instruments that combine social, political and traditional economic indicators. The following authors expand on this issue:

Bonser, McGregor, Clinton and Oster (1996:165) refer to the Orshansky poverty index, developed by an American economist, Mollie Orshansky in the 1960s. The index is currently used to measure absolute poverty based on a family's basic food budget. This measurement provides a statistical measure to assess poverty, which falls above or below the poverty line. The poverty line serves as a base to evaluate the impact of public government poverty programmes on impoverished households. The absolute poverty line indicates over a period, the effect of the economy and inflation upon poor families.

Seipel (2003:192) mentions the two concepts used globally to define poverty. These include income poverty, which has two variations, namely absolute poverty and

relative poverty and the Human Poverty Index, which was developed by the United Nations Development Programme to indicate deprivations such as malnutrition, illiteracy and access to health care and safe water.

Estes (1999:14) outlines the spatial distribution of poverty most commonly used by comparative researchers. These include case poverty (inability of families to satisfy their basic needs), collective poverty (inability of large groups of people to meet their basic needs), widespread poverty (25% of the population experience poverty), concentrated poverty (ghettos in cities), rural poverty (isolation from urban centres) and urban poverty (income poverty in large cities and towns).

The Orskansky Poverty Index and the Human Poverty Index are not applicable instruments to measure poverty in South Africa as the former is based on a family's daily food budget. Poor communities in South Africa do not receive a stipend for their daily food allowance. The latter does not address social issues such as skills development and employment opportunities.

The Spatial Distribution of Poverty could be utilised in the social science field as it indicates degrees of poverty applicable in Kungwini. The area experiences case poverty (inability of families to satisfy their basic needs), widespread poverty, which according to the Metsweding District Municipality IDP Review (2008-2009:23-26), the majority of the population is very poor. Notwithstanding the value of the Spatial Distribution of Poverty, an urgent need remains for the development of a holistic South African poverty index for the social science field that would address income, social and cultural aspects of poverty.

Regarding service delivery to poor clients, Lowe (1999:106-141) argues that an urgent need exists for social service agencies to renew their historical commitment to the poor. Dowling (1999:96, 143-145) is of the opinion that inferior social service delivery must be replaced with a dynamic relationship between service providers and poor clients. Community organisations and advocacy groups express grave concern that the plight of the poor would be placed on the back burner, as the government pursues globalisation to establish a sound economic base for South Africa (May, 1997:51-57; Barberton *et al.*, 1998:38; Bhorat *et al.*, 2001:45). In addition, there are inadequate resources to alleviate the plight of the poor. Taking cognisance of the

above factors, the researcher is of the opinion that government social service departments will be able to effectively address poverty through a unified effort between departments.

Dunn (2003:65) defines social policy as an analytical framework that gauges public service delivery regarding poverty alleviation and improves government's performance, while Jansson (1994:3) characterises social policy as a collective strategy to address barriers to effective service delivery and wastage of resources. Bonser, McGregor, Clinton and Oster (1996:407) contend that there is an urgent need to decentralise public service delivery to local level to ensure efficiency. In this respect, the sector will require radical changes to effectively address poverty alleviation and empower poor communities. An objective of this research correlates with Dunn's (2003:65) policy framework, namely to evaluate the impact of the IFNP. In light of the above facts, it is essential that relevant poverty alleviation programmes be based on a policy framework that include long-term planning which provide sustainable benefits to poor communities.

The White Paper for Social Welfare (1997:15), the policy framework for social welfare, states the following:

Social welfare is intrinsically linked to services that meet the needs and aspirations of people. These services provide a range of social development through adequate health, education, housing, employment, rural and urban development and land reform. The welfare of the population will be enhanced by economic growth through the equitable allocation of resources.

Following the development of the White Paper for Social Welfare (1997), the government hosted the second United Nations World Summit for Social Development in 2002, which mandated the governments of one hundred and eighty six (186) countries to strengthen policies to reduce poverty. The first World Summit on Social Development was held in 1992 in Rio, Brazil. There was collective agreement at both Summits that employment creation would be the focus of government policies and strategies globally (United Nations Progress Report: Millennium Development Goals 2004/2005).

King-Dejardin and Berar-Awad (2003:13-14) state that both the 1992 and 2002 World Summit for Social Development set targets for developing countries by 2015. These include the reduction of world poverty by 50% and the reversal of environmental resources. South Africa has committed itself to the above targets.

The IFNP was established by the Gauteng Department of Social Development, in collaboration with the National Department of Social Development, to address the three poverty pockets in Gauteng, namely, Kungwini, Sebokeng and Westonaria. The distribution of food packages to poor households was a precursor to the implementation of the IFNP's short-, medium- and long-term goals. This research assessed the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini for the 2006 cycle to reduce poverty.

1.2.1 Kungwini population profile

The Metsweding District Municipality IDP Review (2008-2009:23-26) provides the following information pertaining to the Metsweding District Municipality:

Kungwini is situated in the Metsweding District Municipality, which borders Gauteng in the North East, the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality to the West and Mpumalanga Province to the East. Metsweding consists of two local municipalities, namely Nokeng Tsa Taemane Local Municipality and Kungwini Local Municipality (in Bronkhorstspuit) and has a population of 40 151. According to the Department of Statistics (2005:48), the poverty index is 31,3% and the poverty population is 37,3%.

The population within the Metsweding District Municipality was estimated at 196 341 by 2008, compared to 162 266 in 2001. The increase is based on the annual district growth rate of 3%. The population estimates for 2008 include 58 007 (Nokeng Tsa Taemane Local Municipality – compared to 53 202 in 2001, with a growth rate of 1%); 139 600 (Kungwini Local Municipality – compared to 109 063 in 2001, with a growth rate of 4%). There are 85 091 males and 77 179 females in the entire district. Households within the district total 51 004 (Kungwini – 34 170, Nokeng Tsa Taemane – 16 834). Household size in Metsweding is largely between 1-5 persons per household.

1.2.2 Household dependency status

Nokeng has a much larger portion of working age persons (69.2%) than Kungwini (64.7%). Kungwini has a more youthful population (30.1%) than Nokeng Tsa Taemane (26.1%) and Metsweding (28.8%). Kungwini also has the largest component of elderly people above 65, compared to Nokeng Tsa Taemane and Medsweding, which means that Kungwini has a higher age-dependency ratio (0.6%) than Nokeng Tsa Taemane (0.4%) and Metsweding (0.5%), which indicates an average lower quality of life for the residents of Kungwini.

The above figures for Kungwini indicate that on average, every working-aged individual has 0.6 other people (the youth and the elderly) to support, compared to 0.4 dependents in Nokeng Tsa Taemane.

Kungwini has the largest concentration of adults (20.4%) who did not have any form of formal education, while 31.6% had at least a Grade 12 qualification. Nokeng Tsa Taemane had a higher literacy rate (87.5%) than Kungwini (79.6%). The levels of skills that determine levels of employment in Metsweding indicate that 12.2% have some form of craft and trade-related skills (Metsweding District Municipality IDP Review, 2008-2009: 23-26).

1.2.3 Employment status

The largest category of the employed in Metsweding (35.0%); Kungwini (36.1%) and Nokeng Tsa Taemane (33.3%) are employed in elementary occupations that can be regarded as low to semi-skilled. The following table provides the income per month amongst the employed:

Table 3: Income amongst the employed

Income	Gauteng	Metsweding	Kungwini	Nokeng Tsa Taemane
R1-R400	6.5%	13.8%	15.1%	11,9%
R400-R800	13.3%	26.6%	28,5%	23,8%
R801-R1 600	24.5%	22.6%	23.5%	21,1%
R1 601-R3 200	20.8%	13.6%	11.1%	17.4%
R3 201-R6 400	16.1%	10.5%	8.5%	13.6%
R102 401-R204 801	0.3%	.3%	.4%	.2%

(Metsweding District Municipality IDP Review, 2008-2009:30-31).

The figures in the last two rows above relate to technicians, associated professionals, managers and senior officials.

From the above figures, it is evident that the largest share of the employed population in Metsweding earns less than R3 200 per month. This is the same for Nokeng Tsa Taemane and Kungwini, where 74.2% and 78.2% of the economically active population earns less than R3 200 per month respectively.

It is evident that the majority of the population in Metsweding is very poor and is experiencing relatively low living standards and a poor quality of life. These low income levels indicate that the majority of the population of Metsweding is less able to afford basic services such as water, sanitation and other essential services, compared to the rest of Gauteng Province (Metsweding District Municipality IDP Review, 2008-2009: 30-31).

The IFNP was to be implemented in partnership with the Departments of Health, Education, Agriculture, the local municipality and community organisations. There is a lack of information regarding the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini. The three experts who were consulted for this research (refer 1.1 p.5) concurred with the above statement as follows:

- Paterson (2005) is of the opinion that it is imperative that the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini is evaluated. This will ensure that gaps in the programme are identified and the relevant policy reviewed.
- Hendriks (2005) holds that generally, there is a severe lack of evaluation of government's poverty alleviation programmes. There is an urgent need to evaluate the IFNP to establish the need for a policy review. This could have consequences for other government poverty alleviation programmes in the Gauteng province.
- Akimboade (2005) believes that government's efforts to alleviate poverty require a holistic approach. Effective planning and implementation of the IFNP as a poverty alleviation project requires a parallel skills training process to ensure the impact of the programme.

1.3. PURPOSE, GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

1.3.1 Purpose

Fouché (2002a:107) defines purpose and aim (which are used as synonyms) as the broader abstract conception towards which a researcher directs his or her efforts. May (1997:8) describes aim (or purpose) as the researcher's pursuit to gain understanding regarding a social phenomena, the structured endeavour to attain conclusive results of an investigation. The purpose of this research is to evaluate whether the IFNP had an impact on poverty alleviation in Kungwini.

1.3.2 Goal and objectives

Fouché (2002a:107) describes a goal as the dream that a researcher conjectures and objectives as the measurable steps taken to attain the goal, while Collins (1999:2) defines a goal as the identification of problems and objectives as the planned steps that a researcher takes to gain new knowledge regarding the issue. A goal is a researcher's efforts to bring change in a troublesome social situation and objectives are the well-planned steps taken to solve the problem.

In the researcher's opinion, a goal is the researcher's efforts to transform adverse social situations and objectives as the focused well-planned strategies to solve the problem. Fouché (2002a:108-109) maintains that the goal of applied research is aimed at solving specific policy problems or to accomplish tasks. It is focused on solving problems in practice. This research is applied research, which according to Dunn (2003:65) will improve service delivery by focusing on policy problems and policy performance.

The goal of this research is stated as follows: To evaluate the impact of the IFNP on the poor in Kungwini. The objectives of this research are the following:

- To formulate a conceptual framework through a literature study regarding poverty in South Africa, poverty relief programmes within the context of the policies of the RDP, the White Paper for Social Welfare, GEAR and ASgiSA.
- To evaluate the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini.

- To draw conclusions and provide recommendations regarding the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini to policy makers at the National and the Gauteng Provincial Departments of Social Development.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTION

This research utilised a research question to search for answers regarding the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini. Pole and Lampard (2002:12) define a research question as that which identifies and provides the context for the research process and the manner in which the topic may be explored. Holliday (2002:36-49) describes a research question as the researcher's endeavour to establish a research setting and to identify the specific direction of the investigation. The research question directs a research investigation to search for answers to questions regarding the effectiveness of a specific social intervention.

The research question for this research is stated as follows: What is the impact of the IFNP upon the poor in Kungwini?

1.5 RESEARCH APPROACH

Babbie, Mouton, Vorster and Prozesky (2001:47-49) identify three dominant methodological approaches in social research. These include the quantitative, qualitative and participatory action approaches. Babbie *et al.* (2001:49-53) assert that social scientists use the above approaches to develop methods, underlying principles and assumptions in social research. The quantitative approach measures the properties of a phenomenon. The qualitative approach is based on the social scientist's insider perspective on social action, which describes and understands rather than explains or predicts human behaviour. The emphasis in the qualitative approach is on observation, unstructured interviewing and studying personal documents.

This research utilised a combined quantitative and qualitative approach. According to De Vos (2002b:365), the combined approach provides the following advantages:

- The qualitative perspective provides a first hand, holistic understanding of a phenomena.

- The quantitative perspective provides objective observance of social reality based on specific questions.

De Vos (2002b:365) continues by stating that a combination of the quantitative and qualitative methods complement each other and provide a better understanding of human nature and social reality.

Rosnow and Rosenthal (1999:81) stipulate that qualitative data exists in non-numerical form (reports and conversations) and in quantitative form (observer ratings). The following are the reasons for using the combined approach to evaluate the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini:

- The qualitative aspect of the research is closely identified with evaluative research and will provide in-depth information to policy makers regarding the impact of the IFNP.
- The quantitative aspect of the research will focus on the effectiveness of the IFNP. This has important implications for policy implementation.
- Both methods in the combined approach will assist in identifying the constraints regarding the impact of the programme (De Vos, 2002b:369).
- De Vos (2002b:369) states further that the quantitative and qualitative methods are inextricably intertwined, although each represents a different perspective. The combination will assist the analysis, conclusions and generalisations of the research (De Vos, 2002b:269).

The combined qualitative and quantitative approach for this study was accomplished through the following:

- Formulating the research problem qualitatively to evaluate the impact of the IFNP from the participants' viewpoints.
- Describing the experiences of the poor in Kungwini for the qualitative method regarding the impact of the IFNP.
- Capturing statistical (quantitative) and descriptive (qualitative) data to gather comprehensive information regarding the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini.

- Labelling and coding the data on a computer system for the quantitative method.

The quantitative method investigated the observations of management regarding the implementation of the IFNP as a poverty alleviation programme in Kungwini and to evaluate whether the goals of the IFNP have been achieved. These include an increase in household food production, establishing income-generating and marketing initiatives, and diverting impoverished households to appropriate social security and skills training programmes.

The qualitative method describes the experiences of the poor in Kungwini regarding the impact of the IFNP to alleviate household poverty. The complementary nature of the combined approach provides an investigative evaluation of the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini. This in turn assisted the researcher to attain the objectives of this research, namely to formulate a conceptual framework, evaluate the IFNP policy and provide recommendations to policy makers.

1.6 TYPE OF RESEARCH

The following types of research were utilised for this research:

1.6.1 Applied research

Fouché (2002a:108) states that the goals of professional research are either basic or applied. Basic research provides a foundation for knowledge and understanding, i.e. to extend the theoretical knowledge base. Applied research on the other hand, is the scientific planning of induced change in a problematic situation or to assist practitioners to accomplish tasks through empowerment, awareness and political action.

Bailey and Burch (2002:1-4) specify that applied research refers to a specific approach to study human behaviour, developing empirically based interventions at individual level to gauge the reason for the specific behaviour. The data obtained through applied research is used for effective interventions to improve social conditions. Applied research does not express general statements regarding a population. The focus is on individual actions to comprehend human behaviour. For

the purposes of this research, applied research enabled the researcher to attain an objective of this research, namely to evaluate the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini.

1.6.2 Sub-type research

The sub-type research chosen for this research is evaluation research. According to De Vos (2002:373), evaluation research assesses and improves the management of social service policies and programmes. Evaluation research dovetails with the objectives of this research, namely to evaluate the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini.

1.7 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Strydom (2002:63) defines ethics as a set of moral principles that provide rules for behavioural expectations regarding the researcher's conduct towards experimental subjects, employers, sponsors, fellow researchers, assistants and students, while Rosnow and Rosenthal (1999:57) characterise the term ethics as the moral and character values that govern conduct. In the researcher's opinion, ethics can be defined as the attitude and responses of the researcher in the research setting that convey exemplary conduct above reproach. The researcher carefully observed the following important aspects in respect of ethical considerations:

1.7.1 Informed consent

Strydom (2002a:65) explains that respondents' informed consent includes the provision of all necessary information regarding the goal of the investigation including the advantages and disadvantages. The researcher's credibility and the respondents' voluntary participation are ensured. Rosnow and Rosenthal (1999:59) allude to respect and the respondent's right to choose whether to participate in the research. For the purposes of this research, the researcher was aware of the above aspects and ensured that the respondents and research participants were fully informed on all aspects of the research, including the aims and objectives and their freedom of choice to participate in the process. Respondents and research participants were free to withdraw from the research at any time. In this respect, the respondents and the research participants signed the informed consent form. Children from the extended households signed a separate informed consent form, accompanied by the parent's signature agreeing for the child to participate in the research.

1.7.2 Confidentiality

According to Wagenaar and Babbie (1999:284), the researcher might have confidential knowledge about respondents, which may indicate deviant behaviour, unpopular attitudes and demeaning personal characteristics. In addition, the researcher may identify a respondent, who was supposed to be anonymous, through particular responses. Strydom (2002a:63) emphasises that the researcher has an obligation to safely guard all information confided in trust. For this research, the researcher ensured that at all times, all information entrusted to her was held in confidence. All written material and taped conversations were kept in a safe place. In addition, confidentiality was inculcated in the community worker who assisted with the qualitative research. The informed consent forms ensured information confidentiality. All research data will be stored in the safe of the Department of Social Work and Criminology for a period of 15 years.

1.7.3 Deception

Strydom (2002a:66) indicates aspects of deception by the researcher, which includes deliberately misrepresenting facts, violating respondents' respect, withholding information or providing incorrect information to enlist their participation. Wagenaar and Babbie (1995:285) refer to social scientists that identify themselves as researchers but fail to inform respondents of the true nature of the research. Pole and Lampard (2002:24) suggest data collection, which may be overt or covert, which reflects either transparency or deceit.

As the goal of this research is to ensure effective service delivery to poor clients, the researcher ensured that she was honest and transparent in her dealings with the respondents. The letter attached to the consent form outlining the purpose of the research, further assured the researcher's accountability in this regard.

1.7.4 Violation of privacy

Strydom (2002a:67) views violation of privacy, the right to self-determination and confidentiality in the same light. This concerns the right of the individuals to decide whether to reveal their beliefs, behaviour or attitudes. While privacy implies personal privacy, confidentiality requires that the researcher ensure that all information is strictly off-bounds to others and that no hidden cameras, microphones, video cameras

or one-way mirrors are utilised without the respondents' prior knowledge. For this research, the researcher was sensitive to the above aspects, especially regarding the respondent's right to privacy regarding the divulging of personal information. The researcher was honest regarding the manner in which information was to be collected and ensured that information was gathered in an objective manner and not as a result of a pre-determined response.

1.7.5 Harm to respondents

Pole and Lampard (2002:23-25, 60) state that to ensure no harm comes to respondents during the course of the research process (and even after the conclusion of the research) the researcher should ensure the confidentiality of information and anonymity of the respondents. In addition, the researcher should anticipate at the outset the constraints that may impact physically or emotionally upon the respondents. Rosnow and Rosenthal (1999:979) agree and state that the researcher is obliged to undertake research that is beneficial and produces valid results, not at the expense of causing physical or psychological harm to respondents.

The researcher concurs with the above aspects and during the course of this research, was aware of and avoided at all costs, any potential risks, both physically or emotionally that could have a negative impact upon the respondents. The focus groups were hosted in a secure venue and the questions from the interview schedule focused on the impact of the IFNP and not on personal questions that caused discomfort. In addition, the researcher ensured that individuals in the focus group meetings did not feel vulnerable in a group setting, by allaying their fears and being observant to their non-verbal communication.

1.7.6 Actions and competence of the researcher

Strydom (2002a:69) declares that the whole research process should be conducted in an ethically correct manner. This includes the obligation the researcher has toward colleagues in the scientific community to provide an accurate report regarding the analysis of the data and the results of the study. Wagenaar and Babbie (1999:285) agree and state that ethical obligations to colleagues call for accurate reporting of the shortcomings and negative findings of the research.

The researcher worked with respondents across cultural boundaries. This required objectivity and restraint in making value judgements (Strydom, 2002a:70). The researcher remained focused on the research process and conducted the study in a competent professional manner. This included informing the community worker of all aspects pertaining to the research. The community worker's commitment to the research process was assured through regular meetings, personal contact and teamwork.

1.7.7 Co-operation with contributors

According to Strydom (2002a:70-71), the researcher has an ethical responsibility to disclose the actual findings of the research to sponsors, colleagues, or to fellow researchers involved in the investigation. Their contributions to the research should be acknowledged. To further ensure ethical considerations in dealing with contributors, the researcher should be aware of the following:

- Not disclosing the results of the research to suit a sponsor's expectations
- Not acknowledging the contributions of colleagues and/or fellow researchers
- Not involving all participants in planning the research.

For the purpose of this research, the researcher was careful to abide by the following:

- Ensure that a formal contract between the researcher and the community worker was signed that states clearly the extent of her contributions and role in the research.
- Acknowledge the contributions of persons who assisted in the analysis of the research data and the compilation of the research report.
- Ensure that the research report to the National and Gauteng Provincial Departments of Social Development accurately outlined the impact of the IFNP and did not gloss over pertinent shortcomings of the IFNP.

1.7.8 Release or publication of the findings

Strydom (2002a:71) believes that the findings of the study should be made available to the reading public in a written report in order to convey the importance of the study

as a scientific investigation. In addition, the onus of an accurate, clear report, without any ambiguity or misrepresentations will assist other researchers who may use the findings in other areas of study. The researcher should ensure that there is no bias, plagiarism, shortcomings or errors. Subjects should be informed objectively regarding the findings, without breaking confidentiality.

The thesis will be submitted to the Department of Social Work and Criminology at the University of Pretoria and two articles will be available for publication in scientific journals. In addition, the research report will be forwarded to the National and Provincial Departments of Social Development regarding the outcome of this research. Strydom (2002a:70-71) asserts that in the same manner, the researcher is obligated to the respondents and community leaders to provide the results of the study. This aspect will be duly undertaken in terms of distributing the research report to the relevant departments and organisations that participated in the research.

1.8 DEFINITION OF KEY CONCEPTS

De Vos (2002c:29) defines a concept as a specific term utilised by science to provide meaning to abstract ideas. A scientist conceptualises problems in a scientific inquiry using concepts, which may be true or false, valid or invalid. A concept gives meaning to a statement and the experiences and perceptions of participants regarding a particular phenomenon. Graziano and Raulin (2000:175) describe a concept as the process that is followed by a researcher from the initial refining of an idea into a problem statement. The problem statement is then converted into specific procedures for measurement or manipulation, namely into operational definitions of concepts.

In the researcher's opinion, a concept can be defined as the concretising of an image or mind picture that a researcher desires to pursue in a study. The concretised images (concepts) then become the focus around which scientific enquiry flows, in order to seek solutions to social problems. The following concepts were incorporated in this research:

1.8.1 Evaluation

Rosnow and Rosenthal (1999:94) define evaluation as the purpose to determine the usefulness of a procedure or intervention used in a real world setting, while De Vos

(2002a:373) defines evaluation as the process of weighing or assessing, in a general sense, the value of a commodity. In the researcher's opinion, evaluation can be defined as a critical assessment to determine whether a specific programme or service is achieving the purpose that it set out to accomplish.

The above definitions aptly describe evaluation as a critical tool to assess the effectiveness of service delivery to poor communities, in order to ensure that poverty alleviation programmes are effective to reduce poverty.

1.8.2 Impact

Du Toit, Van der Walt, Bayat and Cheminais (1999:145) describe impact as effective service delivery to improve the quality of life of poor communities. Gildenhuis and Knipe (2000:128) state that impact is dependent upon government's capability to deliver effective services. The researcher defines impact as the extent to which the programme has brought about positive consequences for individuals and communities. These definitions aptly describe the manner in which government should deliver services to poor communities to ensure that poverty is drastically reduced.

1.8.3 The Integrated Food and Nutrition Programme

The Gauteng Department of Social Development defines the IFNP as the strategy to address poverty through the establishment of community food gardens in order to generate wealth for poor communities. An integral aspect of the programme concerns skills development to enable communities to attain a better standard of living.

1.8.4 Programme

According to Gildenhuis and Knipe (2000:125), a programme is the response by public institutions to an individual and a specific group's problems, needs and values. These responses should be increased and secured through public decision-making based on programme effectiveness and social equity. Du Toit *et al.* (1999:175) define a programme as the planning that identifies potential problems and formulating objectives to solve the problems. In the researcher's opinion, a programme is a blueprint for a plan of action to address a specific problem, where the plan of action is

based on specific goals and objectives that are aligned with the appropriate resources to address the problem effectively.

The above definitions describe the responsibility of policy makers and programme managers to ensure that public programmes targeting the poor are effective to alleviate poverty.

1.8.5 Poverty

Barberton *et al.* (1998:18) describe poverty as the inability of individuals to attain a minimum standard of living in terms of basic needs or income, while Dowling (1999:5) defines poverty as the lack of money and resources for the poor to control their situation. This includes the lack of opportunities to make choices for their lives. The researcher defines poverty as the inability of a marginalised group of people to improve the quality of their lives.

The above definitions outline the adverse experiences of the poor in South Africa, ranging from a lack of food to unemployment and helplessness.

1.8.6 Poverty alleviation

Barberton *et al.* (1998:18) claim that poverty alleviation is a multi-faceted approach that links the reduction of hunger, unemployment, exploitation, lack of access to water, sanitation, health care, vulnerability to crises and homelessness. Dowling (1999:5) defines poverty alleviation as the provision of resources and opportunities for the poor to enable them to attain a better living standard. The researcher defines poverty alleviation as the efforts by government to assist individuals, groups of people and communities to attain an acceptable standard of living that will restore their personal worth and dignity.

The above definitions describe government's need to address various crucial issues pertaining to the poor, in order to ensure their well-being.

1.9 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The researcher identified the following limitations of the research. These limitations, however, were not major obstacles to the research.

There was much reluctance from certain managers of the IFNP to provide information, documents, or to participate in the research investigation, despite being encouraged to do so by senior management. This reluctance however, was only limited to a very small group of four possible respondents out of 129 respondents, which translates into 3%.

Four field workers who were involved with the IFNP in Kungwini could not be traced. This did not, however, have an impact on the research processes. Three field workers who were to assist at the focus group meetings were present only at the last meeting. Prior arrangements were made with the local social service office for their involvement at all the focus group meetings. This did not however, have any impact on the research processes, as the community worker provided an excellent service at all the focus group meetings and the extended household interviews.

According to the Strategic Plan of the IFNP, relevant government departments were to be an integral part of the programme in Kungwini. The respondents for the quantitative approach therefore included individuals from the related government departments that implement separate poverty programmes in Kungwini. These parallel processes that contribute to departments seldom working together on common poverty projects is a limitation. To overcome this limitation, the researcher spent a considerable amount of time on making telephone calls, paying personal visits and sending e-mails to the relevant departments to explain the purpose and objectives of this research.

1.10 PRESENTATION OF THE RESEARCH REPORT

The thesis is divided into the following seven chapters:

Chapter 1: General Introduction

Chapter 1 includes the problem formulation, goals and objectives of the research, the research design and methodology, ethical issues and definition of key concepts.

Chapter 2: Poverty: A Global and National Phenomenon

Chapter 2 includes the literature study on poverty issues. The impact of poverty on the poor is discussed at length, as well as the role of relevant government departments in supporting the poor.

Chapter 3: Poverty Alleviation Policies and Programmes

Chapter 3 discusses poverty policies from the literature study and highlights selective poverty alleviation programmes, with special focus on the IFNP within the context of the RDP, the White Paper for Social Welfare (1997), GEAR and ASgiSA.

Chapter 4: Research methodology

Chapter 4 focuses on the development of the measuring instruments for the qualitative and quantitative methods, planning and undertaking the pilot study and collecting data for both the qualitative and quantitative methods.

Chapter 5: Analysis and Interpretation of Data for the Qualitative Approach

Chapter 5 includes the analysis of data to obtain answers to the research question and to test the research question, namely, what is the impact of the IFNP upon the poor in Kungwini? The interpretation of the data assisted to find meaning to the research question and to draw conclusions. The analysis and interpretation of data was compared to theories from the literature study.

Chapter 6: Analysis and Interpretation of Data for the Quantitative Approach

Chapter 6 includes the analysis of data to obtain answers to the research question and to test the research question, namely, what is the impact of the IFNP upon the poor in Kungwini? The interpretation of the data provided answers to the research question and reaching conclusions. The analysis and interpretation of data was compared to theories from the literature study.

Chapter 7: Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

Chapter 7 includes a summary of the main points of the research as well as the findings of the research. Answers are provided to the research question regarding the goals and objectives of the research and recommendations formulated to improve service delivery to the poor.

1.11 CHAPTER SUMMARY

Chapter 1 introduced the research and includes an overview of poverty from the literature study, including the high rates of unemployment in South Africa. Expert

views on poverty include integrated stakeholder involvement, programme sustainability and poverty policy review.

The problems formulation includes the conceptual difficulties to measure poverty and definitions of relative poverty and absolute poverty. The goal of the research is to assess the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini. The objectives are to formulate a conceptual framework through a literature study regarding poverty in South Africa, draw conclusions and provide recommendations regarding the programme's impact.

The research question states: What is the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini?

The type of research is applied research to evaluate the impact of the IFNP to reduce poverty in Kungwini. Ethical considerations include informed consent, confidentiality, deception, violation of privacy, harm to respondents, actions and competence of the researcher, co-operation with contributors, as well as release of research findings.

Definitions of key concepts include evaluation, impact, IFNP, programme, poverty, poverty alleviation and limitation of the study.