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# An assessment of the Johannesburg's Human Development Strategy and its appropriateness in dealing with HIV/AIDS in informal settlements

**Thabane, Tsholofelo**

**2008-10-06T07:59:59Z**
http://hdl.handle.net/10539/5722

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# CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Strategies and programs that are written by policy makers are strategies that aim to achieve a certain goal or outcome. In this research report, the aim was to assess the appropriateness of Johannesburg's Human Development Strategy as a strategy that has the potential to fight HIV/AIDS in Informal Settlements. The appropriateness of Joburg's HDS to fight against HIV/AIDS within an Informal Settlement environment has shown to be lacking.

HDS is a broad strategy that strives to meet the needs of the vulnerable groups through out its borders. Sol Plaatjies Informal Settlement has limited resources and even the resources that are available are limited. Access to adequate basic services is a problem even though it is an intervention that is mentioned within the implementation strategy. Jozi Ihlomile together with Igugu Lesizwe has limited resources with a lot of responsibilities. Adequate Infrastructure within Sol Plaatjies would enable some of the interventions to be implemented but with no permanent clinics, schools and social worker facilities it becomes difficult for interventions in Sol Plaatjies to be effective.

This report based its findings and analysis on the Sol Plaatjies case study. Even though Jozi Ihlomile is doing a great job in Sol Plaatjies it still has to broaden its spectrum. Sol Plaatjies is one of the privileged Informal Settlements because at the present moment the City of Johannesburg is focusing its resources in it. Two million Rands has been set aside by the city of Johannesburg to ensure that the programs that are mentioned by the HDS should be implemented. Two million Rand may not be enough as Informal Settlements need more work to deal with HIV/AIDS as compared to a fully serviced community. Johannesburg's HDS may show some potential as far as dealing with poverty in general but it is limited when it comes to dealing with poverty that is derived due to HIV/AIDS epidemic.

HIV/AIDS is one of the major constraints to development and the statistics show that there is an increase of the HI virus. It is apparent that something has to be done and done quickly. In the absence of a cure (which may never be found since well HI virus like flu cannot be cured) or vaccination people will die how can appropriate interventions be made using the HDS. Interventions should be those that bring about

change in the sexual behavioural patterns of an average sexually active adult. The reasons that contribute to the spread of HIV/AIDS in Informal settlements is that sex is a behavioural pattern which can be controlled by an individual and no policy or strategy would enforce a person to behave in a certain manner if he/she does not want to. Human beings are social beings who are socialised in accordance to the way of their community's norms and believes.

If sexual promiscuity is a norm within a community, no policy would be able to break this pattern of behaviour unless if a different form of socialisation takes place.
An appropriate tool would be to make policies that would concentrate on changing the behavioural patterns of human beings. For example: encouraging social organisations that will educate as well as empower people financially as well as skilfully.

Lack of economical empowerment is one aspect that has been identified as a contributing factor to the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS. An appropriate intervention would be to empower women in such a way that will enable them to be in a position of running their own businesses. Thus by expanding social resources be it Natural resources like a field were women would be able to make their garden and feed their children or start vegetable businesses as sub contractors.

Financial resources like grants that are available for people who are infected with the HI virus, are helpful only to a certain extend but a family business that can be run by all the household members would be more appropriate as a sustainable source of income.
Other social capitals that can be used are

- **Material Resources**: People's asserts and money in terms of Income etc.
- **Human Resources**: People's skills and capacities within their categories, eg. Age, gender, educational status etc
- **Social Resources**: These are networks that people form within their neighbourhood, relationships with the State, relationships with market people, relationships with people in high positions in a community

- **Cultural Resources**: Relationships that people have in accordance to the norms, rules and regulations of that community, eg. Appropriate way of conduct
- **Natural Resources**: Resources like wood, common land to be used by all residents to plough their fields,

Rasmussen (2005)[1]

As shown above, HIV became rapid in South Africa after the Apartheid era, thus it was delayed due to the protective borders that was placed by the Apartheid government. This shows that social organisations within a community, built with the aim of changing behavioural patterns of the youth in the community as well as empowering them financial may be an appropriate tool to deal with HIV and poverty in Informal Sol Plaatjies.

[1] Rasmussen, Ole Dahl. 2005. 'Bridging the gap in development thinking: making sense of material development with a Dewegan perspective'