

**CHALLENGES FACED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMMES (PWPS) ON
POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE SERVICE DELIVERY: THE
CASE OF THULAMELA MUNICIPALITY**

BY

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ABSTRACT

The general objective of the study is to investigate the challenges faced by the Public Works Programmes (PWPS) on poverty alleviation and its impact on the service delivery: The case of Thulamela municipality. Government has to protect its citizens, regulate the interaction among them, develop its society and care for the poor and the weak. Public services and facilities cut across these four categories. The discriminatory apartheid development legacy resulted in extremely skewed public services and facilities. Infrastructural facilities, services officials, standards and results in more affluent 'white' communities were in many cases on par with similar situations in more developed countries, while the state of these facilities and services in traditional poor black communities were non-existent or very rudimentary. There are major challenges for the post-apartheid government in South Africa after 1994 to upgrade the quantity and quality of facilities and services in poor black communities while simultaneously maintaining the quality of these facilities in more affluent white communities at previous levels.

The study used both quantitative and qualitative techniques for data collection and analysis. Quantitative techniques were mostly used in that they provided the researcher with an understanding of investigate the challenges faced by the Public Works Programmes (PWPS) on poverty alleviation and its impact on the service delivery: The case of Thulamela municipality. Random and purposive samplings were used for selection of sample for the study. Both primary and secondary data were used for analysis in this study. Secondary data were obtained from government publication, research publication, and report. Primary data were obtained through questionnaires and interview.

Major Findings of this study are the following:

- The research findings indicate that participation by the youth is higher because they have a great interest in working in the EPWP projects.

- The research reveals that EPWP projects are sustainable in the Bushbuckridge area because they are lasting for an average period between 2 and 4 years.
- External clients also indicated their dissatisfaction with the work that the project managers are doing in the field.
- The research findings indicated that project members were receiving a minimum of R1400 and a maximum of R2400, which project members take home.
- According to the respondents, these salaries were not enough for the project members to support their families.

Major recommendations to address the findings these included the point that:

- The beneficiaries should form part of monitoring and evaluation of the programme to solicit comments and inputs from the poor beneficiaries.
- Programme and project community participation should be encouraged government through municipality to enable the community to take ownership of the final product.
- Poverty summits should be organised on annual bases to enhance programme and project planning processes.
- Programme implementation process should be consultative with the people that seek to benefit from it.
- The programme design should in the main address human basic needs related infrastructural projects. Labour intensive programmes can create a greater demand for local products and services than do high technology programmes which are reliant on imported technology and equipment.