

**Women Empowerment through Comprehensive Rural Development
Programme in Muyexe Village, Limpopo Province**

By

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DECLARATIONS

I, Matimu Maluleke, declare that the dissertation hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo, for the degree of Master of Development in Development Planning and Management, has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other University; this is my work in design and execution, and all the materials contained herein have been duly acknowledged.

Title, Initial & Surname

Date

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my parents, Mrs Thembi Maluleke and Mr Noel Maluleke. My appreciation for their outstanding support is inexpressible. If it was not for them, I would have definitely not made it. I also dedicate this study to my son, Muhluri Mbunzu; he was very understanding when I had to leave him at home so I may complete this study. He made the process very easy. I dedicate this study to my siblings Lulama, Vutivi and Goodwill Maluleke; I also dedicate this study to my friends Glender Ritshuri, Lebogang Sithole and Antonia Malatjie. They have shown me support and patience, which meant many things to me, and they were there for me when I needed them the most especially in stressful, frustrating and depressing moments of the study.

ACRONYMS

CRDP:	Comprehensive Rural Development Programme
CDWP:	Community Development Workers Programme
RDP:	Reconstruction Development Programme
RDF:	Rural Development Framework
ISRDP:	Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme
WOP:	War on Poverty
ABET:	Adult Basic Education Training
RDP:	Reconstruction and Development Programme
GEAR:	Growth, employment and redistribution
ASGISA:	Accelerated shared growth initiative of south Africa
IDP:	Integrated development plan
STATS:	Statistics South Africa
WB:	World Bank
UN:	United Nations

ABSTRACT

The National government has implemented a rural development strategy, known as the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP), in various areas of the country including Muyexe village. The CRDP focused on community organization and mobilization as well as strategic investment in economic and social infrastructure. The programme adopted an approach that empowers Muyexe communities. It is built on the premise that rural areas in the country have the potential to be developed in a way that generates jobs and economic opportunities, thus providing an alternative to the urban centres, and contributing to the reduction of rural-urban migration. Muyexe has been one of the pilot areas in the country where the CRDP was implemented by the national government. The purpose of this study is to investigate the extent of the contribution of CRDP women empowerment in Muyexe.

The study adopted a mixed research method (quantitative and qualitative) in order to describe and understand the impact of CRDP on women empowerment. The researcher used a questionnaire to collect data from 92 households, which were selected randomly. In addition, qualitative data was collected through one-on-one interviews, observation and literature review. Interviews were conducted with ten (10) CRDP facility managers, employees and government officials who were selected purposively.

Findings indicate that the condition of women living in the village has improved as women are allowed to engage in decisions that directly affect them, and women are treated with respect and dignity. There are signs of improvement in terms of women's empowerment, namely access to resources such as land, health care, water and electricity; involvement in the projects that are designed to benefit the community; and holding leadership positions, despite the cultural and traditional practices. However, the participants of the study perceive that women are not satisfied with their working conditions and the income they earn.

Another finding of the study is that CRDP has implemented various facility services in order to benefit the local community of Muyexe, through setting up a library, recreation centre, computer centre, early childhood learning centre, post office, clinic, doing road

construction and many more. Other projects implemented include water reservation tanks, electricity, toilets and backyard gardens.

This study found that the infrastructure and service facilities that were developed through the CRDP have a major impact in the lives of women in the village. Women have more access to houses, water reservation tanks, and electricity and sanitation facilities. Moreover, the projects initiated by CRDP have benefited women and their families as well as creating employment opportunities and skills training. The CRDP has not fully achieved its purpose of empowering the community, women in particular, due to several implementation challenges including inadequate coordination, theft and vandalism, and nepotism. Thus it is crucial for the policy makers and implementers to look into the different challenges that women are facing and come up with appropriate strategies that will further empower rural women in the study area.

Key Words: Development, Empowerment, Women Empowerment, Rural Development, Muyexe Village

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1. Introduction and Background

Women empowerment is important and essential in the development of previously disadvantaged areas such as townships, homelands and rural areas. Women empowerment involves the improvement of their participation, access to resources, education and equality (Bushra & Wajiha, 2015). Batliwala (2007) indicated that there are various indicators which determine women empowerment. Thus, this study aimed to focus on participation, education, access to resources, and equality; these indicators form part of rural development. According to Mahmud, Shah and Beckers (2012), there is an increasing awareness that women empowerment plays an important and strategic role in the implementation of rural development programmes such as South Africa's Comprehensive Rural Development Programme. Moreover, women empowerment is increasingly being integrated into rural development programmes worldwide, and this is largely due to the important triple role that women have demonstrated to play in societies through time.

Reports by the World Bank have shown how women in many parts of the world are disempowered in terms of lack of education; lack of access to resources like credit and land; poor participation; and inequality. For instance, in South Africa 83% of women in previously disadvantaged areas are living their lives under the parameters of disempowerment (World Bank, 2013). Research reports by the United Nations (2013) have shown that the above-mentioned situation is constituted by the rules of marriage, post-apartheid laws and regulations, traditions and cultural laws. According to Mahmud, Shah and Beckers (2012), the matter of women disempowerment did not only affect SA; in Bangladesh women have been deprived of the access to basic resources and the right to live as women.

Over time there has seemed to be a difference between women in urban areas and women in rural areas. Sebiloane (2015) states that there is a tremendous difference of empowerment between women in urban areas of South Africa and those in rural

areas of South Africa in terms of access to education, income and land resources, equality, and participation. Thus, Singh and Gupta (2013) argued that it has been indicated that South African Strategies, like the 50/50 on women empowerment, were more effective in urban areas than in rural areas. Therefore, women in rural areas of Limpopo, one of the nine provinces in South Africa, use their talents, gifts and skills to survive on a daily basis through agricultural, traditional and cultural practices. Meanwhile, women in the urban areas survive through industrialized livelihoods and modernised practices (Chakwizira & Nhemachena, 2012). Therefore, strategies of affirmative action and putting women in the forefront have been implemented to tackle women empowerment issues in Limpopo. However, the challenge with the strategies implemented is that at plenary level it puts rural women in the forefront, but during the implementation phase it side-lined rural women and focused on urban women. Thus, on paper, reports show that women in Limpopo in South Africa are empowered, while evidence and daily experience shows that rural women are still living their lives based on customs, marriage laws, cultural and traditional barriers (Obadire & Mudau, 2014). The argument of the study, in light of the problem identified of poor/no women empowerment through the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP), is that the implementation of the programme focused poorly on the aspect of women empowerment in Muyexe village concerning their participation, education, access to resources, and equality. Therefore, with the village of Muyexe as a case study, the study aims at investigating the contribution of CRDP towards women empowerment in Muyexe village.

1.2. Statement of Research Problem

The impression presented by various reports like the United Nations (2013) suggests that women disempowerment, especially in rural areas, has been an ongoing challenge throughout developing countries. Furthermore, Bushra and Wajiha (2015) state that women in rural areas are faced with various difficulties which make their lives less worth living. According to Yount, Dilkerman, Brown and Vanderende (2014), women empowerment in rural areas has been challenged from different dimensions, which amongst others involve participation, education, access to resources, and equality. Njoku, Princewill and Princewill (2015) mention that in the rural areas of Nigeria, women are not allowed to disagree or agree with men in a conversation,

especially in public spaces. Moreover, the norms and traditions of the rural areas in Tanzania do not allow women to make decisions at public engagements. Instead, the man must be the one taking decisions (Goldman & Little, 2015). The question then arises how can women be vocal and empowered if they cannot defend themselves in public engagements.

Lack of education and skills of women in rural areas have been a contributing factor towards the disempowerment of women, poverty, and inequality Bushra and Wajihah (2015). McEwan (2005) suggests that if women in rural areas could be educated, it would be easy for the government strategies to be implemented towards their empowerment. This is because, in that manner, the capacity, confidence and knowledge of women would be enhanced and they will be able to advocate for their own development. According to Sathiyabama (2010), in South Africa the government has implemented an Adult Basic Education Training (ABET) strategy for educating those who lacked education, which also catered for women. However, the education only covered basic education like learning to read and write. Moreover, Zimbabwe has also implemented adult basic education training which focused on improving the level of education for old people, including women. Anriquez (2007) indicated that the challenge with these programmes is that the education offered has not been enough or sufficient to elevate women to higher opportunities.

Lack of access to resources is one of the elements, which lead to the case of women being identified as disempowered (Sathiyabama, 2010). Women in the rural areas of Nigeria have been denied access to owning land or owning properties, especially if they are married (Pini, 2010). According to Pini (2010), women in Bangladesh have been denied access to higher salaries or wages (income) compared to men. The Massia tribe does not allow women to own assets (Goldman & Little, 2015). For instance, Little *et al.* (2015) mentioned that the cattle and the children are under the control of the husband. Women are never allowed to be in charge at all, or sell land or cattle. The responses which they get from their husbands when they suggest to do so, is to be silent because they came with nothing but a calabash for milk in their matrimonial home.

Findings by the World Bank (2013) suggest that rural areas are more affected by inequality between man and women. For instance, in Egypt women are not equal to men in terms of income, status in the households, workplace, the community and many other positions (Yount *et al.*, 2014). In correlation to this, in rural areas women are not allowed to disagree with men, meaning there is no equality with regard to decision making. Parallel to that, in programmes and projects women are mostly sidelined with the view that they are not knowledgeable like men. According to Bushra *et al.* (2015), Indian women are expected to be housewives and take care of the children. In Nigeria, women are meant to be taken care of by their husband and be spoiled all the time (Njoku *et al.*, 2015). Thus, it has led to women depending on their husband for everything. Supplementary to this, the situation creates arguments and violence; it is also described as lack of control over everything as related to the very institutes of marriage (Singh & Gupta, 2013). In South Africa, programmes and strategies by the government have been implemented to address inequality, which include amongst others the Growth, Employment and Redistribution Strategy (GEAR), the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa (ASGISA), and the Provincial Growth and Development Strategies (PGDSs). These strategies did well in urban areas, and yet inequality constituted by the institutions of marriage, post-apartheid laws and regulations, traditional norms and cultural laws still exist in rural areas (Mathebula, 2014).

In the study area, Muyexe village, women have been vulnerable and experiencing disempowerment for a very long period of time (Sebiloane, 2015). According to Mathebula (2014), the major challenges facing women in Muyexe village include: lack of participation in terms of decision making, poor education, lack of access to resources, and inequality. The post-apartheid government of South Africa has been implementing strategies and programmes such as the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme to deal with the matters of rural women empowerment, poverty and inequality. Muyexe has been one of the pilot areas in the country where the CRDP was implemented in 2009. Therefore, the study focused on investigating the contribution of CRDP on women empowerment.

1.3. Research Questions

The general research question for the study was:

- ❖ What is the contribution of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) on women empowerment?

From the general research question, specific research questions were drawn as follows:

- ❖ What are the conditions of women and the status of their empowerment?
- ❖ What is the nature of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)?
- ❖ How does the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) contribute towards women empowerment?

1.4. Research Aim and Objective

The aim of the study was:

- ❖ To investigate the contribution of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) on women empowerment.

From the aim, objectives were drawn as follows:

- ❖ To assess the conditions of women and the status of their empowerment;
- ❖ To examine the nature of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP);
- ❖ To explore the contribution of the Comprehensive Rural Development programme (CRDP) on women empowerment.

1.5. Definition of Terms

For the purpose of the study, the following terms were defined:

Women Empowerment

“Women empowerment can be defined as a process of enabling women to overcome their fears, powerlessness and poverty” (Hodgson, 2002: 5). Batliwala (2007: 75)

defines women empowerment as “the ability of women to make decisions and affect such outcomes as are important to them and their families”. According to Beckers (2012: 610) women empowerment is “a process of putting women in positions of giving them access to resources such as land, income, education, water, etc.; it is allowing women the opportunity to participate in matters which directly affect them”.

From the above definitions by Hodgson (2002), Batliwala (2007) and Beckers (2012), the study defines women empowerment as a process of making information and opportunities available to women, and giving them exposure through involvement in decision making and the implementation of decisions made. Furthermore, it encompasses giving women the power to influence change through access to resources.

Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)

The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme was implemented in 2009 at Muyexe village. The programme has also been implemented in other parts of the country, which included Mpumalanga and Northern Cape as pilot projects. The CRDP implements broad based agrarian transformation focusing on community organization and mobilization as well as strategic investment in economic and social infrastructure. The programme proposes an approach that addresses the needs of the people, household, community and space. It is built on the premise that rural areas in the country have the potential to be developed in a way that generates jobs and economic opportunities, thus providing an alternative to the urban centres, and contributing to the reduction of rural-urban migration. Therefore, the CRDP is defined as national collective action to fight poverty, hunger, unemployment and lack of development in rural areas (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform/DRDLR, 2013; CRDP Strategy, 2012)

Rural Development

“Rural development is used to denote the actions and initiatives taken to improve the standard of living in non-urban neighbourhoods, countryside, and remote villages” (Chakwizira & Nhemachena 2012: 190). According to Anriquez (2007: 23), rural

development is “the development that benefits rural populations, where development is understood as the sustained improvement of the population’s standard of living or welfare”. Pini (2010:94) defines rural development as “the improvement of the living standard of the low-income population living in rural (non-urban) areas on a self-sustaining basis, through transforming the socio-spatial structures of their productive activities”.

From the definitions by Chakwizira and Nhemachena (2012), Anriquez (2007) and Pini (2010), the study defines rural development as an undertaking to improve the standard of living or welfare of the people in non-urban neighbourhoods, countryside and remote villages on a self-sustaining basis through socio-economic transformation that directly benefits the rural inhabitants.

1.6. Research Design and Methodology

The section consists of subsections which are: research design; research methodology; kinds of data required; description of study areas; target population and unit of analysis; sampling design; data collection methods; data analysis methods; and validity and reliability.

1.6.1. Research Design

Research design is defined as the plan, structure and strategy for investigation conceived so as to obtain answers to the research questions (Brayman, 2008). There are three types of research designs, namely normative, experimental and historical research design. The normative research design refers to the act of observing events and evaluating processes to establish a constant relation where the researcher does not control study variables. Experimental research design is a method of research in which a controlled experimental factor is subjected to a special treatment for purpose of comparison with a factor kept constant. The historical research design is a method of research in which it involves examining past events to draw conclusions and to make predictions about the future (Dornyeirch, 2007).

For the purpose of the study, the study adopted the normative research design. The normative research design undoubtedly observes events, evaluates processes and studies the variables without any control over them. It refers to the act of observing events and evaluates processes to establish relationships. The normative research design was operationalized by an evaluation from a research that was used to assess the design, comprehensive rural development as an automobile for bringing women empowerment

1.6.2. Research methodology

For the purpose of the study, mixed method approach was adopted. Mixed method approach is defined as a method for conducting research that involves collecting, analysing and integrating qualitative and quantitative research in a single study or a longitudinal programme of inquiry (Neuman, 2011). Mixed method approach was important for the study because it has involved qualitative and quantitative research design, which were mixed in more than one stage of the study. It included questions, research methods, data collection and data analysis, and the interpretation or inference process. The qualitative research approach aimed to gather an in-depth understanding of human behaviour and the reasons that governs such behaviour. The qualitative method investigated the why and how of decision making, not just what, where and when. Hence, smaller but focused samples were more often needed, rather than large samples (Brayman, 2008). On the other hand, the quantitative research approach was based on traditional scientific methods, which generate numerical data and usually seek to establish a causal relationship between two or more variables, using statistical methods to test the strength and significance of the relationships (Yin, 2011). Therefore, both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used to investigate women empowerment through CRDP in Muyexe village. Mixed method approach was used in order to triangulate data collection methods and sources. Moreover, the findings from the quantitative approach were used to complement findings from the qualitative approach.

1.6.3. Kinds of Data Required

Primary data was gathered in the fieldwork through questionnaires, observation and face-to-face interviews where households and key informants were involved in the study. The primary data included information on the condition of women and the status

of their empowerment, and the contribution of CRDP on empowering women in Muyexe village.

Secondary data was gathered through literature review technique. It was gathered from dissertations, academic books, official websites for organizations, government reports and documents, and journal articles. The secondary data consists of information on the condition of women and the status of their empowerment, the correlation between women empowerment and rural development, and the characteristics of CRDP.

1.6.4. Description of Study Area

The study was carried out in Muyexe Village, a village located in Giyani Town, Limpopo Province, South Africa. It is a formal settlement classified under cluster three in Ward 18 of the Mopani district under the administration/management of the Greater Giyani Municipality (Greater Giyani Municipality, 2013). Its geographical coordinates are 23.1951100 South, 30.9159690 East. It is 224 miles (360 km) northeast of Pretoria and 40km north of Giyani Town. It is home to an estimated population of 4100 people, consisting of the poorest of the rural poor. The Village is situated within the sub-tropical zone where in summer it can reach more than a maximum of 36 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 22 degrees Celsius in winter. Rainfall season is between September and March, which gives the inhabitants a great opportunity to perform agricultural activities. Winter starts from April to August wherein they practice non-farm activities like baking fat cake (Greater Giyani Municipal, 2013).

The staple diet (food status) in Muyexe village is maize porridge (or pap in Afrikaans), often eaten with meat or vegetables or Mopani worms. Muyexe's economy is predominantly rural which includes producing maize meal, mealies, bananas, potatoes, tomatoes and cattle ranching as the backbone of its economy. It is one of the most impoverished communities within the municipality and the country as a whole, with no immediate job opportunities available. The community of Muyexe is entirely rural, situated in close proximity of the Kruger National Park. The residents of Muyexe community survive mainly from hunting and farming (Greater Giyani Municipality report, 2013). The South African government launched the CRDP in 2009 as a pilot project in Muyexe. This was because of the level of poverty in the area

(CRDP strategy, 2012). The village has been chosen because it was one of the pilot areas of CRDP implementation.

1.6.5. Target Population

The population was defined as the set of all individuals relevant to a particular study (Kumar, 2014). The population for this study includes 576 female-headed households which account for 64% of an estimated 900 households in the village. According to Statistics South Africa, females head 64.3% of all the households in the village (Stats South Africa, 2015). Additionally, the CRDP service facilities managers and local government officials form part of the key informants in Muyexe village.

1.6.6. Sampling Design

Sampling refers to sampling techniques, which involve some form of selection of elements from a population (Mouton, 1996). In this study, the researcher used both convenience-sampling and purposive sampling methods. Convenience sampling is a type of non-probability sampling where members of the target population that meet certain practical criteria, such as easy accessibility, geographic proximity, availability at a given time, or the willingness to participate, are included for the purpose of the study (Dornyeirch, 2007). Convenience sampling was used to select 87% (80) of the female-headed households who were the beneficiaries of CRDP, and were available and willing to participate during the survey. Moreover, 13% (12) male-headed households who take interest in the issues concerned with women empowerment were part of the sample and they participated in the survey.

Purposive sampling is defined as a sample that represents a group of different non-probability sampling technique; also known as judgmental, selective or subjective sampling. Purposive sampling relies on the judgment of the researcher when it comes to selecting the units e.g. people, cases/organizations, events, pieces of data that are to be studied (Yin, 2011). For the purpose of the study, 10 key informants were selected, which included the traditional council, government officials, and CRDP project coordinators.

1.6.7. Data Collection Methods

Primary data in this study were obtained through questionnaires, interviews and observation, detailed as follows:

a) *Structured Questionnaire*

A questionnaire is a written list of questions that are answered by a number of people so that information can be collected from the answers (Khothari, 2004). The study adopted questionnaires as techniques for collecting quantitative data. This instrument was used so that respondents would fill in answers in the written form and the researcher would collect the forms with the complete information. The questionnaires were distributed to 92 female-headed households and the researcher helped them to administer the questionnaire. The questionnaires were written in English, and the researcher explained in Xitsonga what the questions were asking, so as to accommodate women who cannot read English.

b) *Interviews schedule*

An interview is a private meeting between people where questions are asked and answered (Khothari, 2004). Interviews were adopted as a technique for collecting qualitative data from key informants such as the traditional council, government officials, and CRDP project coordinators and employees. The researcher used interview schedule and face-to-face method to collect data from 13 key informants. All the responses that were given by respondents were noted down/recorded for analysis.

c) *Observation*

For the purpose of the study, natural observation method was used and defined as unstructured observation which involves studying the spontaneous behaviour of participants and the natural surroundings in which the researcher simply records what they see in whatever way they can (Creswell, & Creswell, 2007). The study has observed the behaviour of participants, their emotions and expressions, together with the surrounding environment for qualitative data. Photographs were taken for evidence. The three techniques were used to collect geographical information of women, their condition and the status of their empowerment, and the contribution of CRDP on women empowerment in Muyexe village. These techniques were important for the study because they ensured that accurate qualitative and quantitative data was obtained from women themselves.

d) Review of existing documents

Review of existing documents (documentation) is a secondary source of information and they supplement literature review on a subject understudy that already exists (Dornyeirch, 2007). The primary aim of documentation is to review the variety of existing sources with the intention of collecting independently verifiable data information. The data was collected from relevant material such as the CRDP documents, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform reports, IDP documents and annual service delivery reports. Documentation provided a base on the conceptualization of Comprehensive Rural Development Programme and women empowerment. The contribution of CRDP towards women empowerment was also reviewed from relevant literature.

1.6.8. Data Analysis Methods

Data analysis is the process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of collected data (Somekh & Lewin, 2004). This study used both qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods to analyse and interpret primary data collected through various data collection methods

- ***Analysis of Quantitative Data***

Quantitative data was collected and analysed using descriptive statistics. “Descriptive statistics are used to describe the basic features of the data in a study; they provide simple summaries about the sample and the measures; together with simple graphics analysis, they form the basics of virtually every quantitative analysis of data” (Yin, 2011:343). The statistical software Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used to calculate the frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviations. The findings were presented in the form of graphs, charts and tables.

- ***Analysis of Qualitative Data***

The quantitative data was analysed using thematic analysis technique. The thematic analysis technique emphasizes on pinpointing, examining, and recording patterns or themes within data (Neuma, 2011). This involves transcribing the data, classifying the data based on emerging themes, describing and linking with the study objectives. Data was transcribed by recording all collected data and then classified by developing themes to classify qualitative as a group and classifying quantitative data as a group

also; then described by making use of numbers, characters, symbols, images to derive the meaning; and then linked for analysis. The findings were presented in the form of text and direct quotations.

1.6.9. Validity and Reliability

Yin (2011: 78) explains, “A valid study is one that has properly collected and interpreted its data, so that the conclusions accurately reflect and represent the real world that was studied”. The study used pilot study and triangulation technique to ensure validity of the data. First, the questionnaire was tested using ten households and the feedback was used to amend where corrections were necessary. Secondly, the researcher used diverse data collection methods (e.g. questionnaire, interview, observation, literature review) and various data sources, including both primary and secondary sources. The researcher carefully checked the completed questionnaires for accuracy before further analysis. Data was analysed using SPSS and the researcher used cross-examination technique to interpret the findings.

Reliability is “The extent to which results are consistent over time and an accurate representation of the total population under study is referred to as reliability and if the results of a study can be reproduced under a similar methodology, then the research instrument is considered to be reliable” (Galafshani, 2003: 598). A variety of sources were used to ensure consistency. According to Neumann (2011: 214), “we use a wide variety of techniques (e.g. interviews, participation, photographs, and document studies) to record consistently in qualitative studies”. In addition, the researcher used Cronbach’s Alpha to test reliability of the questionnaire. The Cronbach’s alpha coefficient score should be over 0.70 for high internal consistence (Galafshani, 2003). In the case of this study, Cronbach’s Alpha = 0.85, which shows the questionnaire was reliable.

Table 1.1 Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.850	.843	31

Item-Total Statistics

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item- Total Correlation	Squared Multiple Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
Women have the right to freely express their views in the village meetings or imbizo	83.61	130.175	.102	.	.853
Women make decisions with their husbands about finances in the household	84.11	132.362	.027	.	.853
In the village women have equal rights to share with men	84.37	122.697	.498	.	.842
Women have equal rights with men in the village	84.38	123.051	.468	.	.843
In the village, women have more workload in their daily activities of cooking and taking care of their children	84.39	136.043	-.199	.	.860
Women in the village face the risk of being beaten by their spouse/partner	84.87	130.466	.056	.	.857
Women in the village face risk of being attacked and raped by criminals	84.89	131.043	.033	.	.858
Women in the village face the risk of being insulted at all times	84.87	131.499	.014	.	.858
In the village men treat women with respect, dignity and do not show any signs of abuse in anyway whatsoever	84.21	128.803	.240	.	.849
Women are happy with the way they are treated in the village	84.22	123.073	.456	.	.843
In the village women have access to income generating opportunities	84.55	118.030	.749	.	.834
In the village women have access to employment opportunities	84.55	117.832	.772	.	.834

In the village, women are involved in projects that are initiated to benefit the community	84.00	130.505	.285	.	.848
In the village, women are allowed to attend meetings in the village and raise their inputs	84.00	130.505	.285	.	.848
In the village, women are allowed by their husbands to make decisions on anything in their households	84.01	130.692	.248	.	.849
In the village, women can make decisions on how to spend money in their household.	84.02	130.791	.244	.	.849
In the village, cultures and traditional practices restrict women from taking advantage of opportunities in the village	85.21	130.891	.183	.	.850
In the village, women are satisfied with the type of employment they possess	85.05	115.546	.660	.	.835
In the village, women are satisfied with the income they earn from their employers	85.17	116.871	.640	.	.836
In the village, women are treated well by their husbands within their household	83.57	134.600	-.127	.	.857
Women are allowed to hold leadership positions in the village	83.39	128.966	.258	.	.848
In the village, women do have equal employment opportunities with men in the village	84.48	118.582	.521	.	.840
In the village, women are allowed to own land	83.67	124.288	.406	.	.845

In the village, women have access to health care services	83.71	126.935	.296	.	.848
In the village, women have access to safety and security	83.78	131.249	.056	.	.854
In the village, women have access to water which reduces your burden of fetching water	83.97	123.570	.540	.	.842
In the village, women have access to electricity which reduces their burden of fetching fire wood	84.01	122.341	.550	.	.841
Woman in the village have opportunities to further their education	84.85	119.163	.547	.	.839
In the village, women receive different skills development trainings	84.98	114.241	.750	.	.832
In the village, women are able to start their business through the skills they have acquired	84.99	113.527	.740	.	.832
In the village, education provided to women has enabled them to get better employment which helps them to improve their lives	85.01	114.033	.709	.	.833

1.7. Significance of the Study

The following are key significances of this study:

- It provides additional insight and knowledge regarding rural development initiatives and women empowerment in the context of rural South Africa;
- It will help policy makers to look at the different challenges that rural women are facing and to come up with appropriate measures; and
- It will benefit local authority, community representatives and households in the village to further address the concerns of rural women.

1.8. Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations were defined as principles or rules which must be followed by the researcher (Brayman, 2008). The following measures were taken by the researcher to ensure no harm to the participants:

- The researcher obtained ethical clearance from the University of Limpopo;
- The study was done under the permission of Chief Muyexe Maluleke and the elders of the village;
- The researcher took into consideration the importance of the confidentiality of the information provided by respondents;
- The researcher also took into consideration the privacy of respondents' expressions and was obliged not to harm their feelings, reveal their identities or discriminate among their responses.
- The researcher ensured not to put respondents in any danger but to put them at ease and ensure that they knew that they were safe. The researcher used informed consent to comply with ethical issues.

1.9. Structure of the Dissertation

The dissertation consists of five chapters inclusive of this introductory chapter, as follows:

Chapter One: This chapter introduced the topic of the study, and explained the research purpose, problem, rationale and the study procedures followed in compiling the material covered in the dissertation. The chapter also deals with the significance of the study and ethical consideration.

Chapter Two: This chapter presents literature review on the condition of women and the status of their empowerment, the nature of Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP). The contribution of CRDP on women empowerment is also discussed in this chapter.

Chapter Three: This chapter presents the background of the study, the condition of women and the status of their empowerment, the nature of the comprehensive rural

development (CRDP), and the contribution of CRDP at national level (South Africa), provincial level (Limpopo Province), and also at local level (Muyexe Village).

Chapter Four: This chapter consists of the analysis and interpretation of data on the condition of women and the status of their empowerment, the nature of CRDP, and the contribution of CRDP on women empowerment.

Chapter Five: This chapter presents the conclusion reached on the reality of the practical issue in the study area compared to the literature review. It also makes recommendations on the improvement of the condition of women and the status of their empowerment in rural areas.

1.10. Conclusion

This chapter has discussed how it has adopted mixed methods of research in order to meet the set research objectives of the study. It has discussed the kinds of data which were required, and also the target population where it was going to collect the information. The sampling styles, which were adopted to collect information from different target groups for the study, were also discussed. The study has further discussed various techniques which were going to be used to collect data. Lastly the chapter discussed how data was going to be analysed. It has also tested the validity and the reliability of the study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

In chapter one, the study identified the problem faced by women; it developed research questions and objectives which the study seeks to address in order to find causes and solutions to the identified problem. It further adopted a methodology which it will use to address the research aim and objectives. Therefore, in this chapter, literature is reviewed in relation to comprehensive rural development and women empowerment to find out if literature corresponds with the problem identified by the study.

Women have shown their capabilities to enforce development in matters which affect them and society. Given their ability to enforce change, women in rural areas lack the opportunity and the privilege to stand up for matters which directly affect them, and it is due to the norms and traditional standards which have stereotyped them. Therefore, public and private sectors have considered women empowerment as a powerful tool towards the development of rural areas and the nation as a whole. Bushra and Wajiha (2015) agree that women empowerment is one of the most important issues which has been, and is being discussed, in developing countries. The triple role of women has shown great impact in the development of rural areas and developing countries. (Bhengu, 2010). Moreover, debates, policies and strategies like that of the United Nations on Women Empowerment have been going on to foster the empowerment of women. According to Pepeteka (2014), a variety of programmes by the likes of the Motsepe Foundation, United Nations and government policies and programmes have been implemented worldwide to tackle the matter of ensuring women empowerment. However, the global situation still remains the same in rural areas. Women in previously disadvantaged areas still suffer from inequality, poor or no education, poor participation and lack of access to resources (Hodgson, 2002).

The purpose of this chapter is to give an overview of existing literature on women empowerment and CRDP, to review the findings of other researchers concerning the contribution between women empowerment and CRDP and also to give the reader a

general understanding on women empowerment and CRDP. The section consists of sub-sections which are a theoretical framework, conceptualizing women empowerment; conditions of women in rural areas; the state of women empowerment in rural areas; the implementation of comprehensive rural development programme (CRDP); the contribution of CRDP on rural women empowerment; and conclusion.

2.2. Theoretical Approaches to Development

The section presents theoretical approaches to development which are categorised in to traditional approaches to development and; theories of participatory development. These approaches to development are discussed as follows:

2.2.1. Traditional Development Theories.

Rural development consists of traditional theories to development which are modernization theory and dependency theory and they are discussed as follows:

Modernization theory

Modernisation theory emerged in the late fifties and early sixties, the theory was established from the ideas by Durkheim, Weber and parsons (Dinbabo, 2003). Findings presented by the author show that the founders of the theory indicated that, the theory is about the transformation from traditional to morden societies in terms of population growth with its divisions of labour, personal motivation and the change of moral values and norms. According to Dinbabo (2003), for development to be achieved, developing countries should copy from the Western European experience. "The basic premise of modernisation theory is that development is possible" (Dinbabo, 2003: 07). Another finding made by Tipp (2012) indicated that the theory is also known as the free world model of development, it was the justification for the US supremacy in the context of the cold war. Moreover, there were scholars which contributed to the growth and development of the theory. Such scholars comprise of economists, sociologists, historians, and anthropologists. According to (Singh, 2009) the elements of development identified by them includes both economic and non-economic factors. Moreover, the ideal of the theory was the transfer of western technology and rationality without changing class structure; removal of all social and ideological obstacles to the process of development. Furthermore, the modernisation theory was based on several assumptions, of which some were: the application of western science technology in

order to increase production is essential, for achieving development; the process of development can be described in to a series of stages, and all societies pass through those stages; in the process of development, traditional social and political institutions are replaced by Modern once; traditional out-of-date forms of political power will be replaced by democratic forms of governance. Singh (2009) state that the theory advocates that industrialisation and urbanisation should be along-side with technological transformation of agriculture, and understanding should be confirmed by the experience of the newly industrialised countries of East Asia and Southern Asia. According to Tipp (2012), modernization theory explains underdevelopment as a result of endogenous factors. Moreover, less developed countries must follow the path taken by developed countries to become developed and to foster development. They should also do so in implementing the policies and strategies, which developed countries did. Ogbazi (2013) specifies that industrialization of activities (e.g. agricultural) practised in rural areas could enhance the standard of living. Meanwhile, Adhvaryu (2010) argues that modernization emphasizes that urbanizing rural areas through transfer of technology must be implemented to improve or rather promote the standard of living, releasing underdeveloped areas from factors which hinder them from development. Likewise, Matunhu (2011) explains that modernization emphasizes that tradition, social belief, custom, political institutions and power must be replaced by modern ones of democratic form of governance. However, the modernisation theory was later replaced by the dependency theory.

Dependency Theory

The dependency theory emerged after the modernisation theory. It criticised and replaced the modernisation theory. The dependency theory received its support from the Latin Americans, particularly from the works of Raul Predisch and his associates at the economic commission for Latin America (ECSA) (Narayanasamy, 2009). Andre Gunder who was the chief spoke person of the dependency theory dismissed the modernisation theory. He stated that the modernisation theory was useless from a policy perspective and that the balance between the poor and the rich nations was not only beneficial to the latter, but also positively destructive, hindering and distorting their development. In his argument he mentioned that development and underdevelopment were the results of interactions between societies (Tipp, 2012).

According to (Singh, 2009) he mentioned that the spoke person (Andre Gunder) indicated that developed countries could have not achieved the level of development which they have, without the systematic eruption of the developing countries. In the argument he further said that the idea that the process of development passes through a series of stages is a deception. Moreover, developing countries cannot attain development by simply following the path adapted by developed countries, as long as exploitative world system exists. However, developing countries can develop only be developed by creating links with the developed countries.

In the context of rural development, the theory provides a useful caution that while identifying the determinants of rural development we should critically examine various inter-sectoral linkages and interactions and, determine whether they are beneficial to rural people or not. If they are not beneficial, necessary policy measures should be taken to make the interaction and linkages beneficial to the rural people. A similar exercise needs to be done at national level to find out which international economic and political relationships are beneficial, and which are harmful to economic development in general, and rural development in particular (Narayanasamy, 2009).

In 1980, the dependency theory was being criticised as being too deterministic and too simplistic. The argument was that underdevelopment in developing countries (periphery) is the result of development in developed countries (core). The theory was falsified by the experience of East Asian tigers. The tigers were initially dependent on developed countries (meaning they were on the periphery), but in course of the time they became highly developed and competitive, meaning, they moved from the periphery to the core.

Dinbabo (2003) argued on both the modernisation and dependency theories and said “even though all the above traditional development theories give us insight in the notion of development, all of them failed to provide an all-encompassing explanation of the concept of development especially for developing countries” (Dinbabo, 2003: 07). In the next section we discuss theories of participatory approaches.

2.2.2. Theories of participatory approaches to development

The section focus on the theories to participatory approaches. This approach is defined as one which promotes the involvement of people through participation, it advocates for people to be put first in all development processes. This approach can further be defined as one which promotes the capacity building of people.

People-Centred/ Humanistic approach to development

People-centred development grew its recognition at several international development conferences. These conferences took place in the 1990s and they are inclusive of the Earth Summit in 1992, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, and the Summit for Social Development of 1995 (Tipp, 2012). The theory was first widely promoted in the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Report in 1990, and by that time the countries' level of development was measured by the Human Development Index (HDI).

The UNDP's report believes that economic growth is a necessary means to achieving sustainable development especially in rural areas. According to the Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1996, it indicated that, the Official Development Assistance (ODA) reported on the objective of the people-cantered development model. The objectives included, helping humankind lead a prosperous and happy life; Shaping the 21st Century (Narayanasamy, 2009). Moreover, (Singh,2009) mention that a report published by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1996, made people-cantered development model a target policy for rural development. This was because, the model stresses on the importance of local ownership, participation, and capacity building while attaining economic growth. Furthermore, the people-centred development model is one of the most popular development approaches, that focus on prioritizing people from rural areas in development initiatives.

The model further state that, decision-making power should be decentralized to local institutions, to attain development (Ferraro, 1996). According to Diener, Lucas, Schimmack & Helliwel (2009), people must become the focal point of development, meaning they should decide for themselves what constitutes their development. Furthermore, Christopher (1990) states that development should be for the people,

meaning creating opportunities for them in development initiatives. This will enable people to share, enhance and analyse their knowledge of life and conditions, to plan and to act. Mathunhu (2011) argued that the people-centred approach is associated with micro-level or local level, which is decentralization of decision making. The author further indicated that it is associated with people-centred development and advocates for local participation through decision making as well as emphasizing the inclusion of ordinary people in rural areas, regardless of their status in decision-making processes.

Adhvaryu (2010) also states that, the people centred approach suggests development should be implemented based on principles, such as comprehensive participation, community development, social learning, integrated rural development and the basic need approach. According to Dinbabo (2003) the humanistic approach to development focuses on community's involvement in their own development using available resources and guiding the future development of their own community. "Participatory development approaches view the term 'participation' as the exercise of people's power in thinking, acting, and controlling their action in a collaborative framework" (Dinbabo, 2003: 09). The author closed by indicating that, third world countries did not find answers to their problems in the bureaucracy and its centrally mandated development projects and programs, but, it found it in the community itself, meaning that, communities need to be capacitated and have ultimate control over both their resources and destiny. The theory is complimented by the bottom-up approach to development.

Bottom-up approach to development

Social development theory is considered the conceptual scheme underpinning the bottom-up model. The bottom-up model consist of strategies which includes, comprehensive community participation, motivating local communities, expanding learning opportunities, improving local resource management, replicating human development, increasing communication and interchange, and localizing financial access. For practitioners using the bottom-up model as structured by social development, participation in community wide discussions, improved opportunities to learn, and the sense of empowerment that comes with knowledge are the necessary precursors to accomplishing the stated and implied goals of community development. The model utilizes a set of goals when used to structure for community development

programs. These goals are, to effect changes in community residents' perceptions about how to improve their standard of living; to create community-oriented behaviors that are based upon the changes in community residents' perceptions; and to improve the standard of living among a majority of community residents (Tipp, 2012). To accomplish these goals, programs using either the bottom-up model require residents to have acknowledge about the existence of problems and to show a willingness to participate in the community development program's process (Narayanasamy, 2009). Moreover, the process of bottom-up model features creating partnerships between community residents and professionals who provide technical support rather than leadership.

Therefore, from the theoretical approaches discussed above, this study is based on the people-centred approach, which is also called empowering approach because it emphasizes on empowering communities through active participation, capacity building, and sustainable approach.

2.3. Conceptualizing Women Empowerment

Women empowerment is composed of principles and guidelines, which direct various programmes that are implemented in rural areas on how it can be better achieved and implemented. “Women empowerment is the process by which women redefine and extend what is possible for them to be and do in situations where they have been restricted, compared to men, from being and doing. Alternatively, women empowerment is the process by which women redefine gender roles in ways which extend their possibilities for being and doing” (Muthuki & Ojong, 2016:252). Likewise, Kabeer (1999:435) defines women empowerment as “the process by which those who have been denied the ability to make strategic life choices acquire such ability”. These definitions focus on women empowerment as a process and enabling women to take control of matters that affect their livelihoods.

According to Goodman (1991), empowering women to partake fully in the economic life across all sectors throughout all levels of economic activity is important when it comes to building their participation, education, equality and access to resources. Moya (2000) state that building economies is one of the essential elements in empowering women, together with establishing more stable and just societies, and

achieving local agreed goals for development. Moreover, Mashamaite and Madzhivhandila (2014) concur to say programmes should aim to improve the quality of life for women in rural areas, and boost business operations and goals.

Based on the above clarifications regarding women empowerment, the researcher provides the following operational definition. Rural women empowerment refers to the process of enabling women to take control of matters that affect their livelihoods through their active participation in decision-making processes; elimination of gender-based discrimination; improving access to service and physical resources; and enhancing their knowledge and skills

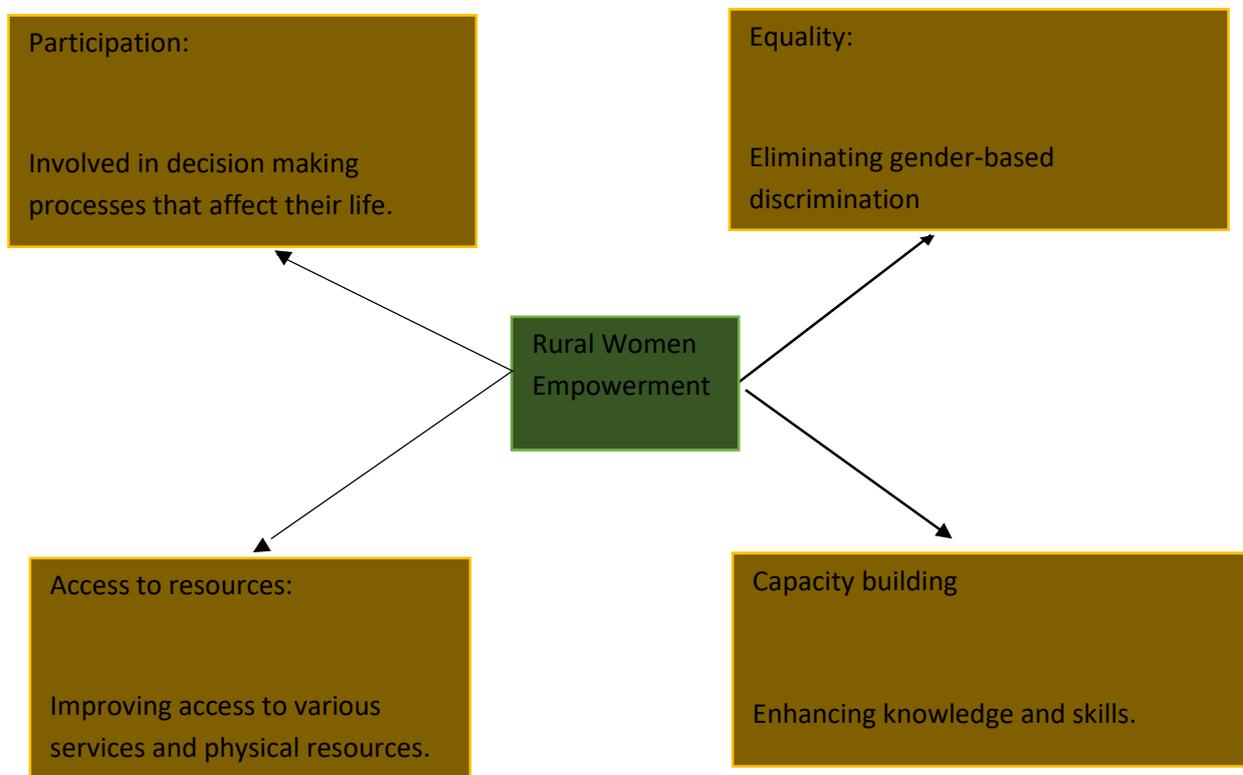


Figure 2.1 A conceptual framework for empowering rural women (Compiled by the author)

2.3.1. Participation

“Participatory local planning and implementation of development initiatives is crucial for improving quality of life at grass root level” (Asha, 2014: 398). The author further emphasized that development programmes and projects should be focused at grassroots level, formulated and implemented by the people and for the purpose of

meeting the needs and priorities of the people through participation. Possible strategies on achieving genuine participation through adoption and implementation of participatory, empowerment, integrated and sustainable approaches in development planning. This means that development initiatives in rural areas should aim at ensuring that women are involved in the development which affects them, which would mean that participation in decision making should be maximized.

Mashamaite & Madzhivhandila (2014, 225) stated that “Participation is considered as one of the key tenets of democratic governance in South Africa. Municipal councils are obliged to develop a culture of municipal governance that shifts from strict representative government to participatory governance, and must for this purpose, encourage, and create conditions for residents, communities and other stakeholders in the municipality to participate in local affairs”. This means that participation is crucial for achieving the empowerment of women by shifting centralized representation and allowing women to represent themselves in matters which affect them the most. This will promote decision making and involvement in the implementation of such decisions. Mashamaite and Madzhivhandila (2014) concur with the view of other authors and states that improved women’s participation through programme implementation in rural areas can be achieved if policy makers and strategists of local development could affirm a high level of support and direct top-level policies for women’s rights.

2.3.2. Equality

Equality is linked to human development, recognizing that both men and women are essential for the social and economic progress of rural areas; Moreover, it is envisaged that rural areas could be a place where all people share equal rights without being discriminated because of disabilities, background and class (Hodgson, 2002). The author further explained that equality in rural areas should focus on resource distribution and opportunities, where abundance rules and every man, woman and child is free from inequality. Pini (2010) further explained that males and females have equal opportunities to realize their rights and contribute to and benefit from economic, social, cultural, and political development. Therefore, women in rural areas should not be discriminated against because of their culture, disabilities, class, language, inability to perform feminine tasks or the inability to bear children (Goetz,2014).

2.3.3. Access to resources

Empowerment of women in rural areas should aim at assisting the disadvantaged in society to take control of resources, which surround them, like land and capital (Singh & Gupta, 2013). Ogbazi (2013) further indicated that the fundamental aim of the empowerment process is to afford the marginalized members of society, particularly women, the opportunity to direct and control activities pertaining to their development. Moreover, “for women to be fully in charge of their development, they must be able to access resources, be aware of the structures and institutions that hinder their progress, be actively involved in decision-making processes and finally take control of the resources at their disposal” (Moyo, Francis & Ndlovhu, 2015:4866). Lastly, Christopher (1990) indicated that women empowerment involves access to health, safety, freedom from violence, access to natural resources like land, capital and water, electricity, sanitation and also access to opportunities.

2.3.4. Capacity Building

Knowledge and skills are recognized as the cornerstones of sustainable development, particularly for those who have been excluded from a formal system of education and development in rural areas (Batliwala, 2007). “The problem with women’s opportunities for education looms largely at the turn of twenty-first century in Africa, given that women represents two-thirds of the world’s illiterate adults, while girls account for a similar proportion of the world’s out-of-school population” (Chakwizara & Nhemachena, 2012: 6016). The author further explained that there are factors which are responsible for the disparities faced by women, which range from exploitation and oppression to the discrimination against them which leads to them holding subordinate positions in their families, society and the country as a whole. However, Matunhu (2011) explained that, for women to be integrated into development processes, they need basic education, so that they can become co-partners in development. Thus, these authors come to an agreement that rural women should attain skills and knowledge, which are required for effective participation and functioning in the community in general; therefore, capacity building is seen as a powerful tool for empowerment and development of women.

2.4. International Perspective on Conditions of Women in Rural Areas

Goetz (2014) states that women have to undergo a deeply personal process of self-empowerment, which then encourages a growing awareness to their inner strength and ability to draw on such power in other aspects of life. However, given the conditions of women in rural areas, how rigorous can the process be? Thus, women in rural areas are obliged to adhere to the beliefs, norms, and cultural ethics which govern their communities. According to Mmbengwa, (2014), it might not be possible for women in rural areas to break through into the process of empowerment and conquer their conditions due to the fact that there are rules which governs their triple role as women, which is made up of their role in the community, at home and the workplace. Moya (2000) argues that, as much as women may go through the process of self-empowerment, there are aspects of respect for men and other marriage and community norms which they are expected to adhere to. Moreover, Stadler (1997) raises concerns of who then is responsible for change in the conditions of women in rural areas: could it be higher authorities or women themselves?

Chauke (2015) indicated that there is a tremendous difference between women in rural areas and those in urban areas. Thus, the author raises concern of who was responsible for the better conditions of women in urban areas: was it higher authorities or women themselves? Adhvaryu (2010) states that women in urban areas have been privileged to exercise most of the policies which were implemented in South Africa, like the 50/50 policy of public representation and many more. Therefore, Mmbengwa, (2014) indicates that what was done for women in urban areas should also be done for those in rural areas. Pini (2010) states that the empowerment of women in underdeveloped countries differs tremendously from that in developed countries. For instance, when women in underdeveloped countries lack access to resources by a rate of 73%, have a 70% poor participation in matters which affect them, 90% poor or no education and are 99% still oppressed by inequality, the case is not the same in developed countries. The author further states that women from developed countries have the privilege to access better education by an estimate of 99.99%, 90% maximum participation, 99% access to resources and 70% privilege to be equal with men. Therefore, can the study suggest that the poor conditions of women are caused by the norms, beliefs, taboos, culture and traditions which are enforced in a particular area? Moreover, whose responsibility is it to eliminate such?

It has been proven that women in rural areas have been disadvantaged in terms of decision making. Singh and Gupta (2013) mentioned that women empowerment matters have suffered in terms of promoting their rights to equal participation and representation in decision making at all levels, particularly in rural societies. According to Goetz (2014), the participation of women mainly in previously disadvantaged areas has been put in jeopardy through the use of culture, marriage laws and traditional “taboos”; hence, women remain in vulnerable situations and rely on men as their mouthpiece.

A study undertaken by Goldman & Little (2015) at the Massia tribe in Tanzania on rural women empowerment found out that women inhabitants of the area still suffer from the lack of ownership and access to resources. In the rural tribe, women rely and depend on their husbands for anything and everything; they describe it as needing to ask for everything from their husband, even money for salt from the market. According to the study, women are not allowed to have a say in their households because everything is under the control and ownership of the husband; this also mean that they are not allowed to participate in public engagements. Moreover, women are lagging behind in education due to inequality.

A study done in Ohija Imo states in Nigeria by Njoku *et al.* (2015) established results which indicate that almost 75% of the women are isolated, fragmented, and are vulnerable in discussions and sharing their wishes, concerns and problems, thus alienated from participation. Nigeria, being a male dominant society, restricts women from taking decisions and they are forced to obey their husbands and fathers. Yount *et al.* (2014) concur with Njoku’s study and state that the Nigerian women’s increased access to resources and role in decision making may cause men to take less responsibility and even withdraw support for critical decisions like seeking healthcare.

According to Singh & Gupta (2013), in Canada, poor, rural women are disproportionately and adversely impacted by domestic and public gendered roles in relation to water accessibility, system designs and management, as well as by the high

cost of water distribution. Inadequacy of fair water distribution channels is compounded by the growing influence of water privatization advocates. In the rural areas of Canada, water access insecurities have contributed to poor mental well-being, thus leaving women in a position of being unable to make decisions for themselves and relying on their husbands and male community members Pini (2010). Women in the rural areas of Canada are faced with gender violence, which is associated with unsafe and inaccessible water (Agle, Mitchel & Sonnenfeld, 2015).

Water insecurities and food insecurity pressures women to worry and be stressed about unsafe and unreliable sources and fear of water-borne illness (Beckers, 2012). According to Moya (2000), their lack of access to water has demanded time which has caused sleep deprivation, and has imposed time pressures and tension in families. This has further affected girl children because they skip school to remain home and help their mothers with water collection (Mashamaite & Madzhivhandila 2014). Issues of water insecurities have caused arguments with neighbours as well as strangers. Some interactions associated with water collecting cause a considerable amount of anxiety, from being belittled or bullied by more powerful community members when accessing water, to emotional pain when having to seize water from a non-sanctioned location (Mello, 2015). Moreover, this may also include shame and embarrassment over soiled clothing or inability to offer guests water, and all these are associated with mental health.

It is believed that women experience domestic pressures for performance around securing and ensuring the availability of water, food and may other necessities in the household. Furthermore, women are subjected to domestic violence if they are delayed in the sufficient collection of water Chauke (2015). There are public threats of sexual violence when women and girls seek water and latrine facilities. Moya (2000) mentioned that pre-existing gender roles hinder women's ability to participate in water and land policy development even at a most basic level. In some jurisdictions, women are offered very limited rights to water and land use or river systems, thus reducing access for irrigation, business needs or domestic use. Women in rural areas have lacked support from their husbands and suffer from the perpetuation of gender biases

thus there are few female leadership, which results in them failing to engage in outside activities.

Changes in land use or appropriation of water resources by state and industry for development need or urban water supply have led to the disappearance of water sources commonly accessed by women through informal settlements (McEwan, 2005). Kulik (2012) argues that pre-existing gender roles hinder women's responsibilities to participate in water policy development even at the most basic levels. In many jurisdictions, women are afforded very limited rights to water and use of river systems thus reducing access for irrigation, business and domestic use.

2.5. International Perspective on Women Empowerment in Rural Areas

Women empowerment in rural areas has become another development buzzword, perhaps the most widely used, abused and hallowed act of critical political meaning (Mudau & Obadire, 2014). Perspectives on women empowerment in rural areas from various countries are reviewed in this section:

2.5.1. Perspectives of Nepal on women empowerment rural areas

A case study conducted by Mishra and Sam (2015) in Nepal titled "*Does women's land ownership promote their empowerment? Empirical evidence from Nepal*", has shown results that women in Nepal have long faced discrimination. "Discrimination is fundamentally driven by societal views of women as economically less productive (due to their limited involvement in direct income-generating activities) and of lesser value to parents for the purpose of long term assets accumulation" (Mishra and Sam, 360,2015). Moreover, women in Nepal have been discriminated because it is believed that, the duties they perform of household keeping, caring and house chores do not produce income for the household. Hence, the need for them to have ownership of land or acquire education has been undermined. Moreover, "In poor rural areas of Nepal where agriculture is a primary source of income, women are wrongly perceived as even less valuable, mostly engaged in household work and less so in direct income-generating activities" (Mishra and Sam, 2015: 360). The result is due to the fact that the duties which women perform in the agricultural sector are also regarded as less

valuable because they do not bring in income. This means in Nepal, the participation and involvement of women in the agricultural sector was deprived, women in the rural areas of Nepal were highly discriminated, all their efforts were not taken in to consideration, hence, their education, participation and access to resources was not taken in to consideration. The main way of gaining land in Nepal is through inheritance, which is largely patrilineal. Otherwise, women gain access to land or property through kinship or marital relationship to men.

Situation in the empowerment of women in the rural areas of Nepal changed. According to the Mishra and Sam (2015: 361) “it was not until 1997, that a constitutional fix (sixth amendment of the 1963 Nation Code) brought changes to women’s land ownership rights”. The authors further explained that unmarried women from the age of 35 and older were then equally entitled to parental property as their brothers. Even though they had to return the property after they are married, unless the parents or the brother dies. Moreover, in 2002 the amendment made in the constitution of Nepal over land rights expanded women’s rights and empowerment by guaranteeing equal inheritance of property at birth by sons and unmarried daughters, it provided married women the right to a share of their husband’s property immediately after marriage, it also lifted the age limit on widows. Even though daughter would still renounce their ownership of inherited property upon marriage. Furthermore, in 2007, Nepal made its last amendment of the interim constitution. The amendment forbade gender-based-discrimination regarding ownership. The amendment empowered women in a sense that, it guaranteed joint land ownership by both wife and husband of the land provided by the state, it also implemented policies to facilitate a wife joint ownership of her husband’s land. Nepal adopted a string of progress laws of land rights equality in 2007, which states that women have the rights to inheritance regardless of their age and marital status.

The amendments made in the Nepal constitution from 1997 until 2007 have produced great results in a manner that, women acquired access to land, gender based discrimination was forbidden, and they were recognized as worthy of recognition. The amendments have also brought a sense of security over land ownership to women. Reference can be drawn from the findings by Mishra and Sam. According to their findings, women’s bargaining powers have increased significantly from 2001 to 2011.

In a manner that in 2001, 20% of the Nepal women were reported to have a final say in their health care. In the same year of 2011, major household purchasing power which was at 24%, visits of women to their families and relatives which were at 32%, have all increase to 58,47%. Decision making of women in their households have increased from 13% in 2001 to 29% in 2011. Lastly in the findings, 20% of women in the rural areas of Nepal had secondary education/higher education in 2011, as compared to 8% in 2001. The authors closed by indicating that in Nepal, lack of awareness of these legislative developments among eligible women and social norms of patrilineal inheritance may prevent them from exercising their constitutional rights.

- *There are lessons which could be drawn from the Nepal case study on women empowerment. The lessons which could be drawn are:*

Land ownership plays a significant role in fighting gender discrimination and enhancing the bargaining power of women in rural area. An increase in women's self-sufficiency is expected to translate into a redirection of resources towards women's preferences, including higher investments in human capital of the household such as education, health and nutrition. The access to education and awareness enables women to claim their constitutional rights. Capacity building at the local level that advances gender equity in land titling, should be enforced. Information dissemination and the importance of capacity building should prove importance and usefulness to women's empowerment. There should be provision for legislative and local administrative reform to generate significant gains in women's empowerment without further institutional changes such as access to credit markets and social safety nets; and changes in cultural attitudes that disfavor women.

2.5.2. Perspective of Nigeria on women empowerment rural areas

A study conducted by Kegudu, Malami and Gatawa (2011) in Nigeria (Barnin Kebbi), titled "*Skills acquisition, capacity building and women economic empowerment: A case study of women education centre, Birnin Kebbi*", indicated that the aim of women economic empowerment is to enhance the socio economic status of women through familiarizing them with skills and literacy training for various economic ventures and activities as well as creation of an economic culture that will address the question of technical know-how in pursuit of women's multi-faceted roles. Therefore, economic

empowerment is a situation where the ability to own and control resources exist. Thus, women economic empowerment involves the ability for women to engage in income generating activities that will enable them to have access to independent income. The authors explained that, experience has shown that financial dependence is one of the key sources of subordination for women empowerment. Moreover, the authors indicated that in Nigeria, the economic empowerment of Nigerian women systematically and persistently deteriorated particularly since 1986. Unless there was general global constitution empowerment of all women and all Nigerians, but only few Nigerians would inherit the economic empowerment conferred on them. Women economic empowerment is low in Nigeria compared to the males. Many of the women still live on unskilled jobs. Most jobs performed by women do not have economic value. Omoyibo, Egharevba and Iyanda (2010) conducted a similar study and added to say all work activities that do not require financial reward are the responsibilities of women. The existence of gender related barriers like cultural beliefs, educational disparities affect the economic potential of women and have adverse effects on rural development. Evidence have shown that in rural areas of Africa societies have been categorized as inferior to men, the imaginations of women is built from childhood to be subordinates to men through gender stereotyping and myth. As a result, they are not given equal opportunities with men in public spheres.

The united nations placed effort which the authors never indicated towards alleviating women discrimination in Nigeria, however results have shown that, Nigeria is highly a patriarchal society where men dominate all spheres of life, women are left in subordination positions particularly at the community and household level. A total potential labour force of 46,091,452 in Nigeria with the male potential labour force of 22,415,777 (49%), and the female potential labour force was 23,675,975 (51%). This means that the number of women who could work and are not working is higher than that of the male. According to the authors, a report of cross river state economic empowerment and development strategy (CR-SEEDS) which was launched in Nigeria in 2005 produced results that, the male literacy rate in Nigeria was 70% and female was 48%. This means that the illiteracy rate of females in Nigeria is higher than that of the males. Birnin kebbi is also one of the places where one finds a high rate of illiteracy on women and drop out of school on girls, divorcees who are illiterate and widows undergo untold hardships due to lack of economic independence. This has

limited the ability of women in Birnin kabbi Nigeria their ability to contribute maximally to development process.

Evidence to the above findings are that 63.6% of women in Nigeria are married and are secondary school graduates and others are school drop outs. 9.5% have acquired tertiary qualification but have been denied public work by their husbands. 68.6% of Nigerian women are self-employed, 14.5% employed by government, 4.5% employed by private sectors. 3.2% practice child hawking. 12.3% of the women lack adequate capital and government assistance. 73.2% of women still rely on the guardians for assistance, however, 26.8% of them are economically independent. 96.8% of the women who are self-employed and practice sewing, knitting, bead making, hair dressing, banking, computer literacy and trading. Many of them have the desire to further their education.

- *There are lessons which could be drawn from the Barnin kebbi case study on women empowerment. The lessons which could be drawn are:*

It is important for government to increase its investment on human capital development particularly on women who are mostly poor in rural areas. This can be done by providing free professional education and training as well as free machineries and equipment for the trained women to start business. Women should be encouraged to use sale representatives in order to eliminate child hawking and improve patronage. They also need to be encouraged to join pressure groups where they can be enlightened about a number of issues affecting them as well as the importance of effective resource management.

2.5.3. Perspective of Zimbabwe on women empowerment in rural areas

A study conducted by Museva in (2012) titled “*the level of participation of women with disabilities in economic empowerment programmes in Gweru district*”, indicated that in Zimbabwe, not much has been documented in the area of participation for women living with disability in any economic empowerment programme. In this regard, it is likely to affect women with disability in rural areas because of their poor conditions where they are destitute, illiterate, and without vocal skills. They are more likely to be without family support, experience negative stereotypes, high rate of

institutionalization and abuse. All these affect the participation of women living with disability in rural areas. Women in rural areas of Zimbabwe have been deprived the opportunity to deliberate in matters which affect their daily living. Such deprivation emanates from various beliefs in different cultures. According to the author, Zimbabwean women undergo a deep and personal process of self-empowerment, which then encourages a growing awareness of their own inner strength and ability to draw on such power in other aspects of life. Thus, women empowerment starts from within, through participating in daily matters, which directly affect them.

Women empowerment is inclusive of women living with disability. Women living with disability in Zimbabwe are given less attention, and are not consulted in issues affecting their lives. They are often regarded as charity cases. Moya (2000) who also conducted a study similar to this added to say, women with disability in rural areas of Zimbabwe often suffer discrimination and are ignored, as they are not considered to be equal human beings who are capable of taking control of their lives. The idea emanates from the fact that most disabled women often need the next person to assist them in taking care of them (e.g. bathing, feeding, travelling, and other assistance). Moreover, women in rural areas of Zimbabwe who are living with disability are not empowered in terms of participation because of factors like stigma, isolation, sexual and gender-based violence.

- *There are lessons which could be drawn from the Zimbabwe case study on women empowerment. The lessons which could be drawn are:*

There is a need to strengthen the role of government officials at all levels representing persons with disabilities in meetings and, decision making because this will ensure that the perceptions of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities are included in all aspects of programmes. When states funds are distributed to groups of persons with disabilities specific plans for targeting women with disabilities should be designed.

2.5.4. Perspective of Canada on women empowerment rural areas

According to a report compiled by Rajan in (2011) in Canada titled “*women with disabilities and abuse: access to support*” indicated that, in the rural area of Canada,

women living with disability live in poor and isolated conditions and it is only the few who are normally taken for training, to be able to engage in meaningful and productive activities. However, the study argues that there is a need to find and create increased and more economically beneficial opportunities to develop women with disabilities' potential. Women with disability are facing challenges in terms of their empowerment in relation to participation, to an extent where it was alleged that it is important to encourage and support the participation of women with disability.

The study indicated that education reduces the number of live births, increases contraceptives use, and promotes reproductive health practices. The study does find evidence that education improves women's decision-making authority within households, asset ownership, or community participation. The author further states that, to some extent, education does empower women in middle-income countries like Canada. About two-thirds of the estimated 776 million adults or 16% of the world's adult population who lack basic literacy skills are women. In Canada, nearly 1 out of 5 girls who enrol in primary school do not complete their primary education. The women's learning partnership (WLP) estimates that, for every year beyond fourth grade that girls attend school, wages rise 20%, child death drops 10% and family size drops 20%.

Access to resources is one of the factors which determines the empowerment of women in rural areas in such a way that the resources which women possess can be used to improve their lives in a significant way. Access to resources includes land, capital, and other natural resources. McEwan (2005) concurs with authors and adds to say, women's ownership of land should contribute in their empowerment because in rural areas women are not allowed to own a piece of land and this has violated their rights. In Canada, water pressures are mounting regarding water accessibility. More people have been lifted out of poverty in the last 50 years yet more than 500 people live on \$1 per day, according to some estimates, women represent 70% of the Canadians poor. Mukherjee (2016) also conducted a similar study and results show that the international fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD) reported that in Canada, the percentage of land owned by women is less than 2%.

- *There are lessons which could be drawn from the Canada case study on women empowerment. The lessons which could be drawn are:*

Women need other women counsellors who have a strong understanding of the specific barriers women with disabilities experience, particularly when they are experiencing abuse. They need to be knowledgeable of the different way people with disabilities communicate. Abused women need immediate access to emergency money when escaping from abusive situations, as well as long term goals and supports to secure education and employment. There needs to be free legal services to help women with paperwork to get what they are entitled to from their abusive husbands. Women need to be educated on what abuse is from an early age. They need information on where to go to get help. They need information on their rights and how to exercise them. With this information, women with disabilities are supported to be self-advocates. Women need a health service system that will attend to women's physical, mental, and spiritual health needs. Health providers need awareness around violence against women, cross class, disability, and race. Women need a circle of support to help them with immediate, short, and longer term planning towards an abuse free life. Health and social services have to work together with women with disabilities to create a safe and supportive community for them to live in. There has to be a dramatic shift in the culture of supports and services that places the women's needs as the central starting point for intervention.

2.5.5. Other international perspectives on women empowerment in rural areas revealed results that:

According to US government sponsored research completed in 2006, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders annually. Approximately 80% of transnational trafficking victims are women and girls and up to 50% are minors. An estimated 72% of the world's 33 million refugees are women and children. Every minute somewhere in the world, a woman dies due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Investing in women can yield a significant 'gender dividend', because according to a 2011 Deloitte report urging the public and private sector to reap these benefits by investing in women and bringing them into leadership positions. The report highlighted the growing power of women consumers already controlling roughly US\$20 trillion of total consumer spending globally and influencing up to 80% of buying

decisions. A 2011 report from the international labour organization (ILO) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) revealed a gender equality gap in employment rate for women as compared to men cost Asia \$47 billion annually; fully 45% of women remained outside the workplace compared to 19% of men. In 2007, Goldman Sachs reported that different countries and regions of the world could dramatically increase GDP simply by reducing the gap in employment rate between men and women; the Eurozone could increase GDP by 13%; Japan by 16%; and the US by 9%(Kongolo & Bamgose, 2015).

The most common form of violence experienced by women globally is physical violence inflicted by an intimate partner (Stadler, 1997). On average, at least 6 out of 10 women are beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused by an intimate partner in the course of their lifetime (Kongolo & Bamgose, 2015). It is estimated that, worldwide, 1 in 5 women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. Women experience sexual harassment through their lives. Women in developing countries suffer from gender inequity. Countries like Yemen, Chad and Pakistan have been ranked at the bottom of the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index. In Indonesia, 96% of men are literate but only 90% of women are; 86% men participate in the labour market, but only 53% of women do. Moreover, men in Indonesia earn US \$6,903 on average, but women earn only US \$2,985; only one in five legislators, senior officials, and managers are women. Furthermore, one in ten married women is 15-19 years old; maternal mortality rate may be as high as one in four hundred live births Adhvaryu (2010). Moreover, a study conducted in Zambia and Uganda concludes that participation for women living with disability in rural areas can be achieved by involving them in decision making, and no decision about their matters which involve them should be made without their inputs (Moya, 2000).

2.6. South African Experience on Women Empowerment

South Africa has a long history on women empowerment, it holds a history on how women were treated during apartheid and how they attained their empowerment. women were treated as second class citizens in South Africa. All women in the country were disadvantaged, black women have dealt with additional struggles due to apartheid. Legal systems have contributed largely in the systematic oppression of

South African women. In addition, South Africa struggles was composed by extremely high rates of rape and sexual violence on women (Thompson & Conradie, 2011).

According to a study conducted by (UNDP, 2017) it gives a history of how women were treated before the democratic South Africa. The history starts by giving a brief on how the farm wars also known as Boer wars treated women, and how they perceived the empowerment of women. The Boer Wars were two wars fought during 1880–1881 and 1899–1902 by the British Empire against two independent Boer republics, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal Republic. ('Boer' is the Dutch and African word for farmer). Boer women, children and men that weren't fit enough to work for the British were put together in concentration camps during Boer War 2. Moreover, the first two of these camps were established to house the families of cities who had surrendered voluntarily, but very soon, families that were a burden for the British were driven forcibly into camps that were established all over the country, the camps first stayed refugee camps but they later became concentration camps. The horrible conditions in these camps caused the death of 4 177 women, 22 074 children under sixteen and 1 676 men, mainly those too old to be on commando. Furthermore, the white and the black people were put in different camps. All women and children were put in concentration camps right away, they were treated very badly. The white camps had it much better than the black camps. Field-Marshal Lord Roberts had another motive to put Blacks into camps, namely to make them work, either to grow crops for the troops or to dig trenches, be wagon drivers or work as miners. They did not receive food, hardly any medical support or shelter and were expected to grow their own crops. The strong-bodied who could work, could exchange labour for food or buy a meal for a cheap price. The author further explained in the history that, in 1901, 22 of January, At the Boschhoek concentration camp for Blacks, about 1 700 black, held a protest meeting. They stated that when they have been brought into the camps they have been promised that they will be paid for all their stock taken by the British, for all grain destroyed and that they will be fed and looked after. They were also unhappy because they receive no food while the Boers who were the cause of the war were fed for free in the refugee camps. While the war lasts, more and more concentration camps were set up for women and children, and more and more deaths were recorded.

A study conducted by Khau (2012) also show how girls and women struggled in the apartheid era, and he state that. Nowadays 96% of South African children aged 7–13 receive a primary education. However, there was a time where it was uncommon for girls to be able to go to school there. Many children including girls struggled to receive education. The government schools struggle with many challenges including a poor quality of education, low teacher morale, the impact of HIV and AIDS, poor infrastructure, water shortages, food insecurity, poor public health, and few techniques for inclusive education, particularly for children with disabilities. Girls and young women still report high levels of sexual abuse, intimidation, exploitation and murder in their schools. Girls are socialised to become home keepers and child-bearers, so they place less value on their educational. When girls perform well in subjects such as math or science, they are not encouraged and they mostly don't have the confidence to pursue careers that rely on these skills. Many schools are not child or girl friendly. Some are situated far from homes, exposing girls to danger when they walk to and from school. Girls are at risk of being sexually harassed and exploited in schools by teachers and fellow students. Nearly a million children under the age of 15 have been orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Girls often drop out of school to look after sick family members and younger siblings.

From the history on the empowerment and condition of women during the apartheid era, women did not accept to continue with such treatment on them. “It was not until the introduction of the Constitution of Human Rights in 1996 that all women in South Africa were formally recognized as equal citizens. In this Constitution, there was a special paragraph for women, titled ‘Equality’” (Mmbengwa, Ntili, Haines, Groenewald & Schalkwyk, 2014: 6437). The new constitution stated that in the nation, you may not unfairly, directly or indirectly discriminate against anyone including women. Bhengu (2010) indicated that, the struggle of women in South Africa started as early as 1913, before this Bill of Rights. It was when women of different colour began to protest against having to carry identification passes bearing in mind that, white women did not have to carry the passes. Moreover, in 1918 Charlotte Maxeke started the first formal women’s organization, called the Bantu Women's League. This caused that, in the 1930s and 1940s there were many mass protests, demonstrations and resistance campaigns in which women participated in.

A study conducted by UNDP (2017) presented on how the African National Congress recognised the need of women in South Africa. Before 1943 the African National Congress (ANC) was an organization founded by men and acknowledged men. The ANC recognised that the struggles of women from 1913- 1943 showed that women were affected by colonialism as well. It was only in 1943 that, the ANC opened its doors for women to join the ANC. In 1948 the ANC Women's League was formed and Ida Mtwana became the first female president of the League. In 1952 many South African women took part in the Rebelliousness Campaign, which involved purposefully breaking apartheid laws. After that, throughout history and until the present day there have been many serious campaigns for their rights. Women now have more rights than they have ever had before. Furthermore, in August 9, 1975, South African women celebrated the first South African Women's Freedom day. The holiday was organized by the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) to commemorate the protests that began on August 9, 1913, against the identification passes that black women had to carry.

From the struggles encountered by females in South Africa, the UNDP (2017) further, present other strategies which were placed to improve the status of women empowerment in the country. In 2003, the South African Minister of Education set up the Girls' Education Movement (GEM). GEM was an African movement, supported by the UNICEF, where children and young people in schools and communities in South Africa worked to bring positive changes in the lives of African girls and boys. The aim of GEM was to, give girls equal access to education, improve the quality of education, especially in disadvantaged schools, Make the school program and school books gender responsive, create schools that are safe and secure for children, especially girls, work with boys as strategic partners, decrease gender-based violence, eliminate harmful cultural practices such as early marriage. GEM has had a lot of success in this area and has also helped many schools, making life for a large number of girls a lot better. There are a lot of other organizations which tried to get more fair rights for girls in South Africa.

Many things have been done for women in South Africa, for example the commemoration of the Women's March that is being held every year. The Bill of Rights have had great impact on the empowerment of women in South Africa. Even though

many things have been done for the women in South Africa, women in rural areas are still treated lesser than men but also than white women. Even though there have been gradual improvements as this has not improved, these things have had a positive effect on how women are treated. Little girls can now have education without having to be afraid of going to school. But not only the direct causes, there are projects in which things against AIDS were done to assist women. By helping to do things against this disease, organizations were making sure that girls get a chance to actually try to get a normal life. Because some of them were born with the disease (UNDP, 2017).

According to Khau (2012) Many organisations have worked on women empowerment issues. During the negotiations on women's rights, an organisation called the Women's National Coalition worked very hard throughout the country collecting women's views on the country they would like to see. The author further state that, the established in women from different political parties becoming part of the political negotiations in South Africa. It also led to the development of the National Gender Policy Framework and the establishment of the (initially) Office of the Status of Women, now the Women's Ministry and the Commission for Gender Equality.

Mmbengwa et al (2014) state that the big organisation that was formed in 2006 to accommodate women from all political organs and walks of life is the Progressive Women's Movement of South Africa (PWMSA); also the Africa-base-document, one of the small organizations was Woman's Net, this was a feminist organization that especially tried to fight for the equality of women in South Africa. The strategies did not only end there, women also organise themselves in political parties, business organisations, academic institutions, trade union and other structures. "Another huge issue in South Africa was the trafficking of women and pseudo-cultural practices that allow child marriages" (Bhengu 2010).

Those arranged marriages have destroyed the lives of many girls. This has changed in 2016 with the amendment of the trafficking legislation to include criminalisation of the "ukuthwala" practice which had been bastardised over time. There were many pieces of legislation that have been introduced to promote the protection of women in the rural settings and those married through traditional customs; to protect women

from domestic violence, to protect women from rape and ensure their rights in political, social and economic settings.

2.7. Implementation and challenges of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP).

The section discusses the background of CRDP on its implementation in South Africa, it also discusses that objective, aims, outputs, mechanisms, implementing structure of CRDP. The section closes by discussing major challenges which have led to the poor implementation of CRDP.

2.7.1. The background of Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP).

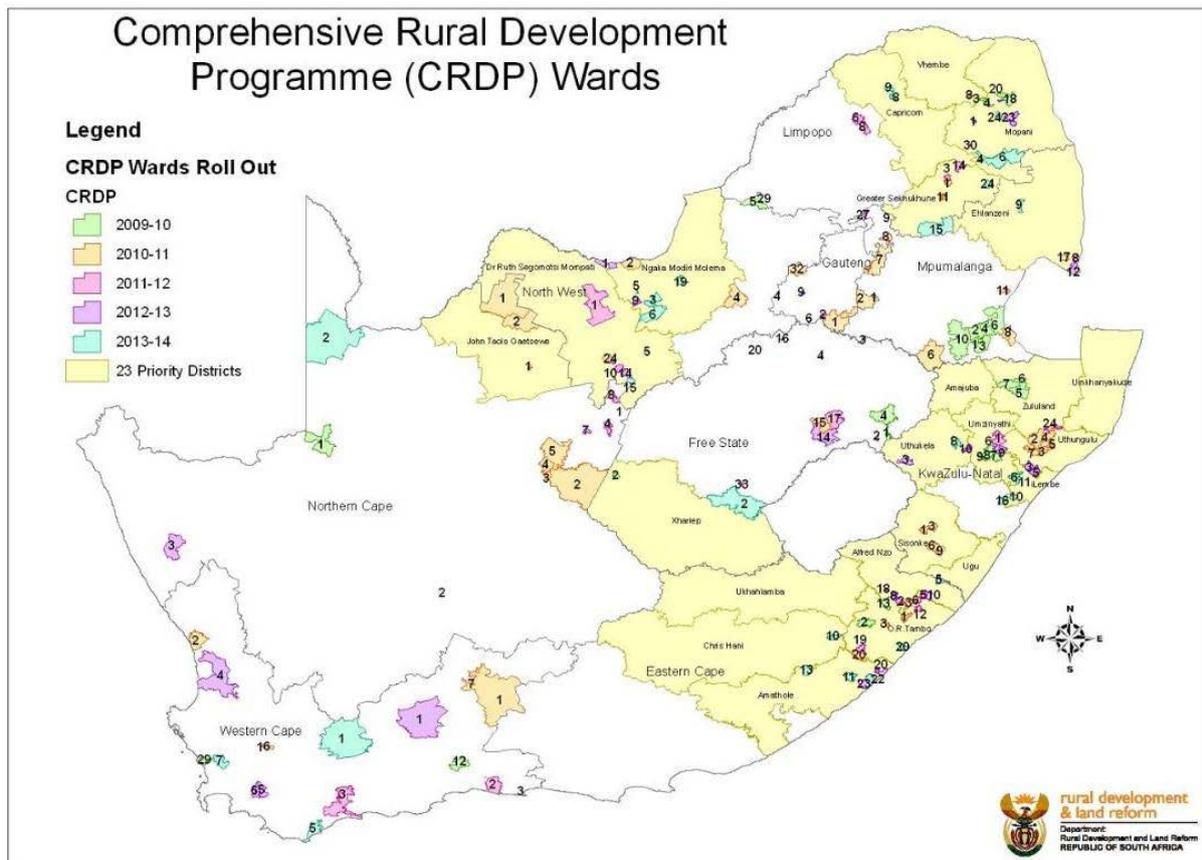
The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) was defined in a Concept Document which was developed between May-July 2009 shortly after the new Department of Rural Development and Land Reform was formed. The programme was directly linked to South African government outcomes which are, Outcome 7: “Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities and food security”; Outcome 4: “Decent employment through economic growth”; Outcome 10: “Sustainable natural resource management”; and Section 27 of the Constitution which obliges the state to “foster conditions which enable citizens to gain access to land on an equitable basis” (CRDP, 2012).

The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) was born out of the resolutions of the ANC National Conference in 2007. The intention on Rural Development, Land Reform and Agrarian Change sought to address many challenges affecting the rural areas in South Africa. Such factors included the need to address poverty, joblessness, and limited livelihoods in rural areas, insecure land tenure, lack of infrastructure and basic services, and lack of access to productive land (UNDP, 2017). Moreover, the need for the CRDP arose from the fact that the estimated 19 million rural people have a right to basic necessities such as electricity, water, flush toilets, roads, entertainment, sport centres, retail services, schools and agricultural production opportunities.

Apart from improving the standards of living and welfare, it also seeks to rectify past injustices through rights-based interventions as well as addressing skewed patterns of distribution and ownership of wealth and assets. Therefore, the CRDP is premised on a three-pronged strategy which focuses on agrarian transformation, rural development and land reform (CRDP,2012).

The programme is said to be different from past government strategies in rural areas in that it embraces a proactive, participatory, community-based planning approach rather than an interventionist approach to rural development (DRDLR, 2013:3). The CRDP's approach is to operate in the poorest rural wards- including those located in the 23 priority districts. The fact that the CRDP operates in some of the poorest, remote and historically underserved localities in the country means that the programme faces massive challenges in its aim to bring development to these communities.

Figure 2.2: CRDP sites 2009-2014



The map above, show all the 23 CRDP priority districts which the programme had targeted to develop.

2.7.2. Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) aims/goals.

The CRDP was led by three goals which are agrarian transformation, rural development and land reform and these are explained as follows:

Agrarian transformation was one of the goals which aimed to increase production and sustainable use of natural resources, it further aimed to establish rural business initiatives, agro-industries, co-operatives, cultural initiatives and vibrant local markets in rural settings, the empowerment of rural people and communities (especially women and youth), and the revitalisation of old, and restoring new economic, social, and information and communication infrastructure, public amenities and facilities in villages and small rural towns (DRDLR, 2013).

Rural Development was the second goal which aimed that, the department should enable rural people to take control of their destiny, thereby dealing effectively with rural poverty through the optimal use and management of natural resources. The people are put at the centre of development and encouraged to participate and take initiatives to improve their lives (DRDLR, 2013).

Land Reform was the last goal which aimed, to improve the pace towards redistributing 30 percent of agricultural land to black racial groups by 2014; and improving the pace of tenure reform and settlement of outstanding claims (DRDLR, 2009). The rationale is to enable rural people to take control of their destiny with support from government, and thereby address rural poverty effectively through the optimal use and management of natural resources.

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) has noted that the strategic objective of the CRDP were there to facilitate integrated development and social cohesion through participatory approaches in partnership with all sectors of society. Therefore, the vision of the CRDP was to create vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities.

2.7.3. Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) objectives.

The objectives of CRDP were drawn from the Reports published by DRDLR:

The final report by the DRDLR (2013) had indicate on the CRDP objectives which were inclusive of: mobilising and empowering rural communities to take control of their own destiny with the support of government; create employment of one person per household at each of the CRDP pilot sites for two years through its job creation model; address the needs of communities in rural areas ranging from running water, sanitation, housing and development support; and; bringing together various stakeholders like other departments, non-governmental organisations business sector and community in order to enhance socio-economic development issues.

2.7.4. Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) outputs.

From the objectives, the programme was also composed of the following specific outputs which were developed to achieve the CRDP objectives:

The outputs of CRDP are inclusive of, sustainable agrarian reform with thriving farming sector; Improved access to affordable and diverse food; Improved services to support sustainable livelihoods; and; rural job creation and promoting economic livelihoods through an enabling institutional environment for sustainable and inclusive growth (CRDP, 2012).

2.7.5. Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) mechanisms.

The programme of CRDP also consist of specific mechanisms and processes to achieve the outputs set out by CRDP, they include the following:

Community and household profiling (participatory process) and compilation of a status quo report for the chosen CRDP site; establishment of key institutional arrangements e.g. Council of Stakeholders, Technical Committees, Implementation Forum and Political Champions; Mobilisation and empowerment of communities to participate in development initiatives; Infrastructure delivery across many sectors and involving several government departments and spheres and other strategic partners to meet

basic needs and create a conducive environment for economic and social development; and enterprise and economic livelihoods support including (but not limited to): skills development, temporary public works employment, establishing cooperatives, establishing food gardens, establishing and supporting smallholder farmers and subsistence producers etc. (CRDP, 2012).

2.7.6. Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) phases.

The CRDP is premised on three phases of which the majority of CRDP sites were still in the first phase:

Phase One: is regarded as an incubator stage which focuses on meeting basic human needs; Phase Two: is regarded as the entrepreneurial development stage where medium to large-scale infrastructure development is the driver; and Phase Three: focuses on supporting the emergence of rural industrial and financial sectors which is driven by small, medium and micro enterprises and village markets.

According to the DRDLR, the design of CRDP was based on lessons learnt from pilot sites selected through socio-economic profiling, community participatory processes and intergovernmental co-operation. The programme was said to be different from past government strategies in rural areas in that it was premised on a proactive participatory community-based planning approach rather than an interventionist approach to rural development (DRDLR, 2013).

The CRDP model of job creation creates para-development specialists at ward level that are equipped to train and mentor selected community members so that they become gainfully employed (DRDLR, 2013). Development at site level is also facilitated by institutional building to improve the capacity of the communities to manage development initiatives. The Council of Stakeholders (COS) is the institution that brings together different stakeholders in the community, private sector and government. It should embrace representatives of such organisations and is located at the site. The COS is established to enforce compliance with the conditions for the

state support to the CRDP beneficiaries; ensure compliance to the agreed code of conduct and support the implementation of the disciplinary code and; to plan and implement projects together with the CRDP technical committees and play an oversight and monitoring role (CRDP, 2012).

The CRDP was a complex and cross-cutting programme which required effective partnership between a number of stakeholders across all spheres of government, among numerous departments, as well as with civil society. Ensuring that those numerous stakeholders were clear about their roles and responsibilities and were mobilized effectively to coordinate planning, budgeting and implementation of the CRDP was crucial to the success of the programme. The CRDP was facilitated by a complex set of interrelated institutional arrangements such as the Council of Stakeholders, Technical Committees and Political Champions which bring all the various stakeholders together to contribute to the aims of the CRDP (DRDLR, 2013).

2.7.7. Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) Implementing structure

The Department of Rural Development and land Reform (DRDLR) was tasked with the role of coordinator (as well as initiator, facilitator and catalyst), it was guided by the principles of cooperative governance and the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 (CRDP, 2012). Coordinating these numerous and diverse stakeholders effectively posed tremendous challenges to the DRDLR as the very comprehensive scope of the programme. The DRDLR did not work alone, there were structures which were appointed, they were inclusive of the political champion which was composed of the president of the Republic of South Africa; national champion which were composed of the minister of DRDLR; provincial champions which were composed of premiers; local champions which were composed of the MECs, local and district mayors; technical champions which were composed of the directors-general and the heads of departments in provinces; district Implementation forums were composed and constituted by municipal managers, ward representatives, representatives from Council of Stakeholders and chaired by district mayors; provincial coordinating forum

were constituted by district mayors, heads of departments (HoDs) and chaired by the MECs; technical committees were Comprised of provincial sector departments with a project management role; technical committee forums; Council of stakeholders were representatives from government departments, business, NGOs, traditional leaders, community and ward committees etc.; operational groups/households were formed of around twenty cooperatives/enterprises; interdepartmental structures such as Multi-sector committees; and Service delivery agreements and strategic partnerships (CRDP, 2012).

2.7.8. Major Challenges encountered by the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)

According to a report by the DRDLR (2013) it indicated that there were major challenges which highly impacted on achieving the objectives of CRDP. One of the major challenge of CRDP was that there were mixed evidence regarding the various CRDP mechanisms and, how well these were working and delivering benefits. Most success has been achieved with meeting basic needs, however only limited success has been achieved with community empowerment and job creation. However, other challenges which were regarded major were that, in ensuring that meaningful benefits are achieved, the process kept on revolving around improving planning and implementation processes of all three spheres of government, and strengthening partnerships with NGOS and business so that the various initiatives support and complement each other at a site or local level; a rough estimate of the cost to roll out the CRDP to all 2920 rural wards in South Africa (DRDLR"s planned intention) would cost a minimum of R61.596 billion. Value For Money (VFM) was not being achieved in the CRDP.

2.8. Conclusion

International literature shows how women in rural areas have been living lives of no empowerment and various scenarios from studies conducted by various authors have proven that. Literature has shown that the participation of women is low, they do not have access to resources, and they are not treated equally with men. Studies also show that the resources distributed among women are not fairly and equally distributed amongst them. Human centred development was adopted because it speaks about

enforcing empowerment and placing people in the centre of development. In light of the South African context CRDP has contributed partially towards women empowerment in Muyexe village. Evidence can be drawn from when the programme is compared with the people-centred approach to development. It has touched aspects of participation and access to resources, but on the matter of capacity building and equality it has failed, thus there are still illiterate women in South Africa and inequality exists amongst them. The section has outlined how the aspect of women empowerment is fundamental in a manner that various guidelines have been set on how programmes should go about implementing and enforcing women empowerment in rural areas, using the four elements which are capacity building, participation, access to resources and equality. The chapter also reviews the conditions of women and the status of their empowerment together with the nature of CRDP. In the following chapter, the study shall review women empowerment in the South African context, together with the contribution of CRDP on women empowerment in South Africa.

CHAPTER THREE
THE NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL, AND DISTRICT CONTEXT OF THE STUDY
AREA: MUYEXE VILLAGE, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

3.1. Introduction

The empowerment of women in rural areas is important, especially when consulting the national development goals for 2030. The participation, education, and equality of women, and their access to resources, are the elements which the study has focused on because it believes that the participation of women will give women the right of expression, allowing them to express their views on matters which directly affect them and take charge in working their development out. An educated woman is fearless, enforces change and develops herself and those around her. Therefore, the study posits that with their education plus participation, they can advocate for their empowerment and development, which will enable them to have equal opportunities with men in their households, communities and workplace. Therefore, women will be able to access capital, land and many other resources which they see useful to their development.

The previous chapter looked at women empowerment at international context. The chapter in question aims to scrutinize literature looking at the South African context on whether the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme contributed towards the empowerment of women. The chapter will further scrutinize four elements which the study believes better explain the empowerment of women. The elements involve education, participation, equality and access to resources. The chapter starts by discussing the conditions of women in rural areas of South Africa according to literature. It further discusses the status of women empowerment in the rural areas of South Africa. Lastly, it indicates various strategies and programmes, which have been implemented in South Africa to tackle women empowerment issues in a rural development context. Moreover, the chapter will allude to the abovementioned matters with reference to literature, but categorizing arguments based on the national context which will be the South African context. It will then further argue in the provincial context, which will be Limpopo Province, and then later argue on the district context, which will be Muyexe village, which is the study area in question.

3.2. National Context: South Africa

The section focus on the country of South Africa in relation to the condition of women, the status of their empowerment, and also programmes and strategies towards women empowerment in the country.

3.2.1. The Demographic Profile (Condition) of Women in South Africa

South Africa is one of the countries, which has suffered the consequences of colonialism. Thus, women in this regard have been more disadvantaged compared to men to a point where no matter the nature of development and improvement in the country, women in rural areas are always on the drawback side of the development. The lack of empowerment on women, especially in rural areas, has been complicated to a point where the quality of empowerment and development brought to women has differed according to whether they are women in urban areas or women in rural areas. With the background given, the section discusses the demographics of women from rural areas in South Africa, looking at the conditions they live in, with specific reference to their participation, education, equality and access to resources.

According to Statistics South Africa, the estimated population of South Africa is 54 956 900 with males at an estimation of 26 878 300 and women leading with 28 078 700, keeping in mind that the number of women is inclusive of women in urban and rural areas. The country is made up of nine provinces. in which the study will basely focus of Limpopo province, Mpumalanga province and the North West province. The main reason for the selection of the three provinces is because comprehensive rural development programme was piloted in these three provinces in 2009. South Africa is composed of women in the rural and urban areas and their level of empowerment differs tremendously. Thus, the study has focused more on women in rural areas of South Africa to find out if programmes and strategies aiming to empower them, particularly the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme, have contributed positively to their lives or not.

According to the 2015 census, the number of women in rural areas was estimated to be at 59.3 percent through-out the country of South Africa, as compared to the estimated number of men who are in urban areas, which is at a rate of 70.0 percent, which is very high. Mangoela (2012) explained that the reason for showing the number

of women in rural areas versus men in urban areas was because a high number of men leave their families in the rural areas to find sources of income and opportunities in urban areas. Moreover, the author explained that the number of men in urban areas is high while the number of women in the rural areas is also high. This indicates that women in rural areas have been denied access to better jobs, income and a better living because they were expected to stay in the village as their husbands migrated to the cities.

McEwan (2005) makes an addition to the argument by stating that “South Africa is a country that is composed of long standing beliefs on women. This is especially when it comes to their role, status and rights, such as women being less important or less deserving than men, and these beliefs mostly exist in rural areas”. The argument further goes to the assumption that there are organizations within the country, which are more male centred or male dominant. This has resulted in women in such organizations being overpowered by men, when it comes to decision making. The same kind of practice was found in their communities and their households, where only the husband/male makes decision about anything, if not everything. These kinds of attitudes have jeopardized the equality of women in their households and the community.

Moya (2015) adds value to the argument at stake and gives a background about where the idea of women in South Africa being less deserving emanates from. The author stated that, before the 21st century there were many practices which were expected of women. These practices involve walking behind the husband whenever they are walking in the street, women always sit on the ground/floor and men would sit on the chair in public meetings. Meanwhile, the Afrikaners believed in and put more emphasis on the theoretical biblically-based notion that their participation and contribution of women within the community, household and workplace should be approved by men on behalf of women (Mitchel *et al*, 2015). Hence, even in the democratic country we live in, women in many rural areas of the country are being treated in the manner mentioned above. Therefore, the study can add that the empowerment of women in rural areas should first come through the decolonization of the mind-set of women in the country, since rights and policies have been put in place to support their decolonization and empowerment. In this regard, the process of decolonizing their

mind-set should be through information, which should be made available to women in rural areas of South Africa. This can come through the means of education, especially in the light of the level of literacy of women in rural areas, which is very low.

According to Statistics SA, the percentage of women in rural areas who have grade 12 plus other qualifications is at 8.9 percent. Moreover, South Africa has 22.7 percent of women in rural areas who have matric (grade 12) alone. Furthermore, the country is at 53.5 percent of women in rural areas who have no matric (grade 12) qualification; this could only mean that women in rural areas never reach matric nor complete their high school education for various reasons which accompany the matter of them not to complete their high school education. Furthermore, almost 14 percent of women never went to school in their lives. Therefore, for women to be able to participate in matters which affect them and contribute fruitful ideas and make concrete decisions, they need to be educated on how to effect their own development. Moreover, for women to know their rights, they need to be educated on such matters. Lastly, for them to access some of the resources in the country, they need training on how to perform certain jobs, what is required for one to acquire land, and how can one get access to credit. Moreover, for them to be educated they surely need education.

Khau (2013) commented that change is the first step to empowerment. This study concurs with the author in the view that the constitution, strategies, programmes and policies to support women are available. Therefore, the final decision lies with women in rural areas to adopt the supporting systems and make changes in their lives. This is how women in rural areas differ from women in urban areas because women in urban areas are able to let go of indigenous norms and beliefs to adopt to the new/current supporting systems. Therefore, such decision of change can greatly impact their status of empowerment, which is discussed in the following section.

3.2.2. The Status of Women Empowerment in South Africa

A study conducted by Moya (2015) concludes that from studies reviewed about the condition of women in South Africa indicate one point: that by the lack of participation, education, equality and access to resources of women in the rural areas, they have been deprived of empowerment. This was because of colonization, norms and beliefs. However, the key is the ignorance of women in rural areas which prevents them from

accepting change, which is another matter. However, the study in question still aims to investigate the contribution of the CRDP on the empowerment of women and in that manner the study will be able to detect if indeed the matter lies in the mind-set of women or really the programme never benefited women in the rural areas. In the section below, the status of women empowerment in South Africa with specific reference to participation, education, equality and access to resources, is discussed.

Bhengu (2012) concur with the suggestion that when it comes to projects, women in the rural areas of North West have missed out on a lot of opportunities on the development brought to their areas. The author indicated that women in the areas of North West have been neglected when it comes to participation and access to resources, thus causing them to miss out on opportunities to improve their level of participation, their ability to acquire resources like land and capital, improve their level of education and speak for their rights as women. Moya (2015) seems to agree with Bhengu (2012), but on a different perspective about the mind colonialization caused by poverty. The author states that the cause of women's lack of empowerment is the level of poverty which has affected them to a point where they no longer realize that they are being neglected when it comes to participating in various projects implemented in their areas. Thus, they feel like such opportunities are meant for men to take advantage of. Ngcaba (2015) makes additions to the argument by saying female submission to men has made the minds of women in rural areas of the North West to be stubborn and resistant to change.

Women in North West have been deprived of access to education due to beliefs, norms and standards, thus leading to the inability to take advantage of opportunities which are presented to them in the villages like programs of the CRDP (Moyo, Francis & Ndlovhu, 2015). Privacy of domestic violence is the challenge which has affected women in North West to the extent that women consider domestic violence as something normal which happens in households. Women feel like keeping domestic violence a secret will protect their husbands from being incarcerated. Moreover, fear of losing their husbands causes them to keep it a secret because their husbands take care of their financial conditions and provide for them, says Mukherjee (2016). Men in North West dominate, thus enforcing their culture. Therefore, it can be concluded that women in the province do not have access to financial resources;

however, various strategies have been implemented in North West to improve the employment of women. The situation has not been different to the one in Mpumalanga Province.

According to Kgatshe (2013), Mpumalanga is a province where beliefs, tradition and culture has been influenced by the Swati tribe; thus in the rural areas of Mpumalanga women are ardent to abide by the rules of behaviour expected from them. Moya (2015) suggests that Mpumalanga is a province where agricultural activities are practised at an excellent rate due to the environment which is known to be rainy and friendly to agriculture. Therefore, Mogotlane (2013) indicated that women account for a large proportion of the province's agricultural labour force. Furthermore, Muthuki and Ojong (2016) adds to the argument, by indicating that women are found to produce the majority of the food grown, especially in subsistence farming. However, the author does not indicate why men are not active in farming. Moreover, Ngcaba (2015) raises concerns that women in the rural areas of the province perform most of the unpaid care work; if it is paid it is not enough to sustain their families. This is due to the opinion that women are experts at caring which emanates from the triple role which women have revealed. Therefore, the author emphasises that this notion has placed women from rural areas in a position where they work for zero remuneration, which also leads to the discouragement of participation in matters which directly affect them. This has further shown that the level of literacy of women in the rural areas of Mpumalanga is low; hence they are not aware of their rights, causing them to agree to labour-in-slavery.

According to Moyo et al. (2015), almost 70 percent of women in the rural areas of Mpumalanga work in their husbands' farms as the husband takes care of other "things". These women do not receive any sort of re-embursement for their hard work because their husbands say that they feed them, and also take care of them and their children. The study conducted in Ntsema-marhumbu, a village in Mkhuhlu (Mpumalanga), revealed findings from a woman who was interviewed and who explained that she has been taking care of her late husband's farm for 12 months. The worries of the women are that the brothers of her late husband are claiming the land/farm as it belonged to their late brother. Therefore, due to cultural beliefs, she

has no choice but to surrender her late husbands' land because, if not, she will be forced by culture to marry one of the late husband's brothers, so she can keep the land. Even if she did, the land will be registered under the name of the late husband's young brother, who will be her new husband. In light of the concerns above, Khau (2013) disagrees with the matters of unfair treatment on women in the rural areas because supporting systems are available for the protection of women. Further, the author indicates that such immoral behaviours are caused by women's lack of information, which should be made available to them through education. According to Maitse (2014), in Mpumalanga, agriculture is a livelihood for over 86 percent of women in the rural areas and for the unemployed. Therefore, many women rely on agricultural produce for survival.

Education remains another area in which more has to be done to help reduce the rate of illiteracy of women in the rural areas of Mpumalanga. According to the UN (2013), just 39 percent of rural girls attend secondary school in rural areas of Mpumalanga. This is far fewer than rural boys at 45 percent, urban girls at 59 percent and urban boys at 60 percent in areas of Mpumalanga. Moreover, it indicates that by staying in school, every additional year increases girls' eventual wages by 10-20 percent. It also encourages them to marry later and have fewer children, and leaves them less vulnerable to violence (UN, 2001). Mitchel *et al* (2015) indicated that progress has been made in reducing the gender gap in urban primary school enrolment, but data from the rural areas of Mpumalanga has revealed that rural girls are twice as likely as urban girls to be out of school. Premier Mabuza of Mpumalanga in a speech on women's rights emphasized that educating women in rural areas would mean that the large gender gap in their access to decision making and leadership could be curtailed. It would further mean that there will not be a distinction between men and women in terms of who is eligible to participate and whose opinion is more valuable than the other. Thus education will enable women in rural areas to have participation which will enforce impact and change. Inequality between men and women would be reduced because women would have knowledge on their rights of expression and voicing out their opinions. Khau (2013) argued that their contribution and rights have been largely overlooked to date. Therefore, there is a need to review the CRDP strategies and programmes towards rural development.

3.2.3. Programmes and Strategies towards Women Empowerment in South Africa.

The conditions of women in rural areas of South Africa, together with their low status, has clearly shown that they are not empowered. Therefore, a question arises from the study that what were the impact of previous programmes and strategies, which were purposefully designed for rural development. Thus it is in this section that the study reviews few programmes and strategies towards rural development.

3.2.3.1. Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP)

The reconstruction and development programme (RDP) is defined to be an integrated and coherent socio-economic policy framework, which seeks to mobilize people and the country's resources towards the final eradication of apartheid and the building of a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist future for the country of South Africa, stated the DRDLR (2013). Moreover, the aim of the RDP was to meet the basic needs of the people, which are jobs, housing, land, electricity, water, telecommunication, social welfare and health care, transport, a clean, healthy environment and employment. According to the DRDLR (2013), the reconstruction and development programme had achievements which include, amongst others, housing for 5 million people; clean water for 4.9 million people from 236 projects in the year 2000; electrification for 1.75 million homes growing by 12% to 42% of rural homes; land reform in which 39 000 families were settled on 3550 square kilometres of land. Moreover, the programme claimed that 250 000 people have received land within four years. Furthermore, health care facilities at over 500 clinics were built, meaning that 5 million people have access to primary health care facilities.

The reconstruction and development programme had challenges which included amongst others that it did not manage to deliver appropriate houses for citizens according to the housing department, and only 30% of the houses were found to comply with South Africa housing standards. Moreover, the programme could not deliver clean water to remote areas and it is the same with electricity. Furthermore, CGF states that the programme had less focus on the empowerment of women, and, as such, there is not enough evidence on women being empowered based on their education, participation, and equality. This study has come to realize that the programme managed to tackle women's access to housing, water and electricity;

however, it did not address their education, participation and some parts of equality when it comes to distribution of the resources; hence the rural development framework was introduced.

3.2.3.2. Rural Development Framework (RDF)

The rural development framework speaks to the development frameworks specially designed for rural areas, where it includes various programmes which have been implemented in the country in relation to bringing development through agriculture, land reform and rural development. It argues that in light of the consequences of apartheid which the country has suffered, it is wise to focus on programmes which will bring development to the people in rural areas through agriculture. The framework also involves various programmes, which are the national rural development strategy (NRDS); the integrated sustainable rural development strategy; broadening of access to agriculture thrust (BATAT); and the national spatial development perspective (NSDP). LDP (2015) states that in the light of all the available strategies, women are still not empowered; therefore, the author suggests that the rural development framework should rethink the rural sector beyond the farm to ensure sustainability. It should focus on the local needs and interests including developing human capacity; it has to link to an integrated service delivery model that ensures that communities are full participants in their own development.

3.2.3.2. Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme (ISRDP)

The integrated sustainable rural development programme is a sustained campaign against rural poverty and underdevelopment, implemented in 13 nodes selected on account of their poverty, lack of infrastructure and capacity, and provincial representatively (DRDLR, 2013). According to the report, the aim of the ISRDP is to achieve integrated sustainable development in rural areas. Moreover, the objectives of the ISRDP were to mount a sustainable attack on poverty and underdevelopment; champion, spearhead and showcase sustainable development in the nodes; pioneer innovative modes of planning, budgeting and delivering; and demonstrate a new vision for developmental local government. Moreover, principles were put in place to supplement the objectives which involved targeting poverty and poverty alleviation,

local economic development, demand-driven approaches, partnership, and community participation. The ISRDP has successful achievements indicated by the DRDLR report which include, amongst others, community structures for community participation and establishment; citizens/groups empowered with right information and skills to participate in the affairs of the municipality; there is improved access to council decision-making and structures by communities; business plan for the establishment of information and support centre to improve access to service and information by community and outreach by the district and local municipality; and development of learning products to be shared with other municipalities.

In the light of the achievements, the ISRDP had challenges or rather failure factors, where it could not reach rural masses and they could not mobilize them and motivate them to participate (DRDLR, 2013). Hence, their participation was low. Moreover, in spite of the achievements of the programme, women in rural areas have not benefited from it (as stated, rural communities could not be accessed). Thus the programmes did not address the education, participation, equality and access to resources of women in rural area. Therefore, in this regard, the national integrated sustainable rural development programme has failed to address the empowerment of women in rural areas.

3.2.3.4. War on Poverty 2008 (WOP)

The War on Poverty programme was launched in 14 August 2008. It had focused on the most deprived wards in all nine provinces. The programme would have the most deprived households identified in the poorest wards, and they would be visited periodically during the campaign by a team of professionals and community workers to identify their specific needs, accelerate their access to government services, and provide safety measures (DRDLR, 2013). According to the UN (2011), the long-term goal of the programme was for South Africa's poorest households to receive assistance and support in a co-ordinated and sustained way. Reports indicate that the campaign aimed to motivate households to make contributions to fight poverty.

3.3. Provincial Context: Limpopo province

3.3.1. Demographic Profile (Conditions) of Women in Limpopo Province

Limpopo province is one of the nine provinces in South Africa, and is located in the north of the country. The province was named after the Limpopo River, which forms part of the province's western and northern borders (Mmbengwa, 2014). The capital of Limpopo province is Polokwane, formerly called Pietersburg. The province consists of five district municipalities, and the study will only be focused on Mopani district municipality. According to the IDP (2015), the total population of the province is 5 726 800 which is rated at 10.4 percent of the country's population. It is ranked in the 5th position among the South African provinces in population. Its density is 43/km² (110/sq mi). Moreover, the languages which are spoken in Limpopo include, amongst others, Xitsonga, Venda and Northern Sotho. The Census (2011) indicates that Limpopo province is one of the provinces in South Africa which has the highest level of poverty with 78.9 percent of its population living under the poverty line. The IDP (2015) adds value to the argument that in the year of 2011 74.4 percent of its rural dwellers, especially women and their children, were located in tribal or traditional areas. Due to the level of chronic poverty it was hoped that tribal authorities could be the middle man or agent of bringing services to the rural dwellers, which was inclusive of women. This is how villages in Giyani ended up having chiefs and ndhunas. Furthermore, the situation affected women the most because men and husbands had travelled to big cities like Johannesburg in search of job opportunities. However, many men never returned to their wives, thus leaving them with their children in poor conditions.

Ngcaba (2015) supports the arguments above and states that women in the rural areas of Limpopo are not in a position of having higher educational qualifications when compared to those in the urban areas. The author believes that women in rural areas are naturally intelligent and they are able use their hands and use natural resources to make a living and earn a source of income. Moyo, Frances and Ndlovhu (2015) adds weight to the argument to say women in rural areas are respected because of their intelligence and because they are a role model to the young girls and boys in their villages. They show a high level of intelligence even though they never furthered their studies. Therefore, it can be asked that, compared to women in urban areas are women in rural areas better with their natural intelligence which they acquired through

the reality of life? This study will beg to differ because in the era we live in, everything has been technologised in a sense that everything is about technology, therefore their natural intelligence can work for them in the rural areas but not in the urban areas, where everything which is done has to include technology.

The participation of women in the rural areas of Limpopo is composed of many conditions such as there are cases where they can participate, but there are those where they cannot make decisions. Discrimination against women takes place in decisions which involve men. A study conducted by Bhengu (2016) explains the view which was expressed by a woman in Muyexe village. She explained that in a meeting if a wife/woman expresses her opinion which the husband and other man find helpful, the husband also express words like “these days you can think?”, meaning that the husband never expected that the wife could suggest effective ideas. A gentleman in Muyexe village explained in a study conducted by Mogotlane (2013) that “women are needed in our meetings because they are good at implementing most of the decisions we make as men; they have to be there so they may hear what we say, then we give them mandates”. The man further explained that women are helpers, the Holy Scriptures can attest to that, and “we are the heads, we make decisions and women help us do what we have decided on”. From the observation by the author it appeared that women only witness, observe and become spectators in meetings but their inputs are not welcomed. Any opinion which women have which concerns making decisions must first be approved by the husband before they can reach the public, and after the approval only the husband will voice it to the concerned parties.

The matter of participation also affected the matter of equality and access to resources because if women cannot participate in matters which involve them, it means they are not given or exercising equal rights as men, and as such they cannot access the required resources needed for their living. Therefore, the study also finds it interesting that, in light of all that women face, they still don't see it as important to challenge this status of their empowerment and come up with measures to change their conditions, given all the strategies, policies, campaigns, awareness sessions and information all over media and word of mouth. Thus the study finds it important for the mind-set of women be challenged for change through government interventions and strategies which will purposefully address the mind-set of women and other issues which affect

them.

3.3.1.1. The Status of Women Empowerment in Limpopo Province

Given the demographic profile of Limpopo and the condition of women in the provinces of South Africa with reference to the two sampled provinces because they were the ones where CRDP was piloted, a question still remains as to whether women have full control over their lives in the presence of the socio-cultural dynamics that are at play in their communities. According to Ngcaba (2015), a lot still needs to be done as far as women's access to resources is concerned. Mogotlane (2013) states that for women to be fully in charge of their livelihoods, they must be able to access resources, be aware of the structures and institutions that hinder their progress, be actively involved in decision-making processes, and finally taking control of the resources at their disposal. According to findings by Moyo *et al* (2015), women in the rural areas of Limpopo are not financially independent, meaning their access to capital resources is low.

With regards to access to resources, women in the rural areas of Limpopo are financially dependent on their husbands; however, most women engage in multiple/various form of informal jobs to provide income for them; and it gives a wrong impression that women are financially stable where as they are not. Maitse (2014) further adds that the various kinds of informal jobs which women engage in to attain income, include poultry production, vegetable gardening, domestic work and pottery making. Mukherjee (2016) adds value to the argument and states that despite women participation in these income generation ventures, women continue to face severe bottlenecks, which include lack of finances and assets to use as collateral when applying for credit. Furthermore, they lack the necessary information regarding the processes and procedures to be followed, in order to access much needed funds. Furthermore, Moyo *et al*. (2015) indicates that Limpopo as a province reported a shortage of financial resources as a major hindrance to women's empowerment. As a result, failure for rural women to access economic resources has forced them to largely depend on their husband's income. Moreover, Mmbengwa (2014) makes a comment on the matter of land and says lack of access to land threatens women's security and leaves them vulnerable to poverty. However, Ngcaba (2015) suggests that rural

women's poverty can be eradicated, if they have access to, and control of, the social, material and financial resources.

Muthuki and Ojong (2016) indicates a very important aspect of women empowerment, and states that the conditions which women in rural areas of Limpopo find themselves in, are mainly caused by low self-esteem, which emanates from the inferior roles they play in most patriarchal society. Further, socialization and discrimination have all contributed to women's low self-esteem. Moreover, the author warned that unless this potential is unearthed, women will continue to view themselves as lesser beings, who serve other's interest. Thus, women will not see the need to challenge their status quo. According to Maitse (2014), cultural prejudices against women have all combined to picture women stereotypically as the weaker gender. Most patriarchal societies believe that leadership is a male domain. "This is why women who occupy positions of authority often meet fierce resistance from males" (Mogotlane, 2013). Women in leadership positions in the rural areas are hard hit by prejudice because most men in such areas are the custodians of culture. The undermining of women leaders by men deters them from reaching their full potential and also from contributing meaningfully towards the development of their communities. According to Kongolo & Bhamgose (2015), there is no doubt that failure to value the contributions that women make in society impacts negatively on their personal growth and also that of the communities they come from. It is therefore crucial that women are given the opportunity and space to actualize their empowerment dreams. Therefore, in light of the challenged status quo of the empowerment of women in the rural areas of Limpopo, various programmes and strategies have been put in place, to deal with rural development matters of the Limpopo rural areas. However, it is not known if these programmes and strategies managed to address the empowerment aspects of women, which include amongst others education, participation, equality and access to resources. Therefore, the section that follows discusses programmes and strategies implemented in Limpopo Province.

3.3.1.2. Programmes/plans and strategies towards women empowerment in Limpopo Province.

The Limpopo development plan is reviewed and discussed in this section because is a plan which has been implemented after the implementation of CRDP, therefore the purpose of discussing and reviewing it would be to find out that from the loopholes which CRDP might have encountered, were they covered in this 2015/2019 development plan. In this section, the Limpopo development plan alone is reviewed and discussed.

3.3.1.3. Limpopo development plan 2015 -2019

The purpose of the development plan 2015-2019 is to foster development in rural areas of Limpopo through the integration of strategies, which, among others, include the new growth path which focuses on job creation and aims at accelerating the development of an equitable economy and sustained growth (DRDLR, 2014). Again, the report by the Limpopo provincial government indicates that the intention of the new growth plan in Limpopo is to create five million jobs by 2020 in which the target is inclusive of women. Further, the strategy makes use of economic growth and employment creation as key indicators because in that manner the participation and access to resources for women are being enhanced. Furthermore, the strategy identifies structural changes within the economy, which can improve labour absorption, its composition and the rate of growth. Therefore, to achieve these, the government has sought to identify key areas of large-scale employment creation, and as a result of changes in the conditions of the province, South Africa and globally, there is a need to develop policy packages to facilitate employment creation in these areas. Moreover, the recommendation emanated from the notion that women, compared to men, are at a standstill in employment, which is their access to resources, participation and equality.

According to the Limpopo development plan 2015-2019, the vision is to have a public service that meets the best standards of governance, citizens that are educated, skilled, healthy and self-reliant, and a labour force that is fully, productively and rewardingly employed, with infrastructure that is capable of promoting and sustaining and innovating local and regional economy for the benefits of all the province's

diversified communities in a responsible and sustainable manner (DRDLR. 2015). In addition, the development plan consists of development outcomes which are purposefully focused on Limpopo province. Outcome 1 focuses on quality basic education wherein it highlights that by 2030 Limpopo province should have high quality and universal early childhood education and quality school education with globally competitive literacy and numeracy standards. Moreover, sub-outcomes have been identified so as to improve education in the province. The expected outcome is to improve the quality of teaching and learning; there should be increased access to quality early child development. The state should have the capacity to intervene and support quality education in which the state will be accountable in the improvement of learning, improved human resource development management of schools and improved infrastructure and learning materials to support effective education. However, the concern from the study is that the outcome only focused on the education of children, but, in relation to the education of women, the outcome hardly indicated anything about improving the education of women in rural areas according to their categories.

The Limpopo development plan further focuses on other development outcomes, including outcome 4 which focuses on the safety of all people. Limpopo residents ought to feel safe at home, school and in the workplace and live life free without fear. The goals of the outcome, as stated in the Limpopo development plan, are to reduce the level of serious and violent crime which has drastically increased in the country to an extent where women are victims of murder, human trafficking, rape, domestic violence, kidnapping and abuse. The other goal is to provide sufficient security for women and girls; moreover, an efficient and effective criminal justice system will be established and maintained, cyber space will be secured, and corruption in the public and private sector will be reduced. The other outcome which the study is interested in, will be discussed in 3.4.3. Limpopo province does not only have the development plan 2015-2019 strategies towards rural development; there are other many other strategies like the Limpopo growth and development strategy 2004; Limpopo growth and development strategy 2005 and Limpopo strategic plan 2015/2016-2019/2020 which the study did not dwell on.

From the review on the condition and status of women empowerment in the rural areas of South Africa, together with the programmes and strategies, the study therefore narrows the review in the next section to the study area which is Muyexe village in Limpopo province within the boundaries of South Africa, to find out if the programme in question has contributed towards the empowerment of women in Muyexe village.

3.4. Mopani District Municipality

The section discusses the overview of the Greater Giyani Municipality which is under the administration of the Mopani District Municipality. It further discusses the contribution of CRDP on women empowerment in Muyexe village.

3.4.1. Overview of the Greater Giyani Municipality and Muyexe village

As indicated in the section above, the purpose of this section is to find out through literature the contribution of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme towards women empowerment in Muyexe village, with specific reference to their education, equality, participation and access to resources.

Muyexe is one of the villages in Giyani township in the Greater Giyani Municipality which is under the administration of the Mopani District Municipality in Limpopo Province, South Africa. According to the GGM report the total size of the area is 3.42km² (1.32sq mi), the total number of population as per census 2011 was 3228 (934.67 per km²), and the number of households in Muyexe village is 826 (241.47 per km²). The estimated density is 940/km² (2.400/sq mi). Roughly, the racial make-up is 99.9 percent Black African and 0.1 percent white. According to census 2011 in the village of Muyexe, the population speaking Tsonga is 97.1 percent, with English at 1.8 percent and others at 1.1 percent. The estimated total number of females in Muyexe is 1888, which amounts to 58.49 percent, outnumbering the total number of men which is 1340 (amounting to 41.51 percent). This shows that Muyexe village has a huge number of women as compared to men. The IDP (2015) states that the village is along the R81 road that runs through Giyani, links Polokwane to Giyani and Malamulele, and also joins the R524 to the Punda Maria entrance gate of the Kruger National Park. The route also joins the N1 to Pretoria and Johannesburg in Polokwane next to Mall of the North.

The educational level in the village is low and many young girls only manage to complete matric (grade 12) qualification compared to boys who are able further their studies to university level (Nkuna, 2015). The main reason stated by Mathebula (2014) for girls not furthering their studies is due to the fact that they fall pregnant while they are still in high school. Therefore, they have the responsibility of taking care of their children, thus leading them to be unable to further their studies. Moreover, the other reason for girls not being able to further their studies is due to the condition of their finances, to the point where they lack financial assistance to register with universities, and at times this is due to the situation of lack of information on how they can acquire funding. Furthermore, other reasons accounting for the situation of girls being unable to complete or further their studies include amongst others family's conditions of poverty which result in them losing focus on education and also not realizing the importance of furthering their studies. In addition, Chauke (2015) mentioned that other reasons include marriage at a young age and influences which come from families who do not value education, as well as peer pressure and other reasons which the study is not familiar with.

Access to resources such as land and capital for women has become difficult to acquire; however, this situation existed before the implementation of the CRDP. According to Moyo *et al.* (2015), during the pre-implementation of CRDP, it was difficult for women to own land; it had to be registered in the name of the husband. Furthermore, should the husband be deceased, the widow was subjected to marrying the brother of the deceased for her to keep the land, or else the land had to be claimed by the brothers of the deceased, since they claim that they cannot leave their inheritance to women. However, with the implementation of CRDP, this study is yet to investigate the empowerment of women as far as access to land is concerned. Women in Muyexe village faced challenges of accessing capital since they did not have enough purchasing power to qualify for credit. Therefore, other means had to be found for them to access capital for maintaining their children and this was made possible because women are multi-gifted and can multi-task. They engage in multiple informal jobs like housekeeping, street vending and forming social groups like stokvels just to increase the money they had. As the village lacks water and electricity, women also found it hard to access such resources. However, with the implementation of CRDP in the village, the study is yet to find out if access of women to land, capital, water,

electricity and other resource as they are part this study were made accessible to them.

Participation for the women in Muyexe village is something which will take years to improve because participation only comes with confidence and high self-esteem. Thus if the confidence and self-esteem of women is not improved, any development brought to them will not benefit them because, as Motwani (2015) indicated, women always feel like they are not deserving of other opportunities. Thus they will continue to serve the interest of others (men). The mentality of their behaviour emanates from the belief that man should be respected and then everything should be about men. The interesting part that the study revealed about women in Muyexe is that in their stokvels and social gathering, their level of participation is productive and of high standard. But when it comes important meetings where there are men, their level of participation declines, they do not give opinions, they do not want to be part of the decision making and everything which men agree to is acceptable to them. The matter goes to the extent that they give chairs to men and they seat on the floor as a sign of respect and they maintain silence. In such meetings, men expect women to be witnesses and be spectators to support the decisions taken by men. However, with the implementation of CRDP in Muyexe village, the study will find out if the participation of women has improved or not.

In light of the level of participation, clear evidence can be drawn that equality between man and women in the village of Muyexe is still low, and women do not find it important to challenge such conditions. In the village, there are women who occupy higher positions; however, in those positions they don't know peace. Moyo *et al* (2015) has indicated that men nag women in higher positions so that they retire due to pressure from men. In many instances, such behaviour has been found in men who do it deliberately just to prove that women cannot handle higher positions and cannot make decisions, whereas common sense indicates that no human can handle pressure, especially when the pressure has been caused deliberately.

3.4.2. The Contribution of Comprehensive Rural Development Programme on Women Empowerment in Muyexe Village.

The Comprehensive Rural Development Program was launched in Muyexe village at Giyani in Limpopo Province by Minister Gugile Nkwinti and President Jacob Zuma on 12 August 2009 (DRDLR, 2014). Moreover, the department of rural development implemented 21 CRDP sites throughout South Africa, whereas the aim was to implement 160 CRDP sites by 2014. According to the report, the program has been developed by the department of Rural Development and Land Reform so that it may deal with matters of underdevelopment, hunger, poverty, joblessness, lack of basic services and many other social matters which have oppressed the country. Furthermore, the CRDP is made of three pillars, which are rural development, land reform and agrarian transformation. The holistic approach of the programs is basically partnering various stakeholders which include government departments, non-government organization, business (private) sector, and communities, to foster economic development. The main aim of the CRDP job creation model is to create employment for one person per household in each of the CRDP pilot site for a period of two years. Additionally, by the implementation of the programme, the department aimed to promote the creation of vibrant, equitable and sustainable jobs for rural communities as well as food security. Moreover, Mathebula (2014), states that the CRDP was believed to be a catalyst and facilitator to ensure that development takes place in rural communities. Further, the author indicates that the programme is all about changing the lives of people in rural areas, enabling them to take control of their lives. It was also believed to address specific needs of the communities in rural areas such as running water, sanitation, housing and development support. Kgatse (2013) advocates for the CRDP by saying that it embraces and utilizes participatory processes to enable member of rural communities to take control of their lives by engaging with the department in the implementation process of the CRDP. Lastly but not least, it embraces youth development. The department has established the national youth service corps to train youth in rural areas in various aspects of skills development in order to build their capacity for socio-economic development in rural areas. Moreover, this study looks at the North West Province, Mpumalanga province and Muyexe Village in Limpopo Province to investigate the contributions of CRDP toward women empowerment.

3.5. In comparison with other two pilot provinces

The section compares the North West province, Mpumalanga Province and Limpopo Province on the contributions they obtained from CRDP, it also discusses the various challenges and achievements in each province.

3.5.1. North West Province

In the North West Province, 2447 household food gardens were established at the CRDP site during 2012. The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform reported that by January 2013, 2656 of CRDP beneficiaries were skilled and capacitated in technical enterprise development trade, which was inclusive of women. Moreover, council of stakeholders was established which consisted of 52 members who were representatives of a community forum which was inclusive of women, though reports never disclosed the number of women which were in the council of stakeholders. Furthermore, CRDP has been rolled out in 157 rural wards, and 143 698 households were profiled to assess their needs. In addition, 692 km of fencing was erected in the CRDP wards and 96km of roads were upgraded. According to the report by the DRDLR (2015), the CRDP contributed to the increased number of households with access to sanitation by 10%, access to electricity by 10,45%, access to clean water by 4%, distributed 39311 rain water harvest tanks and constructed 37km of water pipeline in North West. Bhengu (2016) indicates that bulk water and sanitation infrastructure has been constructed in KwaZulu-Natal, Cape Town and North West. The author further indicates that rain water harvest tanks have been distributed throughout the CRDP site. Other areas that benefited were at Riemvasmaak in the Northern Cape, where 100 household gardens were established, and Vredesvallei in the Northern Cape, where a one-hectare community garden was established, and 22 livestock farmers were provided with grazing camps. Further, a 37 km water pipeline was completed, and solar lighting was provided to 100 households. Communities further benefited because two clinics have been constructed and are operational, and cattle-handling facilities and fencing have been complete. It is claimed that other surrounding wards in the North West also benefited from the CRDP.

3.5.2. Mpumalanga Province

In Mkhondo in Mpumalanga, 100 households were assisted with solar units. The local school was renovated and boarding facilities were built. The village of Hluvukani received a clinic from CRDP, which is operational and functional. Women have been empowered through the clinic because during its construction women were hired and they earned an income. During the functioning of the clinic, women were employed as nurses, security guards, cleaners, chefs, general workers and in other positions. The village further received a community library in which the librarian is a lady and many other workers like cleaners, and two security guards out of six are women. Therefore, from the above reports CRDP has empowered women in Hluvukani village in Mpumalanga Province. Other villages which benefited from the programme were Gotanburg where backyard gardens were established and households were supplied with gardening materials, water tanks (jojo) were given to families, and grazing camps were established. However, the study conducted by Maiste (2014) could not establish what women were doing in grazing camps because the duties done there are known to be done by men, but many of them were found there. Moreover, a bakery, which was founded by five women, was funded by CRDP and they were given baking machines. In addition, CRDP established Empowering People Workers Programme (EPWP) where many women were given opportunities to get employment, access to capital and equality. Moreover, CRDP established a project called MRTT where youth were trained in different skills like plumbing, electrification, tubing, building, plastering, roofing and many more. Regardless of the nature of the training, which is believed to be done by men, a high number of women were found in the project. The project did not only train them, it further supplied jobs to them where primary school and high school were built by CRDP at Alendale. In the province of Mpumalanga, CRDP created many projects which contributed to the participation, equality, education, and access to resources of women even though it could not help all of them. Maiste (2014) indicates that the interesting part about the contribution of CRDP in Mpumalanga is that the skills acquired by women can be used in the coming generations, thus they were investments.

A study carried out by Obadire *et al.* (2013) indicated that in the province of Mpumalanga, women and men benefited from the programme through cooperatives, projects led by women were funded and supported, backyard gardens were

established for women as the priority and for men as well. Jobs were created for women, and training through various initiatives like MRTT was established, which trained residents on bricklaying, brickmaking, building, wiring and plumbing. More studies by Sebilane (2015) and the coordinating Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (2012) indicated the benefits which women received from the programme, were similar to the ones explained by Mathebula (2014) and Obadire *et al.* (2013).

3.5.3. Limpopo Province in Muyexe Village

According to the reports from DRDLR (2015), the village of Muyexe reaped benefits through CRDP in which 330 houses have been built, boreholes have been equipped, a water purification plant has been set up underwritten by the Development Bank of South Africa, internal water reticulation has been established, 275 sanitation units have been provided, and a community centre with a post office, clinic, satellite police station, drop-in centre and sports stadium have been built. Moreover, the local school was renovated and more classrooms and ablution facilities were added, a new early childhood development centre with solar lighting was also constructed. Furthermore, an I-school Africa Rural Development Programme at the secondary and primary school offer learners an opportunity to interact and forge skills in the use of new technology. Solar powered street lights are to be provided in the villages of Muyexe, Gon'on'o and Dingamanzi. In the year 2010, women in Muyexe village were trained to knit beads that decorated vuvuzelas during the world cup.

According to previous records, the government of South Africa has always been known to be guilty of poor communication on its intentions towards the community. Thus, Mathebula (2014) indicates that Muyexe residents complain that communication about the programme was poor. With the programme being implemented, beneficiaries still have unanswered questions about it. Some of the questions are why should officials from far come to their village and work on their projects, while there is a local municipal council and other structures which could take charge of their own development. Community members are not clear on the role of each sphere of government. Beneficiaries from Muyexe village expressed their emotions to say that, as the programme was initiated, they felt it was a good initiative from the government. However, many promises were made, which never materialized. Therefore, they had

lost hope because the road and water supply were still awaited. Mogotlane (2013) indicates that the time that the programme would produce was when officials from government would visit the area, but as soon as they leave, things go back to being stagnant. Respondents feel that the programme was only executed to attract votes and they feel negatively affected by the intervention by government through this programme because officials spent so much time for nothing. Mudau and Obadire (2016) stated that respondents mentioned that they were happy for what the CRDP gave them, like the fencing, backyard gardens, water tanks, toilets, and early childhood development centre. However, they felt that water and electricity and sanitation are the most important needs and these have been provided at a very low scale in the village, and some parts of the village did not receive this at all.

According to the community members, the main services which they expected the programme to excel on was electricity, water, sanitation and roads, but above all water was the top priority. Employment was raised as one of the matters which the program could have prioritized; however, community members agreed that unemployment was a national matter. Moreover, community members were hoping that the youth would be employed through this programme. Respondents in Muyexe village expressed that they have indigenous knowledge, which could have been used by community members to solve some of their problems; however due to lack of materials they could not achieve those solutions.

Mogotlane (2013) indicates that respondents state that there has been some area of success since there were quite a number of changes that took place. The majority of people have received houses and water tanks through this programme. There are other benefits which have been mentioned by beneficiaries, which show that indeed there was a change in their lives. Beneficiaries had higher expectations but, given the abovementioned challenges, there were some disappointments. Respondents feel like the programme was rushed through without careful consideration of the challenges that might occur in the future. The major finding from the author was that the intended impact was not achieved.

The previous study in Muyexe village done by Mathebula (2014) presented findings that the majority of the respondents (73%) indicated that the CRDP has not brought any significant change in terms of service delivery. Findings further indicated that 21%

of the respondents are of the view that CRDP has made some strides in addressing the socio-economic wellbeing and the level of service delivery. However, from the authors' findings, 6% of the respondents were not sure of whether changes visible in the village were part of the CRDP or not. A study undertaken by Chakwiriza & Nhemachena (2012) explained that respondents indicated that, prior to the implementation of the CRDP, Muyexe did not have running water and proper roads and that had been the case after 2009. Moreover, a study captured in Muyexe village by Sebiloane (2015) mentioned that respondents indicated that the CRDP played a role in changing the livelihood of the residents because of the clinic, the post office and the satellite police station built. In addition to the study carried out by Mathebula (2014) showed results that women in the village of Muyexe benefited in a manner that their lives have been improved because they have access to water, electricity and employment, as well as houses. However, with the benefits which they have received, there are many challenges with regard to the sustainability of the benefits because they never seem permanent. However, from the findings by Mathebula (2014); Chakwiriza & Nhemachena (2012) and Sebiloane, nothing is being mentioned about empowering women.

The programme has at some point failed to address some developmental issues in rural areas, due to the absence of a framework for Comprehensive Rural Development Programme, and lack of proper institutional arrangements for the projects, which at times tend to create confusion and possible tensions amongst stakeholders (Pepeteka, 2014). Other contributing factors to poor implementation of the CRDP were poor coordination of the contributions by the various stakeholders, which at times led to communities being isolated from the project drivers, while projects were identified through community involvement (Sebiloane, 2015). Moreover, there were no clear indications of available budget resources for some of the projects (Pepeteka, 2014). Suggestions from the study conducted by Maitse (2014) are that water crisis and shortage should be prioritized, because with access to water much can be achieved. It will make their farms productive, which will in turn improve their standard of living. The report states that community members accept that government has tried its best to meet their needs; the problem is just the pace at which development is delivered. They state that community needs are diverse and can only be met if those prioritized needs, like water, are addressed.

3.6. Conclusion

The participation, education, equality and access to resources of women are crucial in their empowerment. Thus, the study had to peruse literature to find out the contribution of CRDP towards women empowerment, looking at the four elements with comparison to other provinces where CRDP was implemented and other previous strategies. The study can conclude that, compared to previous strategies toward rural development, CRDP is amongst the ones which can be believed to have partially delivered what rural development requires. However, even though according to literature the empowerment of women has not been achieved through the programme, the study further aims to investigate the truthfulness of the assertions made by literature by going to the field for validation. Thus, it is in the next chapter, data which has been collected from women in Muyexe village, will be interpreted.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

4.1. Introduction

The previous chapter dealt with the context and background of the study at national, provincial and local level. This chapter presents the findings of the study and provide an analysis of the data collected through various techniques including questionnaire, one-on-one interviews and observation as indicated in chapter one. The data analysis, interpretation and presentation of findings is based on the data collected through the abovementioned techniques. The normative research design was adopted and the mixed research methods of collecting data were used to collect data from (n=92) households, seven (n=7) service facilities and three (3) key respondents. This chapter provides a detailed discussion of the findings from the household survey, interviews with officials and managers as well as from observation.

4.2. PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS FROM QUANTITATIVE SURVEY

The section presents findings in relation to the biographic profile of respondents in Muyexe village. It also presents findings from a quantitative survey on the conditions of women and the status of their empowerment.

4.2.1. Biographic profile of respondents

This section present findings on the two genders of respondents and explains the reason they were included to participate in the study; the age of respondents, the marital status of respondents, the number of household members including dependants, the educational levels of respondents, and the marital status of respondents.

4.2.1.1. Gender of respondents

Findings on the gender of respondents are presented, it is also explained in this section why both male and females were targeted to participate in the study, moreover, it is explained why a large percentage of women was targeted and a low percentage of men was also targeted:

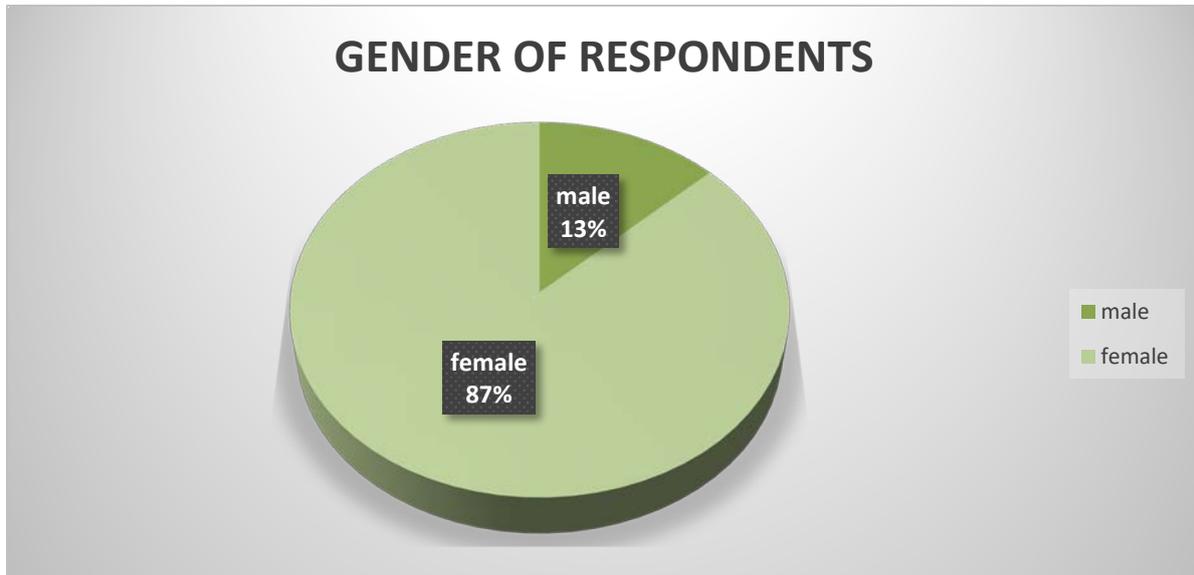


Figure 4.1 Gender of respondents

The pie chart above shows the total number of respondents who participated in the study. A total number of 92 respondents participated in the study, of which 13% (12) of the respondents were male and 87% (80) of the respondents were female. The results are presented in this way because the study had focused more on females. However, males in the village were interviewed to get an insight from them on how they view the conditions of women in the village and the empowerment which they have seen CRDP giving to women, and also to find out their perspective, feelings and expectations in relation of the matter at hand. The males interviewed are the heads of households who are living with their wives and children. Moreover, 52.1% (48) of the women who participated in the study are heads of their households. The reason for them being heads of households is because they have been divorced, are separated or are widows. This means that they do not have anyone to help them with the finances of the households and taking care of family members, and many other logistics of the house, they are independent. These are the women who in their responses have expressed emotions of sadness, desperation, and hurt. However, regardless of their

differences from the married women, the CRDP treated them equally. Furthermore, 47.8% (44) of the women in the village who participated in the study are the ones whose households are headed by their husbands. These are the women who have helpers in their families. Lastly, 10 of the key informants who were interviewed are women who coordinate projects.

4.2.1.2. Age of Respondents

The section presents findings on the age of respondents who participated in the study, age has been categorised in groups of less than 19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, and, 50 and above. Findings are presented as follows:

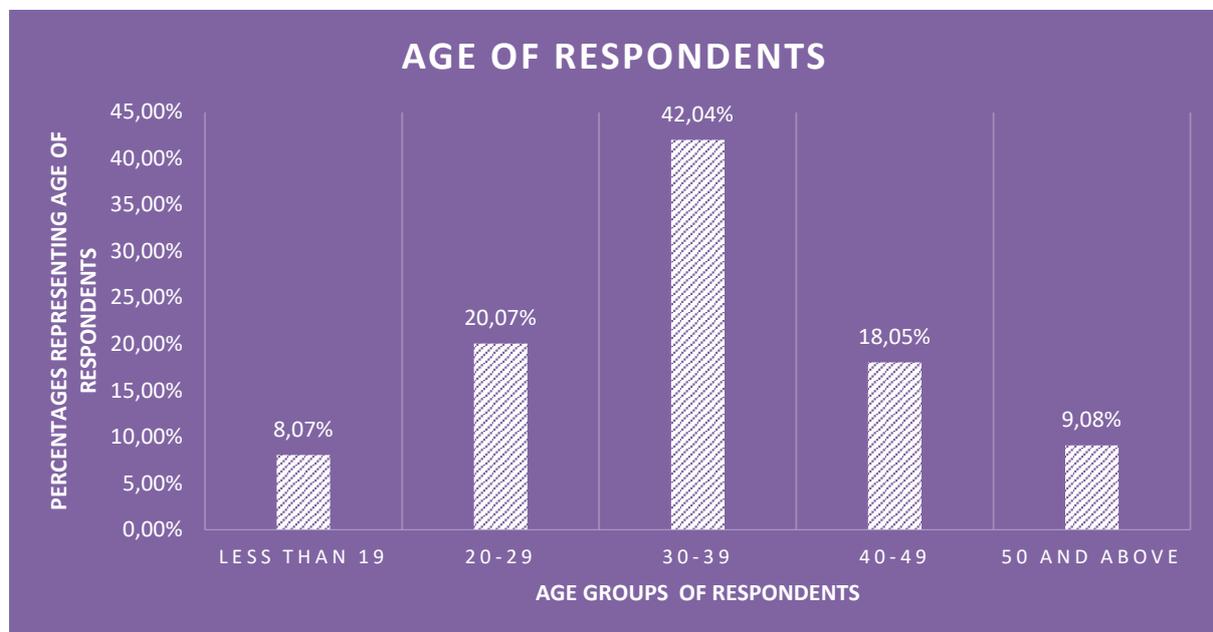


Figure 4.2. Age of respondents

According to the method used to collect data, the study has respondents/participants of different age groups. As indicated in figure 4.2 above, 8.7% (8) of the respondents are less than 19 years of age. They are the kind of respondents who remain in the house to take care of their siblings and the house in general when their mothers have gone to fetch food to eat and money to send them to school. A total of 20.7% (19) of the respondents are aged between 20-29. The next category is aged between 30-39 and they make up 42.4% (39) of the respondents. Moreover, 18.5% (17) of the participants are aged between 40-49. Furthermore, 9.8% (9) of the respondents were

50 years of age and above. The age differences had a great impact on the information which was required; it also had an impact on the relevance of the responses which respondents were giving. For example, a woman aged 19-29 years would give an in-depth and analysed information which would be backed up by valid and feasible reasons on why some conditions continue to prevail in the village. Whereas a woman aged between 30-49 would complain on how ineffective and insufficient the programme is and also spot all the faults without suggesting solutions; and a 50 years old women would just be grateful for anything and everything, no matter how wrong that particular thing could be.

4.2.1.3. Marital status of respondents.

The section present findings on the marital status of respondents. Marital status was categorised in to single, married, divorced, and widow. Findings are presented as follows:

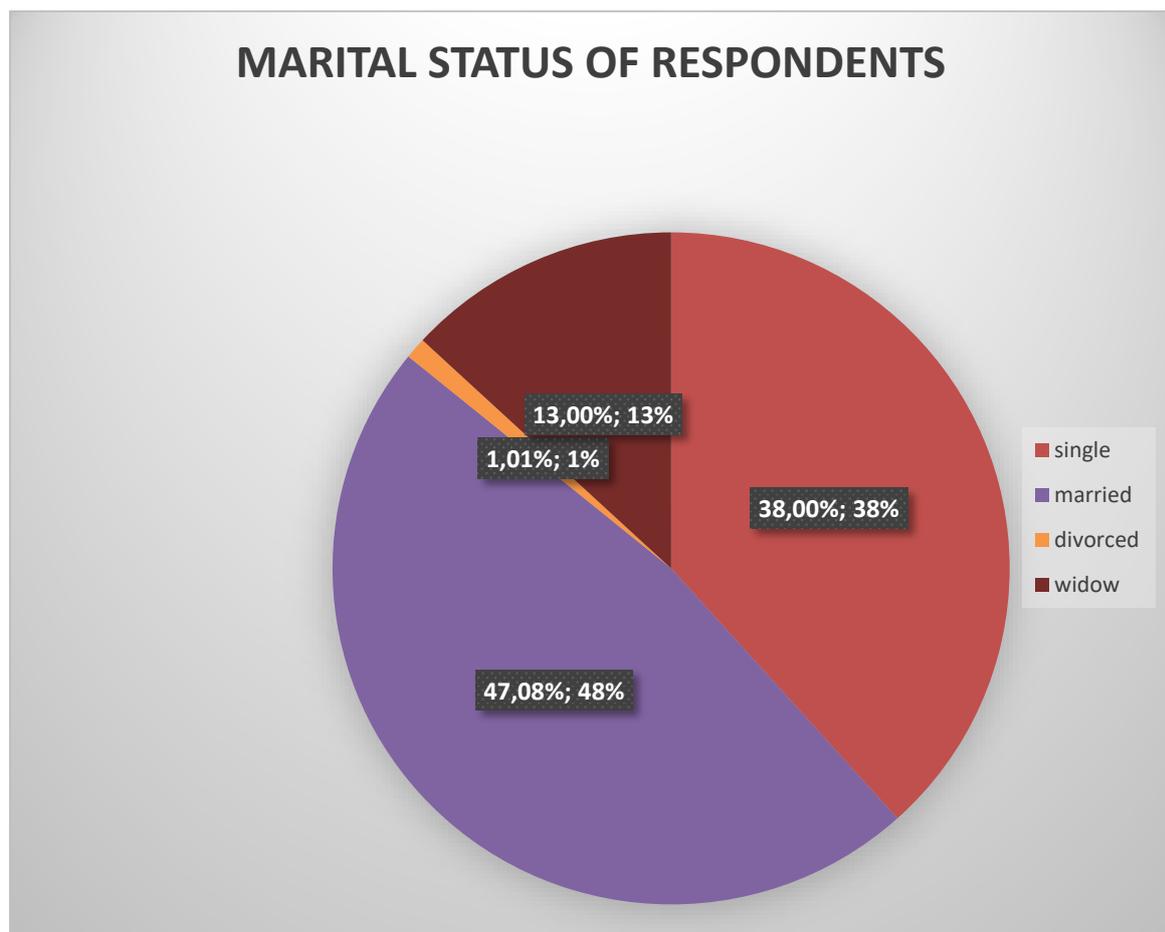


Figure 4.3. Marital Status of respondents.

The study accommodated different women of different marital statuses and the reason behind this was to help the study investigate whether, given the different marital statuses of women, they are treated the same when it comes to accessing resources, education, equality and participation. Therefore, figure 4.3 shows that 47, 8% (44 participants) of the respondents are married. Moreover, 38% (35 participants) of the respondents are single. Furthermore, 13% (12 respondents) of the participants are widows, and last but not least, 1,1% (1 participant) of the respondent population is divorced. However, this percentage reflects only the legally divorced because many of the women who claimed to be singles are the women who were never legally divorced but only separated from their loved ones through separation. The same applies to the number of widows. The conditions are like this because in rural areas like Muyexe, women move in with their loved ones without any legal process being followed; hence when they have separated they consider themselves single and not divorced.

4.2.1.4. Number of household members including dependants

The section present findings on the number of household members including dependants. Household members including dependants are categorised in to groups of 3-6, 7-10, and 15-18 members per household, including dependants:

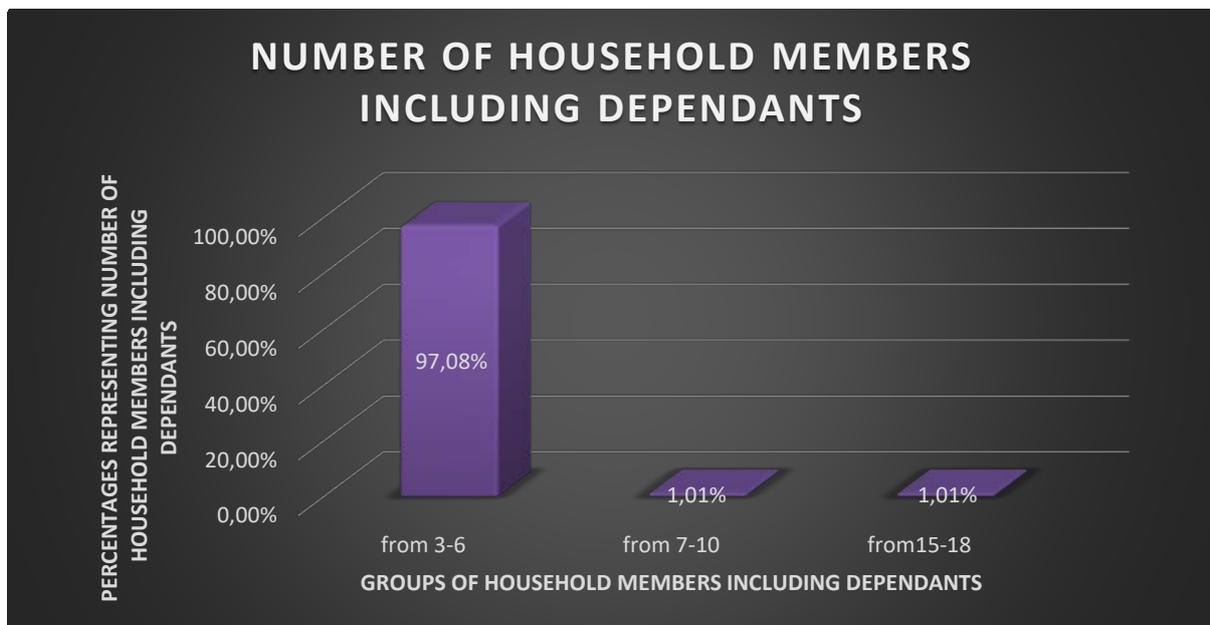


Figure 4.4. Number of household members including dependants

Figure 4.4 shows that in the village of Muyexe almost 90 (97,8%) of households have a minimum number of household members of 3-6, which is regarded as a normal

number especially given the fact that some of the women in the village are single, widowed and divorced. However, there are 1.1% (1) of households in the village which have household members of 7-10. These are the kind of households in which the women live together with her children, and grandchildren as dependants. Moreover, there are at least 1,1% (1) of households in Muyexe village which are made up of 15-18 members; these are the households which are extended (they dependants who are grandchildren and relatives). When households were asked on their affordability to maintain all members, they explained that they are struggling because the money which they earn is not enough to take care of everyone in the household.

4.2.1.5. Level of education of respondents.

The section presents status of capacity building of respondents in terms of their education. Levels of education are categorised in groups of no formal education, primary education, secondary education, college education, and university education. Findings are presented as follows:

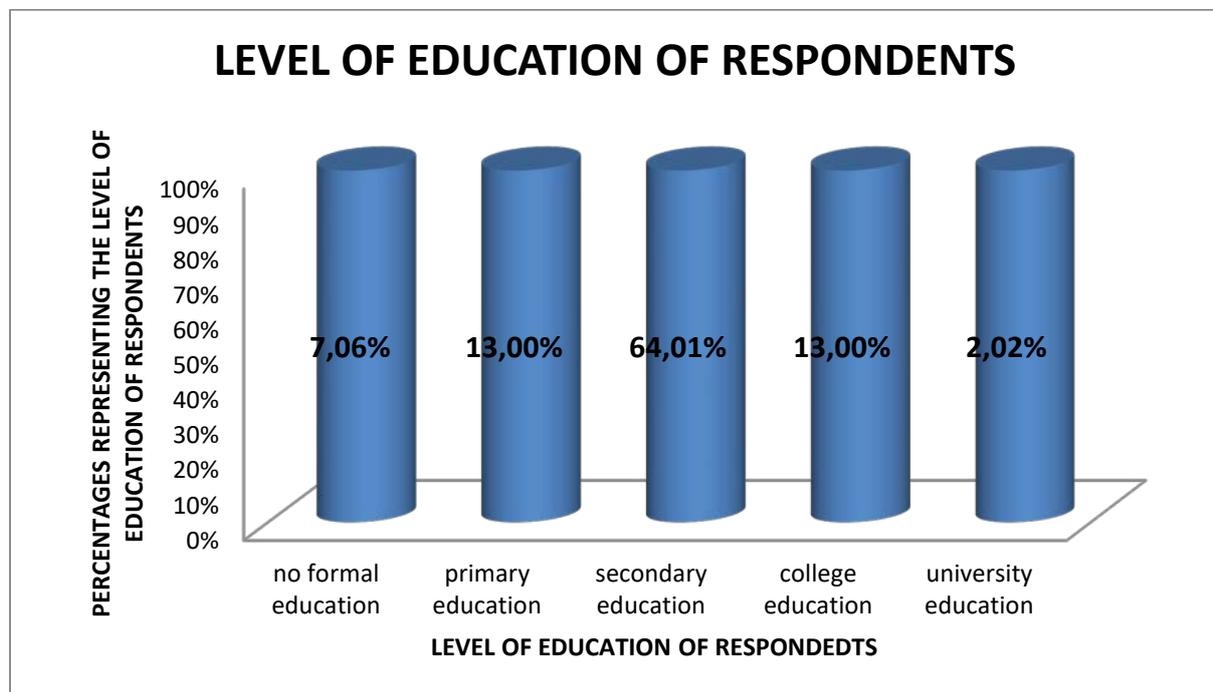


Figure 4.5. Level of education of respondents.

Figure 4.5 shows the educational status of women in Muyexe village. According to the figure, approximately 7,6% (7) women in the village have no formal education, 13% (12) women among the respondents managed to complete their primary

education. Moreover, 64,1% (59) women of the respondents in the village have completed their secondary education but other women did not complete their matric, they ended in grade 11, grade 10, grade 9 and others in grade 8. However, 13% (12) of women in among the respondents have completed college education and 2,2% (2) managed to achieve university education. Those who completed their college and university studies are the ones who acquired the better jobs in the village like assisting the nurses in the clinic and also work through the home-based care programme.

4.2.1.6. Employment Status of respondents.

The section present findings on the employment status of respondents. Employment statuses of respondents are categorised in to, working in a project implemented by CRDP, government, self-employed, and not employed. Findings are presented as follows:

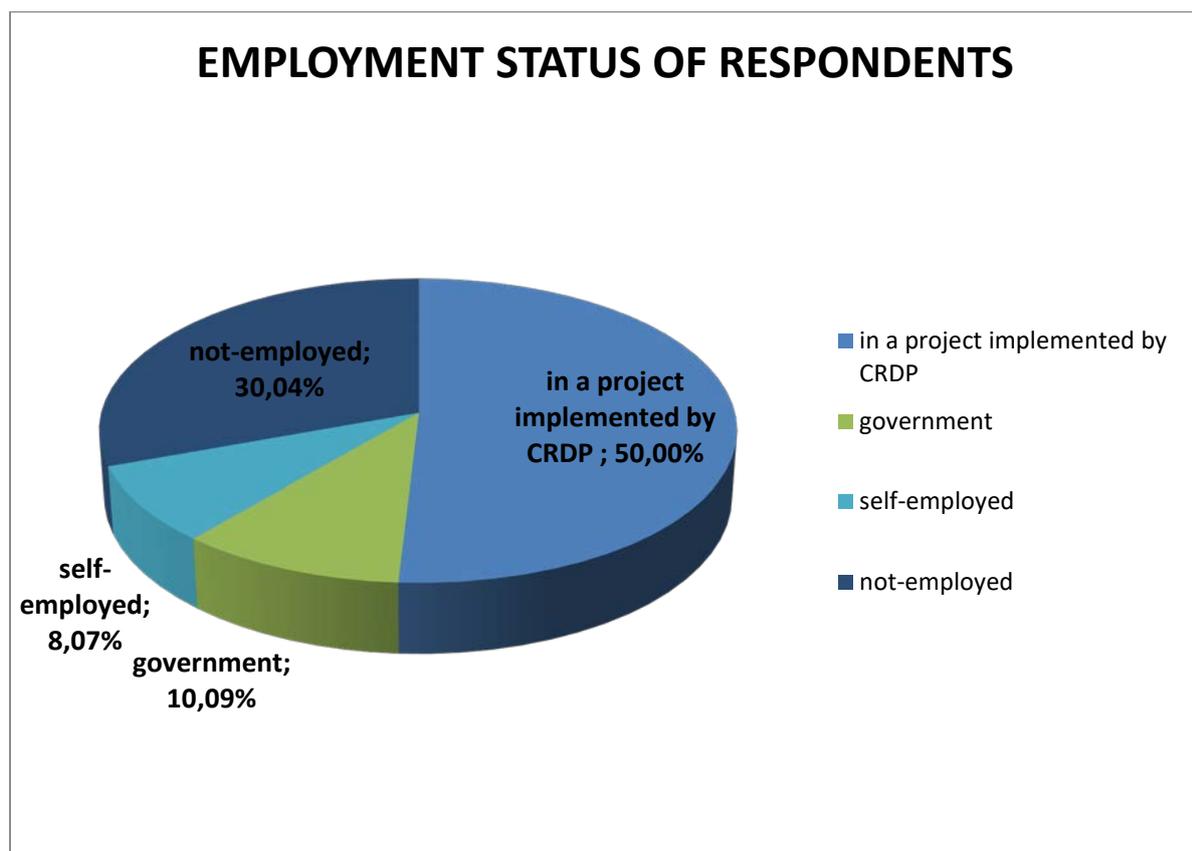


Figure 4.6. *Employment Status of respondents,*

The comprehensive rural development programme created employment opportunities for women within the village. The employment which it created was through the

Community Workers Programme (CWP), Narsec and Home-based Care. Moreover, the total percentage of women who accessed employment through the CRDP is 50% (46) as indicated in figure 4.6. However, there are women who through the CRDP were able to start their own small business, hence 8,7% (8) of women in the village are self-employed through the programme. They sell handmade products; they use their wages to purchase products and sell for profit. However, within the village of Muyexe there are women who are government employees and almost 10,9% (10) of them are employed by the government. Furthermore, the village consists of women who are not employed at all; they do not have a source of income, and they rely on their husbands for support, hence 30.4% (28) are among the women who are married.

4.2.2. The conditions and the status of empowerment of women in Muyexe village

This section interprets findings from the data which was collected from respondents in the village. The interpretation is in a system of statements and gives the percentages of how many respondents strongly disagreed, disagree, strongly agreed, or agreed with the statements. The section further interprets the mean, standard deviation and the meaning of the mean. Table 4.1 shows the percentages, the mean, the standard deviation and the meaning of the mean of the responses relating to the conditions of women in Muyexe village:

Statement 1. Women have the right to freely express their views in the village meetings or imbizo

Statement 2. Women make decisions with their husbands about finances in the households

Statement 3. In the village, women have equal rights to share with men

Statement 4. Women have equal rights with men in the village

Statement 5. Women have more workload in their daily activities of cooking and taking care of their children

Statement 6. Women in the village face the risk of being beaten by their spouse/partner

Statement 7. Women in the village face the risk of being attacked and raped by criminals

Statement 8. Women in the village face the risk of being insulted at all times

Statement 9. In the village, men treat women with respect, dignity and do not show any signs of abuse in any way whatsoever

Statement 10. In the village, women have access to income generating opportunities

Statement 11. In the village, women have access to employment opportunities

Table 4.1: The socio-economic conditions of women in Muyexe village

PERCENTAGES (%)							
Statements	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Standard deviation	Meaning of mean
Statement 1	7.6	4.3	13.0	75.0	3.55	.894	Strongly agree
Statement 2	3.3	4.3	76.1	16.3	3.05	.581	Agree
Statement 3	15.2	4.3	66.3	14.1	2.79	.871	Agree
Statement 4	16.3	3.3	66.3	14.1	2.78	.887	Agree
Statement 5	1.1	40.2	39.1	19.6	2.77	.772	Agree
Statement 6	28.3	34.8	16.3	20.7	2.29	1.095	Disagree
Statement 7	29.3	33.7	17.4	19.6	2.27	1.090	Disagree
Statement 8	29.3	31.5	19.6	19.6	2.29	1.095	Disagree
Statement 9	7.6	3.3	75.0	14.1	2.96	.694	Agree
Statement 10	14.1	22.8	51.1	12.0	2.61	.877	Agree
Statement 11	14.1	21.7	53.3	10.9	2.61	.864	Agree

Statement 1: The first statement with a high mean is statement 1 (mean=3.55). In this statement altogether 88% of women either strongly agree or agree with the view that in the village women have the right to freely express their views in the village meetings or imbizos, which the residents in the village call Xivijo. This statement is an indication that in the village of Muyexe, women are allowed to raise their opinions, views and matters which directly affect them; and they freely express their views without fear or doubt. Only 12% either strongly disagree or disagree with the view; meanwhile Yount (2014) argued that women in rural areas are not allowed to participate in meetings where men are gathered to make discussions and they are not allowed to express their views. The finding contradicts literature and the reason is that women in rural areas are now informed about their rights to expression.

Statement 2: The second statement with high mean is 2 (mean=3.05). In this statement altogether 92.4% of women either strongly agree or agree with the view that women make decisions with their husband about finances in their household. This means that in their households, husbands do not suppress them nor side-line them when it comes to decision making. Only 7.6% either strongly disagree or disagree with the view; whereas Obadire *et al.* (2013) stated that women are not entitled to any resources in the household and they do not have the right to control or decide on them. The reason behind these two findings is because of the recent campaigns of war against women and child abuse.

Statement 3: The third statement with a medium mean is statement 3 (mean=2.79). In this statement altogether 80.4% of women either strongly agree or agree with the view that women in Muyexe village have equal rights to share with men. This means that in their households, they have equal rights compared with men in terms of expression of views and opinions, making of decisions, access to resources and control of access. Only 19.6% either strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Meanwhile, Moya (2015) indicated that women never had an equal share with men in any regard; men were viewed as owners to a point where they always remind their wives that they came with nothing but a calabash for milk into their matrimonial homes. The reason for the difference in these findings is that government has put more emphasis on the 50/50 rule between man and women in households.

Statement 4: The fourth statement with a medium mean is statement 4 (mean=2.78). In this statement altogether 80.4% of women either strongly agree or agree with the view that women in Muyexe village have equal rights with men. This means that in the village, the treatment which women have experienced from men is accommodating, in a sense that men recognise women in resource distribution, exercising of their rights in the village and expressing themselves as women (participation). Only 19.6% either strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Moya (2015) illustrated that women in rural areas are not allowed to attend a meeting where men are gathered, and if it happens that they do, they are expected to sit on the floor and not participate at all; when resources are distributed in the village, only men are counted and benefiting. The

findings from literature differs from what was found in the study area because government has recently instituted initiatives to make women a priority in development.

Statement 5: The fifth statement with a medium mean is statement 5 (mean=2.77). In this statement altogether 58.7% of women strongly agree or agree with the view that in the village women have more workload in their daily activities of cooking and taking care of their children. This means that women in the village are overloaded with home chores to a point where they are unable to focus on other developmental activities which would empower them, whereas the man goes out to work and brings money home. Only 41.3% strongly disagree or disagree with the view. In this regard Ngcaba (2015) mentioned that women in rural areas are expected to stay at home to cook, do laundry and the dishes, and take care of the house and the children, as the husbands go to work. Therefore, in this regard both findings correlate.

Statement 6: The sixth statement with a low mean is statement 6 (Mean=2.29). In this statement altogether 63.1% of women strongly disagree or disagree with the view that women in their households are faced with the risk of being beaten by their spouse/partner. This means that women in the village of Muyexe do not face the risk of being beaten by their spouses or partners. *“There are women who are being abused by their husbands in their households who do not voice out such challenges because they are afraid of the consequences and also the fear of who shall take care of them if their husband can be arrested”* (community member, Muyexe Village, 19 June 2017). Only 46.9% strongly agree or agree with the view. Mahmud, Shah and Becker (2012) indicated that men would beat their wives for no reason and they were thought that hitting women was a way of showing love. The findings from literature and data collected are not the same because government has launched fights against women and child abuse.

Statement 7: The seventh statement with a low mean is statement 7 (mean=2.27). In this statement altogether 63% of women strongly disagree or disagree with the view

that in the village of Muyexe women are faced with the risk of being attacked and raped by criminals. *“The level of crime in the village is very low; crime reports are rarely heard unless a person had been walking alone at night without transport”* (community member, Muyexe Village, 19 June 2017). Only 37% strongly agree or agree with the view. Nxumalo (2016) reflected on the recent reported crimes between 2015 and 2016 which were about raped and murdered women in South Africa, and he indicated that the incidence has been extremely high. The findings from literature and data collected are not the same and this is because the village has a police forum which consists of village men who defend and protect village residents.

Statement 8: The eighth statement with a low mean is statement 8 (mean=2.27). In this statement altogether 60.8% of women strongly disagree or disagree with the view that women in the village face the risk of being insulted at all times. This means that women in the village are never insulted by men or boys in any way whatsoever either in public spaces or in their private households. 39.2% either strongly agree or agree with the view. Mmbengwa (2014) indicates that in Swaziland, women were expected to always walk behind their men. Should they be in front, men would see it as disrespect, and the woman would be shouted at and called to order. The findings from literature is not the same with data which was collected because of equality among men and women which was enforced by the government.

Statement 9: The ninth statements with a medium mean is statement 9 (mean=2.96). In this statement altogether 89.1% of women either strongly agree or agree with the view that in the village men treat women with respect, dignity and do not show any signs of inflicting abuse in any way whatsoever. This means that men see themselves equal with women, hence the treatment which they give women is fair and just. Only 10.9% either strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Moya (2015) explained that in rural areas, women were never valued as people who should be treated with dignity. The author referred to the bible where women were never mentioned to be part of the population.

Statement 10: The tenth statement with a medium mean is statement 10 (mean=2.61). In this statement altogether 63.1% of women strongly agree or agree with the view that women in the village have access to income generating opportunities. This means that women have gained access to income generating opportunities through the programme which was implemented in the village, and also from other job opportunities which were outside the programme. 36.9% strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Khau (2013) stated that women were only expected to stay at home and only rely on their husbands for anything either financially or materially, and this was used by men to prove that they are able to take care of their families. The finding from literature is not the same as the data collected because the government has place measures to prioritise women in the business world.

Statement 11: The eleventh statement with a medium mean is statement 12 (mean=2.61). In this statement altogether 64.2% of women strongly agree or agree with the view that, in the village, women have access to employment opportunities. This means that criteria used to create employment in the village are not biased towards men. 35.8% strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Mukherjee (2016) indicated that in rural areas only men were allowed access to employment, while women remain home to care for their families. The findings are different, probably because the employment equity act emphasises equal employment between men and women.

4.2.2.1. Status of Women's participation in Muyexe village

Table 4.2 shows the percentages of statements strongly agreed on, agreed on, strongly disagreed on, disagreed on, mean, standard deviation and meaning of mean of the responses related to women's participation in Muyexe village. The table consists of five statements listed as follows:

Statement 1- In the village, women are involved in projects that are initiated to benefit the community

Statement 2- In the village, women are allowed to attend meetings in the village and raise their inputs.

Statement 3- In the village, women are allowed by their husbands to make decisions on anything in their households

Statement 4- In the village, women can make decisions on how to spend money in their household.

Statement 5- In the village, cultures and traditional practices restrict women from taking advantage of opportunities in the village

Table 4.2: Status of women’s participation in Muyexe village

PERCENTAGES (%)							
Statements	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Standard deviation	Meaning of mean
<i>Statement 1</i>	-	-	83.7	16.3	3.16	.371	Agree
<i>Statement 2</i>	-	-	83.7	16.3	3.16	.371	Agree
<i>Statement 3</i>	-	1.1	82.6	16.3	3.15	.390	Agree
<i>Statement 4</i>	-	1.1	83.7	15.2	3.14	.380	Agree
<i>Statement 5</i>	13.0	78.3	8.7	-	1.96	.467	Disagree

Statement 1: The first statement with a high mean is statement 1 (mean=3.16). In this statement altogether 100% of women strongly agree or agree with the view that in the village of Muyexe women are involved in projects that are initiated to benefit the community. This means that in the projects which are initiated to bring development in the village, women are also involved in decision-making processes. However, Muthuki and Ojong (2016) has shown that women in rural areas are the most side-lined when it comes to projects which are implemented to benefit community members in a sense that they are not allowed to participate in any decision-making process. The finding from literature is not the same with findings from data collected because government has enforced that women be a priority in any development project which is implemented.

Statement 2: The second statement with a high mean is statement 2 (mean=3.16). In this statement altogether 100% of women strongly agree or agree with the view that, in the village, women are allowed to attend village meetings and raise their inputs. This

means that women are no longer spectators in meetings; they can also participate by raising their views and opinions. Maitse (2014) indicated that women in rural areas were never allowed to attend meetings with men; should it happen that they attend, they were expected to sit on the floor and be spectators. Respondents have differed with what literature said and this is because of various government initiatives which defend the rights of women.

Statement 3: The third statement with a high mean is statement 3 (mean=3.15). In this statement altogether 98.9% of women strongly agree or agree with the view that, in their household, women are allowed by their husbands to make decisions on anything in their households. This means that women are able to make decisions on their children's education, the food to be eaten and many other decisions without being suppressed by their husbands. Only 1.1% strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Moya (2015) said husbands always remind their wives that they married them without a 'cobo' therefore everything in the household belongs to the husband and the wife does not have a say in the household. The findings differ because of the 50/50 initiative which was promoted by government.

Statement 4: The fourth statement with a high mean is statement 4 (mean=3.14). In this statement altogether 98.9% of women strongly agree or agree with the view that women can make decisions on how to spend money in their households. This means that women are able to control the finances of their households and they do it collectively with their husbands. Only 1.1% strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Authors like Moya (2015) indicated that women were never allowed to control nor decide on the finances of the household. Theoretical and analysed data are different because of the various initiatives by the government between 2015 and 2017 on prioritising women.

Statement 5- The fifth statement with a low mean is statement 5 (mean=1.96). In this statement altogether 91.3% of women strongly disagree or disagree with a view that in the village, culture and traditional practices restrict women from taking advantage

of opportunities. This means that the tradition of Matsonga and their culture which they practise in the village together with the village rules set by the tribal authority do not restrict women from taking advantage of opportunities presented in the village. Only 8.7% strongly agree or agree with the view.

Njoku *et al.* (2015) indicated that women in rural areas were always expected to practise their tradition and they were not included when it comes to benefiting from projects, meaning they were not afforded the chance to fully participate in projects which have a direct impact on their lives. According to Chambers (1992), participatory development is a process of enabling local people to share, enhance and analyse their knowledge of life and conditions, to plan and to act. Thus, compared with the analysis by Chambers, findings have shown that women in the village of Muyexe are inclusive of decisions which are taken in the village. Meaning that, their level of participation is satisfactory to them.

4.2.2.2. Status of women's equality in Muyexe village

Table 4.3 shows the percentages, mean, standard deviation and meaning of mean of responses related to the status of women's equality in Muyexe village. The table consist of five statements listed as follow:

Statement 1- In the village, women are satisfied with the type of employment they possess

Statement 2- In the village, women are satisfied with the income they earn from their employers

Statement 3- In the village, women are treated well by their husbands within their households.

Statement 4- Women are allowed to hold leadership positions in the village

Statement 5- In the village, women do have equal employment opportunities with men.

Table 4.3.: Status of women's equality in Muyexe village

PERCENTAGES (%)							
Statements	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Standard deviatio	Meaning of mean
<i>Statement 1</i>	43.5	18.5	21.7	16.3	2.11	1.143	Disagree
<i>Statement 2</i>	45.7	22.8	18.5	13.0	1.99	1.084	Disagree
<i>Statement 3</i>	3.3	1.1	28.3	67.4	3.60	.680	Strongly agree
<i>Statement 4</i>	1.1	7.6	4.3	87.0	3.77	.631	Strongly agree
<i>Statement 5</i>	25.0	12.0	32.6	30.4	2.68	1.157	Agree

Statement 1- The first statement with a low mean is statement 1 (mean=2.11). In this statement altogether 62% of women either strongly disagree or disagree with the view that the village women are satisfied with the type of employment they possess. This means that women are not satisfied nor happy with the type of employment which they possess. 38% either strongly agree or agree with the view. Kgatshe (2013) indicated that women were not allowed to work and if they find employment it would be low paying and not satisfying to the women. In this case literature and data collected agree to say women in rural areas are not satisfied with the jobs they are offered.

Statement 2: The second statement with a low mean is statement 2 (mean=1.99). In this statement altogether 68.5% of women strongly disagree or disagree with the view that in the village of Muyexe, women are satisfied with the income they earn from their employers. This means women are not satisfied with the income which they earn from their employers. Only 31.5% either strongly agree or agree with the view. Likewise, in the previous statement, the explanation of Kgatshe (2013) is applicable in this statement.

statement 3: The third statement with a high mean is statement 3 (mean=3.60). In this statement altogether 95.7% of women either strongly agree or agree with the view that, in the village, women are treated well by their husbands within the households. This means that the majority of women are not abused by their husbands. Only 4.3%

strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Singh (2013) begged to differ because it is indicated that in rural areas women were never treated well, as they are regarded as workers in the household where they cook, wash, clean, and bear children. Findings from literature and data analysed are not the same because men have been oriented on how they should treat women and women are well informed on the sort of treatment they should expect from men.

statement 4: The fourth statement with a high mean is statement 4 (mean=3.77). In this statement altogether 91.3% of women strongly agree or agree with the view that women in Muyexe village are allowed to hold leadership positions. This means that women have access to leadership positions like being a ward counsellor, school principal or manager. Only 8.7% strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Moya (2015) states that it is a taboo for a woman to lead a man, or share a working position with a man. Findings from literature differ from findings from the field because of the initiatives by government to empower women.

Statement 5: The fifth statement with a medium mean is statement 5 (mean=2.68). In this statement altogether 63% of women strongly agree or agree with the statement that, in the village, women have equal employment opportunities with men. This means that most women are not side-lined in terms of employment distribution in the village. Respondent number three explained that *“the tribal authority uses a book in which they record all the families in the village and in that book they record households which have already accessed jobs from the village through the CRDP and the households which are next in line to access employment; only one member can be employed in each household”*. A total of 37% strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Bhengu (2012) indicated that it used to be very difficult for women to access employment because they were expected to be house care-givers and men were the ones who were afforded the chance to access employment, especially in rural area. Findings from literature differ from the data which was collected and the probable reason still remains that there have been many efforts which have been put forward by government to try and empower women.

According to a study conducted by the Universities in Dublin, Galway and Maynooth, indicated that egalitarian opposes the differences in treatment of people on account of their gender, sexual preferences, skin colour and spiritual beliefs. Therefore, in comparison with the findings from Muyexe village, women are equally treated with man. This means that women are not segregated nor discriminated against when it comes to employment, race and gender. They are equally included in matters which affect the village, they have full participation and they exercise their right of being women in the village. However, the only concern which has not been addressed is the satisfaction of women with their wages.

4.2.2.3. Status of women’s access to resources in Muyexe village

Table 4.4 show the percentages, mean, standard deviation and meaning of mean of the responses related to the status of women’s access to resources detailed as follows:

Statement 1- In the village, women are allowed to own land

Statement 2- In the village, women have access to healthcare services

Statement 3- In the village, women have access to safety and security

Statement 4- In the village, women have access to water which reduces their burden of fetching water

Statement 5- In the village, women have access to electricity which reduces their burden of fetching firewood.

Table 4.4. Status of women’s access to resources in Muyexe village

PERCENTAGES (%)							
Statements	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Standard deviation	Meaning of mean
<i>Statement 1</i>	17.6	3.3	21.7	67.4	3.49	.883	Agree
<i>Statement 2</i>	23.3	10.9	22.8	63.0	3.46	.818	Agree
<i>Statement 3</i>	36.5	4.3	33.7	55.4	3.38	.850	Agree
<i>Statement 4</i>	45.4	3.3	57.6	33.7	3.20	.745	Agree
<i>Statement 5</i>	58.7	1.1	56.5	33.7	3.15	.825	Agree

Statement 1: The first statement with a high mean is statement 1 (mean=3.49). In this statement altogether 89.1% of women strongly agree or agree with the view that in the village women are allowed to own land. This means that women in Muyexe village have access to land which they can use for agricultural activities, business and for dwelling with their children. Only 10.9% strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Ngcaba (2015) stated that women in rural areas were never allowed to own land; land could only be allocated to husbands and should it happen that he passed on, the land would be taken away from the widow. *“Back in the 1980s things were not like the way they are now: if a husband passed on, land, cows, goats and everything including the wife would be handed over to the younger brother of the deceased. Women were never allowed to own anything, including the children they had given birth to, but now things have changed”* (Community member, Muyexe Village, 20 June 2017).

Statement 2: The second statement with a high mean is statement 2 (mean=3.46). In this statement altogether 85.8% of women strongly agree or agree with a view that in the village women have access to health care services. This means that women are able to access health services with ease, especially now that CRDP has built a health clinic in the village of Muyexe. Only 14.2% strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Mahmud, Shah and Becker (2012) mentioned that it is difficult for women to access resources such as healthcare resources due to the remote areas which they dwell in. Findings in this regard are not the same because the CRDP has brought a health facility to residents in Muyexe village.

Statement 3: The third statement with a high mean is statement 3 (mean=3.38). In this statement altogether 89.1% of women strongly agree or agree with the view that, in the village, women have access to safety and security. This means they feel safe and there are no threats of crime and abuse in the village. Only 10.9% strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Khau (2013) mentioned this problem in literature, and media reports have persisted on the unsafety of women including children because cases of rape, theft, human trafficking and abuse of women including children continue to be reported.

Statement 4: The fourth statement with a high mean is statement 4 (mean=3.20). In this statement altogether 90.2% of women strongly agree or agree with the view that, in the village of Muyexe, women have access to water, which reduces their burden of fetching water. This means that women no longer have to travel long distances to fetch water, but they can now fetch water from taps next to their households. Only 9.8% strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Mathebula (2014) mentioned that access to water has always been a problem for people living in rural areas; they have to travel distances to fetch water. Findings show that women do not have access inside their home yards; hence, even though they might feel their access to water has been eased, they still have to go out their home yards to access water from a street tap.

Statement 5: The fifth statement with a high mean is statement 5 (mean=3.15). In this statement altogether 90.2% of women strongly agree or agree with the view that, in the village of Muyexe, women have access to electricity, which reduces their burden of fetching firewood. This means that women are able to cook and light their houses without having to fetch firewood or use candles. Mmbengwa (2014) explained that it was the duty of women to fetch wood for fire to cook and make sure that there was light in the house since it was part of their duty of caring for the household. Only 9.8% strongly disagree or disagree with the view. Findings from literature are not the same as findings from data which was collected, because of new technological innovations and also because of the CRDP which has brought electricity to the village.

Findings have shown that women in Muyexe village have access to the essential needs, thus, in comparison with the humanistic approach to development it indicates that people including women have full rights to basic health care, safety, food and services. This means that the CRDP have succeeded in ensuring that women's access to resources is improved and up to par.

4.2.2.4. Status of women's Educational level in Muyexe village

Table 4.5 shows the percentages, mean, standard deviation and meaning of mean of the responses related to the status of women's capacity building level in Muyexe village. The table consists of four statements, which are listed as follow:

Statement 1- Woman in the village have opportunities to further their education

Statement 2- In the village, women receive different skills development trainings

Statement 3- In the village, women are able to start their business through the skills they have acquired.

Statement 4- In the village, education provided to women has enabled them to get better employment, which helps them to improve their lives.

Table 4.5: Status of women’s Educational level in Muyexe village

PERCENTAGES (%)							
Statements	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Standard deviation	Meaning of mean
<i>Statement 1</i>	29.3	26.1	28.3	16.3	2.32	1.068	Disagree
<i>Statement 2</i>	37.0	22.8	25.0	15.2	2.18	1.099	Disagree
<i>Statement 3</i>	41.3	17.4	23.9	17.4	2.17	1.154	Disagree
<i>Statement 4</i>	40.2	25.0	14.1	20.7	2.15	1.167	Disagree

Statement 1: The first statement with a low mean is statement 1 (mean=2.32). In this statement altogether 55.4% women strongly disagree or disagree with the view that in the village women have opportunities to further their studies. This means that women in the village have never received opportunities which allow them to further their education, like going to university, college or FET. A total of 44.6% strongly agree or agree with the view. Mudau and Obadire (2014) mentioned that if there are people who are most disadvantaged when it comes to education it is women and girls from rural areas because after completing their grade 12, they are expected to get married. Findings from literature and data analysed are similar.

Statement 2: The second statement with a low mean is statement 2 (mean=2.18). In this statement altogether 59.8% women strongly disagree or disagree with the view that in the village they receive different skills and development training. This means CRDP is the first developmental programme in the village, and it has failed to give them skills to develop themselves and has also failed to give them adequate education which they can use to improve their lives. A total of 40.2% strongly agree or agree with

the view. Like the previous author has indicated, women were never afforded the opportunity to build their capacity, therefore the finding concurs with the literature.

Statement 3: The third statement with a low mean is statement 3 (mean=2.17). In this statement altogether 58.7% women strongly disagree or disagree with the view that in the village women are able to start their businesses through the skills they have acquired. This means CRDP did not build women's capacity to enable them to start their own businesses. 41.3% strongly agree or agree with the view. Moya (2015) explained that many women in rural areas engage in street vending business, which does not give them enough money to sustain themselves. Therefore, the finding concurs with literature.

Statement 4: The fourth statement with a low mean is statement 4 (mean=2.15). In this statement altogether 65.2% women strongly disagree or disagree with the view that education provided to women has enabled them to get better employment which helps them to improve their lives. This means that women did not receive education or training, which could have helped them to qualify for jobs like receptionist, secretary, personal assistant, librarian, nurse or police officer. A total of 34.8% strongly agree or agree with the view. Findings from data collected and literature hold the same view.

The humanistic approach to development encourages that everyone has the right to proper education. Moreover, Chambers (1992) emphasise that for women to full participate in matters which directly affect them, they need to be educated so that they may make informed decisions. However, studies on gender have outlined that women were not expected to acquire knowledge, thus, this has affected women in Muyexe village, in a sense that their level of education is not enhanced, there are no areas where their level of education is being improved. This means that, there is a need for CRDP to revisit this aspect.

4.3. PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS FROM QUALITATIVE STUDY

CRDP and women empowerment

Findings from the qualitative interviews are presented in the form of themes. These themes are pointers to the research findings in relation to the question asked.

4.3.1. Establishment of service facilities; and government programmes which assisted in providing infrastructure.

Findings of the study revealed that there are various facilities or service centers established in the village. These includes the clinic, post office, computer centre, Thusong Centre, community hall, community market, library, Ben Muyexe Early Childhood Centre, women's self-help and police station. These service facilities were established by government departments and the municipality based in Giyani, through CRDP implementation under the coordination of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

The first service facility was the Muyexe clinic, which was established by the Department of Health through the CRDP in the year 2012. The second service facility was the post office, which was established by the Department of Economic Development through CRDP in 2011. The third service facility was the computer centre, which was established by the Department of Education through CRDP in 2015. The fourth service facility was the Thusong centre, which is the combination of SASSA, Home Affairs, SARS, and the service facility was established by the integration of the services of the Department of Social Development, Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Finance in 2015 through CRDP. The fifth service facility was the community hall and the market, which was established by the Greater Giyani Municipality in 2015 through CRDP. The sixth service facility was the library, which was established by the Department of Education in 2012. The seventh service centre was the Ben Muyexe Early Childhood Centre which was established by the Department of Social Development in 2011. The seventh service facility was the women's self-help centre, which was established by the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities in 2010 through CRDP. The last service facility

was the police station, which was established by the South Africa Police Service in 2016 through CRDP:

“I witnessed the opening of the women’s self-help centre which was done in 2010 in the presence of President Jacob Zuma, where he also bought our handcrafted products and some traditional materials produced by women in the village. The President handed the centre to us and the women elected me to be the coordinator of the centre” (Women’s self-help coordinator, Muyexe village, 21 June 2017)

Further responses were:

“Officials from the Department of Health come with officials from the municipality to open the clinic in 2012, but by that time the clinic had been operating for a month; it was an official opening and to certify access to the clinic by the Muyexe community” (Sister in Charge, Muyexe Clinic, 21 June 2017)

“It was 2012 when officials from the municipality and department of education came to the library to tell people that the library is open and free for people in Muyexe village to use it for reading and writing purposes. The village was aware of this visit, so many people were here; they were allowed to enter in groups to see the set-up inside. My colleague and I were doing the orientation; people were further briefed on how to utilise the library and its materials, it was a good day” (Librarian, Muyexe village, 21 June 2017).

The comprehensive rural development programme did not only establish new facilities and centres in the village, it also contributed towards the existing businesses and projects in the village of Muyexe which are the Mancena garden, Muyexe early childhood centre and Pfunanani brick-making project.

“The garden was established in 1980 by women in the village. In 2010 CRDP built us a storehouse which has an office, toilets, kitchen and a hall for storage. They promised our project that they will give us a mini-tractor also, so we can deliver our produce to

*retail shops and markets since we were unable to do so due to lack of transport”
(Mancena garden coordinator, Muyexe village, 22 June 2017)*

Further responses were:

“The Muyexe early childhood centre was established in 1996 by women in the village. CRDP also gave us two Jojo tanks, which are water reservation tanks. We understood that the programme could not give us more since we had already received funding from the Department of Social Development which started in 1999, but we are grateful for the water reservation tanks which we received in 2010” (Muyexe early childhood centre principal, Muyexe village, 22 June 2017)

“Yes, CRDP contributed towards the Pfunanani brick-making project; they built us a changing room which has showers, toilets, lunch area and a kitchen; they also promised us a big tractor which we will use to deliver our bricks to customers. Even though they refused to use our bricks when they built these RDP houses because we were not producing the right size, we are still grateful because since the establishment of the project in 1998 this is the first time we have receive something from the government” (Pfunanani Brick-Making Project, Muyexe village, 22 June 2017)

The infrastructure and service facilities which are mentioned above, were provided by CRDP in line with the CRDP plan. Evidence is found in the CRDP implementation and evaluation report for June 2009-June 2012 by the coordinating Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

“The wide ranging and ambitious goals / objectives of the CRDP amongst others is to bring together various stakeholders like other departments, non-governmental organisations, business sector and community in order to enhance socio-economic development issues”. The report continues: “Specific CRDP mechanisms and processes to achieve the outputs include infrastructure delivery across many sectors and involving several government departments and spheres and other strategic

partners to meet basic needs and create a conducive environment for economic and social development". The report adds: "The CRDP is premised on three phases of which Phase 3 focuses on supporting the emergence of rural industrial and financial sectors which is driven by small, medium and micro enterprises and village markets". (Implementation and Evaluation of the CRDP, June 2009-June 2012; 02, 2013). Therefore, comparing the responses from community members and the reports from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, CRDP has achieved its objective of bringing together various stakeholders, hence, women are benefiting from the various service facilities which were implemented by CRDP.

4.3.2. Primary activities of service facilities in Muyexe village.

Findings from the study indicated that the primary activities of various service centres aimed at amongst others providing librarian services, postal services, child caring services in the absence of mothers, computer services, and health care services:

"The primary activities in the library are to enable pupils to come to the library and study, use books within the library to enhance their studying and help them to do their assignments; allow pupils to use the computers in the library to surf the net and get information on university application and find job opportunities." (Librarian, Muyexe village, 21 June 2017)

Further responses were:

"What we do in the post office includes posting mails, receiving mails and parcels, banking, cash withdrawals and air-time purchases; although villagers in Muyexe use free electricity, otherwise we would sell it here. These are the activities which people in Muyexe come to do here". (Post office official, Muyexe village, 22 June 2017)

"In the Ben Muyexe early childhood centre we take care of children from the age of 0-3 while their parents are away, we feed them, and we bath them before they go home. We also teach from grade RRR until grade R, we teach children how to speak English and to write. In summary, we take care of children in the absence of their parents." (Ben Muyexe Early Childhood Centre principal, Myexe village, 22 June 2017).

“What we basically do in the computer centre is we assist young people who come into the centre to access computers; we assist them on how to use computers, how to surf the internet when they are looking for information on university applications or employment, and we also help them with online applications and many internet-related assistances. The computer centre has faced challenges of vandalism and theft. Many computers have been stolen and the thieves have gone to the point of stealing the floor tiles, chairs and cables inside the centre, thus it is now empty and young people only come to access wireless connections from outside the centre for social media purposes (former computer centre assistant, Muyexe village, 21 June 2017).”

Activities practised in various service facilities were set by the CRDP plan to purposefully promote economic activities within the village. Evidence was found in the CRDP implementation and evaluation report, which was provided by the department of Rural Development and Land Reform as the coordinating department.

“The CRDP categorizes types of infrastructure into economic, social, cultural and ICT infrastructure which represents a comprehensive and ambitious set of investments. It is evident that this is the goal, where the CRDP is having the most success. It is especially evident in some of the pilot sites, where huge investments have been made. In successful cases this has managed to transform the lives of communities and living standards greatly”. (Implementation and Evaluation of the CRDP, June 2009-June2012; 15, 2013). When comparing the objective of CRDP with responses from the community members, CRDP has managed to transform the lives of women in Muyexe village because, they are able make use of available technologies to improve their lives and make life easy.

4.3.3. Description of activities in the service facilities which focus on improving the lives of women in Muyexe village.

Findings from the study highlight a number of activities being carried out, to benefit women, or improve their living standard. These activities among others include business opportunities for women, employment creation, banking services, and health services:

“The women’s self-help centre has many activities which focus on improving the lives of women which are sewing, beading, handicraft, pottery and many other forms of creative traditional work which women invent on their own. We meet on a daily basis to do these activities’; then in the week where we know that customers are getting paid, we go out to sell and we return again to do more products, so that on those pay days we can go and sell”. (Women’s self-help coordinator, Muyexe village, 21 June).

Further responses were:

“In the Ben Muyexe early childhood centre temporary employment is often created for women because the more children we get every year, and on a day-to-day basis we request women in the village to come and assist and in that way they get jobs. Even though they are on temporary basis, but that small salary helps them, and on top of that women find it easy to go out in search for opportunities as we take care of their children here”. (Ben Muyexe Early Childhood Centre principal, Myexe village, 22 June 2017).

“I see the activities in the post office improving the lives of women because they come here to make savings on the stockvel groups which they have created and also for their personal savings. The women who work in the women’s self-help have created business accounts which help them save their profit and the post office has caused women to see the need to create various groups which help them save money, and lastly they get their salaries here”. (Post office official, Muyexe village, 22 June 2017)

Findings indicated that there are service facilities, which do not host activities which focus on improving the lives of women:

“Women do not use the library and we don’t know the reason why, but the general assumption is they are not engaged in educational activities, hence they do not see the library as useful to them, but the good part about it is they encourage their children to visit the library to study and do other things.” (Librarian, Muyexe village, 21 June 2017).

Findings further indicated that there are facility centres, which were supposed to be executing activities which would focus on improving the lives of women, but this is not happening:

“I feel that if the community markets were operating, women were going to make use of them and sell their cooked and uncooked food. It is one centre which was going to create self-employment for women who are not working but have a passion for business because it is only a matter of time before we start to see people from other countries doing business in those markets”. (Community Secretary, Muyexe village, 21 June 2017).

“The Thusong Centre must just start to operate because that centre was going to create employment; even though it wouldn’t be women alone, but at least 50% would be employed as cleaners, security guards, assistants, supervisors, administrators, clerks and data capturers” (Community Secretary, Muyexe village, 21 June 2017).

It was the aim of CRDP to ensure that the service facilities, which were implemented, improved the lives of not women alone but also the entire community. Evidence on this was also found in the implementation and evaluation plan which was developed by the coordinating Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. “The site visits and case study developed illustrated results regarding the extent to which basic needs are being met through CRDP interventions. Basic needs are being met mainly through the construction of infrastructure and provision of facilities and services”. (Implementation and Evaluation of the CRDP, June 2009 – June 2012; 15, 2013).

Findings from respondents have proven that CRDP has achieved its aim of ensuring that the service facilities enable women to engage in productive activities. This means the activities performed in various CRDP service centres have improved the empowerment of women.

4.3.4. Major benefits which women derived from service facilities.

Findings from the study highlighted a number of major benefits that women have derived from various service facilities in Muyexe village. These major benefits among others include:

“Women are now able access health services like medication, treatment, family planning methods, proper maternity services and easy access to health services without having to travel long distances. The same goes for their families, meaning that taking care of their children and loved once is now easy for them” (Sister in Charge, Myexe Clinic, 21 June 2017).

“The major benefits which women derived from the post office are access to financial banking services, financial savings, access to credit, easy mailing access (sending and receiving), and quick access to purchases of prepaid vouchers” (Post office official, Muyexe village, 22 June 2017).

“Women’s self-help has benefited women the most especially during the 2010 FIFA World Cup year and after 2010. Women were able to start their businesses of selling beaded and handcrafted work. It has allowed women to access capital; it enabled women to be independent and it led women to other business opportunities” (Women’s self-help coordinator, Muyexe village, 21 June)

Further findings indicated that women are concerned with the manner in which they were supposed to benefit from service centres because many of the service facilities

are not operated by residents from Muyexe village. Many of the service facilities are not operating after a minimum of 4 years of completion:

“Some of the service centres in the village are operated by people from outside the village and we do not know how this matter comes about. The post office is operated by a woman from outside the village, and the two employees in the library are not members of the village whereas there are many people in the village”. (Community member, Muyexe village, 19 June 2017).

“I am very worried about the service facilities which are not operating because we would be benefiting from them. For example, the community hall would give us jobs of cleaning, cooking during community events and supervision; the markets would help us to be self-employed, the Thusong Centre would create jobs for us, and also the police station would create many jobs from which women would also benefit. (Community member, Muyexe village, 20 June 2017).

Prioritisation of women in the programme was also one of the priorities, to ensure that they are empowered. Evidence was found in the plan designed by the coordinating Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. “In most cases genuine effort was being made to involve women in CRDP activities and it is evident that at most sites women comprise the majority of beneficiaries. However, attention still needs to be paid to meaningful participation versus token participation. For example, participants in a female only focus group in Devon felt that men overpowered them in the Council of Stakeholders (COS), talked on their behalf at meetings, and also held meetings without inviting them. Female focus groups also expressed a desire for further ABET training, empowerment training and access to finance to ensure they can compete with men for jobs and status in the community”. (Implementation and Evaluation of the CRDP, June 2009-June2012; 19, 2013).

4.3.5. Additional information from respondents.

This section has allowed respondents to mention any information which was omitted in the questionnaire:

Findings have identified that there were many issues which were bothering beneficiaries in the village. Some of these problems existed in service facilities.

“The library does not have enough computers to cater for many young people who come to the library; the maintenance of the computers is poor and the technician is never available to fix them because we teach the young people on how to use computers and they easily get broken. A technician is always needed around there. There is no training for the young people who come to the library, and they do not know how to look for information like using books and the computers, hence they get broken easily. Importantly, women do not use the library”. (Librarian, Muyexe village, 21 June 2017).

“Community members vandalised the computer centre by stealing computers and removing floor tiles, tables and chairs”. (Former computer centre coordinator, Muyexe village, 21 June 2017).

“The Ben Muyexe early childhood learning centre does not have toys or entertaining materials for children, hence the growth and development of the children is being compromised. In the beginning we were only paid after every 3 months, but things got better and we are paid monthly, but still the money which we earn is not enough to take care of our families, hence on top of this job we further go out and look for other work. It is not easy to get an extra source of income because we are needed full time in the centre. We are just using our own knowledge on how to take care of these children, we do not know if it is the required education or the correct diet which we are giving to these children or even the better care” (Ben Muyexe Early Childhood Centre principal, Myexe village, 22 June 2017).

Further findings indicated that existing projects also raised concerns of dissatisfaction in terms of benefits:

“We are not happy with the CRDP because the President never set foot in our project to see what we as women are doing. As they were building the RDP houses for community members, contractors who were appointed by the programme did not use our bricks which we made: they explained that our bricks are big for the size which is

required to build the RDP houses, therefore we are sad. The CRDP could have simply bought us the machine to manufacture the required size of bricks and they would have bought our bricks. They promised us a truck since we do not have a one for deliveries, they also promised us a TLB but since that day of the promise, they have never set foot in our project again. The only thing which they gave us was the building which we are grateful for, but still they made empty promises". (Pfunanani Brick-making Project, Muyexe Village, 22 June 2017).

Final findings from this section showed that there are concerns with regard to the service facilities which are not functioning.

"I don't know why most of the service facilities are not functioning and I don't know when they will start working. Even the village authority does not know because the delivering departments did not communicate anything to us". (Community Secretary, Muyexe village, 21 June 2017).

4.3.6. The importance of CRDP in Muyexe village.

Findings from the study revealed that CRDP was important in Muyexe village. The reason for its importance was that it has brought economic development and growth in the village and other surrounding villages:

"CRDP was very important in Muyexe village because now there is economic development. People now have electricity, water, RDP houses, convenient sanitation and employment and their lives have been easy since the implementation of CRDP. Economically there is growth in the village because there is an in-flow and out-flow of money since there are markets, people have jobs, and others started their businesses. People have access to security through the police station, they have access to health services through the clinic, they have access to postal and banking services through the post office. A lot can be said, but CRDP was very important in the village." (Integrated Development Plan Manager, Greater Giyani Municipality, 23 June 2017).

“Muyexe village was a very remote village without any sign of development in it, therefore it was very important for the programme to be implemented so that the lives of people in the village could be improved, but the main purpose of CRDP was economic development and growth” (Integrated Development Plan Coordinator, Greater Giyani Municipality, 23 June 2017).

Further responses were:

“The village was very poor, everything was far from us, we had to travel for us to access clinics, libraries, post office, police station. The standard of living for people in Muyexe was poor. Computer centres, community hall and early childhood centres were a dream for people in Muyexe, therefore for this reason I can say yes, CRDP was important in Muyexe village because it managed to give us all that I have mentioned”. (Traditional Authority, Muyexe village, 23 June 2017).

Responses and literature indicated that it was very important for CRDP to be implemented in Muyexe village. Evidence of this statement was found in the CRDP implementation plan designed by the coordinating department of Rural Development and Land Reform. “The CRDP is premised on a three-pronged strategy which focuses on agrarian transformation, rural development and land reform. The programme is said to be different from past government strategies in rural areas in that it embraces a proactive, participatory, community-based planning approach rather than an interventionist approach to rural development (DRDLR, 2009:3). The CRDP’s approach is to operate in the poorest rural wards. The fact that the CRDP operates in some of the poorest, remotest and historically underserved localities in the country means that the programme faces immense challenges in its aim to bring development to these communities”. (Implementation and Evaluation of the CRDP, June 2009-June 2012; 2, 2013).

4.3.7. Infrastructural and service facilities that were developed using CRDP.

Findings from an interview with CRDP coordinators indicated that the village was provided with infrastructural and service facilities. The service facilities are inclusive of the Hlaneku Muyexe centre, post office, women’s self-help centre, Muyexe secretary

office, Muyexe computer centre, Muyexe community hall, community market, Thusong Centre, clinic, library, police station, and Ben Muyexe early childhood centre. Pictures are displayed and explained below:



Figure 4.7. Nahleki Muyexe centre: Muyexe village was provided with the Hlaneki Muyexe Community Centre which was provided by using the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme. The centre consists of the community market, community hall, post office, computer centre and the Thusong service centre. The post office and the women’s self-help are the only facilities in this centre which are operating, it is not known as to when will the other facilities start to operate. The closure of these facilities have promoted lack of employment to women in Muyexe village.



Figure 4.8. Women’s Self-Help Centre: Women in the village of Muyexe were provided with a centre called Women’s self- help centre through CRDP. Women visit the centre to bead traditional beauty material and sell them for profit.



Figure 4.9. Ben Muyexe Early Childhood Development Centre: Muyexe Village was provided with the Ben Muyexe Early Childhood Development Centre through CRDP. It has provided employment for women but their wages are inconsistent and not enough, they also do not have sufficient skills on how to perform their duties of teaching and caring.



figure 4.10 RDP houses with JOJO water reservation tanks, sanitation, water pipes and sola electricity: The illustration indicates that the comprehensive rural development programme provided the members of Muyexe village with RDP houses, sanitation, Jojo water reservation tanks, water and electricity.



Figure 4.11. Community Development Workers Programme (CDWP): Village members including women were provided with temporary employment in the Community Development Workers' Programme through CRDP.

The CRDP did not only establish new infrastructural or service facilities, it also contributed towards existing projects in the village. The projects which were funded by the programme involve the Pfunanani brick-making project, Mancena Garden and the Muyexe early development childhood centre.

4.3.8. Challenges and weaknesses which the CRDP has faced during implementation in Muyexe village.

Findings from the study have revealed that there were challenges and weaknesses which were faced by the implementing office for CRDP. These are the challenges which they say have led to the failure of CRDP in some parts of Muyexe village:

“There was poor integration of sectoral departments who were responsible for delivering services and service facilities in the village. This was in a way that

responsible offices in sectoral departments were rebellious and did not cooperate, hence there are service facilities which are not functioning till today, but we hope that responsible departments will act and those centres will be operational". (Integrated Development Plan Manager, Greater Giyani Municipality, 23 June 2017)

Further responses were:

"We experienced a great challenge during the implementation of CDRP in Muyexe village because building material was being stolen, service facilities were being vandalised. This was a bad experience because that meant there would never be enough benefits to distribute among village members. Benefits like computers, jojo tanks, and building materials were stolen, while other employees within the projects decided to take more than the required number for distribution in each household. That is how the police station took many years to be completed, and the Thusong Centre is not operating together with the computer centre because all the furniture inside has been stolen." (Integrated Development Plan Coordinator, Greater Giyani Municipality, 23, June 2017).

Findings also revealed that, beside the abovementioned challenges, there were complaints which were laid by the traditional authority. These complaints were about poor communication and poor consultation. Many promises were made and not fulfilled. The traditional authority also mentioned that they were disappointed when village members started a protest in the process of the developments in Muyexe village and this has resulted in the poor implementation of the programme.

"Yes we were taught that CRDP will bring service facilities, RDP houses, water, electricity and jobs for people; we are happy and grateful. I was only upset by the way the sectoral department did their things: they implemented service facilities and left them like this. They don't tell us what will happen to the computer centre, Thusong Centre, police station, and the market; they did not tell us what will happen to the people who work in the Community Workers Programme because their employment is temporary". (Traditional Authority, Muyexe Village, 23 June 2017).

Expected challenges were outlined by the coordinating department in the CRDP plan and it was mentioned that “the short period assigned for fieldwork for the CRDP sites will pose implications for how thorough the findings would be. Limited time is allowed for verification of data provided by key informants. Nevertheless, many of the findings will be repeated across the CRDP sites and confirmed by other data sources which will lend a high level of confidence to the findings”. (Implementation and Evaluation of the CRDP, June 2009-June2012; 6, 2013).

4.3.9. Major Strengths of CRDP Implementation in Muyexe Village.

Findings have indicated strengths which CRDP had during its implementation. The strengths which it had were cooperation from village members, service facilities which were successfully established, employment which was created and economic development and growth were achieved.

“The community of Muyexe was cooperative, people were participating in meetings by raising opinions and suggesting ways on how certain activities could be made and delivered; it excited them when they saw their opinions being taken into consideration, and it also strengthened their participation. Community members were quick to respond when they were requested to make submissions of their applications for jobs, houses and many other benefits which were applied for in Muyexe village. (Integrated Development Plan Manager, Greater Giyani Municipality, 23, June 2017).

Further responses were:

The people of Muyexe village were friendly to implementing officials and they showed support; they allowed officials to walk into their homes and work. Economic development and growth were achieved.” (Integrated Development Plan Coordinator, Greater Giyani Municipality, 23, June 2017).

According to the report by the coordinating department, it shows that one of the strengths of the CRDP is that it had a reliable policy, which was sufficient to lead all delegated coordinators. (Implementation and Evaluation, 2013).

4.4. Conclusion

Findings indicate that the conditions of women living in the village have improved as women are allowed to engage in decisions which directly affect them, and women are treated with respect and dignity. There are signs of improvement in terms of women empowerment because women have access to resources such as land, health care, water and electricity; women are involved in the projects that are designed to benefit the community; and they are allowed to hold leadership positions despite the cultural and traditional practices. However, the participants of the study perceive that women are not satisfied with their working conditions and the income they earn.

Another finding of the study is that CRDP has implemented various facility services in order to benefit the local community of Muyexe through setting up a library, recreation centre, computer centre, early childhood learning centre, post office, clinic, road construction and many more. Other projects implemented include water reservation tanks, electricity, toilets and backyard gardens.

This study found that the infrastructure and service facilities that were developed through the CRDP have had a major impact on the lives of women in the village. Women have more access to houses, water reservation tanks, and electricity and sanitation facilities. Moreover, the projects initiated by CRDP have benefited women and their families as well as creating employment opportunities and skills training. The CRDP has not fully achieved its purpose of empowering the community, women in particular, due to several implementation challenges including inadequate coordination, theft and vandalism and.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1. Introduction

The previous chapter has analysed data which was collected from Muyexe village, and interpreted the findings. The previous chapter has analysed findings on the conditions of women and the status of their empowerment, the nature of CRDP and the contributions which have been made by CRDP in achieving women empowerment in Muyexe village. Therefore, the purpose of this chapter is to give an overview of chapters, summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations based on the study objectives as outlined in chapter one:

- *to assess the conditions of women and the status of their empowerment;*
- *to examine the nature of Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP);*
- *to explore the contribution of Comprehensive Rural Development programme (CRDP) on women empowerment.*

5.2. An overview of chapters

Chapter one: The chapter introduced the topic of the study, explained the research problem, research purpose, and rationale. The chapter employed normative research design. It has further adopted mixed methods, which entail qualitative and quantitative methods of collecting data. Probability and non-probability sampling were used. Questionnaires, interviews and observations were used to collect data. Data was collected from 92 households, which include women. SPSS was used to analyse data. Graphs, charts and tables were used to interpret data. Validity and reliability of the study was tested by Cronbach's alpha which resulted in ($\alpha=0.850$). Ethical consideration was prioritised in data collection.

Chapter two: The chapter has presented literature reviewed from an international context. The literature which was reviewed, was based and focused on the condition of women and the status of their empowerment; the nature of Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP); and various programmes which were implemented

by international countries which contributed towards women empowerment. Literature was reviewed from journal articles, government reports and books.

Chapter three: The chapter gave background literature on the national context (South Africa), provincial context (Limpopo Province), and local context (Muyexe village). The background which the chapter has provided, was based on the conditions of women and the status of their empowerment; the nature of the comprehensive rural development (CRDP); and the contribution of Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) on women empowerment.

Chapter four: The chapter has presented findings from analysis and interpretation of data on the conditions of women and the status of their empowerment, the nature of CRDP, and the contribution of CRDP on women empowerment. The chapter adopted SPSS to analyse data. Tables, graphs and charts were used to present analysed data. Therefore, analysed data was interpreted in this chapter.

Chapter five: The chapter presented the key findings of the study, recommendations on the improvement of the conditions of women and the status of their empowerment in rural areas. Suggestion for further studies, limitations of the study and the conclusion reached on the reality of the practical issue in the study area compared to the literature reviewed. Lastly the chapter makes a conclusion.

5.3. Summary of key findings

The study was conducted in Muyexe village with the aim of assessing the conditions of women and the status of their empowerment, examining the nature of CRDP, and exploring the contribution of CRDP on women empowerment in Muyexe village, and the study found the following:

Objective #1. To assess the conditions of women and the status of their empowerment.

Findings are summarized in sub-themes, which were used to measure women empowerment, the status of their empowerment and their socio-economic conditions, participation, equality, access to resources and capacity building:

- The majority of respondents (88% of women) strongly agree or agree with the view that women have the right to freely express their views in the village meetings or imbizos which the residents in the village call Xivijo.
- The majority of respondents (92.4% of women) strongly agree or agree with the view that women make decisions with their husband about finances in their household, meaning that in their households, husbands do not suppress them nor side-line them when it comes to financial decision making
- The majority of respondents (80.4% of women) strongly agree or agree with the view that women in Muyexe village have equal rights with men. This means meaning that in the village, the treatment which women have experienced from men is accommodating in a sense that men recognize women in resource distribution, exercising of their rights in the village and expressing themselves as women (participation).
- The majority of respondents (58.7% of women) strongly agree or agree with the view that, in the village, women have more workload in their daily activities of cooking and taking care of their children. This means that women in the village are overloaded with home chores to a point where they are unable to focus on other developmental activities which would empower them, whereas the man go out to work and bring money home.
- The majority of respondents (63.1% of women) strongly disagree or disagree with the view that women in their households are faced with the risk of being beaten by their spouse/partner. This means that most women in the village of Muyexe do not face the risk of being beaten by their spouses or partners
- The majority of respondents (63.1% of women) strongly agree or agree with the view that women in the village have access to income generating opportunities. This means that most women have gained access to income generating opportunities through the programme which was implemented in the village.
- The majority of respondents (64.2% of women) strongly agree or agree with the view that, in the village, women have access to employment opportunities. This means that the criteria used to create employment in the village is not biased to men.

Women's participation

- The majority of respondents (100% of women) strongly agree or agree with the view that, in the village of Muyexe, women are involved in projects that are initiated to benefit the community. This means that in the projects which are initiated to bring development in the village, women also involved to participate in decision-making processes.
- The majority of respondents (91.3% of women) strongly disagree or disagree with a view that in the village, culture and traditional practices restrict women from taking advantage of opportunities. This means that the tradition of the Matsonga and their culture which they practise in the village, together with the village rules set by the traditional authority, does not restrict them from taking advantage of opportunities presented in the village.

Women's Equality

- The majority of respondents (62% of women) strongly disagree or disagree with the view that the village women are satisfied with the type of employment they possess. This means that most women are not satisfied nor happy with type of employment which they possess.
- The majority of respondents (68.5% of women) strongly disagree or disagree with the view that, in the village of Muyexe, women are satisfied with the income they earn from their employers. This means that most women are not satisfied with the income they earn from their employers.
- The majority of respondents (91.3% of women) strongly agree or agree with the view that women in Muyexe village are allowed to hold leadership position. This means that women have access to leadership positions like being a ward counsellor, school principal and managers.
- The majority of respondents (63% of women) strongly agree or agree with the statement that, in the village, women have equal employment opportunities with men, this means that meaning that most women are not side-lined in terms of employment distribution in the village.

Women's access to resources

- The majority of respondents (89.1% of women) strongly agree or agree with the view that in the village women are allowed to own land, meaning that women in Muyexe village have access to land which they can use for agricultural activities, business and for dwelling with their children.
- The majority of respondents (85.8% of women) strongly agree or agree with a view that in the village women have access to health care services; meaning that women are able to access health services with ease, especially now that CRPD has built a health clinic in the village of Muyexe.
- The majority of respondents (89.1% of women) strongly agree or agree with the view that, in the village, women have access to safety and security. This means that they feel safe and there are few threats of crime and abuse in the village.
- The majority of respondents (90.2% of women) strongly agree or agree with the view that, in the village of Muyexe, women have access to water which reduces their burden of fetching water. This means that women no longer have to travel long distances to fetch water, but they can now fetch water from taps next to their households.
- The majority of respondents (90.2% of women) strongly agree or agree with the view that, in the village of Muyexe, women have access to electricity which reduces their burden of fetching firewood. This means that women are able to cook and light their houses without having to fetch firewood or use candles.

Women's capacity building (level of education)

- The majority of respondents (55.4% women) strongly disagree or disagree with the view that, in the village women have opportunities to further their studies. This means that more than half of the women in the village have never received opportunities which allow them to further their education, like going to university, college or FET.
- The majority of respondents (59.8% of women) strongly disagree or disagree with the view that in the village they receive different skills and development training. This means that women do not have adequate opportunity for training and skills development.

- The majority of respondents (58.7% of women) strongly disagree or disagree with the view that in the village women are able to start their businesses through the skills they have acquired. This means that women lack capacity to enable them to start their own businesses.

Objective #2. To examine the nature of Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)

Findings from the study indicated that CRDP established infrastructural or service facilities, which were aimed at engaging in activities which will enhance the lives of people in Muyexe village, including women:

- The first service facility was the women's self-help centre which was established by the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities in 2010 through CRDP. The second service facility was the post office, which was established by the Department of Economic Development through CRDP in 2011. The third service centre was the Ben Muyexe early childhood centre which was established by the Department of Social Development in 2011. The fourth service facility was the Muyexe clinic, which was established by the Department of Health through CRDP in the year 2012. The fifth service facility was the library, which was established by the Department of Education in 2012. The sixth service facility was the computer centre, which was established by the Department of Education through CRDP in 2015. The seventh service facility was the Thusong Centre which is the combination of SASSA, Home Affairs, SARS, and the service facility was established by the integration of the services of the Department of Social Development, Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Finance in 2015 through CRDP. The eighth service facility were the community hall and the market, which were established by the Greater Giyani Municipality in 2015 through CRDP. The last service facility was the police station, which was established by the South African Police Service in 2016 through CRDP.
- Findings from the study indicated that the primary activities of various service centres aimed at amongst others providing library services, postal services,

childcare services in the absence of mothers, computer services, and health-care services.

- Findings from the study highlight a number of activities being carried out to benefit women or improve their standard of living. These activities among others include business opportunities for women, employment creation, banking services, and health services.
- Further findings indicated that women are concerned with the manner in which they were supposed to benefit from service centres because some of the service facilities are not operated by residents from Muyexe village, and some of the service facilities are not operating 4 years after completion.
- Findings show that there were many issues which were bothering beneficiaries in the village; some of these problems existed in service facilities. These issues involved low wages, unequal allocation of duties in the service facilities, unfair treatment by supervisors, lack of staff support and employment of people outside the village.

Objective #3. To explore the contribution of Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) on women empowerment

- Findings from the study revealed that CRDP was important in Muyexe village. The reason for its importance was that it has brought economic development and growth in the village and other surrounding villages.
- Findings of the study show that there are various facilities or service centres established in the village. These includes the clinic, post office, computer centre, Thusong Centre, community hall, community market, library, Ben Muyexe early childhood development centre, women's self-help and police station. These service facilities were established by government departments and the municipality based in Giyani through CRDP implementation under the coordination of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.
- Findings reveal that the comprehensive rural development programme also contributed towards the existing businesses and projects in the village of Muyexe which are the Mancena garden, Muyexe early childhood centre and Pfunanani brick-making project.
- Findings from the study have indicated that there were challenges, and weaknesses, which were faced by the implementing office for CRDP. These

challenges include poor integration, theft, vandalism, limited resources to distribute, incomplete facilities, and nepotism. In addition, complaints were about poor communication and poor consultation; many promises were made and not fulfilled.

- Findings also revealed that some of the challenges were complaints which were laid by the traditional authority and these findings further showed that the programme had major strengths during the implementation which included support from the benefiting households, full participation from the village members, contributions from implementing departments and it has reached its targets.

5.4. Conclusion

Findings indicate that the conditions of women living in the village have improved as women are allowed to engage in decisions which directly affect them, and women are treated with respect and dignity. There are signs of improvement in terms of women empowerment because women have access to resources such as land, health care, water and electricity; women are involved in the projects that are designed to benefit the community; and they are allowed to hold leadership positions despite the cultural and traditional practices. However, the participants of the study perceive that women are not satisfied with their working conditions and the income they earn.

Another finding of the study is that CRDP has implemented various facility services in order to benefit the local community of Muyexe by establishing a library, recreation centre, computer centre, early childhood learning centre, post office, clinic, road construction and many more. Other projects implemented include water reservation tanks, electricity, toilets and backyard gardens.

This study found that the infrastructure and service facilities that were developed through the CRDP have had a major impact on the lives of women in the village. Women have more access to houses, water reservation tanks, and electricity and sanitation facilities. Moreover, the projects initiated by CRDP have benefited women and their families as well as creating employment opportunities and skills training. The CRDP has not fully achieved its purpose of empowering the community, women in particular, due to several implementation challenges including inadequate

coordination, theft and vandalism, and nepotism. Hence it is crucial for the policy makers and implementers to look into the different challenges that women are facing and come up with appropriate strategies that will further empower rural women at large in South Africa.

5.5. Recommendations

Recommendations of the study are divided into three and they are set out according to the competencies of different stakeholders in government. Recommendations emanated from the objectives of the study and the subsequent findings. This section opens with recommendations to the Greater Giyani Municipality, which will be followed by recommendations to the community leaders, and the last will be recommendations for women in Muyexe village.

5.5.1. Recommendations to the Greater Giyani Municipality.

- CRDP has implemented various service facilities in the village which are not (fully) functioning, and if women were to be trained on how to operate such service facilities they could use them for their advantage e.g. the Thusong Centre, community hall, Muyexe market, the library and the computer centre. The clinic is under staffed, as is the police station. Therefore, the study recommends that training and skills development ventures should be provided for women to train as nurses, police officers, security guards, librarians, post office operators, computer centre facilitators, agriculturalists, businesswomen and administrators.
- Women in the village still have low levels of education which negatively impacts their empowerment status, therefore it is recommended that Adult Basic Education Training should be placed in the village and their curriculum should be improved to enable women to find job opportunities after completion of the curriculum. Moreover, computer training centres should be provided, so women can access the computers in the village.
- CRDP was one of the best policies towards rural development which, if it was well implemented, would have achieved radical economic development. Permanent job creation would be stimulated and economic livelihoods would be achieved. The basic needs of the people would be met,

it would have added value to land reform processes, and it would have reached its targets.

- CRDP has not fully achieved adequate coordination due to nepotism, therefore it is recommended that policy makers should look into issues of what went well with CRDP and what lesson can be learned by CRDP facilitators, and what strengths should continue with other programmes which will be implemented towards rural development. Policy makers should also consider issues of what did not go well with CRDP and what lessons can be learned by facilitators.
- Future programmes should improve coordination and integration and address the issue of nepotism

5.5.2. Recommendations to community leaders

- The local authorities/leaders should have community representatives who will work closely to prevent theft and vandalism at the service facilities and any future projects which will be implemented in Muyexe.
- The local authority and the community members must maintain the positive impact caused by CRDP, and they should sustain the importance of future improvements of the service facilities which have been implemented in the village as such facilities can be used to keep and sustain economic growth and development in the future of the village residents

5.5.3. Recommendation to women in Muyexe village

- Women in Muyexe village should take advantage of the opportunity presented to them and ensure that the development which was brought to the village also works for them in the future

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APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLDS

Dear participants

This research forms part of my master's degree in Development Planning and Management at the University of Limpopo. The purpose of the research is to investigate the contribution of the comprehensive rural development programme towards women empowerment. This questionnaire is intended to collect data for the aforementioned purpose. The results of this project will be used exclusively for academic purposes. Anonymity of the respondents is guaranteed, for participants responses cannot in any way be identified by anyone else. Participation in the project will be voluntarily and respondents have the rights to withdraw from the project at any time. Your participation in this research is highly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Maluleke Matimu

Participant's consent.

I hereby give my consent to participate in this research on condition that I will remain anonymous and my name will not be linked to the information that I will have provided to this research. I retain the privilege to withdraw should I feel uncomfortable with the involved research project.

Signed _____

Date _____

Section A: Demographic profile of respondent

Next to each statement, please tick the option that most closely resembles your opinion.

Gender	Male			Female		
Age	Less than 19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 and above	
Marital status	Single	Married	Divorced	Widow	Never married	
Number of household members including dependants	3-6	7-10	11-14	15-18	19 and above	
Educational status	No formal education	Primary education	Secondary education	College education	University education	
Employment status	In a project implemented by CRDP	Government	Self-employed	Private sector	Not employed	

Section B: The conditions of women in Muyexe village

Next to each statement, please tick the option that most closely resembles your opinion.

Strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF WOMEN		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1	Women have the right to freely express their views in the village meetings or imbizo.				
2	Women make decisions with their husbands about finances in the households				
3	In the village women have equal rights to share with men				
4	Women have equal rights with men in the village.				
5	In the village women have more workload in their daily activities of cooking and taking care of their children				

6	Women in the village face the risk of being beaten by their spouse/partner				
7	Women in the village face risk of being attacked and raped by criminals				
8	Women in the village face the risk of being insulted at all times				
9	In the village men treat women with respect, dignity and do not show any signs of abuse in anyway whatsoever.				
10	In the village women have access to income generating opportunities				
11	In the village women have access to employment opportunities				

SECTION C: EMPOWERMENT IN MUYEXE VILLAGE

Next to each statement, please tick the option that most closely resembles your opinion.

strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree

STATUS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Participation					
1	In the village, women are involved in projects that are initiated to benefit the community.				
2	In the village, women are allowed to attend meetings in the village and raise their inputs.				
3	In the village, women are allowed by their husbands to make decisions on anything in their households.				
4	In the village, women can make decisions on how to spend money in their household.				
5	In the village, cultures and traditional practices restrict women from taking advantage of opportunities in the village				
Equality					
6	In the village, women are satisfied with the type of employment they possess.				
7	In the village, women are satisfied with the income they earn from their employers.				
8	In the village, women are treated well by their husbands within their household.				
9	Women are allowed to hold leadership positions in the village				
10	In the village, women do have equal employment opportunities with men in the village				
Access to resources					
11	In the village, women are allowed to own land				

12	In the village, women have access to healthcare services				
13	In the village, women have access to safety and security				
14	In the village, women have access to water which reduces your burden of fetching water				
15	In the village, women have access to electricity which reduces their burden of fetching fire wood				
Education					
16	Woman in the village have opportunities to further their education				
17	In the village, women receive different skills development trainings				
18	In the village, women are able to start their business through the skills they have acquired				
19	In the village, education provided to women has enabled them to get better employment, which helps them to improve their lives.				
20	Should you have any additions to make from the information above, please state below: <hr/>				

APPENDIX B

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM OFFICIALS/ EXTENSION OFFICERS/ OFFICE WORKERS IN GIYANI

Dear participants

This research forms part of my master's degree in Development Planning and Management at the University of Limpopo. The purpose of the research is to investigate the contribution of the comprehensive rural development programme towards women empowerment. This questionnaire is intended to collect data for the aforementioned purpose. The results of this project will be used exclusively for academic purposes. Anonymity of the respondents is guaranteed, for participants' responses cannot in any way be identified by anyone else. Participation in the project will be voluntarily, and respondents have the rights to withdraw from the project at any time. Your participation in this research is highly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Maluleke Matimu

Participant's consent.

I hereby give my consent to participate in this research on condition that I will remain anonymous and my name will not be linked to the information that I will have provided to this research. I retain the privilege to withdraw should I feel uncomfortable with the relevant research project.

Signed _____

Date _____

CRDP and Women Empowerment

1. Can you explain the importance of the CRDP which was implemented in Muyexe Village?

2. Please provide infrastructural and service facilities that were developed using CRDP which was implemented in Muyexe Village

3. According to your opinion, what is the overall impact of the CRDP on the lives of women in Muyexe village?

4. What were some of the challenges that the CRDP has faced during its implementation in Muyexe village?

5. What were the major weaknesses of CRDP which was implemented in Muyexe village?

6. What were the strengths of CRDP which was implemented in Muyexe village?

Thank you for your time.

APPENDIX C

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR FACILITY AND SERVICE CENTRE COORDINATORS IN MUYEXE VILLAGE

Dear participants

This research forms part of my master's degree in Development Planning and Management at the University of Limpopo. The purpose of the research is to investigate the contribution of the comprehensive rural development programme towards women empowerment. This questionnaire is intended to collect data for the aforementioned purpose. The results of this project will be used exclusively for academic purposes. Anonymity of the respondents is guaranteed, for participants responses cannot in any way be identified by anyone else. Participation in the project will be voluntary and respondents have the right to withdraw from the project at any time. Your participation in this research is highly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Maluleke Matimu

Participant's consent.

I hereby give my consent to participate in this research on condition that I will remain anonymous and my name will not be linked to the information that I will have provided to this research. I retain the privilege to withdraw should I feel uncomfortable with the relevant research project.

Signed _____

Date _____

CRDP and Women Empowerment

1. How was your facility or service centre established, and which government programmes assisted to provide infrastructure for your service centre?

2. What are the primary activities of your service centre or facility for Muyexe village?

3. Can you please describe some of the activities in the centre that focus on improving the lives of women in Muyexe village?

4. Please specify at least five major benefits that women derived from your centre.

5. Any other information you would like to share?

Thank you very much for your time.

Appendix D: Approval Letter Form University of Limpopo (TREC)



University of Limpopo
Department of Research Administration and Development
Private Bag X1106, Sovenga, 0727, South Africa
Tel: (015) 268 2212, Fax: (015) 268 2306, Email:noko.monene@ul.ac.za

TURFLOOP RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

MEETING: 05 July 2016

PROJECT NUMBER: TREC/74/2016: PG

PROJECT:

Title: Women empowerment through comprehensive Rural Development Programme in Muyexe Village, Limpopo Province

Researcher: Ms M Maluleke

Supervisor: Dr AA Asha

Co-Supervisor: Ms MD Ledwaba

School: Economics and Management

Degree: Masters in Development Studies


PROF. TAB MASHÉGO
CHAIRPERSON: TURFLOOP RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Turfloop Research Ethics Committee (TREC) is registered with the National Health Research Ethics Council, Registration Number: REC-0310111-031

Note:

- i) Should any departure be contemplated from the research procedure as approved, the researcher(s) must re-submit the protocol to the committee.
- ii) The budget for the research will be considered separately from the protocol.
PLEASE QUOTE THE PROTOCOL NUMBER IN ALL ENQUIRIES.

Finding solutions for Africa

Appendix E: Approval Letter form Muyexe Traditional Authority

P.O.BOX 3463
GIYANI
0826
May 2017

TO THE CHIEF OF MUYEXE VILLAGE

LETTER FOR PERMISSION

I Matimu Maluleke ask for permission to conduct my research in your village. I am still a student in the University of Limpopo conducting research for a Masters Degree in Bachelor of Development Planning and Management. The title of my thesis is Women Empowerment through Comprehensive Rural Development Programme in Muyexe Village, Limpopo Province.

The research will involve the following:

- Distribution of questionnaires to households in your village in order for women of the households to complete them.
- 30 minutes interview with the key informants in the village and also households.

Both the questionnaires and interview are based on women empowerment and CRDP. Necessary arrangements will be made prior the actual date of the activities stated above.

Thanking you in anticipation

Yours sincerely

Maluleke Matimu



19/05/2017



Permission Granted

Appendix F: Letter from Professional Language Editor

Anne Kruger Language Practice

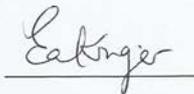
- ❖ 19 Nooitverwacht, 105 Main Street, Paarl 7646
 - ❖ tel 072 374 6272 or 021 863 2315
 - ❖ annekruger25@gmail.com
-

To whom it may concern

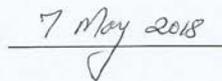
DECLARATION OF LANGUAGE EDITING

I, Elsje Anne Kruger hereby declare that I have personally read through the dissertation of Matimu Maluleke on "Women Empowerment through Comprehensive Rural Development Programme in Muyexe Village, Limpopo Province" and have highlighted language errors and checked references. The track changes function was used and the author was responsible for accepting the editor's changes and finalising the references. I did no structural rewriting of the content.

Yours faithfully



Date



Appendix I: Potential paper publication from the study

IPADA 3rd INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Host : University of Limpopo
Tel : 015 268 2641
Email : mokoko.sebola@ul.ac.za
Web : www.ul.ac.za



International Conference
on Public Administration
and Development
Alternatives

Dear M Maluleke and Dr AA Asha
University of Limpopo

Your abstract submitted for consideration for the IPADA Conference has been reviewed.

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that your abstract (Manuscript: IPD 2018#0051), Titled: **“WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN MUYEXE VILLAGE, LIMPOPO PROVINCE”** has been accepted for presentation at the *3rd International Annual Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives 2018* to be held at University of Stellenbosch, Faculty of Military Science, Saldanha Bay from July 04-06, 2018.

Conference papers submitted for possible publication in the Refereed Conference Proceedings of the *3rd International Annual Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives (ISBN: 978-0-9921971-4-8) Print and (ISBN: 978-0-9921971-5-5) E-book* should strictly adhere to the editorial policy requirements, regarding specifications for manuscript submissions.

The submission date for full papers for inclusion of names on the programme and possible publication is 31, March 2018. Conference registration is R4800, which is applicable to all delegates.

In keeping with the required standards of scientific writing, all papers submitted by the due date shall be circulated anonymously to specialist referees for evaluation. It is only on the basis of the referees' reports that the Chief Editor may either accept or reject any paper submitted for publication in the referred Conference Proceedings of the *3rd International Annual Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives*.

I am looking forward to your participation at the conference

Kind regards

Mokoko Sebola (Conference Chair)

“THE IMAGE OF AN AFRICAN POLITICIAN AND A PUBLIC SERVANT IN THE 21ST CENTURY”

July 04-06,2018

University of Stellenbosch, Faculty of Military Science, Saldanha Bay

