

**CHALLENGES FACING SHIKUNDU COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO PARTICIPATION IN  
THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

*by*

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## ABSTRACT

The study describes the challenges facing Shikundu community with regard to participation in development projects in Vhembe District, Limpopo Province. In this study the challenges facing Shikundu community with regard to participation in development projects were investigated. The study is placed in a quantitative research paradigm. The population involved in this study are civic structures, ward councillors, ward committee members and community members.

The study was conducted in the rural communities of Shikundu villages, located in Malamulele North East of Thulamela Municipality in Vhembe District, Limpopo Province, South Africa. Shikundu consists of ten (10) villages which are Magomani, Ximixoni, Mahlohlwani, Hlengani, Nghezimani, Nkovani, Phaweni, Manghena, Shifaxani and Gonani. The villages are characterised by poor living conditions to which development processes are going on in the various villages. A non-probability sampling technique was applied to purposefully select a total of 120 respondents from civic members, ward committee members, councillors and other community members who are directly involved in the development activities in the villages. The data was collected using survey questionnaires. Collected data was captured on a computer Microsoft Excel and transformed into a computer aided with Statistical Package for Social Science, for analysis. In the process, all forms of ethical considerations were taken into account to ensure that respondents are free to provide their utmost understanding of the situation regarding development and participation by community members.

The study findings has shown that the majority of citizens in Shikundu do participate in community development projects, but there are few community members who do not take part in community activities. The findings also showed that there are few community members who have adequate information to participate efficiently towards community development. There are few resources to capacitate rural citizens to be actively involved towards developing their community. There are few community members who contribute resources such as money, material and labour towards community development. A number of interventions need to be made by the community leaders and community structures with regard to public participation and more resources need to be committed towards those processes. For people to effectively participate in their development projects, they should be involved by being given responsibilities which may motivate them to participate in finding solutions.