

**THE ROLE OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION  
IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY:  
A CASE STUDY OF WOMEN IN THE  
MANKWENG AREA IN LIMPOPO**

By

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## **Declaration**

I Makholo Seriana Kgoahla, declare that the mini-dissertation hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo (Turfloop Campus) for the degree Master of Development has not been previously submitted by me for a degree at this or any other university, that it is my own work in design and execution, and that all the materials contained therein have been duly acknowledged.

.....  
**Makholo Seriana Kgoahla**

.....  
**Date**

## **Dedication**

This Mini-dissertation is dedicated to my parents Mathibe and Makau and to my sisters; Maite, Lizzy, Modikoa and Seshoba, for being there for me when I needed them most.

## **Acknowledgements**

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## **Abstract**

The study entitled The Role of Women's Economic Contribution in the informal sector of the economy: A case study of women in Mankweng area in the Limpopo Province focuses on the participation of educated women in the Informal Sector of the economy. The participation of women in the economic development has been found to benefit a lot of families headed by women, Black women in particular. In Mankweng, the study found evidence of increased number of women's participation in the economic development. This mini-thesis is comprised of four chapters.

### **Chapter 1**

This chapter is mainly introduction to the study. The chapter includes the problem statement, motivation for the study, aims and objectives and the importance of the study. The chapter also outlines the methodology of the study, the definition of key concepts used in the study and the limitations of the study.

### **Chapter 2**

Chapter 2 comprises the literature background for the study. The literature focuses largely on women in the informal sector, their employment opportunities, marginalization in economic activities and constraints on growth that are faced by women in small business enterprises. The literature also reflects on the challenges and limited achievements of women in their respective trading occupations.

Chapter 2 looks at the state of women in the economy. The labour market segment theory attempts to explain gender inequalities in employment on the basis that the labour market is compartmentalized. The chapter also looks at the definition of the informal sector. The division of labour and the informal sector focuses on the areas women concentrate in the labour market. Positioning women in the informal sector and the labour market focuses on the role women play in the informal sector. The last part of the chapter deals

with the challenges women are faced with and the opportunities available for them in the informal sector.

### **Chapter 3**

Chapter 3 focuses on data analysis and interpretation of the findings of the study. The analysis focuses on the respondents' personal background and their economic activities as recorded during interviews.

### **Chapter 4**

Chapter 4 concludes the study by discussing and presenting a summary of the findings of the study and the implications thereof. A conclusive report is made and recommendations for improving the informal sector and for further research are made.

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