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2012-03-12
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DOES FOREIGN AID MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

A CASE STUDY OF THE BOSEELE ASSOCIATION IN NORTHERN LESOTHO

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A research report submitted to the Wits School of Education,
Faculty of Humanities, University of the Witwatersrand
by combination of coursework and research
in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Education

Johannesburg, June 2011

Abstract

Lesotho is a country plagued by underdevelopment and poverty. This research is a case study of an indigenous community organisation in the northern district of Botha-Bothe in Lesotho. Boseele is a rural development organisation which attracted international donor investment in the aftermath of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. The study aims at investigating the impact of capacity development processes on Boseele and its members. The study identified capacity building landmarks over a period of ten years. A case study approach was used within a qualitative research design. Data was collected through individual and group interviews, observations, story-telling and transect walks. The results were analysed through thematic, chronological, narrative and document analysis. Boseele's successes with CIDA funding reflect positive foreign aid contributions towards the work of civil society organisations in Lesotho. However, setbacks and lack of continuity by a nursery project funded by MS-Lesotho show that the empowerment process is vulnerable where social and economic problems of individual members and communities are not fully addressed.

TEN KEY WORDS: capacity building; foreign donor interventions; community; rural development; human capital theory; empowerment; conscientisation; networks and collaboration; sustainable development.

Declaration

I, Lineo Rose Johnson, am a student registered for M.Ed., in 2008–2011.

I hereby declare that plagiarism is wrong. I confirm that this research report is my own unaided work except where I have explicitly indicated and have followed the required conventions in referencing the thoughts and ideas of others.

I understand that the University of the Witwatersrand may take disciplinary action against me if there is a belief that this is not my own unaided work or that I have failed to acknowledge the source of the ideas or words in my writing.

Signature: L.R. Johnson……

Date: June, 2011

Acknowledgments

This has been a long two-year period which I could not have survived on my own. I thank God for giving me good health, strength and life to pursue my studies.

My Supervisor Professor Jane Castle – there were times when I felt I was not going to make it, but you always assured me of my potential capabilities and the courage to continue. Your patience and commitment in coaching, mentoring and helping in many respects were highly profound. You went the extra mile for me in many respects. Without that support and assurance, I would not have made it. A special gratitude goes to my two children, ‘Mamohapi and Tumi for their understanding, patience and support during difficult and trying times throughout my studies.

I was humbled by the cooperation of the Boseele Association members in Botha-Bothe and ‘Mate, throughout the period of this study. Your valuable time ushered in various meetings cannot be underestimated, as without that sacrifice, it would be impossible to achieve this goal.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CSOs/NSAs	Civil Society organisations/Non-State Actors
- CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
- NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
- FBOs	Faith-based Organisations
DDLO	District Development Liaison Office/r
DVS/MS-Lesotho	Danish Volunteers Service known as MS-Lesotho
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EDA-L	European Development Agencies in Lesotho
ETDP	Education, Training and Development Practice/Practitioner
EU – EC - LGNSP	European Union - European Commission - Local Governance and Non State Actors Programme
GoL	Government of Lesotho
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbett
HIV and AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus – Acquired Immuno deficiency Syndrome
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LCN	Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations
LHWP	Lesotho Highlands Water Project
MoU-MoA	Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement
NUL-IEMS	National University of Lesotho - Institute of Extra Mural Studies
SCIL -	Strengthening Civil Society in Lesotho
SMMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
UK - DfID	United Kingdom - Department for International Development
UN - MDGs	United Nations - Millennium Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States of America International Development Aid
WV-ADPs	World Vision Area Development Projects