

THE IMPACT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ON UNIVERSITY GRADUATES IN WARD 13 OF MAKHADO MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

Introduction:The study is about the impact of unemployment on university graduates in Ward 13 of Makhado municipality.

Problem statement:In Ward 13 of Makhado municipality there were many of university graduates who are unemployed and they are starting to change their lifestyles in a way that they engage themselves in prostitution and criminal activities.

Aim:The aim of the study was to explore the psychological, social and financial impact of unemployment on university graduates.

Objectives:The objectives were to explore the causes of graduate unemployment, to explore the psychological, social and financial impact of unemployment on university graduates.

Significance of the study: The study findings was significant to graduates, parents and community in that it increased their knowledge and understanding of the psychological, social and financial problems that unemployed graduates experiences.

Methodology: An exploratory study was conducted where by purposive sampling was used to select participants. The study focused on both male and femaleunemployed university graduates. Their age ranged from 24-33 years. A total number of 10 participants were interviewed, seven females and three males. The number of participants was determined by data saturation. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews and wasanalysed using the thematic content analysis.

Findings:the study results indicated that unemployed university graduates believed that unemployment is caused by lack of experience, being bewitched and employers neglecting the Bathopele principle of "equal treatment to all citizens". They suffered psychological and emotional stress as a result of their unemployment situation and they felt they wasted time and money by studying. Unemployed university graduates tend to isolate themselves from friends because they feel that they are useless. They reported that have a good relationship with significant others and they experience financial difficulties but also they receive financial and moral support from significant others. They indicated that they used every source of application and they apply for any kind of job they qualify for. They suggested that universities must play a role by assisting them get employed.