

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED EXPANDED PUBLIC
WORKS PROGRAMMES IN REDUCING POVERTY: A CASE OF LEPELLE-
NKUMPI MUNICIPALITY IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

by

MABOTJA SELLO LOGAN

MINI-DISSERTATION

Submitted in partial of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF DEVELOPMENT

in

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

in the

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND LAW

(TURFLOOP GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP)

at the

UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO

SUPERVISOR: Dr. Njoko M.B

2024

DECLARATION

I declare that **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMMES IN REDUCING POVERTY: CASE OF LEPELLE-NKUMPI MUNICIPALITY IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE** is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any other institution.

Mr. MABOTJA S.L

Date:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to thank the following persons for their respective contributions to this dissertation:

All thanks to the Living God "Wonderful Counsellor" for guiding me through my academic journey and for strengthening me to overcome adversity and show resilience. You truly are my refuge and fortress.

A special acknowledgement is extended to the following people for their tremendous encouragement and support, as well as their content, technical knowledge, and document contributions to the development of this research study:

- Mr. B. Njoko, my research supervisor, deserves special recognition for his endurance, insightful contributions, and comments, as well as for making my academic journey less stressful.
- I am grateful to the Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership (TGSL) for providing me with the opportunity to pursue a degree that provided a challenge that tested my knowledge and abilities.
- The staff of the UL Library and the School of Law and Management for consistently sending out emails with corrections and reminders, making the academic journey possible.
- I would like to acknowledge the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, as well as the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality, for making this study possible. A special thank you to all of the employees and recipients.
- My partner Dineo Nkumbuta, I appreciate your support and how it has helped me discover who I am and given me more motivation to work hard.
- Thank you, Keamogetswe and Pholoshu my "nunus", for bringing me happiness and a sense of purpose in life.

ABSTRACT

Infrastructure related Expanded Public Work Programmes (EPWPs) are widely implemented by the South African government as one of a labour intensity initiative providing temporary employment and income transfer to unemployed people in an effort to reduce poverty. The infrastructure-related EPWP, which aims to provide beneficiaries with training and skill development as well as build affordable and high-quality assets, has been implemented by the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality and the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure (LDPWRI).

This study assessed the effectiveness of infrastructure-related EPWP in reducing poverty in rural communities in Limpopo province's Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality. The study used a qualitative method design with purposive sampling. The Capability Approach and the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework were used as the conceptual framework for this study. The narratives were derived from in-depth interviews and focus groups with the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality and LDPWRI officials and infrastructure related EPWP beneficiaries. The study found that while the EPWP has improved beneficiaries' livelihoods by increasing their income and household assets, a greater emphasis on skill development and training is needed to ensure that beneficiaries are employable and can start their own businesses or find sustainable employment, thereby reducing poverty.

Key words: Infrastructure relate EPWP, Poverty, Skill development, sustainable jobs, sustainable livelihoods.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	i
<u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</u>	ii
ABSTRACT.....	iii
<u>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS</u>	v
LIST OF FIGURES.....	iv
LIST OF TABLES.....	iiiv
<u>CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY</u>	1
1.1INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY.....	2
1.3STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.....	3
1.4 MOTIVATION OF THE STUDY.....	4
1.5 AIM OF THE STUDY	4
1.6 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES	5
1.7 RESEARCH QUESTION.....	5
1.8 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY.....	5
1.9 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS	6
<u>1.10. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS</u>	7
<u>1.10 OUTLINE OF THE DISSERTATION</u>	8
<u>CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW</u>	10
2.1 INTRODUCTION.....	10
2.2. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE.....	11
2.3. EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM 2004 AND BEYOND.....	12
2.4 LEGISLATION AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK ON EPWP.....	13
2.5 INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED EPWP SECTOR.....	16
2.6 LINKAGE BETWEEN EPWPs AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS.....	17
2.6.1 Sustainability Livelihood Approach.....	17
2.6.2 <u>Capability Approach</u>	18
<u>2.7 REVIEW OF EMPIRICAL STUDIES</u>	20
<u>2.8 INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED EPWP EFFECT ON POVERTY</u>	23

2.9. CRITIQUES ON INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED EPWP.....	25
<u>CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</u>	27
<u>3.1 INTRODUCTION</u>	27
3.2 RESEARCH PARADIGM.....	28
3.3 RESEARCH APPROACH.....	28
3.4 RESEARCH DESIGN.....	30
<u>3.5 STUDY AREA</u>	31
3.6 POPULATION.....	31
3.7 SAMPLING	32
<u>3.8 DATA COLLECTION</u>	33
<u>3.9 DATA ANALYSIS</u>	35
<u>3.10 TRUSTWORTHINESS, CREDIBILITY AND TRANSFERABILITY</u>	35
<u>CHAPTER 4: PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS</u>	37
4.1 INTRODUCTION.....	37
4.1.2 Summary of the data analysis and presentation.....	40
4.2 PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY RESULTS.....	38
4.2. SECTION A: PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BENEFICIARIES.....	39
4.3 SECTION B: FINDINGS AND RESPONSES FROM EPWP BENEFICIARIES.....	54
4.4 SECTION C: PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF OFFICIALS	60
4.5 SECTION D: FINDINGS AND RESPONSES FROM OFFICIALS	63
4.6 INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS.....	65
<u>CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</u>	71
<u>5.1 INTRODUCTION</u>	72
<u>5.2 THE AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY</u>	73
<u>5.3 THE EFFECT OF INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED EPWP ON LIVELIHOODS</u>	74
<u>THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED EPWP</u>	74
<u>5.4 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY</u>	76
<u>5.5 AREAS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH</u>	76

<u>5.6 CONCLUSION</u>	78
<u>REFERENCES</u>	80

ANNEXURES

Annexure A. Turfloop Research Ethics Committee Clearance Certificate.....	87
Annexure B. Letter seeking consent from Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.....	89
Annexure C. Letter seeking consent from Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality	102
Annexure D. Letter of Approval: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.....	103
Annexure E. Letter of Approval: Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality.....	104
Annexure F. Consent form	105
Annexure G. Interview guide for EPWP beneficiaries.....	108
Annexure H: Interview guide for Government and Municipal officials.....	111
Annexure I. Proof of Language and Technical Editing Letter.....	114

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1 Sustainable Livelihood Framework.....	21
Figure 2.2 Impact of Income earned.....	25
Figure 1. Map of Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality.....	31
Figure 4.2.1 Age distribution.....	41
Figure 4.2.2 Gender of Participants.....	42
Figure 4.2.4. Level of Education.....	43
Figure 4.2.5 Nature of Employment.....	44
Figure 4.2. Number of months worked at infrastructure related EPWP.....	46
Figure 4.4.1 Age distribution.....	55
Figure 4.4.2 Gender of Participants.....	42
Figure 4.4.3. Level of Education.....	43
Figure 4.3.4 Position of Participants.....	56
Figure 4.4.5 Working Experience.....	25
Figure 4.4.6 Types of Infrastructure related EWP offered to beneficiaries.....	25

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.3. Advantages and disadvantages of a Qualitative Research Approach.....	29
Table 4.1 Summary of the data analysis and presentation.....	39

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BCEA- Basic Conditions of Employment Act
BRICS- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
EPWP - Expanded Public Works Programme
GEAR - Growth, Employment and Redistribution Strategy
GDS- Growth Development Summit
IDP - Integrated Development Plan
ILO- International Labour Organisation
IRD - Integrated Rural Development
LED - Local Economic Development
LDPWRI- Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure
NDPWI- National Department of Works and Infrastructure
PEP- Public Employment Programme
PWP- Public Works Programme
RDP - Reconstruction and Development Programme
SDGs- Sustainable Development Goals
SLA- Sustainable Livelihood Approach
UN- United Nations
WB- World Bank

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) state that the global community places a high priority on fighting poverty. Poverty is a multifaceted issue that includes the lack of basic needs such as shelter, food, and education (Singh & Chudasama 2020). It is a versatile issue that demands a comprehensive response to strengthen the poor's political, socio-cultural, economic, human, and protective skills. Although poverty has many facets, it is generally measured using economic characteristics based on income and consumption (Gomis, Kapsos & Kuhn 2020).

The degree of poverty in the homes where people reside determines whether an individual is considered poor. This conceals disparities in poverty among members of the same household (Atkinson 2017). On the other hand, Amartya Sen's Capability deprivation approach to measuring poverty is as an absence of specific minimum skills rather than a lack of actual income and an attempt to cope with both joblessness and poverty. Gomis et al. (2020), stated that millions of people worldwide live in extreme poverty, despite the unprecedented levels of economic development, technological capabilities, and financial resources.

The World Bank Group aims to assist the world in achieving the 2030 SDG targets to end extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity, using strategies that include first and foremost, encouraging equitable and sustainable economic growth, particularly by fostering job creation and increasing private infrastructure investment (World Bank 2018). According to the International Labour Organisation (2020), an estimated 630 million people live in extreme or moderate poverty globally despite having a job, which could demonstrate that work is not a guarantee of escaping poverty. Both extreme and moderate working poverty are declining in Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) and other middle-income nations. Working poverty has declined much faster in the BRICS than in other middle-income countries. The BRICS are largely responsible for halving the global working poor over the last two decades (Lagutina & Leksyutina 2019).

To fight poverty, the poor's capacities must be increased by altering their surroundings and breaking the poverty cycle. All individuals must have appropriate access to food, clothing, and housing, as well as the freedom, dignity, and self-worth required to participate in society, to alleviate poverty. This implies that they must also be shielded from prejudice by the government or the community (Atkinson 2017).

According to Asadullah, Savoia and Sen (2020), Bangladesh, a South Asian country has made significant progress toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. According to Zizzama (2020), The ANC-led government took over an economy in 1994 that was unable to accommodate the millions of black South Africans without jobs who were entering the labour market at a rapid pace after influx control was abolished in 1986. A large body of research has shown that the a majority of households ranks below international and national poverty lines, with most depending from government social security and reduced hourly labour income in Limpopo Province region. (Wernecke, Mathee, Kunene, Balakrishna, Kapwata, Mogotsi, Sweijd, Minakawa & Wright 2021).

1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

While many see South Africa as a productive and industrialised economy that manifests the characteristics related to developed countries, the reality is that the overwhelming majority of the South African population is poor (Mubangizi 2021). The COVID-19 crisis had, in its initial weeks and months pushed the G20 countries to move fast to keep afloat households and companies, protect jobs and incomes to prevent the economy from collapsing, driving many countries, including South Africa, to struggle with reducing poverty (De Groot & Lemanski 2021).

Governments in both developed and developing countries utilised public sector employment programmes as a poverty reduction strategy (Singh & Chudasama 2020). These programmes were started in the middle of the 1990s and are being carried out in more than 20 different Latin American and Caribbean nations. For example, in Argentina, “The Programa de Jefes de Hogar Desocupados”, directly translated as “The Unemployed Heads of Household Programme”, was created to alleviate Argentina's high unemployment rate brought on by the 2001 financial crisis. The

programme ran from 2002 to 2012, and provided cash transfers for weekly payments of 20 hours' worth of community service (Ali, Sighn, Drani & Rashid 2020).

With the global and local effects of pandemics such as COVID-19 recently experienced since year 2020, governments are expected to utilise initiatives like the labour-intensive methods to give jobless and poor employment opportunities, thereby reducing poverty and unemployment (Dlala, 2020). Locally, in Lepelle Nkumpi municipality, the infrastructure-related EPWP, which includes road works, communication networks, storm water sewage, water and electric systems, and the construction of low-cost houses, uses labour-intensive contraction methods to provide work opportunities, training and skills development opportunities for the local unemployed community members as a strategy to reduce poverty (Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality IDP, 2021–2022). It was unclear how well these infrastructure-related EPWP improved the beneficiaries' lives when the main goal was to reduce poverty. There was a knowledge gap regarding the effectiveness of infrastructure related EPWP in reducing poverty among communities.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Like many developing countries, South Africa is faced with several social issues, including unemployment and poverty. The rate of poverty continues to rise every day. The most common sources of income for households in the Lepelle-Nkumpi municipality were wages and salaries (59,4%) and social grants (51, 0%), with money transfers (15,5%) and business income (15,0%) coming in second and third, respectively, according to information from Statistics SA (General Household Survey, 2022). Many people lack resources required to live a decent life, maintain a respectable standard of living, or meet basic needs. Poverty reduction is a top priority for the municipality, and it is addressed with available budgets through various IDP programmes and initiatives, such as the municipalities' EPWP on poverty reduction (Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality IDP 2020-2021).

There are various infrastructure related EPWP within the municipality, such as Low-traffic roads, trenching, storm water drains, houses, schools, clinics, and electricity, to

mention a few (IDP 2020 -2021). Much of the literature indicates the importance and intentions of the infrastructure-related EPWP. However, there is insufficient evidence which demonstrates the effectiveness of such a programme in reducing poverty in the communities. The research, therefore, investigates the nature of infrastructure related EPWP and their contribution to reducing poverty in communities. Hence, the question that the study seeks to answer is whether these programmes are effective in reducing poverty.

1.4 MOTIVATION OF THE STUDY

According to De Vos, Strydom, Founche and Delport (2011), real-world observations, complexities, and concerns are the most frequent sources of research questions and problems in qualitative studies. On the same note, the researcher was motivated by observations of developments in the local municipality, where findings indicated that among young and community members, unemployment and poverty are prevalent at a high rate, whereas there is infrastructure related EPWP in the communities. Therefore, the researcher was motivated to assess the effectiveness of the infrastructure related EPWP in reducing poverty in the rural communities of Lepelle-Nkumpi municipality.

1.5 AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study was to assess the effectiveness of infrastructure related EPWP in reducing poverty in the rural communities of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality Limpopo province.

1.6 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The study was be guided by the following key research objectives:

- To assess the long-term benefits of infrastructure related EPWP's in Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality.
- To assess the effect of the EPWP beneficiaries' income on their livelihoods in Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality.
- To examine the sustainability of infrastructure related EPWPs as a poverty reduction strategy.

1.7 RESEARCH QUESTION

The study was be guided by the following key research questions:

- What are the long-term benefits of Infrastructure related EPWP?
- What effect does the EPWP beneficiaries' income have on their livelihood?
- How sustainable are infrastructure related EPWP as a poverty reduction strategy?

1.8 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study's importance stems from the need to assess the effectiveness of infrastructure-related Expanded Public Works Programme in reducing poverty. The infrastructure-related EPWP is a weapon that the government has used to combat poverty through work possibilities since the country's democratic transition, and our country is still grappling with the problem of poverty, with a vast number of people who live in impoverished areas. The EPWP's goal is to reduce poverty; however, the programme is only for contract work and not for permanent employment, people seem to be happy for a short time and then struggle with poverty for a longer period, a problem that continues to affect communities.

The study's findings could lead to a better understanding of the efficacy of infrastructure-related Expanded Public Works Programmes and the factors that drive poverty reduction at Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality and surrounding communities.

1.9 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Poverty: refers to a lack of income, a low income or an income below the minimum wage or the poverty line of a nation, as well as a lack of savings and access to loans from reputable financial institutions (Gweshengwe & Hassan 2019). According to the World Bank report (2021), individuals are classified as poor or non-poor depending on the poverty level of the homes in which they live. This conceals poverty discrepancies among members of the same household. The term is evidenced by Beegle and Christianaes (2019), claim that when someone's income or expenses are below the poverty line in any community, they are considered poor.

Expanded Public Works Programme: is regarded as a short-term employment is designed by the state intended to address unemployment and skill shortages (McCord 2003). EPWP is a plan to aid in development by giving the poor and jobless access to economic opportunities and financial aid through labour-intensively delivering community assets and services (Dlala & Mutumbara 2018).

Decent job: According to Syicher and Di Fabio (2021) a decent job is considered worthwhile labour for both men and women in a setting of liberty, justice, security and human dignity. Generally speaking, when we determine a position to be appropriate, we guarantee stable employment and favourable working conditions. Di Nuovo, Corrado and Magnano (2021) supported the definition by stating that good employment is envisioned as a fulfilling position under circumstances of equity, security, and observance of human rights.

Sustainable Jobs: are jobs characterised by some degree of relative permanence and soundness in terms of the absence of living wage conditions are distinguished from those jobs that are characterised by some degree of relative instability and soundness in terms of the absence of living wage conditions by the stability and security of their jobs (ILO 2020).

Full employment: the creation of long-term employment chances or permanent employment opportunities to guarantee that households have a reliable revenue source (Sychenko, Laruccia, Cusciano, Chikireva, Wang & Smit 2020). The maximum number of both skilled and unskilled workers that can be employed in an economy at any particular time is known as full employment (Svicher & Di Fabio 2021).

Labour intensity programme: the term "labour intensity" refers to the efficient use of a higher proportion of labour when it is economically and technically feasible to complete projects in all sectors without sacrificing cost, time, or quality (Ngubo & Mubangizi 2020). Refers to construction and maintenance techniques where labour is the major tool and machinery, and tools are used to complete tasks that cannot be done by labour alone without sacrificing quality (Department of Public Works 2019).

1.10. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Fleming and Zegwaard (2018), argue that choosing an appropriate research methodology and methods is vital. Still, it is equally necessary to consider the fundamentals of ethical research that involves human participants. There is now a greater awareness of and concern about the ethics of research and researchers because of the expansion of research and the lack of privacy (Arifin 2018).

- (a) To comply with University of Limpopo regulations, the researcher obtained ethical clearance and permission from the Turfloop Research Ethics Committee (TREC) before beginning any data collection process.
- (b) The researcher sought permission from the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, and Municipality of Lepelle-Nkumpi through the EPWP departments. Following that, permission was obtained from the local traditional authorities, who were informed that the study will be conducted in the area.
- (c) The researcher ensured that each participant submitted their informed consent before the study was carried out. The purpose of the study, the kind of information that were requested and the reasoning behind the information request were explained to respondents. They were briefed on their involvement and any potential direct or indirect influence it may or may not have on them.
- (d) Respondents were informed that their participation in the programme was entirely voluntary. They could withdraw at any time if they believed the questions were subjective, offensive or promote violence.
- (e) To protect participants, the researchers may not disclose any personal information about study participants. As a result, their names would not be mentioned in the notes. To prevent participants' identities from becoming known to the public, the names of respondents were removed from the research report, audio recordings field notes and information to be kept locked in the file cabinet.
- (f) The researcher made use of purposive sampling to include municipal workers, government officials and EPWP beneficiaries from 10 infrastructure related EPWPs that have been in operation from 2018 to the present. The study

excluded all potential participants who were not involved in the infrastructure related EPWP.

- (g) The researcher prepared a summarised presentation on the study's overall findings regarding the research phenomenon and outlined any suggested recommendations for the participants' knowledge.

1.10 OUTLINE OF THE DISSERTATION

Chapter One: Introduction and Background

This chapter discusses poverty as a global issue and how South Africa attempts to adopt EPWP. It also presents the aim, the objectives, and the research questions that govern the investigation. In addition, the chapter briefly discusses the significance of the study and its importance. It also presents the key concepts of the study.

Chapter Two: Literature Review

The chapter reviews and summarises the results of any available studies on the topic. The chapter describes the theoretical discussions around poverty and the EPWP before analysing particularly how the programme affects poverty reduction. This chapter evaluates the results of numerous studies, focusing on those conducted in the South African setting, and draws on various academic sources. This study was undertaken to fill these gaps in knowledge.

Chapter Three: Research Methodology

The research techniques and study design are described in this chapter. Additionally, it outlines the researcher's techniques and tactics for acquiring data on the ground as well as the analysis that followed. Surveys, and in-depth interviews are among the tools the researcher used to get data from participants. The main topics of this chapter are the target population, sample design, data collection methods, and research design.

Chapter Four: Presentation and Interpretation of Findings

The fourth chapter presents and explains the research findings. The responses to the study's goals, objectives, and research questions were factors considered in the results.

Chapter Five: Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

The chapter concludes with a summary of the findings, recommendations, and potential emerging issues. The findings of the study are compared to those of other studies to determine the infrastructure related EPWP effectiveness in reducing poverty.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals recognises that ending extreme poverty and all other forms of poverty is the greatest global challenge and a critical component of sustainable development (Hepp, Somerville & Borisch 2019). In both developing and developed nations, poverty has persisted for generations, and despite past and present interventions, the process of eradicating these issues is still ongoing. According to Amar and Pratama (2020), poverty reduction therefore requires a broad range of well-coordinated strategies, not just economic strategies. Public Works Programmes (PWP) are social protection tools used in various low- and middle-income country contexts with the twin goals of creating temporary employment and sustaining some labour-intensive infrastructure projects and social services (Philips 2004).

According to Bisht and Pattanaik (2020), the late 1970s and early 1980s mass unemployment presented a significant challenge in economies that heavily relied on gainful labour market participation for the success of their social security systems. It is no surprise that labour market policy played a significant role in reform plans. The UK, USA, Australia, and New Zealand are nations that follow the liberal or Anglo-Saxon model and have chosen to (further) liberalise their labour markets (World Bank 2019). These nations saw the emergence of variations on the "workfare" theme. Using a carrot and stick strategy, the unemployed in the UK were subject to the threat of losing their benefits if they did not comply with new, onerous qualifying conditions under the welfare-to-work campaign's slogan (Happanala 2022).

The literature on the relationship between infrastructure-related Expanded Public Work Program (EPWP) and poverty reduction is reviewed in this chapter. To provide an overview of the main issues, a thorough background on EPWP in the South African context is provided, focusing on the reasons for its emergence, implementation, and success or failure, as well as the reasons for both. In addition, this chapter discusses various theoretical perspectives on EPWPs and their role in development. The goal of

this research is to provide a framework that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of infrastructure-related EPWPs, such as those selected for this study. The review was crucial for locating this study and determining its potential worth. The literature review for this topic was compiled from various sources, including journal articles, policy documents, government reports, documents, and books.

2.2. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Latin American countries have used Public Works Programs to address a range of social, economic, and environmental issues while also generating jobs. According to Puyana (2018), poverty has become a susceptible political issue for Latin American countries. The economy has been stabilised for more than 20 years, and trade has been liberalised, but economic growth has not been as strong as expected. Thus, to address environmental degradation and promote environmental conservation and protection, the Brazilian government implemented the Bolsa Verde Programme as a social protection measure in 2011 (Puyana 2018). The Programme had two goals: to encourage environmental conservation in the country and to transfer income to improve the lives of community members and households living in poverty in Brazil. The initiative-focused plan emphasised "income security, access to public services, and productive inclusion (World Without Poverty 2017).

Asian countries have had their fair share of PWP as a means of combating long-term poverty and unemployment (Hasan, Wagas and Shaheen 2021). The Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) continue to provide short-term job interventions to increase the income level of poor communities while also providing assets and services to communities through the delivery of new community infrastructure and the refurbishment of existing ones (Zimmermann 2020). Unlike civil service expansion, PEPs directly generate jobs through high-intensity productive activities. These interventions' main objective is to give workers who can't support themselves a job because there aren't enough market-based job opportunities (ILO 2020)

According to Hasan et al. (2021), together with other Asian nations, Indonesia saw rapid economic growth between the 1980s and the early 1990s, which led to a decline in poverty and improvements in social indicators. Between 1998 and 1998, the Indonesian government implemented the Padat Karya (PK) Programme in response

to the widespread yet transient job losses and poverty resulting from the nation's economic crisis. The PK programme was the catalyst for the resuscitation of the previous labour-intensive employment creation programme, which was put into place in the 1970s and 1980s (Hasan et al., 2021).

According to ILO (2020), India passed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2005. The Act guaranteed rural households employment for up to 100 days per year for unskilled manual labour at the program's minimum wage rate. The work had to have involved 60% labour intensity without the use of machines or contractors. The project selection process made use of local government and community structures. MGNREGA has reduced gender disparities by providing equal pay for men and women in addition to raising the minimum wage (ILO 2020).

2.2.1 Expanded Public Works Program 2004 and beyond

The demand for labour-intensive public works is not a new component of South Africa's growth strategy. According to Webster and Francis (2019), the processes of economic decline carried over from the apartheid era were reversed in the first ten years of South Africa's democracy. Together with poverty and vulnerability, structural unemployment has been a recurring issue in South Africa. 7.8 million South Africans do not have a regular job, while 5.6 million individuals are in the 15–34 age range (Marais & Mlilo 2018).

The democratic government that took office in 1994 recognised that labour-intensive construction methods and the use of Public Employment Programs (PEPs) could help to solve the unemployment problem (Shai 2021). The National Public Works Programme (NPWP) was established as part of the job creation strategy. The NPWP's two main goals are the Community-Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP) and the redirection of mainstream public spending towards infrastructure development using labour-intensive methods (Department of Public Works and Infrastructure 2020).

The shift in public spending towards labour-intensive delivery methods did not gain traction at the time due to a number of several factors, including a major political reshuffle, a number of requirements for the government, and an unclear legal framework for labour-intensive construction (Hirsch & Levy 2021). Despite providing

invaluable experience, the CBPWP never reached the necessary scale about the nation's poverty rates. In response to ongoing complex and interconnected challenges, the Growth and Development Summit (GDS) in 2003 resulted in a social compact between the public and private sectors, encapsulated in the GDS Agreement (McCord 2004).

The EPWP aims to achieve its goal by providing employment opportunities and project-based training (McCord 2003). It is a national initiative encompassing all government and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) sectors. Four sectors comprised the Department of Public Works programme: environmental and cultural, non-governmental, social and infrastructure sectors (Department of Public Works 2018).

According to DPWI (2023), the department's minister, Sihle Zikalala, in his remarks during the EPWP phase 5 indaba at Tshedimoso House in Pretoria, stated that due to the severity of the country's unemployment and poverty problems, the EPWP's fourth phase (Phase IV) continue to be implemented. Phase IV of the EPWP, implemented in the fiscal years 2019-20 and 2023-2024, and advances the role of public employment by building on previous lessons learned and global experience. As a result, it is critical that the EPWP builds on its past innovations and experience to identify strategies that will address some of the program's shortcomings while allowing it to fully capitalise on its many developmental opportunities (DPWI 2023).

2.3 LEGISLATION AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK ON EPWP

The South African government has concentrated its interventions since its founding on resolving the main socioeconomic services issues of poverty, a lack of skills and unemployment (NDPW 2020). According to Makhubu and Doorgapersad (2022), emphasis is on creating jobs and establishing sustainable livelihoods, the EPWP policy position makes sure that employment creation opportunities are maximised within the designated sectors such as infrastructure related EPWPs.

The purpose of EPWP Policy is to situate the Programme within the current socioeconomic landscape both domestically and globally, emphasising lessons learned and allowing EPWP to advance to the next stage of implementation to address

poverty alleviation and job creation sustainably for the benefit of our underserved communities (Makhubu & Doorgapersad 2022).

Cabinet Memo 2003 approving the implementation of EPWP

The high unemployment rate and resulting poverty had to be addressed because they were the most serious threats to South Africa's newly established democracy. When the need was deemed urgent, Statistics South Africa's March 2003 Labour Force Survey revealed that 40% of people of working age, primarily young people, were unemployed (McCord 2004). One such corrective action was the EPWP, which was conceived by the government and announced by the National President at the time, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, in his State of the Nation Address in February 2003. The programme was then approved at the Growth and Development Summit (GDS) in June of that year (2003). The EPWP plan was finally approved by the South African cabinet in November 2003, and it was implemented in 2004 to create one million job opportunities over five years (2004-2009) (NDPW 2019).

Basic Conditions of Employment Act No.75 of 1997

All EPWP labour-intensive infrastructure projects that use locally employed temporary workers must adhere to the government gazette notice no. P64 of January 2002, which promulgates the Code of Good Practice for Employment and conditions of work for EPWP, which was issued under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1997 (EPWP 2020). The notice pertains to labour-intensive tasks performed by unskilled or semi-skilled workers. When work is constructed strictly in compliance with the specifications of the scope of work, payment is made in accordance with the terms of the contract for the labour-intensive tasks specified in the scope of work. The contractor will not be released in any manner from his contractual or tortious obligations in the event that the EPWP beneficiaries fail to pay for such works (EPWP 2022).

Skills Development Act, No. 97 of 1998

At the program's inception, former President Thabo Mbeki emphasised that skills development is a crucial component of the EPWP. This has been the scourge, as implemented public bodies have repeatedly shown (Department of Employment and

Labour 2018). The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and the Department of Higher Education and Training signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) in 2011 that provides funding for skills development. R369.5 million was transferred to EPWP for the training of 41,100 EPWP participants (DPWI 2019).

Ministerial Determination and the Code of Good Practice for Expanded Public Works Programme

The goal of the Code of Good Practice and this Ministerial Determination is to encourage uniformity in employment practices and minimum standards across the various EPWPs in South Africa Ministerial Determination 4: Expanded Public Works Programmes, Notice No. 347, published in Gazette No. 9745 on May 04, 2012, was issued by the then Minister of Labour, Ms. Nelisiwe Midred Oliphant, under the provisions of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1997 (South Africa 1997:2). The ministerial determination offers developed guidelines to guarantee public bodies follow the principle of worker selection and conduct a fair and transparent process (DPWI 2020).

For all parties involved in EPWPs, Notice No. 129, Code of Good Practise, published in Gazette No. 34032 on February 2011, offers guidelines on grievance, disciplinary action, payment, and rate of pay. It was issued by the former Ministry of Labour under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1997 (Department of Employment and Labour 2018). Work on EPWP projects is temporary and subject to learnership employment conditions and a code of good practise, regardless of whether the government runs it, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or contractors (DPWI 2020).

Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Institutional Arrangement Framework, (2012)

The National Department of Public Works' EPWP Institutional Arrangement Framework serves as the basis for structuring the organisation responsible for coordinating and carrying out the programme. To guarantee EPWP performance, the provincial government's EPWP Units in the provincial DPWs continue to mobilise other provincial departments and municipalities (NDPW 2021). According to DPW (2020),

insofar as it relates to the municipality, the EPWP Institutional Agreement Framework contextualises the accountability and governance structures within the programme across all branches of government and refers to the overall coordination of EPWP.

Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1995

The Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993 mandates that employers create and maintain a work environment that is safe and free from hazards to employees' health to the extent that is reasonable and practicable (South Africa 1995:7). According to Jairam (2020), the employer at the infrastructure EPWP is required to supply and maintain all tools required for job performance, as well as all systems that dictate how work must be done, in a way that doesn't jeopardise workers' health and safety. Where necessary, protective gear should be supplied to reduce risks and hazards.

Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act 130 of 1998

The Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (COIDA) 130 of 1993 applies to all employers and employees engaged in EPWP. All infrastructure-related projects must be registered upon commencement (DPWI 2023). The primary aim of the Act is to offer recompense for illnesses resulting from work-related illnesses or injuries that employees have contracted or sustained, as well as to address related matters (Department of Employment and Labour 2022).

If an employee is injured in an accident at work and cannot return to work, their employer is required to pay them 75% (seventy-five percent) of their earnings for a maximum of three months. The Compensation Commissioner will reimburse the employer for this that amount (South Africa 1997:8).

2.4 Infrastructure related EPWP sector

In the infrastructure sector, job opportunities are created by realigning government spending through labour-intensive technologies. The infrastructure sector aims to promote the use of labour-intensive approaches in the construction and maintenance of public infrastructure, including general construction and maintenance (buildings, dams, reservoirs, etc.), stormwater drainage systems, water and sanitation projects,

and road construction and maintenance, among other things. The following are key initiatives in the infrastructure sector, which the DPWI coordinates (DPWI 2020).

- Initiatives in the infrastructure sector include contractor learnership programmes. The Vuk'uphile Contractor Leadership Programme, a cross-cutting initiative involving the Economic Sector, is concerned with preparing people for careers as supervisors at NQF level 4 and contractors at NQF level 2 through training in labour-intensive construction techniques. These learnerships are a complementary programme designed specifically for Emerging Contractors under the EPWP and other industry initiatives (DPWI 2020).
- The government youth intervention component of the National Youth Service (NYS) Programme aims to empower young people by improving their knowledge, abilities, and aspirations to work in the construction environment sector (DPWI 2020).
- The Provincial Road program's objective is to provide support to all Provincial Roads Departments across the country to ease the labour-intensive execution of their initiatives and programmes. The Provincial Roads Program's primary focus is on rural access roads. To generate EPWP employment opportunities, construction and maintenance programmes and projects are also supported (DPWI 2020).
- The Large Projects Programme is for projects that meet the minimum budget requirement of R30 million or more. The right contract terms for these projects should allow for labour-based methods and the training of workers in all categories (skilled and semi-skilled). Large infrastructure projects have the potential to ensure meaningful development of emerging contractors, as well as job creation and skill transfer through beneficiary training (EPWP 2020).

2.4.1 Infrastructure Related Expanded Public Works Program in Lepelle-Nkumpi.

The Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000, which governs and notifies all scheduling and expansion endeavors in a municipality, is in line with the EPWP and promotes the

development of an Integrated Development Plan (IDP) as a critical strategic preparation document (Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality IDP, 2020-2021).

In order to carry out its commitment to implement infrastructure-related EPWPs, the infrastructure EPWP sector used the majority of its adjusted budget for 2021–2022, according to the LDPWRI (2022). Creating employment will be accomplished by pairing machine-intensive to labour-intensive activities (Limpopo Province EPWP 2019). Low-traffic roads, trenching, storm water drains, houses, schools, clinics, and electrification, to mention a few, have all been highlighted as sites where labour-intensive procedures are implemented. Construction, maintenance, and repair of other types of infrastructure are also encouraged to adopt labour-intensive techniques (Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality IDP, 2020-2021).

2.4.2 Infrastructure related EPWP recruitment guidelines

The core criteria for all infrastructure EPWP projects already include targeting measures, such as the requirement that participants be chosen following the EPWP Recruitment Guidelines, which outline specific criteria and procedures. The Code of Good Practise establishes specific targets for the proportion of EPWP beneficiaries who should be women, youth, or people with disabilities (South Africa 1997:9). The target for women has been increased to at least 60% in recognition of the extremely high unemployment rates among them. Targets for youth and persons with disability have remained at 55% and 2% as in Phase IV (LDPW 2020).

The recruitment process for EPWP beneficiaries must be in line with the Recruitment Guidelines, and this is the responsibility of the local implementing bodies, including the municipality. During the facilitation process, it is important to make sure that the communities are informed about the recruitment process, the Ministerial Determination and the Code of Good Practise (EPWP 2020).

2.4.3 Infrastructure related EPWP Training

According to Phillips (2004), because training is a highly desired component of EPWP, more training, both in quantity and variety, must be provided. Unfortunately, there are few training resources available, and delivering accredited training in South Africa is expensive. This is a significant trade-off, and using these resources for training makes

sense only if there is strong evidence that the benefits of training outweigh the costs of increasing or extending employment.

According to Baijnanth (2023), infrastructure-related EPWP training and skill development should be project-based, which means that it should correspond to the tasks completed during the project's execution. Any additional training initiatives unrelated to the project's execution will be classified as graduation or exit initiatives (EPWP 2020). Interventions to increase capacity, such as financial literacy training, will continue. More collaborations should be formed to improve the life skills of EPWP beneficiaries. In addition, there will be an increase in partnerships with various public and private stakeholders, including TVET colleges. Opportunities to encourage youth participation will be investigated as the nation transitions to the fourth industrial revolution (EPWP 2019).

2.5 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: linkage between EPWP and Sustainable Livelihoods

The capability approach and the sustainable livelihood approach are two of these theories. These approaches highlight elements that improve long-term livelihoods. The study adopted the sustainable livelihoods approach because it explains sustainable livelihood in detail and covers many aspects of sustainable livelihood.

Capability Approach

The Capability Approach was first described in the 1980s by well-known economist and scholar Amartya Sen, with whom it is still most closely associated. Following on from the discussion of the importance of freedom for development, her strategy emphasises the ability of people to achieve what they value (Clark, Biggeri & Frediani, 2019). It emphasises people's abilities, skills, competencies, and talents by enabling them to maximise their potential. According to Amartya Sen, as outlined in Clark et al (2019), the Capability Approach argues that a range of social arrangements, as well as personal and geographic factors, affect people's capacity to fully develop their livelihoods.

According to Robeyns (2021), policies are evaluated based on their likely impact on people's capabilities, and all dimensions of human well-being are considered. It

considers whether people have access to quality education, genuine political participation, and community activities that help them cope with daily challenges and maintain genuine relationships. According to Amartya Sen, people's quality of life should be understood in terms of their ability and freedom to make choices and perform various activities such as coping with stress and shocks and responding to adverse changes in condition (Liu, Li, Ren, Xu, & Lie 2020).

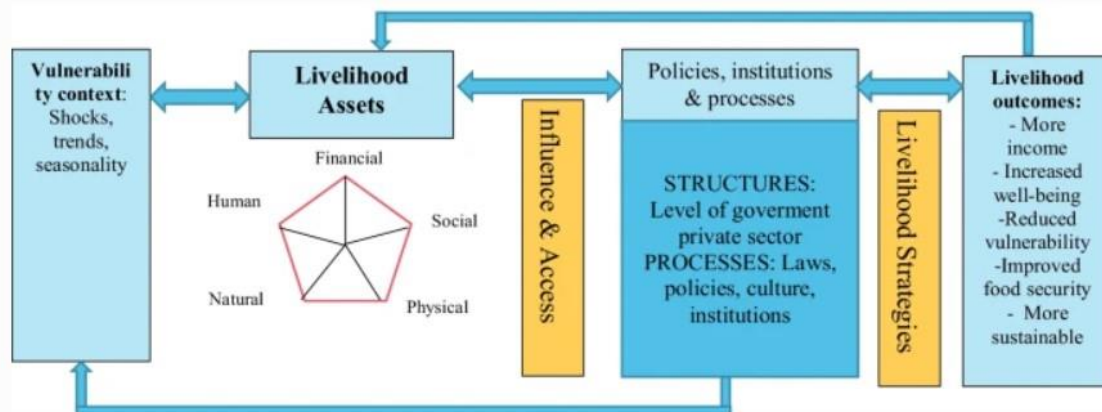
The idea that infrastructure related EPWP beneficiaries need to acquire particular skills in order to find new jobs, boost their value, and the capability approach supports combat poverty. The full potential and capabilities of the beneficiaries of infrastructure related EPWP can be enhanced through skill development.

Sustainable Livelihood (SLA) Approach

A livelihood is, at its most basic, a means of earning a living. A livelihood is the combination of abilities, assets, privileges, and pursuits required to maintain a way of life (Natarajan et al., 2022). A sustainable livelihood is one that can endure hardships and shocks, preserve or enhance capacities, assets, and resources, and offer chances for the following generation to live sustainably (Gyawali, Tiwari, Bajracharya & Skotte 2020). It also has a positive impact on other people's livelihoods, both locally and globally, and in the short and long term (Birkmann, Liwenga, Pandey, Boyd, Djalante, Leal, Pinho, Stinger and Wrathall 2022).

The study employs SLA because it will assist the researcher in evaluating the effectiveness of the framework's various facets (asset accumulation, capability, empowerment and skill development, employment, incomes). The framework will also help the researcher evaluate the effects on program beneficiaries' ability to maintain an improved standard of living. For instance, being able to put money aside, invest it, buy things, send their kids to college, and use the money they earn to buy local goods.

Fig. 1



Sustainable livelihood framework (source: DFID 2005)

Figure 2.1 Sustainable livelihood framework

Source: Beal & Piron

(2005:17).

2.6 REVIEW OF EMPIRICAL STUDIES

Over the year's different perspectives regarding poverty, influenced government welfare policies toward poverty reduction. Poverty is frequently described in unidimensional measurements such as income or expenditure, but it can also be defined in terms of the daily deprivations that people face (Gweshengwe & Hassan 2019). The method supplements the traditional approach, which used income/expenditure-based poverty measurements, by documenting each person's or household's severe deprivation in terms of education, health, and standard of living (Alkire, Kanagaratnam & Suppa, 2018).

In-depth interviews and field observations were conducted in 24 rural communes within the Qinba Mountain Area of Shaanxi Province, China, to gather data from 414 rural households for the study (Liu et al., 2020). The study analysed the Public Employment Programme as a poverty alleviation strategy and the effects of different capital availability on sustainable livelihood by utilising theoretical research methods and the sustainable livelihood approach (SLA) framework (Liu et al. 2020). According to Liu (2020), the findings demonstrated that, despite its short-term nature, the program's revenue significantly improves communities' standard of living.

After noting the differences in public opinion about the EPWP and the anticipated outcomes described in Phillips (2004) concerning its potential impact on unemployment, a study looked at the main findings of a recent investigation into the connection between work, poverty, and participation in public works (McCord 2004). Though these effects only became apparent when the extremely poor were the focus mostly because they were living in more extreme poverty the survey does highlight the significance of targeting (McCord 2004).

The EPWP offers short-term employment and training, based on the notion that supply-side interventions are a suitable and effective response to transitional unemployment. The use of PWPs in instances of transient economic disruption is consistent with this policy approach (McCord 2003).

The effect of PWP participation on income and other aspects of poverty was also investigated in this study. When employment was temporary and there was little chance of savings, the extra money that was coming into households was spent more often than invested (McCord 2004). According to a study on the possible effects of the EPWP on poverty, the programme is unlikely to significantly lower the number of people living in participating households below the federal poverty line, but it is likely to temporarily lessen the severity of poverty (McCord 2004).

It is crucial to understand that, when properly designed in terms of targeting, scale, duration of employment, etc., PWPs can and do offer a significant response to poverty and unemployment (McCord 2004). Additionally, transfers of income can have a significant impact on various aspects of household poverty (McCord 2004). Yet, there is a significant discrepancy between expected programme outcomes and policy expectations (in both the political and popular discourses).

2.7.1 The role of infrastructure related EPWP in communities

Most studies reflect that EPWPs, on a broad level, are utilised as social protection instruments in different countries' states of financial or material welfare in both low and middle-income countries, with the main objective of providing temporary jobs or employment and generating some labour-intensive projects and social services

(Lagutina & Leksyutina 2019). Youth and women of working age who are poor or in danger of sliding into poverty benefit from labour and productive inclusion initiatives. EPWP initiatives, which are largely focused on people who are poor, exceedingly poor, or in risky circumstances, are an important part of the government's income relief and poverty eradication efforts. According to DPWI (2020), one of the objectives of EPWP is to expand access to resources either directly or indirectly, depending on the circumstances, in addition to raising the incomes of participating households.

2.7.2 The infrastructure related EPWP impact on poverty

According to Philips (2005), labour-intensive public works projects are nothing new and have been used for many years in various nations. These programmes are incredibly diverse; some concentrate on social relief, while others aim to seek employment opportunities that will maximise economic efficiency and provide high-quality, reasonably priced public services.

Income inequality is reduced by an average of 20% in Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries and by 10% to 20% in five Latin American countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, and Uruguay) thanks to the "virtual income" that public services provide (Faith et al., 2020).

African youth desire stable, well-paying jobs that meet labour standards provide benefits and social protections and are steady and secure (McCord et al., 2021). They must overcome numerous obstacles, though, to succeed and participate in the labour market. Obstacles are frequently associated with an individual's lack of empowerment regarding their independence, self-worth, and confidence (ILO 2019). Participation in PWPs was found to have the potential to have a significant impact on non-income poverty, reducing food insecurity and enabling participating households to buy appropriate clothing or attend social ceremonies. Thus, it is possible to view involvement in PWPs as a means of enhancing social and human capital, which in turn addresses significant non-financial components of poverty (McCord & Paul 2019).

Public Employment Programmes that explicitly focus on empowerment and creating an enabling environment can improve employment and business outcomes, at least somewhat. According to Faith et al. (2020), this is a noteworthy finding because

programmes that emphasise empowerment and creating an enabling environment frequently target underprivileged youth groups who are further removed from the labour market than their peers. Restrictive social norms and empowerment are two areas that need attention to remove the barriers preventing these underprivileged youth from ever entering the workforce. International Labour Organisations support public work programmes for economic growth in many developing nations, including 24 African nations (McCord et al., 2021).

In South Africa, the impact of PEPs has primarily been measured through their contributions to employment opportunities (Dladla 2023). A study conducted at City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality (CTMM) South Africa on effectiveness of EPWPs as poverty alleviation strategy found that EPWP has the power to lessen poverty by disbursing stipends. All efforts are dependent upon the program's ability to provide participants with regular and predictable access to income, work experience relevant to livelihood strategies, and training pertinent to enhancing livelihood activities. The money the participants get is essential to enhancing their quality of life (Maphanga & Mazenda 2019).

2.8 LIVELIHOOD ASSETS.

There is a transparent relationship between income and employment activities, many of which are infrastructure-related, such as pothole repair, paving, stormwater drainage, and road maintenance. Increased youth and vulnerable involvement in skill development as early as possible may be one of the key livelihood strategies. Poverty results from low or marginal income returns from economic activity (Birkman et al., 2022).

According to Birkman et al. (2022), vulnerable people lack resources, information, access to resources, knowledge, attitudes, confidence, organisation, finances, patronage connections, skills, and rights, especially those considered excluded from many poverty-focused development initiatives.

Livelihoods outcomes

Through acquired skills, the infrastructure-related EPWP improves participants' capacities. This puts some beneficiaries on career paths toward employment, while other beneficiaries transition out of the EPWP through self-employment. However, for many, infrastructure-related EPWPs continue to be an important contributor to their livelihoods and poverty reduction (Dladla 2023).

According to the outcomes of successful livelihood strategies include increased income, increased wellbeing, reduced vulnerability and more economically sustainable livelihoods. It can also lead to better health, income, happiness, knowledge, choices, security, inclusion, and poverty alleviation.



Figure 2.2 Impact of the income earned Source: EPWP (2019:21).

2.9 CRITIQUE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED EPWP

Since the program's start in 2004, the EPWP has been successful in placing many individuals in gainful employment because of the skills and work experience it has given them, which they can use to find employment once the programme is over (DPWI 2019). However, scholarly evaluations of the EPWP have exposed the program's shortcomings concerning compensation and earnings, training and skill development, participants' incapacity to secure employment following the programme, and the program's inability to alleviate poverty.

The EPWP pertaining to infrastructure has received criticism. It was believed that most engineers opposed the concept of labour-intensive building. The engineers could not comprehend the ideas and practises of modern labour-intensive construction. Most engineers were not aware of the advantageous uses of techniques that depend on new information, training, and abilities (Gibberd 2020).

Training has been a key component of the EPWP and served as the foundation for its creation and execution (EPWP 2021). Given the large number of participants in the EPWP, it was determined that providing training to every one of them was not feasible due to limited funding and budget (EPWP 2021). While training has been essential to the programme, not all participants have received it, and some of it has been irrelevant to the intended outcomes for beneficiaries (Chiloane 2020).

The EPWP's short-term employment meant that income received in the form of wages was typically fully consumed rather than partially invested, resulting in fewer long-term benefits or improvements to participants' livelihoods (Oguntona, Akinradewo, Kgoetyane, Ogunbayo & Aigbavboa, 2023). Although criticism of the EPWP is evident from a number of authors about its shortcomings in skill development and training, the EPWP improves beneficiaries' lives by providing a source of income. The programme's beneficiaries are in the community, and while training and skill development can be improved, the EPWP can provide funds to beneficiaries for food and other necessities.

2.10 CONCLUSION

Infrastructure-related EPWP are important in South African development practice. As stated in the literature review, the EPWP is made up of legislative regulations that assign duties and regulations for the recruitment of specific vulnerable groups, such as women, people with disabilities, and young people, as well as for the implementation, training, and skill development necessary to meet the program's goals. A thorough analysis of the programme is carried out with various academics pointing out its flaws.

Recent experiences with EPWP in relation to local municipality infrastructure, however, suggest that not much is known about the program's efficacy and

advantages, particularly with regard to the beneficiaries' empowerment and means of survival after EWP at the local level. The Several studies have found that EPWP programs should be able to generate enough income and assets, empower beneficiaries, and build their capacity in order to have a positive impact on livelihoods and poverty reduction.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

According to Mahajan (2018), research methodology acts as a guide for conducting research. In its common parlance, research methodology involves a theoretical analysis of methods and principles linked to a branch of knowledge. Iwanaga (2016) concurs by stating that it is a systematic technique utilized in research. A qualitative or quantitative research method can be used. However, there are times when research necessitates the use of both qualitative and quantitative methods, a process known as mixed-methods or triangulation (Noble & Heale 2019).

The chapter outlines the methods and tools utilized in the research study. The research design and methodology used in data collection are presented and outlined in this chapter. The research report was presented with a detailed analysis of the information gathered, highlighting the research design used. The research design, the study area, the population, the data collection methods used, and data analysis techniques followed are the main topics of the chapter.

3.2 RESEARCH PARADIGM

According to Ahmad, Wasim, Irfan, Gogoi Srivastava and Farheen (2019), various research approaches are informed or shaped by distinct conceptual paradigms or viewpoints on the nature of knowledge, reality, and how these can be known. Ontology is a branch of philosophy that examines both the nature or content of the social phenomenon under study as well as the assumptions we make to believe that something makes sense or is real (Rashid, Rasheed, Amirah, Yusof, Khan & Agha 2021). The world that researcher's study is populated by individuals who each have their own perspectives, meanings and interpretations.

The researcher understand how the participants in this study create their own reality through their experiences and social interactions in order to determine how they experience reality. It was necessary to examine the phenomenon being investigated

from the participants' perspectives rather than the researcher's (O'Neil & Koekemoer 2016). In order to achieve this goal, the researcher invited municipal and government infrastructure related EPWP officials and beneficiaries to share and reflect on their experiences.

3.3 RESEARCH APPROACH

According to Levy (2017) and Gray (2021), denotes that a research approach is the blueprint or predetermined course of action created by the researcher to direct the choices made that are essential to the study. It also refers to the research plan and framework. Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method research approaches are three frequently employed methods in specific research inquiries.

The conceptual basis for the research is the interpretivist paradigm. The interpretivist method gave the researcher the ability to analyse infrastructure-related EPWP events from a societal perspective, taking into account the difficulties they encountered. As the researcher seeks detailed data on the participants' interpretation and meaning of the effectiveness of infrastructure related EPWPs in reducing poverty. The study used the interpretivist approach as the theoretical perspective that underpins this study. This is due to the interpretivist's ability to help the researcher understand the participants' diverse ideals, attitudes, and points of view (Dean 2018). The interpretivist paradigm assisted the researcher in obtaining participants' perceptions and views on the effectiveness of the infrastructure related EPWP in reducing poverty

In an attempt to assess the effectiveness of infrastructure related EPWP in reducing poverty, the study adopted a qualitative research approach. The approach's capacity to extract expressive information about the opinions, emotions, and actions of the participants made it suitable for the research. Qualitative research makes use of a variety of materials and interpretive techniques to better understand the study's participants' lives.

3.3.1 Qualitative research approach

The study's chosen research method is qualitative research methods. A qualitative study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of a phenomenon based on

the accounts of those who have witnessed it. Furthermore, through in-depth exploratory studies, qualitative research gains a thorough understanding of a specific situation, allowing the discovery of high-quality responses throughout the study (Alharahsheh & Pius 2020). According to Rahman (2020), qualitative research method is used to answer what, how, and why questions about the topic under investigation.

A qualitative research method is used with a case study design to evaluate the effectiveness of infrastructure-related Expanded Public Works Programmes in reducing poverty. The researcher investigates the social complexities to explore and comprehend people's interactions, lived experiences, and processes in relation to the effectiveness of infrastructure-related EPWPs in poverty reduction research.

3.3.2 Advantages and disadvantages of qualitative approach

A qualitative approach, as the preferred approach that influenced how the study was developed, offers qualitative researchers several advantages. However, in the highly polarized research, where qualitative and mixed methods are preferred, this is without criticism. There is general agreement among researchers that the various approaches have both pros and cons (de Vaus 2014; Flick 2014; Leedy & Ormrod 2014). The table below summarises the benefits and drawbacks of qualitative research methods.

Table 3.3.3. Advantages and disadvantages of qualitative methods

Advantages of qualitative research approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has the potential to generate detailed descriptions of participants' experiences and perspectives, as well as meaningful interpretations of their social behaviour in specific contexts (Ahmadin 2022). • It assists researchers in gaining a comprehensive understanding of human experiences in a variety of settings (interpretivist) (Sharp, Howard & Berg 2017). • The researcher works together and interacts with the participants while collecting data, which makes the data more subjective and thorough. • This approach's assertion of the interactive nature of researcher-participant interaction allows for the creation of various realities in which complex issues can be easily understood (Flick 2014).

Disadvantages of qualitative research approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The qualitative approach has drawn criticism for putting too much emphasis on meaning and experiences and not enough on the contextual factors that affect the events and meaning sought (Flick 2014).• As a result of their lack of consistency and verifiable data, the approach is criticised for its low reliability (Sharp, Howard & Berg 2017).• The findings from these studies are less generalizable because of the smaller sample sizes used because qualitative research sees the social world as dynamic rather than static (De Vaus 2014).• Qualitative data analysis and interpretation are thought to be more time-consuming, difficult, and involved.

3.4 RESEARCH DESIGN

Melnikovas (2018) claims that a research design is an overall strategy that specifies the methods, and Mohajan (2018) agrees, noting that a research design can be thought of as a simple framework for a study that serves as a manual for collecting and analysing data. For the study, a case study design was chosen. A case study design enabled researchers to collect a wide range of data, such as observations, interviews, and study documents. The case study provided the researcher with an in-depth look at how the study's organisation and participants interacted.

The justification for this research design is that it allowed the researcher to obtain thick, in-depth descriptions of the effectiveness of infrastructure related EPWP in reducing poverty in Lepelle-Nkumpi, Limpopo Province. The researcher explored infrastructure related EPWP, beneficiaries' opinions, views, and attitudes in order to understand the effectiveness of the programme in reducing poverty.

3.5 STUDY AREA

Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality was the research site, which is 60 kilometres south of the Capricorn District. The Capricorn District Municipality in the province of Limpopo has four local municipalities, including Lepelle-Nkumpi. The municipality is dominated by rural communities with a population, which between 2011 and 2016 grown by 0.1, compared to Polokwane municipality. It has 94 villages in total, spread across 30 wards. Its 3,464.00 hectares, or 16% of the district's total land area, are governed by traditional authorities in roughly 95% of the area (Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality IDP 2020-2021).

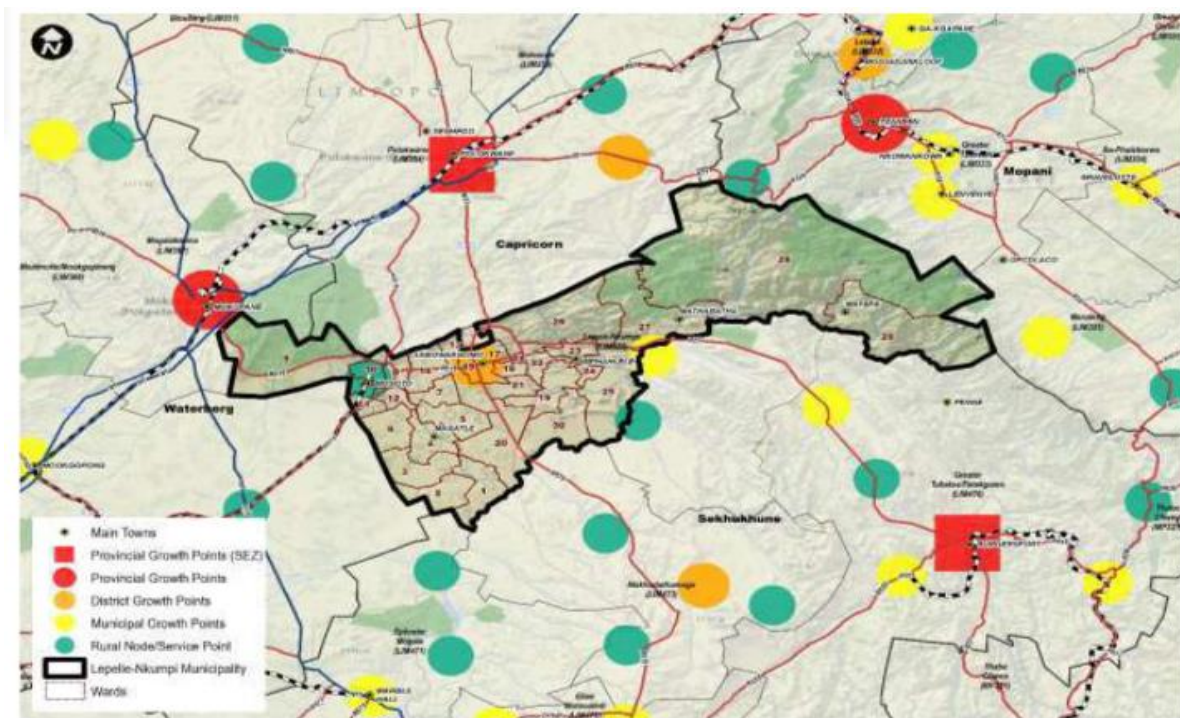


Figure 1: Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality map. www.maps.Lepelle-Nkumpi.gov.za. 14.04.2022

3.6 POPULATION.

The study's objectives define the group to which the research findings can be applied or the group for which the results can be generalised. Lakens (2022), corroborates stating that included are all units where you can put your research findings to use. In other words, the population is the collection of all units with various qualities that are being investigated, allowing research results to be generalized.

The study's target population, in accordance with the definition, comprises of 80 Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipal officials, Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI) government officials and the EPWPs beneficiaries from 10 infrastructure-related EPWPs that have been in operation since 2018 to present. The 10 infrastructure-related EPWPs are located in the various clusters, which is where the sample of the analysis unit and research participants were chosen from.

3.7 SAMPLING

A sample is a portion of a population that fairly depicts that population. Consequently, all the characteristics of the various types of population units must be represented in the units selected as a sample from the population (Boora 2021). Sharm (2017), concurs that it is a procedure or technique employed in this research project by the researcher to systematically select an adequate subset of individuals from the predetermined population to serve as data sources for investigation as per the objectives of this research project. The researcher adopted a non-probability sampling technique called purposive sampling.

A non-probability sampling approach is a sampling strategy that allowed for the selection of respondents depending on the researcher's choices to obtain a representative sample that contains all relevant information for the research project (Boora 2021). According to Thomas (2020), the adoption of a purposive sampling method in this research project provides crucial 'goodness of fit' in gathering the requisite data pertinent to attaining and addressing the objectives of this research project. Thus, researcher purposive sampling was utilised to get respondents who had the required data about the effectiveness of infrastructure related EPWPs.

The technique allowed the researcher to obtain respondents who had the necessary knowledge and information about infrastructure-related EPWPs in the area. The non-homogeneity of the sample was another factor in the decision to use purposive sampling. The study employed purposive sampling to select participants from various infrastructure-related EPWPs located throughout the municipality. The purpose of

selecting a small sample was to allow for the diversity of perspectives and experiences based on the unique and intricate nature of each infrastructure related EPWP.

As a result, five municipal officials assigned to infrastructure-related EPWPs were chosen. Furthermore, included were three provincial government representatives who worked on infrastructure-related EPWPs. For the targeted population, inclusion criteria that required EPWP to have at least three years of work experience with infrastructure-related EPWP and be directly involved with such EPWP were taken into consideration.

A minimum of 20 EPWP beneficiaries were chosen from among various infrastructure-related EPWPs that have been in operation since 2018 to present. A total sample of 28 participants was reached. The study excluded all potential participants who are not involved in infrastructure-related EPWPs that have been in operation since 2018 or earlier. The participants in the study had to be beneficiaries who had been involved with infrastructure-related EPWP for at least 12 months and had spent at least five years living in Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality. The municipal or government coordinators who have been in their positions for at least three years and are directly in charge of or involved in infrastructure-related EPWPs were selected.

3.8 DATA COLLECTION

In an interview, the interviewer attempts to get the respondent to speak freely about the topic of interest through a personal interrogation (Mazhar, Anjum, Anwar & Khan 2021). Primary data for this study were gathered through interviews from LDPWRI, Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality officials, and beneficiaries of the EPWP related to infrastructure. Interviews were conducted in order to gather primary information from participants and look into their perspectives, feelings, obstacles, and thoughts. This allowed the researcher to observe, gather relevant data from the study, and understand the challenges that EPWP has in reducing beneficiary poverty.

According to Jones (2023), qualitative research may make use of semi-structured or unstructured interviews. In accordance to the definition, the researcher conducted semi-structured interviews with beneficiaries and officials from LDPWRI and the

Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality who were involved in infrastructure-related EPWPs. To allow for flexibility, open-ended questions were used in the interviews. Using an interview guide, the researcher was able to follow up on additional understanding of the responses. Interviews were done with representatives of the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, LDPWRI, and EPWP beneficiaries.

An interviewer typically has a framework of themes to cover during a semi-structured interview (Magaldi & Berler 2020). The study used two distinct semi-structured interview schedules or guides for the interactions of the heterogeneous samples. After participants had a chance to respond to a series of open ended questions, the researcher asked additional questions to give participants a chance to clarify and provide more relevant information. One of the data collection instruments for EPWP beneficiaries asked questions regarding the program's benefits, while the other targeted officials working in development and management of the program.

3.8.1 Data collection procedure

The EPWP managers at LDPWRI and the Lepelle Nkumpi Municipality were contacted for an appointment through the phone number and email address listed on the work website. The researcher was given permission to meet with potential participants and beneficiaries in a letter following the meeting with EPWP managers. Field entry was observed by asking for permission before beginning an interview, getting the respondents' consent after receiving their authorisation, while providing them with ongoing information throughout the contact sessions. The list of beneficiaries was obtained from the municipality with help from the manager's office prior to their consent. The 2013 Protection of Personal Information Act's fourth amendment was followed in the retrieval procedures.

3.9 DATA ANALYSIS

Defined by Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill (2016), data denotes a raw material representing actions in the real world that are recorded and processed to inform and support decisions. The researcher utilises thematic content analysis to analyse qualitative data collected for this study. Using content analysis, researchers assess and investigate the use of specific words, themes, or concepts, as well as their

relevance and relationships (Vears & Gillam 2022). In accordance with the definition, the researcher employed content analysis to pinpoint terms, ideas, or themes and contrasted their significance with the effect of infrastructure-related EPWP on reducing poverty. The researcher gathered data with a notepad and a tape recorder.

Words were used to record the data as the researcher used a qualitative research design. The researcher produced a narrative outlining how infrastructure-related EPWP effectively lowers poverty after compiling and analysing the data. Officials' and beneficiaries' perspectives and knowledge were among the data gathered. To help with meaning interpretation and conclusion formulation, the researcher coded and developed themes from the raw data collected from field notes, recordings, and interview transcripts. Utilising NVIVO 13 software, the researcher was able to analyse the data, including unstructured text, audio, interviews, and other data that was gathered for the study.

3.10 TRUSTWORTHINESS, CREDIBILITY AND TRANSFERABILITY

Trustworthiness, credibility, and transferability are concepts that cover reliability and validity in qualitative research as according to Golafshani (2003) cited in Rose and Johnson (2020). According to Johnson and Parry (2015), Lincoln and Guba (1985) cited in Rose and Johnson (2020), trustworthiness in qualitative research refers to the systematic rigor of the research design, the researcher's credibility, the accuracy of the findings, and the applicability of the research methodologies.

Validity and reliability were once considered quality metrics for this type of research. Still, she mentions that these two terms do not seem to be as popular in terms of defining good and quality research as they once were (Rose & Johnson 2020). According to Rose and Johnson (2020), a study credible when the findings reflect the opinions of the individuals being studied. In qualitative research, credibility refers to the data's trustworthiness. Even though qualitative researchers utilise numerous approaches to ensure validity and reliability, validity and reliability are justified in research.

Generalisability or external validity in quantitative research is synonymous with transferability in qualitative research. According to Adler (2022), the idea of

transferability has been developed by showing readers how study findings can be used in various contexts, times, places, and demographics. It is critical to remember that as the researcher, you cannot guarantee that the research study's findings will be useful. Instead, your role as a researcher is to produce evidence that could be useful and helpful (Rose & Johnson 2020).

The research methods necessary to conduct this study are described in detail to clearly show how the study develops and to ensure that the data and findings reached are reliable and consistent with qualitative research methods. The study made a concerted effort to establish trustworthiness so that the outcomes may be recognised and be applicable with different respondents. It was accomplished using corroboration, openness, member checking, and detailed disclosures of data collecting and data analytics processes.

3.11 CONCLUSION

This chapter provided a pertinent and well-chosen overview of the researcher's descriptive research design and qualitative research methodology. The chapter also included discussions on the features of the selected research approaches, their applicability, and how the research study will use them. Included was information on how focus groups and interviews were used to gather and analyse the data. The study's ethical considerations were explained, with a focus on safeguarding and defending the interests and well-being of the participants. The chapter also included a description of the research's methods for establishing the validity of the methodology and any further conclusions drawn from it.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The findings of the research investigation are presented and analysed in this chapter. The findings are based on data gathered from participants about the effectiveness of infrastructure-related EPWPs in eradicating poverty in the Limpopo Province, locality of Lepelle-Nkumpi municipality. Data were collected through interviews, focus groups, and observations from five infrastructure projects: the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), which included landscaping, building maintenance, and water and sanitation infrastructure related EPWP, the D4069 to R37 Mashite road construction project and the Mashite Community Hall infrastructure related EPWP.

A sample of five Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality officials assigned to infrastructure-related EPWPs, three government officials from LDPWRI, and 20 infrastructure-related EPWP beneficiaries, totalling 28 participants, was purposefully chosen for the study. A qualitative analysis using thematic coding and a graph analysis was used. The interview guide examined a wide range of issues using the analytical framework of the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework described in Chapter 2.

4.1.1 The sub-questions

The sub-questions listed below were used to determine measures of the effectiveness of infrastructure related EPWPs on respondents' livelihoods.

- What are the long-term benefits of Infrastructure related EPWP?
- What effect does the EPWP beneficiaries' income have on their livelihood?
- How sustainable are infrastructure related EPWP as a poverty reduction strategy?

The aim of the study was to investigate the effectiveness of infrastructure-related EPWP in reducing poverty in the communities of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality.

The study was guided by the SLA in understanding factors that contribute to the livelihoods of infrastructure related EPWP beneficiaries. Fieldwork interviews were used to objectively assess the effectiveness of infrastructure related EPWP in reducing poverty in communities. The interview guide was utilised to ensure that participants had the same experience and to consider the structure of the questions. Primary data were collected through interviews and focus groups within a qualitative paradigm. The collected data generated the following results and interpretations: responses from infrastructure related EPWP beneficiaries and responses from government and municipal officials.

4.1.2 Summary of the data analysis and presentation

Features	Description
Participates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight (08) government and municipal officials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Five (05) Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality EPWP officials ➤ Three (03) Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure(LDPWRI) EPWP officials • Twenty (20) infrastructure related EPWP beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seven (07) LDPWRI EPWP beneficiaries (Landscaping). ➤ Three (03) LDPWRI EPWP beneficiaries (Building maintenance and water and sanitation).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Eight (08) D4069 to R37 Mashite Road Constructions EPWP beneficiaries ➤ Two (02) Mashite Community Hall infrastructure related EPWP beneficiaries
Data collection instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face semi-structured interviews. • Focus groups
Type of data collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary data (first hand textual data)
Data presentation format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visuals and Narrative format

Face-to-face interviews with eight (08) government and municipal officials were conducted in a flexible manner. The questions were asked in a specific order to facilitate comparisons between respondents. Furthermore, 20 infrastructure related EPWP beneficiaries were interviewed, resulting in a sample of 28 participants.

As it transpired, seven (07) of the eight (08) semi-structured interviews with government and municipal authorities in their workplaces were recorded, lasting 35 to 45 minutes, and subsequently transcribed by the researcher. Therefore, because the data are subjective and narrative, it was examined with the NVivo programme and is presented as a narrative in this chapter.

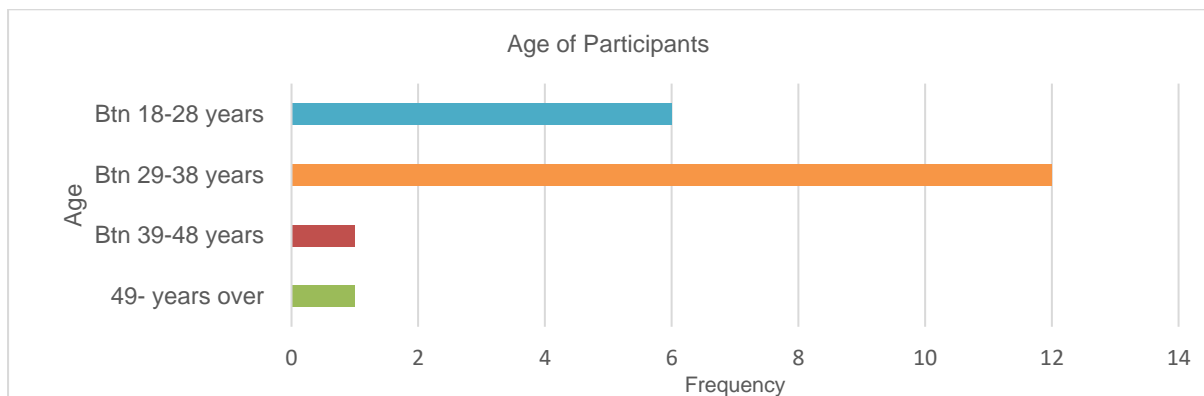
4.2 PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY RESULTS

The analysis of the two sets of research data collected from government and municipal officials through face-to-face interviews and from beneficiaries through focus groups is utilised for the presentation of the study results. The term "participant" in this study is appropriate given Hackett's (2019) claim that it refers to people who have given their informed consent to participate in research and whom the researcher has confidence will provide the information needed to answer research questions.

4.2. Section A: Personal characteristics of EPWP beneficiaries

A description of the personal profiles of the participants is given.

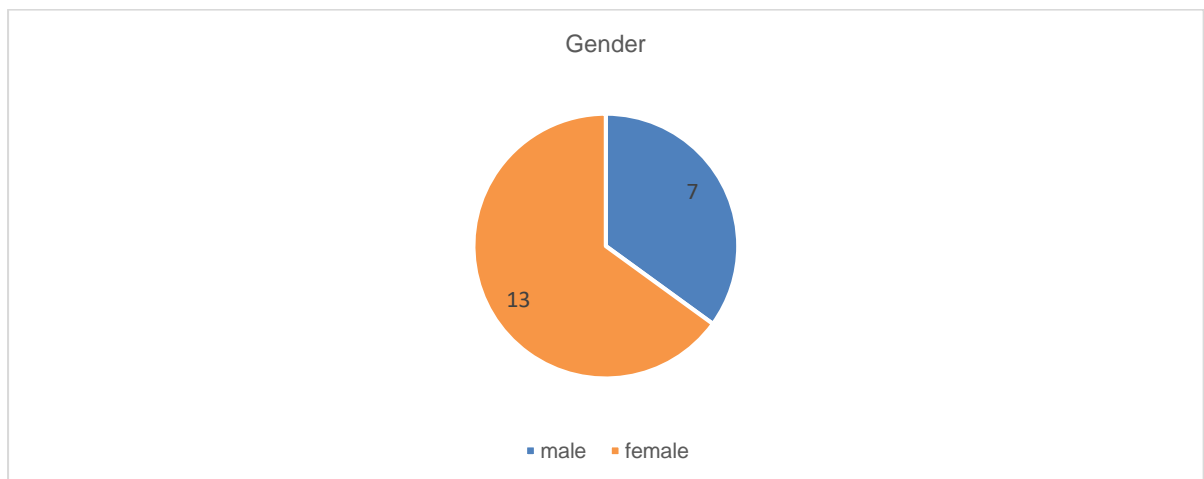
4.2.1 Age of participants



The age distribution of the total sample participants is illustrated in the bar graph in Figure 4.1

The goal was to investigate the predominant age group among EPWP beneficiaries. The findings revealed that most beneficiaries are in the 29–38 age group. Study results from Madlala and Matshidisho (2019) concurs with the findings that the infrastructure-related EPWP was dominated by the youth.

4.2.2 Gender



The gender disparity of the participants is illustrated in the pie chart in Figure 4.2

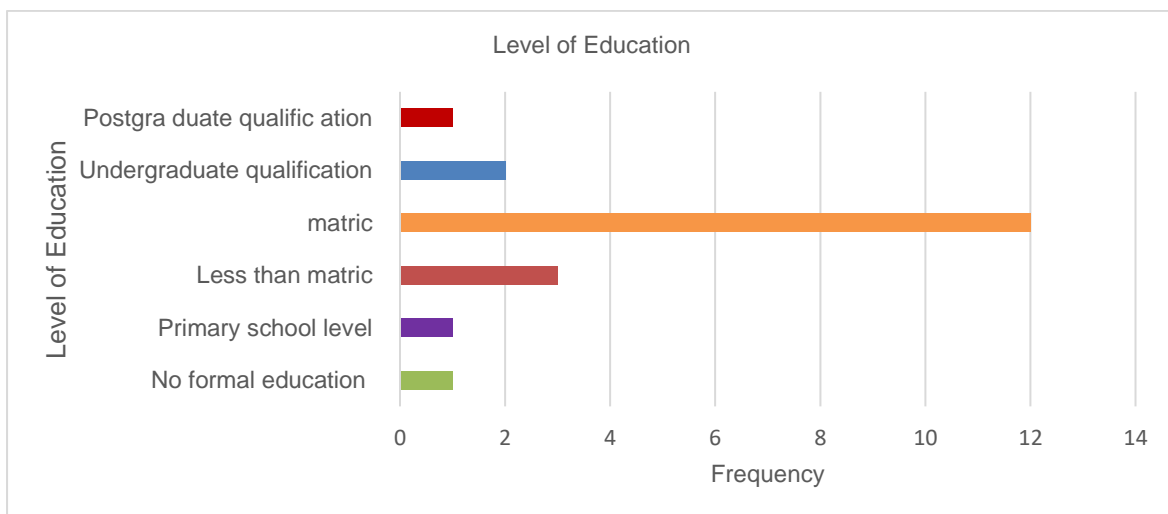
In terms of gender, men made up a smaller proportion of the participants than women. In infrastructure related EPWPs, male participation was about average, with women playing an active role in these programs. The findings are influenced by EPWP's policy priority of emphasising vulnerable labour-force groups. According to the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (2020),

all employers and employees who participate in the EPWP are governed by the Ministerial determination published in Gazette No. 9745 in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1997. Women are employed under special conditions determined by ministerial determination as the targeted group for employment on public works programmes (DPWI, 2021).

4.2.3 Any Disability

The study's findings in the sampled infrastructure related EPWP revealed that four of the participants were living with disability. Ministerial Determination: EPWP Phases 55% women, 55% youth, and 2% persons living with disability is the demographic target that all EPWP implementing agencies must work towards. Government Gazette publication of EPWP (EPWP 2020). The study found that, persons living with disabilities are prioritised when recruiting EPWP beneficiaries, this includes in infrastructure-related projects as well.

4.2.4 Level of Education

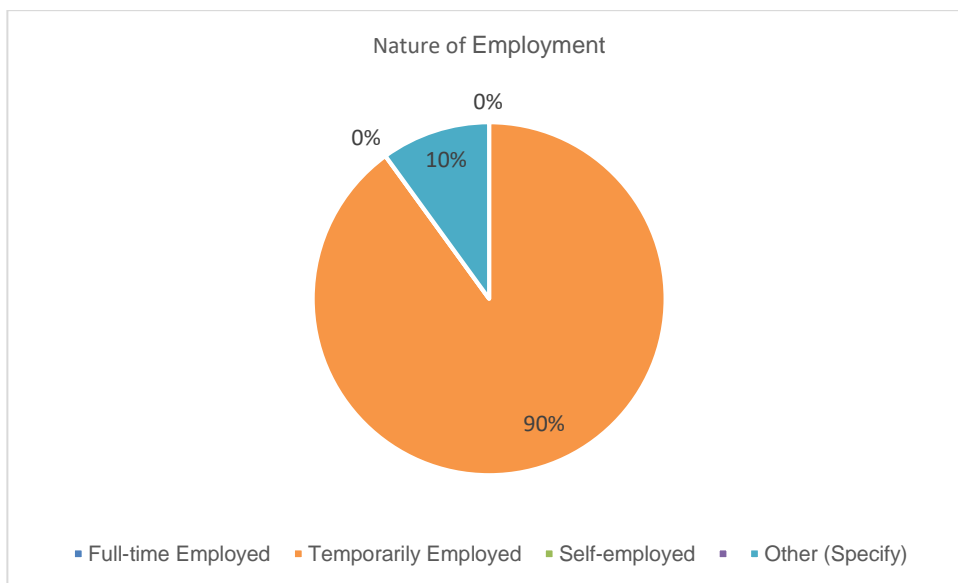


The participant's level of education presented in the bar graph in Figure 4.3

The findings revealed similarities in the educational qualifications of the beneficiaries across different types of infrastructure related EPWP investigated. These similarities include the fact that the majority of participants had only completed matric, a few had completed secondary schooling, and only two had continued their studies, as shown in the bar graph (4.3). According to the findings, the majority of participants can read and write.

According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) (2023), in the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) Quarter 1 analysis, there was an increase in labour force participation rate of 0.9% from 58.5% in quarter 4 of 2022 to 59.4% in quarter 1 of 2023, with Gauteng, Limpopo, and the North West recording the highest increase. Having said that, while youth aged 15–24 years and 25–34 years had the highest rates of unemployment, approximately 3.7 (36.1%) out of ten young people were not in employment, education, or training (NEET).

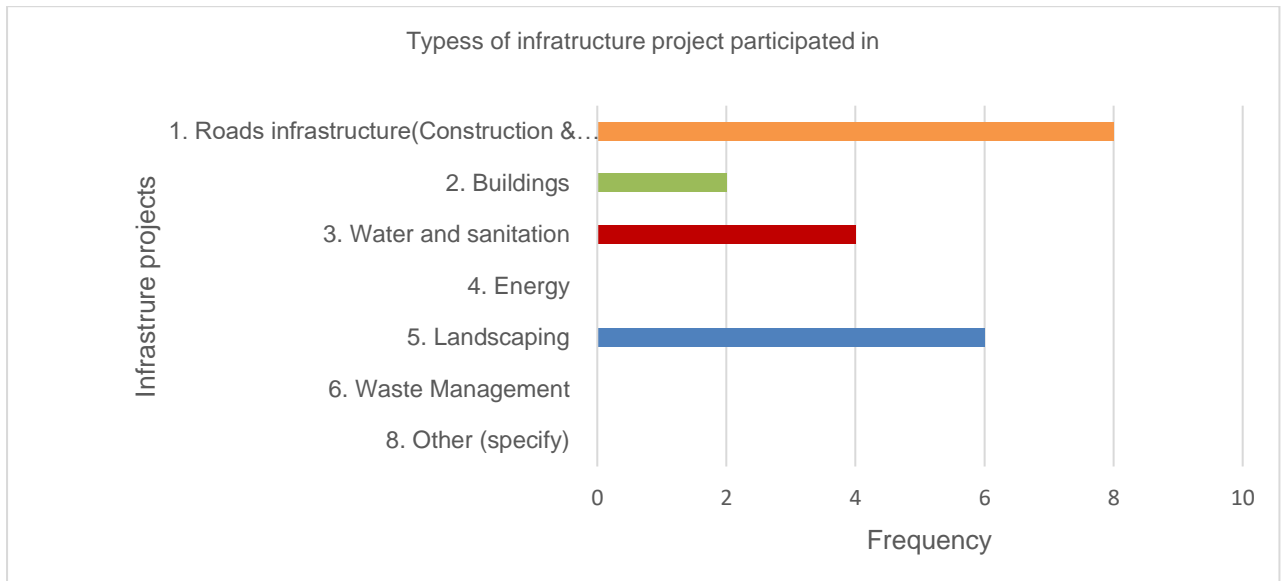
4.2.5 Nature of employment



The participant's nature of employment in the pie chart in Figure 4.4.

In terms of the nature of their employment, participants revealed that, while it is obvious that they are on a temporary contract basis, such contracts vary in length. As shown in the pie chart above, almost all participants are contracted on a temporary basis due to the nature of the programme, with only one participant reporting to be on permanent contract. The results showed that 90% were on temporary employment, while only 10% were on full-time employment, allowing EPWP beneficiaries to receive an income, purchase household necessities, and improve their livelihoods while employed in the EPWP.

4.2.6 EPWP beneficiaries' participation in types of Infrastructure project



The participant's involvement in types of infrastructure related EPWP is presented in the bar graph in Figure 4.5.

According to the findings, six participants were contracted to infrastructure-related EPWP (Landscape), and four were contracted to infrastructure-related EPWP (building maintenance, water, and sanitation) at the LDPWRI. Other results at D4069 to R37 Mashite road constructions included eight (08) members, two (02) of whom were attached to Mashite Community Hall infrastructure related EPWP.

The goal was to identify the most prominent infrastructure project among the sampled participants in the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality. The findings revealed that infrastructure-related projects, specifically landscaping and road construction and maintenance, dominated, with the majority of participants having worked on these types of projects.

4.2.7 Description of Infrastructure related EPWPs

- **Landscaping (LDPWRI)**

The Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure's infrastructure-related EPWP includes various infrastructure projects to maintain government buildings throughout the province. The landscaping project, which was located in the Department of Public Works in the local municipality of Lepelle-Nkumpi and had a new contract starting the previous year, was part of the study. More than 20 infrastructure-related EPWP beneficiaries were reported to have been hired, with the goal of increasing labour intensity and reducing poverty in the local communities. Activities included garden maintenance, and upkeep tasks included removing undesirable, damaged, or dead trees, among other things.

- **Building maintenance infrastructure related EPWP (LDPWRI)**

The LDPWRI's building maintenance project was included in the study. The infrastructure-related projects for water and sanitation were also included. The programme included 10 beneficiaries who were given tasks like maintaining the infrastructure of government buildings, which included activities like inspecting, painting, replacing air conditioning systems, and maintaining other utility services.

- **Water and Sanitation infrastructure related EPWP (LDPWRI)**

The infrastructure related EPWP included 10 beneficiaries who were assigned duties that included fitting sanitary pipework, where drainage systems, valves, and fittings in government buildings must be installed, maintained, and repaired. The LDPWRI, in accordance with EPWP policy guidelines, had contracted with infrastructure-related EPWP beneficiaries for an 18-month period in order to combat unemployment and reduce poverty.

- **Road Construction and Maintenance (D069 to R37 Mashite road construction)**

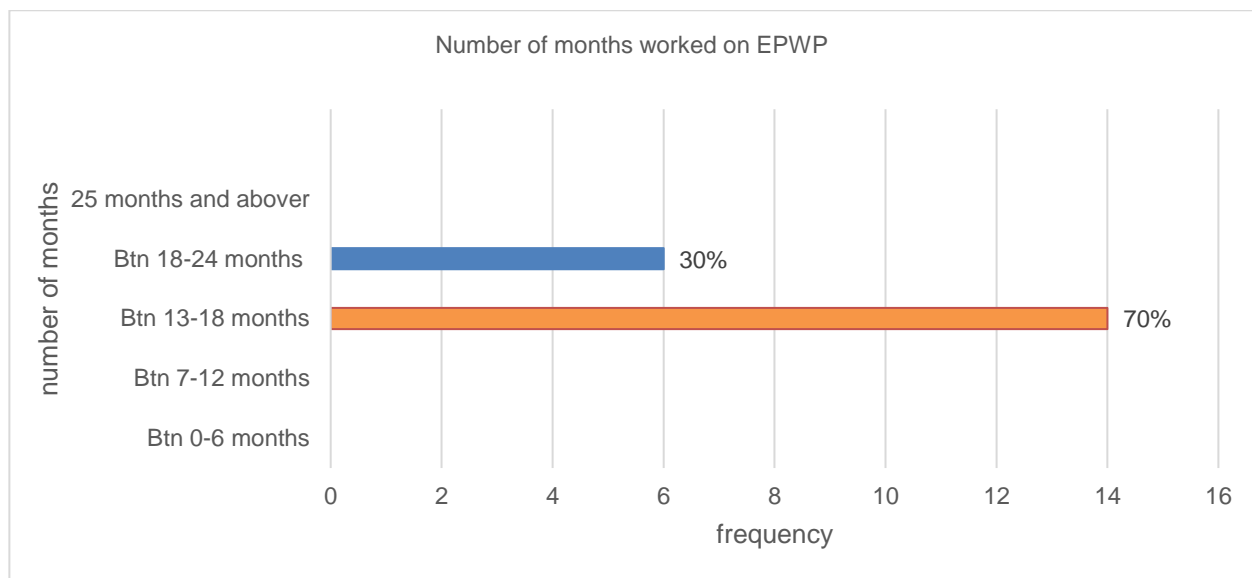
The D4069 to R37 Mashite Road construction was initiated by the Lepelle Nkumpi local municipality, which was responsible for road planning, construction, and maintenance. During the fiscal year, the ward was featured in the Integrated

Development Plan (IDP). The project's goal was to address local government service delivery, job creation, and poverty reduction. The project had 20 EPWP employees, and their responsibilities included preparing the construction site, which included digging with picks and shovels and removing hazards and debris.

- **Building Construction (Mashite Community Hall)**

The project had 15 infrastructure related EPWP beneficiaries who had signed a 12 month contract. The infrastructure related EPWP duties at the Building Construction included preparation of the building site and off-loading of materials, including bricks and cement, to the site, among others. According to Mazenda, Mantjane, Simawu, and Lubinga (2022), such labour-intensive services are consistent with EPWP's infrastructure sector, which includes building, dams and reservoirs, roads, and waste management projects.

4.2.8 Number of months worked on infrastructure related EPWP



The number of months worked on the infrastructure-related EPWP represented in the bar graph in Figure 4.6.

As shown in the bar graph above, 70% of participants were involved with the EPWP for a period of 12 to 18 months, while the remaining 30% were involved with the EPWP for period up to 24 months. Findings according to Ngumbela (2021), revealed that the majority of construction EPWPs programmes had short lifespans. Labour-intensive projects, such as those in the infrastructure sector,

tend to be short-lived, lasting 3-6 months on average the duration of the projects was determined by its nature and the level of workload required.

The results of this study are in conflict with Ngumbela's (2021) findings. According to the findings, the majority of infrastructure-related EPWPs in the domains of building maintenance, road construction, water and sanitation, and landscaping lasted up to 24 months. Beneficiaries of the infrastructure-related EPWP were guaranteed a longer contractual period of employment, which increased their income and enabled them to improve their livelihoods and reduce poverty.

4.3 Section B: FINDINGS AND RESPONSES FROM INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED EPWP BENEFICIARIES

The following were key findings of the study:

4.3.1 Consultation and recruitment of infrastructure related EPWP

The recruitment guidelines offer direction for choosing individuals to work on an EPWP project. It aims to do away with any unfair and biased participant recruitment procedures and to provide an equitable, transparent, fair, and clear procedure that all implementing bodies must follow (DPWI 2021).

The findings at LDPWRI, showed that majority of participants learned about the programme from their local councillor, while other participants were contacted by employer (government officials) who stated that their information was retrieved from the Department of Employment and Labour's unemployment database. According to the findings of the infrastructure related EPWPs, there was no consistency in the processes of recruiting EPWP beneficiaries.

Participant stated that: *"I got the information from the local meeting by the councillor, saying the municipality has appointed the contractor for the local road in our village so we asked him do how do we get the job, so he said we must go to the hall"*. (P14)

Another statement from participant was that: *"I heard some friend of mine saying the counsellor told them that there are jobs, and we should come to community hall"*.

(P15). The results showed that there was no transparency in the processes because the community was not informed and there was no general consensus regarding the terms and priorities of employment.

Participants were suspicious of biasness, nepotism, and contraventions of the rules and guidelines governing the hiring of EPWP staff members due to the lack of consistency in the information provided to them regarding the project and the selection process. One participant stated that:” *We were invited to the community hall and asked to choose a Yes or No paper, which means that if you chose a yes paper, you were hired*”. (P16)

While another participant stated that:” *the process was simply based on luck, so we were not sure how they developed the Yes or No cards*”. (P12)

According to Ngubela (2021), in order to enhance the possibility that people who live in the areas where services are being established will be hired to work on these initiatives, project information must be disseminated as widely as possible to local organisations and community leaders.

4.3.2. Infrastructure related EPWP beneficiary’s roles at Infrastructure projects

In this industry, labour-intensive techniques are used to build and maintain infrastructure projects that are funded by the public sector (EPWP 2020). Finding at the LDPWRI, revealed that participants at Landscaping reported their duties include planting trees and flowers, cut grass and bushes, waters and plant lawns and add fertilisers. One participant stated that: “*Ok most of us here we do landscaping, we cut the grass and ensure the area has flowers, it is well managed like*”. (P19). While another stated that: “*we are also using machines like Brush cutters, spade and rake to clean the government buildings*”. (P19)

Participants working at LDPWRI building maintenance claimed that they were responding to maintenance requests and completing repairs like plasterboard, painting, flooring and plastering. One participant stated that: “*ourselves we are from*

maintenance section, where we work with paintings, plumbing, and carpentry and sometimes we do office furniture removals". (P12)

Water and sanitation projects findings at the LDPWRI included the installation, maintenance, and repair of plumbing and sanitary and water supply systems for bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry rooms. While findings from D4069 to R37 road construction projects included participant roles such as clearing the construction site, moving and erecting road and retaining walls and bridges. One participant stated that: *"I use spade and pick tools to remove rubbles in order to ensure the machine does not get stuck". (P24)*

The finding concurs with Ngwenya (2016), who found that infrastructure sector EPWP's main goal is to place more people in gainful employment. In order to achieve this, fewer machines are used on the building, and more workers are hired to carry out the tasks that machines would have previously completed.

During the interviews, it was further discovered that most of the participants thought certain roles were potentially hazardous in terms of safety. The participants stated that their duties included using tools, which call for safety equipment and prior instruction on how to use them safely. Findings at building construction revealed that labourers work alongside tradespeople and machine operators. On construction sites, they are in charge of carrying and loading supplies. The use of tools to break down old forms and build structures is one of the roles.

A Participant stated that: *"I work with picks and shovels to carry out general work, and carry bricks, but look we have been provided with one set of safety gear and because of the work it tears up". (P25)*

Another Participant reported that: *"We were taught on how to direct traffic, we ensure that the cars can see that there is roads contractions and we stop some cars while we open for some to avoid accidents, and you need proper training". (P22)*

The finding corroborates with Jairam (2020), in his study who found that duties included the usage of construction helmets and safety boots, the fundamentals

of hand tool operation, and how to control traffic with a flag. More than it was intended to help the workers develop new skills, this type of training was designed to shield the contractor from any claims resulting from accidents and injuries.

As mentioned in Chapter 2, the goal of the Occupational Health and Safety Act No. 85 of 1993 is to safeguard EPWP beneficiaries who are related to infrastructure against accidents and injuries at work by making sure they have access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs). While the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act No. 130 of 1993 offers benefits to employees who become disabled as a result of work-related injuries (EPWP 2022).

4.3.3 Infrastructure related EPWP and Income of beneficiaries

Findings revealed from participants at LDPWRI, is that an income amounting to R13.97 hour is received, and it is mostly utilised on transport, groceries, toiletry, electricity and lunch. Majority of the participants have highlighted that the money is distributed as such to try and mend the monthly shortages. Few participants mentioned that they are able to send their children to school, while others mentioned she helps with medical expenses for her mother 's medical conditions.

One participant stated that: *“I pay for transport, and I buy groceries and pay society with the rest of the money, I also give school children pocket money, but you can tell it is not enough”*. (P11). Another participant stated that: *“my brother we can never say money is enough, at least I get to buy groceries and toiletry for my family and I am grateful”*. (P12)

Other Participant stated that: *“Even though we might claim that there isn't enough money, I think it is mostly that we don't go to bed hungry”*. (P20)

Findings from the D4069-R37 construction road revealed that 8 of the participants earned R16.6c per hour and spent it primarily on groceries, toiletries, furniture, and savings. The findings revealed that their income was used to meet the needs of their household or to ensure their well-being. Further

research revealed that infrastructure-related EPWP income varies in how it used to depend on to needs of beneficiaries.

The findings also revealed that 8 of the participants at LDPWRI were able to purchase household assets, with two participants claiming to have purchased a bed and the other claiming to have purchased a television. According to the findings, even though the income was far from sufficient, participants were able to purchase household assets such as cell phones, beds, and televisions, though some felt an increase would be preferable. According to one participant: *“I was able to purchase a smart phone so that I can look for additional employment on the internet; I believe it will be very beneficial to me”*. (P18). *Another participant stated that:” My brother used to have a broken bed, but I was able to save enough money to purchase a new bed and a television so that my children could watch their favourite shows after school”*. (P17)

The finding was consistent with studies by Onguntona, Ankinradewo, Kgoetyane, Ongunbayo and Aigbavboa (2023), who argue that beneficiaries of the EPWP income enabled them to begin addressing issues related to their livelihood and provide for their families. Some families received assistance from EPWP wages in addition to income from social grants and other family members' wages. According to Dladla (2023), participants expressed gratitude for having access to income and for purchasing household assets, which is another crucial component of the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework.

Regarding unemployment and general poverty, the earnings of the EPWP employees had a significant impact. According (EPWP, 2017), assigning workers to projects closer to their place of residence is one of the primary selection criteria for EPWP workers. Despite the fact that some participants felt they spent a lot of money on transportation, guidelines on EPWP suggested that participants should live locally, ideally close to the project site.

4.3.4 How did your participation in the program improve your life?

The EPWP programme aims to alleviate poverty while also addressing South Africa's high unemployment rate. The program's success is measured by

participants' ability to change their livelihoods, increase their household income, improve their skills, and preserve natural resources. Infrastructure-related EPWP is intended to help reduce unemployment in the local area (Baijnath 2023).

Participants agreed that the infrastructure-related EPWP had a significant impact on changing their lives in terms of putting food on the table, but not so much on improving their livelihood. According to one of the participants: *“My brother we cannot deny the importance of the income we get, but the problem is what we are going to do in the next few months when we exit”*. (P24)

Findings revealed that participants are grateful for the obvious income received from the infrastructure-related EPWP, but its impact on beneficiaries' lives is questionable, owing to a lack of assets attained, skill development and training provided by the infrastructure-related EPWP. One participant stated that: *“Obviously it is not like staying at home, you see the problem becomes when you cannot plan for the future, you cannot buy furniture, or invest as the income is not enough”*. (P29)

While the other participant stated: *“The impact cannot be the salary, we need something that will sustain the future, be trained be given certificate for learned skills and start businesses”*. (P12)

Another participant narrated that: *“but it is hard because we are not empowered to can I be able to get apply for jobs, they want proof that you know electricity, how will I include that in my curriculum vitae (CV)?”* (P27)

The majority of participants reported that the infrastructure related EPWP had improved their standard of living in terms of household assets and income and that it had given them relief from the hardships of poverty and unemployment. Improvements in feeling of dignity were also evident, and it was thought that the infrastructure related EPWP had been beneficial to some extent.

Findings concurs with Onguntona et al., (2023) with argument that through transfer of assets and income, skill development, and training to support livelihoods, the EPWP had an impact on its beneficiaries. Among the general

comments in this category were that participants in the EPWP received income relief and were able to buy household assets such as stoves, cell phone and beds.

Participants who believed that the program's improvements were limited argued that the pay "did not cover all of the expenses" and was insufficient to make a difference. Argued that income is received while they are still employed, and that this income relief disappears once they leave the programme. According to Serrat (2017), enhancing well-being in terms of financially stable and sustainable livelihoods is an essential livelihood asset. The ability to plan ahead and take on longer-term financial commitments intended to enhance one's well-being is made possible by having access to a steady and predictable source of income.

4.3.4 Training and workshops attended for skills development during the EPWP employment period

Human capital's livelihood assets are increased when project beneficiaries have access to adequate health care, adequate nutrition, adequate education, adequate knowledge and skills, adequate work capability, and adaptability, according to the Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA). The majority of participants have not received formal training or skill development workshops since being hired.

The findings of all infrastructure-related EPWP participants at the LDPWRI and D4069 to R37 Road construction revealed that they expected to receive training, but they did not receive training or skill development related to their project duties. None of the participants had attended a certified skill development and training programme. Finding further revealed that three (03) participants had received leadership skill workshop. A participant stated: *"I think they should give training because we can't just come here and we leave without any certificates, it will help us look for jobs going forward"*. (P16)

Findings at the LDPWRI further revealed that only two participants received a workshop on financial management offered by the private sector. Participants stated that they only receive on job trainings where they learn basics on cutting trees, painting, and plumbing. Participants are not trained for the duties they fulfil, and do not

attend certified skill development for the learned skills. One participant stated: *“The only training we've received thus far was from Absa on financial management, during which they advised us to start saving money like my thrifty friend [laughing]”*. (P19). Another participant stated that: *“I have not seen anyone coming to teach us on gardening or maybe utilising grass cutters so that we get certificates, it seems we are going to leave without any training because we are almost done”*. (P15)

The findings contradict two theories: the capability approach and the sustainable livelihood approach by Sen (2005), Scoones (1998) Chambers (1995) cited in Su, Song Sultanaliiev, Ma, Xue and Fahad (2021). The freedom an individual has to act or to be someone of value is the main focus of the person-centred Capability Approach. It emphasises avoiding dependency and advancing the right of each person to pursue their own interests (Liu et al., 2020). The results showed an absence in training and skill development, depriving the beneficiaries of the EPWP of the chance to become empowered, free to look for long-term employment, and accomplish worthwhile objectives.

Further finding revealed that lack of skills development and training lead to beneficiaries, being less employable, hampering opportunities for attaining sustainable jobs and less likely to make a decent salary. A Participant had stated that: *“yes you will need brick laying certificate if you want to open your proper company, so that you can get tenders, they don't train, and some say is because there are no funds have to pay for skills trainings”*. (P26) Another participant reported that: *“my brother when we leave, another group arrives, but they don't provide any trainings, what I am to write on the curriculum vitae to get permanent job elsewhere”*. (P23)

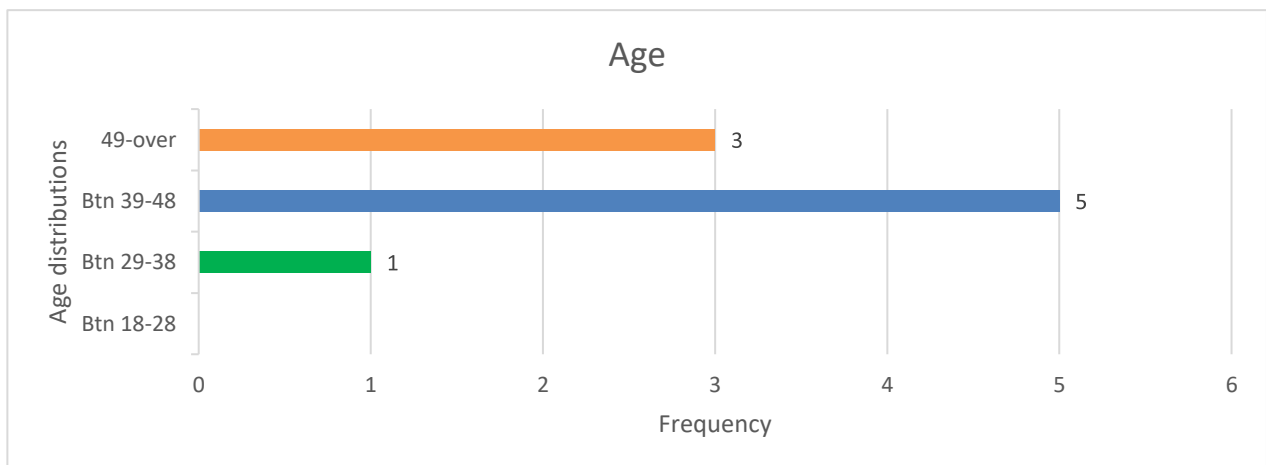
Further research indicated that the inability of beneficiaries to receive skill development training negatively impacted their ability to look for long-term employment or businesses that would allow them to better and maintain their standard of living. One participant stated that: *“You see most employers in companies and private businesses and also in government, they need people with a particular skill or knowledge with experience, now the problem is I will do not have document to prove the skill or experience I had on the program”*.

The findings are contradicting with the following theories: the capability approach and the sustainable livelihood approach Sen (2005) and Chambers (1995) cited in Natarajan et al (2022), argue that social arrangements like economic growth should be evaluated primarily on the basis of the degree of freedom enjoyed by individuals in order to support the functional value of beneficiaries. To achieve its objectives, the EPWP should prioritise the empowerment of communities (infrastructure-related EPWP beneficiaries) through skill development and training, enhancing their freedom to be marketable and achieve sustainable means of livelihood.

4.4 SECTION C: FINDINGS AND RESPONSES FROM GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

4.4.1 Information on participant’s demographics

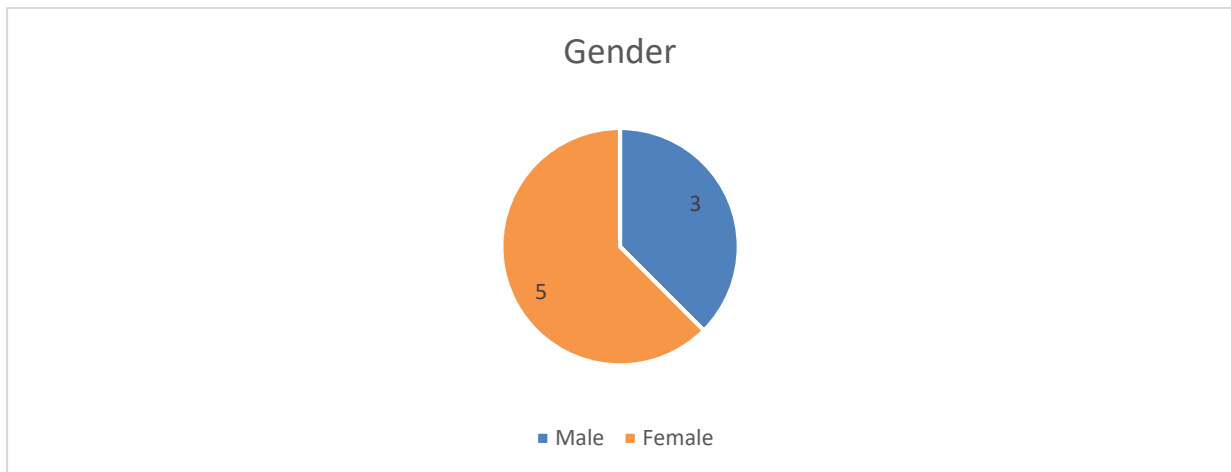
4.4.1.1 Age



The participant’s ages presented in the bar graph in Figure 4.7

The above bar graph (4.7) depicts the distribution of participants' ages. The findings revealed that 5 participant which made the majority of participants from the LDPWI and Lepelle-Nkumpi municipalities who oversee infrastructure-related EPWP were between the ages of 39-48, while 3 participant were the older age group participant with ages between 49 and over.

4.4.1.2 Gender

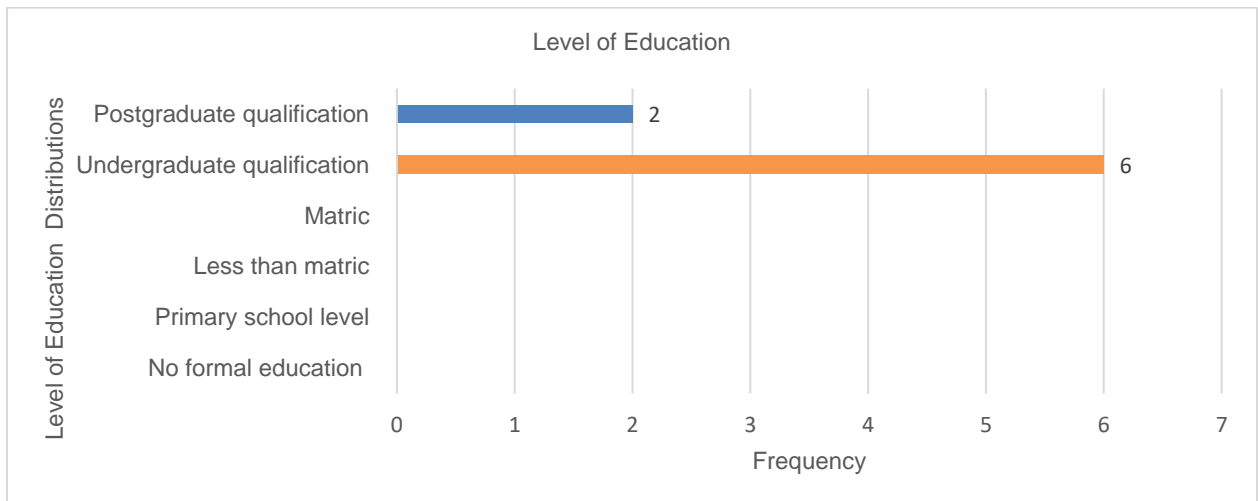


The participant's Gender presented in the bar graph in Figure 4.8

The above pie chart (4.8) depicts the distribution of participants' ages.

The findings revealed that 5 participant which made the majority of participants from the LDPWI and Lepelle-Nkumpi municipalities who oversee infrastructure-related EPWP were females, while 3 participant were male participant.

4.4.1.3 Level of Educational

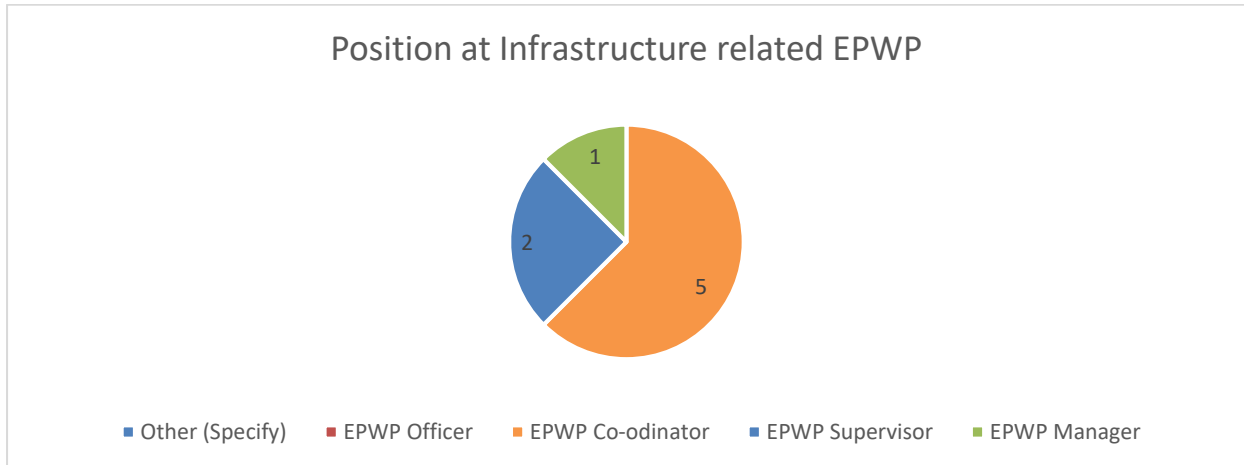


The participant's level of educational presented in the bar graph in Figure 4.9

The bar graph chart (4.9) above depicts the distribution of participants' educational attainments. According to the findings, participants from the EPWP government and municipal officials in charge of infrastructure-related EPWP obtained educational

credentials. Participants had undergraduate degrees in various fields and were well placed in their respective programmes, according to the findings.

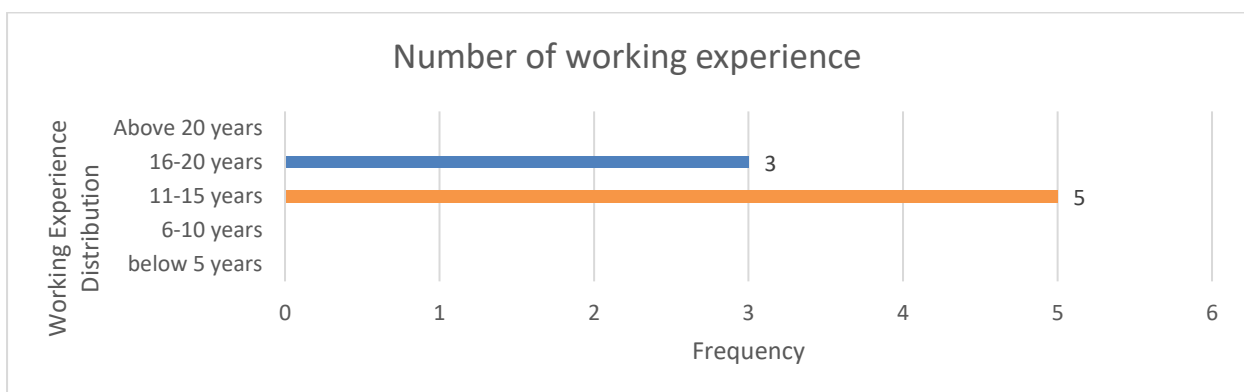
4.6.1.4 Position at the infrastructure related EPWP



The participant's position at EPWP as presented in the pie chart in Figure 4.10

According to the findings, the majority of participants work as co-ordinators in infrastructure-related EPWP, with only a few in managerial or supervisory roles. According to the findings, EPWP officials are hired in relevant positions to support the EPWP programme. The findings also revealed that various suitable positions for support, management, and improvement were required in the infrastructure-related EPWP.

4.6.1.5 Number of Working Experience

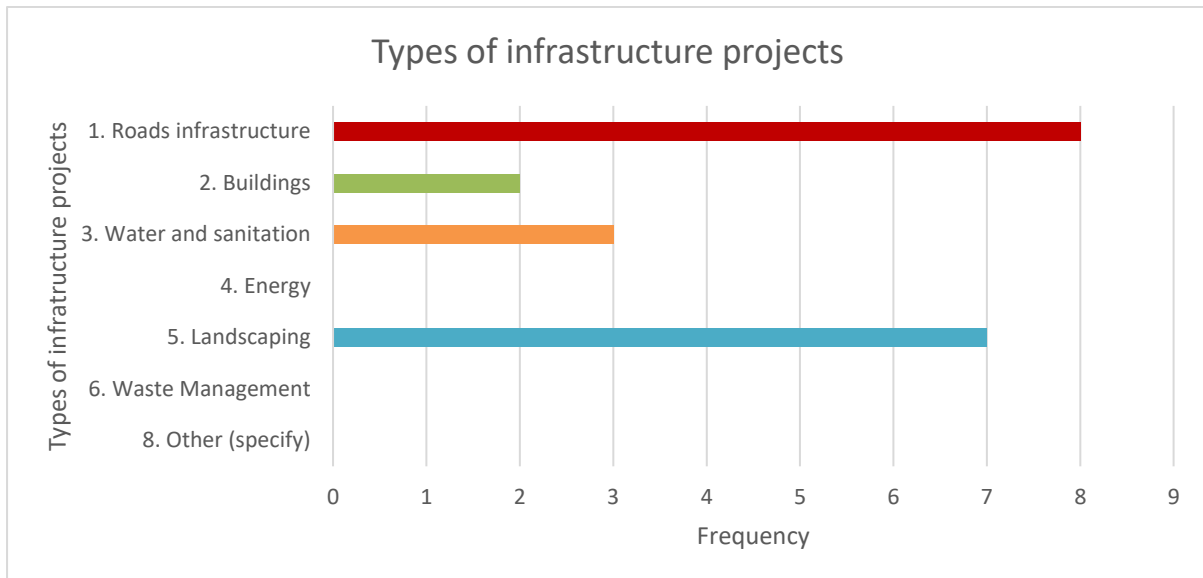


The participant's ages and working experience presented in the bar graph in Figure 4.10

The distribution of participants' work experience is depicted in the above bar graph (4.10). According to the findings, the majority of participants from the LDPWRI government and Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality who oversee

infrastructure-related EPWP had more than ten years of experience working with EPWP. The findings revealed that participants had extensive experience working with communities and are development experts.

4.4.1.6 Types of Infrastructure project offered to beneficiaries



The types of infrastructure related EPWP as demonstrated in the bar graph in Figure 4.11

The information in the bar graph above represents the findings reached based on the participants in the research study from LDPWRI and Lepelle-Nkumpi local municipal officials. The findings show that the provincial government's EPWP manager and supervisors, as well as representatives from the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, are mostly involved in projects involving landscaping, water and sanitation buildings, road construction and maintenance, and building construction.

4.5 SECTION D: PERCEPTIONS ON INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED EPWP IN REDUCING POVERTY

4.5.1 The role of government and municipal officials on infrastructure projects EPWP

The LDPWI is in charge of infrastructure planning and development. Public Enterprises, Mineral and Energy Housing, Provincial and Local Government,

Water Affairs, Forestry Education, Independent Development Trust, and local municipalities are also involved(DPWI 2021).

Findings revealed at LDPWRI and municipality offices is that participants support for the identification of existing infrastructure projects, ensuring beneficiaries are registered with EPWP database.

Another participant stated: *“To be honest it is a lot of work, because I ensure that all EPWP work opportunities are reported on the EPWP Reporting System (EPWP-RS)”*. (P4)

Another participant stated that: *“Also I coordinate the implementation of the EPWP by all public bodies in the province, That entails reporting of work opportunities that are created, collection of data, cleaning of data when comes to me, whole processes”*. (P2)

Findings revealed with government and municipal participants are that official’s duties such as coordination is meant to ensure that EPWPs’ goals are met. The findings showed that the EPWP programme is supported with roles including monitoring of EPWP projects and providing reports on targets reached on monthly basis to the supervisor.

According to one participant: *“I identify labour intensity programs, I compile job creation report monthly, disseminate program information, and I also record all names of projects beneficiaries’ as they need to be reported on a system for national office”*. (P4)

Further findings revealed that both government and municipal officials felt that there is a lot of work, and that their duties can be demanding feeling overburdened by the amount of work that must be done in order to meet deadlines. The Finding revealed that majority of participant agreed that it would be better if more personnel is hired for the betterment of completing duties on time, and assisting the program reach its goal.

One participant stated that: *“You see it is a lot of work, I have to go to the field, come back capture all the beneficiaries details to send to province, well it was going to be better if municipality hire more staff to assist even with administration work”*.(P7)

Results concur with Dladla (2023), who found that EPWP implementation and coordination are handled by insufficient staff in each public body. Participants stated that the number of EPWP participants and the limited staff complement result in ineffective EPWP programme supervision, which has an impact on programme reporting.

4.5.2 The purposes and goals of Infrastructure related EPWP

The EPWP was implemented in a fourth phase due to the magnitude of the country's unemployment and poverty problems. EPWP's objectives clearly include reducing poverty and increasing income by temporarily employing the unemployed to carry out socially useful activities at EPWP. Members of the community would receive employment, basic training, and skill development all at the same time (DPWI 2021).

Finding revealed majority of participants were aware of the purposes and goals of the infrastructure related EPWP. With one participant stating that:” *Well the EPWP serves a stop gap measure in terms of creating temporary work opportunities, not jobs but work opportunities”*. (P6)

While the other participant made a statement that: *“Yes you count it as poverty alleviation. But at same time it also allows creation and maintenance of government buildings and services”*. (P4)

Findings revealed that the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality is using labour intensity construction to carry out infrastructure projects EPWP to ensure public bodies like municipalities have plans and budgets that will attract significant numbers of unemployed people to productive work and provide them with training. The findings were supported by the local municipality policies and Integrated Development Plan documents (Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality IDP, 2022-23).

The findings were supported by municipal policies and IDP documents (Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality IDP, 2021-22), which showed that in the 2020/21 financial year, 1261 CWP jobs and 368 temporary jobs were created. While 1261 jobs were created with 145 EPWP jobs in 2020/21.

4.5.3 Infrastructure related EPWP benefits

The majority of participants reported that the infrastructure-related EPWP not only creates job opportunities, but also provides financial assistance to beneficiaries when they are most in need. According to the study (McCord et al., 2021) society is built on the implicit understanding that adults must meet their food, shelter, and clothing needs through work, and the EPWP attempts to fill the gap.

One participant stated: *“I think the benefits are based on the fact that you were not getting anything and there comes stipend, that can at least ensure you sleep not with empty stomach, and the just a getting warm clothes for winter, and ensuring kids go to school, its little but it is something.” (P2)*

Another participant made a statement that: *“in the main, it is the stipend. And we also register them with UIF so that at the end of the project they can be able to go and claim in terms of the UIF in relation to the duration of their work”. (P5)*

Findings further showed that each project results in a tangible improvement to the lives of the poor by offering a wide range of services and resources thanks to the hard work of EPWP beneficiaries. The participants further narrated that this provides dignity to the beneficiaries which is an important benefit which is sometimes less considered compared to material benefits.

The findings revealed majority of participant felt that, while infrastructure-related EPWP are short-term programmes, their long-term benefits stem from their ability to empower beneficiaries, who gain skills and trainings that enable them to become marketable individuals. According to one participant: *“You see with long term benefits, I think I forgot to mention the issue of training during benefits of infrastructure related EPWP, which we call it an exit strategy”. (P7)*

While another participant stated that: *“Long term benefits will have to do with what you will be left with after you leave the program, which is skills that can be useful, that is if*

beneficiaries can utilise them individually or in a form of co-operatives and work as a group, which we highly encourage it". (P2)

Finding concurs with Jairam (2020), who argues that one of the exit policies that helps people find employment is skills development, which tries to offer a rung on the ladder away from EPWPs' low pay. Increasing the number of people engaged in productive work is the EPWP's main goal. Providing training and skill development to EPWP beneficiaries is one of the program's objectives.

4.5.4 Workshops and training offered for infrastructure EPWP beneficiaries

Because the EPWP only provides temporary employment, according to its objectives, beneficiaries must obtain training in order to hone their skills and find long-term employment. Participants from the LDPWRI concurred that although the project manager has the power and duty to ensure that service providers provide training to EPWP beneficiaries who are involved with infrastructure, this rarely happens.

Participant stated that: *"Normally it depends on contractors, on whether how often does He want to provide trainings. But as coordinators we encourage all beneficiaries to be trained in the projects there are participating"*. Another participant made a statement that: *"Hence I am saying it goes from project to project in terms of training, if the project has a budget it happens sometimes but it not, it is emphasized in terms of projects".(P6)*

The infrastructure-related EPWP training is viewed as a structured learning or skill-development intervention with the dual objectives of enhancing productivity during project implementation and facilitating place ability and employability outside of the EPWP project. The training includes theoretical, practical, and workplace learning, and certification is then made available.

Further research at the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality revealed that participants or officials have no authority over the skills development and training intended for infrastructure beneficiaries. Participants have admitted that their role is limited to encouraging service contractors to provide training to beneficiaries during the contractual period of the programme. A participant stated: *"Even in their tender contracts it is encouraged, but sometimes contractors are considering their budget."*

Because it is also determined by interest from the contractor, whether he really want to train his people”. (P3)

Another participant stated: *“each and every project that we are implemented we encourage service providers to provide training, remember we are recruiting but not as a municipality per se, we employ but through the contractors on site”. Participant reported: “Remember the contractor once appointed takes over all responsibilities, so they have to employ the service provider to conduct trainings on their own, then the people are trained, and certificate are issued by the training service provider”. (P6). Further stating that: “The municipality might assist provide information on service providers, but everything will be on the contractor”. (P6)*

According to Onguntona et al. (2023), EPWP's goals are to give beneficiaries money and training so they can transition into other professions by offering infrastructural services. In order to generate and offer work opportunities around projects that ultimately result in employment and income for underprivileged and needy households in rural areas, the PWP uses more labour and light machinery. According to McCord et al (2021), the goal of providing skill training and additional work experience to increase participants' ability to earn an income after leaving a PWP is beneficial in terms of reducing frictional unemployment.

4.5.5 How are infrastructure related EPWP developed?

Findings revealed that the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure acts as a custodian and provides assistance to the various client bodies with regard to the conceptualization, planning, design, implementation, and management of large infrastructure projects, which must be carried out in accordance with the EPWP principles and established guidelines.

Findings also revealed that to meet the goals of the infrastructure related EPWP work opportunities, the LDPWRI offers technical assistance to all provincial departments and municipalities as implementing bodies. Further findings at Lepelle-Nkumpi local municipality revealed that after suitable contractor is appointed for a project, infrastructure related EPWP beneficiaries are then employed to the project through the councillor and the Community development liaison. The Lepelle-Nkumpi local Municipality is using labour intensity construction to complete infrastructure projects

under LED projects, according to further research (Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipal IDP 2021-22).

Participant stated that: *“Ok locally the councillors are the ones responsible for recruitment, because they are the municipality liaison officers mending the municipality and the communities. They are involved because as an official you cannot go to the community with their representative which is a counsellor, so in most cases they will encourage participation in their areas”.* (P7)

Another stated that: *“When we recruit, we go directly to municipality’s database of unemployed of unemployed people, but we realized when they claim that they utilize counsellors and tribal offices they seem to be too much political interferences, but yes recruitment policy is utilised”.* (P5)

Guidelines for the conception, planning, design, implementation, and management of infrastructure projects that must be carried out in compliance with the EPWP principles are developed by DPWI, according to the EPWP Projects Directorate of the EPWP Unit (EPWP 2021).

4.5.6 Funding of the infrastructure project

According to EPWP (2021), the majority of funding for large infrastructure projects comes from infrastructure grants to provinces and municipal infrastructure grants (MIG). The requirements were set forth in the 2004 DORA, which mandated that municipalities and provinces complete public works such as low-volume roadwork, storm water drains, and trenching projects using labour-intensive techniques in accordance with the EPWP guidelines created by the department of Public Works and approved by SALGA and the national treasury

The majority of participants agreed that each government department and other implementing body, including municipalities, is responsible for budgeting and accounting for their EPWP funds, according to the findings. A participant stated: *“Government department receiving their budget get to fund their projects. All departments and municipalities they use their capital budget, if they have to construct a road be it municipality, they will use labour intensive methods to work within that”.* (P6)

Findings revealed that the EPWP incentive grant is designed to reward provinces and municipalities that create EPWP work by reimbursing them a portion of their wage costs. The more employment created, the higher the incentive that will be paid out. One participant stated that: “*Public bodies must have reported to the LDPWRI on their EPWP performance over the previous 18 months in order to be eligible for the EPWP Grant in any given fiscal year*”. (P1)

Another participant stated: “*We also have EPWP grant, to incentive mostly based on the targets created, so if you report well reaching targets you get particular allocation from national public works. Depending on you reporting on work opportunities created and recorded on EPWP system*”. (P2)

The EPWP aims to ensure that public bodies, such as municipalities, have plans and budgets in place to attract and train a large number of unemployed people. According to the findings, the Lepelle-Nkumpi local municipality is receiving significantly less EPWP funding and grants because the number of jobs created through infrastructure-related projects has not increased in previous years, thereby impeding the EPWP's goals of increasing employment and reducing poverty. One participant stated: “*Yes we have other state entities who have their own budgets apart from the municipality budget and they utilise that on some roads construction part of their mandates*” (P3)

The findings also revealed that infrastructure-related EPWP in Lepelle-Nkumpi are not prioritised because the funds allocated to the programme are insufficient, making implementation difficult at times. Participants stated: “*there are not enough funds prioritised from municipality, even in hiring staff and administrators to assist with the program functionality*”. (P8)

Another participant narrated that: “*The more you perform as municipality, the more the grants on that implementation. So, it is simply based on the back up from government and the grants are sustained*”. (P7)

4.5.7 How sustainable are infrastructure related EPWP as a poverty reduction strategy

Sustainability is an ultimate goal, this is because the model for thinking focuses on future in which environmental, social, and economic considerations are

balanced in pursuit of a better quality of life. Although the infrastructure related EPWP programme is sustained based in its government funding as a program, findings revealed by its success in achieving sustainable livelihood for beneficiaries is in doubt.

The results showed that even though the EPWP is still in operation, more needs to be done to help its beneficiaries develop their skills and obtain training. This is because the program's efficacy in maintaining beneficiaries' livelihoods is in doubt.

According to the LDPWRI findings, participants were not provided with opportunities for skill development and training. The same was observed during interviews at the Lepelle-Nkumpi local municipality, where they stated that they work with knowledge gained from infrastructure projects but are not certified. Finding revealed participants were hired but never offered formal training. One participant stated: *“with EPWP the key challenge is an issue of training because the program itself offers practical exposure and experience but when it comes to the training funds, then that where it is struggling”*. (P2)

Another participant stated: *“majority of the infrastructure related EPWP project beneficiaries leave the programme without receiving sufficient training, while the program provides an income, it is unfortunate that at times beneficiaries although with no training, still have to leave because the contract would have lapsed”*.(P6)

Further research revealed that even though trainings are scarcely provided, where skill development training is offered, they have been successful as the beneficiaries receive certificates and are able to look for work or launch their own businesses. The trainings allow beneficiaries to competitive in attaining sustainable employment in either public or private cooperatives which is vital in levelling the playing field and reducing economic inequality. According to the findings, empowered beneficiaries are advantageous and can obtain sustainable jobs to improve and sustain their livelihoods as a result of their marketability.

One participant stated that: *“It is the municipality responsibility where every time we have projects we issue an advert, and we recruited through the councillors so of most*

people who submit curriculum vitae's, you may find that some of the work experience are from those infrastructure projects offered for beneficiaries". Another Participant stated that: "Unlike in the space of National Youth service where we produce Artisans, then there you can say yes, the training that at the ends of the program one gets a certificate, you can say they will be able to sustain themselves and start their own businesses". (P6)

During the interview, it was discovered that infrastructure-related EPWP beneficiaries required certified skills such as plumbing, painting, building and erecting roads. Marketing, financial management, and administration management skills were also required. The findings contradict the capability approach, sustainable livelihood approach, assets-based approach, empowerment approach, and social capital approach as the capability approach and sustainable livelihood approaches are fundamentally "people-centred," placing the focus on human agency instead of institutions like governments or private sector.

Rather than concentrating on the operation of the EPWP as a programme, the approach promotes the infrastructure related beneficiaries' capacity to acquire skills and enhance their standard of living through sustainable jobs. Sen (2005), Scoones (1998), and Chambers (1995), as cited in Hamilton (2019) and Liu et al. (2023), state that the capability approach sees the assessment aspect as a collection of functions and capacities, with value-object recognition being its primary focus.

4.5.8 Challenges Facing Infrastructure Related EPWP Implementation

Despite the obvious usefulness of this programme, it is not without its own challenges. Findings revealed that the EPWP on both LDPWRI and Lepelle-Nkumpi local municipality face a lack of organisational capacity to coordinate and manage the EPWP. Participants reported that there is shortage officials and the organogram structure that is not supported together with vacant posts that are not filled which impacts the EPWP functionality.

Findings revealed that there is lack of funding prioritisation at the local Municipality in supporting the infrastructure related EPWP, and while the income for beneficiaries is not enough, and at most delayed, it differs as according to infrastructure projects. According to Onguntona, Akinradewo, kgoetjane, Ongunbayo and Aigbavboa (2023), EPWP income had a major influence on employees' commitment to and job satisfaction.

In a similar vein, low pay will inevitably lead to dissatisfaction among those who participate in these public work programmes, which will have an impact on their level of commitment. This result concurred with Onguntona et al. (2023), with assertion that a major obstacle to the advancement of the EPWP is the inconsistent payment of participant wages.

Time frame for most infrastructure related EPWP are short, which impacts on the period for beneficiaries to be able to grasp the on-job trainings and be offered skill developments and trainings. One participant stated: *“The short period on its own is also a challenge, looking still on the issues of sustainability is a problem, but it is a nature of its design. But being implemented by a human being you will feel it could have been better if it was longer. But also, if you consider the pool of people that should be rotated”*. (P2)

Findings revealed that program's site implementation challenges include noncompliance by the project contractors. Participants agreed that there is lack of communication and accountability by the project contractors. One participant stated: *“With implementation of the program on the site, contractors are not in compliant, there is also issue of delays of required documentation”*. Another participant stated: *“Some do not even submit documentations, while there is serious lack of communication, and some do not have office administrators to assist with paperwork”*. (P7)

Findings further revealed the municipality lack of intentions to resolve project management challenges. Every local government has a project management unit or office that is in charge of conceptualising, planning, carrying out, and overseeing these projects. Participants stated: *“This is because when they are appointed, the contract between the project contractor and municipality do not emphasize enough of*

compliance matters, where it is there, you find there is no monitoring in the tender documents". (P5)

Another Participants stated: *"Most of these challenges are never addressed, where some contractors will implement and leave without compliance, for example, leaving the project incomplete which will affect the EPWP beneficiaries, and you find municipality not prioritising attending to such challenges". (P8)*

Findings further revealed there is political interference as recruitment depends on councillors and community liaison, who at times participant receive complains of nepotism and unfairness in recruitment processes. Participant stated *"Also we realized that in the communities, some people particular group gets to benefit alone. Which could be people from same family, relatives or people form chieftaincies". (P4)*

Finding revealed challenges includes lack of skill development and training at infrastructure related EPWP. All participants have stated that there is a need to improve the empowerment of beneficiaries, as the skill development and training offered are at rare chance.

Finding revealed that there was an issue of quality of beneficiaries received at the infrastructure related program. Challenges faced includes lateness and absence, disobedience, failure to wear a uniform, contract termination, failure to follow instructions, avoiding duties, drinking at work, sleeping during working hours and accountability for other beneficiaries. One participant stated: *"But also there is an issue with quality of the participants, as some you will train but as long as there is no stipend, then they do not move even if you check them later on after some time". (P6)*

The findings are consistent with those of Sibanda (2023) and Baijnath (2023), who argue that a lack of good morale among beneficiaries is one of the obstacles to the success of EPWP implementation as a strategy for combating unemployment and reducing poverty.

4.5.9. Strategies to promote the effectiveness of infrastructure EPWP

Participants agreed that more needs to be done to advocate for the poor at the rural communities. The results showed that the vulnerable groups needed to be given priority in order to maintain the livelihoods of EPWP beneficiaries related to infrastructure and decrease poverty. With one participant stating that: *in order to improve the program I believe the programme requires more promotion. "People must be aware of the development programme in their immediate surroundings. People in the villages lack access. There is insufficient information in marginalised communities". (P2)*

Another participant stated that: *"You see, my brother, there is a lot of work out there, and the programme needs to reach a large number of people. We must ensure that people in rural areas, particularly the poor, learn skills and are able to find work in small communities". (P4)*

Findings revealed that more staff is needed to strengthen the programme in order to handle the workload and ensure that EPWP responsibilities and duties are fulfilled for the programme to reach its goal, such as labour intensity. A participant reported that: *"Another issue that has resulted in us being understaffed. I need to visit several locations in a short period of time and I am unable to do so". (P2)*

"When you approach some villages, you can tell because they are so large, and you can manage with local governments. Alternatively, to strengthen our relationship with local municipalities, we must fill the gap". (P6)

The results also showed that infrastructure-related projects must adhere to the EPWP objectives in order to advance its objectives. The findings also revealed the need for contractors to be more accountable and committed to reporting their progress.

A participant stated that: *"This is because the contracts they signed at the time of their appointment contained insufficient information about compliance, and where it did, it was not noted in the tender documents". (P8)*

While another participant reported that: *“Remember it is stated in the tender document that each project must comply in terms of EPWP, but then when it comes to the period it is not monitored”*. (P7)

The findings revealed that, while the labour intensity programme focuses on generating a significant increase in employment, much more needs to be done in terms of training. The government and municipalities must improve EPWP trainings and skill development while also developing after-care services to track learned skills and ensure that they are put to good use.

Another participant stated that: *You see, if all participants receive training of their choice, say, in the infrastructure fraternity, they may be motivated to go out there and start something for themselves, though we must admit that it is not easy when we say it that way.* (P5)

Findings corroborates with Nattrass and Seekings (2019), who argue that these changes in the nature of work as primarily advantageous, calling for "adaptation" and skill acquisition on the part of workers, facilitated by the government's provision of skills and "universal" interpersonal coverage, with the latter understood as a lead-up to labour-market liberalisation.

4.6 Interpretation of findings

What do these findings mean overall? The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA), which was described in the theoretical framework, is used as a lens to interpret the results. The SLA clearly demonstrates that the sustainability of the livelihoods of individuals or communities critically depends on their access to or ownership of livelihood assets; the existence of transforming structures and processes for their empowerment or upliftment; the kind of livelihood strategies that are used; and the livelihood outcomes from interventions or actions that are implemented by the individuals themselves or programme. Those livelihood outcomes should include, but are not necessarily limited to, increased income, increased well-being, reduced vulnerability, empowerment and social inclusion.

The study's findings show that those who benefited from the infrastructure-related EPWP were better off in terms of income and short-term employment.

Although the incomes were considered insufficient for the participants' needs, the beneficiaries were nevertheless able to improve their lives and maintain their livelihoods with the assistance of the income. Furthermore, the study findings revealed that there was no evidence that the beneficiaries' human capital was empowered through skill development and training by the infrastructure-related EPWP, limiting its effectiveness in allowing infrastructure-related EPWP beneficiaries to be marketable, find sustainable employment, or start their own businesses.

4.7 Conclusion

While Maphanga and Mazande (2019) and Oguntona, Ankinradewo, Kgoetyane, and Angbavboa (2023) and others have well-documented the limitations of EPWP, this study's findings are distinctive due to the analytical strategy used. However, the results also demonstrated that although infrastructure-related EPWP has helped to support beneficiaries' livelihoods while they are employed by the programme, there have been limits to its capacity to provide training and skill development so that beneficiaries can become employable upon programme exit and establish their own businesses to maintain their standard of living and ultimately end poverty.

These results are consistent with findings by McCord (2008) and Phillips (2004) who have applied a SLF in different contexts and jurisdictions. The value of the study lies in its confirmation of the importance of a comprehensive approach in assessing the effectiveness of infrastructure related EPWP. The income derived from infrastructure related EPWP was used by participants to purchase food, household assets, and to improve the beneficiaries' livelihood. Customised infrastructure-related EPWP skills training must be prioritised in order to empower beneficiaries fight poverty and maintain their standard of living through the development of infrastructure related businesses and sustainable jobs.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a summary of the research findings and the researcher's conclusions. It outlines the researcher's efforts to assess the effectiveness of infrastructure-related EPWP in reducing poverty in Limpopo Province's Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality. The researcher's personal observation that, despite numerous infrastructure-related EPWP in the area, there is a high rate of unemployment and poverty among young people and community members in Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality served as the inspiration for the study. As a result, the researcher was inspired to assess the effectiveness of infrastructure related EPWP in reducing poverty in rural communities.

5.2 The aim and objectives of the study

The study's primary aim was to evaluate the effectiveness of infrastructure-related EPWP in reducing poverty in rural communities in the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality. The study was guided by the following key research objectives: (i) to assess the long-term benefits of infrastructure related EPWP's in Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality (ii) to assess the effect of the EPWP beneficiaries' income on their livelihoods in Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality and (iii) to examine the sustainability of infrastructure related EPWPs as a poverty reduction strategy.

The following key research questions guided the interview guide: (i) what are the long-term benefits of Infrastructure related EPWP? (ii) What effect does the EPWP beneficiaries' income have on their livelihood? (iii) How sustainable are infrastructure related EPWP as a poverty reduction strategy?

5.3 The effect of infrastructure related EPWP on the livelihoods of Communities.

The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA), which was outlined in the theoretical framework, was used as a lens by the researcher to evaluate the study's findings. The SLA clearly demonstrates how important it is for individuals

or communities to have access to or ownership of assets, as well as the presence of transforming processes and structures for their empowerment or improvement.

Thus, the term livelihoods encompass not only activities but also the means, assets, and entitlements by which people make a living. Economic assets (income, resources, and equipment), human assets (labour, knowledge, skills) natural assets (land, air, and water), and infrastructure that is physical (schools, bridges, roads, financial markets, and so on) are a few examples of assets. The following are the study's main findings, which were informed by the SLA indicators and helped it achieve its objectives:

5.3.1 The design and implementation of infrastructure related EPWP

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is in charge of the infrastructure sector, provides guidelines for overall coordination and implementation to other implementing bodies such as Departments of Transport, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Education, Water affairs, mineral resources, Energy and Municipalities in order to implement in accordance to infrastructure related EPWP principles.

The study revealed that past and current infrastructure related EPWP were initiated by government and local municipality with the intention of initiating temporary jobs and alleviating poverty. The initial perception from infrastructure related EPWP were based on the income and skill development and training for the participants in order to sustain their livelihoods.

Results indicated that beneficiaries were only included in the project because they were looking for work. The findings revealed that the majority of infrastructure project beneficiaries were not consulted and were not involved in the planning or execution of the infrastructure project. Because there was no sense of ownership, this had a negative effect on beneficiaries' work morale.

5.3.2 Infrastructure related EPWP and livelihoods of beneficiaries

5.3.2.1 Income generated

Infrastructure-related EPWPs are used as a tool to advance social and economic development by ensuring temporary employment and delivering skill-building and training to enable beneficiaries or communities to sustain their livelihoods. Findings showed that although beneficiaries had some employment and income, this income was deemed insufficient for the participants' needs. It wasn't enough to cover transportation, paying accounts, and grocery purchases. The findings indicated that the beneficiaries' income was less effective because it was unable to improve their standard of living in terms of their capacities, assets, and sustainability.

5.3.2.2 Asset accumulation

The findings demonstrated that the EPWP's income was less effective at sustaining beneficiaries' livelihoods because it was unable to acquire assets. Beneficiaries of the infrastructure-related EPWP disclosed that they were unable to save, invest, or buy land as a result of the low income they were able to generate.

5.3.2.3 Competencies and capabilities acquired

The results showed that the majority of infrastructure-related EPWP beneficiaries argued that despite the trust they have in what they have learned on the job, the project is not helping to increase their capacities and competencies for empowerment and development purposes. Beneficiaries provided confirmation that none of them had received training and skill development. Due to their inexperience and lack of training, beneficiaries saw a less significant impact on their ability to sustain their livelihoods. The beneficiaries' capacity to be marketable is impacted by their inexperience and lack of training.

5.3.2.4 Infrastructure related EPWP sustainability

Although the EPWP is sustained as a program due to the high need of employment, its ability to provide sustainable livelihood for beneficiaries is questionable. Findings showed that while skill development and training for the beneficiaries was one of the infrastructure-related EPWP's goals, its success in that area has been constrained.

According to the Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA), beneficiaries' livelihood assets increase when beneficiaries have access to adequate education, knowledge, and skills, as well as adequate work capability and adaptability. The findings revealed that most infrastructure-related EPWP beneficiaries were not provided with skill development and training, limiting the beneficiaries' ability to become marketable and secure sustainable jobs after the programme ended. The later effects on the program's ability to improve sustainable livelihood and reduce poverty.

5.4 The significance of the study

While infrastructure-related EPWP use labour-intensity strategy as a development tool in many communities across the municipality, evidence does not show that they are effective in reducing poverty. Additionally, the effectiveness of the programme in enhancing community livelihoods is also unclear, especially when viewed in the context of a framework for sustainable livelihoods.

The infrastructure related EPWP yield incomes to beneficiaries but the extent to which they empower or strengthen their capability is not clear. Additionally, there is little evidence that infrastructure-related EPWP can help communities develop the skills and knowledge they need to become marketable, find sustainable employment, or launch businesses. These gaps highlight the need for more research on infrastructure-related EPWP. The study's significance was established by the need to assess the effectiveness of infrastructure-related EPWP in reducing poverty in the communities or beneficiaries involved. The study's findings are meant to contribute to a better understanding of the program's effectiveness in reducing poverty in rural communities.

5.5 Areas for future research

Recognising that the findings of a qualitative study cannot be generalised because of the small sample size, it is recommended that these findings could be used as a basis for a larger quantitative study which is representative of the different types of projects in the municipality. The evaluation of infrastructure EPWP's ability to provide skill development and training to beneficiaries.

5.6 CONCLUSION

It was evident that the infrastructure related EPWP were initiated in response to unemployment, poverty and other social challenges which exist in the municipality. The findings revealed that the infrastructure related EPWP were initiated for the purpose of the creation of temporary employment and the reduction of poverty.

Although the study was based on a small sample of infrastructure related EPWP in Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality, some useful findings were unearthed. Based on the analytical framework of the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach, it was found that even though these infrastructure related EPWP did generate some temporary employment and incomes to the beneficiaries, they were not significantly efficient on their livelihoods, as they were limited because of inadequate income and fall short in empowering the beneficiaries.

A number of observations led the researcher to this conclusion. Firstly, the implementing bodies needs more capacitation and prioritisation of the infrastructure related EPWP in order for the program to be able to reach its goal of labour intensity and skill development. Secondly, the while income was found to be inadequate for the needs of the beneficiaries, more funds needed to meet a minimum wage salary considerate of the Household food basket and economic indicators.

Thirdly, the beneficiaries did not acquire any skill development and trainings, which hampers the EPWP goal of creating a more skilled and diverse workforce in order to acquire assets, improve their sustainable livelihoods and reduce

poverty. Therefore, it might be beneficial for the municipality to consider the research study's findings. As a result, the study specifically recommended the following.

5.7 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.7.1 Customized training of infrastructure related EPWP

The appropriate infrastructure-related EPWP training, skill development, and experience that programme beneficiaries gain are critical for achieving the desired poverty reduction results. In order to support the infrastructure-related EPWP beneficiaries' sustainable livelihood both during and after their participation in the programme, priority should be given to training and skill development. This will ensure that beneficiaries are empowered and able to earn a living after the programmes.

5.7.2 Exit strategy and Local Economic opportunities

In order to fulfil its duty to establish an economic development platform that encourages and enables EPWP beneficiaries to work together for long-term economic growth, the municipality must compile a database for both current and past programme participants. Roads, schools, clinics, and nursery schools are examples of local public and private infrastructure that should be managed and enhanced with the help of EPWP infrastructure expertise. To promote economic growth, private property may also be targeted for infrastructure projects such as landscaping. To achieve the desired outcome, the municipality should develop exit strategies and provide participants with pathways to other sustainable jobs and income-generating businesses.

5.7.3 Infrastructure Project oversight and monitoring

When putting the EPWP into practice with regard to infrastructure, the local municipality must adhere to all applicable laws and regulations. This is a reference to the policies, procedures, and guidelines that govern how the EPWP is coordinated and carried out. The local municipality is required to develop capacity and resources to manage infrastructure-related EPWP, ensuring that construction projects are

monitored and meet required compliances. In order to guarantee that skill development trainings at infrastructure-related EPWP are necessary for all projects, municipalities must hold projects accountable.

5.7.4 Communication and alignment across the Three Spheres of Government

The EPWP development, requires an effective communication model at the municipal, provincial, and national levels. The model should make it easier for the various branches of government to collaborate more effectively and efficiently.

REFERENCES

- Ali, I., Azman, A., Singh, P.S.J., Drani, S. and Rashid, M.M., 2020. Islamic Faith-Based Organizations and Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh: A Social Work Perception. *Social Work & Society*, 18(2), pp.18-26.
- Alharahsheh, H.H. and Pius, A., 2020. A review of key paradigms: Positivism VS interpretivism. *Global Academic Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(3), pp.39-43.
- Alkire, S., Kanagaratnam, U. and Suppa, N., 2018. The global multidimensional poverty index (MPI): 2018 revision. *OPHI MPI methodological notes*, 46, pp.234-245.
- Arifin, S.R.M., 2018. Ethical considerations in qualitative study. *International Journal of Care Scholars*, 1(2), pp.30-33.
- Asadullah, M.N., Savoia, A. and Sen, K., 2020. Will South Asia achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030? Learning from the MDGs experience. *Social Indicators Research*, 152, pp.165-189.
- Atkinson, A.B., 2017. Monitoring global poverty: Report of the commission on global poverty. *World Bank, Washington*.
- Baijnath, R., 2023. Workplace Experiences of Infrastructure Sector Participants in South Africa's Expanded Public Works Programme. *Feminist Africa*, 4(1), pp.130-152.
- Beall, J. and Piron, L.H., 2005. DFID social exclusion review. London: Overseas Development Institute, 32, p.37.
- Faith, B., Flynn, J.,
- Beegle, K. and Christiansen, L. eds., 2019. Accelerating poverty reduction in Africa. World Bank Publications
- Boora, S., 2021. Unit-6 Population and Sampling. Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi.
- Bisht, N. and Pattanaik, F., 2020. Youth labour market in India: education, employment, and sustainable development goals. In *International perspectives on the youth labor market: Emerging research and opportunities* (pp. 172-196). IGI Global.
- Clark, D.A., Biggeri, M. and Frediani, A.A. eds., 2019. The capability approach, empowerment and participation: concepts, methods and applications. Springer.
- Chung, K.H., 2021. Towards rule-based institutions and economic growth in Asia? Evidence from the Asian Financial Crisis 1997–1998. *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*, 6(3), pp.274-292.

De Vos, A.S., Strydom, H., Fouche, C.B., and Delpont, CSL. 2011. *Research at Grassroots: For the Social Sciences and Human Service Professionals*. Pretoria. Van Schaik Publishers.

Dladla, L.G., 2023. *Public employment programmes and their contribution to service delivery and rural livelihoods in South Africa* (Doctoral dissertation).

Dladla, L. and Mutambara, E., 2018. The Impact of Training and Support Interventions on Small Businesses in the Expanded Public Works Programme—Pretoria Region. *Social Sciences*, 7(12), p.248.

Dladla, L.G., 2020. Persistent Youth Unemployment: The Role of Public Employment Programme and Green Jobs-A Case of the Western Cape Province, South Africa. *African Journal of Governance & Development*, 9(2), pp.472-492.

Dean, B.A., 2018. The interpretivist and the learner. *International Journal of Doctoral Studies*, 13, p.1.

De Groot, J. and Lemanski, C., 2021. COVID-19 responses: Infrastructure inequality and privileged capacity to transform everyday life in South Africa. *Environment and Urbanization*, 33(1), pp.255-272

Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. 2023. *Expanded Public Works Programme infrastructure sector*. From: <http://www.epwp.gov.za/infrastructure.html>. (accessed 23 August 2023).

Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. 2022. *Expanded Public Works Programme Policy Final Draft*. Pretoria. Government Printer

Di Nuovo, S., Di Corrado, D. and Magnano, P., 2021. Decent work and hope for the future among young migrants. *Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community*, pp.1-14.

Expanded Public Works Programme Phase IV Business Plan.2022. Limpopo Department of Public Works. From: <https://www.dpw.limpopo.gov.za> 2021.pdf. (assessed 10 March 2023).

EPWP Phase IV I Business Plan I 2019 – 2024. National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. From: <http://www.epwp.gov.za> pdf (accessed 30 February 2023).

Faith, B., Flynn, J., Hernandez, K. and Roberts, T., 2020. The Future of Work: Findings of research commissioned by the Oxfam Empower Youth for Work Program

Fleming, J. and Zegwaard, K.E., 2018. Methodologies, Methods and Ethical Considerations for Conducting Research in Work-Integrated Learning. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*, 19(3), pp.205-213.

Fusch, P., Fusch, G.E., Hall, J.A., Walker, N.A. and Booker, J.M., 2022. How to conduct a focus group interview: Tips, strategies, and examples for novice researchers. *Education for Information*, 38(2), pp.171-187.

Gyawali, S., Tiwari, S.R., Bajracharya, S.B. and Skotte, H.N., 2020. Promoting sustainable livelihoods: An approach to postdisaster reconstruction. *Sustainable Development*, 28(4), pp.626-633

Gibberd, J.T., 2022. Social and economic sustainability targets in construction.

Gomis, R., Kapsos, S. and Kuhn, S., 2020. World employment and social outlook: trends 2020.

Gweshengwe, B. and Hassan, N.H., 2019. Knowledge to policy: Understanding poverty to create policies that facilitate zero poverty in Brunei Darussalam. *Southeast Asia: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, 19, pp.95-104

Hackett, P.M., 2020. Declarative mapping sentences in qualitative research: Theoretical, linguistic, and applied usages. Routledge

Hamilton, L., 2019. Amartya Sen. John Wiley & Sons.

Hlatshwayo, M.S., 2017. The Expanded Public Works Programme: Perspectives of direct beneficiaries. *The Journal for Transdisciplinary Research in Southern Africa*. 13(1). pp.77-94

Hirsch, A., Levy, B. and Nxele, M., 2021. Politics and Economic Policymaking in South Africa since 1994. *The Oxford Handbook of the South African Economy*, p.66.

Jairam, S., 2020. *Exploring industry's contribution to the labour-intensive construction of low order rural community access roads* (Doctoral dissertation).

Igwenagu, C., 2016. Fundamentals of research methodology and data collection. LAP Lambert Academic Publishing.

Lagutina, M. and Leksyutina, Y., 2019. BRICS Countries' Strategies in the Arctic and the Prospects for Consolidated BRICS Agenda in the Arctic. *The Polar Journal*, 9(1), pp.45-63.

Lakens, D., 2022. Sample size justification. *Collabra: Psychology*, 8(1), p.33267.

Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality. 2020. Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality: 2020/2021 IDP Draft. Lebowakgomo: Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality.

Lepelle Nkumpi Municipality. 2021. Lepelle Nkumpi Municipality: 2021/2022 IDP Draft. Lebowakgomo: Lepelle Nkumpi Municipality.

Liu, W., Li, J., Ren, L., Xu, J., Li, C. and Li, S., 2020. Exploring livelihood resilience and its impact on livelihood strategy in rural China. *Social Indicators Research*, 150, pp.977-998.

Madlala, A.O. and Matshediso, R., 2019. *An Investigation of the Usefulness of Training Provided by the Infrastructure Sector of Government's Expanded Public Works Programme in Addressing Youth Unemployment in the Gauteng Province* (Doctoral dissertation, University of the Witwatersrand, Faculty of Humanities).

Magaldi, D. and Berler, M., 2020. Semi-structured interviews. *Encyclopedia of personality and individual differences*, pp.4825-4830.

Maphanga, M. and Mazenda, A., 2019. The effectiveness of the expanded public works programme as a poverty alleviation strategy.

Marais, Christo, and Luvuyo Mlilo. *South Africa's expanded public works programme*. International Institute for Environment and Development. 2018.

Mazenda, A., Matjane, K., Simawu, M. and Lubinga, S.N., 2022. Public works as a safety net: evidence and implementation in South African municipalities.

Mazhar, S.A., Anjum, R., Anwar, A.I. and Khan, A.A., 2021. Methods of data collection: A fundamental tool of research. *Journal of Integrated Community Health (ISSN 2319-9113)*, 10(1), pp.6-10.

McCord, A., 2004, October. Public Works and overcoming under-development in South Africa. In *UNDP, HSRC & DBSA Conference on Overcoming Under-development in South Africa's Second Economy* (Vol. 29).

McCord, A. and Paul, M.H., 2019. An Introduction to MGNREGA Innovations and their Potential for India-Africa Linkages on Public Employment Programming. *Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)*.

McCord, A., Lieuw-Kie-Song, M., Tsukamoto, M., Tessem, T. and Donnges, C., 2021. 100 years of public works in the ILO.

Melnikovas, A., 2018. Towards an explicit research methodology: Adapting research onion model for futures studies. *Journal of Futures Studies*, 23(2), pp.29-44

Mohajan, H.K., 2018. Qualitative research methodology in social sciences and related subjects. *Journal of Economic Development, Environment and People*, 7(1), pp.23-48.

Muzari, T., Shava, G.N. and Shonhiwa, S., 2022. Qualitative research paradigm, a key research design for educational researchers, processes and procedures: A theoretical overview. *Indiana Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 3(1), pp.14-20.

Nattrass, N. and Seekings, J., 2019. *Inclusive Dualism: Labour-intensive development, decent work, and surplus labour in Southern Africa*. Oxford University Press.

Natarajan, N., Newsham, A., Rigg, J. and Suhardiman, D., 2022. A sustainable livelihoods framework for the 21st century. *World Development*, 155, p.105898.

National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. 2019. *Expanded Public Works Programme Phase IV: 2019-2022 Business Plan*. Pretoria. Government Printer.

National Department of Public Works. 2021. Ministerial Determination 4: Expanded Public Works Programme 22 October 2021. Pretoria: Government printer.

Ngumbela, X.G., 2021. Evaluation of the expanded public works programme as poverty reduction strategy in Buffalo City Municipality.

Ngubo, N.F. and Mubangizi, B.C., 2020. Women empowerment and public policy implementation processes: an exploration of black women entrepreneurs in kwazulu-natal's construction industry. *Gender & Behaviour*, 18(1). pp.23-28

Noble, H. and Heale, R., 2019. Triangulation in research, with examples. *Evidence-based nursing*, 22(3), pp.67-68.

Oguntona, O.A., Akinradewo, O., Kgoetyane, B., Ogunbayo, B. and Aigbavboa, C., 2023. Benefits of the Expanded Public Works Programme in South Africa: A Direct Stakeholder's Perception. *Sustainable Construction in the Era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution*, p.45.

Phillips, S., 2004. The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). In *Presentation to the Conference on Overcoming Under-Development in South Africa's Second Economy*, Pretoria.

Puyana, A., 2018. Horizontal inequality and ethnic discrimination in four Latin American countries.

Robeyns, I., 2021. The capability approach. In *The Routledge handbook of feminist economics* (pp. 72-80). Routledge.

Saunders, M.N.K., Lewis, P and Thornhill, A. 2016. *Research methods for business students*. 6th ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Schoch, K., 2020. Case study research. *Research design and methods: An applied guide for the scholar-practitioner*, pp.245-258.

Serrat, O. and Serrat, O., 2017. The sustainable livelihoods approach. Knowledge solutions: Tools, methods, and approaches to drive organizational performance, pp.21-26.

Shai, L., 2021. *Public employment programmes in the care economy: The case of South Africa* (No. 29). ILO Working Paper.

Sharma, G., 2017. Pros and cons of difference sampling techniques. *International Journal of Applied Research*, 3 (7): pp749-75

Scotland, J., 2012. Exploring the philosophical underpinnings of research: Relating ontology and epistemology to the methodology and methods of the scientific, interpretive, and critical research paradigms. *English language teaching*, 5(9), pp.9-16.

Singh, P.K. and Chudasama, H., 2020. Evaluating poverty alleviation strategies in a developing country. *PloS one*, 15(1), pp176-227

Sibanda, N., 2023. Public Employment Programmes and Development of Human Capacity for Disadvantaged Women and Youth: The Case of the Expanded Public Works Programme in S. Africa. *Tanzania Journal of Development Studies*, 21(1).

South Africa. 2011. *Code of Good Practice for employment and conditions of work for Expanded Public Works Programme*. R64, in terms of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, no. 75 of 1997. Pretoria. Government Printer.

South Africa. 1997. Basic Conditions of Employment Act, no. 75, 1997. Pretoria. Government Printer.

South Africa. Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, no. 130, 1998, (*as amended*). Pretoria. Government Printer.

South Africa. Department of Public Works. 2021. Expanded Public Works Program Policy. Pretoria: Government Printer.

South Africa. Labour Relation Act, no. 66, 1995, (*as amended*). Pretoria. Government Printer.

South Africa. Occupational Health and Safety Act, no. 85, 1995, (*as amended*). Pretoria. Government Printer.

South Africa. Skill Development Act, no. 97, 1998, (*as amended*). Pretoria. Government Printer.

South Africa Government. DPWI. 2023. *Minister Sihle Zikalala. Expanded Public Work programme Phase 5 indaba*. From: <https://www.gov.za/news/speeches/.htm> (accessed 10 October 2023).

Statistics South Africa. 2023. Quarterly labour force Quarter 1. From: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/Presentation/QLFS/20Q1.pdf> (accessed August 2023).

Stats SA. *Stats SA (Statistics South Africa). General Household Survey: Community survey 2022*: Pretoria: Stats SA.

Svicher, A. and Di Fabio, A., 2021. Job crafting: A challenge to promote decent work for vulnerable workers. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12, p.1827.

Sychenko, E., Laruccia, M., Cusciano, D., Chikireva, I., Wang, J. and Smit, P., 2020. Non-Standard Employment in the BRICS Countries. *BRICS Law Journal*, 7(4), pp.4-44.

Su, F., Song, N., Ma, N., Sultanaliev, A., Ma, J., Xue, B. and Fahad, S., 2021. An assessment of poverty alleviation measures and sustainable livelihood capability of farm households in rural China: a sustainable livelihood approach. *Agriculture*, 11(12), p.1230.

The State of the Expanded Public Works Programme in South African Cities 2019-2020. A report of the Expanded Public Works Programme Reference Group. From: www.sacities.net (accessed on January 2023).

Thomas, F.B., 2022. The role of purposive sampling technique as a tool for informal choices in a social Sciences in research methods. *Just Agriculture*, 2(5), pp.1-8.

International Labour Organisation, 2020. Decent work indicators: Guidelines for producers and users of statistical and legal framework indicators.

International Labour Organisation, 2020. COVID-19 and the world of work: Impact and policy responses. *ILO Monitor 1st Edition*, 137, pp.241-248.

Expanded Public Works Programme. 2021. International Labour Organisation. From: <http://www.ilo.org/>.htm (accessed August 2023).

Vears, D.F. and Gillam, L., 2022. Inductive content analysis: A guide for beginning qualitative researchers. *Focus on Health Professional Education: A Multi-disciplinary Journal*, 23(1), pp.111-127.

Wernecke, B., Mathee, A., Kunene, Z., Balakrishna, Y., Kapwata, T., Mogotsi, M., Sweijd, N., Minakawa, N. and Wright, C.Y., 2021. Tracking progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in four rural villages in Limpopo, South Africa. *Annals of Global Health*, 87(1).

Webster, E. and Francis, D., 2019. The paradox of inequality in South Africa: a challenge from the workplace. *Transformation: Critical Perspectives on Southern Africa*, 101(1), pp.11-35.

World Bank, 2018. *Inside the Household: Poor Children, Women, and Men*.

Zizzamia, R., 2020. Is employment a panacea for poverty? A mixed-methods investigation of employment decisions in South Africa. *World Development*, 130, p.104938.

ANNEXURE A. TURFLOOP RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE



University of Limpopo
Department of Research Administration and Development
Private Bag X1106, Sovenga, 0727, South Africa
Tel: (015) 268 4713/3766, Fax: (015) 268 2306, Email: moore.hutamo@ul.ac.za

**TURFLOOP RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE
ETHICS CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE**

MEETING: 09 JANUARY 2023

PROJECT NUMBER: TREC/44/2023: PG

PROJECT:

Title: The effectiveness of infrastructure related Expanded Public Works Programmes in reducing poverty: A case of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality in Limpopo Province.
Researcher: SL Mabotja
Supervisor: Mr MB Njoko
Co-supervisor/s: N/A
Degree: Master of Development Planning in Management
School: Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership



PROF D MAPOSA
CHAIRPERSON: TURFLOOP RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

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

Note:

- i) This Ethics Clearance Certificate will be valid for one (1) year, as from the abovementioned date. Application for annual renewal (or annual review) need to be received by TREC one month before lapse of this period.
- ii) Should any departure be contemplated from the research procedure as approved, the researcher(s) must re-submit the protocol to the committee, together with the Application for Amendment form.
- iii) PLEASE QUOTE THE PROTOCOL NUMBER IN ALL ENQUIRIES.

Finding solutions for Africa

ANNEXURE B: LETTER REQUESTING CONSENT TO CONDUCT AN ACADEMIC STUDY AT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Enq : Mabotja S.L

Cell/No: 0672883098

106 Kaya Lane

Mashilo Street

Lebowakgomo

04 April 2023

Email: 3759mabotja@gmail.com

District Director

Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure

Chuenespoort

0747

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: REQUEST FOR CONSENT TO CONDUCT AN ACADEMIC STUDY

I am Mabotja Sello Logan, a Master of Development Planning and Management student at the Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership at the University of Limpopo. I hereby request permission to conduct a study at Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure that will include face-to face interviews and focus group with EPWP officials and beneficiaries from infrastructure related EPWPs.

The study, titled "the effectiveness of infrastructure-related Expanded Public Works programmes in reducing poverty: case study of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality in Limpopo Province," received ethical clearance from the University of Limpopo

research ethical committee and will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the programme in reducing poverty in the municipality's communities. To be precise the objectives of the study are as follows:

- To assess the long-term benefits of infrastructure related EPWP's in Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality.
- To assess the effect of the EPWP beneficiaries' income on their livelihoods in Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality.
- To examine the sustainability of infrastructure related EPWPs as a poverty reduction strategy

I sincerely hope the information is clear and helpful in helping you grant permission to carry out the academic study mentioned above. If you need any more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Anticipating your positive response

Kind regards

Mabotja S.L

Signature.....

Date:.....

ANNEXURE C: LETTER REQUESTING CONSENT TO CONDUCT AN ACADEMIC STUDY AT THE LEPELLE-NKUMPI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Enq : Mabotja S.L

Cell/No: 0672883098

106 Kaya Lane

Mashilo Street

Lebowakgomo

04 April 2023

Email: 3759mabotja@gmail.com

Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality

170 BA Lebowakgomo Chuenespoort

0745

The Municipal Manager: Ms MA Monyepao

RE: REQUEST FOR CONSENT TO CONDUCT AN ACADEMIC STUDY

I am Mabotja Sello Logan, a Master of Development Planning and Management student at the Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership at the University of Limpopo. I hereby request permission to conduct a study at your municipality that will include face-to face interviews and with EPWP officials and beneficiaries from infrastructure related EPWPs.

The study, titled "the effectiveness of infrastructure-related Expanded Public Works programmes in reducing poverty: case study of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality in Limpopo Province," received ethical clearance from the University of Limpopo research ethical committee and will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the programme in reducing poverty in the municipality's communities. To be precise the objectives of the study are as follows:

- To assess the long-term benefits of infrastructure related EPWP's in Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality.
- To assess the effect of the EPWP beneficiaries' income on their livelihoods in Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality.
- To examine the sustainability of infrastructure related EPWPs as a poverty reduction strategy

I sincerely hope the information is clear and helpful in helping you grant permission to carry out the academic study mentioned above. If you need any more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Anticipating your positive response

Kind regards

Mabotja S.L

Signature.....

Date:.....

ANNEXURE D: LETTER OF APPROVAL: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Ref: 2/7/5/2
Enq: Ms. M.R. Ngoepe (7588)
Ms. D.J. Maponya (7164)

MABOTJA SELLO LOGGANE

**PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH: MABOTJA SELLO LOGGANE, STUDENT
NUMBER: 202176513**

1. The above matter refers.
2. Your proposal was forwarded to the Head of Department for assessment and it was concluded that:
 - Your proposal complies with the Departmental Research and Development term reference.
 - Your research samples cover 5 official and 20 beneficiaries at district and Head Office.
 - You should complete a Departmental declaration form within 5 working days upon receipt of this letter.
3. For completion of the declaration form, please contact the following officials between 07:30 and 16:30:
 - Ms. M.R. Ngoepe at office number 6-4-6 or call 015 284 7588
 - Ms. D.J. Maponya at office 4-1-17 or call 015 284 7164.


ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MS. M.O.C. MHLABANE


DATE

43 Church Street, Polokwane, 0699, Private Bag X9490, POLOKWANE, 0700
Tel: (015) 284 7000, (015) 284 7030 website: <http://www.dpw.limpopo.gov.za>

The heartland of Southern Africa - development is about people!

ANNEXURE E: LETTER OF APPROVAL: LEPELLE-NKUMPI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



LEPELLE-NKUMPI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Postal Address
Private Bag X07
CHUENESPOORT
0745

www.lepelle-nkumpi.gov.za

Physical Address
170 BA Civic Centre
LEBOWAKGOMO, 0737
Tel : (+27)15 633 4500
Fax : (+27)15 633 6896

Enquiry: Ms Mpho Mphahlele

12/04/2023

Mr. Mabotja S L
P O Box 618
Lebowkgomo
0737

Dear Sir,

SUBJECT: PERMISSION TO CONDUCT A RESEARCH STUDY FOR YOUR MASTERS OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT: STUDENT NO. 202176513

Your email communique dated 10 April 2023 bears reference.

Municipality hereby grants you permission to conduct research at Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality for your masters of development planning and management with University of Limpopo as requested. We hope that the research will be conducted with strict adherence to all the research ethics and that once published, it will also benefit our local community.

Wishing you all the luck in your academic endeavours.

Kind regards,


**MONYEPAO M.A (MS.)
MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

12.04.2023
DATE



MUNICIPAL CALL CENTRE NUMBER: 0800 222 011

"Motho ke motho ka batho"

ANNEXURE F

Research topic: The effectiveness of Infrastructure Related Expanded Public Works Programmes in reducing poverty: case of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality in Limpopo Province.

CONSENT FORM

I am, a student at the University of Limpopo's Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership pursuing a master's degree in Development Planning and Management. My research focuses on "The effectiveness of Infrastructure Related Expanded Public Works Programmes in reducing poverty: case of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality in Limpopo Province." The study is supervised by Dr. M.B. Njoko. An overview of the study's major objectives is provided so that you may decide whether to participate in it.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The primary goal of this study is to assess the effectiveness of infrastructure related EPWP in reducing poverty in the rural communities of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality Limpopo province. The study's findings are likely to lead to a better understanding of the efficacy of infrastructure-related Expanded Public Works Programs, as well as a better understanding of factors that drive poverty reduction at Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality and surrounding communities

a. PROCEDURE

As one of the possible participants of the study, the researcher hereby seeks your permission. Kindly note that:

- i. Participation in this study is voluntary, you have the choice to discontinue with the interview at any stage should you feel uncomfortable without providing any reason.

- ii. You have the right to choose the place of the interview within the village where confidentiality will be possible.
- iii. With your permission, the interview will take 45-60 minutes long.
- iv. The interview will be audio-recorded.

b. CONFIDENTIALITY

All information, including your identity and answers in this interview, will be kept strictly confidential and used exclusively for research purposes. All audio-recorded materials, interview transcripts, and completed interview schedules will be safely maintained in a locked cabinet in the researcher's office, as well as on a password-protected computer. All materials will subsequently be housed in a storeroom at the University of Limpopo's Faculty of Management and Law, with no access granted to anyone, including the researcher and study leader. Individual interviews will be held in a quiet location to avoid distractions. During the research procedure, the researcher will keep as much anonymity as feasible.

c. DECEPTION OF RESPONDENTS

You will be advised on the purpose of the research, and no information will be kept from you in order for you to make an educated decision about your involvement in the research and to avoid deceit.

d. BENEFITS AND RISKS

The study's findings are likely to lead to a greater understanding of the impacts of community development projects, as well as awareness of the elements that determine their long-term viability.

e. COSTS

You will incur no costs as a result of your involvement in this study.

f. PAYMENT

You will not be compensated for your participation. You are free to ask the researcher any questions you have before giving your consent. If you have any

further questions about your participation in the study, please do not hesitate to contact me or my study leader.

g. VOLUNTEER STATEMENT

I agree that the interview methods and processes have been properly explained to me; that my identity and responses will be kept private and confidential; and that I may terminate the interview at any time if I feel uncomfortable without providing a reason. I also agree that the interview be audio recorded digitally and electronically so that data may be analysed and study findings can be shared for research reasons.

This is the only place where your name will appear; otherwise you can mark with an “X”.

Name of Participant_____

Signature of Participant_____

As the interviewer, I,, have outlined the protocols to be followed during the interview, as well as the risks and advantages involved, as well as my ethical responsibility.

Signature of Interviewer_____

Cell no: Mr. S.L. Mabotja 07927695755

Cell no: Dr. M.B. Njoko Office number: 015-268-4245 h.

h. FEEDBACK OF FINDINGS

The researcher commits to sharing the main findings of the study with all participants.

Thank you.

Mr. S.L. Mabotja (MDPM student)

Dr. M.B. Njoko

Study Supervisor

ANNEXURE G

INTERVIEW GUIDE: FOR INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS BENEFICIARIES

The effectiveness of infrastructure related Expanded Public Works Programme in reducing poverty: case of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality in Limpopo Province
(Note: this interview will take 45-60 minutes of your time!)

Name of respondent:

Section A: Demographic profile of participants

1.1 What is your age?

Btn 18-28 years		Btn 29-38 years		Btn 39-48 years		49- years over	
-----------------	--	-----------------	--	-----------------	--	----------------	--

1.2 What is your gender?

Male

Female

1.3 Having any Disability?

1	Yes	
2	No	

1.4 Level of education

No formal education		Primary school level		Less than matric		matric		Undergraduate qualification		Postgraduate qualification	
---------------------	--	----------------------	--	------------------	--	--------	--	-----------------------------	--	----------------------------	--

1.5. Nature of your employment status

Full-time		Temporarily		Self-employed		Other (Specify)	
Employed		Employed					

1.6. Type of infrastructure related EPWP in which you are or have been involved with

1. Roads infrastructure(Construction & maintainance)	
2. Buildings	
3. Water and sanitation	
4. Energy	
5. Landscaping	
6. Waste Management	
8. Other (specify)	

1.7. Number of months worked at the infrastructure related EPWP

Btn 0-6 months	Btn 7 -12 months	Btn 13-18 months	Btn 19-24 months	25 months and over	
----------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	--------------------	--

Section 2: Perception on the benefits of infrastructure related EPWP

2. What effect does the infrastructure related EPWP beneficiaries' income have on your livelihood?

- 2.1. How did you become aware of the programme?
- 2.2. What were your roles in the programme?
- 2.2. Did you earn an income from the programme?
- 2.3. If yes, how did you spend the income you earned from the programme?
- 2.4. What advantages or assets have been created as a result of the programme's earnings?
- 2.5. Did your participation in the program improve your life?

Section 3: Skills acquired

- 3.1. What types of workshops and trainings did you attend?
- 3.2. Has the training helped you find new employment or initiate a business?

Thank you for your participation!!!

ANNEXURE H

INTERVIEW GUIDE: FOR INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED EPWP MUNICIPAL AND

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

The effectiveness of infrastructure related Expanded Public Works Programme in reducing poverty: case of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality in Limpopo Province

Note: this interview will take 45-60 minutes of your time!

Section A: Demographic profile of participants

1. Information on participant's demographics

1.1 What is your age?

Btn 18-28 years		Btn 29-38 years		Btn 39-48 years		49- years over	
-----------------	--	-----------------	--	-----------------	--	----------------	--

1.2 What is your gender?

Male

Female

1.3 Level of education

No formal education		Primary school level		Less than matric		matric		Undergraduate qualification		Postgraduate qualification	
---------------------	--	----------------------	--	------------------	--	--------	--	-----------------------------	--	----------------------------	--

1.4. What is your position in the municipality/ department?

1. EPWP Officer	
2. EPWP Co-ordinator	
2. EPWP Supervisor	
3. EPWP Manager	
4. Other (specify)	

1.6. Number of years of working experience

1. below 5 years	
2. 6-10 years	
3. 11-15 years	
4. 16-20 years	
5. Above 20 years	

1.5. Type of EPWP in which you are or have been involved with

1. Roads infrastructure(Construction & maintainance)	
2. Buildings	
3. Water and sanitation	
4. Energy	
5. Landscaping	
6. Waste Management	

8. Other (specify)	
--------------------	--

Section 2: Perceptions on infrastructure related EPWP in reducing poverty

2. How beneficial are the infrastructure related EPWPs?

- 2.1 What are your duties (responsibilities) in the program?
- 2.2 What are the programme's intended goals?
- 2.3 What are the programme's immediate benefits, in your opinion?
- 2.4 What are the programme's long-term benefits?
- 2.5 How often do you offer capacity-building or training?
- 2.6 How do you believe that these capacity-building or training programmes have been successful and beneficial?

3. How sustainable are infrastructure related EPWP as a poverty reduction strategy

- 3.1 How are the programs developed?
- 3.2 How are the programmes financed?
- 3.3 What policies you employ to fund those programmes?
- 3.4 What policies do you have in place to address recruitment and gender inequality?
- 4.5. Do you think these programs sustain over time?
- 4.6. How can the programs be strengthened to remain effective over time?
- 4.7. Please provide any comment on your participation in the programme?

Thank you for your participation!!!

ANNEXURE I. PROOF OF LANGUAGE AND TECHNICAL EDITING LETTER



RIGHTMOVE MULTIMEDIA
UNIT C
RAWANE STREET
MANKWENG 0727
076 320 6201
edgarmalatji@gmail.com
rightmovemultimedia@gmail.com

Editing Certification

28 November 2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This editing certificate verifies that this Research was professionally edited for
Sello Logan Mabotja

Thus, it is meant to acknowledge that I, Dr. EJ Malatji, a professional Editor under a registered company, RightMove Multimedia, have meticulously edited the manuscript from the University of Limpopo. Title: "THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INFRASTRUCTURE-RELATED EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMS IN REDUCING POVERTY: CASE STUDY OF LEPELLE-NKUMPI MUNICIPALITY IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE."

Dr. EJ Malatji

