

**DIMENSIONS OF POVERTY IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS: A CASE STUDY
OF DISTENENG SQUATTER CAMP, POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY,
LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

**BY
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DECLARATION

I, Nkwinika Z.S, hereby declare that this dissertation submitted for the Masters degree of Development at the University of Limpopo Graduate School of Leadership, Faculty of Management Science and Law, has not previously been submitted for a degree Masters at this or any other University and that it is my own work in design and execution and that all reference materials contained have been duly acknowledged.

Z S NKWINIKA

DATE

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to all rural communities in the Limpopo Province who are involved in poverty alleviation projects in a quest to change the lives of poor people for the better. Beside documented information consulted while researching, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of various people who made this work a success.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency System
ANC	African National Congress
CDM	Capricorn District Municipality
WHO	World Health Organization
HIV	Human Immune Virus
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
HSL	Household Subsistence Level
IDP	Integrated Development Programme
ISRDP	Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme
LED	Local Economic Development
MLL	Minimum Living Level
PGDS	Provincial Growth Development Strategy
PSLSD	Project for Statistics and Living Standard and Development
PLM	Polokwane Local Municipality
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
UN	United Nations
UNIC	United Nations Information Center
DME	Department of Mineral and Energy

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ABSTRACT

Apartheid land policy and its constitution as a whole conceptualized and structured South African in a way that encouraged inequalities in terms of land ownership, job opportunities and access to education and recreational facilities. The privileged few (whites and a few black elites and whosoever summarized with the former apartheid regime) got richer and richer while the less privileged people, (in this case, the majority of the black people of South Africa) got poor. They were even denied reasonable access to land and quality education. This investigative study examines the state in which they lived and how they are still living in Squatter Camp as an attempt to make qualitatively justifiable recommendations.

Informal settlement is as old as the origin of urban settlement, which existed through industrialization process worldwide. A need for peace, jobs, security, housing and land ownership resulted in the establishment of informal settlement near big towns and mines. The most disadvantaged people, those characterized by poverty due to unemployment, lack of land ownership due to one reason or another move to informally settle nearer to areas in which there are possibilities for employment opportunities and better standard of living.

Specifically, this study examines the deficiencies associated with the existing informal settlement through its assessment and evaluation. In this regard all aspects of assessment techniques of the way in which inhabitants of Disteneng informal settlement live i.e. interviewing processes (both structured and informal), observation through site visit, checking of documented information with regard to informal settlement etc have been used. The gaps that exist between urban life and the living conditions of people from squatter camp have been investigated and reflected.

The focus of the argument in this study is that the less job opportunities and access to land that people have, the more they live in squalid conditions and move to towns in search of work.

This means that the problems they face have to be addressed positively and effectively by the relevant departments of South African Government. Alternative well-serviced living conditions have to be developed and provided to these people (people living in Disteneng squatter camp). Timeously, the department of housing should take statistics of the number of people who are without houses and employment as well as those who are illiterate, so as to develop better responsive policies for addressing these problems before they are out of control.

As a mean of addressing these problems the life in Disteneng squatter camp has been investigated. The results from the data analysis, including the views of the inhabitants of Disteneng squatter camp have been reflected and recommendations were spelt out in the last chapter of this study.

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