

Socio-economic Needs for Community Development in Selected Villages of Molopo Local Municipality of North-west Province South Africa

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ABSTRACT This paper examined the Socio-economic needs for community development in selected villages of Molopo Local Municipality of North-West Province South Africa. Using a stratified random sampling technique 178 household heads were selected from a population of 561 households. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data on demographics, income and expenditure, employment, household resources, food security, marketing, training and socio-economic needs of the community. The data was analyzed by SPSS computer programme using frequency counts and percentages. The results shows that majority (57 percent) of the household heads were females, 69 percent fall within the economically active group 53 percent had no formal education, 67.9 percent survive by means of Government social grants and about 50 percent of the household heads earn below R1000 per month. Other results on the distribution of major occupations of the heads of the households were: gardening (62 percent), cleaning (32 percent), civil service (10.3 percent), farming (6.7 percent) and mechanic/petrol attendant (3.5 percent). The majority (56 percent) will like to engage in agricultural related ventures (vegetable production (21 percent), livestock production (21 percent) and poultry production (14 percent) in order to improve their income and livelihood. There is need to implement appropriate community development and empowerment programmes that can create an environment where the people can meet their basic needs and improve quality of their life. It is recommended that emphasis should not only be on the development of basic infrastructure, but also on income generating activities and education services aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty in the study area.