

**AN EVALUATION OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION AND ITS LINK TO
INFORMAL SETTLEMENT PATTERN: A CASE STUDY OF DISTENENG
AREA IN POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

BY

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DECLARATION

I declare that the mini-dissertation entitled ‘An evaluation of rural-urban migration and its link to informal settlement pattern: a case study of Disteneng area in Polokwane Municipality in the Limpopo Province’ hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo, for the Master of Development Degree has not previously been submitted by me at this or any other university; that it is my work in design and in execution, and that all material contained herein has been duly acknowledged.

CS CHIDI (Mr)



DATE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration	i
Table of contents	ii
List of tables and figures	v
Acknowledgement	vi
Abstract	vii
Chapter one: Introduction and Background	
1.1 Introduction	2
1.2 Background to the area of study	3
1.3 Problem statement	4
1.4 Aim of the study	5
1.5 Objectives of the study	5
1.6 Research questions	5
1.7 Significance of the study	6
1.8 Definitions of terms	6
1.9 Structure of the research report	7
Chapter two: Literature Review	
2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 Definition of migration and urbanization	8
2.3 The historical background of the informal settlement patterns in South Africa	9
2.4 Urbanization policy in South Africa	10
2.5 Current pattern of urbanization in South Africa	11
2.6 Reasons why people migrate	12
2.7 Causes of urbanization	13
2.8 Urban bias	14
2.9 Tools and methods of controlling urbanization	15

2.10 Challenges of sustainable urbanization	18
2.11 Urban decline and urban renewal in South Africa	19
2.12 The approach to urban renewal in South Africa	20
Chapter three: Research Design and Methodology	
3.1 Introduction	22
3.2 Research design	22
3.3 Type of research	22
3.4 Area of study	23
3.5 Sources of data	24
3.6 Population	25
3.7 Sampling	25
3.8 Data collection method	26
3.9 Data analysis	27
3.10 Ethical consideration	27
3.11 The socio-economic description of Disteneng area	28
Chapter four: Research results, analysis and interpretation	
4. 1 Introduction	31
4.2 An analysis of the socio-economic status of residents of Disteneng area	32
4.2.1 Place of origin	32
4.2.2 Age, Gender and Educational background of respondents	33
4.2.3 Position in the household	34
4.2.4 Description of place of origin	35
4.2.5 Reason for leaving place of origin	36
4.2.6 Reasons for locating to Disteneng area	37
4.2.7 Respondents views of an ideal environment	38
4.2.8 Employment status of respondents	39

4.2.9 Sources of income	40
4.2.10 Means of survival for the unemployed	41
4.2.11 Reason for being unemployed	42
4.2.12 Interventions that could address their problems	43
4.2.13 Availability of physical and social services	43
4.2.14 Fast-tracking service delivery	43
4.3 Migracy and the views of government officials	44
Chapter five: Conclusion and recommendations	
5.1 Introduction	47
5.2 Conclusions of the findings	47
5.3 Recommendations	50
References	54
Annexures	
Annexure A. Residents Questionnaire	58
Annexure B. Structured interview questions for officials of Polokwane municipality and departments of Local Government and Housing	61

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Place of origin of the residents of Disteneng area	34
Table 2 Demographic profile of participants	35
Table 3 Description of place of origin	37
Table 4 Employment status of respondents	42
Table 5 Means of survival for the unemployed	44
Table 6 Reasons for being unemployed	45
Table 7 Fast tracking service delivery	46

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Shacks in the Disteneng area	25
Figure 2 Living conditions in the Disteneng area	31
Figure 3 The respondents views of an ideal environment in which to live	41
Figure 4 Spaza shops in the Disteneng area	42
Figure 5 Sources of income	43

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ABSTRACT

Urbanization and rural-urban migration are processes that are surrounded by a great deal of controversy and pose as significant challenges in contemporary South Africa. In dealing, controlling, and managing urbanization and rural urban migration, the South African government has developed a number of policies to respond to this to these challenges such as Urban Development Framework of 1997 which aims to promote effective urban reconstruction and development, to guide development policies, strategies and actions of all stakeholders in the urban development processes and other policies that are geared towards urban development management.

In this study, an effort is made to evaluate rural-urban migration and its link to informal settlement patterns at Disteneng area (Limpopo Province). The study used both qualitative and quantitative approaches to collect data. Questionnaires, formal interviews and observations were used to assemble primary data. Policies, journals, books were used to gather secondary data. The study found that there are quite number of issues that lead to rural-urban migration such as rural poverty and unemployment. It also established that policies that have been developed to control rural-urban migration and urbanization are not comprehensive enough to respond to rural-urban migration. They need to be revitalized and reviewed. The study also found out that the main reason for the backlog in services and development relate to a lack of commitment, capacity and experience of officials mandated to bring development to the study area. Recommendations of the study include community empowerment, skills development, monitoring of performance and capacity building for officials. There is a direct link between rural-urban migration and the sprawling of urban informal settlements calling for multi-pronged interventions

from multiple government agencies to address the phenomenon. The Disteneng area is a melting pot which requires urgent attention.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Urbanization is a universal and a most powerful force experienced by all countries in the world. Rapid urbanization, particularly the growth of large cities and the associated problems of unemployment, poverty, inadequate health, poor sanitation, urban slums and environmental degradation pose a formidable challenge in many developing countries (Gelderblom and Kok, 1985). Although urbanization is the driving force for modernization, economic growth and development, there is an increasing concern about the effects of expanding cities, principally on human health, livelihoods, and the environment. The implications of rapid urbanization and demographic trends for employment, food security, water supply, shelter and sanitation, especially the disposal of wastes (solids and liquids) that the cities produce, are staggering. The question that arises is whether the current trend in urban growth is sustainable considering the accompanying urban challenges such as unemployment, slum development, poverty and environmental degradation, especially in the developing countries.

Urbanization is simply defined as the shift from a rural to an urban society, and it involves an increase in the number of people in urban areas over a period of time. Urbanization is the outcome of social, economic and political developments that lead to urban concentration and growth of large cities; changes in land use; and transformation from rural to metropolitan pattern of organization and governance (Gelderblom and Kok, 1985).

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE AREA OF STUDY

This research was carried out at the place called Disteneng Area in the Limpopo province. Disteneng area is between the western side of the city Polokwane and Seshego township (about ten kilometers from the city of Polokwane). This area is regarded as an informal settlement characterized by poor housing that is not conducive for human settlement. The residents of this area construct informal houses out of discarded and other steel material.

Disteneng area has an estimated population of about one thousand people (1000) living in this area. Residents of Disteneng area come from different parts of the Limpopo province, others come from other provinces of South Africa (such as Pretoria, Gauteng and Mpumalanga) while others are from different parts of Southern Africa (such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi and so forth). These people migrated to Disteneng area as a result of a number of factors that they faced at their place of origin which shall be unfolded in this study.

According to the officials from the Limpopo Department of Local Government and Housing which is mandated to eradicate informal settlements there is rapid rural-urban migration and sprawling informal settlements in the Limpopo province. The department aims to eliminate informal settlement by 2014 and to ensure that people have better social and physical services such as decent houses, water and sanitation, electricity, tarred roads and so forth (Department of Local Government and Housing, 2008).

1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Rapid movement of people from rural, semi rural and township to urban areas particularly to Disteneng area is becoming the most controversial and complex issue in the Limpopo Province and for the Polokwane Municipality, in particular. Disteneng area is an informal settlement that has been occupied by rural migrants who left their homelands as a result of unbearable circumstances and moved to the urban areas with hope of a better life. The area is characterized by lack of access to social, economic, and basic services and infrastructure such as housing, water and sanitation, electricity, hospitals, and clinics.

The immigration phenomenon appears to be driven by high rural unemployment, poverty, loss of the natural resources base in former homelands and the need to pursue and explore economic, social and political opportunities in urban areas. Rural-urban migration in the Disteneng area results in the development of squalor housing in and around Disteneng area and also results in urban unemployment and poverty and the demand for formal housing development.

The South African government aims to eradicate informal settlements by 2014 and ensure that every South African lives a decent life with access to housing, water, sanitation, and electricity (Department of Local Government and Housing, 2008). However, urban migration in the Disteneng area is a challenging issue that goes against the vision to eradicate informal settlement by 2014. It requires a much more holistic and comprehensive approach in order to address it. In this study, the researcher evaluated rural-urban migration and the link to informal settlement pattern in the Disteneng area.

1.4 AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study is to evaluate the main causes and consequences of rapid rural-urban-migration and make suggestions which could improve urban development and management in the Disteneng area of the Polokwane Municipality.

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To investigate the trend of urbanization, and its impact on informal settlement in the Disteneng area;
2. To investigate the push and pull factors that make people to move to Disteneng area;
3. To investigate the response of the Department of Local Government and Housing and Polokwane Municipality in handling rapid rural-urban migration to Disteneng area; and
4. To suggest and propose guidelines for functional urban development and management.

1.6 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the trend and the growth pattern of urbanization in the Disteneng area?
2. What are the reasons which make people to move to the Disteneng area?
3. What impact does the new settlement have on existing services?
4. What actions is the Polokwane Municipality taking to handle rapid rural-urban migration in the Disteneng area?

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Urbanization is the old concept that continues to be the most controversial and dynamic issue all over the world. It continues to enjoy more priority from both public and private sector. This study will enhance the understanding, dynamics, trend, and the management of urbanization. This study will also be useful for policies that are relevant and in line with urban development and management. Over and above this, the study will be significant to urban development practitioners in the sense that it will bring to their attention the practical nature, causes, and the impact of urbanization in social and economic development. Lastly, this study will make recommendations that could improve urban development and management in the Limpopo Province in general and in the Polokwane Municipality in particular.

1.8 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Urbanization: According to Graham and Carl (2000), urbanization is the process in which the proportion of the population living in urban areas increases.

Rural-urban migration: is the process where people are moving from rural areas to cities.

Urban bias: According to Gugler (1997), urban bias is policies and programmes that are favourable to people who live in the urban areas than those who live in the countryside.

Urban poverty is lack of basic needs (foods, shelter, and clothing) and also lack of sources of income such as employment.

Informal settlement is the poor quality of housing settlement which urban people live in and which is informally occupied.

1.9 STRUCTURE OF THE RESEARCH REPORT

This report contains five chapters dealing with different aspects of the study. The report is structured as follows.

Chapter One introduces and provides the background information to the study. It also provides the research objectives, questions, significance and definitions of key concepts.

Chapter Two reviews literature on local and international perspectives on urbanization and housing development.

Chapter Three provides the methodology of the research by explaining the research design, data collection and data analysis methods used.

Chapter Four presents the research findings regarding rural-urban migration and informal settlement in the Disteneng area.

Chapter Five provides the conclusions arising out of the research findings and makes suggestions to combat, control and manage rural-urban migration, and informal settlements.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter will give a detailed explanation and definition of what is urbanization, the background of informal settlement and the urbanization policy of South Africa. It will also discuss the role of government departments such as Limpopo Department of Local Government and Housing in controlling urbanization.

2.2 DEFINITION OF MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION

According to Gelderblom and Kok (1985) one should, ideally, define migration formally as the crossing of the boundary of a predefined spatial unit by persons involved in a change of residence. Gelderblom and Kok (1985) further argues that migration often occurs as the consequence of ruptures of environmental disaster, economic exploitation, political or civil tensions.

Migration is often perceived as the result of environmental degradation, health problems, brain drain, political and social instability and declining law and order (Gelderblom and Kok, 1985).

Van Dijk (2006) defines urbanization as the increase in the urban population of a country or area due to the following components of urban population growth: (a) urban natural

increase, (b) urban net migration, and (c) the reclassification of parts of the rural population into the category ‘urban’ due to the sprawling of existing urban areas into their rural surrounding or the development of new towns in former rural areas.

2.3 THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE INFORMAL SETTLEMENT PATTERN IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa’s pattern of informal settlement is largely a product of apartheid factors during the second half of the 20th century. The Natives Land Act (No. 27 of 1913), also known as the Black Land Act, was passed because of constant pressure by whites to prevent the encroachment by blacks on white areas.

This Natives Land Act alienated Africans from most of the land forcing them wholesale into wage employment for survival. During the 1930s, massive informal settlements formed just beyond the urban fringes. In addition, the creation, during the 1960s and 1970s, of ‘independent states’ adjacent to city boundaries and including formal African residential areas further spurred the growth of informal settlements along the urban edge.

Informal settlements grew as a result of a lack of housing alternatives, as well as devastating drought of the late 1970s and early 1980s, which forced people to seek livelihoods in urban areas. Newer settlements that emerged during the late 1980s and early 1990s have tended to be smaller and more closer to the city centre often within former Asian residential areas or on marginal land at risk from floods or landslides. In many cases, these newer settlements were developed by households who fled political violence.

2.4 URBANIZATION POLICY IN SOUTH AFRICA

2.4.1 White paper on urbanization

The government's urbanization policy was published in 1986 in the White Paper on urbanization (RSA, Parliament, 1986). The government accepted the following starting points for its urbanization policy. Urbanization is an inevitable phase in the development of a country, and must be utilized positively to raise the general quality of life. The government has the right and responsibility to plan for constructive urbanization and to stimulate it, in order to promote and protect the spiritual and material welfare of the society in general and particularly that of communities. Although the government accepts the primary responsibility for formulating an urbanization policy, leaders of local communities must, as far possible, be consulted in planning and action in respect of urbanization.

Freedom of movement to and within urban areas applies to all citizens of South Africa without discrimination. An essential requirement for the systematic management of urbanization is timely identification of enough land and areas for people to establish themselves in groups and where commercial, industrial and social development can take place. A more balanced distribution of people and economic activities, bearing in mind the availability and locality of resources of the

country and the necessity for the conservation of physical environment must be promoted by the state in cooperation with the private sector.

The government recognizes the right of every individual to obtain housing within their means, and confirms its responsibility to create opportunities to achieve this ideal. The government will carry out its responsibility, taking proper note of the means of the individual and limiting its action in this regard to cases where the individual is unable to assume full responsibility for this general economic policy, must be taken into account in all aspects of urbanization, while economic and financial priorities and practices must be adapted in the light of the demand of urbanization (RSA, Parliament 1986).

2.5 CURRENT PATTERN OF URBANISATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Using the migration and urbanization census of 2001 (there is no latest statistics other than the 2001 report) the population of South Africa is predominately urban. About 58% of the country's people lived in urban areas in 2001 and this is expected to rise to 64% in 2030 (Statistics South Africa, 2003). Depending on the definition finally used by Statistics South Africa, these figures are likely to be higher, (Statistics South Africa, 2003).

The three major metropolitan areas in the country, namely the city of Cape Town, eThekweni (Durban) and the city of Johannesburg, account for around 30% of the national population. Between 1996 and 2001, these three metropolitan municipalities respectively experienced increases of 21%, 23% and 40%, in the number of households residing there. The highest increase in provincial population over the same period also occurred in Gauteng, Kwazulu-Natal and Western Cape:

the provinces in which these metropolitan areas are located (Statistics South Africa, 2003).

Notably, 69% of those who left the Limpopo Province and 60% of those who left Kwazulu-Natal moved to Gauteng in the early 1990s. These migratory transfers are driven by a search for location advantages. People move to a place where there is better access to socio-economic opportunities, such as employment, housing, education and health facilities. Such movements are highly logical acts: they are the product of calculated, rational assessment by rural people of their current situation measured against the opportunities open to them elsewhere. In addition to the expansion of major metropolitan areas, certain secondary cities and major towns are experiencing significant growth. For example, the increase in the number of households in four district municipalities between 1996 and 2001 was as follows:

- Bojanala District Municipality(main urban area Rustenburg): 37%;
- Capricorn District Municipality(main urban area Polokwane): 31%;
- Ehlanzeni District Municipality (main urban area Nelspruit): 26%;
- Motheo District Municipality (main urban area Bloemfontein) 22%.

(Statistics South Africa 2001).

The main reason why the above urban areas are experiencing rapid increases of people locating to these areas is that, they are growing and developing very rapidly and able to create socio-economic opportunities and jobs that attract people particularly those from the countryside.

2.6 REASONS WHY PEOPLE MIGRATE

People migrate to seek better lives, with higher and more stable incomes, better educational opportunities, for themselves and their children and less exposure to violence. Migrants, therefore, leave low income for more prosperous locations (Gugler, 1997). Since real urban per capita incomes are frequently (though not always) considerably higher than rural per capita incomes, much migration is from rural to urban areas, and net flows generally are in this direction. Asymmetric patterns of economic development, with higher rates of investment and job creation in cities than in countryside, also bring migrants flocking in from the countryside. Thus, there have been vast internal migration flows. Again, people vote with their feet for better economic opportunities (Gugler, 1997).

Since Harris and Todaro's pioneering work, further changes have occurred in the economic modeling of migration. The number of factors individuals are seen to consider in the migration decision has grown. These factors include amenities (such as education, housing and public services), levels of critical poverty in origin areas, and the availability of easily extracted rents in destination areas (Gugler, 1997).

2.7 CAUSES OF URBANIZATION

According to Swanepoel and Van Zyl (1997), the modern process of urbanization originated during the industrial revolution of the 18th century, when large number of impoverished people from the country districts streamed to the cities. The causes of urbanization can be stated as follows. Urbanization and the accompanying migration patterns are closely associated with the process of economic development in a country. As soon as the economy reaches a certain level of development, people begin to move from rural areas to the cities.

Badcock (2002) argues that as the country develops further to the point where people use their skills and technology to process the primary resources of agriculture and to deliver the products in usable form to the markets, secondary industries in factories develop. These factories are established mainly in or near cities, so that people begin to move into the cities. Beside manufacturing, most of the economic services (tertiary activities) and those which are relatively labour intensive, are found in the cities, these include commerce, transport, education, health, and so forth. Modern farming methods, which include mechanisation and automation, in most cases require less labour, so that people are no longer needed on the farms. They become redundant and move to the cities (Badcock, 2002).

The city, with its great demand for labour, draws people. There is a natural tendency among people who have better education qualifications to try to improve their standard of living, and in this respect the city offers better prospects. The availability in the city of facilities such as health services, education, and recreation, is often a reason for young people moving from rural districts to the cities.

In South Africa, just as in other countries in which especially the mining industry developed rapidly, large numbers of people moved to the mining towns, which soon grew into mining cities. Further stimulation by droughts, rural poverty, and the development of industries in the cities, these cities for example those on the Witwatersrand, experienced unprecedented growth (Swanepoel and Van Zyl, 1997).

2.8 URBAN BIAS

Urban bias was first introduced in the early 1970's, which focuses on the advantages that producers and customers in urban areas (especially capital cities) receive through government policy, and the simultaneous bias against the agricultural sector.

Drake and Lee (2000) argue that urban bias thesis; national policies have been skewed against agricultural development in three ways. Macro-economic policies, especially trade policy have protected domestic industrial production, while affording little or no protection to agriculture.

Public-sector investment has focused on urban infrastructure, despite ample evidence that the social rates of return are higher in rural areas: moreover, many of these urban investment projects have no provision for recouping costs. Finally, central government often has compounded these effects by augmenting public employment in cities to a degree unjustified by any conceivable efficiency criterion (Gugler, 1997).

2.9 TOOLS AND METHOD OF CONTROLLING URBANIZATION

Urbanization has both positive and negative impacts, but there is a need to control and manage the trend and the growth of urbanization in order to avoid its negative consequences. What follows sets out the tools and methods of controlling urbanization?

2.9.1 Pursuing decentralization policy

Decentralization embraces a variety of concepts, the feasibility of which must be carefully analyzed in any particular country before pursuing decentralization policies. Rondinelli (1984) defines decentralization from an administrative

perspective as the transfer of responsibility for planning, management, and the raising and allocation of resources from the central government and its agencies to field units of government agencies, subordinate units or levels of government, semi-autonomous public authorities or corporations, area-wide, regional or functional authorities or non governmental private or voluntary organizations.

Decentralization also can be defined as a situation in which public goods and services are provided primarily through the revealed preferences of individuals by market mechanisms. If decentralization policies are to be implemented successfully, they must be designed carefully. Analysis of the services to be decentralized, the characteristics of users and financial, and organizational alternatives must be grounded in an integrated political economy framework (Rondinelli, 1984).

2.9.2 Intensify rural development policy

In order to reduce rapid rural-urban migration, there is a need for the emergence of a national development strategy that focuses on rural development through the modernization of agricultural production. The rural development policy should aim at lessening the disparity in living standards between the urban and rural areas. The economic goals of the rural development policy should be to create viable economic units, control and plan land use, give the unemployed and underemployed a chance to engage in farming, introduce reforms and encourage commercial agriculture.

2.9.3 Promoting co-ordination between local, provincial and national government

The different spheres of government are encouraged to work in a co-coordinated manner to tackle the development needs in a local area. For example, the Department of Health plans to build a clinic in an area. It has to check that the municipality can provide services like water and sanitation for the effective functioning of the clinic.

2.9.4 Adopting good urban governance practices

Good urban governance means involving organizations of the urban poor as equal partners in urban political and economic life, including budgeting decisions, financing practices, and the participatory upgrading, planning and design of basic public services. Quite often the authorities that are responsible to shape and manage urban development do not involve and engage all the necessary stakeholders such as civil society, the business community, the private sector in their planning and programmes. This results in a situation whereby most development actions are not addressing the needs of the people concerned.

2.9.5 Creating regulatory and policy environments that encourage private sector participation

Cities have to develop the urban infrastructure (roads, communications, power, transport services, water and sanitation, services areas) that can attract and sustain productive investment. For this to happen, they need to offer a regulatory and policy environment that encourages private sector endeavors (from small efforts to large-scale ones) and public-private partnerships.

A key to create sustainable economy that is capable of overcoming the complex social, political, and economic challenges associated with deepening and

expanding urban-based poverty is a vibrant private sector economy, one in which business of varying scales operate side by side in a complementary and growth sustaining relationship. Fostering such an economy means encouraging both long-term foreign investments and domestic entrepreneurship.

How can this process be initiated? The first step must come from government. Local government should be encouraged to create regulatory and policy environments that are inviting to outside investors and supportive of local entrepreneurs. The active participation of private enterprise depends on the ability of municipalities to engage the business sector and convince business leaders that the resources they provide will be well managed (Rondinelli, 1984).

2.10 CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

2.10.1 Demographic changes and slum formation

The picture of developing megacities that is commonly painted in the popular imagination is of sprawling areas of crowded substandard housing and no facilities or sanitation, with the number continually augmented by a hopeless stream of immigrants from depressed rural areas that expect very little and receive less (United Nations Human Settlement Programme, 2003).

In fact, while many of the larger cities do have these problems, the reality is far more complex. Most cities are vibrant and dynamic places, each with their own unique character. If not too crippled by the urban externalities of congestion, pollution and crime, they have interesting street spaces, workspaces and residential spaces in which the majorities are able to make an acceptable income and obtain an education, if they wish, while enjoying a better standard of living at a considerably

lower risk of death and starvation than their rural counterparts (United Nations Human Settlement Programme 2003).

The visible minority of street kids and other extremely poor is not so fortunate and in some cities where rescue organisations are poorly developed and opportunities are minimal, for it is not possible to forage or grow own food as in the countryside and starvation is not too far way. It remains a fact, however, that very few people die in the city street any more because there is always someone to help them, and this is rarely the case in rural areas (United Nations Human Settlement Programme, 2003).

2.11 Urban decline and urban renewal in South Africa

Urban renewal entails the use of targeted interventions by the government to resuscitate urban areas. Locally, urban renewal initiatives can be traced back to slum clearance and forced relocations of Black South Africa from the early 1990's. Largely driving these brutal actions were ruling class fears of disease and a desire to break up racially mixed suburbs.

Generally the bulk of White South Africans residing in the former slums would be housed in the new public owned dwelling units built on the ashes of the demolished areas, while black South Africans were relocated to racially segregated areas far removed from work and social opportunities (Department of Provincial and Local Government, 2004).

Recently, the Limpopo Province under the Department of Local Government and Housing launched the first integrated and sustainable human settlement project at Bendor (outside the city of Polokwane). Through this project, the Department of

Local Government and Housing seeks to address the challenge of housing affordability by ensuring that mixed-income earners are housed together and nearer to economic activities in what is popularly referred to as inclusionary housing (Department of Local Government and Housing, 2008).

Urban renewal in developed countries has taken on an economic bias with government attempting to rejuvenate ailing economies in such areas. Increasingly, rejuvenation of inner city areas is also becoming far more focused on property redevelopment. In this mode, the focus in urban renewal increasingly falls on the opening up of space for investment and improving the economy and competitiveness of cities.

However, blinded by the prospect of profit and prestige, city management and development agencies often neglect the current inhabitant of these areas and embark on initiatives that result in their subtle exclusion from their former residential development by the construction of dwelling units that they cannot afford. In major South African cities, urban renewal is striving to avoid this by promoting inner-city housing, as well as ensuring safer and more aesthetically pleasing environments through visible policing and cleaning-up inner city streets (Department of Provincial and Local Government, 2004).

2.12 The approach to urban renewal in South Africa

Area-based strategies for the renewal of declining major urban centers which are usually part of broader strategy to promote wider city economic development strategies to uplift exclusion areas of which there are two main types. Firstly, areas of exclusion by design (which covers the apartheid planning dormitory townships to house the urban poor and secondly areas of exclusion through decline which are

primarily inner city, high density housing suburbs that have undergone major demographic change and are subject to over-crowding, decline in amenities and lack of maintenance.

Upgrading of informal settlements that are scattered along urban fringes or located on pockets of marginal land within city boundaries such settlement is usually extra-legal, of poor environmental quality and lack access to basic municipal services. In 1995, the government embarked on the special integrated presidential project for urban renewal, which largely focused on housing, infrastructure, and service delivery improvement in selected townships.

In February 2001, the president announced the urban renewal programme which was intended to focus on the three spheres of government in dedicated nodes. The objectives of this programme were to alleviate poverty, achieve equity, ensure inter-sphere and inter-sectoral integration and coordination, attain social cohesion, and enhance local government capacity to deliver (Department of Provincial and Local Government, 2004).

2.12.1 Good urban governance and inclusive city

According to Black (2002), good urban governance is characterized by the principles of sustainability, community empowerment, equity, efficiency accountability, civic engagement, and community participation in order to learn and know the priorities and the needs of the people who are the recipients of development.

Craswell (2000), on the other side argues that development strategies have to be made with full engagement and participation of all stakeholders and beneficiaries

of development with a view to understand the expectation of the recipients of development initiative. Lever and Paddison (2002) argue that mass migration to urban areas could be addressed by improving the environment and the conditions of rural areas, empowering people with skills, knowledge, capacities, and providing essential services in rural areas.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The study applies both quantitative and qualitative methods in order to realize the main objective of the study. This chapter starts by explaining the research design, the type of research and how the study was carried out, particularly the data collection method and data analysis methods used.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

In this chapter the research design used in the current study, as well as the procedure and techniques of data collection and analysis will be outlined. The research design is the plan or blueprint of the study. This includes who, what, where, when and how of the subject under study. From this, it is clear that a research design is a guideline according to which a choice about data collection methods has to be made. In choosing such methods, the researcher shall provide the reason for the choice of such method by detailing the advantage and the disadvantage of each method.

3.3 TYPE OF RESEARCH

The type of research that this study embarked on is both qualitative and quantitative approach but mainly qualitative. According to Creswell (2007), qualitative research is an ‘inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explore a social or human problem’. In a qualitative study, the researcher builds a comprehensive and holistic picture. The researcher analyses words, reports and detailed views of informants and conducts the study in a natural setting. The quantitative research paradigm attempts to interpret human action in terms of numerical values or expressions. According to Creswell (2007) “it is an enquiry into a social or human problem, based on testing a theory composed of variables, measured with numbers, in order to determine whether the predictive generalizations of the theory hold true”.

The reason for choosing both qualitative and quantitative research paradigm is that the focus of qualitative research is on participants’ perceptions and experiences, and the way they make sense of their lives. In that way, the researcher will be able to realize and understand their understanding about the impact of rural-urban migration on informal settlement. Qualitative research method is closer to the real meaning of social existence whereby the researcher will be able to experience the real and existing condition of the study area.

3.4 AREA OF STUDY

The study area is the place called Disteneng area, which is located between Seshego Township and the city of Polokwane (ten kilometers from Polokwane). Disteneng area is an informal settlement that has been occupied by rural migrants who left their homelands due to their own reasons and moved to the urban areas with hope the of a better life. Disteneng area is characterized by lack of access to

social, economic and basic services and infrastructure such as housing, water and sanitation, electricity, hospitals, and clinics.

Service providers such as local Municipality (Polokwane Municipality) government department (local government and housing) and parastatals (Such as Eskom, Telkom) are unable to provide services in order to improve the living conditions in the Disteneng area. (Figure 1 shows typical shacks in the Disteneng area). The researcher explored whether the above service providers have the allocated budget for this area or the above mentioned service providers are failing to delivery their constitutional mandate which is to provide services to communities in a sustainable manner and to promote social and economic development of communities.

Figure1: Shacks in the Disteneng area



3.5 SOURCES OF DATA

3.5.1 Secondary data sources

The present researcher used White Paper on Urbanization (RSA, Parliament, 1986) Urbanization policy in South Africa (RSA, Parliament 1986) journals, books, articles and other sources of information that are relevant to the given topic.

3.5.2 Primary data sources

In this regard the researcher contacted and interacted with officials of the Department of Local Government and Housing in the Polokwane Municipality in order to hear from them about the situation at Disteneng area. The community of Disteneng area was also contacted in order to hear from them what made them to locate and reside in this particular place.

3.6 POPULATION

Bless and Higson (1995) refer to a research population as a targeted group that is the set of elements that the researcher focused upon and to which the result obtained by testing the sample should be generalized. The research population consists of residents of Disteneng area who approximate one thousand (1000) people.

3.7 SAMPLING

In this study, the present researcher decided to use sampling as a procedure to select respondents for this study. According to Schumacher and Macmillan (1993:159), sampling refers to the process by which a sample (e.g., an individual selected from a large group) is selected from the population for the purpose of generalizing results to a large group of individuals. The researcher used estimates and observation and found that there is approximately one thousand (1000) people,

from whom ten percent of the population which is hundred (100) people participated in the study.

Judgment sampling was used to collect information from the Disteneng residents. According to Babbie & Mouton (2001), judgment sampling is a type of non probability sampling in which the units to be observed are selected on the basis of the researcher's judgment about which one will be the most useful representative. A judgment sample is obtained according to the discretion of someone who is familiar with the relevant characteristics of the population. The reason for choosing the judgment sampling is that the researcher has familiarized himself with the study area and also understood the kind of people who will provide the relevant information.

3.8 DATA COLLECTION METHOD

The present researcher used different data collection techniques, which included questionnaires (structured and unstructured) and observation to gather data from the community of Disteneng area.

Structured interviews were used to collect data from officials from the Department of Local Government and Housing and Officials from the Polokwane Municipality. For the purpose of this study, the interview method was used because of accessibility to participants. Questionnaires and observation were also used to discover and evaluate rural-urban migration and the link to informal settlement pattern in the Disteneng area. According to Bruce (2002), questionnaires and interviews are a way of getting data about persons by asking them rather than watching them behave.

3.8.1 Administered questionnaire

In this study, the questionnaires were administered to the residents of the Disteneng area. According to Bruce (2002) questionnaires take the format that include only questions which will address the research concerns and which the researcher plans to analyze and it also has to be as short as will suffice to elicit the information necessary to analyze the primary research concern. In this case, the purpose was to seek data to evaluate rural-urban migration and the link to informal settlement pattern.

3.8.2 Interview

According to Bruce (2002), “An interview is a piece of social interaction with one person asking another a number of questions and the other person giving answers”. There were face-to-face individual interviews. “An individual interview is only one person face-to-face with the researcher”. Interviews were arranged with the officials from both Polokwane Municipality and the Department of Local Government and Housing, respectively, in order to understand the impact of rural-urban migration and the link to informal settlement formation.

3.9. DATA ANALYSIS

The raw data collected were captured by direct typing of self-coded and coded responses into a dataset using statistical package for social science (SPSS) programme and Microsoft Excel. After collating the data, descriptive statistics techniques and appropriate statistical tools were applied to accomplish the objectives of the study. Data were analyzed to produce descriptive statistics of frequencies, percentages and graphs. Thus descriptive statistics and cross

tabulation statistics were used to describe the socio-economic variables of Disteneng residence.

3.10 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The researcher highly respected the rights of participants by admiring, and allowing them to fully express their opinion, views and personal experience. The objectives of the research were articulated to the informants so that they were clearly understood. Consent for participation was sought from the informants. The informant's rights, interests, and wishes were considered first when data were collected.

The respondents expressed their views and perceptions freely without fear. The researcher reassured them that the study was not for exposure of their difficulties and troubles for publicity, but it was to assist his graduate studies and hopefully draw the attention of authorities to their segregation and lack of development.

3.11 THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTENENG AREA

3.11.1 Population type

Most people who are living in the Disteneng area are Blacks, who belong to different ethnic groups (Sepedi, isiZulu, isiXhosa, xiTsonga and Tshivenda). These ethnic groups are from different parts of the Limpopo province, while others are from neighboring countries such as Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, and other parts of Southern Africa. The above ethnic groups relocated to the Disteneng area from their different places of origin. Most of these people are from the countryside.

These people are pulled and absorbed into places that are next to the city of Polokwane such as the Disteneng Area and others. Although Disteneng area is an informal settlement in which the researcher wanted to determine whether they have access to basic and social services such as water, energy, health and educational facilities, the researcher was also interested in checking whether the residents of Disteneng area take advantage of the socio-economic and employment opportunities that prevail in the city centre.

3.11.2 The nature of settlement in the study area

One of the most important components of the slum housing stock, and one that has attracted the most discussion during the last three decades, is squatter housing. Squatters are people who occupy land or a building without the explicit permission of the owner. Squatter settlement is settlement established by people who have illegally occupied an area of land and built their houses upon it, usually through self-help processes.

Disteneng area is a squatter settlement where people from all the four corners of South Africa and neighboring African countries such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and so forth informally and illegally relocated to these places and built poorly constructed and informal housing structures. The researcher wanted to check whether these dwelling are conducive for a healthy and better standard of living (see figure 2).

Figure 2: Living conditions in the Disteneng area



After more than a decade of democracy in South Africa, which promotes racial integration, equality, and social justice, there is a need to assess whether all residential places including Disteneng area have a stake and are benefiting from the social and economic mainstream of the country. It is necessary to assess whether all racial groups and different classes of the society including the non income groups, have equal access to services and whether there is a decline of inequality between the rich, the poor and racial groups.

In 2008 Limpopo Province (Department of Local Government and Housing) initiated “Integrated and Sustainable Human Settlement programme at Bendor”, with a view to reverse the legacy of apartheid settlement patterns by building integrated and sustainable human settlements. It is a good initiative that aims to breach racial division and build a society where all racial groups live together and

are afforded equal opportunities. (This programme is still being undertaken as it is not yet completed).

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH RESULTS, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains results from the study as well as the information from policy documents. It deals with rural-urban migration and informal settlement at the Disteneng area in particular. Furthermore information about respondents and their responses is presented. The perceptions of the residents of Disteneng regarding migration and informal settlement and how the government is dealing with their issues is also presented.

Research analysis according to Monette et al (1990) can be both challenging and interesting in that it serves the purpose of either confirming or refuting the research

objectives. Data analysis therefore refers to the process of unlocking information hidden in the raw data, and transforming it into something useful and meaningful.

Data were collected from hundred (100) residence of Disteneng area, who completed the questionnaires, and also from four (4) government officials; two from Department of Local Government and Housing and two from the Polokwane Municipality who responded to an interview schedule, which was self administered.

4.2. AN ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE DISTENENG AREA

4.2.1 Place of origin

According to the data in Table 1 below 50% of residents are from rural areas of the Limpopo Province, while 30% are from the neighboring and Southern African countries such as Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe and others. Further 20% are from other parts of South Africa such as Gauteng and Mpumalanga. According to the respondents, most of these residents relocated to the Disteneng area to seek better socio-economic opportunities such as employment and a decent place to stay. (See Table 1 below)

Table 1: Place of origin of the residents of Disteneng area

	Frequency	Percent
1. Rural areas	50	50.0

2. Neighboring countries	30	30.0
3. Other South African provinces	20	20.0
4. Total	100	100.00

According to the respondents, it was also evident that most of these people left their places of origin as the result of hardship, poverty, unemployment, and isolation from opportunities that are available in the urban areas. They saw Disteneng in the city of Polokwane as their hope for a better life, better services and access to employment opportunities.

4.2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

4.2.2.1 Age, gender and educational background of respondents

It is also evident from the data that almost 50 % of the people who live in this area are between the age of 46 and 65, and 30 % are between 30 and 45. Ten percent (10 %) are between 17 and 29 and another 10 % are more than sixty five (65) years of age. The primary reason for having people in the above given age groups, constituted of people who face real life situations is because they cannot depend on someone else to provide them with their basic, social and economic needs, but rather they have to find ways of making a living.

The dominant gender in the Disteneng area is male. Almost 60% of the respondents are male, while 40 % are female. There might be many reasons why men outnumber their female counterparts. One might be that the conditions of living in the Disteneng area are not conducive for women to stay. These conditions

include poorly and self-constructed housings, an insecure environment as well as other factors.

Evidence from the data collected in the Disteneng area show that almost 70% of the respondents have secondary qualification, 20% have primary, four per cent (4%) are still studying in tertiary level, while one (1) has attained tertiary qualifications. Five per cent (5%) have not gone to school at all. One can detect that the majority (about 90%) of the people who live in this area have secondary and primary qualifications, while only a small proportion either have tertiary qualifications or no education at all.

There are many reasons that make the majority (90%) of these people to have low qualifications. According to most of them, they left their studies at secondary level because conditions at home were tough. For instance, some respondents said that their households were struggling to meeting every basic needs of the family such as foods and clothing to the extent that sometimes they went to bed without anything in the stomach. Hence, they were forced to drop out school early and seek employment in order to meet those needs. The demographic profile is depicted in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Demographic profile of participants, Disteneng area

Variable	Category	Frequency
Total number of participants		100
Gender distribution	Male	60
	Female	40
Age distribution	17-29	10
	30-45	30
	46-65	50
	65+	10

Highest education	Primary qualifications	20
	Secondary qualifications	70
	Still studying in tertiary	4
	Completed tertiary qualifications	1
	Never went to school	5

4.2.3 Position in the household

According to the study, most of the male residents of the area are heads of their household. A small proportion (10 %) of them is living with their families while the majority of them left their families at home. They usually visit their families during month end so that they can provide them with money or food for a living.

Being a head of the household is a huge task that goes with so much responsibilities. Some of those responsibilities are to ensure that members of the family (wife, children) acquire and obtain their basic and social needs such as foods, shelter, and medication and so forth. According to the study, about half of the men of Disteneng area are able to provide basic and social needs of their families because they are employed and because of the fact that they have more than one sources of income, while the unemployed are not able to meet the needs of their families..

4.2.4 Description of place of origin

Data in Table 3 reveal that the majority (90%) of people who live in the Disteneng area are from rural areas. According to most of them, the living conditions in their place of origin are not conducive and favorable for a better and prosperous life. Poverty, isolation, unemployment, and underdevelopment exist side by side and are the reasons that made them to relocate to this area with hope of a better life and a better future. Thirty-four percent (34%) of the people describe their place of

origin as unserviced and underdeveloped, 55% said that they are from impoverished and poor areas, and 11% said that they are from isolated and segregated areas (segregated from opportunities and developments)

Table 3: Description of place of origin

No	Place of origin	Frequency	Percent
1	Unserviced and underdeveloped areas	34	34.0
2	Impoverished and poor areas	55	55.0
3	Isolated and segregated areas	11	11.0
4	Total	100	100.0

Most people argue that rural-urban migration will never come to an end as long as the conditions in the rural places are not improved. In addition rural-urban migration has a negative impact on service delivery and urban development because it requires the authorities concerned to bring more interventions and assistance through the provision of social and physical infrastructure such as adequate housing, water and sanitation, and tired roads.

4.2.5 Reasons for leaving their place of origin

According to the majority of the residents (95%) in the study area, the common factors that made them to leave their place of origin are lack of services, lack of development and lack of opportunities. Most of these people (almost 95%) of Disteneng area argue that the conditions in rural areas, (where they come from) are not conducive for human survival and prosperity. They further argue that they sometimes go to bed without having eaten a basic, ordinary meal and they often have to travel long distances to access drinking water. This is compounded by their lack of reliable sources of income (such as employment) that can assist them to meet their basic needs and aspirations. The main reasons that made them to leave

their areas include rural poverty, unemployment, segregation from the mainstream of economy, unserviced rural areas, poor health services and lack of infrastructure. The reason for leaving their places of origin constitutes push factors in rural-urban migration parlance and was one of the objectives of the study which the researcher was able to find out.

Most residents of Disteneng argue that their places of origin have potential for growth and development, especially in the agricultural sector whereby they have rich and fertile soil on which to plant a wide range of vegetables and fruits. However, not much has been done by both the public and private sectors to take advantage of the opportunities that are available in the rural areas with a view to bring about prosperous rural development which would improve the economy of both rural and urban areas.

4.2.6 Reasons for locating to Disteneng area

The majority (95%) of the people who stay at Disteneng argue that the common reason that made them to locate to this area is the fact it is close to the City of Polokwane where it is easy to access opportunities such as employment, housing, health service, and better education. They argued that this is unlike other places that are located far away from the cities and urban areas.

Another reason that made them to locate to this area is the fact that they have hope, resilience, and trust that their quality of life will improve in the short or the long-run. What brings them hope is the fact that the South African government in general and the Department Local Government and Housing in particular aims to eradicate informal housing by 2014. This means that the Department has to relocate and build them adequate houses, with better services such as water and

electricity, sanitation and other social and physical infrastructure such schools, clinics, and tarred roads and so forth. What made them to locate to Disteneng area are therefore the pull factors of rural-urban migration.

4.2.7 The difference between their places of origin and Disteneng area

Ninety percent 90% of the residents of Disteneng area argue that the difference between their places of origin and Disteneng area is the fact that their places of origin are isolated and segregated from the mainstream economy, which most urban areas enjoy and access. They further argue that their places of origin are isolated from social and physical services and infrastructure such as better schools, tarred roads, hospitals, clinics, and so forth. Disteneng area although is an informal settlement, but it is close to places with socio-economic opportunities where one can be able to access employment opportunities, health services and better schools.

4.2.8 The respondents views of an ideal environment

Almost all the residents of Disteneng area have a common ideal which they want to see happening at Disteneng area. Thirty percent (30%) of the residents of Disteneng observe that there is a need for more development interventions, which will include building of decent houses, water and sanitations and electricity. Fifty five per cent (55%) argue that there is a need to create employment opportunities to sustain and meet their needs. Fifteen per cent (15%) of the respondents argue that they want access to social services which include health systems, medications, schools, tarred roads, clinics and so forth. This is shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: The respondents views of an ideal environment

4.2.9 Employment status of respondents

Almost 50% are employed by the private sector, the very same numbers (50%) are self employed, having small business in town and also having spasa shops in their yard (see figure 4). Ten per cent (10%) are employed by the government but doing menial jobs such as cleaning. Twenty per cent (20 %) are streets vendors selling sweets or fruits and vegetables in and around town and in Disteneng area in order to make a living. Twenty per cent (20%) are unemployed.

According to those who are employed particularly in the informal sector, says that their income and salaries are not enough to meet their needs and aspirations and those of their families. Those who are self-employed as street vendors, argue that they do not make enough income to be able to maintain a decent standard of living. Thus, the respondents are demanding the authority concerned from government such as the Department of Labour to ensure decent work with decent salaries and income for the residents are guaranteed. This is shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Employment status of respondents

NO	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	Frequency	Percent
1	Employed,(private sector) and self Employed	50	50.0
2	Street vendors	20	20
3	Unemployed	20	20.0
4	Employed (government)	10	10.0
5	Total	100	100.0

Figure 4: Spasa shops in the Disteneng area



4.2.10 Sources of income

According to the people who live in the Disteneng area, there are people who have more than one source of income. Ten percent (10%) have a single source of income by working for the government; 20% also have a single source of income through street vending (selling vegetables, fruits in the city centre); 24% have two sources of income being employed in the informal sector and are self-employers by having spasa shops in their yard; and 26 % also have two sources of income including employment in the informal sector and a small business in town. The main reason they have more than of income while they are working is that they do not earn enough income to meet the needs of their families and themselves. This scenario is portrayed in Figure 5 below.

Figure 5: Sources of income

4.2.11 Means of survival for the unemployed

Almost 20% of the residents of Disteneng area are not employed. They argue that they make a living through quite a number of things. For instance, 6% said that they survive with financial assistance from their family members and friends who are working, eight per cent (8%) said that they are temporarily employed in the city centre. Lastly 6% say they survive through assisting shoppers carry their luggage and getting paid in return. (See Table 5 below).

Table 5: Means of survival for the unemployed

NO	MEANS OF SURVIVAL	Frequency	Percent
1	Temporary employment in the city center	8	40.0
2	Financial assistance from family members and friends	6	30.0
3	Assisting shoppers carry their luggage and getting paid	6	30.0
4	Total	20	100.0

4.2.12 Reasons for being unemployed

Twenty per cent of people who are unemployed say that there are quite a number of reasons that contribute to their situation, 7% say that one of the reasons for their unemployment is the fact that they left schooling early and most of them only

have secondary qualification that is not sufficient to acquire employment in this fast growing economy.

Seven percent 7% of people say that another reason for their unemployment is lack of working experience and tertiary qualifications that are required by most employers both in the public and private sectors. Six per cent (6%) say that they lack the required skills, potential and experience. most of those who are employed are found in the construction sectors where academic qualifications are not required, especially for physical work where the ability and strength to carry out a given task is important. (See Table 6 below).

Table 6: Reasons for being unemployed

no	Reason for unemployment	Frequency	Percent
1	Lack of required skills and potential	6	30.0
2	Lack of working experience and qualifications	7	35.0
3	Left school early	7	35.0
4	TOTAL	20	100.0

4.2.13 Interventions that could address their problems

Most residence of Disteneng area especially those who are not working, say that the most desirable intervention is the creation of socio-economic opportunities by

both the public and private sector in areas such as employment creation, health systems, housing, and fundamental human needs.

4.2.14 Availability of physical and social services

According to this study the respondents say that the only social services they have is water but not in their own yard because the tap water is available only in the street. About ten per cent of the households share one tap. Social and physical infrastructures which are not available include decent housing, electricity, proper sanitations, roads, clinics, and schools.

4.2.15 Fast tracking service delivery

Residents of Disteneng area are of the view that in order to fast track services delivery in their area, there is a need to embark on quite a number of things. For instance, 37% of the respondents are of the view that there is a need to improve commitment and dedication of officials who are mandated to provide services; 28 % say that there is also a need to appoint the right people with necessary skills, potentials, experience and qualifications; and 35% believe that there is a need for capacity building and skills development for officials who are mandated to provide services to the people. (See Table 7 below).

Table 7: Fast tracking service delivery

NO	FAST TRACKING SERVICES	Frequency	Percent
1	Employ people with skills, potentials, experience and qualifications	28	28.0
2	Improve commitment of officials	37	37.0
3	Capacity building and skills development for officials	35	35.0
4	Total	100	100.0

4.3 MIGRACY: VIEWS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

4.3.1 The legal status of Disteneng area

According to the officials of both the Department of Local Government and Housing and the Polokwane Municipality, Disteneng area is an informal settlement where people occupy land illegally. They say the department is working on removing the residents from this area into a much better, well serviced, and developed area where they will access all the basic and social services.

4.3.2 The rate of rural-urban migration and informal settlement in the Disteneng area

Officials of the Department of Local Government and Housing and Polokwane Municipality, also say that the rate of rural-urban migration particularly at Disteneng and other neighboring urban areas around the city of Polokwane is growing very fast to the extent that they are struggling to deal with the pace and the growing rate of people who are moving to urban areas and to assist and provide them with necessary basic services.

The officials of the Polokwane Municipality and Department of Local Government and Housing say that almost 10% of the population of Limpopo Province located to urban areas around the city of Polokwane, while 5% have relocated to Disteneng area. The officials concede that this is quite a high rate in the sense that it becomes the responsibility of the government to provide them with social and basic services such as decent housing, water and electricity, sanitation, and health services, or relocate them to areas which are well serviced.

Officials of both Departments categorically agree that the high number of people moving from rural to urban areas and Disteneng area, in particular for a better life results in the formation of informal settlement in and around urban areas.

4.3.3 Rural-urban migration and urban settlement policies

The Department of Local Government and Housing has quite number of policies to control informal settlement such, as the following:

A social housing policy for South Africa towards an enabling environment for social housing development (revised draft, July 2003); Urban development framework, (drafted in 1997); Department of housing: white paper: a new housing policy and strategy for South Africa (1995); and Polokwane Municipality by laws on informal settlement

According to the official of the Department of Local Government and Housing, the above mentioned policies are good, but they are not able to achieve the purpose for which they were intended. The main problem that makes these policies ineffective is the fact that policy makers do not apply them in a comprehensive and holistic manner, with little reference to cross-cutting matters.

They also mentioned that in order to control and combat rural-urban migration there is a need to improve the living conditions in the rural areas, creating industrial development opportunities in those areas and ensure that there are viable socio-economic opportunities that people do not see the reason of coming to urban areas.

4.3.4 The impact of rapid rural-urban migration

Officials of both the Department of Local Government and Housing and Polokwane Municipality also claim that, the critical impact of rapid rural-urban migration is the accelerated demand for the provision of social and basic services and needs such as housing, water and electricity, sanitation, hospitals, clinics, schools, and tarred roads while the authorities concerned have not budgeted for these developments given the influx.

According to the officials, the positive aspect of rural-urban migration is the expansion and accumulation of the rural labour force with their associated skills that come to add value to the growth, prosperity, and development of the urban economy due to their expertise, potentials and capabilities which were not fully used and applied in rural areas because of a lack of socio-economic opportunities.

4.3.5 Government interventions

The Department of Local Government and Housing and Polokwane Municipality have identified land next to Disteneng area, whereby they are building Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) houses, and also providing all the necessary and basic services. The residents of Disteneng area will be relocated to this new and well developed area. One of the methods of urban management that could help, as an intervention to control rural-urban migration and informal settlement is good urban governance practices through the provision of public services such as housing and other services.

4.3.6 Factors that impact on rural-urban migration and informal settlement

According to the officials they are well on course to reduce, eradicate and combat rural-urban migration and informal settlement assisted by their strategic vision and

policy framework which aims at eradicating informal settlements by 2014. They claim that progress is slow in combating the phenomena because the two are created and caused by certain issues which the Department is struggling to address and resolve such as rural poverty, unemployment, and poor services in rural areas.

To stem the trends, the officials suggest applying tools and methods of urban management such as intensification of rural development policy whereby opportunities are not created only in urban areas but also in rural areas.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

As mentioned in the first chapter, the aim of this research was to evaluate the main causes and consequences of rapid rural-urban-migration in the Disteneng area. In this chapter, fundamental matters are assessed and the following sections are devoted to the drawing of conclusions and narration of recommendations for a way forward with regard to rural-urban migration in the Disteneng area.

5.2 CONCLUSIONS OF THE FINDINGS

Rural urban migration and urban informal settlement are some of the challenges facing the Limpopo Province. There are policies, programme and strategies that the provincial administration put in place to control and manage rural-urban migration.

The section below summarizes the key aspects and issues related to rural urban migration with a focus on the Disteneng area.

It has emerged from the study that there is high rate of rural urban migration and urban informal settlement. The majority of the people who relocate to urban areas are from poor rural areas, and they left their areas as the result of rural poverty, unemployment, isolation and lack of services in rural areas. They moved to urban areas and to Disteneng area in particular with high hopes and expectation that their lives would get better. Most of these people argue that they moved to the Disteneng area because this area is close to socio-economic opportunities such as employment opportunities, and social services.

In addressing high rate of rural-urban migration, the Limpopo Province adopted urbanization and informal settlement policies. These policies aim to control and manage urban development. However it has emerged from the study that the above policies are not responsive to the challenge because of quite a number of factors. The most dominant factor that emerged from the study is that these policies are not comprehensive and do not address the issues that make people to move to urban areas.

It has also emerged from the study that residents of Disteneng area do not have access to basic and social services such as decent housing, water and sanitation, electricity, and health services and so forth. The residents of this area made their own self constructed housing structures, which are not conducive for the attainment of a decent living. However, it has also emerged from the study that the Polokwane Municipality has identified land (at the Greenside area) where they are building Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) houses. They are now scaling up the process of relocating the residents of Disteneng area to the

Greenside area. According to the respondents their problems should have been solved long time ago since the authorities had long promised to address their concerns.

The relocation of the residents of Disteneng area to a new identified and developed area has been long overdue. The residents have become impatient and claim that the process should be fast-tracked since they have been staying in poor conditions for a long time.

The issue of skills development and capacity building within local authorities also emerged from the study. The majority of the residents of Disteneng area are of the view that one of the reasons why there are delays in service delivery in their areas and elsewhere is because most officials do not have the skills, knowledge, and qualifications that go with their jobs. They suggest that there is a need for skills development and capacity building targeting the officials in order to improve service delivery.

Moreover, it has also emerged from the study that the majority of the residents of Disteneng area do not have formal and basic qualifications, which disqualifies them from most jobs as they fail to meet the requirements of employers and automatically are not employed. This suggests that there is also a need for community empowerment, skills development, and capacity building for the residents of Disteneng area.

Creation of employment opportunities is one of the critical aspects that emerged from the study. The majority of the residents of Disteneng claim that some of the

reasons why they left their places of origin was rural poverty and unemployment but on coming to Disteneng, their situation did not improve as they remain unemployed. Most of the respondents believe that an appropriate intervention that could improve their life is the creation of employment opportunities so that they can generate income and be able to sustain their lives.

It has also emerged from the study that the majority of the residents of Disteneng area relocated with hope for a better life and access to opportunities. Most residents say that they might consider going back to their places of origin, but only if the conditions of living there are improved and when there is provision of adequate services and infrastructure.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to improve and control the high volume of people moving from rural to urban areas and also to improve the conditions of living in the Disteneng area, the authorities concerned should consider the following issues:

- ❖ One of the key aspects that emerged from the study is the backlog of service delivery such as decent housing, water and sanitation. The authorities concerned such as the Department of Local Government and housing and Polokwane should fast track service delivery more especially basic services such as housing.
- ❖ A critical issue that was also identified from the study was the need to create employment opportunities. The majority of the residents of Disteneng area are not employed, so in order to improve their conditions there is a need for

the creation of job opportunities so that they can maintain themselves and their families.

- ❖ The study also found that there is a need to improve the commitment and the capacity of the officials of Department of Local Government and Housing and Polokwane Municipality so that they can deliver their promises to the people and provide service to the needy. To do so requires taking such measures as making it imperative to adhere to the Batho-Pele principles; re-educating officials on the importance of the civil service to development; engaging competent people at all levels and recruiting more staff.

- ❖ Another fundamental issue that emerged from the study is the fast tracking and proper implementation of rural development policy which will reduce the high volume of rural-urban migration. The social goals of the rural development policy should be to guarantee better provision of public facilities and services, resettling villagers from remote areas to villages with better accessibility to main transport system, and decreasing the disparity in income and enhance the living standards in urban and rural areas. The main aim of these social and economic objectives should be to reduce the high rate of rural-urban migration and to control the overall rate of urbanization.

- ❖ Another important theme that came from the study was the need to improve working conditions. According to most of the residents of the Disteneng area, they are working in the informal sector or private sector, where they are paid low salaries and wages. According to the respondents, the wages do not constitute a living wage and are not enough to meet their basic needs. There is a need to ensure that such sectors commit and adhere to paying

negotiated and reasonable living wages and salaries through appropriate entities such as unions, employer organizations and the government.

- ❖ It also emerged from the study that the residents of Disteneng do not enjoy and access social services such as schools, clinics, housing, water, and sanitation. They walk long distances to access services. Therefore is a great need for the authorities concerned to ensure that the residents of Disteneng area have access to services by identifying and prioritizing those needs as well as meeting them.
- ❖ The residents of Disteneng area also mentioned the need to bring about community empowerment and skills development as one of the interventions that could address their problem of unemployment as well as lack of skills and work experience. Community empowerment will improve the relations between the authorities and the residents, in the sense that it will engage communities in their own affairs by giving them an opportunity to speak their mind and decide the kind of development interventions that they need. Thus, skills development must be scaled up as it has the potential to empower the residents with training and education.
- ❖ Another fundamental aspect that the authorities concerned should look into is the revitalization and the review of the rural development policy so that it lives to its expectations. The key objective of this policy is to improve the conditions of rural areas so that people will have access to basic needs at their places of origin. However, most respondents in this study left their places of origin as the result of hardships, rural poverty, unemployment, lack

of services and underdevelopment, which is a reflection of the failure of the current rural development policy.

In conclusion, this study has found out that there is a direct link between rural-urban migration and the sprawling of urban informal settlements. This calls for multi-pronged interventions from multiple government agencies to address the phenomenon. There is a greater need now to address the basic needs of the residents of the Disteneng area given that their settlement is a reality and therefore cannot be ignored.

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ANNEXURE A

STRUCTURED QUESTIONNERS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF DISTENENG AREA

(A) Demographic Profile

1. What is your place origin?

.....
.....

2. Age category

❖ 0>16

❖ 17>29

❖ 30>45

❖ 46>65

❖ more

3. Gender

❖ Male

❖ Female

4. Position in the household

.....
.....

5. Educational Background

❖ Primary Education

- ❖ Secondary Education
- ❖ tertiary Education: Diploma
- : Degree
- : Further education and training (FET)
- ❖ Others
- ❖ None

(B) Push and pull factors of rural-urban migration

1. How will you describe your place of origin?
.....
.....
2. What made you to move away from you place of origin
.....
.....
3. When did you come to Disteneng Area?
.....
.....
4. What made you to come to Disteneng Area?
.....
.....
5. What makes the Disteneng Area to differ with your place of origin?
.....
.....
6. How was your well-being before you come to Disteneng Area?
.....
.....
7. What is your desired and dream environment that you want to live in?
.....
.....
8. How is the quality of life since you come to Disteneng Area?
.....
.....
9. What can be done to improve the condition of Disteneng Area?
.....
.....

(C) Employment status and livelihood

1. Are you employed, self-employed or unemployed?

.....
.....

2. If employed, or self employed how many sources of revenue you have?

.....
.....

3. Is your sources of revenue able to meet your needs?

.....
.....

4. What makes your sources of revenue to satisfy or not satisfy?

.....
.....

5. If you are unemployed how do you make a living?

.....
.....

6. What do you think is the reason that cause your unemployment?

.....
.....

7. What kind of external intervention could help your problem?

.....
.....

(D). Household and physical services (water, sanitation, energy: electricity, paraffin, candles hospitals, clinics, health services) and physical infrastructure (roads,)

1. Which social services do you have access

❖ Water

❖ Sanitation

❖ Electricity

❖ Paraffin

❖ Candles

❖ Others

❖ none

2. Which physical infrastructures do you have access

❖ Clinics

❖ Tarred roads

❖ Schools

❖ Others

❖ none

3. How often you use the services?

.....
.....

4. Which services are you basic needs and are available?

.....
.....

5. Who provide the services?

.....
.....

6. Do you afford to pay for the services?

.....
.....

7. Are you satisfy with the manner services are provided?

.....
.....

8. Is the quality and quality of those services meeting you expectation?

.....
.....

9. How can service delivery be fast track in your Area in particular?

.....
.....

Thank you for participating in this research!

ANNEXURE B

2. STRUCTURED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR OFFICIALS OF POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY AND DEPARTMENTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING

1. What is the legal status of Disteneng Area?

.....
.....
2. When was this people started to occupy Disteneng Area?
.....
.....

3. How many people are staying in Disteneng Area?
.....
.....

4. What is the rate of rural-urban migration and informal settlement at Disteneng Area in particular?
.....
.....

5. Are you able to control urban informal settlement at Disteneng Area in particular?
.....
.....

6. Do you have any policy that control urban settlement?
.....
.....

7. Do you policy able to respond to urban settlement and how?
.....
.....

8. What is the impact rapid rural-migration on your on the provision of your services?
.....
.....

9. What kind of interventions you make to provide assistant or control informal settlement?
.....
.....

10. What makes you to be able to control or fail to control informal settlement?
.....
.....

11. What are some of the challenge you face with when trying to combat informal settlement?
.....
.....

12. What do you think could resolve and control high rate of urban informal settlement?
.....
.....

Thank you for participating in this research!