

The Impact of De-agrarianisation on the Socio-economic Well-being of Rural Inhabitants in South Africa

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ABSTRACT The aim of the present research paper was to examine the impact of de-agrarianisation on the socio-economic well-being of the rural population in South Africa. The data for the present research was procured from a larger study that was conducted in Msobomvu Community, a rural area in the Eastern Cape. Further, the data was collected using an interview guide and structured questionnaires. The findings show that inhabitants in this rural area face numerous socio-economic challenges which all manifest from the sharp decrease in agricultural activities. These findings indicate that the process of de-agrarianization is a recurring challenge which has crippled the attempts to enforce a stable food security at household level. The decrease of people who involve themselves in agricultural activities has led to quite a number of effects which include dependency on government support, increased crime rate, health problems, poverty and threats to food security at household level. It is, therefore, recommended that policies that are in line with boosting agriculture should be enforced and at the same time the government should increase funding for agricultural projects so as to motivate people into agriculture.