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Declaration

I hereby declare that this research report is my own unaided work, and that I have given full acknowledgement to the sources that I used.

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Chikadzi Victor Date
Abstract

In South Africa, citizen participation is regarded as an integral part of all social, economic and political activity. There is always an attempt to either involve citizens/communities in different programmes or at least to pretend to have involved people. Community participation is a constitutional prerogative that the broader masses should meaningfully participate in issues affecting their lives. Thus overgrowing concern by development practitioners to utilize participatory methods has become notable in recent years and participation has become an established orthodoxy within the development discourse in South Africa. The practice of participation has become embodied in what is popularly known to be people-centered development in which it is favored that community needs take precedence over those of other stakeholders when designing and implementing development projects. This study explores community participation in income generating projects at the Tembisa / Kempton Park Development Center. Using a case study as a qualitative inquiry method, the researcher sought to establish the evidence of community participation and the extent to which participants in income generating projects were involved as the main role players. The research sample constituted of 15 participants; ten were beneficiaries of income generating projects, three were staff members at the Tembisa / Kempton Park Development Center and two participants where drawn from the main funders of the Tembisa / Kempton Park Development Center. The different categories of the participants drawn into the sample enabled the researcher to holistically capture how the development process unfolded. The findings of the research indicated that the development model used at Tembisa / Kempton Park Development Center is largely participatory. The model allowed community members to have more say and control in the initiation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the projects. However this model has challenges that are institutional, social and structural of nature and barriers which hinder effective and meaningful community participation. Government intervention was recommended to address some of the challenges to community participation on a macro level.

Key words: Participation, Social Development, Development Center, Income generating projects, Funders, Beneficiaries, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), Empowerment, People-centered development.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ........................................................................ iv
Declaration .................................................................................. iv
Abstract .................................................................................... iv
Table of Contents ......................................................................... iv

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION
1.1 Brief overview of the study ........................................................... 1
1.2 Statement of the problem and rationale for the study .................... 1
1.3 Research design and methodology .............................................. 2
1.4 Significance of the study ............................................................ 4
1.5 Limitations and delimitations of the study .................................... 4
1.6 Organisation of the report .......................................................... 6

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK ........................................................................... 7
2.1 Introduction ............................................................................. 7
2.2 Social development .................................................................. 7
2.3 Defining participation .............................................................. 8
2.4 The origins of participatory development .................................... 10
2.5 Participation and Social Development in South Africa .................. 12
2.6 The enterprise strategy as a way of promoting Social development ... 14
2.7 Income generating projects as an enterprise strategy to Social development .......................................................... 15
2.8 Ways of achieving participation ............................................... 17
2.9 Democracy as a way of achieving participation ........................... 18
2.10 Components or characteristics of participatory democracy ............ 18
2.10.1 Decentralization .............................................................. 19
2.10.2 Accountability ................................................................... 19
2.10.3 Education ........................................................................ 20
2.10.4 Obligation ........................................................................ 20
2.11 Change from below as way of achieving participation ................. 20
2.11.1 Valuing local knowledge and skills ...................................... 21
2.11.2 Valuing local culture and processes .................................... 22
2.11.3 Valuing local resources ..................................................... 23
2.12 Different kinds of power needed for community based alternatives that encourage participation ..................................................... 23
2.12.1 Power over the definition of need ....................................... 23
2.12.2 Power over ideas .................................................................24
2.12.3 Power over institutions .......................................................25
2.12.4 Power over access to resources ..........................................25
2.12.5 Power over economic activity ...........................................26
2.13 Typology of participation ......................................................27
2.14 Asset-based Community-driven Development (ABCD) as a Development model that promotes full community participation ...........................................30
2.15 Summary ...............................................................................32

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY
3.1 Introduction ............................................................................33
3.2 Purpose of the study ...............................................................33
3.3 Objectives of the study ...........................................................33
3.4 Research questions ...............................................................34
3.5 Research design and strategy ...............................................34
3.6 Sampling procedures ............................................................36
3.7 Research tools ......................................................................37
3.8 Pretesting the research tool .................................................37
3.9 Data collection .....................................................................37
3.9.1 Interviews .........................................................................38
3.9.2 Observations ...................................................................38
3.9.3 Documents .....................................................................39
3.10 Data analysis .......................................................................39
3.11 Limitations and delimitations of the study .........................41
3.12 Ethical considerations .........................................................41
3.13 Summary .............................................................................42

CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS
4.1 Introduction ...........................................................................43
4.2 Section A ...............................................................................43
4.2.1 General observations .........................................................43
4.2.2 The Sewing project ............................................................44
4.2.3 Cleaning and Garden project ............................................47
4.2.4 The welding project ............................................................49
4.2.5 Bakery project ..................................................................50
4.2.6 The Hope poultry co-operative ........................................52
4.2.7 Tembisa Kempton Park Development Center staff ..........54
4.2.8 The Funders ....................................................................56
4.3 Summary ...............................................................................57
4.4 Section B: Discussion of findings .........................................57
4.4.1 Research question one .......................................................57
4.4.2 Research question two .......................................................66
4.4.3 Research question three .....................................................68
4.4.4 Research questions four ....................................................69
4.4.5 Conclusion .......................................................................78
CHAPTER FIVE: MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction .......................................................................................................................... 79
5.2 Major findings ..................................................................................................................... 79
5.3 Independence in running the projects .............................................................................. 81
5.4 Funder expectations .......................................................................................................... 81
5.5 Barriers to effective community participation ............................................................ 82
5.6 Recommendations .......................................................................................................... 83
5.7 Areas for further research ............................................................................................... 84
5.8 Conclusion ......................................................................................................................... 84

REFERENCES .......................................................................................................................... 86

APPENDICES
Appendix A: Participant information sheet ......................................................................... 90
Appendix B: Consent form for participation in the study ..................................................... 91
Appendix C: Semi-structured interview schedule for funders of income generating projects at Tembisa / Kempton Park Development Center ......................................................... 92
Appendix D: Semi-structured interview schedule for beneficiaries of income generating projects at Tembisa / Kempton Park Development Center ................................................. 93
Appendix E: Semi-structured interview schedule for management staff at Tembisa / Kempton Development Center .................................................................................................. 94
Appendix F: Letter of Permission from Tembisa / Kempton Development Center ............... 95
Appendix G: Letter of Permission from Gauteng Provincial Department of Social Development .............................................................................................................................. 96
Appendix H: Ethics Clearance Certificate ............................................................................ 97