

*The Contributions of Rural Livelihoods towards Household Poverty
Alleviation in Mogodi Village, Limpopo Province*

By

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DECLARATION

I declare that the **“The Contributions of Rural Livelihoods towards Household Poverty Alleviation in Mogodi Village”** hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo, for the degree of Master of Administration in Development has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other university, that it is my work in design and in execution, and that all material contained herein has been duly acknowledged.

MP Thobakgale (Mr)

Date

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to the entire Department of Development Planning and Management staff and students. I also dedicate this work to my father, Samuel Thobakgale, my mother Paulina Thobakgale, and my siblings.

Abstract

The inability of numerous strategies that are implemented globally with the intention of alleviating poverty that households are experiencing has pushed poor people to venture into various livelihoods to generate income and produce food. Rural livelihoods are globally accepted by poor people as a reliable strategy to alleviate poverty by generating income that provide them with more purchasing power and by producing nutritious food that improve their well-being. However, there are households that practice livelihoods, yet they are poor, being unable to produce more sufficient food and income. This study, therefore, argues that rural livelihoods contribute to households' poverty differently and their success in alleviating poverty is determined by their outputs and contexts (geographical, economical, and environmental) that they are operating in.

The study investigated the contributions of livelihoods towards households' poverty in rural areas using various methodologies. Systematic sampling was applied to select 100 households that are practicing livelihoods, normative research as applied; both qualitative and quantitative research approaches were used to conduct the study. Additionally, qualitative and quantitative research approaches were also used to analyze textual, observations and literature that were collected. The study concluded that rural livelihoods are very significant for the majority of poor people globally, including households in Mogodi Village as they have the potential to alleviate poverty through generation of income and food production.

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Chapter 1: Introduction and Research Methodology

1.1 Introduction and Background

Rural poverty studies demonstrate that the best possible route for alleviating rural poverty is through poor people's self-generated livelihoods (Roberts, 2005; Harrigan, 2008; Stifel, 2010). Indeed, government and international institutions have historically invested resources into poverty alleviation with marginal successes (Kepe, 2008). Interventions from outside communities have commonly failed as they seemed to (re)create a dependency syndrome (Stifel, 2010).

Conversely, livelihoods studies show that poor rural households that venture into self-generated strategies have tended to generally generate employment, income and food at rates that alleviated their poverty conditions (Harrigan, 2008). Research found that the most commonly practised rural livelihoods among the poor households in developing economies have included a combination of beer brewing, spaza shops, shoe repairing, street vendor, livestock farming, crop production and horticulture (Stifel, 2010). Additionally, these self-generated livelihoods have been complemented by government social welfare grants (for example, child support grant, disability grant, old age grant), which have; however, been blamed for creating conditions for dependency syndrome among poor rural households (Mishra, 2007).

To this extent, the self-generated rural livelihoods have continued to gain popularity as the means for household poverty alleviation (Kepe, 2008). Rural livelihoods have

the potential to contribute to household poverty alleviation in two ways, in terms of food production and/or income generation (Ellis, 1998; Mishra, 2007). Both food production and income generation are two indicators that can be used to assess the contributions of rural livelihoods towards household poverty alleviation. The value which rural livelihoods add to poverty alleviation depends on their performance towards income generation and/or food production for households. Theoretically, self-generated livelihoods are thought to provide conditions and opportunities for widening choices, diminishing powerlessness and poverty alleviating (Scoones, 1998; Harrigan, 2008). However, not all types of rural livelihoods generate adequate resources to improve the overall level of living of households; and, in reality there is variable degree to which different livelihoods could contribute towards the alleviation of household poverty (McDowell and Hess, 2012). Therefore, it will depend on the nature of poverty which the household is experiencing and as well as the global and macro-economic context (Harrigan, 2008). In many developing countries, poor economic context in rural areas and legacies of apartheid have rendered severe and deep poverty (Niehof, 2004).

These circumstances are typical to rural South Africa where the majority are vulnerable to such eventualities because of the legacies of colonialism and apartheid policies. Mogodi Village is one of such rural areas in Limpopo Province, where the effects of apartheid policies, together with the limiting geographical distance from locations of formal economic activities and urban agglomerations have rendered poverty a major and persistent challenge to households (Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, 2010). Unemployment, lack of income and insufficient food has

compelled the large number of households to practise livelihoods to generate income and/or produce food for consumption in their attempts to alleviate poverty. However, not all households are managing to move out of poverty even though they are practicing diverse livelihoods, because they do not hold equal capacity for contributions towards household poverty alleviation. This study has therefore investigated the contributions of rural livelihoods towards household poverty alleviation in Mogodi Village.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Poverty continues to be a major challenge in rural areas of developing countries, and poor people are continuously adopting various strategies that have the potential to alleviate poverty which they are experiencing in households (Kepe, 2008). Government, private and civil society institutions in developing countries have invested momentous resources for rural poverty alleviation, but this phenomenon has persisted. According to the World Bank (2007), rural poverty of less developed countries account for some 75% of the world poverty and it is estimated that 1 billion is affected by absolute poverty. Increasingly, it is recognized that the best instrument for poverty alleviation should involve poor people's self reliance (Asenso-Okyere, 2008). Currently, livelihoods are rapidly gaining ground as an approach to rural poverty alleviation in many poor countries (Niehof, 2004). Additionally, rural livelihoods are regarded by poor people as instrumental to generate income and/or produce food to alleviate household poverty.

However, a large number of rural households continue to experience poverty, while practising self-generated livelihoods. Theoretically, the performance of rural livelihoods depends on the geographical, environmental, and economic contexts of the area (Mishra, 2007). Thus, some rural contexts marginalize livelihoods to the extent that they become survivalist instead of making significant contributions towards household poverty alleviation, particularly in developing countries such as South Africa.

Predominately, rural provinces such as Limpopo have continued to experience high rates of poverty and it remains as a concern to both government and rural communities such as Mogodi Village. According to Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality (2010), 72% of poor people in Mogodi Village are unemployed and practising self-generated livelihoods to generate income and food, however 80% of households are still poor. Therefore, what is not known is the form and degree of contribution which rural livelihoods make towards poverty alleviation in the context where poverty is deep and severe in rural areas such as Mogodi Village in Limpopo Province. Therefore, the study investigated the contribution which rural livelihoods make towards household poverty alleviation through income generation and/or food production in Mogodi Village.

1.3 Research Questions

The general research question of the study is: how do rural livelihoods contribute towards household poverty alleviation? From the general research question the following specific research questions are formulated:

- What are the types and characteristics of rural livelihoods?
- What are the dimensions of rural poverty?
- What contributions do rural livelihoods make towards household's income and food for poverty alleviation?

1.4 Research Aim and Objectives

The aim of the study is to investigate the contributions of rural livelihoods towards household poverty alleviation. To operationalize the aim, the following specific objectives are formulated:

- To determine types and characteristics of rural livelihoods.
- To investigate the dimensions of rural poverty.
- To determine the contributions which rural livelihoods make on household's income and food towards poverty alleviation?
- To recommend the measures that could be undertaken to enhance the contributions of income-generating and food-producing livelihoods towards household poverty alleviation.

1.5 Definition of Terms

Household Poverty, Carter and May (1999:7) define household poverty as “the inability to attain a minimal standard of living, measured in terms of basic consumption needs or the income required to satisfy them”. It is commonly associated with alienation from the community, food insecurity, crowded homes, usage of unsafe and inefficient forms of energy, lack of adequately paid and secure jobs, safe drinking water, shelter, education, health care, social status, political power, or the opportunity to develop meaningful connections with other people in the society and fragmentation of the family (World Bank, 2007; Stifel, 2010). Additionally, poverty is a condition wherein a household lacks essential resources to practise livelihood(s) that will generate income and/or produce food. Therefore, the study defines household poverty as the inability to acquire sufficient food and income for household consumption.

Rural livelihood, Chianu and Ajani (2008) define rural livelihood as an activity that a household practices to generate income and/or produce food to alleviate poverty. Rural livelihoods comprise various human capabilities, tangible (money, land, equipment) and intangible assets (claims and access) to be functional (Niehof, 2004). Additionally, it is regarded as a strategy for poor people to generate adequate income and/or food to sustain life by alleviating income and food poverty. Therefore, rural livelihoods can be broadly classified as food-producing and income-generating livelihoods. Thus, the study defines livelihood as a strategy to alleviate household poverty through food production and/or income generation.

1.6 Research Design and Methodology

The research design and methodology is a plan, strategy, structure, techniques and tactics of investigation (Baldwin and Rose, 2009). This section focuses on the research design and methodologies that are applied in the study. The section begins with a detailed discussion of the research design that serves as a plan, structure and strategy for the study. Qualitative and quantitative research approaches are discussed in detail. Moreover, the section provides discussion about the kinds of data needed for the study from the target population, the sampling designs that were applied to select households and key informants, techniques that were used to collect both primary and secondary data, analysis tools, as well as validity and reliability of data.

1.6.1 Research Design

Research design is a plan that provides the overall framework for collecting data, outlining detailed steps and guidelines to be followed in addressing research problem under study (Babbie and Mouton, 2001; Shay, 2008). Therefore, research design served as a framework for the study to answer research questions and ensured that answers to questions are accurate (Dane, 1990; Kumar, 2005; Shay, 2008). The study has adopted normative research design, wherein events and processes about rural livelihoods that produce food and/or generate income and employment for poor rural people were observed and evaluated as well as their alleviation of household poverty without controlling variables. The normative research design was appropriate for the study as variables were not controlled.

Events and processes of livelihoods that lead to the generation of food and income where investigated in Mogodi Village to establish the manner in which they are practised, their performances as well as their significance to food production and income generation. For this purpose, the study used both qualitative and quantitative research approaches.

According to Chisaka and Vakalisa (2000), the qualitative approach allows classifications, descriptions and analyses that provide avenues that can lead to discovery of deeper levels of meanings. Application of the qualitative research approach in this study allowed descriptions, classification and analyses of typologies and characteristics of rural livelihoods, dimensions of poverty and their connections. Additionally, it provided issues of models and processes regarding generation of food, employment and income as well as their alleviation of household poverty in rural areas. However, the weakness of applying the qualitative research approach was that, meanings can be drawn out of control and will not be shared as they are drawn from life experience.

The other approach that was applied is the quantitative research approach. This approach was abstracting data which are documented from participants into statistical representation (Baldwin, and Rose, 2009). Additionally, the quantitative research approach was further applied to address rural livelihoods that are practised by poor people and produce income and food, and poverty alleviation into statistical point of view. Furthermore, it allowed the ability to abstract qualitative data into

statistical representations, as in generating frequencies about types of rural livelihoods practiced by households, number of households depending on a particular livelihood(s), and those which manage to alleviate poverty through the practices of livelihoods. Moreover, quantitative approach allowed numerical representation of data that are precise involving rural livelihoods that produces income and food, and their contributions to household poverty. However, the weakness of this approach is that, it is a reductionist and individual cases are subsumed. Therefore, the two approaches complemented each other in this study.

1.6.2 Kinds of Data Required

The study used three kinds of data which are textual, factual and observational data. Textual data addressed the research questions by providing data about the types and characteristics of rural livelihoods that are practised in developing countries. Additionally, theory/literature has provided discussion about rural livelihoods that produce income and/or food as well as their contributions towards poverty alleviation at the household level. Textual data furthermore provided clusters of rural livelihoods that produce income and/or food and various tangible and intangible assets that are necessary for a livelihood to function. Evidence about the practice of rural livelihoods from international, South African as well as the Limpopo Province perspective involving debates, models of livelihoods and processes about the contributions of rural livelihoods towards household poverty alleviation was discussed to establish the way livelihoods are operating in other rural areas globally and in South Africa.

Factual data were collected from the 100 sampled households who participated in this study regarding various causes/dimensions of poverty that they are experiencing such food insecurity and low income to mention but a few. Additionally, factual data helped the study to acquire the types of livelihoods that households are practising in the village, the way they practise them, the reasons for practising livelihoods and their contribution towards poverty alleviation. Through factual data the study further managed to gather data regarding the types of food that livelihoods produce and the level of income that is generated by these livelihoods. Furthermore, factual data enabled the study to understand various conditions that livelihoods are operating in, their challenges and the way other households are still struggling while others are managing to combat poverty through livelihoods.

Observations were made about the types and characteristics of rural livelihoods that households in Mogodi Village are practising, poverty conditions in the village, types of houses, social infrastructures and economic activities that exist in the village. Furthermore, observations were made regarding various livelihoods models and processes that produce income and/or food. Participants provided opinions and experiences about the contributions of rural livelihood(s) practised in the household towards poverty alleviation. Conversely, key informants from the village such as the chief provided observations and opinions about the historical viability of livelihoods and poverty conditions in the village.

1.6.3 Target Population

According to Kumar (2005), target population is a set of elements of objects or people that are related to the study. Therefore, the target population for the study were specifically rural households in Mogodi Village and key informant (village king Mr. Mphahlele). Mogodi Village has approximately 500 households. These households were appropriate for the study as the village is typical to other rural areas that practise livelihoods to generate income and/or produce food to alleviate household poverty. The key informant, king Mphahlele, was very crucial for the study in providing a broader picture about the historical practicality of livelihoods and poverty in the village.

1.6.4 Sampling Design

Sampling design is a method of selecting relevant households within the targeted population (Shay, 2008). Sampling in this study was used at different levels to select the village, households, respondents within households and key informant. Mogodi Village was selected using purposive sampling to conduct the study. The village is typical to any other rural areas in the Limpopo Province where poverty is deep and severe. Twenty percent of households in Mogodi Village were selected using systematic sampling to collect data which is reasonable given that statistically 10% is acceptable when using probability sampling.

Therefore, 20 % of 500 households equal to 100; thus, the total number of households will be divided by 100 to get an interval which is 5. The interval meant

that every 5th household was sampled starting from an arbitrarily chosen household. Within the households judgemental sampling was applied to select the respondents that would represent the households. Conversely, the key informant in the village, Mr. Mphahlele, was selected using purposive sampling.

1.6.5 Data Collection Techniques

The study used four techniques to collect data from the literature review, questionnaires, interview and observations. Therefore, the study collected both secondary and primary sources of data from literature and sampled target population. Literature was collated and read from journal articles and books that contain theories, principles and models about rural livelihoods and their alleviation to household poverty. Furthermore, literature review was used to collect international, South African and Limpopo Province debates and experience about the models of rural livelihoods, their processes and principles, various dimensions of poverty in rural areas of developing countries and the contributions of livelihoods towards household poverty. Additionally, various poverty alleviation strategies that are implemented in South Africa by government were reviewed to understand different measures that are undertaken to combat poverty as well as their significant progress post-1994.

With regard to data collection of households in Mogodi Village, questionnaires and observations were used. The questionnaire is structured in six sections, and the section A focused on establishing the size of the households with regard to the

determination of the availability of the labour for practice of particular livelihoods, education, income level and accessibility of basic services and infrastructure as they have contribution to the perpetuation of poverty. The purpose of the first section that provides demographic and socio-economic characteristics helped the study to have a clear picture of conditions that households in Mogodi village are languishing in and household structures.

Section B focused on acquiring data on the types and the characteristics of livelihoods that households are practicing. The main intention of this section was to have knowledge about various typologies of livelihoods that are practised in the village and the processes of producing food and generating income and the reasons for practising those various livelihoods. Section C focused on different dimensions of poverty such as lack of income, and food insecurity in the village. The study sought to understand these dimensions of poverty in this village to establish whether they are similar to those that other rural area are experiencing globally and in South Africa. Understanding the dimensions of poverty in Mogodi Village helped the study to realize the kind of poverty that the villagers in Mogodi are experiencing.

Section D and E focus on livelihoods' contributions of income and food towards poverty alleviation in households. These two sections specifically synthesize various typologies of livelihoods in the village that produce food and income. Furthermore, it demonstrates the type of food produced by livelihoods and the level of income the livelihoods are generating per month. The sections additionally answer the main

research question by demonstrating the level which livelihoods are contributing to household poverty through food and income. Lastly, section F focused on acquiring various recommendations made by respondents that will enhance the practise of rural livelihoods, outputs and performance for poverty alleviation.

1.6.6 Data Analysis tools

The study adopted both qualitative and quantitative data analysis procedures. Qualitative data analysis procedures were used to analyse textual data to describe and classify the models and processes of rural livelihoods from theory and households of Mogodi Village. Furthermore, this analysis tool allowed the study to classify different typologies of rural livelihoods from international experience to establish similarities and differences on how various types of livelihoods strategies connect to poverty alleviation. Data collected were organised into categories and bringing different meaning about the interrelationships of various types of livelihoods that produce food and/or generate income for rural households and poverty that is experienced by households in Mogodi Villages. Moreover, Livelihoods that are practised in Mogodi Village were categorised according to their types (food-producing and income-generating) to determine the degree and form of contribution to income and/or food to alleviate household poverty.

The other method which the study applied to analyse data was quantitative data analyses. Quantitative data analysis was applied to present data into numerical values in the form of graphs and charts. Analysing data using the quantitative approach provided a clear understanding about the relationship between food-

producing, income-generating livelihoods and household poverty. Quantitative data were coded into numerical representations so that statistical analysis could be performed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) (Kumar, 2005). SPSS was used to produce data into percentages from the charts and graphs that demonstrate the level of contributions that rural livelihoods make to household poverty alleviation through food production and/or income generation. Additionally, SPSS provides percentages on charts and graphs about the number of households that managed to generate income and/or produced food that enable them to alleviate poverty.

Furthermore, charts and graphs are also used to produce percentages about types of livelihoods that are practised in Mogodi that have the potential to alleviate households' poverty. Graphs and charts were used to demonstrate demographic profiles of households in terms of income level, education, gender and basic service accessibility. Additionally, SPSS produced percentages about typologies of livelihoods that are commonly practised in Mogodi Village, types of food they produce, level of income that is generated through livelihoods and reasons for practicing livelihoods. The SPSS was further used to produce percentages of dimensions of poverty that are experienced with the number of households.

1.6.7 Validity and Reliability

Validity and reliability are mechanisms which ensure that the concepts under study, research design and techniques applied produce valid, dependable and reliable

results (Baldwin and Rose, 2009). The concepts of rural livelihoods and poverty have been used by previous studies that have produced valid, dependable and reliable results (see for example Carter, and May (1999); Chianu and Ajani, (2008); Ellis, (2000). This confirms that concepts of rural livelihoods and poverty are appropriate for the study and have produced dependable results.

The study adopted normative research design and data collection techniques such as literature review, questionnaire, interviews and observation that were used by previous studies of rural livelihoods and poverty by Carter and May (1999); Chianu and Ajani, (2008); Ellis, (2000). These previous studies of livelihoods and poverty were conducted in rural areas that are typical to Mogodi Village and have produced valid, reliable and dependable results. Therefore, the application of normative research design and data collection techniques that were used by these studies confirms their effectiveness and credibility in producing results that are dependable, valid and reliable.

1.7 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, the study believes that it has generated knowledge that provides understanding regarding the contributions of rural livelihoods towards household poverty alleviation through production of food and/or income generation. Additionally, it has contributed knowledge about the different dimensions of rural poverty and various livelihoods that are practiced to alleviate household poverty. Pragmatically, collected data are vital since they provide information to government, NGOs, private

and public companies to understand the different dimensions of rural poverty and livelihoods in rural areas when formulating poverty alleviation strategies. Therefore, the results will be communicated to communities, government, NGOs and private companies.

1.8 Ethical Considerations

The concept of voluntary participation and informed consent are significant for social science research (Kumar, 2005). It was imperative that everyone who participated in this study was provided with sufficient information about the study and its role so that they can make an informed decision on whether to participate or not. Participants in the study were informed that the purpose of this research is purely for academic purposes and that findings from the study will be disseminated in the development field for future policies, plans and strategies. The selected household participants were not forced to provide information, it was completely voluntary and consent to participate was obtained orally.

The study did not cause any harm to the participants either emotionally or physically. The questionnaire did not include sensitive questions that could cause embarrassment or uncomfortable feelings to the participant as they were going to affect the validity of the data. The participants were guaranteed anonymity, meaning that they were not asked to provide their identity and personal information. Since data were collected from households in Mogodi Village, which is a rural area led by a chief, the study did not undermine the traditional rules, norms, values and beliefs. Permission from the traditional authority for data collection in Mogodi village was

asked orally and fortunately the chief allowed the study to be conducted in the village.

1.9 Conclusion

The chapter provided detail the background information to demonstrate the relationship between rural livelihoods and the manner in which globally poor households are reliant on them as a strategy to generate income and produce food. Furthermore, the chapter introduced the problem the study intended to investigate as well as systems of ideas that unfolded to conduct this study. Methodological techniques and procedures were outlined to clarify the manner in which this study will be conducted.

Chapter 2: Literature Review of Rural Livelihoods and Poverty

Alleviation

2.1 Introduction

Poverty is a common rural phenomenon in many developing countries. Various poverty eradication policies are formulated and implemented by different countries across the globe to remedy the challenge of poverty in rural areas (Harrigan, 2008). However, the failure of some poverty alleviation policies in eradicating hunger and low household income has compelled the large number of poor people in rural areas to practise self-generated livelihoods to generate income and/ or produce food for consumption and/or for commercial purposes (Mishra, 2007). Literature demonstrates that, the contributions of self-generated livelihoods to household poverty will depend on the context of poverty, economy and environment where all these livelihoods are practised (Foeken and Owuor, 2008).

Thus, this chapter will provide discussions of various dimensions of rural poverty that are experienced in rural areas of developing countries. Furthermore, the types and characteristics of rural livelihoods which are practised by poor rural people in attempt to alleviate poverty through income generation and/or food production in the households are explained. Finally, the section will demonstrate the contributions of rural livelihoods towards household poverty alleviation through food production and income generation

2.2 Types and Characteristics of Rural Livelihoods

Rural livelihoods take a variety of forms; and, they are broadly categorized as income-generating and food-producing livelihoods. Income-generating livelihoods are practised by people to increase income of the household. However, although people assume that livelihoods are dominating in rural areas, it has been demonstrated by various rural poverty studies that even in urban areas people are experiencing poverty and the situation compels them to establish their own livelihoods activities (Park, Howden, Crimp, 2012). This section discusses the two broad categories of rural livelihoods which are income-generating and food-producing and the assets that are required to establish and practise livelihoods such natural, physical, financial and human

2.2.1 Income-Generating Livelihoods

Income-generating livelihoods include formal businesses, labour migration that generates remittance for households, car repairing, welding, fruit and vegetable selling, livestock selling, petty cash commodity, street hawking, spaza shop, shoe repairing and salon (Bhandari and Grant, 2007). These income-generating livelihoods operate differently and their contributions to income vary. Formal businesses include supermarkets, general dealers and tavern which may be categorized under medium or small businesses depending on their annual turnover. These businesses buy products in bulk and sell them to people within the community of operation and other communities for profit. Formal businesses are thought to generate more income by selling different products (such as food, cloth, and various

equipments) that enable owners to increase household income and be able to alleviate poverty. Labour migration generates remittances for households which can be income and/or food. People migrate to cities for employment, then send remittances to their family members that are left in rural areas to increase household income, food and other necessities. Income-generating livelihoods such as car repairing, welding, fruit and vegetable selling, livestock selling, petty cash commodity, street hawking, spaza shop, shoe repairing and salon operate differently from each other, but contribute income to households (Zezza and Tasciotti, 2010) . Fruits and vegetable selling, livestock selling, street hawking and spaza shop sell various products as well to acquire income. However, these income-generating livelihoods require assets such as physical, human, natural as well as finance.

Rural livelihoods use various physical assets to function there are: transportation, roads, buildings, shelter, water supply and sanitation, energy, technology and communications. Additionally, livelihoods cannot function solely without the support of various assets. Physical assets are very significant for both income generating and/or food producing livelihoods. For example, without transport infrastructure, products cannot be distributed effectively, productivity remains low and it is then difficult and expensive to transport limited produce to the market. The increased cost (in terms of all types of capital) of production and transport means that producers operate at a comparative disadvantage in the market. Finance is a central asset to a large number of livelihoods that generates income/food for households. Financial assets are very significant in purchasing stocks and can contribute to consumption as well as production. Furthermore, positive cash flow assists the livelihoods to result

in outcomes that contribute to household poverty alleviation such as sustainable use of resources, strengthened asset base, reduced vulnerability, and improvements in other aspects of well-being such as health, self-esteem, sense of control. These have a feedback effect on the vulnerability status and asset base. Availability of cash enables livelihoods to be sustainable and be able to cope under unanticipated economic, political and environmental shocks.

Human assets represent the skills and knowledge that people possess to pursue different livelihood strategies and achieve their livelihood objectives. Many livelihoods function for a shorter period and collapse due to lack of skills and knowledge from the household members. Therefore, possession of skills and knowledge for practising a particular livelihood(s) by household members is very crucial as it gives the livelihood(s) the potential to grow and be sustainable. Additionally, when people have adequate skills and knowledge it enables the livelihood(s) to produce anticipated outcomes such food and income.

2.2.2 Food-Producing Livelihoods

There are three types of food producing livelihoods namely; crop production, horticulture and livestock farming. This section provides a discussion of these livelihoods including the processes of producing food and the types of food that they produce. Moreover, various assets that food-producing livelihoods require are discussed as well.

2.2.2.1 Crop Production

Crop production can be divided into grain crop, food grain legumes, seed crops, root and tuber crops, sugar crops, fiber crops, tree and small fruits, nut crops, vegetables, and forages (for support of livestock pastures and range grazing lands and for hay and silage crops) (Zezza and Tasciotti, 2010). However, the majority of poor people in rural areas cultivate crops for food consumption and/or sell to generate income. These crops are cultivated in arable land in different seasons. Fiber crops, sugar crops, root and tuber crops are harvested and sold to manufacturing companies to be processed into final goods for consumption. Conversely, small fruits, nuts crops and vegetable are harvested when they are ready for consumption.

2.2.2.2 Livestock

Livestock livelihoods involve farming of cattle, pigs, goats, chickens, donkeys, and sheep (Rigg, 2006). Livestock farming vary worldwide and between types of animals. Moreover, livestock are generally kept in an enclosure, are fed by human-provided food and are intentionally bred, but some livestock are not enclosed, or are fed by access to natural foods, or are allowed to breed freely (Rigg, 2006). Availability of water, good grazing lands and animal diseases are some of the factors that influence the enclosure and disclosure of animals. Livestock contributes to households with food (meat and milk) and income by selling them (Stifel, 2010).

2.2.2.3 Horticulture

Horticulture includes activities such as gardening of fruits, vegetable and flowers. The livelihoods differ in terms of characteristics and their practices as well as their product are influence by seasons (Pauw, 2007). Fruits and vegetable gardening livelihoods dominate in rural areas while flower gardening is common in urban areas. Fruits gardening livelihoods include mangoes, oranges, strawberry, pawpaw, grapes among others. Conversely, vegetable gardening involves spinach, onions, tomatoes, green and red peppers and potatoes.

Horticulture is the cultivation of fruits and vegetable such as mangoes, banana, apples, spinach, cabbage, onion and tomato. Additionally, horticulture has various sectors such as plant propagation and cultivation, crop production and plant breeding (Zezza and Tasciotti, 2010). Moreover, horticulture focuses on plant cultivation including the process of preparing soil for the planting of seeds, tubers, or cuttings (Stifel, 2010). Fruits and vegetable are cultivated, harvested, sold and/or consumed on different seasons during the year in attempt to increase household food and income. However, the practice of theses livelihoods varies due to geographical location. There are fruits (e.g. mangoes) which are more productive when practised in areas that are not always cold.

These types of food-producing livelihoods require various assets to function and be sustainable. For food-producing livelihoods natural assets are very important such as land, water, trees, etc. Land is very significant, particularly to food producing

livelihoods. However, even income generating livelihoods need land to operate. These natural resources (water and land) enable households to practise food producing livelihoods to combat food insecurity or generate income through trade (Gentle and Maraseni, 2012). The availability of these natural assets, physical assets, finance and skills of people enables livelihoods (crop production, horticulture, and livestock) to operate, resulting in positive outcomes to poor households in rural areas.

2.3 Dimensions of Rural Poverty

Rural poverty is multidimensional affecting people differently and has various causes. Dimensions of poverty are wide, complex and the realities of it vary between regions, countries, communities and individuals (World Bank, 2007). In low-income countries, the vast majority of the poor reside in rural areas, where the incidence and intensity of poverty is usually higher than in the towns. These dimensions are both material and non-material, and they interact and interlink with each other in a complex manner (Robert, 2005). Poverty dimensions that are material include lack of shelter, low income, food insecurity and limited access to arable land, while non material dimensions include gender inequality, illiteracy and lack of skills, vulnerability, marginalization and the absence of market opportunities (Kepe, 2008).

The rural population also tends to be less healthy and less educated, experience poorer service delivery, low household income and food insecurity (Bhandari, 2013). The problem of poverty and strategies to alleviate its burden has been issues of

great concern in the developing world for some decades. The poor are people who are unable to obtain adequate income and food to maintain healthy living conditions. The World Development report estimated that about one billion people in the developing world live in absolute poverty, surviving on US\$1.00 per day (Jagger, Luckert, Banana and Bahati, 2012).

The majority of poor people in rural areas are acquiring low income and inadequate food to eradicate hunger in their households. This is typical to poor people who do not have access to arable land to cultivate crops for food and employment opportunities to earn income (McDowell and Hell, 2012). Additionally, some people are poor due to marginalization and powerlessness in decision making regarding rural development and poverty reduction policies more especially women (Zulu and Richardson, 2013). Subsequently, these marginalized people become vulnerable to diseases and experience abject poverty. Vulnerability greatly contributes to household poverty and people are easily exposed to economic shocks and they are unable to generate sufficient income and produce food to alleviate poverty (Harrigan, 2008).

These poverty dimensions are interconnected and they influence each other (Zezza and Tasciotti, 2010). The combination of both material and non material poverty dimensions worsen the situation of poor people in rural areas by trapping them in a poverty cycle (Niehof, 2004). Poor people have no access to the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing and a decent shelter, they lack skills and gainful

employment; have few, if any economic assets and also lack self-esteem. In most cases, the poor lack the capacity to liberate themselves from the shackles of poverty; and this situation causes the condition of extreme poverty to persist and to be transmitted from generation to generation (Pauw, 2007). This section discusses various dimensions of poverty in rural areas of developing countries namely: lack of services and infrastructure, vulnerability, marginalization, powerlessness and gender inequality, poor economic conditions and unemployment, food insecurity, illiteracy, low income and lack of access to market.

2.3.1 Lack of Services and Infrastructure

Large numbers of rural areas are mostly affected by lack of basic necessities such as, health services, shelters, water, sanitation and education (World Bank, 2007). This lack of essential services and infrastructure in rural areas deteriorate the standard of living and make poverty to increase and persist. Household poverty in developing countries shows that the poor usually suffer from both a high degree of exclusion from public infrastructure services and from the poor quality of those limited services to which they do have access (World Bank, 2007). Moreover, although in one sense the urban and rural poor share a common poverty, there may be many regional and local differences; typically rural areas are much less well served with infrastructural services (Handler and Hasenfeld, 1997).

People in rural areas have to travel long distances to access services such as education. This state of affairs subsequently makes learners to drop out of school without obtaining their primary or secondary education. This obstructs people to

acquire adequate skills and knowledge to establish livelihood activities that could help them generate income and/or produce food for consumption or for commercial purposes (Sanfo and Francaise, 2012). Moreover, shortage of health services, water and good sanitation affects the health of rural people, making them vulnerable to diseases, lower life expectancy and increases infant mortality (Zezza and Tasciotti, 2010). Lack of services and infrastructure create a cycle of poverty wherein the majority of poor people are trapped in and unable to move out.

2.3.2 Vulnerability

Vulnerability greatly contributes to household poverty in the sense that people are easily exposed to natural disasters, economic shocks and diseases, and; they are unable to cope, often lack access to resources, both natural and social, and political power, to reduce their vulnerability (Zezza and Tasciotti, 2010). In addition, vulnerability trap people into a cycle of poverty that leaves them in worse conditions and exposed to shocks such as climate variability and fluctuations of micro and macro economy. Furthermore, economic disparity is likely to make some individuals, communities in developing nations more vulnerable to loss of jobs (Robert, 2005).

Poor people who rely on agriculture as their primary source of income and food for subsistence are unpleasantly affected by climate variability. Climate events will negatively impact agricultural output and the ability of many to continue food producing based livelihoods which will affect income and food which are generated (Kepe, 2008). Poor people are easily affected by inflation and the majority are unable

to cope under those economic shocks (Kepe, 2008). Moreover, they occupy low paying jobs due to lack of education thus becoming the victims of retrenchments which sinks them deeply into poverty.

People are vulnerable to poverty in various ways. From gender perspectives women in particular are at risk of being socially excluded, victims of violence and crime, dominating unemployment statistics, dwelling in households that experience high food insecurity and low income (Park *et al.*, 2012). Some of these factors are the deep and real causes of poverty leaving people powerless to reduce or mitigate risk or cope with shocks as they are interlinked, intercepted and influencing each other. Additionally, low levels of physical, natural, and financial assets make poor people especially vulnerable to negative shocks and those with more assets can withstand these shocks as long as they are temporary (Haggblade, Hazell and Reardon, 2010). Conversely, lack of adequate assets can set up a vicious downward spiral in which actions to cope in the short term worsen deprivation in the long term. Poor people also are exposed to risks beyond their community those affecting the economy, the environment, and the society in which they live.

2.3.3 Marginalization, Powerlessness and Gender Inequality

Marginalization, powerlessness and gender inequality are very close to each other and they contribute to household or community poverty (World Bank, 2007). These three dimensions of poverty are related to lack of resources as well as social exclusion from participation in decision making, social services and economic

activities (exclusion from labour market opportunities) (Gilbert, 2002; Kepe, 2008). Rural areas are often politically marginalized more specifically women result in high incidence of poverty, low income levels, vulnerability, voicelessness and powerlessness (World Bank, 2007; Kepe, 2008). Women are mostly affected by gender inequality; marginalization and lack of power especially those who are in rural areas of developing countries.

The different roles, rights and resources that men and women have in society are an important determinant of the nature and scope of their poverty, and experience poverty or wealth in society differently (Robert, 2005). Unequal rights and obligations, heavy time pressure to do multiple jobs, lack of access to land, capital, and credit, low levels of participation in agricultural extension support programs, education and collective organizations all prevent women from achieving the same levels of productivity as men (World Bank, 2007).

Poor people have less power to take advantage of new economic opportunities or engage in activities outside their immediate zone of security. Threats of physical force or arbitrary bureaucratic power make it difficult for them to engage in public affairs, to make their interests known, and to have them taken into account (McDowell *et al.*, 2012). Moreover, unaccountable and unresponsive state institutions are among the causes of relatively slow progress in expanding the human assets of poor people (Stifel, 2010). In agrarian societies, poor people's lack of assets and income-earning opportunities ties them to rich landowners in patron-client relationships, lack of savings and assets precludes a more independent role in decision making in the household and the community (Veldeld, Juman, Wapalila,

Songorwa, 2012). Social norms and barriers can also contribute to voicelessness and powerlessness. While local cultures have intrinsic value, they can sometimes be inimical to reducing human deprivation. Pervasive in almost all societies is inequality between men and women. Poor women are discriminated against in the household and in land, labour, and credit markets.

2.3.4 Poor Economic Conditions and Unemployment

The unfavourable economic conditions that prevail in rural areas create high unemployment rate and low household income. Unemployment is a significant contributor to household poverty and impoverishes a large number of people regardless of race or gender (Kepe, 2008). Poor economic conditions compel large proportion of poor people in rural areas who are unemployed to engage themselves in livelihoods activities (mostly informal) to generate income and/or produce food for subsistence and/or commercial purposes (Niehof, 2004). In addition, Poor economic conditions at micro and macro level result in high unemployment because of retrenchments and lack of job opportunities, which largely affects people who are in rural areas. In rural areas the standards of living of poor deteriorates and are unable to generate livelihoods for themselves, resulting vulnerability to poverty (Zezza and Tasciotti, 2010).

2.3.5 Food Insecurity

The root cause of food insecurity in developing countries is the inability of people to gain access to food due to poverty. The major challenge to food security is its underdeveloped agricultural sector that is characterized by over-reliance on primary

agriculture, low fertility soils, minimal use of external farm inputs, environmental degradation, significant food crop loss both pre- and post- harvest, minimal value addition and product differentiation, and inadequate food storage and preservation that result in significant commodity price fluctuation (Gentle and Maraseni, 2012; Heubach, Wittig, Nuppenau and Hahn, 2011).

The majority of the people affected by hunger live in rural areas. The rural poor (e.g. small farmers, landless farm labourers) are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. Environmental damage, climate change and the mismanagement of natural resources are further causes of chronic food insecurity (desertification, unstable ecosystems) (Alary, Coniaux and Gautier, 2011). Food insecurity results from stresses (natural disasters, wars, income variations, price volatility) and from short/medium-term changes affecting food availability and access to food (Sovacool, 2012).

Food insecurity particularly affects the marginal populations in rural areas, and households on low income not able to buy adequate foods. The large numbers of chronically undernourished people in the world today are testimony to the food insecurity of many households. For many, food insecurity leads to hunger, malnutrition and when extreme and widespread food insecurity leads to a partial collapse of the socio-economic order and excess mortality famine (Kang and Imai, 2012)

2.3.6 Low Income

Poor people consistently emphasize the centrality of work to improve their lives through income. A country's overall wealth is an important influence on this: as countries grow richer, so on average does poor people in those countries, with the main mechanism being better-paid work (Veldeld *et al.*, 2012). Economic contraction leads to the increase and persistence of income poverty. Households experience low income due to unemployment and inability to engage in any income generating activities. Income is low when households are unable to afford their basic necessities such as food, cloth, health services and education to obtain a decent life.

2.3.7 Illiteracy

Low education levels are linked to unemployment and, consequently, to the risk of living in poverty. Households with low levels of education often cannot afford to offer their children the opportunity to complete school or higher qualifications. Young learners who drop out of high school are less likely to find jobs and have on average lower weekly wages than those who complete high school. Those who go no further in their education than the completion of high school are similarly disadvantaged by comparison with people who complete university. Empirically, education has shown to have significant positive impacts on employment and income, political participation, using government services, own health and child health outcomes. As a result of a lack of education, the poor are often found in employment that does not require high levels of specialization, receiving low salaries and wages. Education improves welfare and reduces the likelihood of experiencing poverty and hunger in a variety of ways by offering better- paying and safer jobs.

2.3.8 Lack of access to market

Access to markets is a major challenge that households have to overcome. The problem is caused by various factors such as; poor infrastructure, lack of information, and inadequate support institutions. Poor infrastructure literally limits the markets to which poor people who practise food-producing livelihoods can profitably take their produce by increasing the cost of transportation. This also acts as a barrier to market penetration. Other barriers include market standards, limited information, requirements for large initial capital investments and limited product differentiation.

2.4 Income-Generating and Food-Producing Livelihoods for Household Poverty Alleviation

Due to economic pressure, the increasing risks associated with farming as a result of climate change and the inability of many rural farming households to meet basic needs, some household members often search for alternative means of livelihoods (non-farm livelihoods) to cope instead of tenaciously holding on to farming livelihoods (Ajani and Chianu, 2008). Income-generating livelihoods are often seen as important in alleviating poverty in rural areas. However, it cannot be assumed that every income-generating livelihood will alleviate poverty. Therefore, it depends on the type of the livelihood, the economic context which is operating in, and the nature of poverty which the household is experiencing (Aliber, 2003; Harrigan, 2008).

Although income measures of poverty have been much criticised, people continue to seek a simple increase in net returns to the activities they undertake and overall

increases in the amount of money coming into the household (or their own pocket) (Alary *et al.*, 2011). Increased income also relates to the idea of the economic sustainability of livelihoods. The majority of households practise livelihoods to increase income as it gives them more purchasing power and ability to meet other essential needs. However, the majority of livelihoods generate income through trade either by products produced through the livelihood (e.g. brick producers) or stock purchased from large manufactures in bulk and sold (e.g. spaza shop) (Duncan, 1999).

The rural income-generating livelihoods are often seen as important pathway out of poverty (Sovacool, 2012). Indeed, an empirical regularity emerging from studies of the non-farm economy in developing countries is that there exists a positive relationship between income-generating activities and welfare on average (Gentle and Maraseni, 2012). Indeed, income-generating livelihoods have the potential to reduce inequality, absorb a growing rural labour force, slow rural-urban migration and contribute to the growth of households' income, and poverty alleviation (Heubach, *et al.*, 2011).

In many rural areas, income-generating livelihoods alone provide sufficient opportunities to increase income to households; therefore, migration to urban areas is not an option for rural people (Zulu and Richardson, 2013). Research on rural economies is increasingly showing that rural people have accepted income-generating livelihoods as a reliable source of increasing income and are not as overwhelmingly dependent on farming as previously assumed (Radeny, van der

Berg, Schipper, 2012). Theoretically, income-generating livelihoods are important for rural people since it serve to reduce income inequality and Secondly income-generating livelihoods activities alleviate household poverty by absorbing surplus labour in rural areas, farm-based households spread risks, offers more remunerative activities to supplement agricultural income and provide a means to cope or survive when farming or other sources of income fails (Vista, Nel and Binns, 2012). Opportunities created by income-generating livelihoods can have a direct effect on wages amongst the rural poor by enabling poor households to overcome credit and risk constraints (Jagger *et al.*, 2012).

Income-generating livelihoods provide income that enables households to purchase food during a drought or after a harvest shortfall (Gentle and Maraseni, 2012). These income-generating livelihoods have become important components of poverty alleviation strategies among rural households. Research has shown that income-generating livelihoods have an important impact on the distribution of income in rural areas (Radeny *et al.*, 2012). This impact depends on the specific capacities of different types of households to access these activities. For this reason, the contributions of income-generating livelihoods to poverty alleviation vary across regions and differ according to practise.

Rural income-generating livelihoods indeed do not reduce only poverty but also inequality within households. This is because participation in these livelihoods activities differentially improves the income of the poorest households. Additionally, the importance of income-generating livelihoods in providing employment and earnings to a substantial section of the rural population has been clearly brought out

by many studies (Ellis, 2000). Given the low employment elasticity in the increasingly capital-intensive manufacturing sector, and problems of urban congestion, the necessity for providing employment within the rural sector itself is being increasingly realized (Park *et al.*, 2012). Large scale household level surveys carried out by various researchers do point out that income-generating livelihoods play an important role in terms of their share in household's income (Vedeld *et al.*, 2012).

A large number of poor people in developing countries live in rural areas and directly derive food from farming livelihoods, especially in countries where hunger is most prevalent (Foeken and Owuor, 2008; Vista *et al.*, 2012). Theoretically, food-producing livelihoods have increasingly been accepted as a path to move out of poverty by poor people in rural areas (Niehof, 2004). Additionally, livelihoods do not only provide the household with food that would otherwise have to be purchased at the market (thus at the same time saving money that can be spent on other basic necessities), it often gives them a monetary income as well by selling some of the produced goods (Stifel, 2010). However, there is no consensus on the issue of whether food-producing livelihoods are the most appropriate strategies to fight poverty in developing countries.

One school of thought argues that since the majority of people in most developing countries are in rural areas and most of them are engaged in farming activities, therefore, it can be used as a strategy to alleviate poverty (Harrigan, 2008; Radeny *et al.*, 2012). However, not all households that are involved in farming manage to alleviate poverty. Therefore, it depends on the type of food-producing livelihood(s)

that the household is practising and the value which it makes to the household. Food-producing livelihoods contribute to poverty alleviation in three ways; by food, employment creation and by increasing household income (Niehof, 2004).

According to Foeken and Owuor (2008), a large number of poor people in rural areas practise farming activities to produce food for household consumption, only a small proportion of households which are involved in farming practise for commercial purposes. The study which was conducted by Foeken and Owuor (2008) has demonstrated that households which depend on food-producing livelihoods managed to increase household income and food, and were able to move out of severe poverty. Zezza and Tasciotti (2010) argued that food-producing livelihoods that are: livestock farming, horticulture and crop production (particularly maize, wheat and beans) are very important in rural areas where there is severe poverty, unemployment and poor economic conditions.

Moreover, livestock, horticulture and crop production are very significant in producing food for consumption or for commercial purposes and improving they way of living. Although a large number of poor people in rural areas regard food-producing livelihoods as a reliable strategy for food production, however, it is associated with a variety of risks and its performance to poverty alleviation depends on the environmental, geographical and climatic conditions of an area (Harrigan, 2008; Kang and Imai, 2012). Therefore, in some rural areas food-producing livelihoods are making huge contributions to household poverty while other households are sinking deeper into poverty due to poor performance of other livelihoods. This category of livelihoods is instrumental in alleviating poverty at household level in terms of food

production and as a source of income for about 86% of rural people in sub-Saharan Africa (World Bank, 2007).

While food-producing livelihoods still remain important for rural households in terms of food, other households are looking for diverse opportunities to increase and stabilise their incomes by selling foods. The extent to which households, especially rural ones, are able to feed themselves depends on food-producing livelihoods income as well as on their own production for consumption (Valdes and Foster, 2010). Improvements in the well-being of the rural population in the short term and their ability to escape poverty in the long term depend largely on high food production growth. Food-producing livelihoods are important in that they create food, income and employment opportunities and reduce poverty of the rural population (Pauw and Thurlow, 2011).

Food insecurity is a core dimension of poverty. Many households in rural areas are experiencing a lack of food resulting to vulnerability to diseases. In many developing countries poor people are practising food-producing livelihoods to produce their own food and combat food insecurity. Globally, agricultural livelihoods are considered as one of the strategies that play a significant role towards food security in the developing countries (Haggblade *et al.*, 2010). Rural poverty literature has demonstrated that households that practise food-producing livelihoods manage to increase food and improve their health and increasing life expectancy (Stifel, 2010).

There are numerous ways through which food-producing livelihoods have an impact on rural food security. At the household level, food-producing livelihoods can be a source of income, can provide direct access to a larger number of nutritionally rich foods (vegetables, fruit, and meat) and a more varied diet, and can increase the stability of household food consumption against seasonality or other temporary shortages (Diao, Hazell and Thurlow, 2010). Households that engage in food-producing livelihoods have access to comparatively cheaper food and to a wider variety of particularly nutritious foods, such as vegetables and products of animal origin (milk, eggs, meat, maize, beans) from livestock and crop production (Alary *et al.*, 2011).

Livestock keeping is critical for many of the poor in the developing world, often contributing to multiple livelihood objectives and offering pathways out of poverty. Livestock kept by the poor can produce a regular supply of nutrient-rich food that provides a critical supplement and diversity to staple plant-based diets (Jagger *et al.*, 2012). This is particularly true for milk and eggs, which can help mitigate the effects of often large seasonal fluctuations in grain availability (Gentle and Maraseni, 2012). There are different ways in which livestock farming contributes to household poverty alleviation. It can be a significant source of nourishment and protection against food insecurity exposure as households consume (part of) the returns on their livestock wealth such as milk and meat (Heubach *et al.*, 2011).

Livestock such as cattle are found to be very instrumental in providing food as well as being used for ploughing the fields. Additionally, their manure is still very much

used to enhance soil fertility by households who cannot afford soil fertilizers and enables poor people to plant vegetables, fruit and other food products in large quantities (Goldsmith and Blakely, 1992; McDowell and Hess, 2012). Rural households take advantage of available land to practise crop production. Crops are sold to markets for income or processed within the households as food for consumption. While livestock have the potential to produce foods that are meat and milk and at times they are sold to generate income for the household.

2.5 Rural Livelihoods for Household Poverty Alleviation

Livelihoods have increasingly been accepted as a path to move out of poverty by poor people in rural areas (Zulu and Richardson, 2013). Poverty is usually the main motivation for adopting various livelihoods strategies in rural areas (Foeken and Owuor, 2008). The concept of rural livelihoods has become increasingly popular in development thinking as a way of conceptualizing the economic activities poor people undertake in their totalities (Ellis, 1998; Veldeld *et al.*, 2012).

The focus of development thinking in the 1970s on employment has given way to the realization that while job creation continues to be one important strategy for poverty reduction, the reality for poor people is that survival and prosperity on household poverty alleviation depends on themselves by taking advantage of different opportunities and resources at different times (Niehof, 2004; Valdes and Foster, 2010). Rural livelihoods can play a significant role in reducing rural poverty and numerous studies indicate their importance to rural incomes and food security (Ellis,

2000; Alary *et al.*, 2011). Poverty studies show that the typical rural household in Africa manage to generate income and produce foods through livelihoods (Ellis, 1998; Machete, 2004). Recent research indicates also that rural livelihoods are now thought to be more dynamic and important than previously believed (Radeny *et al.*, 2012; Jagger *et al.*, 2012).

Evidence from a sample of rural villages in Tanzania by Ellis & Mdoe (2003) shows that on average, half of the household income and food came from crops, livestock, self-employment and remittances. Furthermore, it demonstrates households which are struggling to produce more food and income are those that practise only food-producing or income-generating only without diversifying. Households that practise diversified livelihoods were found to be experiencing food security and sufficient income (Ellis, 2000). Empirical evidence largely supports a positive correlation between rural livelihoods and poverty reduction (Ferreira and Lanjouw 2001; Reardon, Berdegue and Escobar 2001).

Moreover, the study that was conducted in Tanzania and in Kagera region in particular, found that livelihoods assist rural households to increase their incomes and foods (Lanjouw, Quizon and Sparrow, 2001). However, in other countries it has been found that is not always common in every context that livelihoods are the possible route out of poverty (Lanjouw, 2001). Rural areas are geographically located in different locations and landscape, soil type, rainfall patterns, economic contexts and access to markets where they can sell their products. Furthermore,

markets may not be sufficiently developed to ensure a steady supply of inputs as well as a sufficient demand for the goods produced.

In the light of such shortcomings, practising livelihoods in such contexts is rather a survival strategy to maintain a subsistence level of welfare which keeps households from falling even deeper into poverty (Detheir and Effenberger, 2012). The importance of rural livelihoods in poverty reduction derives from the fact that the poorest households rely more on livelihoods because they have few assets and lack skills that could afford them the opportunity to be employed.

Livelihoods strategies enable poor people to generate income and produce food in their households. Literature has shown that people engage themselves into livelihoods activities in an attempt to alleviate poverty (Veldeld *et al.*, 2012; Gentle and Maraseni, 2012; Heubach *et al.*, 2011). Moreover, poor people manage to increase income and produce adequate food for themselves and not rely on markets food. According to Ellis (2000), households that practise food-producing livelihoods manage to alleviate both income and food poverty, whereas income generating livelihoods provide households with income and purchasing power as well as widening their choice.

The contributions of both income-generating and food-producing livelihoods to household poverty will depend on the context of poverty, economy and environment where all these livelihoods are practised (Jagger *et al.*, 2012; Radeny, 2012).

Therefore, their contributions to household poverty will differ. Theoretically, livelihoods are acknowledged as an appropriate strategy to combat low income and food insecurity in rural areas (Ellis and Mdoe, 2003). Additionally, the practise of rural livelihoods is encouraged in rural areas of developing countries where poverty is severe and deep, since they are seen as a strategy for poor people to alleviate poverty and be independent. Although, food-producing livelihoods are practised by a large number of households in rural areas, still some believe that they need to be combined with other income-generating livelihoods to widen their choices and increase their chances of moving out of poverty (Pauw, 2001). With that combination of livelihoods it will contribute significantly to poverty in terms of income and food. This idea clearly demonstrates that livelihoods are significant to household poverty alleviation, but they are unable to root it out. Livelihoods contribute to poverty not only through food and income, but also by increasing the well-being of poor people. The outcomes of livelihoods such as food and income have an impact on the well-being of people. These outcomes provide poor people with the opportunity to afford food and be able to generate adequate income that has impacts in improving their standard of living (Ellis, 2000). The role which livelihoods play on the well-being of poor people, particularly those residing in rural areas is very significant as it reduces vulnerability to diseases and increases their life expectancy.

Large proportions of people residing in rural areas of developing countries are vulnerable to diseases as a result of undernourishment, food insecurity and incomelessness (Valdes and Foster, 2010). Poor people have a very low capacity to absorb abrupt financial shocks. Moreover, economic crises and natural disasters can

bring about sharp increases in poverty and make it more difficult for the poor to escape it. Therefore, the majority of poor people in rural areas opt to engage themselves in various livelihood activities that have the potential to increase income and food in their households to alleviate poverty (May and Meth, 2007). The increase of both food and income reduces the vulnerability of poor people to abject poverty. Furthermore, livelihoods enable poor people to cope and recover under unfavourable economic conditions as they can produce their own food and/or generate income to survive under distress and shocks (Kang and Imai, 2012).

2.6 Conclusion

The failure and ineffectiveness of poverty alleviation strategies and programs that are adopted and implemented by various developing countries have compelled poor people to search for alternative strategies to combat the poverty which they are experiencing in the households. In this regard, food-producing and income-generating livelihoods are seen as an avenue out of poverty. However, households are experiencing different dimensions of poverty; therefore, they adopt and practise different livelihoods strategies depending on the poverty that they experience, economic and environmental context as well as the availability of assets in the area.

In this chapter the literature has demonstrated that various livelihoods strategies that poor people adopt in rural areas contribute to poverty alleviation at the household level through food production and income generation. Furthermore, it has been observed by Ellis (2000) that not all households manage to alleviate poverty as expected. The performance of livelihood strategies in alleviating poverty depends on various factors such as the geographical location, economic, institutional and

environmental as well as the nature of poverty the household is experiencing. These factors are very significant and widely recognized as important for the sustainability of livelihoods to the poor in households.

Chapter 3: Poverty and Livelihoods: The South African context

3.1 Introduction

Halving world extreme poverty between 1990 and 2015 is the first Millennium Development Goal (World Bank, 2007). With rural poverty accounting for some 75% of world poverty, meeting this goal requires reducing poverty in rural areas (World Bank, 2007). Yet, many regions of the world are lagging behind in making a dent in rural poverty, particularly in achieving this within rural areas as opposed to through massive migration to the urban sector, at the risk of displacing poverty rather than reducing it (Aguero, Carter and May, 2007). Poverty expresses itself in various ways and in some regions or countries it is so severe that strategies such livelihoods are not performing to the expectation. Therefore, citizens end up relying on government for interventions with regard to income and food.

This chapter will discuss the background information of poverty and livelihoods from South Africa, Limpopo Province, Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality and Mogodi Village. The chapter will demonstrate the dimensions of poverty from the rural South African perspective. Furthermore, the chapter will demonstrate experiences of livelihoods and poverty alleviation from South Africa, particularly Limpopo Province to establish

their performance and the economical as well as environmental contexts that they are operating in.

3.2 Dimensions of Rural Poverty in South Africa

Poverty in South Africa is apparent to the human eye and is profiled by shacks, homelessness, unemployment, poor infrastructure and lack of access to basic services, food insecurity, incomelessness (Ardington and Lund 1995). Poverty has racial, gender, spatial and age dimensions; therefore, the concentration of poverty lies predominantly with black Africans, women, rural areas and black youth (Bhorat and Kanbur, 2005).

The dimensions of rural poverty vary according to region and communities, in South African the common dimensions of rural poverty are low income, food insecurity and unemployment. These dimensions are thought to be the results of colonialism in South Africa. Thus, most poor households in rural areas of South Africa tend to depend on remittances, pensions or grants, and livelihoods outputs (Department of Social Development, 2009). Households that experience the hardship of poverty as a result of colonialism are found in the former Bantustan regions, informal settlements and historically black townships with low economic opportunities, unemployment, inequality, lack of essential service and poor infrastructure (Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, 2010).

Poverty, vulnerability and other dimensions such as income, gender inequality arise and are maintained as a result of a wide variety of interacting economic and non-economic factors that are experienced in South Africa (Zulu and Richardson, 2013). Poor people live in remote rural areas and do not have access to safe drinking water, access to proper infrastructure, health services, low level of literacy among adults, and lack information on issues that could change their situation (Bhorat and Kanbur, 2005). Additionally, People who are more affected than others reside in rural areas, and these are people who face extreme vulnerability to ill health, economic dislocation and natural disasters. They are often exposed to ill treatment by institutions of the state and are powerless unable to influence any decisions affecting their lives (Duncan, 1999).

In South Africa, there is a higher level of poverty in rural areas than in urban areas and the conditions of the rural poor are far worse than the conditions of the urban poor in terms of personal consumption levels and access to education, health care, potable water and sanitation, housing, transport and communications (Statistics South Africa, 2012). Persistently high levels of rural poverty, both with or without overall economic growth, have been feeding into rapid population growth and migration of people to urban areas. The social dimension of poverty is manifested in lack of basic needs, food, health, shelter and education together with inability to engage in productive endeavour, among a host of other problems which the poor people struggle with (Adams, 1994; Sovacool, 2012). The social and economic consequences of poverty permeate the entire society, afflicting even the well-off, such that not even the wealthy are able to live in peace and comfort where

widespread poverty exists (Dercon and Krishnan, 2000). The spatial dispersion of rural population increases the cost and difficulty of providing basic goods and services effectively.

Poverty in South Africa is concentrated among small farmers, pastoralists, unskilled workers, polygamous families and is particularly high on female headed rural families (Valdes and Foster, 2010). Education is strongly associated with poverty alleviation, consequently, poverty decreases dramatically as the schooling of the household head increases (Sahn and Stifel, 2000). Lack of access to productive assets such as land, basic social and economic services, and exclusion from economic, social and political processes that affect poor people's lives may be of much significance (United Nations, 2000). Poverty is a multi-faced phenomenon and it shows itself in different ways in different situations. The perpetuation of this phenomenon particularly in rural areas for decades regardless of numerous poverty alleviation strategies has led to a realization that poverty is complex, multidimensional and expressing its self differently to households (Kang and Imai, 2012).

Increasingly, the complexity of rural poverty many provinces of South Africa is influenced by various factors such as the economy, social, political, environmental and cultural. These factors are closely related to each other and contributing to poverty in a complex manner. This complexity has rendered in slow pace of poverty reduction in many villages. In South Africa most provinces are predominately rural where poverty is severe and the villages are characterised by geographically marginalized or remote, low economic opportunities, high unemployment, illiteracy, lack of social services and poor environmental conditions that limits farming

opportunities (Radeny *et al.*, 2012). Poverty in rural areas is more visible on females compared to males.

Households that have high illiteracy and unemployed are those that are mostly headed by women than men and they face greater hardship in lifting themselves (and their children) out of the poverty trap (Sovacool, 2012; World Bank, 2007). Women have fewer opportunities than men due to a number of gender biases within their societies: unequal opportunities for access to education, employment and asset ownership (Department of Social Development, 2009). Without education women enter a vicious circle marked by fewer opportunities for employment, early marriage, and poor child health care. Additionally, women have limited access to knowledge and information that could help them improve their conditions. Moreover, particularly in rural South Africa they are subject to social inequalities, cultural discrimination and economic handicaps (Gilbert, 2002). Women, because of their lack of skills, have fewer job opportunities and face social and cultural restrictions, which limit their chances to compete for resources (Vista *et al.*, 2012). This situation leads to social and economic dependency which in turn, has become the basis for male domination in social relationships. There is a high rate of female unemployment in the rural sector.

3.3 Unemployment rate in South Africa

The rates of South African economy have not been high enough to absorb the growth in labour force. As a result, the majority of skilled and unskilled people end up

engaging themselves in informal business to generate income. Unemployment rates are high (25,6% particularly women (28,3%) and young people in South Africa, and some are university graduates possessing skills and knowledge (Statistics South Africa, 2012). With the economy of South Africa which is unable to cope and adapt during world economic recession, copious people have been retrenched, and that increases the unemployment statistics in the country. Unemployment is mostly experienced in provinces that are predominately rural and have less economic opportunities.

According to Statistics South Africa (2012), the unemployment rate in South Africa is counted for 25, 6 % in 2013 (Statistics South Africa, 2012). Historically, from 2000 until 2007, South Africa unemployment rate averaged 25.5 percent reaching an all time high of 31.2 percent in March of 2003 and a record low of 21.9 percent in December of 2007 (Statistics South Africa, 2012). Rural unemployment is high rising from the 44% in 2009 to the high of 52 in 2012 (Statistics South Africa, 2012). However, the provincial unemployment statistics demonstrates that Limpopo Province has experienced a decrease of 2, 2 % of unemployment whereas other provinces had an increase on unemployment statistics. There are more unemployed women than men and research revealed that women are disadvantaged in the labour market (Mathale, 2009). They are more likely to be unemployed, or to be in poorly remunerated work. Black women are still more likely to be unemployed, to be paid less than men when employed, and to perform unpaid labour. The unemployment rate for women has increased by 6.8% while men its only 4.6 in 2013.

Unemployment has been severe among women, especially those in rural areas, as well as among young people. Unemployment among people with disabilities is equally high. The formal sector of the economy is becoming less labour-intensive and can only provide employment for half of the labour force (May and Meth, 2007). It needs fewer, but better skilled people than in the past to produce the same level of output. The labour force is relatively young and has a low overall skills level owing to poor educational opportunities. The South African economy has not been able to supply sufficient employment opportunities for all who want to work. Unemployment has increased the vulnerability of many households. In addition, the market *also* makes little provision for those with special needs, such as people with disabilities. Because people do not have secure and sustainable livelihoods, many turn to the welfare system for income maintenance and social support (Department of Social Development 2009).

3.4 Rural Livelihoods for Poverty Alleviation: The South African Experience

Many authors insist that income-generating and food-producing livelihoods play an important role in rural livelihoods as a means of self-provisioning for poor households in developing countries (Ellis 2000; Kang and Imai, 2012; Haggblade *et al.*, 2010). South Africa is regarded as middle income country; however, food and income poverty remains as a challenge to many households particularly in rural areas. The majority of households in the provinces that are predominantly rural and experiencing poverty are venturing into livelihoods strategies to produce food and/or generate income. The studies that were conducted in various provinces across

South Africa have demonstrated that livelihoods play a very significant role in combating poverty through income and food production (Machete, 2004).

Machete (2004) found that food-producing livelihoods are practised purposely for household's consumption and contributes less to household's income. It was further concluded that income-generating livelihoods are very significant as they provide poor people with various options and purchasing power. Income-generating livelihoods do make a more significant contribution to the incomes of rural households in certain areas of the country. It was acknowledged that the performance of rural livelihoods vary from province to province and the type and performance of livelihoods depends on various factors such as environmental, economic, social and rainfall patterns (Jagger *et al.*, 2012). Rural livelihoods serve as a source of security and as a safety net for poor and vulnerable groups, and it is argued that the availability of own-produced food for consumption provides a fallback in times of need (Vista *et al.*, 2012).

Currently, pensions and remittances made the largest contributions to some household incomes; however, some households identify food-producing livelihoods as their most important income source, because pension and remittance income is irregular. Thus, poor households produce more food for consumption and for commercial purposes. However, this perception of income generated from food-producing livelihoods as reliable seems misplaced, given the high-risks associated with farming in South Africa. Food production in South Africa has regularly been

threatened by severe droughts, forever changing rainfall patterns as well as recurrent crop and livestock diseases (Machete, 2004).

Given the risks that food production is associated with, large numbers of rural households prefer income-generating livelihoods since income provides them with a variety of choice and diminishing their low purchasing power (Radeny *et al.*, 2012). Income from livelihoods provides poor people with the opportunity to purchase adequate nutritious food that reduces their vulnerability to diseases that might lead to low life expectancy. Although not all livelihoods manage to generate adequate income for poor people, still they make a significant contribution to the total incomes of the majority of households; those with no other sources of cash income classified as marginalised (Lanjouw, 2001; Ellis, 1998). These marginalized poor people are heavily dependent on livelihoods for food and income since the majority of these people are unemployed and do not have other sources of income than livelihoods (Ellis, 2000).

3.5 Limpopo Province Population, Poverty and Unemployment

3.7.1 Population and Poverty

Limpopo Province covers 123 910km², with an estimated population of 5.518 000 million which translates into a population density of 44 people per square kilometer (Statistics South Africa, 2012). The province of Limpopo is predominately rural,

divide into five districts namely Sekhukhune, Vhembe, Waterberg, Capricorn and Mopani.

Table 3.1 Population of Limpopo Province 2012

Capricorn(Lepelle-Nkumpi municipality 230 152 population)	1 261 463
Mopani	1 092 507
Vhembe	1 292 722
Waterberg	679 336
Greater Sekhukhune	1 076 840
Total	5 404 868

The Limpopo Province experienced low population growth since from 2001 to 2011 with a birth rate of 3.07 from 2001 to 2006 dropping to 2.93 from 2006 to 2011. The percentage distribution share of Limpopo Province to the total population in South Africa is 10.4. There has been an increase of average household income from 22985 in 2001 to 58 841 in 2011 which could be attributed to the declining unemployment rate (39.5) in Limpopo Province. Nevertheless, Limpopo Province remains among other poor provinces with its poverty rate estimated above 60 percent. The common dimensions of poverty in the province are lack of infrastructures and basic services, unemployment that result in low household income, food insecurity and lack of arable land, poor economic opportunities.

3.5.2 Unemployment rate of Limpopo Province

Limpopo Province is considered to be one of the poorest provinces in South Africa affected severely by unemployment counting for 39.5% (Statistics South Africa, 2012). A comparison of the municipal areas shows that unemployment rates follow a similar pattern to the poverty rates, with Waterberg (28.8%) at the lower end and Sekhukhune (51%) at the upper end of unemployment scale (Statistics South Africa, 2012). Other municipalities such as Capricorn (37.4%), Vhembe (39.0%) and Mopani (39.8%) are considered to be better-off compared to Sekhukhune district municipality. Unemployment is higher and the gap between the strict and expanded rates is wider in rural areas, which suggests that much of the long-term unemployment is located in rural areas where job opportunities are limited.

The geographical location of numerous rural areas which has created limited employment opportunities is associated with the segregations created by apartheid pre-1994. Many rural areas are located close to/on the mountains and far from growth point where there are more economic activities. The majority of people who are residing in rural areas of Limpopo Province are considered to be falling under informal economy as they engage themselves in self-established livelihoods (Mathale, 2009). Additionally, illiteracy seems to be the key cause to unemployment in the province since the majority of rural dwellers do not have adequate skills and knowledge that could grant them employment opportunities to absorb them.

In attempt to alleviate poverty, the government of Limpopo Province is currently implementing various strategies to improve the economic conditions in the province to expand employment opportunities. However, little has been achieved as the unemployment rate in the province is still high (39.5%) more than the nation unemployment rate. The statistics of unemployment in the province is dominated by the youth most of whom have relevant skills and knowledge, but the limitations of employment opportunities leave them with no hope. Thus, the majority of the youth who are educated end up migrating to other provinces in search of employment opportunities. Therefore, unskilled people are left in these rural areas experiencing severe poverty.

3.6 Poverty Alleviation Strategies in South Africa

Poverty alleviation remains a central concern in the developing countries, particularly in Africa, where poverty remains a pervasive issue (Bhorat and Kanbur, 2005). It is for this reason that various anti-poverty strategies have been implemented by different countries with different degrees of success. The problem of poverty has prompted governments and non-governmental organizations to devise strategies to alleviate it. From the 1960s to the 1980s, many poverty alleviation strategies were based on economic growth with emphasis on heavy capital investments and/or an emphasis on human capital investments (Carter and May, 2001).

However, these strategies have failed to reach out to the poor as majority of them did not embrace the conditions of poor people. Additionally, previous poverty

alleviation did not widen opportunities for poor people to establish their own livelihoods activities and become independent. Therefore, in this section various poverty alleviation strategies implemented by South African government are discussed.

3.6.1 Social Welfare as Poverty Reduction Strategy

The purpose of social welfare program in South Africa is to provide Social Safety nets and targeted programmes for the poor and vulnerable, children or culturally under-privileged groups to quickly benefit. Income transfers or direct provision of free or subsidized goods and services programmes are recommended, and these programmes could also be needed through short-term stress (Department of Social Development, 2009). Social welfare programs concentrates on several aspects of development and poverty alleviation, such as raising the people's living standard , their incomes and consumption levels of food, medical services and education (Department of Social Development, 2009).

Additionally, implementation of relevant economic growth process, creation of conditions that are conducive to the growth of the people's self-esteem through the establishment of social, political and economic system and institutions that promote human dignity, respect and increasing people's freedom to choose by enlarging the range of their choice variables, such as increasing varieties of consumer goods and services are very significant for poverty alleviation (Gentle and Maraseni, 2012). It therefore offers various social grants in its fight against poverty such as: old age grant; disability grant; war veterans' grant; care dependency grant; foster grant; child support grant; grant in aid and social relief of distress for applicants who meet the

department's criteria for bonafide recipients (Department of Social Development, 2009).

3.6.2 Local Economic Development

Local Economic Development (LED) is a strategy implemented at the local municipality for employment creation through micro and small enterprise development, support of social dialogue, development planning and poverty reduction (Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, 2010). Additionally, it is designed to address socio-economic problems such as low economic growth, high level of unemployment and poverty. LED recognizes that people, business and government are best placed to change economic conditions that will stimulate growth that is required to create jobs and therefore reducing poverty in South Africa. The aim of LED is to create employment in the local government sphere, alleviate poverty and redistribute resources and opportunities to the benefit of all community members (Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, 2010). Local economic development is formulated to achieve the following key principles in South Africa

- Employment creation and poverty reduction.
- Target previously disadvantaged people, marginalized communities and locations, black economic empowerment enterprises and SMMEs to allow them to participate fully in the economic life of the country.
- Promote local ownership, community involvement, local leadership and joint decision making.

- Local economic development involves local, national and international partnerships between community, businesses and government to solve problems, create joint business ventures and build local areas.
- Use local resources and skills to maximize opportunities for local development.
- Integration of diverse economic initiatives in all inclusive approach to local development.

3.9 Rural Livelihoods for Poverty Alleviation, Limpopo Province

Food-producing and income generating livelihoods are predominant in the rural areas of Limpopo Province where households experience income and food poverty. However, income-generating livelihoods are common and practiced by most households for income since the province has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. The types of income-generating livelihoods that rural people practises are: self-employment, labour migration, spaza shop, beer brewing and street hawking (Bhandari and Grant, 2007). Self employment, small scale industries and businesses contribute vastly to household poverty alleviation. Even if there are limited economic opportunities in rural communities, these income-generating livelihoods can sustainably contribute to rural households' poverty alleviation.

Income-generating livelihoods contribute to household poverty differently since it depending on the economic circumstances in the areas (Ellis, 2000). However,

households manage to improve their standard of living through income from livelihoods as it affords them with the opportunity to meet some of their basic needs.

The study by Anseeuw, Mathebula and Perret (2005) which was conducted in several rural areas in Limpopo Province including Mamone and Rantlekane, has demonstrated that food-producing and income-generating livelihoods are very significant for large number of poor people particularly those who are unemployed and experiencing food insecurity. Additionally, majority of households practice income-generating livelihoods as they argue that income afford them more opportunities. Conversely, food-producing livelihoods were also considered by numerous households as vital since it provides them with variety of food that in some seasons is more than enough and they sell them to generate income.

The study further demonstrated that social welfare grants play a more significant role as a livelihood, although it needs to be combined with other sources of income to keep people out of poverty. Therefore, remittances and social welfare grants incomes only cannot alleviate poverty in the household; it will depend on the amount the household receive and the number of members in the household (Department of Social Development, 2009). Theoretically, households which are overcrowded with people may not experience alleviation of poverty compared to those which have little number of members (Stifel, 2010). Large numbers of households which are headed by females rely on these sources of income. As a result they are the one which experience severe poverty than those headed by males. Theoretically, the outputs of

rural livelihood depends on the economic condition in rural communities, therefore, in some rural areas this type of livelihoods might not be significant because of poor economic conditions (Bhandari and Grant, 2007). However, it was concluded by Anseeuw, Mathebula and Perret (2005) that the role which rural livelihoods play is significant to majority of poor households that are unemployed and experiencing food insecurity.

3.8 Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality Poverty Context

Lepelle-Nkumpi municipality is one of the five local municipalities under Capricorn District Municipality in the Limpopo Province. The municipality located at the Southern tip of the Capricorn District Municipality (CDM) and is bordered by Polokwane Municipality to the north and north-west. Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality covers an area of approximately 3.500km² and comprises approximately 20% of the CDM area (Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, 2010). The municipality is divided into 29 wards which comprises a total of 110 settlements. The core functions of the municipality is to provide basic services and development infrastructure to better the lives of people in the municipality as well as providing supporting service that provide support to businesses, livelihoods and projects (Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, 2010). With a population size of 230 152, Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality takes up some 19.7% of the total population of Capricorn District (Statistics South Africa, 2012).

The population of Lepelle-Nkumpi has grown more slowly than in the rest of the district, which indicates that the growth experienced in the district was not generated

in Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality. The Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality has a very low urbanization level, with 88% of its population being located in rural areas (Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, 2010). Within Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, Census 2011 classified only Lebowakgomo and Magatle as urban settlements, which could explain the higher percentage of working age and male dominated population here, compared to other areas in the municipality. There are high levels of unemployment and poverty in the municipality and the resultant low levels of income, forcing a portion of the population residing in the area to enter and participate in informal and marginal opportunities (Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, 2010).

3.9 Mogodi Village Background and Poverty Context

Mogodi village is geographically located within Lepelle-Nkumpi local municipality falling under the jurisdiction of ward 29 and is ruled by a traditional institution under the authority of a chief, Mr. Mphahlele (Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, 2010). The village is built on a hilly, fragile, richly fertile and donga-ridden soil landscape. The soil generally supports green vegetables during summer. However, the landscape is rocky in some places. The rainfall in the village is seasonal, but during summer they experience more rain whereas in winter it is dry (Ramoroka, 2010). With regard to temperature, the village is hot during summer causing high rates of evapotranspiration process which reduces soil water content and makes it difficult to cultivate.

Forty-five percent of the village is covered by food producing livelihoods. According to Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality (2010), 80% of 500 households members in Mogodi Village are poor and unemployed, relying on income (from Spaza shops, beer brewing, and street hawking) and food (crops, vegetation, livestock) produced from self-generated livelihoods. The village lacks services and infrastructure such as water, sanitation, roads and health care centres. Thus, large proportions of households which practise food producing livelihoods have to rely on rain to grow their crops. The village is one of rural areas which are negatively affected by drought which hinders them to produce sufficient food for consumption (Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, 2010). In this village most of the households in the village have traditional houses or huts. The materials that are used to build these huts include, amongst others, mud, stones or bricks, cow dung, wood and grass (Ramoroka, 2010). The huts are built with stones or bricks then covered with mud or cow dung, wood and grass are used for roofing. However, other households used corrugated iron for roofing houses.

The stands or yards in the village are very wide allowing households an opportunity to practise food-producing livelihoods within the yards such as crop growing, livestock and horticulture. A large number of households that are engaged in agriculture plant fruit and vegetables crops such as mangoes, oranges, bananas, maize and sorghum in their yards (Ramoroka, 2010). The households are also given land for farming which is \pm 1km away from the settlement area and most households that seek to produce more food use the land to grow crops such as maize, wheat

and beans. Subsistence farming is hegemonic in the village and most villagers depend on it for their survival.

3.12 Conclusion

The failure or least achievements of various poverty alleviation strategies globally have pushed poor people in many developing countries to venture into different self-established activities that could combat poverty. This chapter has demonstrated variety of both food-producing and income-generating livelihoods that poor households have adopted to alleviate poverty through food and income. Moreover, poverty is still been considered as a global challenge that manifests itself in various ways depending on the geographical location, environmental and economic contexts. The practice of rural livelihoods varies and their performance to poverty alleviations also differs as its contributions depends on the type of livelihoods, its outcomes and the nature of poverty that households are experiencing. The chapter demonstrated that the practice of rural livelihoods is global and a large number of households are alleviating poverty through it. Additionally, livelihoods have reduced the dependency of poor people on the government to create opportunities for job and poverty alleviation

Chapter 4: Data Analysis, Interpretation and Discussions

4.1 Introduction

In the 21st century the world has experienced a decline of absolute poverty where poor people are inventing various strategies of alleviating household poverty. The invention of new poverty alleviation strategies globally was compelled by the failure of various programs and strategies to combat food and income poverty that the large majority of poor households are experiencing. The establishment and practice of livelihoods has shifted the majority of poor people from depending and rely on assistance from government and other organization to alleviate their poverty. Currently, poor people in rural areas are establishing livelihoods activities to generate income and to produce food to alleviate poverty. The independence and self-reliant of poor people to create their own opportunities has become common globally, particularly in rural areas of developing countries that are affected by poverty. Indeed, rural areas such as Mogodi Village in South Africa are affected by unemployment, low income and food insecurity and practising livelihoods activities to remedy the situation.

The following chapter analyzes, interprets and discusses the findings of the data collected from Mogodi Village which is very rural and majority of households are practicing livelihoods to alleviate poverty. The chapter is divided into five sections: the first section focuses on the demographic profile of the households to establish the conditions of households from Mogodi Village. The second section demonstrates various typologies and characteristics of livelihoods that are practised in Mogodi

village using figures to uncover total percentages of households that are practising specific types of income-generating and food-producing livelihoods. In the third section the chapter specifically illustrates dimensions of poverty that households in the village are experiencing. Section four demonstrates the various types of livelihoods that are included in the broad categories of food-producing and income-generating livelihoods. The fifth section shows that findings related to the contributions of rural livelihoods towards household poverty in Mogodi village to establish if whether households' conditions are improving through the practice of income.

4.2 Demographic profile of households in Mogodi Village

Households in rural areas have various demographic dynamics that have effects on their poverty conditions. Therefore, this section focuses on the demographic profile of the 100 sampled households in the village to determine if households are headed by females or males, the gender of the household head, educational level of the household head, the monthly income of the household, to assess and understand their poverty conditions, and lastly the section covers the access to basic services and infrastructure as one the dimensions of rural poverty.

4.2.1 Household Heads' Gender

Poverty in developing countries has been associated with households that are headed by female, as theoretically women are seen to be more vulnerable to abject

poverty compared to man. Indeed, gender is an integral phenomenon to poverty and cannot be ignored by researchers and planners. In Mogodi Village, the study found that out of the 100 systematically sampled households male headed households are predominant (57%) compared to female headed households (see figure 4.2.1 below). The majority of males that are heading households are old and economical they are passive, relying on pension grants as income. Since the village is predominately rural there are few economic and work opportunities. The majority of men who are economically active migrate to cities across the country or globally in search of employment and better lives. Therefore, this result in women and children heading households relying on little income sent to them as remittances.

Figure 4.2.1 Household heads' Gender

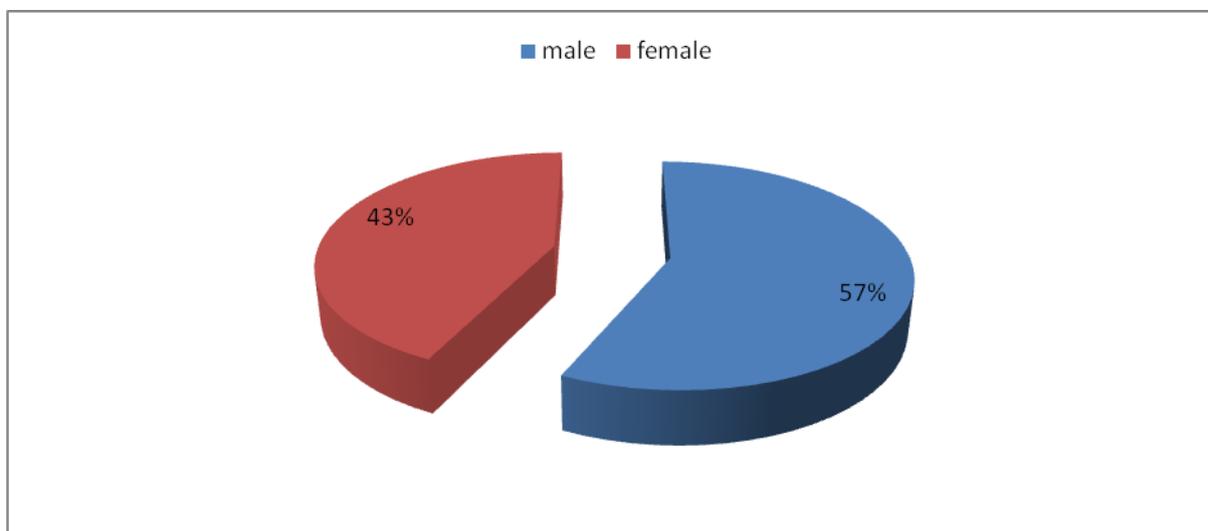


Figure 4.2.1 further demonstrates that only a proportion of 43% households that were sampled are headed by females. Thus, large proportions of women become household heads receiving remittances from their migrated men. It was indicated

that there are times where men do not return home and women are left with burden of responsibility of growing children solely. As a result, they became vulnerable and victims of poverty. The majority of males who are in the village are employed, businessman, self-employed and old men who are earning income from government grants. These findings suggests that male headed households have better off conditions compared to female headed households where majority are unemployed and serve as housewives.

4.2.2 Educational level of Household Heads

Literature has demonstrated that education is one of the elements which are very significant in increasing the magnitude of income at household level. It is assumed by the majority of rural people that education provides great opportunities, widening their choices and enabling them to secure decent jobs. Moreover, a large number of people who are classified as poor lack educational qualifications that provide them with skill and knowledge to be independent and generate work for themselves. Figure 4.2.2 below has four various levels of education, and it also indicates the percentages each category constitutes. The findings show that the majority of households' head (45%) managed to reach only secondary level. It was stated that due to lack of financial support for their education and cultural dynamics whereby men have to work for their families, they were pushed by these circumstances to drop out of school and search for work. Additionally, they further demonstrated that those contexts are a result of the poverty they are experiencing.

Figure 4.2.2 Educational level of Household Head

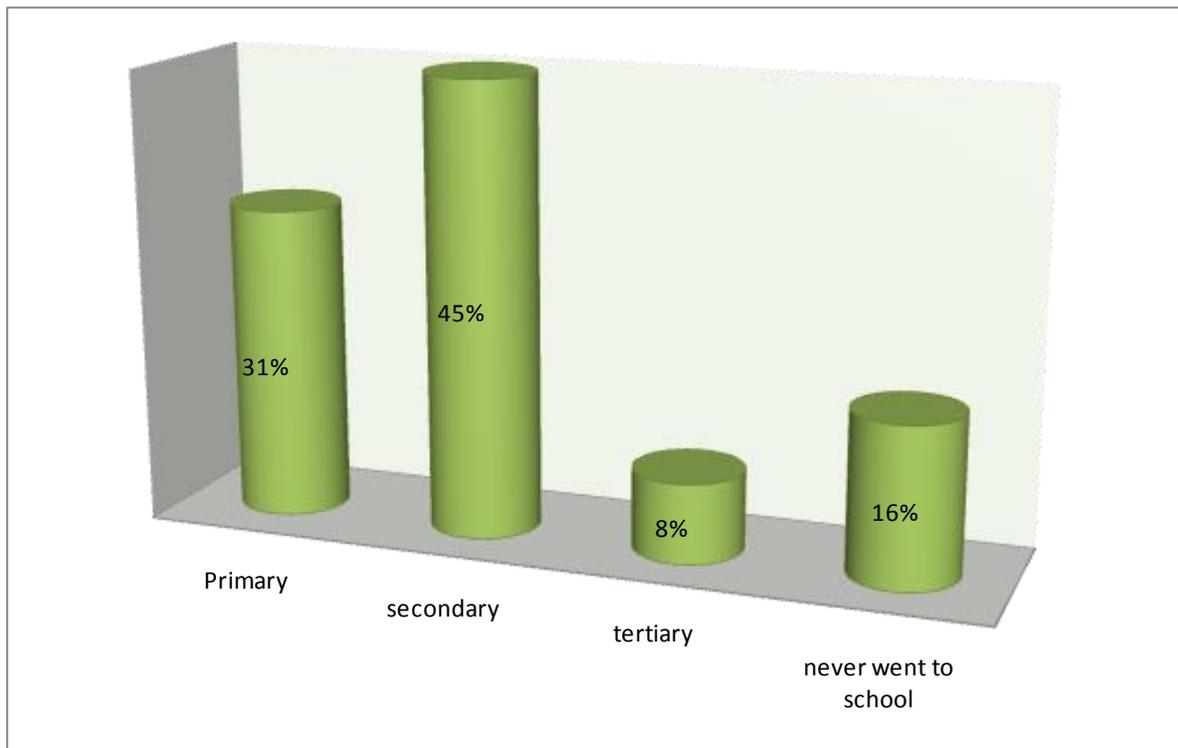
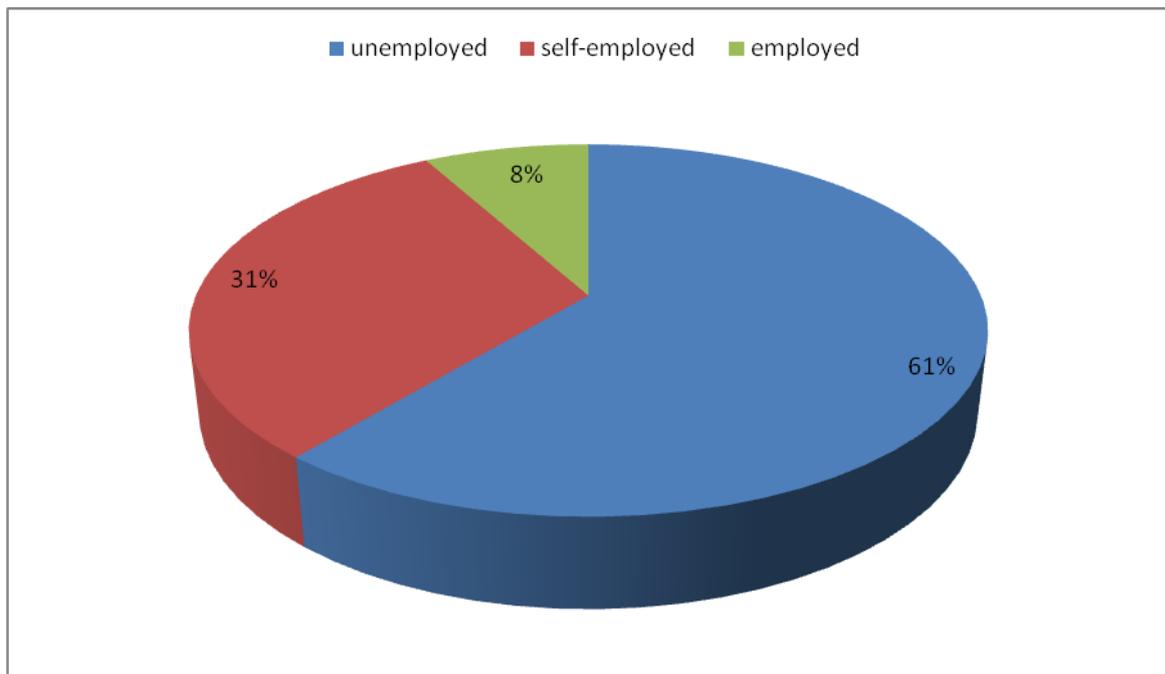


Figure 4.2.2 shows that households heads who only managed to obtain primary education are significant (31%) compared to tertiary (8%) and those who never went to school (16%). According to the king of Mogodi Village, the reasons why the village have large numbers of people who never went to school is because according to African culture women are not supposed to go to school but to be housewives, while men should go to cities and search for jobs to support their families. It is for these reasons that the majority of household heads do not have tertiary education, and only a minority (8%) has tertiary education. Therefore, cultural dynamics tend to make women in Mogodi Village to be the worse victims of poverty compared to men since majority of them are illiterate and unable to secure formal employment. To this end, poverty among female headed households becomes severe and perpetuating from generation to generation.

4.2.3 Employment Status of Household Heads

Employment status of households head are very crucial as it determines the household income and also their ability to afford a minimum standard of living whereby basic necessities such as food, cloth and health are met. Figure 4.2.3 below demonstrates the three status of employment which is employed, self-employed and unemployed. The three mentioned status of employment are used in this study to determine the proportion of household heads that are employed, self-employed and unemployed to assess whether their employment status has an impact on household income. Literature has demonstrated that most people who are unemployed experience poverty and are vulnerable to diseases, and their life expectancy is short compared to those who are considered as working or self-employed (Niehof, 2004). The findings in Mogodi Village (see figure 4.2.3) clearly shows that 61% of household heads are unemployed. However, the 61% of unemployed sampled households are dominated by pensioners who are above the age of 60. It was indicated that there were no job opportunities and since the majority of people in the village do not possess tertiary qualifications they are compelled to migrate to Gauteng Province to work in manufacturing companies, returning home only when they are old and unable to work.

Figure 4.2.3 Employment Status of the Household Heads

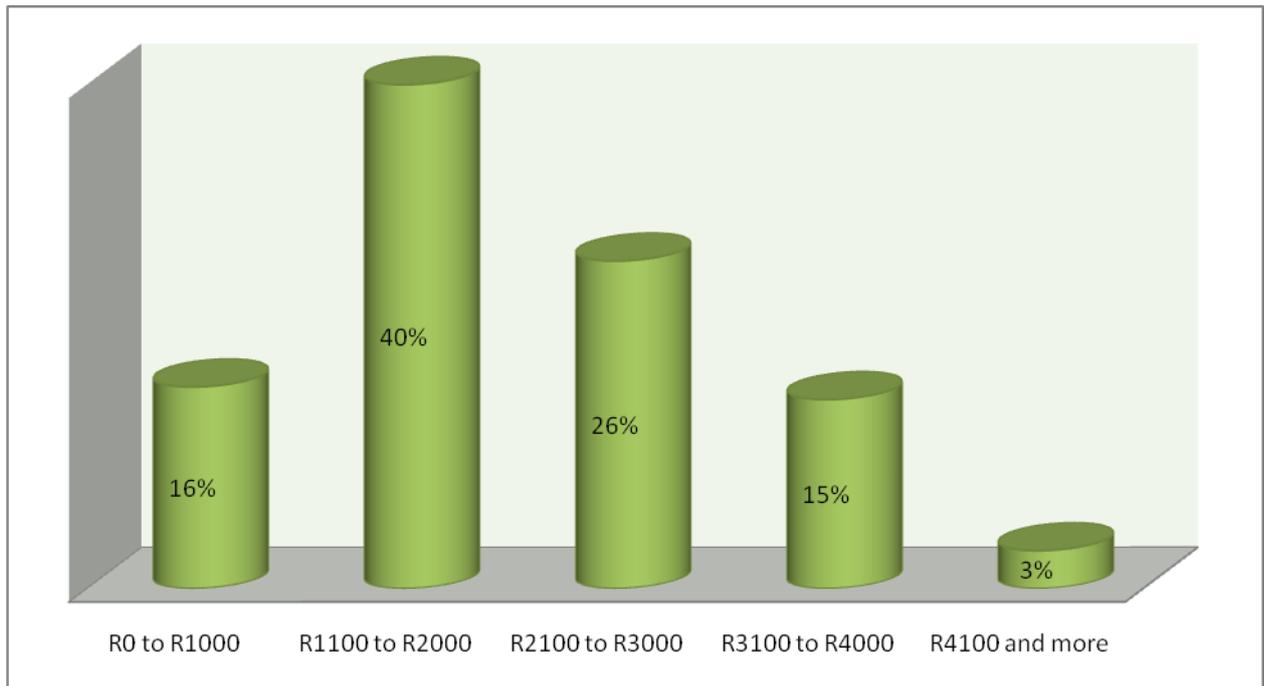


According to Kepe (2008), limited work opportunities in rural areas of developing countries have been considered by many researchers as a push factor for poor people to create work for themselves and not rely on government or the private sector for opportunities. This idea can be linked to the prevailing circumstances in Mogodi Village, where 31% of people who are unemployed are creating jobs for themselves to increase household income and meet human basic needs. However, the participants mentioned that self-employment has many challenges because the monthly income generated is not constant and sometimes they are unable to meet their basic needs; as such, it becomes very difficult to combat income and food poverty in their households. Mogodi village as one of the deep rural areas in Ga Mphahlele has only few household heads who are working. From the sampled 100 households only 8% are employed. This clearly shows that the majority of households in the village are still experiencing income poverty.

4.2.4 Households Monthly Income

A significant number of rural poverty studies regard income as one of the fundamental causes of poverty. Researchers have further used income to measure the level of poverty, particularly in rural areas of developing countries (Kepe, 2008; Lanjouw, 2001). Therefore, it is very important for any poverty study to integrate the concept of income to be able to assess the effect of low income on households. Figure 4.2.4 below highlights different categories of income from R0-1000 to R4100 and more. The purpose of assessing household's income was to determine how many households experience income poverty. Figure 4.2.4 below demonstrates that 40% of households that participated in the study are receiving an income between R1100 and R2000. One respondent in the village indicated that their only source of income in the household is social grants. Since there are number of people who are unemployed and some households are headed by old people; thus, old age grant and child support grants play a very important role. This confirms the idea raised by the Department of Social development (2009), that poor people have developed a dependency syndrome on social grants and they consider them as a source of income. Dependency on social grants and low participation of some households on livelihoods activities has worsened their poverty conditions resulting in other households living under poverty line. It was further indicated that remittances and social grant income is helpful to households which use it efficiently. Nevertheless, there are households members use the income to gamble, beer and personal entertainment. The misuse of income by other household members have lowered their chances of combating poverty since they are unable to meet some of basic needs and taking care of their children.

Figure 4.2.4 Households Monthly Income



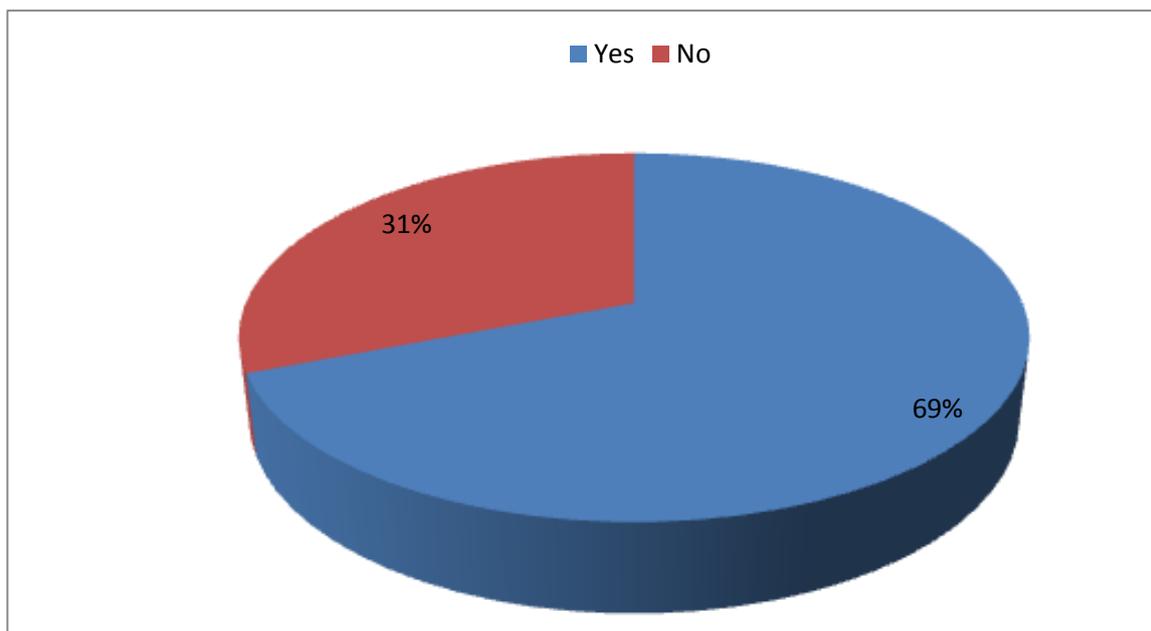
Despite the significant number of households receiving an income between R1100 and R2000, there are 26% of households that receive an income between R2100 and R3000. However, Niehof (2004) demonstrates that the alleviation of income poverty cannot be judged by the amount of income the households receive, but by the usage of the money, the nature of income poverty in the households and the number of people depending on that amount. It was indicated that although other households in the village might be receiving more income compared to other households, still they consider themselves very poor because the money they receive is not sufficient and reliable. There are households (16%) in Mogodi Village that are still surviving on less than R1000 per month and most of households that survive on this income are child headed and the income is child support grant from government. The findings further show that only 3% of households are receiving an amount of R4100 and more. These findings demonstrate that Mogodi Village is

dominated by poor people who are experiencing income poverty and there is a vast inequality regarding income. Moreover, the statistics provided by figure 4.2.4 confirm that poverty in the area is still a major concern and it moves from generations to generation. Therefore, these findings suggest that income is one of the poverty dimensions that affect many people in the village.

4.2.5 Access to Basic Services and Infrastructure

Basic services and infrastructure such as health, education, roads, water, electricity and security are very important elements for human survival. Municipalities are granted vast responsibilities of providing services and infrastructure to communities as they have an effect on the lives of people. Figure 4.2.5 below shows the findings of access to basic services and infrastructures in Mogodi Village.

Figure 4.2.5 Access to Basic Services and Infrastructure



The findings demonstrate that 69% of households in Mogodi Village have access to services such as health as well as other government services and infrastructure like schools. It was further indicated that access to services has positively impacted on their lives and they are able to establish livelihoods activities since there is water, roads and electricity. However, there are 31% of households who have shown that they do not have access to services and infrastructure. They argued that they still have to travel long kilometres to access services such as electricity in Lebowakgomo and also the water is not reliable, therefore they have to search or buy water elsewhere. It was further indicated that the village has no proper roads and they struggle to travel during rainy days. The unreliability of water deters them to venture into food-producing livelihoods and that has contributed to their poverty. The findings on this figure above open a debate about what does access mean to poor people. It is clear that people in this village view and understand access to services and infrastructure differently. To some, access is when they can have services despite the distance travel, whereas to some households, they argue that they do not have access due to the long distances travelled to acquire services.

4.3 Types and Characteristics of Rural Livelihoods

There are various types of rural livelihoods that people in developing countries venture in to generate income and produce food in an attempt to alleviate household poverty. Ellis (2000) categorized livelihoods as farming, non-farming and off-farm related activities, but in this study, livelihoods are categorized as income-generating and food-producing. The study uses income-generating and food-producing as indicators to measure the contributions of rural livelihoods towards household

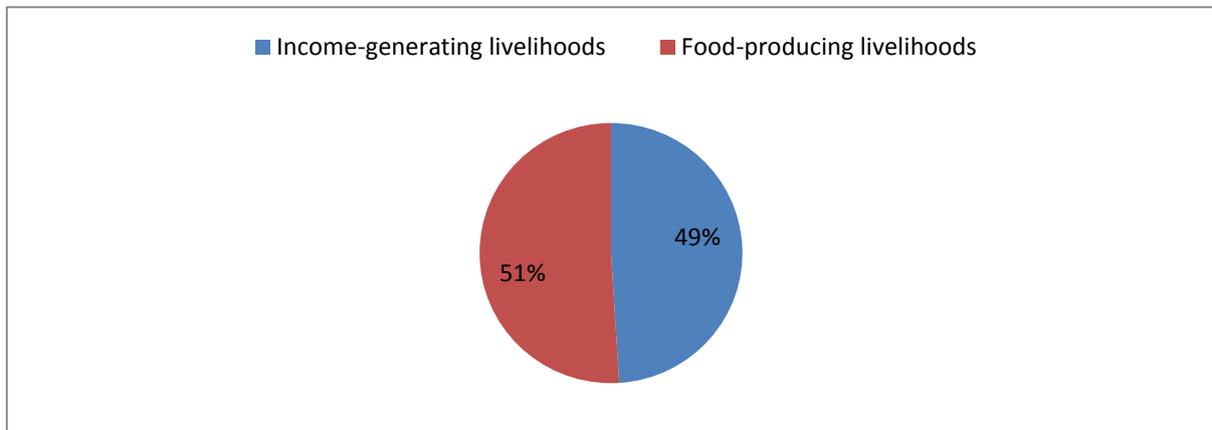
poverty. This section focuses on various types of livelihoods categorized as food-producing and income-generating that households in Mogodi Village are practicing to generate income and produce food.

4.3.1 Types of Livelihoods practised in Mogodi Village

Many livelihoods studies have demonstrated that the majority of rural households practise livelihoods to increase income and to combat food insecurity (Mishra, 2007). The practice of rural livelihoods varies depending on economic, environmental conditions, geographical and cultural dynamics. Literature has demonstrated that the majority of households in rural areas practise more food-producing livelihoods than income-generating ones (Ellis, 1998, Machete, 2004). However, the findings in Mogodi Village contradicts the assumption by theory show that income-generating livelihoods predominate (51%) compared to food-producing livelihoods. The village is located near the industrial zone of Lebowakgomo Township which is the growth point of the municipality; therefore, it has created opportunities for the income-generating livelihoods to be established. Households that sell fruits and vegetable on the main road from Burgersfort to Polokwane that passes through Mogodi Village have emphasized that the village is located at a potential spot for economic activities since there are many people using that road, and businesses operating close to the road are significant for their income-generating livelihoods. However, income-generating and food-producing livelihoods overlap each other. At times income-generating livelihoods could provide households with more income that afford them the opportunity to buy food for consumptions. Conversely, in some seasons households

manage to produce more surplus of food that they even sell to generate income and increase their purchasing power.

Figure 4.3.1 Types of Livelihoods practiced in Mogodi Village



Transportation, hawking, fruit and vegetable selling as well as cooked food selling dominate, especially near Lebowakgomo industrial side. The king of the village, who was interviewed as the key informant, demonstrated that previously the majority of people who were experiencing poverty and unemployed in the village were practising food-producing livelihoods; however, after the establishment of Lebowakgomo industrial side people have shifted their focus to income-generating livelihoods as it allows them to generate income and meet most of their basic needs. This was also attested by the literature by Kang and Imai (2012) that income gives poor people a wide range of opportunities and enables them to meet their basic needs. Despite the 51% of households practising income-generating livelihoods, there are 49% households in Mogodi Village who are practicing food-producing livelihoods to generate food and/or income.

With the availability of land for agriculture, 49% percent of the sampled households are engaged in food-producing livelihoods such as horticulture, livestock and crop

production. Moreover, respondents emphasized that food-producing livelihoods are reliable for households that do not have adequate resources to establish income-generating livelihoods. Furthermore, it was demonstrated that food-producing livelihoods are very easy to practise and use indigenous knowledge to practice them. In some seasons they manage to produce more food for their respective households and selling some to other businesses and people.

4.4 Dimensions of Poverty in Mogodi Village

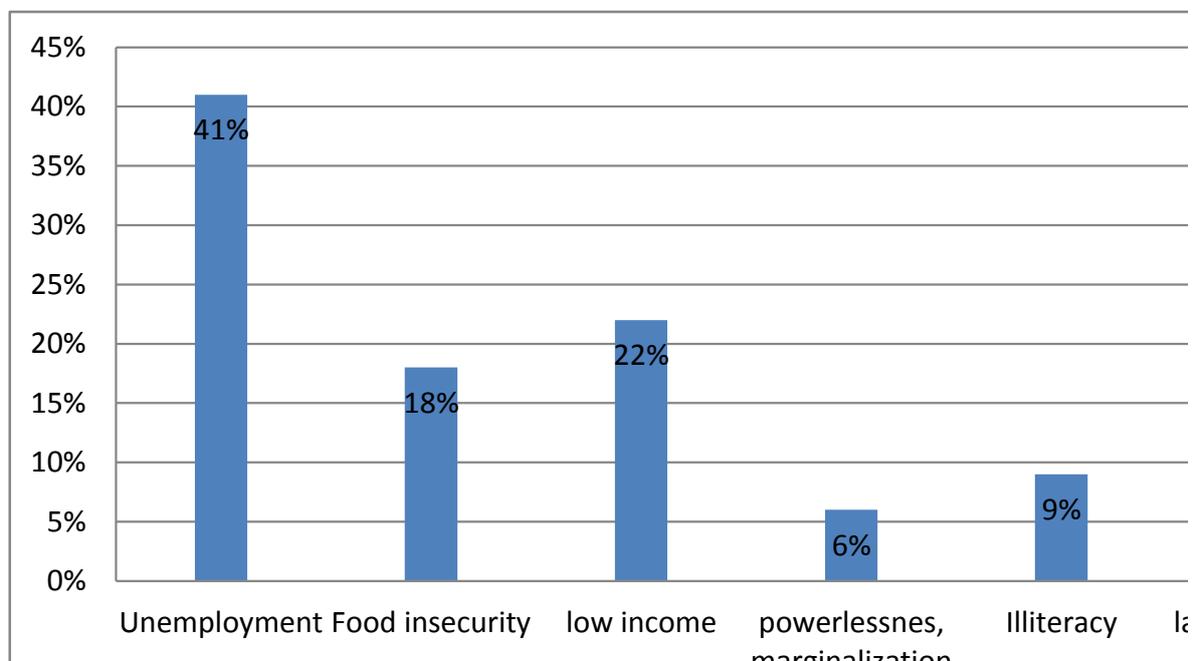
Poverty manifests its self from different dimensions that vary according to regions and countries. This is common to many rural areas where rural poverty studies have shown different causes of poverty and its conditions. In South Africa, poverty in rural areas is associated with powerlessness, marginalization, unemployment, gender inequality, vulnerability, food insecurity, low income, lack of services and infrastructure (Carter and May, 2001). These dimensions are thought to be trapping poor people in the poverty cycle. The following figure 4.3.1, demonstrates the findings regarding the dimensions of poverty that households in Mogodi Village are experiencing.

4.4.1 Dimensions of Poverty in Mogodi Village

Mogodi Village is typical to South African villages with a high poverty rate and located in a former homeland. Many rural areas in South Africa are situated in areas that lack basic services such as health, infrastructures like schools, most of them are

remote from areas of growth, located at close to mountains where it is very difficult to practice agriculture. Additionally, in these rural areas unemployment is high and people experience income and food poverty. Figures 4.4.1 below demonstrates the findings of poverty dimensions that households in the village are experiencing. The findings show that the majority of households that participated in the study are unemployed (41 %). The unemployment rate of 41% in the village can be attributed to illiteracy and cultural dynamics that do allows only men to go and search for work while women remain behind taking care of the children. According to the king most people who are unemployed are women and they do not have skill and knowledge therefore, they heavily rely on their husbands to send remittance. Moreover they are unable to take advantage of little opportunities that are available in the village created by the industrial zone of Lebowakgomo township.

Figure 4.4.1 Dimensions of Poverty in Mogodi Village



It was indicated by 6% that lack of services and infrastructure is one of the main causes of poverty in the village such as unemployment, low income and food insecurity. They emphasized that, they are struggling to access water and they have to walk to *Hlakaro* (river close the village) to fetch water. Additionally, it was indicated that healthcare centres are far and they have to travel to Lebowakgomo for services. The lack of services such as water and social infrastructures like clinics had contributed to the vulnerability of the households to diseases where by this could shorten their life-expectancy and increase the number of household headed by children and poverty eventually. Conversely, 4% of the respondents said that they are poor, since they are marginalized by the local municipality (Lepelle-Nkumpi) and their local counsel in their ward. They indicated that their concerns and decisions of developing the village are not implemented and that worsen their situation since there are no programs that are executed in the village to assist in alleviating poverty. It was further stated that inequality still persist and disadvantaging majority of women and the youth in the village since men are given more preferences when distributing resources such as land and when there are job opportunities. As a result, women tend to experience severe poverty than men and unable to move out of the poverty cycle.

4.5 Food-Producing Livelihoods

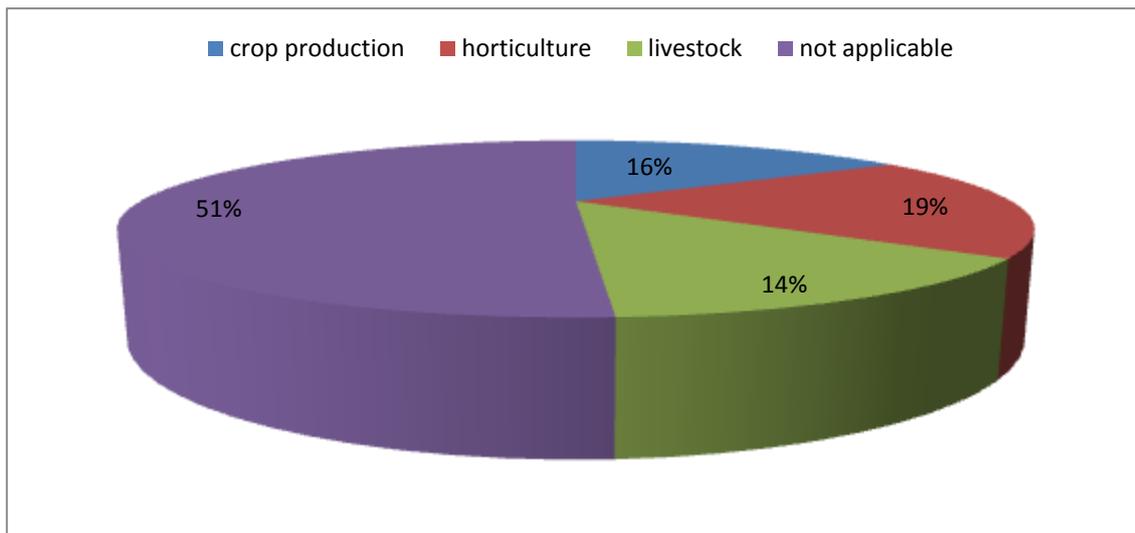
There are various categories of food-producing livelihoods, categorized according to the nature of the studies. For this study food-producing livelihoods are categorized as crop production, horticulture and livestock. Crop production includes wheat, maize and beans, while, horticulture includes vegetable and fruit growing such as onions,

spinach, mangoes; and livestock involve goat, cattle, chickens and sheep. These types of food-producing livelihoods are practised to purposefully produce food for household consumption or sell them in some seasons. Therefore, in this section Figure 4.5.1 show the types of food-producing livelihoods and figure 4.5.2 demonstrates the types of food produced by livelihoods findings are interpreted and discussed.

4.5.1 Types of Food-Producing Livelihoods

Figure 4.5.1 shows various types of food-producing livelihoods that households in Mogodi Village practise. The practise of food-producing livelihoods varies according to culture, environment, knowledge and geographical contexts. Indeed, in Mogodi Village it was found that crop production, horticulture and livestock farming are the types of food-producing livelihoods that households in the village practice. Figure 4.5.1 below demonstrates the findings regarding the number of households practising various types of food-producing livelihood from the sampled households. The findings show that 19% of households practise horticulture compared to other types. The respondents demonstrated that practicing horticulture in the area is common, since the majority of the households have huge stands where they grow vegetables and fruits. Moreover, they emphasized that horticulture is reliable and they manage to have more food and do not rely on market food.

Figure 4.5.1 Types of Food-Producing Livelihoods



The availability of land in the village has created opportunities for numerous households to practice crop production to produce food. The kinds of crops that are predominant in the village are maize, wheat and beans. The findings show that 18% of the 100 participants practise crop production. The participants demonstrated that crop production is cost effective and that they are motivated by the land that is available in the village. Moreover, after harvesting the households manage to take their crops to manufacturing companies in exchange of maize. Additionally, they sometimes process the crops by themselves and produce maize meal for consumption or commercial purposes if they are in need of money.

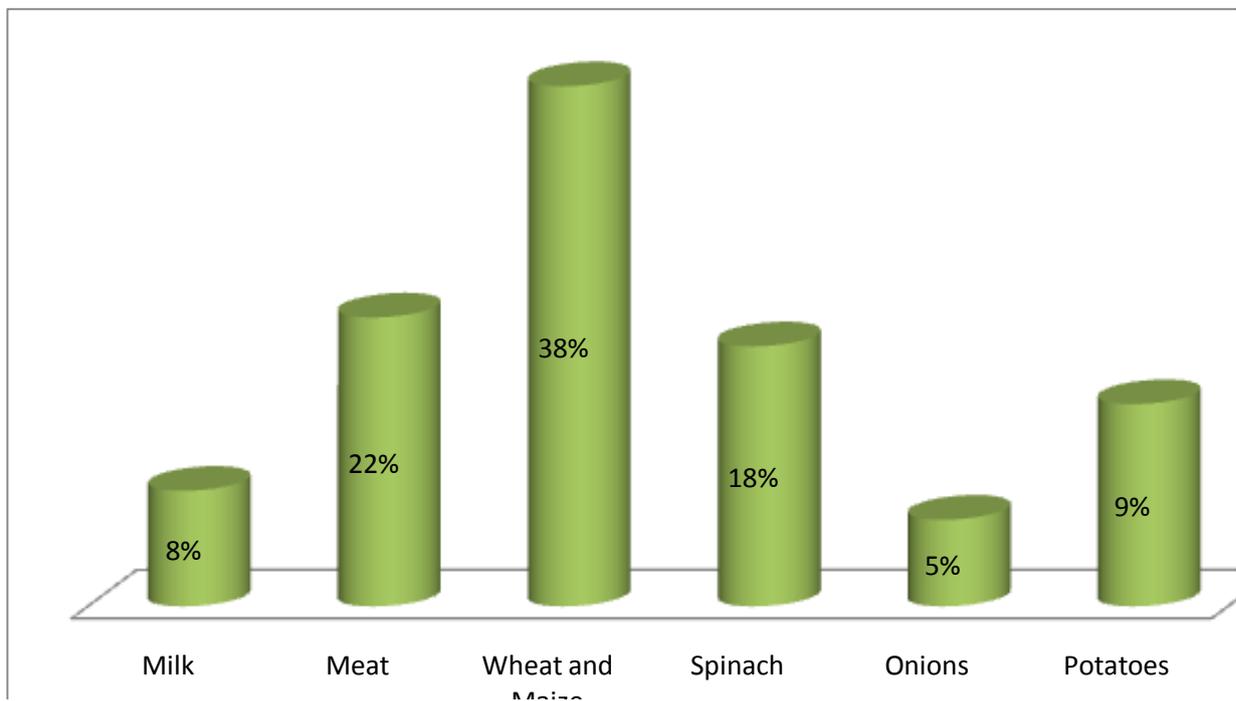
Conversely, livestock in the village is not predominant compared to previous years, according to the King. He emphasized that previously households were practicing livestock farming as a livelihood, as it was providing them with food such as milk and meat and also bringing income in the household. Furthermore, two respondents have shown that livestock farming in the area is not considered as a livelihood but

they just practise as something customary that they have inherited from their parents. However, there were respondents that demonstrated that livestock is more reliable and profitable if the animals do not contact any diseases. Additionally, it was shown that they have managed to take their children to tertiary institutions using the money they generate from selling the animals. In times of food scarcity they slaughter the animals for meat. Not applicable in this figure (51%) represent the number of people who do not practise food-producing livelihoods.

4.5.2 Types of Food Produced by the Livelihoods

Food-producing livelihoods produce various foods depending on the nature and the type of the livelihood. Figure 4.5.2 below demonstrates the main findings of various foods that livelihoods produce for households. The findings demonstrate that maize and wheat are predominant (38%) compared to other types of foods. This can be attributed to vast land that is available in the village and households use it for crop production. The findings further show that meat is the second highest (22%) type of food that is produced by food-producing livelihoods. Huge spaces in their stands have created opportunities for them to practise horticulture and they produce food such as spinach, onions and potatoes. The findings on figure 4.5.2 indicate that large numbers of households (18%) practise horticulture livelihoods. Additionally, 9 % of food produced by livelihoods is potatoes while onion account for only 5%. More often food such as spinach, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, cabbage and carrots are produced for household consumption. It was indicated that its only few households that produce such food and sell them to the markets.

Figure 4.5.2 Types of Food Produced by Livelihoods



This clearly indicates that the majority of households that practise livestock farming as livelihoods do slaughter their animals when they experience insufficient food. The findings suggest that some of households that keep livestock as a livelihood prefer producing meat rather than milk with only 4% compared to the 10% of meat. Spinach and potatoes are mostly grown in the yard behind the house(s), and they are associated with diminutive risks compared to other livelihoods such as livestock. Additionally, the propitious soil conditions allow households in the village to venture into food-producing livelihoods, particularly those who do not have relevant skills and knowledge for income-generating livelihoods.

4.6 Income-Generating Livelihoods

Various livelihoods studies classify and consider income-generating livelihoods that poor rural people practice as informal as the majority of them are not registered as businesses and generate a minimum income (Niehof, 2004; Kepe, 2008). However, to the majority of poor people who are engaged in livelihoods activities, they consider them as activities of generating income to alleviate poverty at household level. This section focuses on the analyses and interpretations of the findings on figure 4.6.1 types of income-generating livelihoods and figures 4.6.2 the level of income generated by livelihoods per month.

4.6.1 Types of Income-Generating Livelihoods

There are different typologies of income-generating livelihoods across the globe influenced by various contexts such as access to markets, economic and geographical location. Table 4.6.1 below demonstrates the findings of various types of livelihoods that households in Mogodi Village are practicing to generate income. 17% of households appear to be involved in construction of houses within the village and other surrounding areas. One respondent emphasized that many people in the village are moving from their traditional houses and building modern houses, and this situation has created opportunities for unemployed people in the village to be constructors thereby generating more income. Moreover, it was demonstrated that construction has the potential to generate more income compared to other livelihoods that people in the area practice. Conversely, street hawking and vending seems to be practiced by 11% of households that participated in the study.

Households that practice street hawking and vending in the village are motivated by the industrial side of Lebowakgomo Township.

Table 4.6.1 Types of Income-Generating Livelihoods

livelihood	Percentage
Transportation	4.0%
Construction	17.0%
Plumbing	2.0%
Spaza shops	6%
Motor mechanic	3.0%
Electronic/electrical repair	2.0%
Street hawking and vending	11%
Welding	1%
Brick manufacturing	3%
Shoe repair	6%
Not applicable	45%

According to the king in Mogodi Village, the industrial side of Lebowakgomo Township has created vast opportunities of street hawking and vending where poor people in the area sell various products and foods for people who work in the industries and those who use the main road to Polokwane, Lebowakgomo and Burgersfort. Moreover, it was emphasized that Lebowakgomo industrial side is very pivotal as previously households were not using transportation as a livelihood. However, the establishment and expansion of the industrial side afforded

households to venture into transport as a livelihood. The findings clearly show that numerous households (4%) transport people and goods from the industrial side to their various respective villages. On the other hand, spaza shops and shoe repair have an average number of households that practice them to generate with spaza shops constituting 6% and shoe repair 6%. One respondent emphasized that spaza shops are very significant in generating income; however, they are vulnerable to theft. Additionally, it was demonstrated that the establishment and expansion of Lebowakgomo industrial side near the village has created more opportunities for other livelihoods to emerge. However, they have posed a challenge to Spaza shops since they have to compete for customers. As such, other households that are considering spaza shops as livelihoods are unable to compete and end up not generating sufficient income that can meet the households' basic needs. According to Mishra (2007) the contributions of livelihoods to the alleviation of income depends on the micro and macroeconomic contexts that they operate in. This clearly indicates that the industrial side is contributing both negatively and positively to the practice of livelihoods in the village.

Brick manufacturing, welding, motor mechanic, electronic/electrical repair and plumbing are some of the livelihoods that they practice are influenced by the growth and developments in the village. The expansion of the village has opened opportunities for households to manufacture bricks since most people are building houses and no longer rely on traditional houses. Brick manufacturing is practiced by 3% from the households that were sampled and it was demonstrated that brick manufacturing has benefited more women than men in the village since it is

regarded as employment to most illiterate people in the village. Welding, motor mechanic and electronic/electrical repair are practiced by few households in the village.

These types of income-generating livelihoods requires skills, knowledge and equipment; thus, since the village has a number of illiterate and old people. Welding has 1%; motor mechanic is practised by 3% and electronic/electrical repair is only 2%. It was demonstrated that they have inherited them from their parents and some emphasized that they manage to learn and have more experience after working in companies. Moreover, the participants showed that they have established these types of livelihoods since there is a little number of people in the village who are involved in these types of livelihoods and they are able to generate more income. Households that are not practicing income-generating livelihoods constitute 45% of the sampled households and they are categorized as not applicable on the table.

4.6.2 Levels of Income Generated by Livelihoods per Month

Typologies of income-generating livelihoods practised by poor people in rural areas generate different levels of income which can be linked to various economic and geographical contexts that they are operating in. Ellis (2000) argues that the level of income livelihoods generates will forever vary since there are numerous dynamics and contexts that affect their performance. Figure 4.6.2 below indicates different levels of income from R1000 and above to determine the income that livelihoods in Mogodi Village manages to generate for households. Moreover, the income level

allows linkages between poverty and income to make judgements on the contributions of income generated by livelihoods on households' low income.

Findings illustrated by figure 4.6.2 shows that 34% of livelihoods in Mogodi Village managed to generate income between R2100 and R3000 per month for households. Livelihoods that are able to generate these levels of income are welding, brick manufacturing, plumbing and electronic/electrical repair. It was emphasized that the income is not always enough, at times they manage to generate little income that is not reliable since they depend on other people who support their livelihoods. There are households (24%) that generate income from R1000 but not more than R2000 through livelihoods per month, particularly those who practice street hawking and vending as well as shoe repairing. The participants demonstrated that the income generated through these livelihoods is very low and they are unable to meet their basic needs. Additionally, they argued that they would never alleviate income poverty until they practise diversity of livelihoods that could increase their income and widen their choices.

Figure 4.6.2 Levels of Income Generated by Livelihoods per Month

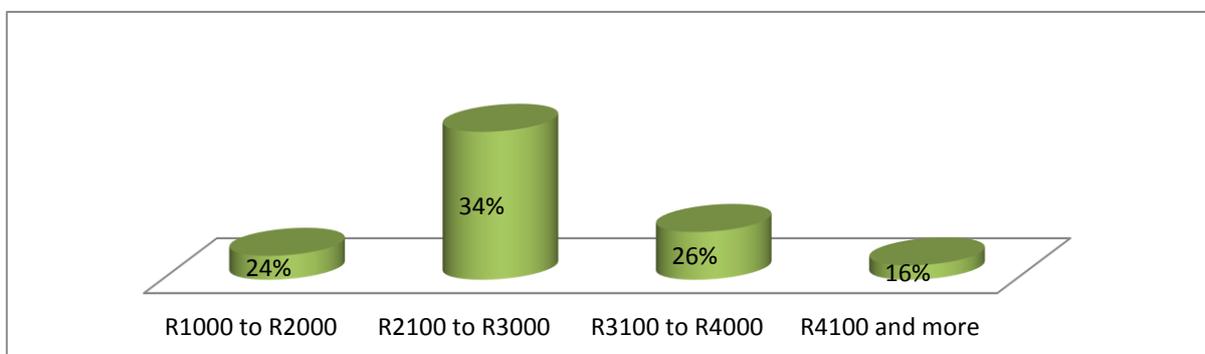


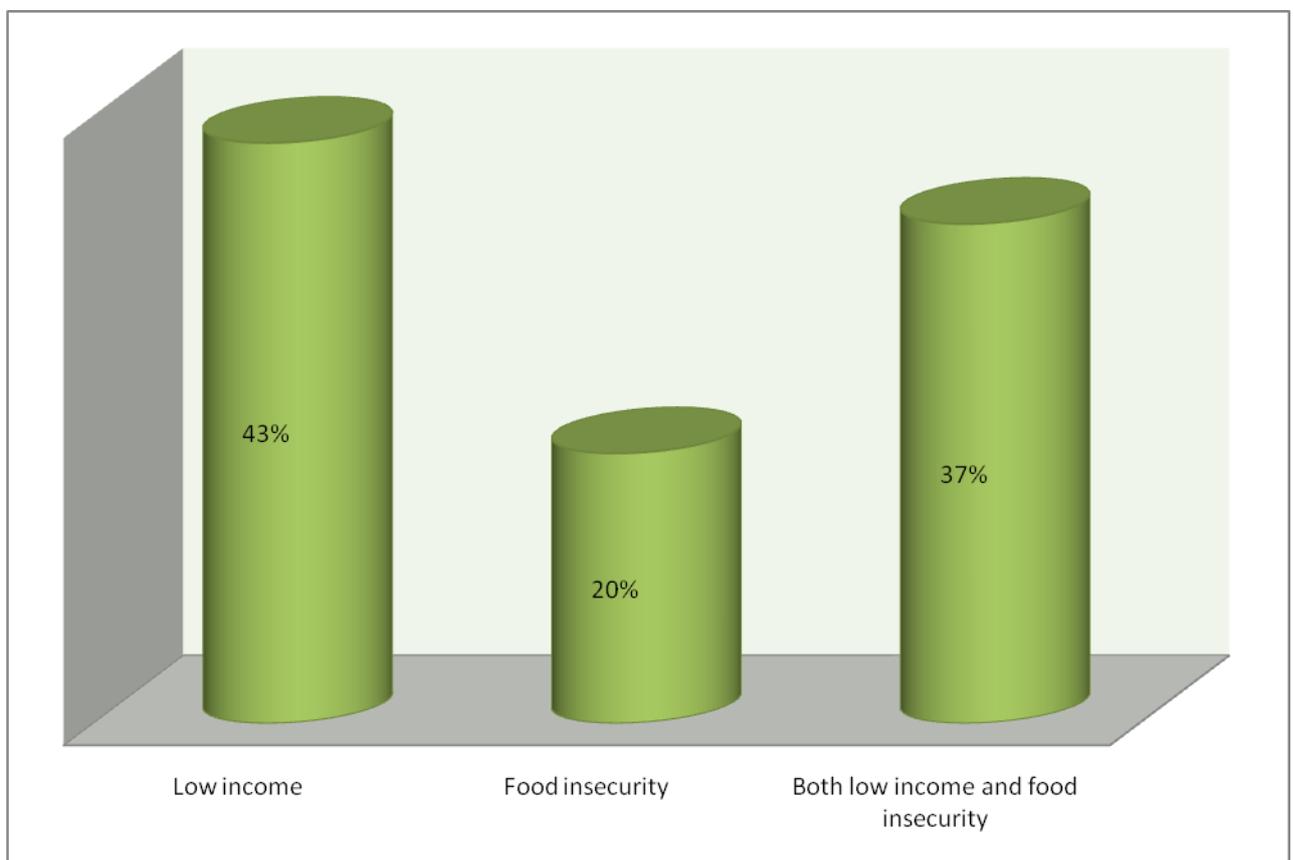
Figure 4.6.2 further demonstrates that 26% of households in the village are able to generate more than R3000 through livelihoods, however, they do not manage to generate more than R4000 per month. The livelihood that has the potential to generate these levels of income is transportation since the village is near the industrial side of Lebowakgomo. Transportation of goods and people in the village is a familiar livelihood in the village which is considered as reliable and advantageous to households that have tractors and trucks. On the other hand, only 16% of households are able to generate more than R4000 per month which is mainly construction. It was demonstrated by participants that they are able to generate more income, since the village has a little number of people who have skill and knowledge on construction. Therefore, it has become advantageous to them and they managed to increase household income. However, they further emphasized that they still have a challenge of poverty, since they have large families and children who are at the higher institutions of learning which at times the income is seem to be little and not satisfying the households' needs. The findings in this figure demonstrate that not every livelihood increase household income and eventually alleviating income poverty. Street hawking and vending seem to be survivalists since they generate little income compared to other types of livelihoods.

4.7 Reasons for Practicing Livelihoods

Households globally practise rural livelihoods motivated by various reasons and factors. Livelihoods and poverty studies have demonstrated that the majority of poor households in developing countries practice livelihoods to combat poverty through production of food and income generation. Figure 4.7.1 below illustrates the statistics

relating the reasons which influenced the practise of livelihoods in Mogodi Village. The study used low income and food insecurity to assess the number of households that practise livelihoods for these reasons from the 100 sampled households to test the thesis presented by researchers that households practise livelihoods to alleviate poverty through income and food production. The findings on figure 4.7 show that 43% of households in the village practise livelihoods to generate more income.

Figure 4.7 Reasons for Practicing Livelihoods



These findings attest the conclusions made by various researches of poverty and livelihoods arguing that the majority of poor people consider income as instrumental in alleviating poverty that they experience. The respondents emphasized that income is very crucial since they are able to afford many basic needs and other necessities. Moreover, it was shown that since the majority of them are illiterate and unemployed,

they are vulnerable to poverty; thus, income is playing a major role as they are able to improve their standard of living from the income generated by livelihoods. Conversely, figure 4.6.1 further indicates that there are 37% of households that practise livelihoods influenced by both low income and food insecurity. This proves that income and food poverty in the village remain as a challenge for the majority and they venture into various livelihoods activities to find a route out of poverty. It was demonstrated that by the village king, that food and income in the village have been a challenge from the past, but he emphasized that through his observation poverty in the village is been alleviated especial food poverty compared to previous years.

The findings show that there are only 20% households that still practise livelihoods to combat food insecurity as compared to the 43% that generates income. The unemployment rate in this village could be linked to the 9% of illiterate people as illustrated by figure 4.4.1 from the preceding section. Since the majority of men are working in cities or other provinces, women and the youth are becoming household heads and in the case of young people quitting school to look for work to care for the family. It was stated that youthful people dropped out of school after falling pregnant and they are forced by their parents to search for jobs. As a result, the high unemployment rate and illiteracy in Mogodi Village can be linked to low income that 22% of the households are experiencing. The respondents were asked verbally, “Why do you practise income-generating livelihoods more than food-producing livelihoods to combat food insecurity?” They emphasized that the rainfall patterns in the area are not favourable and also theft of agricultural products during harvesting

seasons is high, which is the reason why they opt for income generating livelihoods since income enables them to buy nutritious food and meet more needs. This proves the argument in the literature by Pauw (2007) that the majority of households are considering non-farming livelihoods as a strategy to alleviate poverty, since farming is associated with risks as most poor households do not have the necessary skills and knowledge to cope under unfavourable conditions.

4.8 The Contributions of Livelihoods towards Poverty alleviation through Income and Food

The literature has demonstrated that rural livelihoods contribute to household poverty alleviation through food production and income generation (Ellis, 2001, Mishra, 2007). Poor households mainly practise livelihoods activities to generate income and produce food in attempts to alleviate the poverty that they experience. Therefore, the study categorized rural livelihoods as food-producing and income-generating to uncover their performance in providing income and food to poor households. This assists the study to establish whether rural livelihoods are contributing to the alleviation of poverty as expected by poor people who practise them. This section analyses data presented by two figures below relating the contributions of rural livelihoods towards poverty alleviation of households in Mogodi Village. The essence is to establish the level of performance by these rural livelihoods that they practise focusing on income-generating and food-producing and to test the thesis presented by literature that livelihoods contributes significantly to household poverty alleviation.

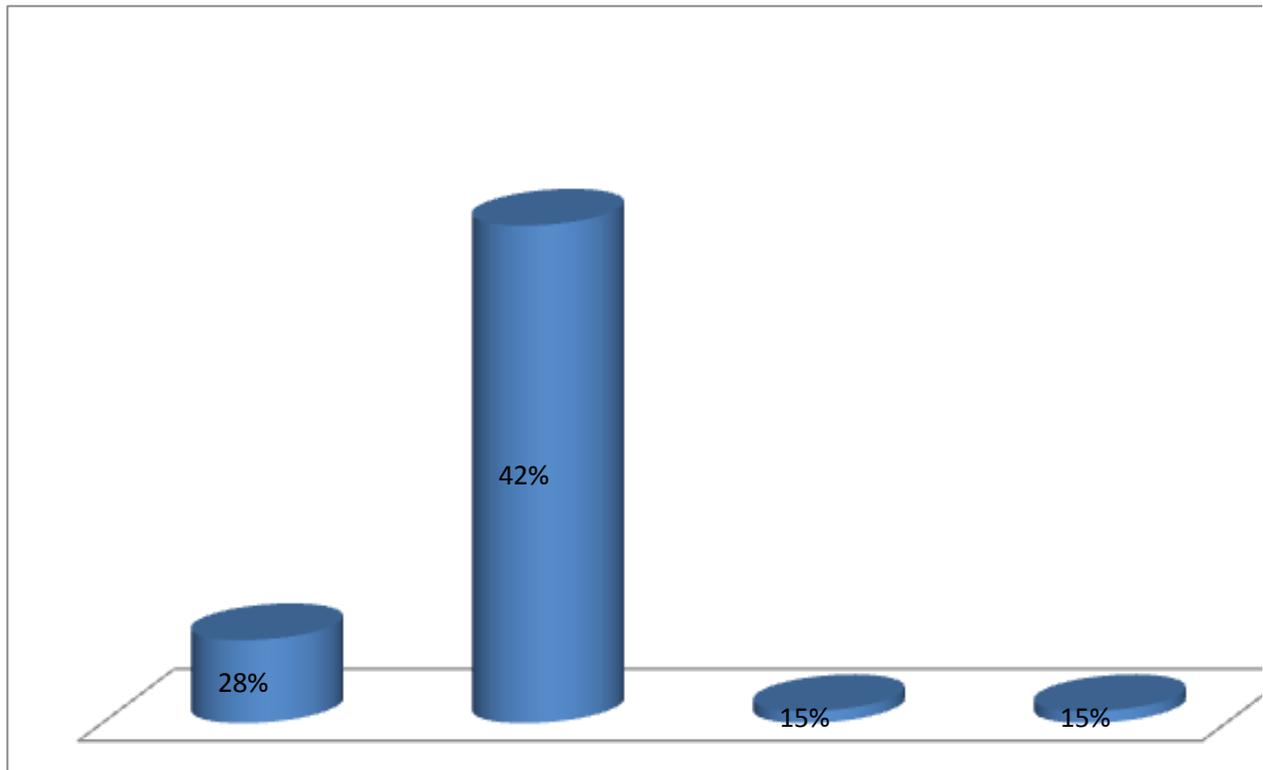
4.8.1 Contributions of Food-Producing Livelihoods towards Poverty alleviation

Livelihoods studies have demonstrated that their contributions towards the alleviation of households' poverty differ depending on environmental, economic and geographical contexts that they are operating in (Mishra, 2007; Kepe, 2008; Ellis, 2000). Therefore, it is argued that the performance of rural livelihoods should be assessed considering the conditions they are operating in (Lanjouw, 2001; Estudillo and Otsuka, 2010). Additionally, the performance of food-producing livelihoods to household poverty alleviation depends on the kind of the food-producing livelihood that households practise, equipments, skill and knowledge that they have (Niehof, 2004). Figure 4.8.1 demonstrates the main findings of livelihoods' performance to poverty in Mogodi using scales that are: very significant, significant neither nor and insignificant to assess the level of contributions that they make to poverty. The findings clearly show that a large number (42%) of households who participated in this study agrees that food-producing livelihoods contribute significantly to poverty alleviation.

The respondents emphasized that the production of food through livelihoods affords them the opportunity to combat food insecurity within the households and they produce more food to sell for income. The respondents further demonstrated that livelihoods produce different types of food and they contribute differently to poverty. It was emphasized that horticulture livelihoods do not always produce enough food that can be stored for times of hunger and drought. The village is on the hill close to the mountain and the soil is very stony which affects horticulture. However, crop

production is considered as a very significant food-producing livelihood in the village, since there is land and conducive soil for growing crops.

Figure 4.8.1 the Contributions of Food-Producing Livelihoods towards Poverty Alleviation



The findings demonstrate that 28% of participants have agreed that the contribution of food-producing livelihoods is very significant. Respondents emphasized that the practise of food-producing livelihoods has drastically change their living conditions and they no longer experiencing hunger and food insecurity. However, there are households (15%) who seem unsure about the contributions that food-producing livelihoods have made, since they experience the similar conditions even after engaging themselves into livelihoods activities. Additionally, there are respondents (15%) who demonstrated that food-producing livelihoods are insignificant to poverty alleviation. They argued food-producing livelihoods are seasonal, associated with

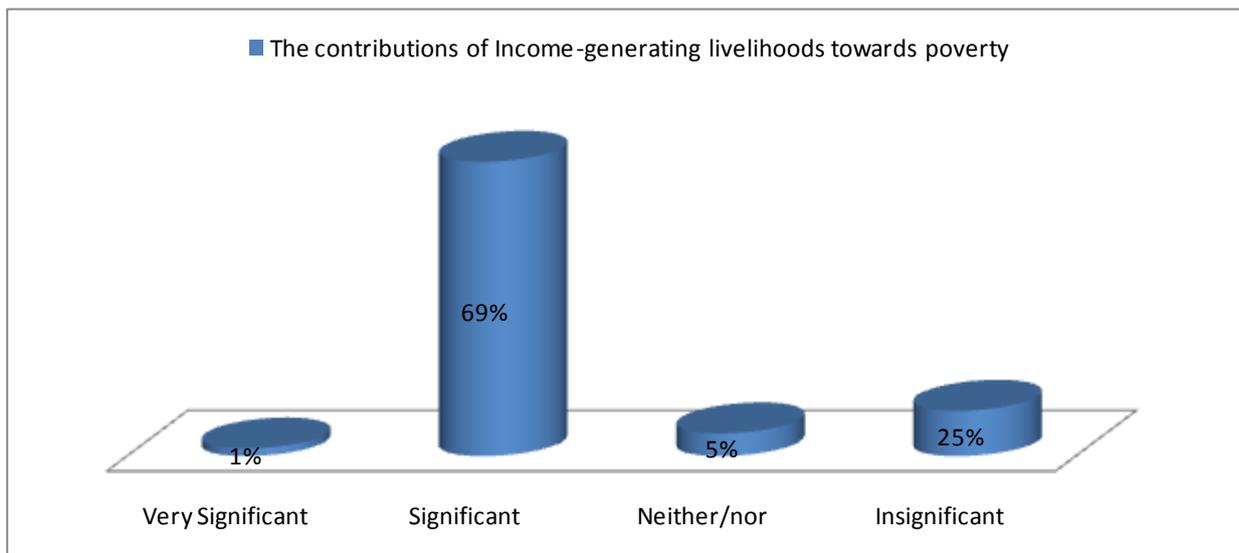
theft and insects while they do not have chemicals and skills to operate them in such a way that they can produce more nutritious food. It was further indicated that the rainfall patterns in the village are not propitious compared to previous years. Moreover, it was argued that they have accepted that they would never root out poverty since the local government is not assisting their livelihoods to be more effective. However, despite various challenges indicated by several households, there are copious households that still consider food-producing livelihoods as crucial for alleviating poverty. Evidently, with the statistics presented by figure 4.8.1 it is clear that food-producing livelihoods are positively contributing to majority of households in the village.

4.8.2 Contributions of Income-Generating Livelihoods towards Poverty alleviation

Research has demonstrated that currently poor people have shifted their thinking that agriculture is a reliable path out of poverty. However, changing climatic conditions and risks associated with agriculture, poor people opted to practise income-generating livelihoods. Income-generating livelihoods have gained popularity in many rural areas of developing countries across the globe. Livelihoods have the potential to generate various levels of incomes influenced by different economic and geographical contexts that they operate in. Figure 4.8.2 below demonstrates various levels of contributions made by income-generating towards poverty alleviation. The findings show that the majority (69%) of respondents consider the contributions of income-generating livelihoods significant towards the alleviation of household poverty. The respondents indicated that income-generating livelihoods have the potential to generate income that enables them to satisfy basic needs. Moreover, it

was emphasized that since they have engaged themselves into this type of livelihoods their conditions of living and abject poverty are reduced. The income was considered very crucial as it gives them the opportunity to buy enough food and take their children to tertiary schools. However, there are respondents (5%) who demonstrated that they are not sure if livelihoods have contributed to the alleviation of poverty that they experience. They emphasized that they have years practising income-generating livelihoods yet they still experience some difficulties regarding income at times where the livelihood(s) generate less income.

Figure 4.8.2 The Contributions of Income-Generating Livelihoods towards Poverty



However, 25 % of households argued that the contribution of income-generating livelihoods is insignificant. They emphasized that income-generating livelihoods such as shoe repairing and plumbing generate low income that does not provide them with the opportunity to meet basic needs. Thus, such livelihoods just generate income that allows them to survive but not to alleviate poverty. Conversely, only 1% of the respondents hailed income-generating livelihoods as pivotal and playing a

very important role towards household poverty alleviation. It was indicated that the practise of income-generating livelihoods has drastically changed their living conditions and they are able to afford food, electricity and other necessities such as extending houses and furniture. It is lucid that the engagement of poor people has reduced the level of income poverty in the area and income has widened their options in life.

4.9 Conclusion

The practise of rural livelihoods by poor people has become popular and regarded as a possible route out of household poverty. However, livelihoods researches have demonstrated that the contributions of rural livelihoods to poverty alleviations varies from geographical location, economic contexts, environmental context as well as the nature of poverty that households experience. Various poverty studies conducted in developing countries indicated that a large number of poor households practise livelihoods activities to generate income and food in attempts to alleviate poverty. However, it was acknowledged that the practise of livelihoods by poor people does not guarantee poverty alleviation. Therefore, there are households which practise livelihoods yet experience poverty. This chapter has confirmed that rural livelihoods are very significant to poor people; however, there are other households that are unable to reduce poverty. The severe and precarious conditions that are experienced by some of the households in Mogodi Village obstruct them to combat poverty through income and food.

Chapter 5: Summary of the findings, Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Introduction

The contributions that rural livelihoods have to poverty seem to be very significant to large number of poor people who are unemployed and experiencing food and income poverty. Various, studies including this one, have demonstrated the positive relationship that rural livelihoods and poverty at the household level have. This chapter is divided into three sections: The first section summarizes the findings of the study driven by its aim, objectives and research questions. The chapter illustrates major discoveries that the study has uncovered in Mogodi Village regarding livelihoods and poverty alleviation. The second section makes the general conclusions of the study informed by the findings from the study area and arguments presented in the literature review. The last section makes recommendations about measures that can be undertaken to improve the performance of rural livelihoods in order to alleviate household poverty

5.2 Summary of the findings

The study investigated the contributions of rural livelihoods towards household poverty alleviation by using food and income to measure their performance. Questionnaires were used to collect data from the households of Mogodi Village regarding their practise of livelihoods and their contributions to poverty that is

experienced. This section summarized the major findings of livelihoods that are practised in Mogodi Village for poverty alleviation

- It was discovered that households in Mogodi Village practise income-generating livelihoods compared to food-producing ones. Lebowakgomo Township has afforded the households in the village the opportunity to venture into income-generating livelihoods. Additionally, the village is located at the main road between Burgersfort and Polokwane which has created more advantage since the road users stop by the industrial zone. Moreover, the shopping complex of Zion Christian Church (ZCC) known as Podingwane where members of the church converge has also played an influential role for the income-generating livelihoods. It was further discovered that income-generating livelihoods are contributing positively to number of households in the village as they are able to satisfy some of their basic necessities. Conversely, food-producing livelihoods are also very significant in the village as there is vast land available, and the environmental context favours agricultural activities such as crop production.
- The study discovered that the poverty dimensions in the village are common to those of other rural areas in South Africa. The findings show that food insecurity, lack of basic services and infrastructure, unemployment, low income and illiteracy were found to be the main causes of poverty in the village. Furthermore, lack of development in terms of infrastructures such as

roads has limited the households to have good business communication channel and access to markets. Low income, unemployment, illiteracy and food insecurity are severely affecting the households in the village compared to other dimensions of poverty.

- Crop production, horticulture and livestock keeping are three dominating food-producing livelihoods in the village. The study discovered that these types of food-producing livelihoods provide households with a variety of food for consumption and/or commercial purposes. Crop production and horticulture were found to be practised by a number of households in the village since they believe that they are not associated with many risks compared to livestock. It was found that food-producing livelihoods provide households with foods such as milk, meat, wheat and maize, spinach, onions and potatoes. However, wheat and maize are predominant which clearly indicates that the majority of people who practise food-producing livelihoods are growing crops and are also influenced by the availability of land in the village.

- Income-generating livelihoods vary according to geographical location and are determined by the economic opportunities that are created in a specific village or area. This is common in Mogodi Village where households are practising different types of livelihoods. The majority of livelihoods in the village are established and influenced by the industrial side of Lebowakgomo Township and the shopping complex of ZCC (Podingwane). Livelihoods which households in Mogodi are currently practising are transportation, construction,

plumbing, spaza shop, motor mechanic, electronic/electrical repair, street hawking and vending, welding, brick manufacturing and shoe repair. However, brick manufacturing, motor mechanic, construction, spaza shop, welding and transportation are able to generate more income compared to other livelihoods. These types of livelihoods have demonstrated their ability to alleviate poverty by generating more income as well as providing poor households with a variety of choices.

- Livelihood studies globally have demonstrated that the push factors for households to practise livelihoods are low income and/or food insecurity. These reasons are real also in Mogodi Village as the majority of the households have demonstrated that food insecurity and low income compelled them to engage in various livelihood activities to increase income and secure food. The village is characterized by income and food poverty, unemployment and illiteracy which have resulted in people having low household income and being food insecure.

- Poverty studies in the literature have demonstrated that rural livelihoods are currently being adopted worldwide as a poverty alleviation strategy by poor households. This idea is attested by households in Mogodi Village who are practising rural livelihoods to alleviate poverty. The study has discovered that food-producing and income generating livelihoods are playing a very significant role to the majority of households in the village through the provision of food and income. Many people have managed to alleviate poverty

by increasing their income and producing more food for consumption and for commercial purposes. It was further discovered that households in Mogodi have considered livelihoods as a reliable strategy to alleviate poverty.

5.3 Conclusions

Poverty and income inequality persist globally and in South Africa, despite efforts to eliminate them by various organizations. Globally, the war against poverty has been persisting for decades with only little achievements. Several interventions are made by government from developing countries to combat various dimensions of poverty that are thought to be creating unacceptable living conditions for people. Therefore, the failure of government and international organizations' interventions compelled the majority of poor households globally to venture into various strategies that have the potential to generate income and/or food.

Food-producing and income-generating livelihoods are positively accepted and gained ground as poverty alleviation strategies by rural households. Indeed, literature has demonstrated the effectiveness of livelihoods as poverty alleviation strategies as various studies globally have shown their reliability and efficiency in diminishing powerlessness and reducing poverty by providing poor people with income and food. This study has also confirmed with its findings that livelihoods indeed are very significant to the majority of households in rural areas. Additionally, households that are practising livelihoods are able to secure food and increase income and be able to meet other necessities.

The study further demonstrated that the performance of livelihoods towards poverty alleviation is determined by its output, type of the livelihood households are practising and the nature of poverty they are experiencing. Moreover, economic, environmental and geographical contexts are also very influential in the performance of livelihoods. Therefore, rural livelihoods contribute to household poverty differently; there are households that are practising livelihoods yet struggle to alleviate poverty. Households that practise single livelihoods were found struggling to move out of poverty since at times their livelihood is unreliable and unable to provide adequate food and/or income. The study additionally found that households choose to practise certain livelihoods based on their outputs and also risks that are associated with it. In Mogodi Village the majority of households are engaged in income-generating livelihoods than food-producing livelihoods. Lebowakgomo industrial zone and ZCC shopping complex (Podingwane) have created a huge opportunity for income-generating livelihoods to be established. Conversely, food-producing livelihoods are associated with more risks.

The land which is stony has discouraged the majority of households to engage in agriculture and they lack support from government. However, social welfare grants have also become very significant to some households which are unable to generate income for themselves. There are five major Social welfare grants, which are, state old age pension, disability grant, child support grant, foster child grant and care dependency grant (Department of Social Development, 2009). These social welfare grants are provided by South African Social Security Agency in collaboration with the Department of Social Development to assist children, orphans, pensioners and

disabled people. However, some households engage themselves in food producing livelihoods for subsistence and/or for commercial purposes.

5.4 Recommendations

- Rural development strategies should aim to create a conducive economic, environment and opportunities for the establishment and enhancement of existing livelihoods to be able to have access to markets and generate more income and produce sufficient food. Access to markets and favourable conditions in the village will allow households to expand their income-generating livelihoods and also be able to produce more food for subsistence and for commercial purposes.

- Adequate, affordable and reliable infrastructure services should be an integral part of a rural development and poverty reduction strategy. Investments in feeder roads telecommunication services, rural electrification and clean water supply and sanitation will have positive impacts on the performance of both food-producing and income-generating livelihoods. Households, which live nearer to the roads, are generally better off economically and socially with higher incomes and better access to social services, compared with those who live further inland.

- Poor performance of food-producing livelihoods is largely a result of poor access to productive resources and improved inputs. There must be an

increasing access to assets such as land, water and human capital, and by encouraging households to intensify production through the use of improved inputs. This includes the use of fertilizer and advance irrigation systems.

- Government should actively promote skill development to households with regard to the establishment and use of resources to improve the performance of the livelihood. Households with skills and knowledge will also contribute to the sustainability of the livelihoods where they are able to cope and survive under severe economic and environmental conditions.
- Practising a single livelihood could be riskier and unable to perform to the expected level. Therefore, households should diversify livelihoods in order to maximize their contribution to poverty alleviation. Livelihood diversification enables households to practise a variety of livelihoods and be able to generate more income and produce sufficient food. Therefore, households will have more chances of alleviating their poverty, contributing to the social and economic development not only to their locality, but to the nation as a whole.

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Appendix A

Household Survey Questionnaire for Mogodi Village

This Questionnaire is designed to survey the practice of Livelihoods in attempts to alleviate Household Poverty in Rural Areas, for the Master of Administration in Development, Research project Entitled “The Contributions of Rural Livelihoods towards Household Poverty Alleviation in Mogodi Village, Limpopo Province”.

The Research Project is registered with the Department of Development Planning and Management, University of Limpopo.

Please assist in filling the questionnaire, it is designed to collect opinions, factual data and views that will be used solely for academic purposes. I guarantee the respondent anonymity.

Section A: Demographic Data of the Household

1. How many people live in this household?

1-5 6-10 11-15 16 and above

2. Is the house big enough to accommodate all the household members?

yes no

3. Is the household headed by a single parent?

yes no

4. What is the gender of the household head?

female male

5. What is the educational level of the household head?

never went to school primary secondary tertiary

6. What is the employment status of the household head?

employed self employed unemployed

7. How many people in the household are employed?

none 1-2 3-5 6-8 9 and above

8. How many people within the household depend on the head of the household?

none 1-2 3-5 6-8 9 and above

9. What is the monthly income of the household per month?

R0-R1000 R1100-R2000 R2100-R3000 R3100-R4000 R4100-R5000

R5100 and above

10. How many household members receive social grants?

none 1-2 3-5 6-8 9 and above

11. Does the household have access to basic services and infrastructures such as clinics, education, water, health and electricity?

yes no

Section B: Types and Characteristics of Rural Livelihoods

1. What is the type of livelihood(s) practised in the household?

.....
.....

2. Describe the livelihood(s) identified in question one?

.....
.....
.....
.....

3. Why is the household practising this/these particular livelihood(s)

.....

4. What are the challenges faced in practising this/these type(s) of livelihood(s)?

.....

5. Why is the household not practising other livelihoods?

.....

.....

Section C: Dimensions of Rural Household

1. Which dimension(s) of poverty does the household experience?

income poverty food insecurity vulnerability illiteracy lack of services and infrastructure gender inequality others

2. Explain the dimension(s) identified above?

.....

3. How do the dimension(s) of poverty experienced relate to food and income poverty?

Section D: food-producing Livelihoods for Household Poverty Alleviation

1. What type(s) of livelihood(s) are/is practised for the purpose of producing food?

.....
2. What type of food does the household produce through its livelihood(s)?

.....
3. How adequate is the food produced through household livelihood(s)?

very adequate adequate neither/nor inadequate very inadequate

4. How reliable is the food produced by the livelihood?

very reliable reliable neither/nor unreliable very unreliable

5. How productive are/is the household(s) food-producing livelihoods, Explain why?

.....
6. What are the challenges faced in practising food-producing livelihoods?
.....
.....

Section E: Income-generating Livelihoods for Household Poverty Alleviation

1. What type(s) of livelihood(s) are/is practised for the purpose of generating income?
.....

2. What is the total grant income that the livelihood(s) can generate per month?

R0-R1000 R1100-R2000 R2100-R3000 R3100-R4000 R4100-R5000

R5100 and above

3. How is the livelihood practised to generate income?

.....

4. How adequate is the income generated through household livelihood(s)

very adequate adequate neither/nor inadequate very inadequate

5. How reliable is the income generated by the livelihood?

very reliable reliable neither/nor unreliable very unreliable

How does the household use the income generated through livelihood(s)?

.....

.....

6. What are the challenges faced in practicing income-generating livelihoods?

.....

.....

Section F: Livelihoods' contributions to Household Poverty Alleviation

1. What are the reasons for the household to practise livelihoods?

low income food insecurity both low income and food insecurity others and specify

2. How do the foods produced contribute towards alleviating food insecurity?

.....
.....

3. How does the income generated contribute towards increasing household income?

.....
.....

4. How would you describe the contributions of food-producing livelihoods towards poverty alleviation?

very significant significant neither/nor insignificant very insignificant

5. How would you describe the contributions of income-generating livelihoods towards poverty alleviation?

very significant significant neither/nor insignificant very insignificant

Section F: Recommendations

1. What could be done and by whom, to improve the contributions of households' livelihood towards income?

.....
.....
.....

2. What could be done and by whom, to improve the contributions of households' livelihood towards food?

.....
.....

End of Questionnaire