WATER SUPPLY AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL SETTLEMENTS: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACH

by

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Submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree

Master of Arts (Anthropology)

in the Faculty of Humanities

University of Pretoria

Pretoria
March 2000
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This anthropological focus on the Swazi residents of two rural settlements in the Nsikazi district (Mpumalanga) contributes to an understanding of the water utilisation practices of rural residents. These practices result from the current state of their settlements’ water supply. The effect of utilisation practices on residents’ perception of quality of life was also examined.

The study provides an overview of the role and function of local government bodies in residents’ daily water supply and of the role of these institutions in developing and maintaining water supply systems. The study gives a detailed account of the functioning of water utilisation facilities used by residents on a daily basis.

The study is based on the realities faced by rural residents who suffer from inadequate daily water supply. The inadequacy of the water supply was found to be due to factors caused both by water suppliers and the residents themselves.

List of key terms:
- Water supply
- Quality of life
- Rural settlements
- Water utilisation practices
- Local government bodies
- Water utilisation facilities
- Swazi residents
- Nsikazi district
- Development
- Maintenance
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was made possible by research funds allocated by the Foundation for Research Development (FRD). I would like to thank the Foundation for its financial support. I would also thank Prof. C.W.I. Pistorius, the former director of the Institute for Technological Innovation, who helped arrange the funding from the FRD.

I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Prof. H. Els, my study leader at the University of Pretoria from the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology. I would like to thank Prof. Els for his outstanding support and guidance throughout the research and writing of this study. It is a great pleasure to be your student!

To the game ranger at Pretoriuskop in the Kruger National Park, Mr Ben Pretorius, and his wife Quarta, I want to offer a special word of thanks for their constant hospitality during my stay at the camp while I was completing my research. You have become a second family to me and I will always be grateful for your love and support.

To the residents of Makoko and Phameni, I express my deepest gratitude for the friendly way in which they accepted me in their midst and the invaluable contribution they made to my research. A special word of thanks goes to Lindiwe Fankomo, my guide and interpreter, without whom the research would not have been the pleasure it was.

Finally, I want to thank my family and Mariun de Jager for the unfailing support, enthusiasm and love throughout this study.
SUMMARY

WATER SUPPLY AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL SETTLEMENTS: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACH

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Degree: MA (Anthropology)

The study focuses on the Swazi residents of two rural settlements, Makoko and Phameni, in the Nsikazi district in Mpumalanga. The study contributes to an understanding of the water utilisation practices of rural residents. These practices are the result of the current state of their settlements’ water supply. The effect of these utilisation practices on the residents’ perception of their quality of life was also examined.

The study provides an overview of the role and function of local government institutions in residents’ daily water supply and also of the role of these institutions in the development and maintenance of water supply systems. The study gives a detailed account of the functioning of the water utilisation facilities used by the residents of Makoko and Phameni on a daily basis.

The study is based on the realities faced by rural residents who suffer from inadequate daily water supply. The inadequacy of the water supply was found to be due to factors caused by both the water suppliers and the residents themselves. The residents’ conviction that their inadequate water supply has a negative influence on their quality of life, increases understanding for the perception that the government is responsible for improving their quality of life.
OPSOMMING

WATervoorsiening en Lewenskwaliteit in Landelijke Nedersettings: 'n Antropologiese Benadering

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Die studie fokus op die Swazi inwoners van twee landelike nedersettings, Makoko en Phameni, in die Nsikazidistrik in Mpumalanga. Die studie dra by tot 'n beter begrip van die waterverbruikaktiwiteite van landelike inwoners. Hiedie aktiwiteite word veroorsaak deur die huidige stand van hierdie nedersettings se watertoewer. Die uitwerking van hierdie verbruikspartone op die inwoners se siening van hulle lewenskwaliteit is ook ondersoek.

Die studie bied 'n oorsig van die rol en funksie van plaaslike regeringsliggame in die inwoners se daaglikse watervoorsiening en ook die rol wat hierdie liggame speel in die ontwikkeling en onderhoud van watervoorsieningstelsels. Die studie bied 'n gedetailleerde weergawe van die werking van die waterverbruikaktiwiteite wat daagliks deur die inwoners van Makoko en Phameni gebruik word.

Die studie is gebaseer op die werklikhede van daaglikse onvoldoende watervoorsiening wat elke dag deur landelike inwoners verduur word. Die faktore wat tot onvoldoende watervoorsiening lei, word veroorsaak deur beide die watervoorsieners en die inwoners self. Die inwoners se oortuiging dat hul watertoewer hul lewenskwaliteit negatief beïnvloed, bied insig rakende hul oortuiging dat die regering verantwoordelik is vir die verbetering van hul lewenskwaliteit.
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**ACRONYMS USED IN THE TEXT**

BEC  Branch Executive Committee

C-MIP  Consolidated Municipal Infrastructural Programme

DC  District Council

DWAF  Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

GNP  Gross National Product

HDPE  High density polyethylene
LC  Local Council
LEDC  Lowveld and Escarpment District Council
MC  Metropolitan Council
PSC  Project Steering Committee
RC  Representative Council
RDC  Reconstruction and Development Committee
RDP  Reconstruction and Development Programme
UNESCO  United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

MAPS

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