

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO WAYS OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF
RURAL WOMEN IN DR RUTH S MOMPATI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

by

EM MONCHO

(Student Number: 21446075)

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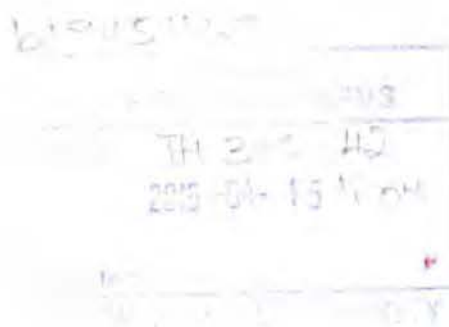
SUPERVISOR: PROF SAM LUBBE

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DECLARATION

I EM Moncho hereby declare that the research study was carried out and completed by myself. I further declare that all the ethical considerations with regard to research were observed throughout the research study.

The implications originating from the process and the declaration are understood by me

(Ms EM Moncho).

ABSTRACT

The study was designed to identify rural women's constraints in economic empowerment, regarding their participation in LED activities and mainly how the rural women can be empowered for sustainable agricultural development in the district of Dr Ruth S Mompati, North West Province, South Africa. A large proportion of the respondents reported that they have problems and constraints in accessing information regarding Local Economic Development Activities and they don't even know the organisations that are providing LED Services in their respective municipal areas. However, by addressing these constraints effectively the situation of women empowerment can be improved in rural areas.

Keywords: Economic Empowerment, rural women, impact, poverty and decision making.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1

1.1. Introduction	1
1.2. Background to problem statement	1
1.3. Problem statement	2
1.4. Objectives	4
1.5. Research design	4
1.5.1 Data collection technique and study population	4
1.5.2 Analysis of data and interpretation of results	5
1.5.3 Dissemination of results	5
1.6. Layout to a dissertation	6
1.7. Conclusion	7

Chapter 2

2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 Idea for Empowerment	9
2.3 Definitions of Empowerment	11
2.4 Economic Empowerment for Rural Women	12
2.5 Assumptions on Rural Women Economic Needs	15
2.6 Assumptions on development of Rural Women	17
2.7 State's role on development of Rural Women	19
2.8 Developmental needs for Rural Women	22
2.9 Global Challenges on Rural Economic Empowerment	23
2.10 The Impact of Rural Poverty	26
2.11 Education and Employment as a tool for Empowerment	29
2.12 Challenges faced by Women	31
2.13 Impact made by Organisations to change the lives of the Rural Women	34
2.14 Integrated Development Planning (IDP) and Local Economic Development (LED)	36
2.15 Research Questions	39
2.16 Conclusion	40

Chapter 3

3.1 Introduction	41
3.2 Research Types	41
3.2.1 Qualitative and Quantitative Research	41
3.2.3 What Research Methods Used in this Thesis	44
3.2.4 What data is required?	44
3.3 Data collection method	45

3.3.1 Methods for collecting primary data	45
3.3.2 Questionnaire	47
3.3.3 Sampling Method	49
3.3.4 Types of variables	49
3.4 Ethical considerations pertaining to the study	52
3.5 Limitations	53
3.6 Conclusion	54

Chapter 4

4.1 Introduction	55
4.2 Response Rate	56
4.3 Demographics	56
4.4 Measures of correlation	60
4.4.1 Gender vs. Understanding of the meaning of Economic Empowerment	61
4.4.2 Gender vs. Awareness of any Economic Empowerment Initiatives in an area	61
4.4.3 Qualified People vs. Outcomes of Economic Empowerment Initiatives Being Negative or Positive	62
4.4.4 Employment Status vs. LED Strategy	62
4.4.5 Years of staying in an area vs. Jobs in the Region Specifically for Women	63
4.4.6 Citizenship vs. Knowing what these Organisations Do	63
4.4.7 Ethnicity vs. Awareness of the LED Strategy initiatives	64
4.4.8 Age vs. Years Staying in the Area	64
4.4.9 Understanding of the Meaning of Economic Empowerment vs. Awareness of any Economic Empowerment Initiatives in an Area	65
4.4.10 Race vs. Outcomes of Economic Empowerment Initiatives being Negative or Positive	65
4.4.11 Outcomes of Economic Empowerment Initiatives being Negative or Positive vs. Awareness of LED Strategy Initiatives	66
4.4.12 Employment status vs. Do you think of these could be Useful in Your Endeavours	66
4.4.13 Which of these have you used before vs. Do you think of these could be Useful in Your Endeavours	67
4.4.14 Have You any Knowledge about the Organizations and Do You Know What These Organisations Do	67
4.4.15 Qualification vs. Awareness of the LED Strategy Initiatives	68
4.4.16 Are you Aware of Any Economic Empowerment Initiatives in Your Area vs. An LED Forum Where You as Rural Women can Participate?	68

4.4.17 Do you think that the LED Strategy Suit you as Rural Women vs. An LED Forum where you as Rural Women can Participate?	68
4.4. 18 Is there an LED Forum Where you as Rural Women can Participate vs. Which of These have You Used Before?	69
4.4. 19 Do you have any Knowledge About the Following Organizations vs. Do You Know What These Organisations Do?	69
4.4.20 Do you Know What these Organisations Do vs. Do you Think of These Could be Useful in Your Endeavours?	69
4.5 Frequency counts	70
4.6. Standard deviation	77
4.7. F ratio and ANOVA table	79
4.8. Chi-square	84
4.9 Conclusion	86
Chapter 5	
5.1 Introduction	88
5.2 Summary of the Study	88
5.3 Response to the Research Questions	89
5.4 Limitations	93
5.5 Managerial Guidelines	93
5.6 Future Research	95
5.7 Conclusion	96
References	98
Appendix A Matrix	109
Appendix B Research Questions	115
Appendix C	118

List of Figures

Figure 4.1 Race components of the respondents	56
Figure 4.2 Qualification Profile of the Respondents	57
Figure 4.3 Differences in Profiles	59
Figure 4.4. Citizenship	59

Lists of tables

Table 3.1 Features of qualitative and quantitative research methodology	43
Table 3.2: Questionnaire Outline	48
Table 4.1 Employment Status of the Respondents	57
Table 4.2: Age profile of the sample	58
Table 4.3: Years staying in the area	60
Table 4.4: Are there any jobs in your region specifically for women?	70
Table 4.5: Do you understand the meaning of Economic Empowerment?	71
Table 4.6: Do you think the LED Strategy suit you as rural women?	72
Table 4.7: Is there an LED forum where you as rural women can participate?	72
Table 4.8: Are you aware of any Economic Empowerment Initiatives in your area?	73
Table 4.9: Are you aware of the LED Strategy initiatives?	73
Table 4.10: Have you any knowledge about the empowerment organisations?	74
Table 4.11: Do you know what these organisations do?	75
Table 4.12: Have you used an empowerment organisation before?	75
Table 4.13: Do you think of these could be useful in your endeavours?	76
Table 4.14: Do you think that the outcomes of the Economic Empowerment initiatives are negative or positive?	76
Table 4.15: ANOVA between knowledge of empowerment organizations	79
Table 4.16: ANOVA between knowledge of LED empowerment	81
Table 4.17: ANOVA between knowledge of economic empowerment	82

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

African women in South Africa, being both black and female, suffer a triple oppression. As Africans; which for the most part defines their class position; they have to contend with the restrictive and repressive apartheid legislation, which ensures alien control over all facets of their lives. In addition, as women, they have to contend with the fact that they are regarded as dependants and as inferior to men; as such, they are even further discriminated against within the framework of apartheid (United Nations Decade for Women, 1980).

The research will explore the extent to which rural women economic empowerment initiatives has had an impact in Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality formerly known as Bophirima in North West Province and its Local Municipalities. It will further analyse the key legislative platforms/frameworks aimed at addressing the empowerment of women generally with specific reference to rural women.

The research will utilize the study and analysis of existing local government data on Integrated Development Planning and Local Economic Development. The research will also include desk-top based review of published documents, policies, legislation, previous research about participation of rural women in economic empowerment processes in the district, and academic writings which examine participation of women in economic empowerment initiatives in the province and the district through the internet.

The Chapter will explain the background of the problem, explain the problem statement, the layout and purpose of the study, objectives to be achieved by the study, the research design to be used to undertake this study, the layout of the dissertation and the conclusion which will link this chapter with the next one.

1.2 BACKGROUND TO PROBLEM STATEMENT

As part of the effort to address issues of women a conference called Platform for Action was held in September 1995, in Beijing. The outcome of the Conference

was a Platform for Action which addresses twelve areas affecting women. The Platform aims at removing all obstacles to women's participation in all spheres of public and private life through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. In response to the Cabinet by the South African delegation to Beijing, Ministries and Departments committed themselves to implement various actions spelt out in the platform. The Ministry of Land Affairs committed itself to taking legislative and administrative measures to give women and men equal rights to economic resources including access to ownership and control over land and other properties, credit facilities, natural resources and appropriate supporting technology (Department of Land Affairs, 1997:58).

The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which South Africa agreed to ratify in December 1995. Member states were required to implement the provisions of the Convention to address various forms of discrimination against women. Article 14 of the Convention recognizes rural women as group with special problems, who should be empowered to participate in and benefit from rural development. The right to equality in land and agrarian reform, as well as in land resettlement schemes, is particularly mentioned. Article 15 confirms women's equality with men before the law (as in our Constitution) and further requires the State guarantee equality in areas of civil law where women have been discriminated against. In particular, State agencies are called upon to ensure women's rights to conclude contracts and to administer property (Department of Land Affairs, 1997:58).

What all this means is that there is a national and international policy context in which gender equality has been defined as a priority for South Africa. These policies, agreements and declarations signify not only the Government's commitment and priorities, but go further to indicate how all sectors of society should be involved.

1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The deterioration of the economic and social role of women since the establishment of apartheid has increased their workload to inhuman proportions as they try to produce enough from the land to feed their families. With the men off working as migrant labourers, the women face an arduous existence, working at

their daily chores in the home and in the field (United Nations Decade for Women, 1980).

The UN Decade for women (1980) argued that the absence of men from the rural areas when they are on contract, working as poorly paid migrant labourers, has an adverse effect on the women left behind in the reserves. One of the rationales for paying such low wages to African migrant workers is the assumption that the wives and children of these so-called migrants remain in the reserves and secure their families' subsistence from the land. The employers are able to get away with these low wages, which are consistently below the Poverty Datum Line. There is not enough for basic subsistence; because the wives and children of the workers live in the reserves and are expected to provide their own subsistence.

Since 1994, there has been a development towards the emancipation of women, the government developed policies that outline gender transformation. All of these take on board that the objectives of the Reconstruction and Development Programme will not have been realised unless there are visible practical terms that the conditions of women in our country have radically changed for the better, and that they have been empowered to intervene in all aspects of life as equals with any other member of society (Mandela, 1994:1).

According to Mehra (1997: 136) women throughout the developing world are engaged in economically productive work and earn incomes. They work primarily in agriculture and in informal sector and, increasingly in formal wage employment. Their earnings, however, are generally low. Since 1994, development agencies, government agencies and non-governmental organisations in South Africa have responded to the need for poor women to earn incomes by making relatively small investment in low income generating projects. Often such projects would fail because they are motivated by welfare and not developmental concerns, offering women temporary and part-time employment in traditionally feminine skills such as knitting and sewing that have limited markets.

Women are disproportionately represented among the poor, and the number of women in poverty in the rural areas of developing countries is growing faster than men. Factors contributing to the increase in rural poverty are economic recession, civil strife, and natural disasters. Development planners and policy makers have

missed important opportunities for having significant impact on the lives of the poor women. Valuable resources have been misallocated and misspent. Little has been invested in women's productive lives, where the opportunity lies for reducing poverty and improving women's lives (Mehra, 1997:142).

Currently, there are best policies on empowerment and emancipation of women but the lives of rural women are still the same as in 1994. The purpose is to identify gaps in economic policies and try to develop guidelines to address them with the hope that rural women lives will change for the better.

1.4 OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the study must lead to an understanding on why women continue to be on the margins of society in relation to economic development and empowerment.

The primary objectives that will be as follows:

- To determine the level of impact made by policies and legislative frameworks in economic empowerment of women.
- To determine whether the district municipality is implementing the developed policies and frameworks right.
- To investigate the level of understanding of rural women in the district on matters of economic empowerment.
- To assess the impact of economic development policies in the district.

1.5 RESEARCH DESIGN

A self-administered questionnaire will be used as a tool to obtain and gather data on the processes followed to analyse evidence of rural women economic empowerment initiatives and beneficiaries in the district.

1.5.1 Data collection technique and study population

The process to collect data will involve consultation with the headman or chief of the village in order to determine the role of tribal authorities in facilitating the empowerment of women as a key structure in most rural areas of the district. The questionnaires will be compiled in both English and Setswana to enable greater

interaction with the rural communities. According the district municipal Integrated Development Planning (IDP, 2009:23), the population in our three rural municipalities combined is 330 075. Permission will be requested from the 400 respondents in all the rural municipalities to complete the questionnaires.

A structured questionnaire will be used to collect data from two categories of rural women: a group of unemployed women and a group of employed women in projects initiated through Local Economic Development initiatives in local municipalities. This will be used to answer the research questions.

A maximum of 400 questionnaires will be issued to rural women in all three rural municipalities in the district to respond to questions regarding their understanding of economic empowerment and participation in local economic initiatives. Furthermore, whether their participation or non-participation has impacted positively or negatively towards the betterment of their lives.

The total population in the district is approximately $\pm 480\ 000$. The technique to be used to select the sample size will be both the convenience and simple random sampling.

1.5.2 Analysis of data and interpretation of results

The result will depict the level of participation of rural women and the extent at which development has taken place in alleviating poverty and creating jobs. Data will be statistical which will highlight the comparison of findings among participants. Services of the statistician will be sought from the North West University.

1.5.3 Dissemination of results

The research findings will be discussed at senior management meetings, Mayors' Forum; Municipal Managers' Forum and all municipal councils within the district. The elected political representatives (councillors) will have the political capacity to accept the recommendations and influence policy formulation to bring about change to the lives of the rural communities to which they are accountable.

1.6 LAYOUT OF THE DISSERTATION

The study is limited to Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality, but may be relevant to all other municipalities across South Africa.

The study will be organised as follows:-

CHAPTER TWO

Literature review, this chapter will start with the definition of empowerment. The study will also deal with economic empowerment in South Africa from pre-democratic phase to post-democratic phases as to how it has been practiced. The Status quo of rural women participation in economic empowerment initiatives: The global Scenario. This chapter will give a general background of rural women participation in economic empowerment initiatives. The chapter will also present illustrative cases with regard to the participation of rural women in economic structures or initiatives in the countries of the world.

CHAPTER THREE

The Status quo of rural women participation in economic empowerment initiatives: Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipality Scenario. This chapter, which is the focus of my study, presents the manner in which rural women are participating in economic empowerment structures and activities in Dr Ruth S Mompoti district.

CHAPTER FOUR

Barriers to participation of rural women in economic empowerment initiatives in the district. This chapter will presents the obstacles to rural women economic empowerment initiatives with reference to Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipality. Findings and Recommendations, this chapter will outline the findings of the study and what are the causes and the mitigation factors that could be employed to address these barriers.

CHAPTER FIVE

In conclusion, this chapter will answer the research questions, highlight the summary and analysis of the empowerment of women in the district and furthermore, the findings and recommendations of the study.

1.7 CONCLUSION

This chapter deals with the extent to which economic empowerment initiatives has had an impact on rural women in Dr Ruth S Mompoti district municipality. This will be done through the analysis of existing local government data on Integrated Development Planning and Local Economic Development as well as published documents, policies, legislation, previous research about participation of rural women in economic empowerment process in the district.

Since the dawn of democracy in 1994, efforts have been made towards the emancipation of women. Policies and programs such as the Reconstruction and Development have been developed to enhance and to recognise the valuable contribution women can make in the economy of the country. The study will give the background to the problem statement, and outline the problem statement. The objective of the research will be developed to determine the impact made by policies and legislative frameworks in economic development of women. The research design will involve method of data collection, analysis of data and dissemination of the results.

The next chapter on literature review will be investigating what other authors/scholars have discovered on the current topic. Literature relevant to the empowerment of women globally and in the district will also be discussed.

Chapter Two

Review of Past Literature

2.1 Introduction

Recent interest in improving the lot of women in developing countries, culminating in the Cairo Population conference of 1994 and the Beijing Women's conference of 1995, has led international agencies and feminist organizations alike to rally behind the concept of women's empowerment. There is theoretical and practical inconclusiveness as to exactly what comprises empowerment, but plans of action universally stress improved educational and employment opportunities as critical means for women to attain greater control over their lives (Malhotra & Mather, 1997)

Empowerment through the expansion of the civil, political and social rights of citizenship is a laborious and unexciting process. Empowerment through the class struggle was a different story altogether; but that story has now been played out and it offers hardly any new prospect. There is no doubt that the prospect of empowerment through class war; but is something that will appeal only to those who have put their minds to sleep (Beteille, 1999).

To search for relevant literature key words- Idea of Empowerment; Definitions of Empowerment; Economic Empowerment for Rural Women; Assumptions on Rural women needs; Why women needs development; Global challenges on Rural Economic Empowerment have been used to search for articles. The following search engines were used and databases- Surf-Canyon Search engine; www.wikispaces.com; Google Scholar; www.jstor.com; www.Googleresearch.blogspot.com.

The themes below highlighted common challenges women face internationally in accessing then discuss and applying appropriate interventions for the betterment of rural livelihoods. These themes provide a clear rationale for why the economic empowerment for rural women should be investigated. This document will assist in bringing about bold changes in rural women's work and their movement towards the advancement of rural women's rights.

2.2 Idea for Empowerment

The idea of empowerment has taken a hold over the minds of increasing number of persons in the last few years. It is now widely employed in the press, on television and in political, academic and even legal circles. There is a need for the empowerment of the poor, of backward communities, of women and of various other disadvantaged sections of society. Empowerment is seen by many politicians, publicists, social activists and a growing section of the intelligentsia generally as the only effective answer to oppression, exploitation, injustice and the other maladies with which our society is beset (Beteille, 1999).

Malhotra and Mather (1997) argue that focus on women's empowerment is motivated by its centrality in theoretical, political, and policy forums as an essential means toward not only facilitating development, but also toward rectifying gender inequalities and granting women throughout much of the world the basic human rights and life options generally more easily accessible to men.

Hughes (1997) expresses an opinion that the compensatory model suggests empowerment as the strategy for providing help; therefore, it is important to examine the empowerment process in more detail. The term empowerment has been used by many authors to capture ideas about helping. Sharp (2003) argued that others look at power to, which has empowerment as the ability to act in particular ways. Increased ability to act, whether in matters to do with market production or house- hold reproduction, will have a positive effect on all members of the group.

Page and Czuba (1999) state that at the core of the concept of empowerment is the idea of power. The possibility of empowerment depends on two things. First, empowerment requires that power can change. If power cannot change, if it is inherent in positions or people, then empowerment is not possible, nor is empowerment conceivable in any meaningful way. In other words, if power can change, then empowerment is possible. Second, the concept of empowerment depends upon the idea that power can expand. The second point reflects common experiences of power rather than the thought about power. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (2005) states that empowerment of women has to do with awareness and consciousness, with having a voice in the public and the

political arena, individually or collectively. It also includes the existence of alternatives and choices.

According to Rowlands, as *cited* by Sharp (2003), empowerment is thus more than participation in decision making; it must also include the processes that lead people to perceive themselves as able and entitled to make decision. Women need to be free to act from their own analysis and priorities and not be manipulated by outsiders; yet the restrictions of internalised oppression, which limit women's options, must be challenged. Beteille (1999) states that by and large the scholarly discussion of empowerment has been context-driven rather than theory-driven. In a nutshell, that context is contradiction between a hierarchical social order and a democratic political system. To be sure the contradiction was present and perceived even at the time of independence. But at that time it was hoped and believed that the contradictions would be inevitably eased with the transfer of power from the British to Indian hands. This did not happen and the contradiction has become if anything acute, extensive and clearly perceived.

Press Information Bureau (2008) notes that the planning process has evolved over the years from purely 'welfare' oriented approach to where women were regarded as objects of charity to the development programmes and currently to their 'empowerment'. The United Nations (2005) states that the Beijing Declaration¹ and Platform for Action² adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women, focused on improving the situation of rural women through equal access to productive resources, especially land, capital and technology, as well as to gainful employment, decision-making, education and health services. The Platform for Action emphasised the need for successful strategies to empower women living in rural areas.

Empowerment has other several dimensions like social, economic, psychological and political. Social empowerment connotes formations of social capacities such as health, education, freedom and opportunities of realising one's potentialities. Economic empowerment implies entitlement to employment, income, property, productive resources and benefits regardless of gender differences. Psychological empowerment signifies confidence building, acquisition of sense of efficacy and ability to overcome the feeling of helplessness. Political empowerment implies

equal say in decision making process in the power structure at all levels from local to global. All these dimensions are so intertwined with one another that over reliance on one to the neglect of other are not going to work (Sharma, 2000).

2.3 Definitions of Empowerment

Empowerment means individuals acquiring power to think and act freely, exercise choice and fulfil their potential as full and equal members of society. As per the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, 2000), the term women empowerment means:

- Acquiring knowledge and understanding of gender relations and ways in which these relations may be changed.
- Developing a sense of self-worth, a belief in one's ability to secure desired changes and the right to control one's life.
- Gaining the ability to generate choices and exercise bargaining power.
- Developing the ability to organise and influence the direction of social change, to create more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.

According to Rappaport as *cited* by Hughes (1997), defines empowerment as a psychological sense of personal control or influence and a concern with actual social influence, political power and legal rights. It is a multi-level construct referring to individuals, organisations and community. It is international involving mutual respect, critical reflection, caring and group participation, through which people lacking and equal share of valued resources, gain greater access to and control over these resources.

According to the Cambridge English Dictionary (2006) empowerment means to authorize. In the context of the people they have to be authorized to have control over their lives. When applied in the context of development the particular segment of population, the poor, the women, the vulnerable, the weak, the oppressed and the discriminated have to be "empowered" to have control over their lives to better their socioeconomic and political conditions. Ideally speaking no one empowers any one, the best way is 'self-empowerment', by the segments

of population mentioned above are handicapped both structurally and culturally to empower themselves without any outside help and affirmative action by the State and others. But still as long as these segments of population does not make any effort at self-employment. It would be long and arduous task and process for the outsiders to empower them.

Empowerment is the process of enhancing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Afzal (2009). Empowerment is a construct shared by many disciplines and arenas: community development, psychology, education, economics, and studies of social movements and organizations, among others. How empowerment is understood varies among these perspectives (Page & Czuba, 1999). Empowerment is about social transformation; it is about radical social transformation; and it is about the people - ordinary, common people, rather than politicians, experts and other socially or culturally advantaged persons (Beteille, 1999). Hainard and Verschuur (2001) define empowerment as a process of developing negotiating skills from the bottom up (at family and collective levels) with a view to ultimately bringing about a fairer distribution of power.

According to Zimmerman, as *cited* by Fetterman (2001), empowerment processes are those that attempts to gain control, obtain the needed resources and critically understand that one's social environmental are fundamental. The process is empowering if it helps people to develop their skills, so they become independent problem solvers and decision makers. Empowerment processes vary across levels of analysis, according to Zimmerman.

2.4 Economic Empowerment for Rural Women

According to International Fund for Agricultural Development (2005), economic empowerment means access to productive assets, land, water, markets, finances and technologies. Education, training and capacity-building are necessary prerequisites. Economic empowerment cannot stand alone but needs to be placed in the larger frameworks that define the way men and women live together, the very fabric of our social and cultural environment. IFAD's experience shows that improving women's economic opportunities and access to productive

resources has a major impact on women's overall status; and not just on income, bringing lasting benefits to families and entire communities.

Manohar and Sujatha (2002) state that women constitute almost 50% of the world's population. As per as their social status is concerned, they are not treated as equal to men in all the places. Empowering may be understood as enabling people, especially women to acquire and possess power resources, in order to make decision on their own or resist decisions that are made by others that affect them. A person may said to be powerful when s/he has control over a large portion of power resources in society. The extent of possession of various resources such as personal wealth, such as land skills, education, information, knowledge, social status, position held, leadership trains, capabilities of mobilization. It is now widely believed that empowerment of women that is, providing equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities to women, will go a long way in removing the existing gender discrimination. Sachay (1998) argues that approaches and strategic for women empowerment could be possible by outlining the mechanisms and tools that till influence for women empowerment. Decisions making process, multidimensional process is to enable to realise their full identity and powers in all walks of life. According to Menon and Probhu (2001), there was a strong plea for investing in women's equality on the ground that this made economic sense and spoke of "the social rate of return on investment in women" being greater that the corresponding rate for men. According to Paten (2002), women's development can be attained by improving here status and bargaining power in the economy.

Women contribution in agriculture is greater than men but despite this fact, their role remains unacknowledged and unappreciated. Their economic and social values of work have frequently been under recorded and underestimated. Empowerment of rural women is absolutely essential for raising their status in society. They need to be recognized and treated as workers and should be provided with safe and healthy working conditions (Syal, 2004; Shehzad, 2004; Zafar, 2005).

International Fund for Agricultural Development (2005) argues that it prioritises the economic empowerment of women as the primary means to improve their overall status and contribute to broad-based economic growth, poverty reduction and food

security. When women have secure access to resources, and are able to take advantage of economic opportunities, they have the capacity to become powerful agents of change and social transformation. They can transform their own lives and the lives of their families and communities. As the experience of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) shows that, with improved economic status, women's confidence and self-esteem increase. They tend to become more involved in community decision-making that can in turn lead to changes in social practices and relationships, and mobilise social action.

Blumberg (2008) states that based on the importance of women's economic empowerment and agency, the paper concludes by proposing new targets for Millennium Development Goal 3, promote gender equality and empower women. Currently the only target is the elimination of the gender gap in primary and secondary education by 2015. The targets flow directly from the body of this paper: one is based on women's economic resources, specifically income relative to men; the other involves women's agency as manifested in control of cash income they have earned. Together, they comprise the two faces of an overarching target that highlights the role of greater female economic power in helping to promote gender equality and empower women. A brief final section returns to the consequences of women's varying levels of economic power and considers next steps in filling knowledge gaps.

According to the International Labour Organization Report (2009) women play a critical role in the rural economies of both developed and developing countries. In most parts of the developing world they participate in crop production and livestock care, provide food, water and fuel for their families, and engage in off-farm activities to diversify the family income. In addition, they carry out vital functions in caring for children, older persons and the sick. Over 428 million women work in the agricultural sector around the world, compared to 608 million men. In many parts of the world, agriculture is the first sector of employment for women, for instance in Sub-Saharan Africa and in South Asia, where respectively 68 per cent and 61 per cent of working women are employed in agriculture.

Florida (2003) states that creativity is the driving force of economic growth and, as a result, the creative class has become the most influential class in modern

society. If true, then the presence of an expanding creative class could be an important determinant of future economic growth in rural areas.

The World's Women Report (2005) states that empowerment is not automatic; unless programs are deliberately designed to reach women, build their self-esteem, ensure their control over loans, open doors to financial markets, involve them in the governance and decision-making of the organization, provide training, and bolster their power within the household and community, they can actually undermine rather than promote women's empowerment.

2.5 Assumptions on Rural Women Economic Needs

Lahiri-Dutt and Samanta (2003) emphasise only the positive roles groups play in women, empowerment. In ignoring the aspirations and enterprise of individual women, the government schemes defeat the very purpose of new entrepreneurial identities for women. Further, the idea behind the shift from assistance to credit is the assumption that such assistance schemes do not work in low-income countries. Women who don't have good job opportunities create economic security for themselves by becoming better marriage-market candidates. They try to show how pious they are because there is value for piety on the marriage market. When there is a gap between men's and women's wages, you see higher support for fundamentalism cross nationally (Blumberg, 2008).

Culture frames value assumptions for individuals and communities about what is right and wrong and what ought to be, as well as notions on the means for achieving these values. Culture is not determined by socioeconomic structures, but rather interacts with these structures dialectically. Culture mediates individual and community perceptions about social conditions, and consequently influences both the perception of and reasoning process involved in making choices (Brennan, Flint and Luloff, 2009)

Lahiri-Dutt and Samanta (2006) state that the act of government officials determined what kind of activities women should engage in, led to replication of existing power structures within the society.

Participation in rural cooperatives is often seen as an instrument for empowerment of women, opening new opportunities to master financial skills and create economic enterprises (Malhotra & Mather, 1997; Donahoe, 1999). Rural Poverty Report (2001) stresses that land reform can do much to reduce poverty. Much land is locked into large, inefficient farms, whereas small, equally-sized farms promote employment, efficiency and growth. Giving women rights to land also gives them power, especially by improving their reservation wage and hence their role and bargaining strengths within marriage. Such empowerment reduces women's vulnerability within the household.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, U.S. Department of State (1979) assumes that modernization of the economy is requiring women to buy food and fuel and even water in order to meet traditional responsibilities and obligations, but few jobs in the modern sector are available to women where they can earn the money needed. Given the clearly defined sex roles and responsibilities in most traditional cultures, money earned by the male head of household will not necessarily be used to meet the responsibilities of females. Poor women continue to feed their families by their own efforts, whether a man is present in the family or not.

Boatema (2001) observes that the women's empowerment framework reflects the theoretical assumption that women's lives are constrained not only by unequal access to land and control of resources but also by their limited ability to participate in decision-making and to exercise autonomy in making decisions that affect them. The empowerment framework further assumes that the extent of women's own recognition of gender inequality is important in enabling them to act to change not only their access to resources but also by their limited ability to participate in decision-making and to exercise autonomy in making decisions that affect them. It further assumes that the extent of women's own recognition of gender inequality is important in enabling them to act to change not only their access to resources but also to decision-making power. Tsikata (2001) argues that societal arrangements make men control more resources, for example, land, labour, capital (both monetary and social) than women and also that as household heads, men have power to take important decisions, serve as controllers of

lineage's, communities, work places and ultimately the state. That is practically all the power structures of the society.

Current momentum around women's economic empowerment offers huge scope for bringing about real changes in women's lives. But earning an income or having access to credit cannot be assumed to bring automatic benefits for women. We need to ask critical questions about how increased access to resources can be translated into changes in the strategic choices that women are able to make – at the level of the household and community, as well as at work. Earning an income can increase women's autonomy and enhance their economic and social status. It can also shift power relations between women and men, including at the household level – for example by increasing women's control over how household budgets are spent (Esplen & Brody, 2007).

2.6 Assumptions on development of Rural Women

Kandiyoti (1990) notes that the instrumentality of policy interventions aimed at rural women is generally clearly spelt out. Some of the concrete areas in which such interventions are expected to produce beneficial results are population control, health delivery, food production, nutrition and the alleviation of absolute poverty through expanded opportunities for "income generation". Most policy papers tend to stress the intrinsic congruence between the goals of greater equity for women and increased productivity. Their thinking is based on a set of commonly held assumptions, some of which have been well substantiated and documented and others less so. These assumptions may be summarised as follows:

- Women are de facto food producers and active participants in the agrarian sectors of the Third World.
- Some of the main constraints on women's productivity are related to labour time involved in their daily household maintenance tasks.
- A reduction or freeing of labour time from household tasks implies its impossible diversion to income-generating activities.
- Women's access to income is more likely to pay welfare dividends for the community at large (especially for children) than men's incomes.

Pruitt (2009) argues that US Agriculture model assumes men to be the productive workers, while relegating women to near invisibility. Women's programs have been limited to health, family planning, nutrition, child care, and home economics. For women, the consequences of development include increased workloads, loss of existing employment, changes in the reward structures for their work, and loss of control of land. Indeed, throughout the 1970s, women featured in international rural development policies only in relation to pregnancy, lactation, feeding children, procuring clean water, handling children's diseases, and cultivating home gardens to supplement the family diet.

Lahiri-Dutt and Samanta (2006) stresses that critical sectors like agriculture, rural development, science and technology and industry (to name only those mentioned in Beijing +5 document) do not have explicitly women specific schemes. Women in general continue to be identified primarily as mothers and consequently, investing in building capacities as workers, farmers and professionals has been low on the list of the Indian state.

Assumption about women is clearly documented through a satisfactory number of time-budget studies indicating that tasks such as water fetching, fuel collection, food processing and preparation can account for the better part of an adult woman's extremely long working day. Allocating resources to better sanitation, easy access to water points, cheap sources of fuel, improved means of portage and transportation can thus have immediately beneficial effects on women's daily workloads (Kandiyoti, 1990).

The Field Survey in Ghana (2001) argues that it can be realised that, the nature of the women's occupation which is mainly small-scale businesses, their state of income source and probably their low level of education could influence the type of savings they do. The women's motivation to participate in any training programme to upgrade themselves and their career demonstrates their commitment to economic independence and for that matter empowerment. the higher one's ability of sharing ideas with one's spouse, the higher one's chances of having one's views accepted and vice versa; and the lower one's ability of sharing one's views with one's spouse, the lower one's chances of being heard or listened to by one's husband and vice versa. In other words, the women who had a high level of

sharing their views had a high level of capability in making decisions. It could therefore be emphasized that those at the high level of decision-making will be motivated by their views being taken. Because if one says something and it is taken in good faith, it gives one confidence to say more and vice versa. There is also no doubt that the level of one's educational and economic empowerment contributes to one's ability to share informed and acceptable decisions.

2.7 State's role on development of Rural Women

Kehler (2000) states that six years after South Africa's first democratic election, the majority of people still live in poverty and under living conditions that permanently threaten their well-being. And even though equal access to resources and opportunities, as well as socio-economic rights are provided for and protected by South Africa's constitutional and legislative dispensation, it is still far from reality. The Constitution of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996) guarantees the delivery of socio-economic rights. These include access to adequate housing, as well as the right of access to health care, sufficient food and water, and social security. This places a constitutional obligation on government to take action to ensure access to such social goods.

It is Governments who should reach out to the poor whose votes elect them to office. Such an effort should not, however, manifest itself as a pro-forma, pre-budget exercise in bureaucratic tourism of some rural areas but should be institutionalized into the structures of governance. The consultative process each year should be preceded by a process whereby the concerns of the poor are systematically recorded and reviewed by the budget makers before they embark on their annual consultative encounters with the poor (Sobhan, 2001).

States that have ratified or acceded to CEDAW are obliged to undertake all legislative and appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women without delay. Member States must also submit national reports within one year of ratification, and they must then submit reports at least every four years (Pruitt, 2009). The Department of Minerals and Energy as an arm of Government with the mandate to create conducive environment for the growth and transformation of the minerals and energy sectors in our country, has a number of initiatives directed at

the economic empowerment of historically disadvantaged South Africans, especially women and the youth (Ministry of Minerals and Energy, 2006).

During the last fifteen years, the majority of African countries have undertaken far-reaching economic reforms whose aim was to stabilise the economies, remove price distortions through economic liberalization, improve economic efficiency, and foster economic growth. During the last few years, the reform process has been taken a step further, with poverty reduction as the central objective of the exercise (Mule, 2005).

Pruitt (2009) stresses that although developing the agriculture sector enhances food security and narrows the rural-urban development and poverty gaps, national policies tend to favour urban development and investment. Such policies disproportionately neglect the needs of the rural developing world. In the 1970s and 1980s, between nine percent and thirty-four percent of total government expenditures went to the rural sector, percentages that are well below respective rural population shares.

A statement delivered by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (2005), state that world leaders reaffirmed that gender equality and women's empowerment are central to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, the Heads of State and Government committed to a number of highly relevant initiatives geared towards improving women's economic empowerment, including women's right to own and inherit property, secure tenure of property and equal access of women to productive assets such as land, credit and technology.

Sobhan (2001) argues that the inequitable and unjust social and economic universe is compounded by a system of unjust governance which discriminates against the poor and effectively disenfranchises them from the political benefits of a democratic process.

Policies and strategies should be developed which enable women to participate fully in social and economic activities because there is a general scarcity of intellectual and well-developed policies regarding rural women (Afzal, 2009). Lahiri-Dutt and Samanta (2006) expressed an opinion that state policies must be

recognise and respect the new identities of women have built and the new spaces they created for themselves in the community through their work efforts, and help to advance them.

State-led modernisation has stimulated urbanisation and the fragmentation of extended families, resulting in more pressure for economic participation by both men and women. Variations in institutional and political experience have also translated into different legal codes concerning men's and women's status as citizens, resulting in different attitudes towards international laws and conventions concerning equality (IFAD, 2003).

Rural women's participation in the development process has been the focus of intensive debates by most international forums in the past years. Among forums that have recognized the plight of Third World's women's participation in the development process are the 1995 Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women held in Kenya, the 1995, The Beijing Declaration, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (2000). According to the philosophy of these forums, each member state should promote women's economic independence, which includes the creation of employment, access to resources and credit, the eradication of the persistent and increasing burden of poverty, malnutrition, poor health and illiteracy on women. Although such declarations have been able to increase an awareness and understanding of the problems facing women and their needs, as such they have not yet resulted in significant development priorities for rural women (UNIFEM, 2000).

Aziz (2000) notes that both the IMF and the World Bank have undertaken a major redirection of their policies and priorities to focus on poverty reduction as a major objective. The IMF has replaced ESAF, their soft loan window for low-income countries, with a Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) and the World Bank is evolving a Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF). The key elements of both these initiatives are: (i) a comprehensive understanding of poverty and its determinants in each country, (ii) choosing public actions that will have the highest impact on poverty, (iii) outcome indicators which are monitored using a participatory process. Each participating country is expected to prepare its own "Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper", (PRSP) setting out medium and long

term goals for poverty reduction, including key outcomes, and spell out a strategy that integrates institutional, structural and sectoral interventions into a consistent macro-economic framework.

The poor, where they are not directly oppressed by the machinery of state, remain underserved by available public services. Where such services are at all accessible to the poor, they pay high transaction costs for these services. The agencies of law enforcement insufficiently protect the poor and frequently oppress them for personal gain as well as on behalf of the elite. The judicial system denies the poor elementary justice both on grounds of poverty as well as the social bias of most Third World judiciaries (Sobhan, 2001).

2.8 Developmental needs for Rural Women

Kongolo and Bamgose (2002) argue that women in rural areas are isolated, confined and marginalized through the non-interactive government policies on rural areas. These symptoms reflect a lack of structured development strategy to create needed opportunities in these areas. As a result, there is a high rate of unemployment, because the present development policy clearly has failed to enhance the welfare of most rural women in the country.

Pruitt (2009) argues that despite the capacity of development to improve the lives of rural residents, some development theorists object to the discourse of development, including the objectification of developing countries as other to be developed. Rajagopal for example as *cited* by Pruitt (2009), writes: Development has always been a hegemonic idea in that it has always been clear about who needs to be developed, who will do the developing, how and in which direction. Because of development's postcolonial and Cold War roots, some development theorists view development efforts as forms of cultural imperialism.

The Indian Institute of Education (1993) states that development is interpreted as the "opening out" of the energies which lie dormant in society and can be awakened through a combined effort. There are good reasons to focus on, and to emphasize rural women's participation in development. The most fundamental reason is that they play crucial roles in both subsistence and market food production in Africa. Not only because they are working harder than the average

man, but also because they are reliable and committed to their tasks (Hunger Project, 2000).

Scheyvens (2003) noted that the welfare approach poses women as passive beneficiaries of rather than active agents of change. Common programs under this approach include cooking and nutrition, sewing and handicrafts and maternal – child health. Xiaoping (2000) argues that the law of “survival of the fittest” poses a challenge to everyone, both men and women. This tells the broad masses of women that the most reliable way to success is not to depend on others but to take the path of self-empowerment, to serve society through their own tenacious struggles and concrete work and to promote and strive for actual equality between men and women by means of their own strengths and personal characters.

Blumberg (2008) stresses that where women had long established economic power; they would be less likely to be targets of male violence. When women economic power rises, the more men feel threatened by it, the more likely a short-term spike in male violence against them. The Hunger Project (2000) as *cited* by Kongolo and Bamgose (2000) argues that the impact of development on women in South Africa is quite different for both urban and rural women. In fact, there is substantial evidence that rural women are mostly neglected, and consistently have lost in this process. There is also overwhelming evidence of development policies and projects formulated bypassing the involvement of rural women in most African countries. Kabeer (2005) states that women’s access to paid work may give them a greater sense of self-reliance and greater purchasing power, but if it is undertaken in conditions that erode their health and exploit their labour, its costs may outweigh its benefits.

2.9 Global Challenges on Rural Economic Empowerment

According to the International Labour Organization (2009) worldwide, women in agriculture are less likely than men to have access to land, equipment, credit, training and other tools which could help them to improve their food security and livelihoods. In Cameroon, women perform more than 75 percent of all agricultural labour, yet they hold less than 10 percent of the land titles. Another current global issue that disproportionately impacts rural women is climate change. Women and girls living in areas affected by desertification and deforestation have to walk

longer to collect water and firewood, which further limits the time they can devote to school or income-generating activities. It may also put them at greater risk of gender-based violence.

Sobhan (2001) states that all countries faced with endemic poverty and indeed many middle-income countries, inequitable access to wealth and knowledge disempowered the poor from participating competitively in the market place. Indeed the market itself, as it operates in the real world rather than in text books, is designed to compromise the opportunities on offer to the poor. The IFAD report has emphasised that in most societies, with a substantial proportion of the population living in poverty, the poor have insufficient access to land, water and water bodies. Where they access such resources they do so under exploitative tenancy arrangements.

Blumberg (2008) states that there is mounting evidence that women's ability to fully enjoy human rights and, even to demand such rights is integrally linked to their economic empowerment. A study of the circumstances in which women in poor communities feel entitled to make decisions about marriage and childbearing, contraception and sexuality was carried out in seven countries: Brazil, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines and the United States. Among its conclusions is that the ability to take such decisions requires a sense of personal autonomy, which develops in tandem with the knowledge that women can provide for themselves and their children. Their sense of personhood fundamentally depends on having income of their own.

The female share in earned income is grossly underestimated in countries such as Libya, Egypt, Qatar, the UAE, Yemen, Morocco and Algeria and to some degree, have a substantial agricultural sector women have a leading role in agricultural economic activity rates for rural women are grossly underestimated by national statistics (Farah, 2006).

Aziz (2000) states that growing volatility in the global economy is lethal for the poor, as it leads to a drastic fall in employment in the formal sector, followed by a corresponding fall in informal employment and then a general slowdown in industrial production due to compressed demand. This volatility in capital markets, brought about mainly by movement of global pension and other funds, can lead to

an economic crisis as in East and Southeast Asia in 1997. But even when that does not happen, perpetual volatility, marked by uncertainty and unpredictability, with a modest slowdown in the economy may become a more frequent phenomenon, with serious implications for national and international efforts to reduce poverty. Jongeward (2001) stresses that it is sad irony that rural women who have been marginalised by the impact of the Western macro-economic development model require the financial support of national and international agencies and organisations that previously neglected them.

Blumberg (2008) argues that HIV/AIDS frequently had been likened to a modern plague. This plague had proven to be gendered, with women up to 600% more likely to be infected than a male counterpart. And much of the developing world, in particular, women don't have leverage to refuse unprotected sex, even when they are aware of how the disease is transmitted. Rural Poverty Report (2001) state that globally, 1.2 billion people live in poverty. They subsist on less than one dollar a day. Seventy five percent of the poor work and live in rural areas; 60% are expected to do so in 2020 and 50% in 2035.

The United Nations 88th Plenary meeting (2001) emphasised that some effects of globalisation may deepen the socio-economic marginalisation of rural women and mindful of the fact that the available data and existing tools of measurement and analysis are insufficient for a full understanding of the gender implications of the process of globalisation and rural change, and their impact on rural.

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (2005) addressed the situation of rural women as a cross-cutting area of concern at its fortieth, forty-first and forty-sixth sessions. The Commission considered critical areas of concern in respect of women and poverty and women and the environment. Resolution 40/9 of the Commission on the Status of Women and Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/5 of 24 July 2002 urged Governments and all appropriate actors to give women the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property and to undertake socioeconomic policies that promoted sustainable development and supported and ensured poverty eradication programmes to benefit women of all ages, in particular marginalized women, including rural women.

Many global policies and exogenous trends have also contributed to the misery of poor people and pushed a larger percentage of people below the poverty line. Enough empirical research has not been undertaken to determine the full impact of globalization policies on the poorest segments of society but some negative trends are fairly clear (Aziz, 2000).

The global community must renew its attention to women's economic empowerment and increase investments in women. Increased women's labour force participation and earnings are associated with reduced poverty and faster growth; women will benefit from their economic empowerment, but so too will men, children and society as a whole (World Bank's Gender Equality Action Plan, 2007). Gender-based workplace discrimination has other manifestations, including violation of childcare and maternity rights – for example when women are dismissed from work for being pregnant. A recent ILO study of women workers in the garment industry in Cambodia revealed that women faced regular harassment from supervisors, as well as unfair working conditions, such as lack of sick or holiday pay, being refused permission for leave, having to do forced overtime, and receiving irregular salaries (ILO, 2006).

2.10 The Impact of Rural Poverty

According to May (2000) as *cited* by Kehler (2000) the level of poverty is generally defined as the inability to attain a minimum standard of living, which according to the World Bank, is measured in terms of basic consumption needs or income required to satisfy those needs. Therefore, poverty, in its narrow definition, can be understood as a reflection of the inability of individuals, households or entire communities to command sufficient resources to satisfy a socially acceptable minimum standard of living.

Purdon (2008) expresses the opinion that more and more women and children were also falling into poverty, she stressed, further emphasizing that women found it difficult to find good jobs because they are reserved for men. As a result, women were becoming economically dependent on men. However, she explained, the support services women needed were difficult to find because they were inadequate or non-existent in some cases. She added that even when services for

women were available, they were fraught with conflicting mandates and eligibility requirements.

Mule (2005) argued that poverty is not just a statistic. It is about misery, under-nourishment, ill health, lack of education and other basic needs for decent living, shortened life expectancy, and lack of hope. It is about people's inability to achieve their full potential. It is about missed opportunities. It is a negation of humanity. Rural women's economic empowerment required, among other things, defining the uniqueness of rural poverty for women and the specific issues they faced, in addition to more information and support tools to help women find and navigate community services and survive poverty (Purdon, 2008).

Women constitute the majority of our people trapped in poverty in the rural areas where the mining companies source their labour. The department through the Mining Charter directs mining companies to address the socio-economic conditions of labour sending communities. It is imperative for women to play a leading role in influencing the local and provincial development plans of their localities and provinces, respectively, to be aligned to the Labour and Social Plans of mining companies to improve their lot (Ministry of Minerals and Energy, 2006).

Sobhan (2001) expresses an opinion that mainstreaming poverty at the policy level demands that the tired debate over the prioritization of growth as the route to poverty eradication should be put to rest. The relevant issue is to enhance the capacities of the poor to contribute to the process of growth by empowering them to participate, on more equitable terms, in the dynamics of the market economy.

Poverty alone seriously handicaps creditworthy borrowers, access to capital, women may be even more constrained because of their gender. Biases in legal regulations or social norms may limit women's ability to obtain funds directly from formal financial institutions. This is the case in societies in which women are limited in their access to or control over property because inheritance laws give preference to male relatives (Fletschner, 2008). The rural poor suffer from interlocked disadvantages. They live in remote areas; they are usually unhealthy and illiterate, have bigger families, work insecure and relatively unproductive jobs and may experience discrimination as women and as members of ethnic minorities (Rural Poverty Report, 2001).

The International Women's Development Agency (2005) statement stress that wherever you are in the world, women and children make up the majority of those living in poverty. Economic stability of women and families is critical to ensuring safety in our world. Investing in women helps to rebuild the vitality and safety of communities through economic development and entrepreneurial opportunities provided for women and their families. Economic empowerment for women is a sustainable solution to counter global development challenges.

To enhance the capacity of 40/50% of the population to participate in a market economy is likely to be the most effective policy instrument to sustain economic growth. Such an approach towards policy design suggests that the eradication of poverty should remain central to the design of macro policy reform rather than an afterthought. This demands a macro-policy agenda which is designed to enhance the capacity of the poor as producers, consumers and above all, owners of wealth (Sobhan, 2001).

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (2003) emphasises that development experience shows that gender inequalities are a major factor impeding progress towards the Millennium Development Goals of poverty reduction. This is particularly true in rural areas, where women are generally very involved in productive work but lack access to assets they need to play that role effectively. As a result of this imbalance, rural women are often more vulnerable to poverty than men, and their limited ability to secure assets independently makes them more likely to be negatively affected by on-going changes in rural markets and institutions. Rural Poverty Report (2001) emphasises that poverty is not something that Government, development institutions or NGOs can do for the poor. They can forge partnerships and help promote the conditions in which the poor can use their own skills and talents to work their way out of poverty. But the poor themselves have to seize responsibility, as agents for their own development.

Aziz (2000) states that poverty has many dimensions and each has its own causes and determinants that vary over time. At the conceptional level, we now have a much deeper understanding of the nature and causes of poverty but in practice, the negative and positive factors that may tend to increase or decrease poverty often operate simultaneously. It is therefore difficult to predict whether a given

package of interventions will actually lead to poverty reduction. The most common indicator of poverty is a pre-determined income level below which a family cannot survive. One dollar per day is widely accepted as the cut-off point to categorize those who are living in extreme poverty. The causes of poverty are often structural and inherent. The root of these structural causes lies in the basic social structure of a rural society, with its inequitable distribution of land and a feudal, ethnic or tribal system which often perpetuates this inequality.

2.11 Education and Employment as a tool for Empowerment

The most fundamental reason for the existence of an educational system is that education plays a significant role in the economy of any society. In view of this, it is essential that the education provided meets the economic needs of that society, thus enhancing efficiency in the use of social and economic resources, ultimately leading to economic growth and social well-being (Kongolo & Bamgose, 2002)

Collett and Gale (2009) argue that the diverse challenges for the rural poor continue to grow, however. These include potential conflicts over increasing food and water insecurity, and the largely unpredictable long-term effects of climate change, an issue whose very breadth and seriousness may compound existing challenges and create yet more. Small farmers, NGOs and policy-makers in developing countries are all grappling with these challenges at different levels. In attempting to deal with these issues, the importance of training cannot be underestimated.

Education and paid work are seen in terms of the resource base essential for women to acquire greater independence from patriarchal constraints. Thus, the basic modernization argument suggests that as societies industrialise and westernise, education exposes women to ideologies emphasising independence from the extended family and egalitarian conjugal relationships. With new job opportunities in the industrial and service sectors, modernisation also leads to women's emancipation from traditional subordinate roles by integrating them into the modern labour market (Malhotra & Mather, 1997).

Training in new sets of skills which can be applied to farming and other rural production is an important source of support for rural livelihoods. Research shows

that both men and women farmers can benefit from training in agricultural techniques, as well as business management and marketing skills (World Bank & IBRD, 2009; Danida, 2004).

The skills to improve productivity, increase adaptability to deal with change and crisis, and facilitate the diversification of livelihoods to manage risks are at a premium in rural areas. In many cases, these skills are an issue of survival. Providing these skills effectively is one of the key challenges of rural development, but it has not always been well met, usually because the contextual factors that prevent small farmers from accessing and applying training have not been addressed (Collett & Gale, 2009)

Institute's Centre for Education and Development of Rural Women (1993) emphasises that rural women's mind-set of 'dependency' must be changed so that they become conscious of their abilities to change themselves, their families, and their community. Their empowerment would lie in becoming creative, self-dependent, individuals. Some of the action-research projects of the Institute have provided insights into the methodology of enabling the oppressed to reflect upon their predicaments so as to find ways of learning new skills and approaches to become effective partners in development.

Joseph and Andrew (2007) express an opinion that access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can have dramatic impact on poverty alleviation for rural women and for achieving socio economic development goals. Rural women need to treat ICTs as an empowerment tool and a means to a living. The use of mobile communication devices and internet are changing the way agricultural activities are managed by farmers nowadays. Rural women's lack of mobility and less hands-on computer experience might hinder women's welfare and empowerment.

Women need to be empowered with skills, knowledge and confidence to determine the development path they wish to follow and to challenge the entrenched structures which hamper them (Scheyvens, 2003)

Xiaoping (2000) stresses that the concept of employment for women in the new circumstances. Women employment is an important issue that has to do with

women's survival and development, with political liberation, and with their economic independence. Kandiyoti (1990) argues that a certain amount of training and education, as well as the creation of organisations to facilitate credit and marketing outlets (such as women producers' co-operatives) are advocated as realistic objectives.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (2003) states that illiteracy continues to greatly limit the capacities and opportunities of rural women. On an individual level, illiteracy hinders women's ability to acquire productive skills with which to meet market demand, undermines their self-confidence, and makes them vulnerable in the face of all those daily activities for which reading may make the difference between life and death.

The Field Survey in Ghana (2001) revealed that when the women's level of education was compared to their chances of being allowed to express their views in public a critical analysis of the results revealed that all the 21.3 percent of the women in Ghana who have attained the highest level of education in the community (i.e. Secondary school and Training College) were able to express their views in public gatherings while all the 20.2 percent of the women who had never had the chance of expressing their views in public belonged to the low levels of education like primary and Junior Secondary Schools and those with no formal education at all. This results show that the level of education is a factor in one's opportunity and ability to express oneself in public gatherings. This is probably why Tsikata (2001) and Brown (2001) state that the level of education is a major influencing factor in women's level of participation in decision-making.

2.12 Challenges faced by Women

A report by the Hunger Project (2000) reveals that when women are included in official planning, they are often treated as powerless individuals who should be given assistance. In the foreword to the alternative framework for structural adjustment programmes for socio-economic recovery and transformation, it is recognised that women play a crucial role as producers and agents of change in rural transformation, and that the negative effect on rural development is brought about by their marginalisation.

The situation in rural areas is such that if you are female, you do not play any role in the societal debates. Even the 1994 African Common Position on Human and Social Development Forum describes women as part of the marginalised, vulnerable sections of the population and they are grouped with children, youth, elderly and the disabled. No matter which rural government option is chosen, it seems that women in rural areas will always remain where they are, and ultimately will end up in a worse position (Hunger Project, 2000). Rural women still don't have ownership on land and due to this they can't take independent decisions on various agricultural aspects (Afzal, 2009).

International Fund for Agricultural Development (2005) argues that cultural factors such as prejudice based on stereotypes and male resistance are obstacles to women's economic empowerment. Hannan (2008) mentioned the example of women and girls having to walk longer distances to collect water and firewood as a result of the rising incidence of desertification. That resulted in their having to forego opportunities which were important for their economic empowerment, including attendance at school and involvement in income-generating activities.

A report by UNDP Human Development (2007/2008) states that women and young girls have to allocate large amounts of time to the collection of firewood, compounding gender inequalities in livelihood opportunities and education. Collecting fuel wood and animal dung is a time-consuming and exhausting task, with average loads often in excess of 20kg. Research in rural Tanzania has found that women in some areas walk 5–10 kilometres a day collecting and carrying firewood, with loads averaging 20kg to 38kg. In rural India, average collection times can amount to over 3 hours a day. Beyond the immediate burden on time and body, fuel wood collection often results in young girls being kept out of school. Women in South Africa's rural areas are the ones who run the families, while their husbands are working in the cities. Traditionally, women in rural areas have been regarded as people who belong at home, expected to minister to their husbands and children, but when it comes to making decisions on economic and political issues, men take the lead (Zondo, 1995). In most African countries, rural women are the food farmers, and carry the burdens of life. Africa's 100 million rural women grow almost 80 % of Africa's food, including food for subsistence and food

for markets. This amounts to food production of 3 metric tons each year per woman. Rural women do almost 80% of the work to provide the proper transport and storage of Africa's food. Women in Africa have a long tradition of participating in savings, production, marketing and mutual-aid organizations. Many rural women rely on cooperatives and market groups as a way to pool resources, reduce their workload, and optimize limited income. Microcredit programme results have shown that women tend to be more prompt and reliable in their repayment of loans, and spend their increased earnings on children first, thereby improving nutrition, health and educational opportunities (Hunger Project, 2000).

The added challenges and hardships associated with male migration can leave rural women more economically vulnerable than ever. As men migrate and women become the heads of their families, women take on more responsibility, including in the agricultural sector. But migration also has the potential to increase rural women's agency and decision-making power, in part because of the population churn associated with migration (Pruitt, 2009). CEDAW's Article 14(1) recognizes the particular problems faced by rural women as well as the significant roles which women play in the economic survival of their families and calls on States Parties to ensure the application of the entirety of CEDAW to women in rural areas. This provision thus requires Member States to ensure that rural women, like their urban counterparts, enjoy all rights addressed by the Convention.

Scheyvens (2003) argues that women are experiencing a decline in status and power as dependency on the cash economy and imported political and social systems becomes more entrenched. Pacific women often held a prestigious place in a traditional society: they were economically active as producers, manufacturers, market managers and healers. Now women are increasingly marginalised. They are the least educated and consulted in the community. Farah (2006) state that more significantly economic activity rates in rural areas and the informal sector are not included in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (2003) stresses that women are more likely than men to be negatively affected by semi-traditional rural

institutions, which tend to resist changes in asset distribution that challenge patriarchal relations.

Fletschner (2008) expressed an opinion that women face legal, social, cultural and economic restrictions that further limit their access to credit as compared to men. It also does matter who in the household receives the loan. Access to capital may influence who controls income within the household, and number of studies have found that women's relative control over resources has positive impact on their families' nutrition, education and health.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (2003) states that despite regional variation, women in general - but especially rural women - tend to remain underprivileged compared with men in accessing key assets such as land, financing, political power and education.

The Women's Funding Network (2005) emphasises that entrenched gender discrimination can strip women of their voice and their right to control economic resources, even if they have access to microloans and other such tools. Accordingly, in communities with entrenched gender discrimination, women's access to economic opportunities like microfinance are only successful when they are linked to efforts that focus on raising women's status and promoting women's rights in those communities.

Kangolo and Bamgose (2002) state that this study observed that a lack of information, lack of resources and government assistance, lack of education, cultural values and discrimination against rural women were the most important factors contributing to the inactive participation of rural women in developments. Further inferences can be drawn in relation to the age structure of respondents that it has impacted negatively on rural women participation, mostly for those in the category of 65 years and above.

2.13 Impact made by Organisations to change the lives of the Rural Women

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (2005) states that during several decades of fighting poverty in rural areas has learned three important lessons. The first is that women are the backbone of the rural economy. In addition

to a ring for their families and their domestic chores, rural women are actively involved in producing food crops and look after livestock, especially in small holdings. Poor women also tend to work on small income-generating activities or micro-enterprises whenever they can find time. A second lesson is that where women are able to earn an income, and control their earnings, their families will benefit. By directing their earnings to family needs, women become the key to ending hunger and poverty. A third lesson is that while all rural poor suffer numerous constraints, women are particularly hampered in effectively carrying out their work activities. This is where IFAD sees its role in terms of providing support at both policy and programme levels to remove the constraints that affect women's status, their income generating activities and resulting income.

Women's rights organisations play an indispensable role in their communities, nations, and regions as the agents of change. Women's movements have arguably been leading the most successful social revolution the world has ever seen. Gender inequality, on the other hand, is still the most pervasive, systemic and universal form of discrimination on the planet. There is much work to be done. And so, this report argues, women's movements need to be funded (Kerr, 2007).

Datta (2003) reveals that since 1972, SEWA has transformed itself from a trade organization of poor, self-employed workers to a labour, cooperative, and women's movement, which has contributed significantly to the economic and social well-being of large numbers of women and households. Indigenous groups, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and international organizations such as the United Nations have been influential in evaluating women's status and making recommendations to governments about addressing empowerment strategies and alleviating gender discrimination at all levels.

Scheyvens (2003) states that many writers have noted the contribution that strong grass roots organisations have made to the empowerment of women. Women organisations have helped women to identify their concerns and work to achieve more power. They also have provided women with opportunities for attaining leadership and management skills and developing networks. Many women have benefitted from such organisations because they contributed by broadening their awareness and increased their confidence.

The World's Women Report (2005) states that within the complex policy arena, women's funds play the essential role of ensuring review of prospective policies, especially those trying to break the poverty cycle, from the perspective of women. Financial investment houses urge their institutional clients to support policies that shift the environment in support of their strategies. Similarly, women's funds continually review the environment for opportunity and advocate for policies and programs that create possibility and opportunity for all women.

2.14 Integrated Development Planning (IDP) and Local Economic Development (LED)

According to the World Bank (2000) LED is the process by which the public, business and non-governmental sectors work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation. The intention is to improve the quality of life for all. A World Bank (2002) document titled LED definition asserts that LED is about local people working together to achieve sustainable economic growth that brings economic benefits and quality of life to all the community.

Zaaijer and Sara (1993) state that LED is essentially a process in which local governments and/or community based groups manage their existing resources and enter into partnership arrangements with the private sector, or with each other, to create new jobs and stimulate economic activity in an economic area.

From the above definitions, it can be summed up that local economic development (LED) offers local government, the private sector, none profit sectors, and local communities the opportunity to work together to improve the local economy. It focuses on enhancing competitiveness, increasing sustainable growth and ensuring that growth is inclusive. LED encompasses a range of disciplines including economics, marketing and physical planning.

Democratisation in the early 1990's brought about many policy changes within the South African government, particularly in terms of development and social upliftment. Local Economic Development (LED) has emerged in the context of the political transition towards democracy and the government's retreat from its traditional 'top-down' policy approach to regional development (Rogerson, 1994).

LED is not one particular strategy or theory, but rather it is a wide range of activities that are implemented at the local level in response to local developmental needs and it can be described as a locally-driven process designed to identify, harness and utilise local resources to stimulate the economy and create new employment opportunities. It is therefore a process by which public, business and non-governmental sector partners collectively (or independently) work together to create conditions for economic growth and employment creation (Nel, 2001). LED occurs best when a partnership between the local authority, business, NGO's and most importantly, individuals is formed, and together they strive to improve the localities economic status by combining skills, resources and ideas.

Local Economic Development strategies are being implemented internationally at local levels. In post-apartheid South Africa, LED initiatives are widely practiced in municipalities across the country and encompass elements of what international literature refers to as both market-led (pro-growth) and market-critical (pro-poor) approaches to LED. The market-led approach to business development focuses on the pursuit of economic growth, investment attraction, expansion of the market, increased competitiveness and promotes entrepreneurship and individual self-reliance in the business sector. The market-critical approach to community development is associated more with support for emerging micro and community businesses and pro-poor related interventions. These overall goals are focussed on achieving local self-reliance, empowerment and participation (Philander & Rogerson, 2001).

The 1998 Local Government White Paper promotes local government as an essential tool for cooperative and good governance and to encourage socioeconomic development. In particular, municipalities have been required to implement the concept of Integrated Development Planning (IDP) which entails engaging with the community to assess community needs; assess available resources; set a common vision, priorities and goals, as well as budgeting, plans for implementation and monitoring and evaluating programmes. In essence, the IDP is regarded as a tool to assist municipalities reach their development objectives of planning and implementation often through LED interventions (Rogerson, 2004).

The Municipal Systems Act (32 of 2000) emphasises that rural areas were left underdeveloped and largely un-serviced. The new approach to local government has to be developmental and aims to overcome the poor planning of the past. Integrated Development Planning is an approach to planning that involves the entire municipality and its citizens in finding the best solutions to achieve good long-term development.

An Integrated Development Plan (IDP) is a super plan for an area that gives an overall framework for development. It aims to co-ordinate the work of local and other spheres of government in a coherent plan to improve the quality of life for all the people living in an area. It should take into account the existing conditions and problems and resources available for development. The plan should look at economic and social development for the area as a whole. It must set a framework for how land should be used, what infrastructure and services are needed and how the environment should be protected.

All municipalities have to produce an Integrated Development Plan (IDP). The municipality is responsible for the co-ordination of the IDP and must draw in other stakeholders in the area who can impact on and/or benefit from development in the area. Once the IDP is drawn up all municipal planning and projects should happen in terms of the IDP. The annual council budget should be based on the IDP. Other government departments working in the area should take the IDP into account when making their own plans.

Local Economic Development (LED) initiatives, as a pro-poor response to encourage community upliftment, are firmly in place in the local municipality's LED strategy, and receive considerable support there-from. A key feature of the local economy however, are the poorly developed backward and forward linkages that the core-manufacturing sector has with the rest of the local economy and the paucity of small and medium enterprises in general and as suppliers/off-shoots to the major firms. The capital-intensive corporate companies dominate the local economy, but provide few employment opportunities because of their capital-intensive nature. As a consequence, corporate companies play a key role in pro-poor development through their Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiatives. Both the local Municipality and the District Municipality, are actively seeking pro-poor

LED interventions and job creating opportunities through their respective Integrated Development Planning processes.

2.15 Research Questions

From the literature review, there is need to investigate and explore the extent to which women are economically empowered in Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality formerly known as Bophirima in North West Province and its Local Municipalities. Since 1994, local government in South Africa has become more important than ever before. It has been described to be developmental local government; therefore it is expected to play a key role in development.

- The research question will attempt to look at the following issues or address the following questions:-
- What has been the impact of economic empowerment initiatives on rural women in the District?
- What percentage of rural women have benefitted from these initiatives as opposed to women in the urban centre?
- What were the key legislative platforms/frameworks aimed at addressing the empowerment of women generally and rural women specifically?

2.16 Conclusion

The overview of this literature explores the dominant analysis taking hold around women's economic empowerment and highlights critical issues that remain as yet on the margins of debate and action. It seeks to promote a nuanced understanding of the gendered barriers that prevent some women from benefiting from economic opportunities or from being empowered despite access to these opportunities. It goes on to suggest a practical starting point for overcoming some of these barriers (Esplen and Brody, 2007)

Empowerment through the class struggle was a different story altogether; but that story has now been played out and it offers hardly any new prospect. There is no doubt the prospect of empowerment through caste war; but that is something that will appeal only to those who have put their minds to sleep (Beteille, 1999).

This literature review has shown that there factors which influence limited participation in the development process by women in South Africa's rural areas. The influence of Government development policies: education and cultural values on rural women. The investigation suggests that most women in rural areas are illiterate. They lack initiatives, innovations and self-reliance attitudes. Women in rural areas are isolated, confined and marginalized through the non-interactive government policies on rural areas. These symptoms reflect a lack of structured development strategy to create needed opportunities in these areas (Kongolo & Bamgose, 2002)

The next chapter will deal with research methodology that can be used to establish the extent to which the economic empowerment has had an impact on the lives of the rural women. It will also look at the disparities between urban and rural areas, the extent to which these are entrenched and practical mechanisms employed to address them. Furthermore, whether these are succeeding to address the questions raised in this chapter

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The aim of the study is to investigate ways of economic empowerment of rural women in Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipality. To validate this, it is necessary to collect information from targeted population using correct methodology and analyse the responses. Overall, this chapter defines the research methodology used in this study, the data collection method chosen, types of questions that can be asked and development of the questionnaire, the survey population and sample size determination, data handling and concludes with the discussion of a researcher's compliance with research ethics.

The research questions arrived at was: 1) What has been the impact of economic empowerment initiatives on rural women in the District? 2) What percentage of rural women have benefitted from these initiatives as opposed to women in the urban centre? 3) What were the key legislative platforms/frameworks aimed at addressing the empowerment of women generally and rural women specifically? The layout of this chapter is to address the different research types, discuss the handling of data and how the data will be collected. It closes off with a conclusion.

3.2 Research Types

3.2.1 Qualitative and Quantitative Research

Nielsen (2008) states that the basic distinction here is that, in qualitative studies, the data is usually being gathered directly, whereas in quantitative studies, the data is gathered indirectly, through an instrument, such as a survey or a web server log. In field studies and usability studies, for example, the researcher directly observes how people use technology (or not) to meet their needs. This gives them the ability to ask questions, probe on behaviour or possibly even adjust the study protocol to better meet its objectives. Analysis of the data is usually not mathematical.

By contrast, insights in quantitative methods are typically derived from mathematical analysis, since the instrument of data collection (e.g., survey tool or

web-server log) captures such large amounts of data that are coded numerically. Due to the nature of their differences, qualitative methods are much better suited for answering question about why or how to fix a problem, whereas quantitative methods do a much better job answering how many and how much type of questions (Nielsen,2008).

Quantitative research focuses on numbers or quantities. Quantitative studies have results that are based on numeric analysis and statistics. Often, these studies have many participants. It is not unusual for there to be over a thousand people in a quantitative research study. It is ideal to have a large number of participants because this gives analysis more statistical power (Henninger, 2009).

Qualitative research studies are focused on differences in quality, rather than differences in quantity. Results are in words or pictures rather than numbers. Qualitative studies usually have fewer participants than quantitative studies because the depth of the data collection does not allow for large numbers of participants. Quantitative and qualitative studies both have strengths and weaknesses. A particular strength of quantitative research is that statistical analysis allows for generalization (to some extent) to others. A goal of quantitative research is to choose a sample that closely resembles the population. Qualitative research does not seek to choose samples that are representative of populations (Neill, 2010).

However, qualitative data does provide a depth and richness of data not possible with quantitative data. Although there are fewer participants, the researchers generally know more details about each participant. Quantitative researchers collect data on more participants, so it is not possible to have the depth and breadth of knowledge about each (Henninger, 2009).

Qualitative	Quantitative
The aim is a complete, detailed description.	The aim is to classify features, count them, and construct statistical models in an attempt to explain what is observed.
Researcher may only know roughly in advance what he/she is looking for.	Researcher knows clearly in advance what he/she is looking for.
Recommended during earlier phases of research projects.	Recommended during latter phases of research projects.
The design emerges as the study unfolds.	All aspects of the study are carefully designed before data is collected.
Researcher is the data gathering instrument.	Researcher uses tools, such as questionnaires or equipment to collect numerical data.
Subjective - individuals' interpretation of events is important ,that is; uses participant observation, in-depth interviews etc.	Objective – seeks precise measurement and analysis of target concepts, that is; uses surveys, questionnaires etc.
Qualitative data is more 'rich', time consuming, and less able to be generalized.	Quantitative data is more efficient, able to test hypotheses, but may miss contextual detail.
Researcher tends to become subjectively immersed in the subject matter.	Researcher tends to remain objectively separated from the subject matter.

Table 3.1 Features of qualitative and quantitative research methodology (*Source: Miles & Huberman, 1994*)

3.2.3 What Research Methods Used in this Mini-Dissertation

This research study will be approached with a quantitative research methodology as the study aims to investigate the economic empowerment of rural women and the percentage of rural women who have benefitted from economic empowerment initiatives in Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipality.

3.2.4 What data is required?

Primary and Secondary Data

The University of Georgia (2003) notes that primary data is original material, such as first-hand account of an event or work of literature or art, that has not been interpreted by anyone other than its creator. Common types of primary sources are diaries, letters, autobiographies, interviews, speeches, stories, poetry, drama, sheet music and visual art. Secondary data analyse and interpret primary sources, drawing upon them to explain events of the past or explore the meaning of the work of art. Secondary data are often produced well after the event or primary sources they comment upon, and their authors tend to be modern scholars or commentators rather than eyewitness of what they write about. Typical secondary data include scholarly books, articles in journals and textbooks.

Primary is from the source itself, secondary is from someone who had some data from a contact with some source. For instance if someone interview, that is primary data, if a book is written with that primary data and someone uses that book to write a report, the data is considered secondary to the person who wrote the book.

Primary data is expensive to conduct well as secondary is not as compared to primary data. Primary data takes a long time to conduct as compared to secondary data. The primary data is original (first hand data) and its quality is better than in secondary data. Primary data is detailed since it may consist of both quantitative and qualitative data (University of Georgia, 2003).

3.3 Data collection method

3.3.1 Methods for collecting primary data

a) Interviews

Cohen and Manion (1985:307) state that a research interview is a 'two-person' conversation initiated by the interviewer for the specific purpose of obtaining research relevant information. This method of obtaining information by the interviewer takes place in a face-to-face situation or through telephone.

- **Structured interview**

Informal, conversational interview-no predetermined questions are asked in order to remain as open and adaptable as possible to the interviewee's nature and priorities, during the interview the interviewer goes with the flow.

A structured interview refers to a situation in which an interviewer asks each respondent a series of pre-established questions with limited set of responses except where an infrequent open-ended question may be used. The interviewer according to a coding scheme that has already been established records the responses. The interviewer controls the pace of the interview by treating the questionnaire as if it was a theoretical script to be followed in a standardised and straight forward manner. Thus all the respondents receive the same set of questions, asked in the same sequence. This technique therefore has limited flexibility in the way questions are asked or answered (Denzin and Lincoln, 1994).

- **Semi-structured interview**

Semi-structured interviews are a bit more relaxed than structured interviews. While researchers using this type are still expected to cover every question in the protocol, they have some wiggle room to explore participant responses by asking for clarification or additional information. Interviewers also have the freedom to be more friendly and sociable. Semi-structured interviews are most often used in qualitative studies. The style is most useful when one is investigating a topic that is very personal to participants. Benefits include the ability to gain rapport and participants' trust, as well as a deeper understanding of responses. Data sets obtained using this style will larger than those with structured interviews (Santiago, 2009).

- **Unstructured interview**

In an unstructured interview, the questions to be asked are prepared before-hand but the interviewer may depart from such questions as well as their presentation as the situation demands (Berh, 1973). This type of interview is mostly employed where the type of information needed is difficult for subjects to express themselves or information is highly sensitive (Legotlo, 1996).

b) Survey

A survey is a data collection tool used to gather information about individuals. Surveys are commonly used in psychology research to collect self-report data from study participants. A survey may focus on factual information about individuals, or it may aim to collect the opinions of the survey takers. A survey can be administered in a couple of different ways. In one method known as a structured interview, the researcher asks each participant the questions. In the other method known as a questionnaire, the participant fills out the survey on his or her own. Surveys are generally standardised to ensure that they have reliability and validity. Standardisation is also important so that the results can be generalized to the larger population.

Advantages of Using Surveys

- Surveys allow researchers to collect a large amount of data in a relatively short period of time
- Surveys are less expensive than many other data collection techniques.
- Surveys can be created quickly and administered easily.
- Surveys can be used to collect information on a wide range of things, including personal facts, attitudes, past behaviours and opinions.

Disadvantages of Using Surveys

- Poor survey construction and administration can undermine otherwise well-designed studies.
- The answer choices provided on a survey may not be an accurate reflection of how the participants truly feel.

- While random sampling is generally used to select participants, response rates can bias the results of a survey.

3.3.2 Questionnaire

The Management and Development (2000) of the University of South Africa note that the way in which questionnaires are completed, distinguish between a situation in which respondents complete the responses themselves and a situation in which an interviewer asks the questions and then writes down the response. In the first case a document should be compiled that can be understood and used by the respondents themselves without the external assistance; in the second case the users of the questionnaires will be people who have received training in how to record responses on behalf of the respondent. A poorly designed questionnaire can derail a research project despite a good sample, well-trained interviewers or well applied sophisticated statistical techniques. Ambiguous questions will result in non-comparable answers, leading questions will yield biased answers and vague questions will elicit vague answers.

The questionnaire would be used as a data capturing tool. This will allow the collection of quantifiable and qualitative data and allow for the analysis of this data to determine patterns and relationships. The proposed survey questionnaire will be on word document. The management personnel who will be selected will be asked to use the IDP Rep forums and community ward meetings to gather information. A covering letter and questionnaire (Appendices A & B) will be directed to the District-Wide Integrated Development Representative Forum and community ward meetings (inclusive of ward committees, women, youths, disabled, businesses, NGO's, community members and sector departments). Other data will be gathered from the seven (6) municipalities within the district (Naledi, Kagisano, Molopo, Greater Taung, Mamusa and Lekwa-Teemane).

Both Tse (1998) and Schaefer and Dillman (1998) emphasise the significance of faster response times with email surveys, within the district e-mail is still a challenge in Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipality as our target group is rural women. A copy of the questionnaires will be readily available at different municipalities as a convenience to the participants and to prevent the loss of the

questionnaire from named as a reason for the lack of response. The targeted response is 80%.

Questionnaire should be as brief as possible and solicit only that information essential to the research project (Leedy & Ormrod, 2005). In order to help maximise the number of responses to the questionnaire, a number of questions will be limited to no more than 20 questions. The questionnaire will consist of 2 sections (Refer to Appendix C). The first section of the questionnaire will be aimed at gathering biographical data on the respondents including age, gender, qualifications and frequency as well as the level of decisions that are normally made by the respondent, while the second section will focus on specific questions with regards to the economic empowerment of rural women in Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipality. Responses are made on 5-point scales scored so that a high score was indicative of greater uncertainty or complexity. Other questions will require yes or no answer and others will be open ended questions where the respondent is expected to support their response by providing more details. To ensure that respondents shared common notion of information quality, a definition will be given in the questionnaire. The table below refers to the questionnaire outline.

A short disclaimer describing the purpose of the study-Refer to Appendix C	
Questionnaire-Refer to Appendix C	
Covering letter	
Part 1-Questions 1-7	Gathers biographical data on the respondents including age, gender, and qualifications.
Part 2-Questions 8-18	Focuses Into ways of economic empowerment of rural women in Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipality"

Table 3.2: Questionnaire Outline

3.3.3 Sampling Method

Quantitative research aims to use random samples that are representative of a population: qualitative samples tend to be purposive rather than random (Miles & Huberman, 1994). The reason for this is that qualitative researchers work with limited universes and that social processes have a logic and coherence that random sampling can reduce to uninterpretable sawdust. Since populations in qualitative designs usually consist of small number of cases, bias may occur when using random sampling.

The qualitative researcher usually obtains individuals with whom to conduct unstructured interviews or focus groups by means of purposive or snowball sampling. Often preference is to key informants who, on account of their position or experience, have more information than regular group members and are better able to articulate this information (Welman, Kruger & Mitchell, 2005).

The participants will have to meet the following criteria to be included in the sample:

- The participant must be a rural female not involved in decision making
- The participant must be unemployed or informally employed in community projects

There are no restrictions as such any rural women who are interested to participate in this survey. The population (N) of the district = 439 679 and the researcher desired to take a sample size (S) of 400; $N = 439\ 679$, $S = 400$. Therefore, a minimum 400 completed questionnaires will be required to for meaningful conclusions to be drawn from the data gathered from the survey

3.3.4 Types of variables

Variables are divided into four different categories, that is nominal, ordinal, interval and ratio. These refer to the levels of measure associated with the variables. In everyday usage the convention is to then use the level of measure to refer to the kind of variable. So you can then speak of nominal, ordinal, interval, etc. variables (Place & Abramson, 2008). One is not necessarily better than another category. But, it is true you typically have more information with some than with others, and you're more used to working with some than with others. With interval and ratio

variables for example, you can do averages and things like that. You know there are numbers. You can add them up, divide and things like that. It is trickier sometimes with nominal and ordinal variables. But in human experiments there's no way you can get around it. You often work with nominal or ordinal variables.

Place and Abramson (2008) note that one of the first steps in deciding which statistical test to use is determining what kinds of variables are available. When it is known what the relevant variables are, what kind of variables they are, and what null and alternative hypotheses are, it's usually pretty easy to figure out which test you should use. For our purposes, it's important to classify variables into three types: measurement variables, nominal variables, and ranked variables.

Nominal variables

A nominal variable is one that has two or more categories, but there is no intrinsic ordering to the categories. For example, gender is a nominal variable having two categories (male and female) and there is no intrinsic ordering to the categories. Hair colour is also a nominal variable having a number of categories (blonde, brown, brunette, red, etc.) and again, there is no agreed way to order these from highest to lowest. A purely nominal variable is one that simply allows you to assign categories but you cannot clearly order the variables. If the variable has a clear ordering, then that variable would be an ordinal variable.

The important thing is there is no measure of distance between the values. You're either married or not married. The answer is determined, yes or no. So there is no question of how far apart in a quantitative sense those categories are (SPSS User Guide, 2006). A variable can be treated as nominal when its values represent categories with no intrinsic ranking; for example, the department of the company in which an employee works. Examples of nominal variables include region, zip code, or religious affiliation. A variable can be treated as nominal when its values represent categories with no intrinsic ranking; for example, the department of the company in which an employee works. Examples of nominal variables include region, zip code, or religious affiliation.

Ordinal variables

An ordinal variable is similar to a categorical variable. The difference between the two is that there is a clear ordering of the variables. For example, suppose you have a variable, economic status, with three categories (low, medium and high). In addition to being able to classify people into these three categories, you can order the categories as low, medium and high. Now consider a variable like educational experience (with values such as elementary school graduate, high school graduate, some college and college graduate). These also can be ordered as elementary school, high school, some college, and college graduate. Even though we can order these from lowest to highest, the spacing between the values may not be the same across the levels of the variables.

The SPSS User Guide (2006) notes that the next kind of variable has a little more sophistication than you can get with just names alone. What does ordinal imply? Ordinal implies order. And, order means ranking. So the things being measured are in some order. You can have higher and lower amounts. Less than and greater than are meaningful terms with ordinal variables where they were not with nominal variables. For example, don't rank male and female as higher and lower. So, ordinal variables give you a more sophisticated level of measure - a finer tuned level of measurement. But you have now added only this one element having to do with ranking. You know that something is higher than something else, or lower than something, or more painful than something, or less painful than something.

A variable can be treated as ordinal when its values represent categories with some intrinsic ranking; for example, levels of service satisfaction from highly dissatisfied to highly satisfied. Examples of ordinal variables include attitude scores representing degree of satisfaction or confidence and preference rating scores.

Ratio variable

Most measurement in the physical sciences and engineering is done on ratio scales. Mass, length, time, plane angle, energy and electric charge are examples of physical measures that are ratio scales. The scale type takes its name from the fact that measurement is the estimation of the ratio between a magnitude of a

continuous quantity and a unit magnitude of the same kind (Michell, 1997, 1999). Informally, the distinguishing feature of a ratio scale is the possession of a non-arbitrary zero value. For example, the Kelvin temperature scale has a non-arbitrary zero point of absolute zero, which is denoted 0K and is equal to -273.15 degrees Celsius. This zero point is non-arbitrary as the particles that compose matter at this temperature have zero kinetic energy.

Examples of ratio scale measurement in the behavioural sciences are all but non-existent. Luce (2000) argues that an example of ratio scale measurement in psychology can be found in rank and sign dependent expected utility theory. All statistical measures can be used for a variable measured at the ratio level, as all necessary mathematical operations are defined. The central tendency of a variable measured at the ratio level can be represented by, in addition to its mode, its median, or its arithmetic mean, also its geometric mean or harmonic mean. In addition to the measures of statistical dispersion defined for interval variables, such as range and standard deviation, for ratio variables one can also define measures that require a ratio, such as studentised range or coefficient of variation.

A variable can be treated as scale when its values represent ordered categories with a meaningful metric, so that distance comparisons between values are appropriate. Examples of scale variables include age in years and income in thousands of dollars. A variable can be treated as scale when its values represent ordered categories with a meaningful metric, so that distance comparisons between values are appropriate. Examples of scale variables include age in years and income in thousands of dollars. (SPSS User Guide, 2006)

3.4 Ethical considerations pertaining to the study

Grasso and Epstein (1992) describe ethics as those principles that are intended to define rights and responsibilities of the researchers and practitioners in social work in their relationship with each other and with other parties including employers, research subjects, clients and students.

In the study the following aspects were considered:

Harm to respondents

Strydom (1998) holds that the researcher must, within reasonable limits, protect subjects against any form of physical discomfort which may emerge from the research projects. In the study the researcher thoroughly informed the respondents about the purpose and nature of the investigation beforehand.

Informed consent

In the study the issue of informed consent was regarded as important. Participants were informed about the goals of the investigation as well as the procedures which would be followed. It was important for them to realize that the research would lead to the development of strategies that would also be beneficial to them in the long run. Permission from the residents in the village was obtained to complete the schedule.

Violation of privacy

Singleton, Straits and Straits (1988) define the right to privacy as the individual's right to decide when, where, to whom and to what extent his or her attitudes, beliefs and behaviours will return to the former condition. In this study the researcher respected each respondent's right to privacy by ensuring that the schedule was completed in the seclusion of their homes.

Voluntary participation

In this study the respondents were not forced to participate. The participants were simply regarded as volunteers in the study. They knew that they had a choice to participate and could withdraw at any stage (Creswell, 2003).

Confidentiality

In the study the issue of confidentiality was considered with the intention of protecting the privacy of the respondents. All the information that deserved to be treated as confidential was dealt with accordingly. No identification particulars were required.

3.5 Limitations

This study is limited to a specific group (rural women) in Dr Ruth S Mompati. Data integrity may also be a limitation. Some researchers claim that the focus groups

are not a good research methodology because of the potential influence of one or two respondents on the remaining members of the group. These critics say that a dominant respondent can negatively affect the outcome of the group and that group pressures may influence the comments made by individuals (Wimmer & Dominick 1997).

3.6 Conclusion

This chapter defined the research design and methodology used in this study. Furthermore, it has looked at instrumentation, research type, population, sampling method, and data gathering methods from a theoretical perspective and how the research will be conducted and what steps will be taken to ensure the validity of the data.

A discussion of how these were applied in this study was also presented. Justifications of choices made were also given. Both Tse (1998) and Schaefer and Dillman (1998) have found significantly faster response times with e-mails survey but most unfortunately this will not happen in this study, hence the economic empowerment and development of rural women has to be given a priority to enable the rural women to use technology for the betterment of their lives.

The next chapter will present the study findings that would be used in rejecting or accepting the raised questions in chapter two of this research document.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the research findings and provides analysis and interpretations of data. In the survey questions were asked and the analysis was done based on application of Pearson correlation coefficient and p-value. The survey was conducted with the beneficiaries of Local Economic Development initiatives in different municipalities within Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipality, to test the association between the target group (rural women) and economic empowerment initiatives, with the aim to establish the impact of legislative frameworks/platforms. According to Rowlands, as *cited* by Sharp (2003), empowerment is thus more than participation in decision making; it must also include the processes that lead people to perceive themselves as able and entitled to make decision.

According to International Fund for Agricultural Development (2005), economic empowerment means access to productive assets, land, water, markets, finances and technologies. Education, training and capacity-building are necessary prerequisites. Economic empowerment cannot stand alone but needs to be placed in the larger frameworks that define the way men and women live together, the very fabric of social and cultural environment.

IFAD's experience shows that improving women's economic opportunities and access to productive resources has a major impact on women's overall status; and not just on income, bringing lasting benefits to families and entire communities. This chapter opens with a descriptive introduction, based on the biographical profile of the respondents. The next section reflects the findings of the target group's perceptions regarding the impact economic empowerment initiatives in different municipal areas.

4.2 Response Rate

The response rate of the questionnaire as (232) 46.4%, was not good (i.e. out of 500 questionnaires distributed, 232 were returned). However, several attempts were made to collect enough questionnaires to ensure representativity. The time however has run out. The researcher would like to suggest that, organisations before using this, conduct similar research. According to Gay (1992) as *cited* by Monye (1996), the response rate should at least be 80% to be regarded as adequate for analysis and reporting. The target group were rural women in the district municipal area of jurisdiction. The questionnaires were distributed in community ward meetings and forums and only women were selected to fill-in the questionnaires. Other women were contacted individually to fill-in the questionnaires and were requested to return them before the due date. Even though an attempt was made to reach as many women as one can others did not return the questionnaires as requested.

4.3 Demographics

The population of Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipal Area increased from 425 318 people in 1996 to 439 674 people in 2001. The estimated average population growth rate for the Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipal Area was 0.97% for the year 1996 to 2001, the lowest in the North West Province (Statistics South Africa, 2001).

Figure 4.1 Race components of the respondents

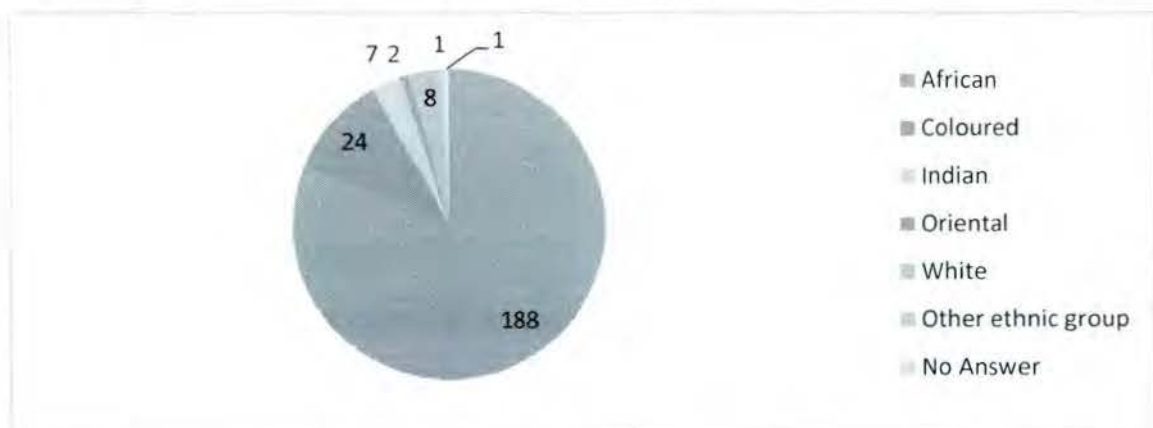


Figure 4.1 above depicts the race component of the respondents. In Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipality the Africans constitute 91.5% of the total population,

followed by Coloureds represent 6.9%, Whites 1.3% and Asian population about 0.3% (Statistics South Africa, 2001). Black African are the main group attending community meetings in the area of jurisdiction, maybe it is because that they are the affected by poverty and are not participating in the economic activities in the district. Other ethnic groups did not participate in meeting/activities/events organised by all three spheres of Government.

Table 4.1 Employment Status of the Respondents

Employment Status	
Employed	82
Unemployed	108
Other	42

Table 4.1 indicates the employment status of the respondents. The number of people unemployed increased between 1996 and 2003 and the picture changed after 2003 when the number of people who were unemployed in the District started to decline. The migration of people from the District after 2001 could be a contributory factor to the improvement in the unemployment situation. Currently the trend indicates that the number of people unemployed has increased as a result of the challenges in the Agriculture sector as well as the mining and manufacturing sectors as these are the economic pillars of the district (Dr Ruth S Mompoti IDP, 2007)

Figure 4.2 Qualification Profile of the Respondents

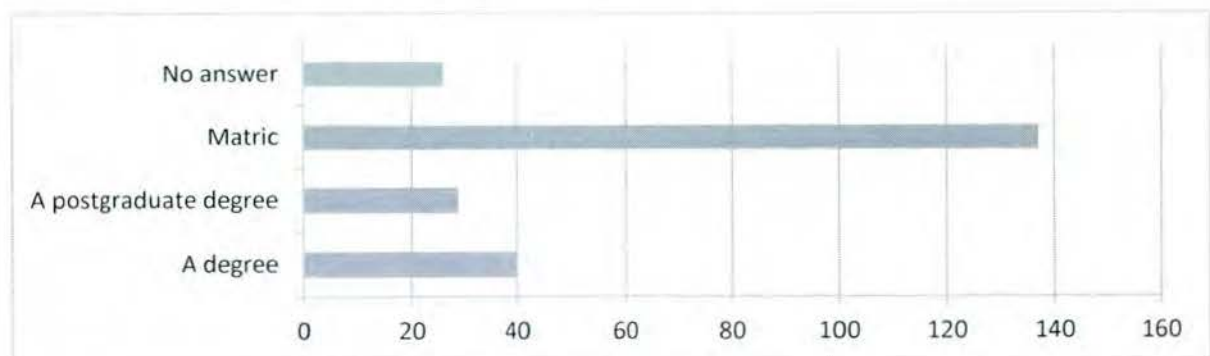


Figure 4.2 above depicts the qualification profile of the respondents. No answer response might relate to how the participants misunderstood the question or they were indifferent. They did not want to say anything about the question and they rather be neutral. Matric in this case refers to those who obtained their senior certificate prior to 1994, under Joint Matriculation Board but it is equivalent to Grade 12. Grade 12 relate to the respondents who obtained their senior certificates after 1994. The education curriculum in South Africa has changed after 1994.

Table 4.2: Age profile of the sample

Age parameters	Frequency
20-30	40
31-40	29
41-50	137
51+	26

The data in Table 4.2 shows that forty (17.24%) of the respondents were between the age of 20 & 30, twenty nine (12.51%) of the respondents were between the age of 31 and 40 years and hundred and thirty seven (59.05%) of the respondents fell within the range of 41–5 and while twenty six (11.20%) of the respondents were above 50 years. This indicates to us that older persons within the district are the one's interested in participating in economic empowerment activities. Older people are the one residing municipal areas, whereas one can assume that younger people in municipal areas have migrated to other areas to look for greener pastures or pursue their studies further.

Figure 4.3 indicates the difference in profiles in this study will help to understand that even though the target group is rural women but which age group are keen to understand the economic empowerment issues. It will also assist to classify the economic empowerment activities so that it should not be one size fit all. Not all participants will be interested in one activity or would want to have an understanding on issues they already know and understand.

Figure 4.3 Differences in Profiles

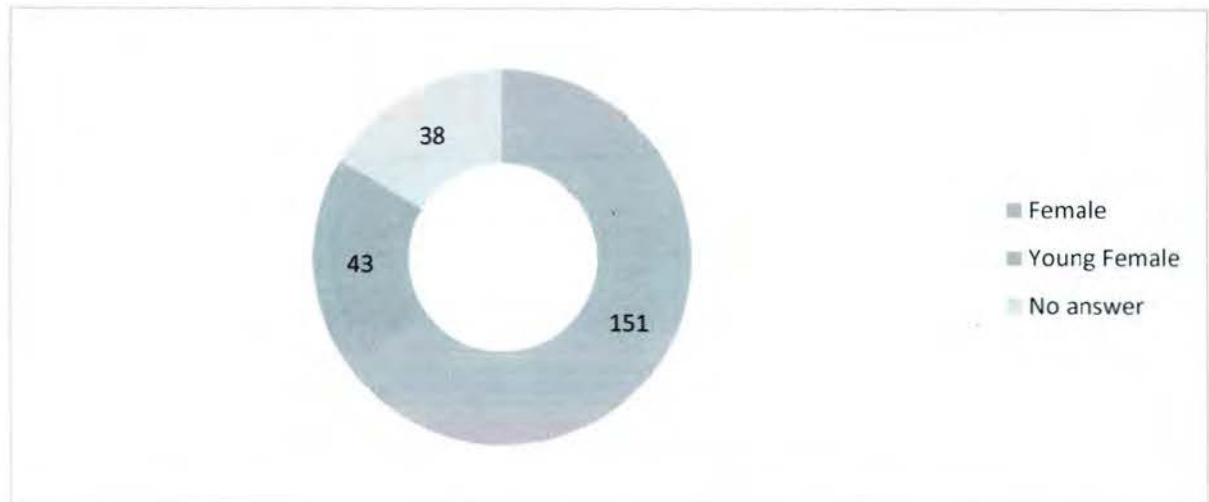
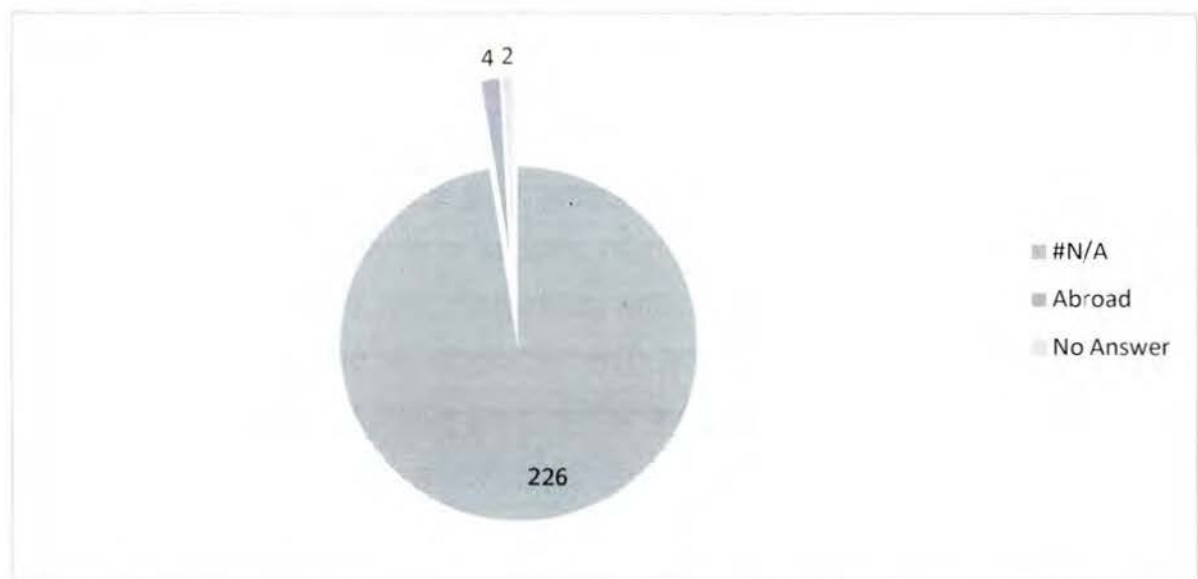


Figure 4.4 shows diversity in South Africa that is also depicted in municipal areas

Figure 4.4 Citizenship



During the research process we realised that there were other women from other countries (some for example were from Zimbabwe) they also felt that they wanted to participate. The research is aimed at investigating economic empowerment of rural women in Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipality, even though they were allowed them to participate, this will have a negative impact in this research study due to limited number of resources in this district.

Table 4.3: Years staying in the area

Years	
0-1	22
1.1-5	29
6-10	53
11-15	31
16+	97

Table 4.3 shows that twenty two (9.48%) of the respondents had stayed in their municipal areas for a period of not more than two years. Twenty nine (12.51%) indicated that their length of stay were between two – five years in their municipal areas. Fifty three (22.84%) had stayed in their municipal areas for more than five years but less than ten years. Thirty one (13.36%) said they had resided in their respective municipal areas for a period between ten and fifteen years. Ninety seven (41.81%) had stayed in their areas for a period between fifteen and more years. The length of stay in a specific municipal area a good measure for the respondents to provide the researcher with the level of knowledge that the respondents might have in connection with economic developmental projects or activities that has taken place prior -2000 and post - 2000 developmental local government elections.

4.4 Measures of correlation

The next section will discuss the association between selected summarised stats and will show the relevance of this. S:(n) correlation coefficient, coefficient of correlation, correlation (a statistic representing how closely two variables co-vary; it can vary from -1 (perfect negative correlation) through 0 (no correlation) to +1 (perfect positive correlation)) "what is the correlation between those two variables?"

4.4.1 Gender vs. Understanding of the meaning of Economic Empowerment

The correlation between gender and Do you understand the meaning of Economic Empowerment is a good positive correlation of 0.58. This shows that there is an association between the older woman and economic empowerment. It is positive and shows that the older you get the more economic empowerment are important for you. Institute's Centre for Education and Development of Rural Women (1993) emphasises that rural women's mindset of 'dependency' must be changed so that they become conscious of their abilities to change themselves, their families, and their community. Their empowerment would lie in becoming creative, self-dependent, individuals. Some of the action-research projects of the Institute have provided insights into the methodology of enabling the oppressed to reflect upon their predicaments so as to find ways of learning new skills and approaches to become effective partners in development.

4.4.2 Gender vs. Awareness of any Economic Empowerment Initiatives in an area

The correlation is even higher (0.71) between gender and Are you aware of any Economic Empowerment Initiatives in your area. This shows that older woman is more aware of the environment and what their needs are in the economic area of their lives. For some of them it might be that they are too old. Sobhan (2001) argues that the inequitable and unjust social and economic universe is compounded by a system of unjust governance which discriminates against the poor and effectively disenfranchises them from the political benefits of a democratic process. Policies and strategies should be developed which enable women to participate fully in social and economic activities because there is a general scarcity of intellectual and well-developed policies regarding rural women (Afzal, 2009). Lahiri-Dutt and Samanta (2006) expressed an opinion that state policies must be recognise and respect the new identities of women have built and the new spaces they created for themselves in the community through their work efforts, and help to advance them.

4.4.3 Qualified People vs. Outcomes of Economic Empowerment Initiatives

Being Negative or Positive

The association between the qualified people and the Do you think that the outcomes of the Economic Empowerment initiatives are negative or positive is a negative correlation of -0.27. This means that the less qualified people are more aware of economic empowerment than degree people. It could be that the 26 people that did not answer the question could be having an impact on this answer. If one compare with the previous results then it means that younger people with no degree are more aware of economic empowerment because it impacts on their lives. More qualified people do not participate in providing response to research questions. Many of the questionnaires that were not returned were given to qualified individuals with the hope that they would be able to return them claiming limited time as a contributing factor. Joseph and Andrew (2007) express an opinion that access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can have a dramatic impact on poverty alleviation for rural women and for achieving socio economic development goals. Rural women need to treat ICTs as an empowerment tool and a means to a living. The use of mobile communication devices and internet are changing the way agricultural activities are managed by farmers nowadays. Rural women's lack of mobility and less hands-on computer experience might hinder women's welfare and empowerment. Women need to be empowered with skills, knowledge and confidence to determine the development path they wish to follow and to challenge the entrenched structures which hamper them (Scheyvens, 2003).

4.4.4 Employment Status vs. LED Strategy

The next correlation that was calculated was between employment status and Do you think the LED Strategy suit you as rural women. There was a high positive correlation of 0.95 between the two. This means that there is a good measure of association between employed/not employed and understands and not understands. The correlation is proof that there is a link between the LED strategy and the empowerment of woman. LED is not one particular strategy or theory, but rather it is a wide range of activities that are implemented at the local level in response to local developmental needs and it can be described as a locally-driven

process designed to identify, harness and utilise local resources to stimulate the economy and create new employment opportunities. It is therefore a process by which public, business and non-governmental sector partners collectively (or independently) work together to create better conditions for economic growth and employment creation (Nel, 2001). LED occurs best when a partnership between the local authority, business, NGO's and most importantly, individuals is formed, and together they strive to improve the localities economic status by combining skills, resources and ideas.

4.4.5 Years of staying in an area vs. Jobs in the Region Specifically for

Women

The correlation between the Years of staying in this area and Are there any jobs in your region specifically for women is very low (0.07). In other words there is small correlation between the reason for staying in the area and the reason for a job. This could be further investigated to find out the reason why people are staying in the area if there are no jobs. The economic empowerment could be a good reason for this. According to Cambridge English Dictionary (2006) empowerment means to authorise. In the context of the people they have to be authorized to have control over their lives. When applied in the context of development the particular segment of population, the poor, the women, the vulnerable, the weak, the oppressed and the discriminated have to be empowered to have control over their lives to better their socioeconomic and political conditions. Ideally speaking no one empowers any one, the best way is 'self-empowerment', by the segments of population mentioned above are handicapped both structurally and culturally to empower themselves without any outside help and affirmative action by the State and others. But still as long as these segments of population does not make any effort at self-employment. It would be long and arduous task and process for the outsiders to empower them.

4.4.6 Citizenship vs. Knowing what these Organisations Do

The correlation between the citizenship and Do you know what these organisations do is a negative correlation of -0.28. This means that there is a negative link between the citizenship and knowledge what woman's empowerment

organisations do. The more local people have less knowledge of these organisations. This means that people should be more informed. Kangolo and Bamgose (2002) state that this study observed that a lack of information, lack of resources and government assistance, lack of education, cultural values and discrimination against rural women were the most important factors contributing to the inactive participation of rural women in developments. Further inferences can be drawn in relation to the age structure of respondents, which it has impacted negatively on rural women participation, mostly for those in the category of 65 years and above.

4.4.7 Ethnicity vs. Awareness of the LED Strategy initiatives

The association between the Ethnicity and Are you aware of the LED Strategy initiatives shows a correlation of 0.48 between the race one belongs to and the awareness of LED strategy initiatives. Most of the black people are not aware of these initiatives. The lack of consultative processes involving women might have been ignored. Women in South Africa's rural areas are the ones who run the families, while their husbands are working in the cities. Traditionally, women in rural areas have been regarded as people who belong at home, expected to minister to their husbands and children, but when it comes to making decisions on economic and political issues, men take the lead (Zondo, 1995).

4.4.8 Age vs. Years Staying in the Area

The correlation between age and the years staying in the area shows a negative correlation of -0.65 meaning that people staying long are the older people. This shows that the sample was representative and could mean that people are not moving away. It might also mean that there is an older population of ladies and that their need for economic empowerment is high. The added challenges and hardships associated with male migration can leave rural women more economically vulnerable than ever. As men migrate and women become the heads of their families, women take on more responsibility, including in the agricultural sector. But migration also has the potential to increase rural women's agency and decision-making power, in part because of the population churn associated with migration (Pruitt, 2009).

4.4.9 Understanding of the Meaning of Economic Empowerment vs.

Awareness of any Economic Empowerment Initiatives in an Area

The association between Do you understand the meaning of Economic Empowerment and Are you aware of any Economic Empowerment Initiatives in your area shows a near perfect correlation of 0.99. This means that there is a high link between the fact that people do not understand what economic empowerment means and the awareness of empowerment initiatives in their environment. Many people in the area tend to be ignorant or less caring of economic activities happening in their area of jurisdiction. Many of these people are careerists who are only interested in building their career paths. Some are interested in their lives and those of their families, they are careless of what is happening around them. Some perceive these initiatives as belonging to some people especially the poor and the vulnerable members of the society or maybe some if not most their expectations were not met.

4.4.10 Race vs. Outcomes of Economic Empowerment Initiatives being

Negative or Positive

There is a high correlation (0.99) between Q1 (race) and Q10 (Do you think that the outcomes of the Economic Empowerment initiatives are negative or positive). The black people think that empowerment does not help them and this should be addressed by the powers to be. Kehler (2000) states that six years after South Africa's first democratic election, the majority of people still live in poverty and under living conditions that permanently threaten their well-being. And even though equal access to resources and opportunities, as well as socio-economic rights are provided for and protected by South Africa's constitutional and legislative dispensation, it is still far from reality. It is Governments who should reach out to the poor whose votes elect them to office. Such an effort should not, however, manifest itself as an a pro-forma, pre-budget exercise in bureaucratic tourism of some rural areas but should be institutionalized into the structures of governance. The consultative process each year should be preceded by a process whereby the concerns of the poor are systematically recorded and

reviewed by the budget makers before they embark on their annual consultative encounters with the poor (Sobhan, 2001).

4.4 11 Outcomes of Economic Empowerment Initiatives being Negative or

Positive vs. Awareness of LED Strategy Initiatives

There is a positive correlation of 0.61 between Do you think that the outcomes of the Economic Empowerment initiatives are negative or positive and Are you aware of the LED Strategy initiatives. This means the outcomes and the awareness are linked and that people are aware of the initiatives and awareness of it. Zaaier and Sara (1993) state that LED is essentially a process in which local governments and/or community based groups manage their existing resources and enter into partnership arrangements with the private sector, or with each other, to create new jobs and stimulate economic activity in an economic area. From the above definitions, it can be summed up that local economic development (LED) offers local government, the private sector, none profit sectors, and local communities the opportunity to work together to improve the local economy. It focuses on enhancing competitiveness, increasing sustainable growth and ensuring that growth is inclusive. LED encompasses a range of disciplines including economics, marketing and physical planning.

4.4.12 Employment status vs. Do you think of these could be Useful in Your

Endeavours

The correlation between employment status and Do you think of these could be useful in your endeavours is 0.95. This could be interpreted that the unemployed people do not think there is a help for them if they do not have a job. Policies and strategies should be developed which enable women to participate fully in social and economic activities because there is a general scarcity of intellectual and well-developed policies regarding rural women (Afzal, 2009). Lahiri-Dutt and Samanta (2006) expressed an opinion that state policies must be recognise and respect the new identities of women have built and the new spaces they created for themselves in the community through their work efforts, and help to advance them.

4.4.13 Which of these have you used before vs. Do you think of these could Be Useful in Your Endeavours

There is a correlation, between the usefulness of the empowerment and people who used it before Which of these have you used before and Do you think of these could be useful in your endeavours of 0.93. This means that people that do not use it thinks that the empowerment initiatives are not useful. Page and Czuba (1999) state that at the core of the concept of empowerment is the idea of power. The possibility of empowerment depends on two things. First, empowerment requires that power can change. If power cannot change, if it is inherent in positions or people, then empowerment is not possible, nor is empowerment conceivable in any meaningful way. In other words, if power can change, then empowerment is possible. Second, the concept of empowerment depends upon the idea that power can expand. The second point reflects common experiences of power rather than the thought about power. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (2005) states that the empowerment of women has to do with awareness and consciousness, with having a voice in the public and the political arena, individually or collectively. It also includes the existence of alternatives and choices.

4.4.14 Have You any Knowledge about the Organizations and Do You Know What These Organisations Do

The correlation between the Have you any knowledge about the following organizations and Do you know what these organisations do is a negative correlation of -0.25. This means that there is a negative link between the knowledge about organisations and knowledge what woman's empowerment organisations do. The more local people have less knowledge of these organisations. This means that people should be more informed. Mule (2005) argued that poverty is not just a statistic. It is about misery, under-nourishment, ill health, lack of education and other basic needs for decent living, shortened life expectancy, and lack of hope. It is about people's inability to achieve their full potential. It is about missed opportunities. It is a negation of humanity. Rural women's economic empowerment required, among other things, defining the

uniqueness of rural poverty for women and the specific issues they faced, in addition to more information and support tools to help women find and navigate community services and survive poverty (Purdon, 2008).

4.4.15 Qualification vs. Awareness of the LED Strategy Initiatives

The correlation between Qualification and Awareness of the LED Strategy Initiatives is negative correlation of -0.31. The association between the qualified people and the Awareness of the LED Strategy Initiatives is a negative correlation of -0.31. This means that less qualified people are more concerned about the economic empowerment initiatives in their municipal areas. The reason could be they have jobs and some are concentrating on their careers than the unemployed people who are still hoping to get a job through these initiatives.

4.4.16 Are you Aware of Any Economic Empowerment Initiatives in Your Area vs. An LED Forum Where You as Rural Women can Participate?

The association between Are you aware of any Economic Empowerment Initiatives in your area and Is there an LED forum where you as rural women can participate shows a near perfect correlation of 0.9994. This means that there is a high link between the fact that people are aware of economic empowerment initiatives in their area and there is an LED forum where as rural women can participate. Scheyvens (2003) states that many writers have noted the contribution that strong grass roots organisations have made to the empowerment of women. Women organisations have helped women to identify their concerns and work to achieve more power. They also have provided women with opportunities for attaining leadership and management skills and developing networks. Many women have benefitted from such organisations because they contributed by broadening their awareness and increased their confidence.

4.4.17 Do you think that the LED Strategy Suits you as Rural Women vs.

An LED Forum where you as Rural Women can Participate?

There is a positive correlation of 0.96 between Do you think that the LED Strategy suits you as rural women and an LED forum where rural women can participate? LED is not one particular strategy or theory, but rather it is a wide range of

activities that are implemented at the local level in response to local developmental needs and it can be described as a locally-driven process designed to identify, harness and utilise local resources to stimulate the economy and create new employment opportunities. It is therefore a process by which public, business and non-governmental sector partners collectively (or independently) work together to create better conditions for economic growth and employment creation (Nel, 2001).

**4.4. 18 Is there an LED Forum Where you as Rural Women can Participate
vs. Which of These have You Used Before?**

The association between an LED forum where rural women can participate and Which of these have you used before. It shows a correlation of 0.97 between an LED forum where rural women can participate and which of these have you used before (Nel, 2001). LED occurs best when a partnership between the local authority, business, NGO's and most importantly, individuals is formed, and together they strive to improve the localities economic status by combining skills, resources and ideas.

**4.4. 19 Have you any Knowledge About the Following Organizations vs. Do
You Know What These Organisations Do?**

The correlation between any knowledge about the following organizations and the knowledge of what these organisations do of 0.39. In other words there is positive correlation between the knowledge about the following organizations and the knowledge of what these organisations do. Women's rights organisations play an indispensable role in their communities, nations, and regions as the agents of change. Women's movements have arguably been leading the most successful social revolution the world has ever seen. Gender inequality, on the other hand, is still the most pervasive, systemic and universal form of discrimination on the planet. There is much work to be done. And, this report argues, women's movements need to be funded (Kerr, 2007).

4.4.20 Do you Know What these Organisations Do vs. Do you Think of These Could be Useful in Your Endeavours?

There is a correlation between Do you know what these organisations do and Do you think of these could be useful in your endeavours is 0.75. This means that people that do not use it thinks that the empowerment initiatives are not useful. Datta (2003) reveals that since 1972, SEWA has transformed itself from a trade organization of poor, self-employed workers to a labour, cooperative, and women's movement, which has contributed significantly to the economic and social well-being of large numbers of women and households. Indigenous groups, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and international organizations such as the United Nations have been influential in evaluating women's status and making recommendations to governments about addressing empowerment strategies and alleviating gender discrimination at all levels.

4.5 Frequency counts

Dr Ruth S Municipality district municipality is predominately rural by nature (IDP, 2002). The questionnaire was used as a tool to gather data from the participating group, that is, rural women. The response rate assisted the researcher a great deal as the participants were able to respond to questions related to economic empowerment of rural women.

Table 4.4: Are there any jobs in your region specifically for women?

Reaction	Frequency
I strongly agree	3
I agree	43
I disagree	131
I strongly disagree	36
No answer	19

Table 4.4 depicts that three (1.29%) of the respondents strongly agree that there are jobs in the region specifically for women, 43 (18.53%) respondents agree that there are jobs in the region specifically for women. One hundred and thirty one

(56.46%) respondents disagree that there are jobs in the region specifically for women. Thirty six (15.51%) strongly disagree that there are jobs in the region specifically for women and 19 (8.18%) of the total respondents did not want to answer the question. More women tend to disagree, due to the fact that there are less jobs in the region as compared to their male counterparts. Women in South Africa's rural areas are the ones who run the families, while their husbands are working in the cities. Traditionally, women in rural areas have been regarded as people who belong at home, expected to minister to their husbands and children, but when it comes to making decisions on economic and political issues, men take the lead (Zondo, 1995).

Table 4.5: Do you understand the meaning of Economic Empowerment?

Yes	118
No	111
Did not want to answer	3

Table 4.5 shows that 118(50.56%) of the respondents understand the meaning of economic empowerment while 111 (47.84%) indicated that they do not understand the meaning of economic empowerment. Three (1.29%) of the total respondents did not want to answer the question. The totals for yes or no are nearly equal due the fact that women have shown interest in participating fully as their male counterparts in economic activities some might have lost faith and patience. The situation in rural areas is such that if you are female, you do not play any role in the societal debates. Even the 1994 African Common Position on Human and Social Development Forum describes women as part of the marginalised, vulnerable sections of the population and they are grouped with children, youth, elderly and the disabled. No matter which rural government option is chosen, it seems that women in rural areas will always remain where they are, and ultimately will end up in a worse position (Hunger Project, 2000). Rural women still don't have ownership on land and due to this they can't take independent decisions on various agricultural aspects (Afzal, 2009).

Table 4.6: Do you think the LED Strategy suit you as rural women?

Yes	103
No	112
Did not want to answer	17

Table 4.6 shows that 103(44.39%) of the respondents think that the LED Strategy suits them as rural women while 112 (48.27%) indicated that the LED Strategy does not suits them as rural women. Seventeen (7.32%) of the total respondents did not want to answer the question. The response rates of yes or no are nearly equal, it can mean a fairly number of them have participated while the other half did not participate in the development or crafting of the LED Strategy.. The other group that did not want to answer may be as a results of lack of interest in the question or they careless to participate in this process because they felt that their contribution will not be considered as always happen at different levels of debates. A report by the Hunger Project (2000) reveals that when women are included in official planning, they are often treated as powerless individuals who should be given assistance. In the foreword to the alternative framework for structural adjustment programmes for socio-economic recovery and transformation, it is recognised that women play a crucial role as producers and agents of change in rural transformation, and that the negative effect on rural development is brought about by their marginalisation.

Table 4.7: Is there an LED forum where you as rural women can participate?

Yes	123
No	100
Did not want to answer	9

Table 4.7 shows that 123(53.01%) of the respondents agree that there is an LED forum where rural women can participate while 100(43.10%) indicated that disagree that there is an LED forum where rural women can participate. Nine (3.87%) of the total respondents did not want to answer the question. The response rate for yes is high. It is true in a sense that many unemployed individuals are the ones that attends these forums with the hope that they will get

employed. The unemployed groups within communities are the one that get empowered in the process due to the fact that they attend these forums and obtain first hand information and ultimately they become knowledgeable and empowered as compared to the employed group. The employed members within communities they do not attend forums because they feel that there is nothing to know because they have jobs.

Table 4.8: Are you aware of any Economic Empowerment Initiatives in your area?

Yes	128
No	99
Did not want to answer	5

Table 4.8 shows that 128(55.17%) of the respondents agree that they are aware economic empowerment initiatives in their area while 99(42.67%) indicated that they disagree that there are aware economic empowerment initiatives in their area. Five (2.15%) of the total respondents did not want to answer the question. More people are aware of economic empowerment in their municipal area of jurisdiction even though the majority still indicates that they are not aware of economic activities in their area. The stance might be those who have acquired jobs through economic empowerment processes would agree to that and the majority of those who have not acquired jobs through these initiatives will tend not to agree to the fact that they are aware of these initiatives. Previously the questionnaires has indicated that the majority of the people who stay long in this region are older persons as compared to the young ones and most of them do not have jobs.

Table 4.9: Are you aware of the LED Strategy initiatives?

Yes	85
No	116
Did not want to answer	30
Both yes and no	1

Table 4.9 shows that 85(36.63%) of the respondents agree that they are aware LED Strategy initiatives in their area while 116(50%) indicated that disagree they

are not aware of LED Strategy initiatives in their area. Thirty (12.93%) of the total respondents did not want to answer the question. Only one (0.43%) responded both yes or no. According to the World Bank (2000) LED is the process by which the public, business and non-governmental sectors work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation. The intention is to improve the quality of life for all. A World Bank (2002) document titled LED definition asserts that LED is about local people working together to achieve sustainable economic growth that brings economic benefits and quality of life to all the community.

LED is a new concept introduced by the Government in 2000 after the first democratic Local Government was put in place. The way LED was conceptualised was not understood by many people. Even government officials still struggle to come with uniform approach that will assist in implementing this concept that is why the response rate of No is so high. Those who did not want to answer, it might be it is true they do not know what LED is all about but they have heard about it. The Yes response rate might indicate that the communication line between Government and the people is non-existent. Hence the government is faced with a challenge to make people aware about the existing programmes.

Table 4.10: Have you any knowledge about the empowerment organisations?

Yes	133
No	90
Did not want to answer	9

Table 4.10 depicts that 133 (57.32%) of the respondents had knowledge about the empowerment organisations while 90 (38.79%) indicated that they had no knowledge of the empowerment organisations. Nine (3.87%) of the total respondents did not want to answer the question. Some of the respondents are ignorant to an extent that they will just respond to question because they are requested to. Some really you might find out that they cannot relate the two organisations due to lack of knowledge.

Table 4.11: Do you know what these organisations do?

Yes	59
No	139
Did not want to answer	34

Table 4.11 shows that 59 (25.43%) of the respondents know what these organisations do while 139 (59.91%) indicated that they had no knowledge of what these organisations do. Thirty four (14.65%) of the total respondents did not want to answer the question. People why they know about empowerment organisations but nothing about what these organisations do? In some instances and might find that the respondents have heard about the organisations but they did not really bother to know and understand what the organisation is all about and what it intends to do for communities at large. Normally, it happens where people are more concentrated on their jobs or careers.

Table 4.12: Have you used an empowerment organisation before?

Yes	113
No	119
Did not want to answer	0

Table 4.12 shows that 113(48.71%) of the respondents have used an empowerment organisations before while 119 (51.29%) indicated that have not used an empowerment organisations before. Zero (0%) of the total respondents did not want to answer the question. Lack of understanding as to what these organisations do might contribute to the people not using these organisations in order to assist them to get employment or even create jobs for themselves. Xiaoping (2000) stresses that the concept of employment for women in the new circumstances. Women employment is an important issue that has to do with women's survival and development, with political liberation, and with their economic independence. Kandiyoti (1990) argues that a certain amount of training and education, as well as the creation of organisations to facilitate credit and marketing outlets (such as women producers' co-operatives) are advocated as realistic objectives.

Table 4.13: Do you think of these could be useful in your endeavours?

Yes	95
No	102
Did not want to answer	35

Table 4.13 depicts that 95(40.94%) of the respondents thinks that empowerment organisations could be useful in their endeavours while 102 (43.96%) thinks that empowerment organisations could not be useful in their endeavours. Thirty five (15.08%) of the total respondents did not want to answer the question. One would expect that they would regard this as useful. However, maybe this is because there are many older people around and they do not care about empowerment. The young females are migrating to big cities for better career paths. Some are concentrating on their studies in other areas. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (2003) states that illiteracy continues to greatly limit the capacities and opportunities of rural women. On an individual level, illiteracy hinders women's ability to acquire productive skills with which to meet market demand, undermines their self-confidence, and makes them vulnerable in the face of all those daily activities for which reading may make the difference between life and death.

Table 4.14: Do you think that the outcomes of the Economic Empowerment initiatives are negative or positive?

Yes	127
No	41
Did not want to answer	13
Both yes and no	1

Table 4.14 shows that 127(54.74%) of the respondents thinks that the outcomes of empowerment initiatives are negative or positive while 41 (17.67%) thinks that the outcomes of empowerment initiatives are not negative or positive. Thirteen (5.60%) of the total respondents did not want to answer the question. Only one (0.43) responded to both questions. It would seem funny that they answer this in the positive style since they know about it but not what it is supposedly doing? It

poses a challenge to Government that they are not doing enough to make communities aware about their programmes. It also shows that some people in different communities are confused they do not know or understand the programmes undertaken by Government.

4.6 Standard deviation

Standard Deviation is an important metric in statistics because it provides validity to your input data although this is a wide spread it shows that one did not thumb suck the data. One should admit that a smaller Standard Deviation would give greater validity to do so in this case and one could reject the data in this case. However, one would argue that the research could have only visited one race which would have given a better spread but then the research would have been biased. The Standard Deviation, as discussed below, shows that the area under research is still new and people are not informed about the issue and thus the large Standard Deviation. In probability theory and statistics, the standard deviation of a statistical population, a data set, or a probability distribution is the square root of its variance. Standard deviation is a widely used measure of the variability or dispersion, being algebraically more tractable though practically less robust than the expected deviation or average absolute deviation.

It shows how much variation there is from the "average" (mean). A low standard deviation indicates that the data points tend to be very close to the mean, whereas high standard deviation indicates that the data are spread out over a large range of values.

The first standard deviation is of the racial divide and the answer here will demonstrate that there is some divide in that the answer is 68.8. This is a large deviation and it shows that there is a wide spread of data in the racial spread. This is even wider because there could be a lower limit of 0. This could be demonstrated by the fact that the African contingent is by far the biggest representation and that they are more aware of the empowerment issue. The idea of empowerment has taken a hold over the minds of increasing number of persons in the last few years. It is now widely employed in the press, on television and in political, academic and even legal circles. There is a need for the empowerment of the poor, of backward communities, of women and of various other disadvantaged

sections of society. Empowerment is seen by many politicians, publicists, social activists and a growing section of the intelligentsia generally as the only effective answer to oppression, exploitation, injustice and the other maladies with which our society is beset (Beteille, 1999).

The employment standard deviation is 33.2, not as wide as the previous one, maybe because there are only three numbers. Again the one is large impacting upon the others. The distribution around both sides of the mean is thus wide. This would impact on the empowerment issue because of the large unemployment issue.

The age standard deviation is 32.4, not as wide as the previous one. Again the younger age is large impacting upon the others. The distribution around both sides of the mean is thus wide. This would impact on the empowerment issue because of the younger age that should be an issue.

The number of year living in the area standard deviation is 30.6, not as wide as the previous one. Again the number of years living in the area is impacting upon the others. The distribution around both sides of the mean is not as wide as the others. This would impact on the empowerment issue because of the lesser number of years should be an issue.

The number of jobs largely for woman standard deviation is 49.8, not as wide as the previous one. Again the number of jobs largely for woman is impacting upon the others. The distribution around both sides of the mean is as wide as the others. This would impact on the empowerment issue because of the number of jobs should be an issue according to Governmental policy. It is Governments who should reach out to the poor whose votes elect them to office. Such an effort should not, however, manifest itself as an a pro-forma, pre-budget exercise in bureaucratic tourism of some rural areas but should be institutionalized into the structures of governance. The consultative process each year should be proceeded by a process whereby the concerns of the poor are systematically recorded and reviewed by the budget makers before they embark on their annual consultative encounters with the poor (Sobhan, 2001).

4.7 F ratio and ANOVA table

ANOVA partitions the variability among all the values into one component that is due to variability among group means (due to the treatment) and another component that is due to variability within the groups (also called residual variation). Variability within groups (within the columns) is quantified as the sum of squares of the differences between each value and its group mean. This is the residual sum-of-squares. Variation among groups (due to treatment) is quantified as the sum of the squares of the differences between the group means and the grand mean (the mean of all values in all groups). Adjusted for the size of each group, this becomes the treatment sum-of-squares. Each sum-of-squares is associated with a certain number of degrees of freedom (df, computed from number of subjects and number of groups), and the mean square (MS) is computed by dividing the sum-of-squares by the appropriate number of degrees of freedom.

The F ratio is the ratio of two mean square values. If the null hypothesis is true, you expect F to have a value close to 1.0 most of the time. A large F ratio means that the variation among group means is more than you'd expect to see by chance. You'll see a large F ratio both when the null hypothesis is wrong (the data are not sampled from populations with the same mean) and when random sampling happened to end up with large values in some groups and small values in others.

The P value is determined from the F ratio and the two values for degrees of freedom shown in the ANOVA table.

Table 4.15: ANOVA between knowledge of empowerment organisations

Groups				
Name	Count	Average	Standard Deviation	
Yes	4	100	31.43247	
No	4	112.5	21.29945	
No answer	4	19.5	17.71064	
Test for equal variance				
F	DFn	DFd	P	
0.51789976	2	9	0.612502	

PASS - equal variance may be assumed ($p > 0.05$).				
Analysis of variance				
	SS	DF		
Between	20380.67	2		
Within	5266	9		
F	17.41607			
P	0.000805	***		
Posthoc test: Bonferroni-Holm				
Group 1	Group 2	Critical	P	Significant?
No	No answer	0.016667	0.00053	Yes
Yes	No answer	0.025	0.004272	Yes
Yes	No	0.05	0.534698	No

In the table above the ANOVA was calculated between the knowledge of the different empowerment organisations and the knowledge of what they do and if these empowerment organisations were used. The test was done to determine the effects of treatment levels among various aspects of empowerment organisations. The assumption is therefore made that the means of the sampled population are equal or that certain combinations of treatments or groups are equal. The F-value is above 5% and the alternative proposal is accepted that there are true differences amongst the groups. The Bonferroni-Holm test shows that with test $\alpha=5$, then reject the last test show in the table and accept the first two stating that there is a link between no and no answer in the first instance and yes and no answer in the second grouping. This means that there is always a link between the no answer and the no or yes marked by the respondents. The standard deviation in this case is huge for the first two lines but lower for the third one. The software programme also stated that equal variance may be assumed and this is important since it shows that answers were given with equal value. Participation in rural cooperatives is often seen as an instrument for empowerment of women, opening new opportunities to master financial skills and create economic enterprises (Malhotra & Mather, 1997; Donahoe, 1999). Rural Poverty Report (2001) stresses that land reform can do much to reduce poverty. Much land is locked into large, inefficient farms, whereas small, equally-sized farms promote employment, efficiency and growth. Giving women rights to land also gives them power,

especially by improving their reservation wage and hence their role and bargaining strengths within marriage. Such empowerment reduces women's vulnerability within the household.

Table 4.16: ANOVA between knowledge of LED empowerment

Groups				
Name	Count	Avg.	Standard Deviation	
Yes	3	103.6667	19.00877	
No	3	109.3333	8.326664	
No answer	3	18.66667	10.59874	
Test for equal variance				
F	DFn	DFd	P	
0.659504132	2	6	0.550931	
PASS - equal variance may be assumed ($p > 0.05$).				
Analysis of variance				
	SS	DF		
Between	15477.56	2		
Within	1086	6		
F	42.75568			
P	0.000282	***		
Posthoc test: Bonferroni-Holm				
Group 1	Group 2	Critical	P	Significant?
No	No answer	0.016667	0.00031	Yes
Yes	No answer	0.025	0.002491	Yes
Yes	No	0.05	0.6609	No

In the table above the ANOVA was calculated between the knowledge of the LED empowerment organisation and the knowledge of if the local woman belongs to the LED they do and if they were aware of what the LED do. The test was done to determine the effects of treatment levels among various aspects of LED empowerment. The assumption is therefore made that the means of the sampled population are equal or that certain combinations of treatments or groups are equal. The F-value is above 5% and the alternative proposal is accepted that there are true differences amongst the groups. The Bonferroni-Holm test shows that with test $\alpha=5$, then we reject the last test show in the table and accept the first two stating that there is a link between no and no answer in the first instance and yes and no answer in the second grouping. This means that there is always a link between the no answer and the no or yes marked by the respondents. The

standard deviation in this case is huge for the first line but within limits for the second one stating that there is not such a big difference between the maximum and the minimum values but the third one was a bit higher. The software programme also stated that equal variance may be assumed and this is important since it shows that answers were given with equal value. Boatema (2001) observes that the women's empowerment framework reflects the theoretical assumption that women's lives are constrained not only by unequal access to land and control of resources but also by their limited ability to participate in decision-making and to exercise autonomy in making decisions that affect them. The empowerment framework further assumes that the extent of women's own recognition of gender inequality is important in enabling them to act to change not only their access to resources but also by their limited ability to participate in decision-making and to exercise autonomy in making decisions that affect them. It further assumes that the extent of women's own recognition of gender inequality is important in enabling them to act to change not only their access to resources but also to decision-making power.

Table 4.17: ANOVA between knowledge of economic empowerment

Groups				
Name	Count	Average	Standard Deviation	
Yes	3	124.3333	5.507570547	
No	3	83.66667	37.43438704	
No answer	3	7	5.291502622	
Test for equal variance				
F	DFn	DFd	P	
1.225740552	2	6	0.357812309	
PASS - equal variance may be assumed ($p > 0.05$).				
Analysis of variance				
	SS	DF		
Between	21298.66667	2		
Within	2919.333333	6		
F	21.88718886			
P	0.001751605	**		
Posthoc test: Bonferroni-Holm				
Group 1	Group 2	Critical	P	Significant?
Yes	No answer	0.016667	1.18571E-05	Yes
No	No answer	0.025	0.024619079	Yes

Yes	No	0.05	0.136153528	No
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In the table above the ANOVA was calculated between the knowledge of the economic empowerment and the knowledge of if the local woman are aware of economic empowerment and if the economic empowerment is negative or positive. The test was done to determine the effects of treatment levels among various aspects of economic empowerment. The assumption is therefore made that the means of the sampled population are equal or that certain combinations of treatments or groups are equal. The F-value is above 5% and the alternative proposal is accepted that there are true differences amongst the groups. The Bonferroni-Holm test shows that with test $\alpha=5$, then reject the last test shown in the table and accept the first two stating that there is a link between no and no answer in the first instance and yes and no answer in the second grouping. This means that there is always a link between the no answer and the no or yes marked by the respondents. The standard deviation in this case is small for the first and last line but outside limits for the second one stating that there is not such a big difference between the maximum and the minimum values. The software programme also stated that equal variance may be assumed and this is important since it shows that answers were given with equal value. Empowerment has other several dimensions like social, economic, psychological and political. Social empowerment connotes formations of social capacities such as health, education, freedom and opportunities of realising one's potentialities. Economic empowerment implies entitlement to employment, income, property, productive resources and benefits regardless of gender differences. Psychological empowerment signifies confidence building, acquisition of sense of efficacy and ability to overcome the feeling of helplessness. Political empowerment implies equal say in decision making process in the power structure at all levels from local to global. All these dimensions are so intertwined with one another that over reliance on one to the neglect of other are not going to work (Sharma, 2000).

4.8 Chi-square

The chi-square is one of the popular statistics because it is easy to calculate and interpret. There are two kinds of chi-square tests. The first is called a one-way analysis, and the second is called a two-way analysis. The purpose of both is to determine whether the observed frequencies (counts) markedly differ from the frequencies that a researcher would expect by chance. The observed cell frequencies are organized in rows and columns like a spreadsheet. This table of observed cell frequencies is called a contingency table, and the chi-square test is part of a contingency table analysis.

The Chi-square test between the meaning and the outcomes of economic empowerment is 0.70. This is below 1 and can be stated that the meaning and the outcome support each other. This means that the real meaning of economic empowerment is fully understood by the people wanting to apply this. People in different communities believe that access to information can have a dramatic impact on poverty alleviation for rural women and women in general and it will help them to achieve their socio-economic developmental goals. Many people are participating in LED forums to enhance their knowledge and understanding.

The Chi-Square test between LED strategy and awareness of the LED is fairly high and the LED strategy awareness and suiting is equally independent and fully understood by the people that are aware of each of these. LED Strategy is developed by government in consultation with different stakeholders with a municipal area, hence there is awareness among community members because they tend to participate fully and provide inputs and comments to be included during the development of the strategy.

The Chi-Square test between the economic empowerment awareness and LED strategy is 0.001 which shows that there is an understanding between the different positions and should be fully exploited by the authorities. It is Governments who should reach out to the poor whose votes elect them to office. Such an effort should not, however, manifest itself as a pro-forma, pre-budget exercise in bureaucratic tourism of some rural areas but should be institutionalized into the structures of governance. The consultative process each year should be preceded by a process whereby the concerns of the poor are systematically

recorded and reviewed by the budget makers before they embark on their annual consultative encounters with the poor (Sobhan, 2001).

The Chi-Square test between gender and understanding of the meaning of economic empowerment support each other. This means that older women are more interested in economic empowerment initiatives to better their lives. The fully Understand what thus that mean, they know for the fact that if they participate as older women it will change their mindset of dependency and they will become conscious of their abilities to change themselves and their families.

The Chi-Square test between qualified people and outcomes of economic empowerment initiatives are not in support of each other and equally independent from each other. This means that the less qualified people are more aware of economic empowerment than the educated people. Many people who are unemployed within communities are the one who attend meetings and participate in LED forums. The qualified are not interested in participating in these forums due to the fact that they are more into their careers and work activities.

The Chi-Square test between the years of staying in this area and jobs in the region specifically for women is very low and it is fully understood by people and they are aware of these. The development of LED Strategy is one of the mechanisms to find ways to create jobs in a municipal area of jurisdiction. The authorities have to ensure that the strategy is fully implemented after it has been developed in order to create jobs for the unemployed in the area to ensure that they stay in the area.

The Chi-Square test between citizenship and the understanding of what these organisations do are not related to each other, they are independent from one another. The members within different communities do not understand what these organisations do. Government authorities will have to ensure that these organisations are known by community members and what they do. Awareness campaigns will have to be developed in order to inform communities appropriately about organisations that will inform them about LED initiatives in their communities.

The Chi-Square test between age and years of staying in the area are not in support of each other they are independent from each other. Meaning that older people are the ones staying many years in the area are interested in economic empowerment initiatives in different municipalities. It might also mean that there is an older population of ladies and that their need for economic empowerment is high as compared to the younger population in different municipal area.

The Chi-Square test between race and the outcomes economic empowerment initiatives are positive or negative are not in support of each other. The black people in different municipal area think that empowerment does not help them and they feel strongly that the government must ensure that the outcomes of economic empowerment impact on their lives in a different way. It is Government who should reach out to the poor whose votes elect them to office. The economic empowerment issues should be institutionalised into structures of government.

4.9 Conclusion

In this chapter, the detailed results of the research using statistical methods have been provided. Tables, graphs and stats have been used to present the results of the survey. Further, the data analysis has also been presented in this chapter. The aim of the data analysis is to understand the various constituent elements of one's data through an inspection of relationships between concepts, constructs or variables as to establish whether there are any patterns or trends that can be identified, isolated or established in the data (Mouton, 2006)

The analysis of the results revealed that the qualification of people, outcomes of economic empowerment, Citizenship and knowledge of what these organisations do are not determinants of whether respondents are positive or negative about the impact of economic empowerment of rural women in Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipal area. This implies that the investigation into ways of economic empowerment of rural women and these variables are insignificant that they cannot be taken into consideration when measuring the impact of economic empowerment of rural women in the district. On the other hand, it was established that the meaning and the outcomes of economic empowerment, the knowledge of LED strategy and awareness of the LED is fairly high. Therefore there is perfect

correlation between awareness of any Economic Empowerment Initiatives in the area and an LED forum where rural women can participate.

The next chapter presents the recommendation categorised in their relevance to stakeholders. The aim is to ensure easy understanding of recommendations in order to add value to existing literature and also identify gap areas where new or further research can still be conducted.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Introduction

As indicated in the previous chapters, the previous investigation into ways of economic empowerment has shown that the majority of women have not been reached or participated fully as compared to their male counterparts. This clearly indicates that rural women are the worst when it comes to their participation in economic empowerment processes or activities.

The purpose of this research was to investigate the extent to which rural women in Dr Ruth S Mompati District Municipality has benefitted or participated in economic empowerment activities for the betterment of their lives.

This chapter consolidates the findings of the research, derived through analysis and interpretation of statistical data, discussed in the previous section. The research questions pertaining to the impact of economic empowerment initiatives on rural women in the District, percentage of rural women have benefitted from these initiatives as opposed to women in the urban centre, the key legislative platforms/frameworks aimed at addressing the empowerment of women generally and rural women specifically are also answered.

This chapter comprises of the summary of the study, addresses the findings per research question, provides managerial guidelines for Local Economic Development opportunities and highlights future research opportunity in the field of study. Conclusion of the study will be drawn and recommendations will also be outlined.

5.2 Summary of the Study

Mehra (1997) states that development policies and programs tend not to view women as integral to the economic development process. This is reflected in the higher investments in women's reproductive rather than their productive roles, mainly in population programs.

The research was aimed at investigating economic empowerment initiatives on rural women and how they have benefitted from these initiatives as opposed to women in the urban centre in Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipality.

This study analysed the economic empowerment of rural women through the use of research questions that focused on the level of understanding on economic empowerment, the knowledge regarding implementation of LED activities in their municipal area and its impact on their lives and their understanding of the legal policies around issues economic growth and development in their municipal area of jurisdiction.

The study revealed that 118 (50.56%) of the respondents understand the meaning of economic empowerment while 111 (47.84%) indicated that they do not understand the meaning of economic empowerment. The totals for yes or no are nearly equal due the fact that women have shown interest in participating fully as their male counterparts in economic activities some might have lost faith and patience. However on the other hand the 128 (55.17%) of the respondents agree that they are aware economic empowerment initiatives in their area while 99 (42.67%) indicated that they disagree that there are aware economic empowerment initiatives in their area. Hence there is a need to strengthen communication channels in the three spheres of Government.

5.3 Response to the Research Questions

The main findings of this research in relation to each research question will now be discussed. Each question is followed by a discussion of the findings relating to that question.

What has been the impact of economic empowerment initiatives on rural women in the District?

Batliwala (1994) expresses an opinion that the absence of a democratic context has contributed to slow progress in empowering women, particularly in South Africa. Women's empowerment movements have not survived in authoritarian regimes based on gender subordination and ideologies of male dominance. Approaches in South Africa have necessarily focused on opportunities and services rather than on political power. Empowerment of women that will have lasting impacts must involve consciousness raising before the social construction

of gender, which subordinates women in the family, class, religion, or society, can be changed.

Purdon (2008) expresses the opinion that more and more women and children were also falling into poverty, she stressed, further emphasizing that women found it difficult to find good jobs because they are reserved for men. As a result, women were becoming economically dependent on men. However, she explained, the support services women needed were difficult to find because they were inadequate or non-existent in some cases. She added that even when services for women were available, they were fraught with conflicting mandates and eligibility requirements.

The number of people unemployed increased between 1996 and 2003 and the picture changed after 2003 when the number of people who were unemployed in the District started to decline. The migration of people from the District after 2001 could be a contributory factor to the improvement in the unemployment situation. Currently the trend indicates that the number of people unemployed has increased as a result of the challenges in the Agriculture sector as well as the mining and manufacturing sectors as these are the economic pillars of the district (Dr Ruth S Mompati IDP, 2007)

This study, on employment status of the rural women who responded to the survey questions indicates that 82 (35.34%) is employed, while 108(46.55%) and remaining 42 (18.11%). According to the study this indicates clearly that there are still underprivileged rural women in the district who lives in poverty. The majority of women are still unemployed, even though there available opportunities to improve the conditions of their lives.

There is a need for the three spheres of Government, parastatals and other stakeholders to work together and pull up the sock to improve the lives of rural women. It clear that the impact made through economic empowerment and development initiatives by Government has not reached many women in this country. Only few have benefitted from these initiatives.

What percentage of rural women have benefitted from these initiatives as opposed to women in the urban centre?

The study has shown that 113 (48.71%) of the respondents have used the empowerment organisations before while 119 (51.29%) indicated that have not used an empowerment organisations before. The lack of understanding as to what these organisations do, might contribute to the people not using these organisations in order to assist them to get employment or even create jobs for themselves.

While the available information is limited, the general perception is that women are under-represented in economic empowerment and development initiatives. This is an issue of concern for all rural and women in the urban centres. South African Government have expressed a stated commitment to redressing the under-representation of women in economic empowerment and development initiatives in strategy documents. The reasons why women are under-represented in econmoc empowerment and development initiatives is unknown to all the women.

The involvement of women in economic empowerment and development initiatives is not constrained by access to resources and land ownership. It is important, then, to identify the extent to which women do participate in economic empowerment and development initiatives and any barriers that may exist. In order to ensure that an increased emphasis on economic empowerment and development is not gender discriminatory, it is necessary to do the following: generate gender disaggregated statistical data, be gender conscious when establishing new economic empowerment and development structures, ensure the structural inclusion of women's development work, and consider barriers to participation.

What were the key legislative platforms/frameworks aimed at addressing the empowerment of women generally and rural women specifically?

Rural Poverty Report (2001) emphasises that poverty is not something that Government, development institutions or NGOs can do for the poor. They can forge partnerships and help promote the conditions in which the poor can use their

own skills and talents to work their way out of poverty. But the poor themselves have to seize responsibility, as agents for their own development.

This uneven progress in women's well-being reflects the emphasis of development policies that, historically, focused on women's reproductive roles, mainly on fertility reduction. Policies and investments also emphasised improvements in women's health and education. Interestingly, investments in women's health and education were often rationalised in terms of their impact on lowering birth rates and on improving the well-being of children. Seldom were they justified in terms of their intrinsic importance to women's well-being. Seldom were they justified in terms of improving women's human capital so women might expand their ability to exercise choices. Also, women's economic roles were simply not acknowledged (Mehra, 1997).

Three experimental approaches to empowerment in South Africa have been tried: integrated development, economic empowerment, and consciousness raising. Consciousness raising has been implemented in awareness groups and education that have led to a new consciousness, self worth, societal and gender analysis, and access to skills and information. The economic empowerment approach has relied on improving women's control over economic resources and strengthening women's economic security.

Development Bank of South Africa and other feminine organisations have provided one example of organising women around savings and credit, income generation, and skill training activities. Integrated development approaches have encouraged women's collectives that have engaged in development and social problem resolution and formed specialized activity groups as means of mobilisation of women. No one design has assured success. Identification of the poorest and most oppressed in a geopolitical area has provided an entry point for action. Women were encouraged to find a separate time and space for themselves. The three aforementioned approaches have different assumptions about the reason for women's powerlessness: greater poverty and lower access to resources, economic vulnerability, and subordination within patriarchal societies and socioeconomic inequalities. Government need to take stock of all economic empowerment legislations available in the Country and review them and see as to

which ones are working for us, and what is not working for the country and make a review and come up with the new approach.

5.4 Limitations

The study is limited to Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality and its local municipalities, but it is relevant to all other municipalities across South Africa.

5.5 Managerial Guidelines

From the results of this study the following guidelines are given to all municipalities as it is known that one of the Key Performance Areas is to implement Local Economic Development Strategies in their municipal areas of jurisdiction. The following guidelines were gathered from personal experience.

- Development planners and policy-makers have missed a well-designed and implementable approach when developing economic policies and strategies aiming at addressing poverty impacting on the lives of poor rural women. Rural women need to be drawn in development of economic policies and strategies. The United Nations (2005) states that the Beijing Declaration¹ and Platform for Action 2 adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women, focused on improving the situation of rural women through equal access to productive resources, especially land, capital and technology, as well as to gainful employment, decision-making, education and health services. The Platform for Action emphasised the need for successful strategies to empower women living in rural areas.

A report by the Hunger Project (2000) reveals that when women are included in official planning, they are often treated as powerless individuals who should be given assistance. In the foreword to the alternative framework for structural adjustment programmes for socio-economic recovery and transformation, it is recognised that women play a crucial role as producers and agents of change in rural transformation, and that the negative effect on rural development is brought about by their marginalisation.

- Resources have been misallocated and misspent and a little has been invested in women's economic empowerment activities, where the opportunities truly lie for reducing poverty and improving the rural women's lives through the identification of the real economic needs for rural women. It should not be one size fit all. The Department of Minerals and Energy as an arm of Government with the mandate to create conducive environment for the growth and transformation of the minerals and energy sectors in our country, has a number of initiatives directed at the economic empowerment of historically disadvantaged South Africans, especially women and the youth (Ministry of Minerals and Energy, 2006).
- A more critical analysis of how gender awareness and concern about the under-representation of women are being translated into practice is needed. According to Rowlands, as *cited* by Sharp (2003), empowerment is thus more than participation in decision making; it must also include the processes that lead people to perceive themselves as able and entitled to make decision. Women need to be free to act from their own analysis and priorities and not be manipulated by outsiders; yet the restrictions of internalised oppression, which limit women's options, must be challenged
- Attention needs to be given to how rural development programmes unfold to ensure that they do not structurally exclude women by taking men's participation and ways of working as the norm. The situation in rural areas is such that if you are female, you do not play any role in the societal debates. Even the 1994 African Common Position on Human and Social Development Forum describes women as part of the marginalised, vulnerable sections of the population and they are grouped with children, youth, elderly and the disabled. No matter which rural government option is chosen, it seems that women in rural areas will always remain where they are, and ultimately will end up in a worse position (Hunger Project, 2000).
- Most importantly, the recognition of the women's infrastructure that exists is imperative. The structural inclusion of this infrastructure into current programmes would immediately acknowledge women's developmental work and improve the representation of women in rural development initiatives.

Purdon (2008) expresses the opinion that more and more women and children were also falling into poverty, she stressed, further emphasizing that women found it difficult to find good jobs because they are reserved for men. As a result, women were becoming economically dependent on men. However, she explained, the support services women needed were difficult to find because they were inadequate or non-existent in some cases.

- Percentage of women that participated in the programme should be included to assist the evaluation of programme effectiveness. Kangolo and Bamgose (2002) state that this study observed that a lack of information, lack of resources and government assistance, lack of education, cultural values and discrimination against rural women were the most important factors contributing to the inactive participation of rural women in developments.
- Specific actions targeted at women should be developed to complement mainstreaming, if there is a gender gap. Economic empowerment and development initiatives should consistently include gender equality as part of project selection, monitoring and indicators. It is necessary to also include targets, to assist the evaluation of programme effectiveness. It is imperative that gender issues are considered in regional economic programmes as well as in rural development programmes. A statement delivered by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (2005), state that world leaders reaffirmed that gender equality and women's empowerment are central to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, the Heads of State and Government committed to a number of highly relevant initiatives geared towards improving women's economic empowerment, including women's right to own and inherit property, secure tenure of property and equal access of women to productive assets such as land, credit and technology.

5.6 Future Research

This study contributes to various opportunities for further research, notably:

- The effects of Broad based Economic Empowerment Concept on rural women.

- The effect of Government Tendering processes on rural women.
- The effects of Supply chain Management processes on rural women.
- The legislative frameworks and platform on economic empowerment for women are they user-friendly or understandable?
- The language as a barrier leads to poor communication between stakeholders and the authorities.
- The general view is that economic empowerment and development initiatives do not seem to have attained a gender balance. At an organisational level, there is also a gender imbalance, how do we address these imbalances.

5.7 Conclusion

The findings of the current survey which sampled a group of rural women in Dr Ruth S Mompoti District Municipality to determine the impact of economic empowerment initiatives on rural women and how they have benefitted from these initiatives as opposed to women in the urban centre has shown a response of 232(46.4%) out of 500 questionnaires that were given out to the target group. The response has shown that, the meaning of economic empowerment is known by most of the people in municipal areas. The LED Strategy is better known and understood by people who are less qualified than people with a degree. It has further shown that the economic empowerment initiatives implemented in an area as result of LED strategies is not known by many people in a municipal area. The awareness of organisations that are dealing with issues of District Growth and development, District Local Economic Development Strategy, District LED Strategy District SCM Policy, Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa were not known to many people and what these organisations intend to achieve. Even though they were not known people had a sense that they might be beneficial for the betterment of their lives.

Therefore, there is a need to go back to the drawing board and check as to what went wrong. The economic empowerment and development strategies are in place to guide administrators as to what needs to happen when implementation is undertaken. It has emerged from the study that Government institutions are faced

with communicating their programmes to the broader communities when implementing developmental plans. There is a need to involve all government stakeholders who are beneficiaries and sector departments who will provide a directive to the implementation of identified and prioritised projects/programmes which intend to benefit and change the lives of communities at large. Successful development and implementation of these economic empowerment and development initiatives relies heavily on the recruitment and appointment of skilled personnel in Government institutions to drive these programmes and projects.

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RESEARCH MATRIX

109

			X													
10	Women and Rural Development Policies: The changing Agenda					X										
		X					X									
11	Migration, Development, and the Promise of CEDAW for Rural Women						X						X			
12	Rural Women's Access to credit								X	X					X	

	THEMES	Idea of Empowerment	Definitions of Empowerment	Economic Empowerment for Rural Women	Assumptions on Rural Women	Assumptions on development of Rural women	State's role on development of	Why Rural Women need development	Global challenges on rural Economic Empowerment	The Impact of Rural Poverty	Education and Employment as a tool for empowerment	Challenges faced by women	Impact made by organisations to change lives of Rural Women	IDP and LED
1 3	Innovations for Empowerment of Rural Women				X						X			
1 4	Economic Empowerment of Rural Women			X			X			X				
1 5	Empowerment of Rural Women in Income generating activities			X										
1 6	Empowering Rural Women									X	X	X	X	
1 7	How does Economic Empowerment affect women's risk of intimate partner violence in low and middle income countries?			X				X		X				
1 8	Empowerment and organisational cultures in the world Bank and funded Development Programmes	X						X					X	

19	The consequences of Women's Economic Empowerment vs. Disempowerment			X				X				X		
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	THEMES	Idea of Empowerment Definitions of	Economic Empowerment for	Assumptions on Rural Women	Assumptions on development of Rural	State's role on development of rural	Why Rural Women need development	Global challenges on rural Economic	The Impact of Rural	Education and Employment as a tool	Challenges faced by women	Impact made by organisations to change lives of Rural	IDP and LED
20	Convergence opportunities and factors influencing the use of internet and telephony by rural women in South Africa and India towards empowerment				X					X			
21	Empowerment: what it is?	X	X										
22	The Economic Empowerment of Women: The case of working Women's Forum, India						X			X		X	
23	Role of Women in Decision Making	X	X	X			X		X	X			
24	Measuring and Modelling the Domestic Empowerment of Rural Women in Pakistani									X	X		
25	Black Women, Gender and Families									X			
26	The Market Economy , Gender Equality and Women's Development from the View Point of Women						X				X		
27	The Church Groups and the Empowerment of Women Solomon Islands		X								X	X	
28	Alternative Entrepreneurship in Thailand: Hand Craft and Women's development Network.							X			X	X	
29	Constructing Social Capital: Self-Help Groups and Rural Women's Development in India			X		X		X			X	X	

	THEMES	Idea of Empowerment	Definitions of Empowerment	Economic Empowerment for Rural Women	Assumptions on Rural Women Economic needs	Assumptions on development of Rural women	State's role on development of rural women	Why Rural Women need development	Global challenges on rural Economic Empowerment	The Impact of Rural Poverty	Education and Employment as a tool for empowerment	Challenges faced by women	Impact made by organisations to change lives of Rural Women	IDP and LED
30	Arab women's development: How relevant are UNDP measurements			X					X					
31	The Situation of Rural Women: Providing the tools for Economic Empowerment							X		X		X		
32	Community or and or for Development: South African Perspective							X						
33	Rural Women and Development							X	X	X		X		
34	Improvement of the Situation of women in Rural Areas			X					X					
35	Participation of Rural Women in Development			X				X		X		X		
36	Women and Poverty: The South African Experience			X			X	X	X	X	X	X		
37	Economic Empowerment of Rural Women: Experiences from the field									X		X	X	
38	Institutions and their Impact in Addressing Rural Poverty in Africa								X	X				
39	Unfinished Task of Eradicating Rural Poverty									X				
40	Rural Poverty Report:2001: The Challenge of Ending Rural Poverty									X				

	THEMES	Idea of Empowerment	Definitions of Empowerment	Economic Empowerment for Rural Women	Assumptions on Rural Women Economic needs	Assumptions on development of Rural woman	State's role on development of rural woman	Why Rural Women need development	Global challenges on rural Economic Empowerment	The Impact of Rural Poverty	Education and Employment as a tool for empowerment	Challenges faced by women	Impact made by organisations to change lives of Rural Women	IDP and LED
41	Integrating Small Arms Measures into Development Programmes					X		X				X		
42	Women's Economic Empowerment Programme			X								X		
43	Building Economic Security and sustainability for women and their families			X				X						
44	Empowering Rural Women and Men for Equitable Development in the Near East and North Africa		X	X				X				X		
45	Urban/Regional Economics and Rural Development						X							
46	Land Reform: Still a Goal Worth Pursuing for Rural Women			X			X					X		
47	Identification of Factors Hampering Women Empowerment in Agricultural Decision Making		X									X		

	THEMES	Idea of Empowerment	Definitions of Empowerment	Economic Empowerment for Rural Women	Assumptions on Rural Women Economic needs	Assumptions on development of Rural woman	State's role on development of rural woman	Why Rural Women need development	Global challenges on rural Economic Empowerment	The Impact of Rural Poverty	Education and Employment as a tool for empowerment	Challenges faced by women	Impact made by organisations to change lives of Rural Women	IDP and LED
48	Working with Rural Communities in Nepal: Some Principles of Non-formal Education Intervention				X						X	X	X	
49	Spatial Analysis of Rural Economic Development								X	X				
50	Eradicating Poverty : Moving from a Micro to a Macro Policy Agenda			X			X							
51	Building Economic Security and Sustainability for Women and their							X				X		

	families													
52	Integrating Small Arms Measures into Development Programmes			X					X				X	
53	Women's Economic Empowerment Programme Socio-Economic Baseline Survey									X			X	
54	Bringing Together Local Culture and Rural Development						X					X		

	THEMES	Idea of Empowerment	Definitions of Empowerment	Economic Empowerment for Rural Women	Assumptions on Rural Women Economic needs	Assumptions on development of Rural women	State's role on development of rural women	Why Rural Women need development	Global challenges on rural Economic Empowerment	The Impact of Rural Poverty	Education and Employment as a tool for empowerment	Challenges faced by women	Impact made by organisations to change lives of Rural	IDP and LED
55	Empowering Women Through Microfinance								X					
56	Economic Advancement of Women Resolution from the 2005 CSW								X			X		
57	Women Empowerment			X								X		
58	What is Integrated Development Planning													X
59	Speech: Minister of Minerals and Energy						X					X		
60	Unfinished Task of Eradicating Rural Poverty									X	X			

Appendix B:

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Research Question	Survey Questions	Variable(s) and/or Relationships measured	Statistical Tests
1. What has been the impact of economic empowerment initiatives on rural women in the District?	a. Do you understand the meaning of Economic Empowerment? b. You are aware of any Economic Empowerment Initiatives in your area? c. Do you think that the outcomes of the Economic Empowerment initiatives are negative or positive?	Ordinal / Nominal Variables: 1.1 Not within Scope, Poorly, fairly, mostly, completely 1.2 Yes / No	Descriptive Stats – frequency tables, bar charts Numerical description - location, spread, distribution, cross tabulation Measures of association – Phi, Cramers V Convert nominal to ratio 0,1,2,3,4 & do correlation co-efficient testing with personal info – Pearson & Spearman Rho Normal & z-distribution
2. What percentage of rural women have benefitted from these initiatives as opposed to women in the urban centre?	a. Do you think that the LED Strategy suit you as rural women? b. Is there an LED forum where you as rural women can participate? c. Are you aware of the LED Strategy initiatives? d. Are there any jobs in your region specifically for women?	Ordinal / Nominal Variables: 2.2 Yes / No 2.3 Not within Scope, Poorly, fairly, mostly, completely	Descriptive Stats – frequency tables, bar charts Numerical description - location, spread, distribution, cross tabulation Measures of association – Phi, Cramers V Convert nominal to ratio 0,1,2,3,4 & do correlation co-efficient testing with

		2.4 Yes / No	personal info – Pearson & Spearman Rho
		2.5 Yes / No	Normal & z- distribution
3. What were the key legislative platforms/frame works aimed at addressing the empowerment of women generally and rural women specifically?	<p>3.1. Have you any knowledge about the following organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. District Growth and development b. District Local Economic Development Strategy c. District LED Strategy d. District SCM Policy e. Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa <p>3.2. Do you know what these organisations do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. District Growth and development b. District Local Economic Development Strategy c. District LED Strategy d. District SCM Policy e. Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa <p>3.3. Which of these have you used before:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. District Growth and development b. District Local Economic Development 	<p>Ordinal / Nominal Variables:</p> <p>3.1/2/3 Not within Scope, Poorly, fairly, mostly, completely</p> <p>Yes/No</p> <p>Yes/No</p> <p>Yes/No</p>	<p>Descriptive Stats – frequency tables, bar charts</p> <p>Numerical description - location, spread, distribution, cross tabulation</p> <p>Measures of association – Phi, Crammrs V</p> <p>Convert nominal to ratio 0,1,2,3,4 & do correlation co-efficient testing with personal info– Pearson & Spearman Rho</p> <p>Normal & z-distribution</p>

	<p>Strategy</p> <p>c. District LED Strategy</p> <p>d. District SCM Policy</p> <p>e. Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa</p> <p>3.4. Do you think of these could be useful in your endeavours?</p> <p>a. District Growth and development</p> <p>b. District Local Economic Development Strategy</p> <p>c. District LED Strategy</p> <p>d. District SCM Policy</p> <p>e. Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa</p>	Yes/No	
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Appendix C:

VOLUNTARY QUESTIONNAIRE

"AN INVESTIGATION INTO WAYS OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN IN DR RUTH S MOMPATI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY"

Department of Commerce & Administration

North West University
Researcher: Ellen Malephoi Moncho
Supervisor: Prof. Sam Lubbe

Note to the respondent

- The researcher need your help to understand Economic Empowerment of Rural Women
- Although the researcher would like you to help her, you do not have to take part in this survey.
- If you do not want to take part, just hand in the blank questionnaire at the end of the survey session.
- What you say in this questionnaire will remain private and confidential. No one will be able to trace your opinions back to you as a person.

The questionnaire as four parts:

Part 1 asks permission to use your responses for academic research.

Part 2 asks general personal particulars like your age, gender and home language.

Part 3 asks about Economic Empowerment, Impact, Benefits and Legislative Platforms/Frameworks.

How to complete the questionnaire

1. Please answer the questions as truthfully as you can. Also, please be sure to read and follow the directions for each part. If you do not follow the directions, it will make it harder for me to do my project.
2. I am only asking you about things that you should feel comfortable telling me about. If you don't feel comfortable answering a question, you can indicate that you do not want to answer it. For those questions that you do answer, your responses will be kept confidential.
3. You can mark each response by making a tick or a cross, or encircling each appropriate response with a PEN (or a pencil), or by filling in the required words or numbers.

Thank you very much for filling in this questionnaire.

1.1.1 PART 1: PERMISSION TO USE MY RESPONSES FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH

I hereby give permission that my responses may be used for research purposes provided that my identity is not revealed in the published records of the research.

Initials and surname _____ Postal address: _____
_____ Postal code: _____

Contact numbers: Home: _____ Cell: _____

15	Have you any knowledge about the following organizations: a. District Growth and development		
	PART 2: GENERAL PERSONAL PARTICULARS Please tell little about yourself Please mark only ONE option per question		PART 3: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, IMPACT, BENEFITS AND LEGISLATIVE PLATFORMS/Frameworks.
1	I am: ❖ d. District SCM Policy ❖ Coloured ❖ e. Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa ❖ White ❖ a member of another ethnic group ❖ No ❖ I do not want to answer this question	8	Do you understand the meaning of Economic Empowerment? ❖ Yes ❖ No
2	I am: ❖ Employed ❖ Unemployed ❖ Other: (please specify) _____	9	Are you aware of any Economic Empowerment Initiatives in your area? ❖ Yes ❖ No
3	I have: ❖ a degree ❖ a post graduate degree ❖ Matric ❖ Other : (please specify) ❖ I do not want to answer this question	10	Do you think that the outcomes of the Economic Empowerment initiatives are negative or positive? ❖ Yes ❖ No
4	❖ I am _____ years old ❖ I do not want to answer this question	11	Do you think that the LED Strategy suit you as rural women? ❖ Yes ❖ No
5	I am a: ❖ female ❖ Young female ❖ I do not want to answer this question	12	Is there an LED forum where you as rural women can participate? ❖ Yes ❖ No
6	I grew up: ❖ in South Africa ❖ abroad _____ ❖ I do not want to answer this question	13	Are you aware of the LED Strategy initiatives? ❖ Yes ❖ No
7	How many year have you been staying in this area: ❖ 1-5 ❖ 6-10 ❖ 11-15 ❖ more than 16 years	14	Are there any jobs in your region specifically for women? ❖ I strongly agree ❖ I agree ❖ I disagree ❖ I strongly disagree ❖ I do not want to answer this question

16	<p>Do you know what these organisations do:</p> <p>f. District Growth and development</p> <p>g. District Local Economic Development Strategy</p> <p>h. District LED Strategy</p> <p>i. District SCM Policy</p> <p>j. Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa</p> <p>❖ Yes</p> <p>❖ No</p>		
17	<p>Which of these have you used before:</p> <p>f. District Growth and development</p> <p>g. District Local Economic Development Strategy</p> <p>h. District LED Strategy</p> <p>i. District SCM Policy</p> <p>j. Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa</p> <p>❖ Yes</p> <p>❖ No</p>		
18	<p>Do you think of these could be useful in your endeavours?</p> <p>f. District Growth and development</p> <p>g. District Local Economic Development Strategy</p> <p>h. District LED Strategy</p> <p>i. District SCM Policy</p> <p>j. Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa</p> <p>❖ Yes</p> <p>❖ No</p>		