

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS, GUIDELINES FOR THE ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICE IN MADINYANE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter 4 dealt extensively with the presentation and the interpretation of the empirical data. This chapter will concentrate on the aim and the objectives of the study, conclusions, guidelines and recommendations for the Animal Health Service in Madinyane.

5.2 AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study was to determine the socio-economic and the socio-cultural factors influencing the people's involvement in the Animal Health Service in Madinyane.

This aim was met through research focusing on the review of available literature on social development in Chapter 2, the theoretical foundation of Animal Health Services as a poverty alleviation strategy in Chapter 3 and through the empirical study in Chapter 4.

The hypothesis of the study was as follows:

Socio-economic and socio-cultural factors have an influence on people's involvement and participation in the Animal Health Service in Madinyane.

The research findings correlate with this hypothesis and the information obtained through literature study and data collection support this hypothesis.

5.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study were as follows:

➤ **Objective 1**

To establish a knowledge base of social development and animal health services in a rural community context.

➤ **Objective 2**

To determine the community members' needs and problems with regard to the Animal Health Service in Madinyane.

➤ **Objective 3**

To identify the strengths, capacities and resources within the community which could facilitate participation and development.

➤ **Objective 4**

To identify guidelines to encourage involvement in the Animal Health Service in Madinyane.

The above mentioned objectives were met as follows:

The first objective was met in Chapters 2 and 3 where the literature study concerning social development and animal health services was undertaken by using both local and international books and journals. Social development was discussed as a relevant theoretical framework for a community involved in an Animal Health Service. Chapter 3 outlined the realities of Madinyane as a rural community, which was contextualised in a rural poverty context.

The second, third and the fourth objectives were met mainly during the data gathering process and confirmed by literature, where relevant. The respondents were organised into focus groups and the semi-structured interview was conducted in order to get their views about these objectives. During this process the respondents were able to voice their views about the needs and the problems of the community and the information gathered during the process was analysed in Chapter 4. The information obtained from the respondents helped in realising guidelines that can be applied to improve involvement in the Animal Health Service. These guidelines are outlined in the recommendations (5.5 of this Chapter).

The literature review and the information gathered at Madinyane has led to various conclusions for this study.

5.4 CONCLUSIONS

The following basic conclusions are deduced from the research study:

- The majority of the people living in Madinyane are the aged and the unemployed, and most of the families in the area rely on a pension.
- The animal owners lack knowledge as far as animal management and commercial farming is concerned due to the fact that they never received any formal or informal training about livestock farming.
- The veterinary service is not satisfactory to the community; the clinic is too far from the area; and the Community Animal Health Worker is unable to attend to all the problems of the community:

- The people are willing to practise commercial farming and they are also willing to expand their farming operation. The problem, however, is that they are sceptical about applying to financial schemes due to the requirements.
- The community does not have a good strategy to combat the problem of livestock theft:
- The fact that the respondents lack knowledge about various factors related to farming as a result of their lack of training, contributes to their low involvement in the service because they do not understand the importance of the service. This also results in people not trusting the Community Animal Health Worker. In addition, they expect the service to be cheap, and thus do not understand the processes and expenses incurred by such a service which need to be recovered.
- There are no non-farming activities in the community and this is due to the fact that the community members do not have initiative skills but depend on outsiders to come and initiate something for the community.
- Finally, the community in general is faced with poverty, so members are cautious and sensitive whenever money is involved. The small amount they have at their disposal must be used for the needs of their families. Consequently, payments for services to their livestock remain a very critical issue. The community is not only in need of better animal health services, but also development of the total community.

5.5 GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following guidelines, which may also serve as recommendations of the study, are of importance for facilitating involvement in the Animal Health Service in Madinyane:

- The principles of adult education could play a major role in working with the people in Madinyane since most of the animal owners are older people, over the age of 60. The people also need to obtain knowledge about the purpose, nature (including the prices) and the importance of the Animal Health Service.
- Written material could be used, since the respondents indicated that they understand such material. In this regard, posters, pamphlets and other forms of visual communication on all aspects of stock farming could be produced.
- The socio-economic level is low in the area and therefore extension delivery must be appropriate to the specific circumstances, which include limitations in terms of infrastructure, and the physical and psychological limitations that poverty imposes.
- There should be programs to strengthen the confidence of the people to exploit their own potential and encourage independent action and self-initiative.
- The community expressed various concerns about the under utilised Community Animal Health Worker, including that the community is too large for him, so it is important that the Community Animal Health Worker should get a co-worker.
- The Animal Health Service needs to be practised within the framework of the existing community conditions. It is important that the condition of poverty should be taken into consideration, and the people should be allowed to access assistance through credit facilities, although more time will be spent recovering debts due to lack of finance.

- The community needs to be empowered to realise their vision on how they see their future community. They also need to be enlightened about the impediments that cultural beliefs may have on development. This will further facilitate the involvement of women in development. A community development process could be implemented to this effect.

5.5.2 FUTURE RESEARCH

- The Veterinary Service of South Africa should not only concentrate on administrative work, prevention and elimination of infectious diseases, provision of clinical services, handling of reproduction and production problems and regulatory services, as discussed in Chapter 3. The Service should also include programs aimed at capacity building, especially in rural areas.
- The service providers need to communicate with the people on a regular basis in order to create a meaningful relationship of trust.

5.6 CONCLUDING REMARKS

There are various factors that affect the involvement of the people in the Animal Health Services in Madinyane. These factors apparently stem mainly from poverty and a lack of education and capacity. The effect of poverty is multidimensional, it has an impact on various aspects of people's lives.

The need to address the issue of poverty is an urgent one in South Africa, particularly in rural areas. Community development as a strategy for social development is relevant to address the problem of poverty. Animal Health Services, which also include programs based on capacity building, can contribute to the fight against poverty. The strategies of social development and Animal Health Services mentioned in this study can thus play a very important role in the eradication of poverty, particular in rural communities.

The researcher believes that a follow-up to the above guidelines will enhance the involvement of community members in rural development projects and will further develop the people's capacities in order to take responsibility for their own community development.

Proposal for future research

In order for the community of Madinyane to develop, the researcher proposes that future research should concentrate on determining strategies that will enable the community to generate income for themselves and the community.