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**Mabona, Rachel L.**

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# Sustainable livelihoods and youth empowerment in informal settlements-: The case of Lindelani informal settlement, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality

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Rachel L Mabona (1740353)

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A research report submitted to the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment,

University of the Witwatersrand, in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

Masters of the Built Environment in Housing.

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September 2019

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Supervisor: Amanda Williamson

**Declaration**

I declare that this study report is my original research work. It is submitted to the degree of Masters of the Built Environment in Housing of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination to any other University and where other people's work has been used it had been duly acknowledged.

Date: 26 September 2019

Signature: 



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**Abstract**

High unemployment rates of 38,2% of youth at age 15-34 in South Africa build substantial difficulties in young people's ability to become self-reliant. The unemployment of youth remains the biggest challenge in South Africa making youth vulnerable to crime, drugs and violence. The challenges facing the youth call for urgent expansion of livelihood opportunities, through supportive interventions that are based on an understanding of their circumstances. Youth in informal settlements are particularly vulnerable to unemployment and poverty, ill health, and social exclusion and marginalisation than those living in better-located areas. They live in areas where they do not receive basic services. The environment the poor youth life inputs them in vulnerable situations. Informal settlements are prejudiced when it comes to youth support, job creation and policy interventions. Youth livelihoods in the informal settlements are not adequately addressed by research conducted on sustainable livelihoods. Research mainly is done on household and rural livelihoods.

The main aim of this study is to understand the livelihoods of youth living in informal settlements as a basis for formulating interventions that are appropriate and well-targeted. By understanding the livelihood strategies and vulnerability of youth in informal settlements, interventions may stand a better chance of promoting poverty reduction, and social cohesion and improving their living conditions. Lindelani informal settlement situated in the urban periphery of Benoni Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality was selected as a case study because the area is not developed, people are living under bad conditions with limited basic services. Again, there is no research done on this informal settlement. This study adopted a qualitative approach to research in order to explore the experiences of the youth in informal settlements. In-depth interviews conducted with 15 young men and women aged 19-35 years to fully understand their livelihoods.

The sustainable livelihood approach (SLA) suggested by Chambers and Conway (1992) was used as the framework for obtaining and analysing information about the current livelihoods of the youth. The SLA assists in assessing the different capitals or assets that underpin the livelihoods of the youth. For this study, the most significant forms of capital were human capital (i.e. issues of education, skills and health), financial capital (i.e. issues of income), physical capital (i.e. housing) and social capital (i.e. social relations and social networks). To succeed in fighting poverty, it is imperative that livelihoods remain sustainable and/ or be able to cope with and recover from stresses and shocks. In addition, the youth capabilities and assets must be enhanced or developed both now and, in the future, without undermining the natural resource

base strengthening the informal sector through skills development can provide employment to the youth and improve income for sustainable economic and social development and thus reducing poverty.

The study found that the youth from Lindelani informal settlement are faced with multiple socio-economic challenges. In order to survive, they survived by involving themselves in informal activities, such as tuck-shop, crèche, hair salon, illegal mining, fixing bicycles, shoe repairing and other piece jobs like painting, tiling and lawn mowing. These informal activities are augmented with government support grants received by either parents and children, that is child support grants. While there are municipal programmes available they are not directed to the needs of those living in informal settlements. It is recommended that programmes designed to alleviate poverty and strengthen their self-esteem are necessary. The study recommended that in the absence of the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) the youth leaders from different political organisations and the ward committee prepare a detailed understanding of the youth in Lindelani using the SLA in order to assist them appropriately. The youth in informal settlements need access to decent housing with better infrastructure and basic services, that are situated where economic opportunities are available.

**Key Words**: Youth; vulnerability and poverty, Sustainable livelihood approach, Livelihood strategies, Informal settlements.

**Dedication**

This research report is dedicated to everyone who supported me even when it was difficult to do so. My family, my husband, my children and my friends who were always there for me. Thank you very much.

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I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the MBE Housing team of lecturers for their continued support, encouragement, constructive criticism, patience and guidance during my entire period at Wits. My special thanks to my supervisor Amanda Williamson for her wise words of encouragement, your belief in me continued to motivate me. Above all, I want to thank God for giving me the strength to complete my research.

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**List of Acronyms**

CoE: City of Ekurhuleni

EMM: Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality

EPWP: Expanded Works Programme

EYP: Ekurhuleni Youth Policy

GDS: Growth of Development Strategy

GVA: Gross Value Addition

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus

ISP: Indigent Support Policy

MSOCA: Mayor State of the City Address

NPCDO: National Planning Commission's Diagnostic Overview

NYDA: National Youth Development Agency

NYP: National Youth Policy

OBA: Outcome-Based Approach

PIS: Participation Information Sheet

SLA: Sustainable Livelihood Approach

SOCA: State of the City Address

STEP: Student Training Entrepreneurial Promotion

# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Introduction

South African cities can be centres of wealth; however, there is also intense poverty, especially in informal settlements (Parnell, 2004). Informal settlements in urban areas are populated with people who are vulnerable to poverty. In South Africa, the National Planning Commission's Diagnostic Overview (2010) points out three challenges that are facing the country which are unemployment, inequalities and poverty. This overview also found that due to historical disadvantages that continue to dominate, the rapid growth of informal settlements, high levels of unemployment and inequalities remain (Ibid.). The unemployment rate in South Africa indicates a slight decrease from 27, 1% in the third quarter of 2016 to 26.6% in 2019 (StatsSA 2018). South Africa needs to rebuild its human capital production given its high level of unemployment. Therefore, the state has the responsibility for addressing these three fundamental challenges. Poverty is caused by insecurity rather than the lack of economic opportunities (Chambers 1995, Moser 1996). Bradshaw, (2006) concurs with the fact that poverty is not only caused by the lack of economic opportunities by stating that the lack of basic services or unmet basic needs and the unequal distribution of material and non-material resources also cause poverty. Rogerson (1996) states that in trying to deal with poverty issues one needs to consider the issue of unequal distribution of resources because it hinders development and sustains poverty. Poverty is made persistent by poor infrastructure, low economic growth and social exclusion. The poor do not have enough to eat, adequate shelter, access to education and basic health, or a voice in what happens in their communities (Phillip and Rayhan, 2004). Limited assets furthermore restrict the poor from dealing with risks and absorbing shocks. Once poor people are exposed to risks, their well-being get affected and poverty increases (Hoogeveen, Tesliuc, Vakis, and Dercon, 2005). The influx of people into urban areas makes it impossible to deal with poverty reduction (Boudreaux, 2008). Chambers (1995) and Moser (1996) indicate that poverty can be reduced when the poor are able to respond to available opportunities to overcome stresses and shocks that are facing them. The lack of opportunities for the unskilled also instigates inequality (Chibba and Luiz, 2011). Sufficient progress in human development through education, health and safety are imperative in fighting unemployment (Ibid.). People from marginalised peripheries should be brought into the economy through financial and social inclusion to curb poverty (Chibba and Luiz, 2011).

## 1.2 Problem statement

The vulnerability can be caused by the lack of assets, opportunities and resources (Richmond 2007). The sub-standard health conditions that the poor youth live under and the lack of decent housing contributes to poverty. Unemployment, inequalities and poverty have a great impact on the youth in informal settlements. Youth living in informal settlements are either informally employed or unemployed. Due to insufficient employment opportunities in the formal sector, young people may be forced to engage in casual work and other livelihood sources. They have no voice and are socially excluded. Their economic and social marginalisation often results in the youth becoming idle and frustrated, in some instances turning to drugs, crime and violence (Mumba, 2016). In other words, the youth resort to survival strategies that are dangerous and may result in being vulnerable to shocks and stresses. Young women become involved in sex work while young men may abuse drugs and become involved in criminal activities. Furthermore, neglected youth threaten the stability of society (Mabala, 2011).

The high levels of youth unemployment and inequality create a substantial obstacle to their ability to become self-reliant (Mumba, 2016). Vulnerable youth become exposed to shocks and stresses which lead to social and economic marginalisation (Ombati and Ombati, 2016). In this way, youth without assets may be forced to engage in casual work as a form of a coping strategy. This can be attributed to the lower level of education they possess and their lack of skills as well as the way in which the labour market is structured. Hence, once they remain unemployed for a long time it becomes difficult to restore their self-esteem (Ibid.).

Upgrading of informal settlements is important to the poor as it addresses urban poverty and access to basic services to function optimally. The participation of youth in the process of upgrading gives them the opportunity to guide and influence the process. In-situ upgrading deals with the socio-economic and physical issues that prevent youth from achieving sustainable livelihoods. It promotes safety and security by providing basic services and security of tenure. It should avoid relocation so that people are able to keep their jobs and not disturb their livelihoods. Informal settlement upgrading increases social capital. Youth are also provided with public places which facilitate their engagements and allow them the opportunity to actively participate in government decision making.

Youth's livelihoods in informal settlements are not sufficiently addressed by research conducted on sustainable livelihoods (Banks, 2015). Research is mainly done on household and rural livelihoods (Ibid.). As a result, this study investigates youth living in informal settlements and

recommends appropriate and well-targeted interventions to support their precarious livelihoods. Given the youth bulge, their needs must be addressed in order to prepare for the future. Their concerns and challenges need to be addressed in programmes intended for them. This study focuses on youth or young people who are 19-35 years of age. They just left school with matric and/or dropped out of school. These young people are unskilled with low levels of education and a variety of livelihood strategies. The state needs to know who the poor youth are, what kinds of livelihood activities they engage in, and the challenges they face, prior to trying to assist them. The Sustainable Livelihood Approach can also assist those who are planning interventions for the youth to understand those assets and be able to know what to do in trying to enhance them. It is important to know youths' assets, how they manage them and how they access those that they do not have. An understanding of youth's assets and their livelihood strategies makes it possible for the policymakers to provide programmes and initiative that enhance those assets. Resilience, as characterised by Fergus and Zimmerman (2005: 399) assists in overcoming the negative effects of risk exposure and coping with traumatic experiences successfully. In this way, the types of livelihood outcomes the youth need to achieve will become clear. However, if the sustainable livelihood approach is not understood by the policymakers their interventions may be fruitless and could deepen the vulnerability of the youth. Meaningful engagement of youth in government decision making and their active participation will enhance the policymakers' capacity to develop the youths' assets. Understanding the youths' need by involving them directly during decision making will bring about appropriate interventions and programmes.

### 1.3 Aim and objectives of the study

#### 1.3.1 Aim

The focus of this study is to understand the livelihood strategies of the youth living in an informal settlement. It aims to explore the nature and extent of the nature of their assets and capabilities (and vulnerabilities) and the ways in which their vulnerabilities relate to their built environment. In so doing, the study seeks to investigate appropriate interventions that can support their livelihoods and promote poverty reduction, social cohesion, and improve their living conditions.

### 1.3.2 Objectives

- To understand the assets of the youth in Lindelani and how they are used as coping strategies.
- To establish the relationship between informal settlement upgrading and sustainable livelihoods
- To explore the kind of support required to strengthen the poor youth's livelihoods

## 1.4 Research question and sub-questions

### 1.4.1 Main research question

How can the youth living in Lindelani informal settlement be supported in ways that strengthen their livelihoods and benefit from informal settlement upgrading projects?

#### 1.4.1.1Sub-questions

- What does past experience suggest about how assets of the youth can be enhanced to support more sustainable livelihoods?
- In what ways can informal settlement upgrading can be harnessed to strengthen the livelihoods of young people?
- What are some of the interventions implemented by the state institutions and other organisations to support youth in informal settlements?
- What is the nature of the youths' livelihoods in Lindelani informal settlement?
- What kind of support may be necessary to strengthen the livelihoods of the youth in Lindelani informal settlement?

  *

## 1.5 Research method

The study seeks to understand the poor youth's livelihoods in the Lindelani informal settlement and to explore how the state's support interventions are appropriate, necessary and well-targeted. The main aim of this report is to investigate the current livelihoods of the youth. The youth in this study refers to young people aged 19-35 years. The respondents in this study are young people

who are out of school (either after having completed matric or having dropped out of school) and without formal employment. This report only concentrates on the youth as explained above because are the most unemployable and have the lowest level of education. The college and university students who are unemployed are not part of this report because chances of them getting employment are not as limited as those without tertiary education.

A qualitative research method is the most appropriate to identify issues from the perspective of the participants as it allows me to explore their experiences as a youth in the informal settlements (Hennink, Hunter & Bailey, 2011). Hennink, et al. (2011) also indicates that the qualitative method assists the researcher in studying the participants in their natural settings and be able to identify how their livelihoods relate to their behaviour and experiences. This study takes a qualitative form of a case study that will assist in understanding youth's livelihoods and their assets. The case study method is used to gain an in-depth understanding of how the poor youth make a living under difficult living conditions and to inform what suitable interventions can be implemented to achieve more sustainable livelihoods. Lindelani informal settlement has been selected as the case study because there is no academic research on the youth's livelihoods. This method is also suitable for an analysis of a limited number and allows for an empirical enquiry. Therefore, this method has assisted me in obtaining knowledge from the actual experiences of the unemployed youth and to understand their livelihoods. It also made me become open-minded and able to listen to the youth telling their stories. The focus was on examining the youth's assets and how they are employed as livelihood strategies. The research design of this study was, therefore, influenced by the socio-economic challenges; poverty; human dignity; and inequality facing the youth in informal settlements**.**

The participants were purposively selected and limited to 19 because of time constraints. The participants comprised the following:

- 15 were young people between the ages of 19 and 35,
- an Ekurhuleni Ward Councillor who lives in Daveyton,
- an official, from the Department of Human Settlement at the Benoni Regional Office of Ekurhuleni Municipality, is a Director in the Re-blocking Unit.
- an official, who is one of the Youth Programme Developers in the Youth Unit from the Office of Mayor at the Germiston Municipal Offices.
- a member of the Ward Committee known as Community Forum in the Lindelani settlement.

Most of the youth who participated were men because most young women were reluctant to participate. Of the15 youth, 9 were men and 6 were women. The participants were purposively selected to provide an opportunity to explore the important questions of this study (Devers & Frankel, 2000) and especially to develop an understanding of the poor youth's situation and how they use their assets.

The study gathered empirical data through in-depth interviews. The purpose of this kind of data was to gather youth experiences and be able to interpret the means of their livelihoods. The data collected from the selected participants were meaningful as they were given enough time to say what they needed to say. The fieldwork was conducted over a period of four weeks. The main challenge encountered during the fieldwork was the delay in setting up the interviews with the youth. A youth leader in the community needed to identify participants and organising the interviews. As he was busy with election campaigning, the process was delayed. Secondly, the Ward Councillor could not provide much information needed about the youth as he indicated that he manages several wards and it was only his second term of office. Finally, the non-existence of the non-governmental organisations that operate in the Lindelani informal settlement proved difficult to interview during the time the fieldwork was conducted.

A total number of 19 participants were interviewed through open-ended, in-depth and face-to-face interviews as well as focus group discussions. The questions directed to youth were asked in the face to face interviews. Other less personal interview questions were dealt with in smaller focus group discussions in which the 15 youths divided themselves into three groups of five members. The youth participants were identified through community engagements with the assistance of the youth leader who was a resident at Lindelani informal settlement. The youth community leader was very helpful in identifying the youth that was interviewed. A snowballing sampling on the youth participants was also used to identify potential participants. Snowballing technique was also used to identify more participants. It allowed the participants to recommend other people who they thought might also have information on the questions asked. Since there were no public spaces in Lindelani, the youth leader suggested we take 15 youth participants to be interviewed at his house. We sat under a tree in his yard, he kept order, and everyone respected him.

At the beginning of each interview, I introduced myself to the participant and explained the purpose of the research and asked permission to continue with the interview. The youth agreed because the youth leader had earlier informed them about me. I then issued the consent forms and explained them. They were signed without any questions. For ethical reasons, the

participants were assured of their confidentiality and that their real names were not going to be used, and pictures used were not going to show their faces. Participants were asked to speak candidly and were requested to feel comfortable in their responses. The face-to-face interview questions were semi-structured allowing each participant to answer with more understanding. The questions for the youth were about the understanding of their livelihoods; their education level; the skills they had; the support and interventions they needed to better their lives. Sometimes when questions were asked, the participants would answer in groups as the questions were allowing them to open up. In case the discussions deviated from the topic, I asked questions that brought them back to the topic. The responses were audio-recorded, and notes were taken as they responded to the questions as well as during the discussions. The specifics of each participant's story were clearly captured and thoroughly translated and transcribed with more notes. All participants agreed to be recorded. In addition, direct observation of the participants was done as the youth provided detailed information in their responses. Their facial expression and the tone of voice gave more explanation of their responses. I observed and made notes about the non-verbal signals and gestures the respondents made. These were important because they offered a further layer of meaning to the youth's responses. The face-to-face interviews and group discussions were conducted in the local language (isiZulu and English).

The ward councillor assisted in identifying both the officials from Ekurhuleni Municipality (Benoni and Germiston) to be interviewed. The officials and the ward councillor responded to questions seeking clarity on the Municipal programmes; plans and strategies addressing social problems as well as initiatives and programmes designed for the empowerment and the well-being of the poor youth in informal settlements. All the interviews were planned for 30 minutes, however, I allowed them to exceed the stipulated time if they wished to talk further.

The data gathered from the interviews, the group discussions and the responses from the observations were recorded and transcribed to more easily identify the findings. During the interviews and the group discussions, I identified themes that assisted in understanding the research problem as Welman (2005) indicates that themes can be identified during the interviewing process. Then the thematic analysis was used to analyse the research findings. The gathered data were categorised and put into themes so that they could make sense and help to recognize similar experiences of the respondents. I made sure that in the process of categorising data into themes was clear. On interpreting data, I also made sure that meaning was not lost.

## 1.6 Ethical considerations

Ethical clearance was obtained from the University of the Witwatersrand prior to undertaking the research. As I am a provincial government employee, I needed to manage any potential conflicts of interest, especially when I was engaging with municipal officials and ward councillors and committee members. I clearly explained to them I was interviewing them in my capacity as a student and the information I needed was only for academic purposes. If by any chance the department would want to make use of the information; the information could be drawn from the final research report. However, the raw interview data that I collected for this study would not be made available to anyone else in order to ensure participants' confidentiality and anonymity.

Participants signed the consent to confirm their willingness to participate. In each case, I gave the participant clarity about the study. The nature and purpose of the research were presented and those interested were asked to sign the consent form. In the Participation Information Sheet (PIS), the participants were put at ease as they were informed that they could withdraw any time they wanted from participating. Anonymity was ensured by refraining from identifying participants. Categories such as, W20 (W for a woman and 20 for an age) M35 for a man, O35 for the official, WC for a ward councillor, HO for Human settlement officer and CM for a committee member, were used instead of using their real names so that the response given by the participants were not linked to their identities.

## 1.7 Limitations

The research methods and techniques of data gathering were selected carefully, however, limitations occurred largely due to the time available for conducting the fieldwork. Conducting research at one informal settlement and only engaging interviews with 15 participants represents a very small sample. This means that the findings arising from my study should not be generalized or regarded as representative of all youth experiences in informal settlements in South Africa. My reliance on the youth leader to identify and give access to participants was another limitation as he delayed the process. A further limitation is that participants in focus group discussions may not have provided the depth of information that they may otherwise have discussed in more confidential and anonymous face-to-face interviews.

## 1.10 Structure of the report

The first chapter of this report provides a general introduction to the study. It gives a background, the problem statement and rationale which discuss the purpose for undertaking the study. It also sets out the research question with research sub-questions of the study. It also describes the method of conducting the study and explains how the data was collected and analysed.

The second chapter is the literature review and the conceptual framework that frames the research undertaking. This chapter also examines the main themes of the study which are: youth empowerment, social exclusion, sustainable livelihoods, assets and the capitals (human, social, financial and physical).

The third chapter provides a detailed description of the study area and youth-related policy and programmes. The location of the study and ethical considerations are also outlined in this chapter.

Chapter Four is the presentation and discussion of the research findings that were collected during the fieldwork conducted in Lindelani informal settlement.

Lastly, Chapter Five provides the conclusion and recommendations. It concludes with the summary of the study findings that respond to the research question and sub-questions and proposes recommendations for further research.

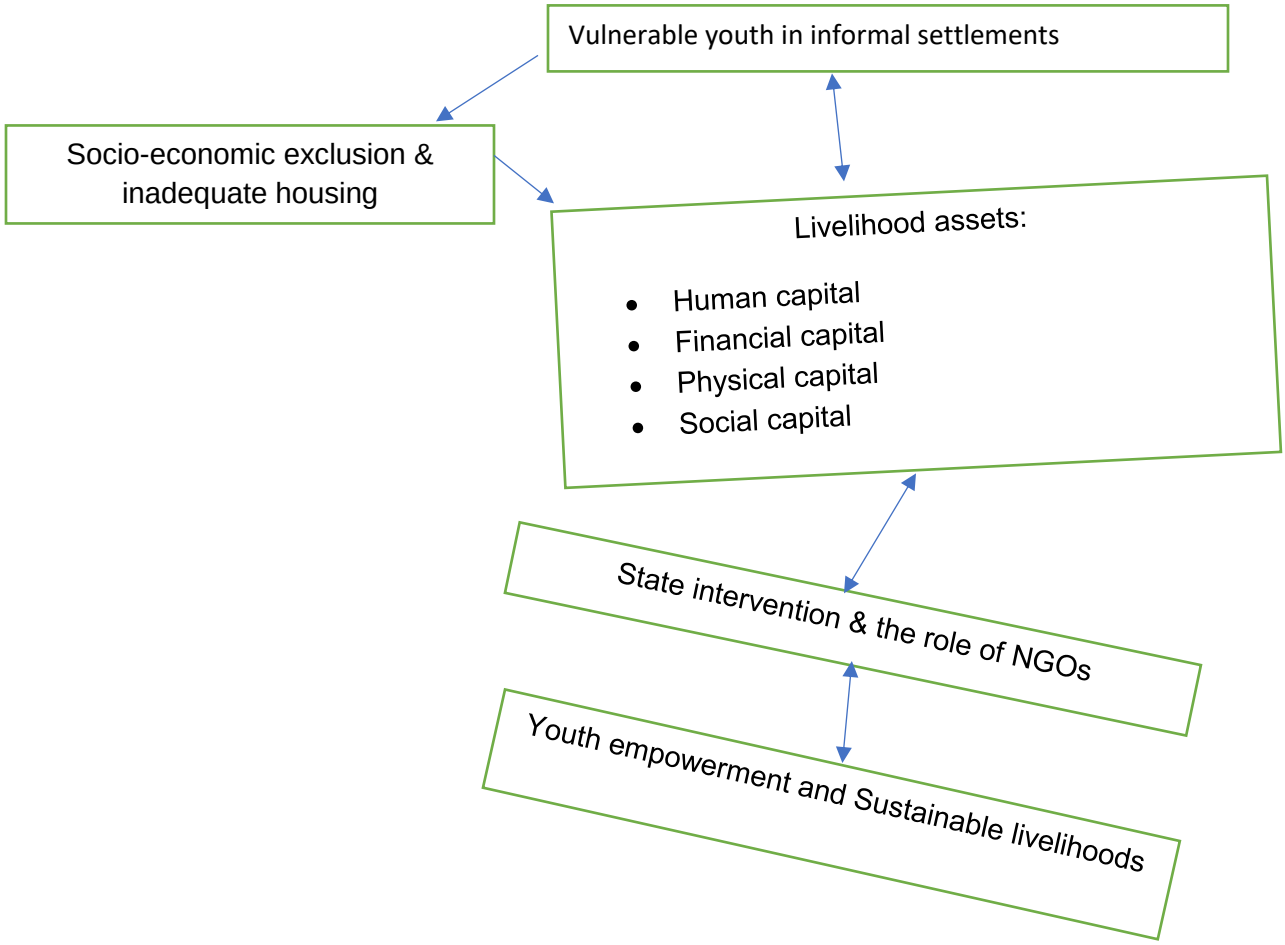
## CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW ON YOUTH IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS, THEIR LIVELIHOODS AND ASSETS

### 2.1 Introduction:

Youth in informal settlements are marginalised, not involved in decision making and not given a chance to participate in the economic and social well-being of their communities. The youth in these areas have few opportunities for consistent employment and their assets are limited. The unemployment rates among urban youth have been consistently high (Njonjo 2010).

In this study, the focus is on understanding the livelihoods of youths in informal settlements and to ensure appropriate support to achieve sustainable livelihoods and socio-economic empowerment. This chapter is based on academic literature on how the youth's assets can be enhanced to create more sustainable livelihoods. Conceptualising sustainable livelihoods is also provided. The focus is also on the youth's circumstances and experiences in informal settlements. It explores the kind of assistance necessary to facilitate youth empowerment by strengthening their livelihoods and addressing their vulnerabilities. In particular, literature is reviewed on informal settlement upgrading that can incorporate the concerns of the youth. This is done to understand how the unemployed youth's skills can be developed for them to be able to enter formal employment and/or continue with their informal activities in a more sustainable manner. In addition, a detailed description of youth and unemployment are explained in this chapter. Due to the high level of unemployment of youth in the informal settlements, literature on the assets is reviewed, especially the human capital (i.e. issues of education, skills and health), financial capital (i.e. issues of income), physical capital (i.e. housing) and social capital (i.e. social relations and social networks) as they have an influence on youth livelihoods. The issue of socio-economic exclusion is explored because of the extent of youth marginalisation. Social dynamics and exclusions facing youth in informal settlements are discussed. In so doing, the focus is given to the assistance provided by the state, the Ward committee and other relevant entities mandated to develop youth in informal settlements.

**Figure 1:Conceptual framework**




The conceptual framework above speaks to the building of sustainable livelihoods which involves empowering the poor youth in economic, social and political ways. The informal settlements' inhabitants are vulnerable to shocks and stresses. Therefore, it is important to develop and enhance the assets that the habitants possess to alleviate poverty. Furthermore, a reflection on human capital, financial capital, social capital and physical capital has been done to ensure appropriate empowerment. Guided by the sustainable livelihood framework, the capabilities and assets of the poor youth have been taken into consideration. This enables the state and the NGOs to introduce relevant interventions in the empowerment of the poor youth.

### 2.2 Understanding the youth

Youth signifies an interface between childhood and adulthood as far as age is concerned (Bennell, 2000). However, the age category differs from country to country depending on cultural, institutional and political factors (Bennell,2000). In addition, defining youth depends on the dimension it takes (Chinguta, 2001). It can be about age, notions of adulthood, attainment of

puberty, attainment of maturity, or the ability to sustain oneself (Ibid.). In the United State of America, the youth age category is 15-24 years (Chinguta, 2001). However, in some countries, the age group is as high as 35 years of age (Ibid.). Zambia, for example, has adopted the age category of 15-24 years with an understanding that at 24 years of age, a youth has reached maturity (Ibid.). The African Youth Charter defines youth as between the age of 15 and 35 years because some young people at the age of 24 are still at school (Mabala, 2011). Youth in South Africa and Ghana is defined as any persons between the ages of 15 and 35 years as they do not take an adult role at an age earlier than the age of 35 (Adegboyega, 2016). Table 1 shows different age groups in different countries:

***Table 1*: Youth age group in different countries**

| COUNTRY | AGE GROUP |
|---|---|
| Botswana | 12-29 |
| Ghana | 15-35 |
| Kenya | 15-35 |
| Lesotho | 12-35 |
| Malawi | 14-25 |
| Mauritius | 14-25 |
| Mozambique | 18-35 |
| Nigeria | 12-30 |
| Sierra Leone | 15-30 |
| South Africa | 15-35 |
| Tanzania | 15-35 |
| The Gambia | 12-30 |
| Uganda | 18-30 |
| Zambia | 15-25 |

*Source: Mkandawire, 1998 page 73*

The table above shows that in many countries in Africa, 12 years marks the beginning of being a youth while adulthood starts from the age of 25. This is seen in Botswana, Lesotho and Gambia. The South African definition of youth is used in this report and the focus is on young people between the ages of 19 and 35. In addition, the focus of this study is a sub-category of youth: those young men and women who are no longer in schooling and who are not formally employed.

### 2.3 Youth unemployment

South Africa's youth have been in poverty from an early age, with 43.5% of the citizens under the age of 17 living in households that earned below the average income of R797 per month (Stats SA, 2011). It is the start of a vicious cycle that continues into adulthood, and more than half South Africans below the age of 35 are unemployed (Ibid.). Youth aged 15-34 in South Africa are unemployed with a high rate of 38.2% in the first quarter of 2018 (Stats SA, 2018). Almost 34.2% of youth in the first quarter of 2018 were not in formal employment or enrolled in education or training programme (Ibid.). This high unemployment rate among youth continues to be a challenge to the South African government. The cause of youth unemployment can be partly attributed to the government policies and poor planning thereof. Lack of employment and joblessness causes unending social exclusion (Mlatsheni and Leibbrandt, 2011). This prevents the youth from transitioning to adulthood as they remain dependent on their parents (Ibid.). Low levels of education also contribute to youth unemployment especially those young people living in informal settlements. Unemployed youth in the informal settlements become frustrated especially if there are people their age who live in nearby settlements who have access to better services and socio-economic opportunities. The vulnerable youth resort to criminal and violent activities as survival strategies (Tranchant, 2013). Hence, the youth is seen at the forefront of protests because of the frustrations they have as a result of unemployment and appalling living conditions. The protesting youth are often characterised in the media as violent thugs. However, they should be regarded as victims as they are unemployable with low levels of education and they are often from dysfunctional families (Gupte, te Lintelo and Barnett, 2014).

### 2.4 Youth empowerment

People living in informal settlements are faced with many difficulties. These include, but are not limited to, lack of education, unemployment, hunger, poverty, poor health and environment, and substance abuse (Thieme, 2018). The feeling of social exclusion compounds their problems. The poor in informal settlements often become enmeshed in poverty that can be difficult to escape

without extreme determination and external support. There is a need to address the lack of jobs for a large number of unemployed youth. Addressing this problem can be facilitated through economic policies that promote enterprises that operate in a way of boosting labour demand (Ongwere, 2014).

Countries like Zimbabwe and Mozambique are promoting entrepreneurship in the informal settlements for the youth to become job creators rather than job seekers (Winschiers-Theophilus, Cabrero, Angula, ChivunoKuria, Hedvig Mendonca, and Ngolo, 2015). In Kenya, the Student Training on Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP) is targeted at university students and scholars and offers them training in entrepreneurial skills (Ndong-Jatte, 2018). This programme aims at empowering youth to be productive and self-sustaining and can thus contribute to more sustainable livelihoods (Ibid.). It is, therefore, important that the poor youth's skills are developed to enhance their capabilities, so they can be self-reliant in the future. Youth replicates the society's potential for the future; therefore, they need to be provided with support (Schoof, 2006).

Apart from being the leaders of tomorrow, they are the foundation of society (Adegboyega, 2016). It is because of the youth being the foundation of a society that they should be empowered through the enhancement of their human, financial, physical and social assets. In so doing, youth can be assisted to identify, then utilise and maximise their potential. This, therefore, will strengthen their skills and/or train them to become self-sufficient. This will also enable the youth to draw upon and build from these assets to make a living and find a way out of poverty and vulnerability and thereby achieve sustainable livelihoods. This is likely to boost their confidence and enable them to make informed decisions. In making their own decisions, they can be able to change their lives and those of others.

Young people in informal settlements need their skills to be developed so they can be economically empowered and be self-employed (Thieme, 2018). This will empower them, give them a sense of purpose and enable them to find formal employment and/or start their own businesses. They can generate income by being trained in business skills and become entrepreneurs. In this way, they can become job creators rather than job seekers. Therefore, youth are encouraged to consider other sources of income other than employment in the formal sector. Strengthening the informal sector through skills development can provide employment to the youth and improve income for sustainable economic and social development and thus reducing poverty (Adam, 2012). This can be done by expanding economic opportunities for all by, among other things, encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation. They need to be empowered with skills and information so that they are equipped to think of alternative sources of income

rather than only rely on employment (Mumba, 2016). Jeffrey and Dyson (2013) argue that once the youth are empowered they will be able to find economic niches and manage scarce resources successfully. In so doing, they are in a better position to be able to take advantage of commercial opportunities, even within difficult economic environments.

Introducing programmes that empower young people can improve their living conditions as well as their livelihoods. Empowered youth especially those from the informal settlements can be more competitive in the labour market. Entrepreneurship is said to have benefits of creating employment to those who own businesses (Ongwere, 2014). The youth entrepreneurs can employ other marginalised youth bringing them into the economic mainstream (Ibid.). Empowering young people through skills development may assist the youth to be self-sufficient and develop new skills and experiences. In this way, they will be capacitated and able to participate and improve the economy of the country. This can be done through the involvement of different stakeholders, for example, big business. Young entrepreneurs can respond to economic opportunities and trends (Ongwere, 2014). They develop many skills that assist them to face life in its complexities.

Empowering young people with entrepreneurial skills help them to be responsible and contribute to the country's economy and be able to create sustainable livelihoods. It is important that young people's skills are developed to strengthen their livelihoods so that they are able to enter the labour market. Training poor youth in entrepreneurial activities can facilitate the acquisition of competences, capacities and experiences in generating small and big businesses. The attitudes of the youth need to be considered when embarking on entrepreneurial skills training. Their attitudes need to be channelled towards seeing self-employment as something that can better their lives and the source of their sustainable livelihoods (Ibid.). Young people should be provided with skills and the opportunities to participate fully in the lives of their communities. They also need to be trained as entrepreneurs and be provided with increased capacity to change their situation.

Through active participation in community upgrading, the poor may be empowered to play a vital role in the development of their communities and the improvement of their individual lives (Thieme, 2018). Informal settlement upgrading can benefit the youth. Their participation in the planning processes can influence and guide the way it should be done. Informal settlement upgrading provides physical, social and economic benefits for youth. The location of the settlements is kept where it was originally. In this way, the youth keep their jobs. The provision of basic services is also of benefit for the youth as they can increase their economic activities. The

availability of public places after upgrading is important to youth as they can access places to meet one another.

The uncertainty of young people in informal settlements leads to a vulnerability that perpetuates unpleasant situations (Ibid.). They experience more challenges given the fact that they are poor with limited or no skills. Reducing inequalities and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods in informal settlements must come from multiple actors including all levels of government but also from the private sector, civil society and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). Moreover, including the voices and capacities of the poor youth and community organizations and NGOs in planning and implementation, leads to shared action that brings about inclusive and sustainable outcomes (Ibid.).

Smolinská (2007) states that empowerment should expand the poor youth's assets and capabilities, so they can be able to participate effectively. It is, therefore, important that any interventions intended for empowering poor youth include opportunities to learn skills, responsibility and active participation (Ibid.). Therefore, there is an urgent need for poor youth in informal settlements to be stimulated and supported to take leadership roles and be empowered to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives. The NGOs encourage active participation of the youth and proactiveness by initiating activities for their empowerment (Bennell, 2000). The government and NGOs should prioritise them by providing resources and assistance. In so doing they need to involve them by encouraging active participation.

To maintain stability in informal settlements, the state needs to respond to the housing demand and collaborate with the private sector to create employment opportunities for the youth. The state also needs to develop programmes that empower youth to be self-sufficient. In upgrading processes, the state should avoid relocating the poor from their current places as that can interfere with their livelihoods. They need to provide infrastructure, education and health facilities for the poor youth.

### 2.5 Conceptualising sustainable livelihoods

'Livelihood comprises capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims, and access) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks; and if it can enhance its capabilities and assets and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation' (Chambers and Conway, 1991, 6). In investigating the youth livelihoods in Lindelani, this study will apply the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach

(SLA). This is because the SLA analyses livelihoods in its entirety to establish the key issues where intervention can be applied for successful poverty reduction (Krantz,2001). In this way, it identifies the resources, assets or capabilities the poor have and how can they be best used to strengthen the sustainability of their livelihoods. The approach also strongly encourages the participation of the poor in the design of interventions appropriate for their needs (Ibid.). As poverty is multi-dimensional, the SLA helps in linking those dimensions. This means that when one dimension is improved the other benefits, for example, developing the level of education increases the potential for being employed. The SLA has been used to contribute to the eradication of household poverty by informing the kids of interventions best suited to reduce poverty experienced by specific households. It consists of five capitals: financial capital (access to inflows of money), natural capital (originating from the natural environment), human capital (education, health, skills), physical capital (built environment assets), and social capital (the social networks) (Chambers and Conway, 2009).

There are tangible and intangible assets that a person needs to draw upon to be able to make a living that is sustainable (Chambers and Conway, 1991). These capitals assist in shaping livelihoods, as well as incorporating elements that limit livelihood choices and explain many of the inequities between individuals and communities (Jewkes, Jama-Shai, Willan, Misselhorn, Mushinga, Washington, Mbatha and Skiweyiya, 2014). Having better education, skills and good health can enable poor youth to get formal employment or be self-employed. Access to flows of money allows for better livelihoods. Adequate housing can assist in making more money by renting out rooms to those who need them. A sustainable livelihood also involves access to basic services, like electricity, water, sanitation, better roads. Social networks and social facilities are important to the youth in informal settlements because they provide opportunities for the youth to engage one another about livelihood strategies. They also get information about the programmes and initiatives available to them through social networks. All these make possible for the youth in informal settlements to strengthen their current livelihood activities. The capitals empower people to make a meaningful living and have the power to challenge the structures under which they make a living (Ibid.). This approach also assists in understanding poverty and/or economic well-being of the poor from the people's point of view (Rakodi and Lloyd-Jones, 2002). Therefore, the assets that people possess are of fundamental importance in the process of planning, designing and implementing interventions that support their livelihood strategies rather than to disrupt them.

Poverty is not a permanent condition (Chambers 1995, Moser 1996). It needs to be managed by responding to available opportunities and building up assets to buffer shocks and stresses (Ibid.).

Poverty should also not be seen simply as a lack of income or consumption. Instead, it should be understood as a deprivation of resources for a dignified life (Ibid.). Rakodi and Lloyd (2002) argue that people are deemed poor when they have limited resources to consume sufficient goods and services in trying to achieve a minimum level of welfare. Youth in informal settlements are vulnerable to unemployment and poverty, ill health, and social exclusion and marginalisation.

### 2.6 Livelihood assets

Informal settlements have been linked to various social problems such as high levels of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, crime and lack of basic services (Nassar and Elsayed, 2017). This situation is humiliating to all informal residents and it affects their sense of belonging, and inclusion in society (Ibid.). The informal settlements have limited access to basic services and as a result, the livelihood opportunities are limited. Possessing assets improves the lives of the poor and decreases their vulnerabilities and is more than just a means of making a living (Kim and Sumberg, 2014). Therefore, the poor need to have ways to secure livelihoods that are sustainable. In so doing, they will need livelihood assets as a means of living as well as, protection from shocks and stresses. As it is indicated by Chambers and Conway (1992), a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope and recover from shocks and stresses and maintain its capabilities and assets for a future generation. The livelihoods of the youth depend on the assets that they possess. The sustainable livelihoods approach is used as a tool to understand how the youth's livelihood structure relates to their living conditions. This allows an assessment of the youth's assets as to whether they can generate sustainable livelihoods. The term livelihood assets or capitals refer to the resources available to the youth. These are the human capital, social capital, natural capital, financial capital and physical capital (Chambers and Conway, 1992). In this study, the focus is on the human capital (i.e. issues of education, skills and health), financial capital (i.e. issues of income), physical capital (i.e. housing) and social capital (i.e. social relations and social networks). These assets influence livelihood choices. For the youth to possess these assets are at an advantage as they can withstand any shocks and stresses that exposes them to be vulnerable. The various capitals upon which the poor youth can strengthen their livelihoods are the human capital, social capital, financial capital and physical capital. These capitals will assist in address poverty issues in different dimensions.

### 2.6.1 Human capital

It is important to invest in human capital for poverty alleviation. Human capital refers to intangible assets owned by individuals that are health, education and skills that increase the productive capacity of an individual (Goldin, 2014). The youth need access to education and training, health services, sanitation, clean water and adequate amounts of nutritious food to improve the value of this capital. An essential skill for human and socio-economic development is the ability to read and write (Save the Children, 2012). However, it is not enough. The poor youth need to be afforded with quality and affordable education. It should be made easy for them to access the schools. Distance from schools makes it difficult for learners from informal settlements to attend school due to lack of money for transport. Educated youth can improve their livelihoods. In addition, informal learning is as important as formal learning (Bamber,2012). That would be enhancing the creativity and innovative skills of the youth.

### 2.6.2 Financial capital

Income is seen as a favoured form of livelihood strategy (Sen, 1999). Sen argues that providing an individual with an opportunity to participate in the labour market contributes to economic development (Ibid.) There is a high level of commercialisation in urban economies, so basic foods are to be bought (Farrington, Ramasut and Walker, 2002). The cost of living is high in the cities. Therefore, the sale of labour is prioritised in urban cities as people living there need to pay for the goods and services they use. Hence, having an income to maintain sustainable livelihood is important. Employment and other ways of earning an income can be precarious features of vulnerability (Banks, 2015).

The youth in informal settlements need to have access to employment and to credit for livelihood security. Financial capital is dependent on human capital to access employment. However, the lack of financial support or financial capital prevents poor youth from starting businesses. The infrastructure necessary for economic activities such as roads, electricity and health facilities is important to youth. An informal settlement lacking such infrastructure youth to become entrepreneurs. Some youth become self-employed or informally employed. Self-employment includes trading, brick making, taxi drivers, carpentry etc. Therefore, once the youth can be afforded with education and/or informal learning and be involved in skills development, be afforded with health facilities and better infrastructure they will be able to access formal employment and/or be self-employed. This can create opportunities for the youth to access loans from the banks to start their businesses. Employment/income (financial capital) can be regarded

as one among several other assets that an individual or households are lacking. Thus, to be poor would mean to be excluded from the full participation in society. Possessing of assets by the poor improves their lives and decreases vulnerabilities than just a means of making a living (Kim and Sumberg, 2014).

There is a link between financial capital and human capital. Developing youth and empowering them is important in their lives as it builds the human capital (Adegboyega et al, 2016). Highly skilled (human capital) youth become independent, they can be employed as professional and/or start their own businesses (financial capital). Investing in youth through education can contribute to growing the country's economy. Therefore, the human capital that can be developed in young people forms the basis of permanent growth that can benefit the nation. A healthy person can participate in formal and informal employment and be able to generate income, unlike an unhealthy person who would be dependent on others. Therefore, it is imperative that poor youth in informal settlements be able to access health facilities in their areas and be fit for employment or creating their income.

### 2.6.3 Physical capital

Informal settlements are vulnerable to natural and/or artificial hazards (Tshabalala, 2015). This makes them not able to withstand disasters. In defining the environmental effects of living in informal settlements on residents, one needs to observe that most of the threats are connected to location where housing or services are inadequate. Physical capital is defined by Rakodi and Lloyd-Jones (2002) as basic infrastructure i.e. housing, water, electricity and roads. The poor physical form of the informal settlements dwellers and their location reflect their socio-economic status (Ibid.). Housing is important as it can be used effectively to decrease the pressure on finances (Moser, 2007). Housing to the poor is a source of income through rental. However, it becomes impossible for those living in informal settlements as they do not have a legal title to the land they live in. Therefore, it becomes difficult for them to have tenure security, as a result, they cannot put their houses as collateral or rent them out. Lack of tenure security exacerbate poverty and contributes to the poor living conditions (Bizimana, Mugiraneza, Twarabamenye & Mukeshimana, 2012). Tenure security as an asset opens opportunities for parents to allow other people in need of places to stay to put up shacks on their piece of land for rental. Even though house renting does not offer considerable income, it has been important security for house owners who are taking care of the poor youth. This is a way of making a living for their families as most of the youth are still dependent on them. Lack of security of tenure has a huge ripple effect on the

livelihoods of the informal settlement dwellers (Cosic, 2014). Young people also use their parents' houses as bases for establishing a small business. Running a crèche from home is a good business venture for the poor youth. This is an easy way of starting a business from home without worrying about renting other places. Some even start a tuck-shop at their parents' houses to make a living. In a case where youth-headed households exist, housing becomes vital as a source of income. The youth have hair salons, shoe repairs operated in their houses. In this way, the housing of the poor plays an important part in their livelihoods. Although the returns from these small businesses are meant for individual and/or household survival, they are important. Adequate housing is understood to can better the poor's wellbeing. Adequate housing provides access to other basic services such as electricity, water, sanitation, proper roads, waste removal and mainly an address. Some of these services which are basic necessities are viewed as socio-economic rights in the Constitution of South Africa (South African Constitution,1996. The poor youth need proper housing for themselves as well as their parents.

### 2.6.3 Social capital

Social capital refers to networks of shared support that exist within and between households, extended family, and communities. Through networks, people can organize access to, for example, loans, childcare, food, accommodation and information about employment and opportunities (Moser, 1998, Dersham and Gzirishvili: 1998). In this report, social capital is put into use as social networks, members of an organisation, social relations and source of information. Youth in informal settlements need social networks for communication and where peer groups can be formed. The importance of social networks is to access information about opportunities that one can take advantage of. Social capital also promotes public places where the youth can get together for social skills. Social networks allow the youth to form groups where they loan each other money, and to gain problem-solving skills. This can happen between friends and other closely related family members. This also teaches youth microfinancing skills. With social relations, the youth can be able to receive information about the programmes responsible for the development of sustainable livelihoods.

Belonging to political organisations and community-based organisations can be an advantage to the poor youth. These organisations can mentor the youth in starting small enterprises. They can link the youth with big businesses in support of their enterprises. They keep the youth always integrated with the community in developing ways of sustainable livelihoods. Non-governmental

organisations are also interested in assisting informal settlement dwellers in bettering their lives. Social capital is important to the poor youth especially in times of crises (Moser, 1998, Dersham and Gzirishvili: 1998).

The informal settlement's inhabitants are from different cultures who are there for different reasons. However, they all need each other as a community to survive. In this way, social capital is an asset that is very important for survival and achieve sustainable livelihoods. It is therefore imperative that youth in the informal settlements is empowered on social capital to be able to achieve sustainable livelihoods. Developing the social capital of the poor youth will assist them to work together in demanding services.

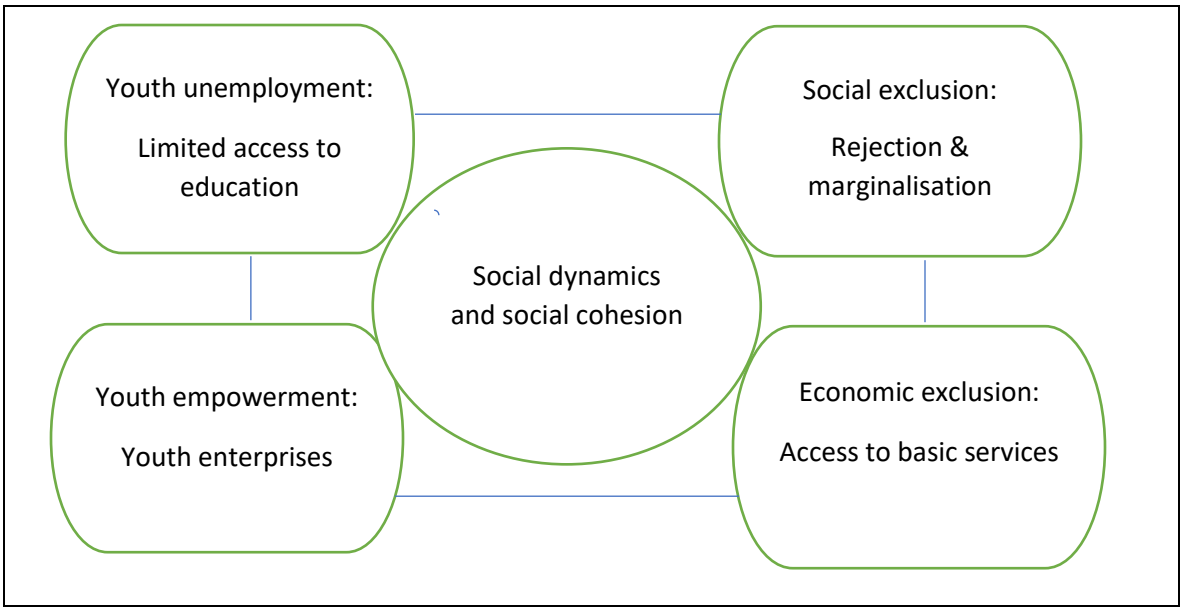
### 2.7 Socio-economic exclusion in informal settlements

The issue of social cohesion in South Africa is important. The minority feel excluded from the country's economy and political activities as they are unable to participate in any decision making. Byrne (1999) also indicates that social exclusion is about the role of economic, social and political institutions in reinforcing poverty and exclusion by their decisions. Wiik (2014), states that social exclusion is a consequence of unequal access and participation of a certain group of people in a society. It also means that the poor are excluded from, education, health, employment and housing (Ibid.). The poor youth is excluded from basic assets that assist them in food production and/or allowing them to be entrepreneurs, and this predicament deems them marginalised (DuToit, 2004). Insufficient assets and lack of waged employment denied poor youth participation in a society where consumption practices are important (Ibid). Wiik (2014) argues that socially excluded youth have limited skills as far as income is concerned as a result they cannot escape poverty. They also face a high risk of achieving a low level of education and/or drop out of school as they are raised in poor families (Ibid.). Socially excluded youth are often overlooked in the broader urban environment and excluded from receiving skills and resources that other youths receive. In this way, the poor youth regard themselves as having no future and they have no need to be involved in any organisations. Therefore, they feel marginalised and lacking the supportive relationships they need. The poor youth living in spatially segregated areas find it hard to engage in activities with communities situated outside the settlement in which they live (Smit, et al, 2015). The creation of valuable social relationships reduces poverty (Patel 2009). Social capital is important to the youth that feels socially marginalised. Building social contacts is a way of reducing poverty. Networks bind people together. Participation in social activities give the poor youth a voice and build their confidence. Once they are confident, the poor youth can then get involved

in activities that build their capacity and skills. Activities like building their own and/or other people's houses to make a living (Ibid.).

Many people living in informal settlements are excluded from the formal employment and social amenities of the urban centres (Saloojee, 2011). They experience the problem of poverty that is compounded by the lack of health facilities, inadequate housing, poor education and high level of unemployment (Ibid.). Not being able to satisfy their basic needs deprives the youth of future opportunities. Being marginalised affects poor youth in such that they become restricted in social participation. Marginalisation affects the youth's access to all assets. Social exclusion and the lack of social cohesion jeopardises social capital. The social networks are important to youth as they encourage communication that can expand their economic activities. The lack of social networks, therefore, limits youth communication. These are the challenges facing the poor youth in informal settlements. The following diagram indicates the issues of youth unemployment, social exclusion, economic exclusion and youth empowerment as embedded in social dynamics and social cohesion.

**Figure 2:Youth social dynamics and social cohesion**




*Source: Potgieter-Gqubule and Ngcobo, 2009*

It is imperative that the poor youth participate in activities that are meant for everyone in the same society to receive equal opportunities and are developing their potential. They need to have the capacity to buy goods and services, be involved in valued political activities and be able to participate in decision making. It is also important for poor youth to form social relationships.

Policymakers need to find a way of developing young people's skills so that they can be able to fit into the existing opportunities rather than trying to create opportunities in deteriorating areas (Bernstein, 2017). The poor youth need programmes that focus on their education, and entrepreneurial skills, and involve them in activities that matter to them (Mabala, 2011). Therefore, education needs to be easily accessed and skills are developed for the youth living in the disadvantaged areas. Nevertheless, in situations where the informal settlements are not poorly located it is better to upgrade the houses, infrastructure and services for the benefit of the residents. In this way, people will not lose the livelihoods and opportunities can be created for the youth in the same informal settlements. Sochor (2011) says that access to shelter is imperative as it reduces stresses and improves the economic and social situation. It is also imperative that the state ensures that the poor youth are provided with affordable adequate housing and be located where it could be possible for them to access formal employment (Bernstein, 2017).

### 2.7.1 Social exclusion and vulnerability

The definition of social exclusion varies, depending on the context in which it has been applied. Generally, social exclusion implies the lack of effective participation in the economic, social and political life of the society rather than a mere economic aspect of poverty (Saloojee, 2011). Social exclusion leads to a sense of rejection felt by the youth and not belonging to the society they live in (Ibid.).

The World Youth Report (2005) states that the youth policymakers need to be reminded that the current youth are different from those in the previous generation. The youth in informal settlements are faced with challenges of poor education, ill-health and limited economic opportunities. Thieme, (2018) agrees with both Bennell and Mkandawire (2000) saying that youth globally are continuously experiencing uncertainties related to employment, service provision and housing. However, it is in the employment area where they are highly affected (Okojie, 2003). He says that current estimates indicate that youth constitute 40-65% of the urban unemployed in many African countries. This shows that it is mainly the youth who are vulnerable and suffers the effects of an economic crisis more than adults. Mkandawire (2000) indicates that youth unemployment can also be because of the problem of being unable to address the number of unemployed youth and the non-availability of jobs for the youth which talks to demand and supply. These challenges arise from social ills due to unemployment, limited participation in government projects, lack of participation in decision making and corruption which has impacted negatively on

the lives of poor youth. Bennell, (2000) and; Mkandawire, (2000), indicate that many young people have become marginalised and excluded from education and healthcare.

In South Africa racial and gender inequalities are still evident even after the transition to democracy. Moreover, there are inequalities in social categories especially between the youth in informal settlements and those in other places than informal settlements (Potgieter-Gqubule and Ngcobo, 2009). These inequalities limit the possibility of the poor to escape poverty (Ibid.). Societies in democratic South Africa are still separated in every aspect of life with structural inequalities and separation in virtually every aspect of life. Youth unemployment is high in informal settlements. Having employment is related to self-esteem, social connections, identity and dignified life. However, the poor youth without employment remain dependent on their parents. The marginalised youth from the informal settlements feel inferior as they are distanced from the economy and political structures of the country and denied opportunities (Saloojee, 2011). Due to non-participation and powerlessness, the poor youth feel ignored by the government and this is a threat to social cohesion and economic success of the country. Taylor (2010) cited in Saloojee (2011) indicated that not being recognised by the government can cause harm and those who are affected feel oppressed.

Lack of access to basic services means that the poor are economically excluded and are socially not protected. This indicates that if water for an example is not provided, they need to go look for the water. The time spent looking for water decreases the time to make a living which exposes the poor to vulnerabilities. Thus, to be poor would mean to be excluded from the full participation in the society Unhealthy people due to lack of proper sanitation and health care centres cannot contribute to the economic growth of the country and that threatens livelihood security. Instead, they depend on government support grants which put a strain on the country's economy. The youth aspire peace, security and development. Therefore, the interventions intended for them should be current and relevant to their situation and should involve them. The young people need social protection that promotes inclusion where their needs would be taken care of (Ibid.) In this way, societies need to have capabilities that will ensure poor youths' welfare and address inequalities (Seekings & Nattrass, 2005).

### 2.7.2 Economic exclusion and vulnerability

The economic dimension of exclusion covers the lack of access to income streams, the production of goods and services, long-term unemployment and limited access to the labour market, and lack of adequate housing. Unemployment contributes to the persistence of economic exclusion

(Mlatsheni and Leibbrandt, 2010). Mlatsheni and Leibbrandt, (2010) argue that the hostile and highly concentrated market structure and the education system in South Africa leave the poor short of skills. This impacts negatively on the small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) which should generate more employment (Ibid.). People need certain resources to enjoy an acceptable standard of living. The lack of resources acts as a serious barrier to integration and capabilities (Sen,2000). An individual that is deprived of capabilities has no political freedom, access to social opportunities and economic facilities (Ibid.). Income inequalities in South Africa are persistent.

People living in informal settlements experience greater levels of social and economic exclusion. They live in areas where they do not receive the basic services because of proper and inadequate infrastructure. The environment the poor live under puts them in vulnerable situations. They are unable to access facilities that can improve their well-being. The poor are also disadvantaged in that they are unable to use available opportunities due to the places they live in.

Lack of adequate housing lead to a number of deficiencies that obstruct the enjoyment of human rights and security. Adequate housing reduces the bad conditions the poor live under, like the basic services. The poor youth who are mainly unskilled live in places far from economic opportunities which becomes difficult for them to get jobs. The poor from informal settlements are not supplied with community facilities such as schools, libraries, clinics, parks and playgrounds (Smit, et al, 2015). The lack of social networks also hinders opportunities for accessing employment. This has deprived them of easy access to education and health facilities as they must travel far to enjoy the benefits. Limited financial support for the poor youth to start-up businesses decreases opportunities for making a living. Due to limited access to education, the poor youth find it difficult to complete Matric and those who did do not get opportunities of getting to tertiary institutions, mainly because of limited or no income. This compels them to depend on their parents. Graham and Mlatsheni (2015) stated that 92% of youth aged 15-19 are not economically active as most are still at school, 61% of the 20-24-year olds, 42% of the 25-29-year olds, and 33% of the 30-34-year-old are not employed. The high rate of youth unemployment builds substantial difficulties for young people to enter the labour market and to be self-reliant.

Economic exclusion has significant effects on young people. The poor youth develop a sense of despair in trying to improve their livelihoods. Hence, once the society is in a predicament, the youth as future leaders of the country become threatened. The youth are very sensitive, energetic, active, and can be the most productive (Adegboyega, 2016). They are also most unpredictable and yet the most vulnerable in terms of social, economic aspects. In the absence of productive

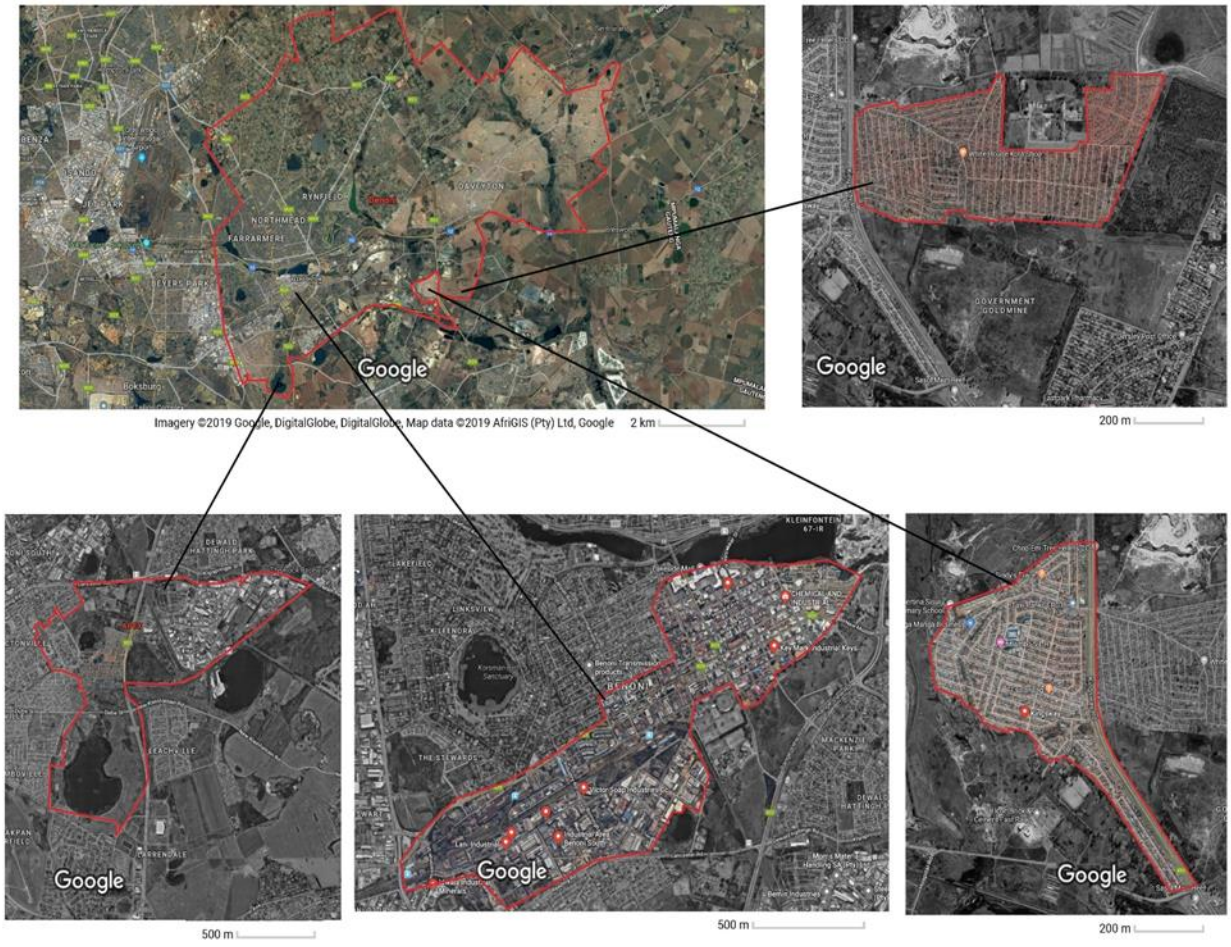
engagements, they become bored and frustrated as a result involve themselves in dangerous behaviours (Bennell,2000). They become involved in doing drugs, participate in unprotected sex and/or transactional sex (prostitution) for survival (Ibid.). Youth unemployment can be because of different issues like inappropriate skills, poor economic growth and growing youth population (Chinguta, 2001). Unemployment disproportionally affects the poor youth in such that they become depressed, discouraged and temper with their self-esteem. For the poor youth, this means they will remain dependent either on the government, parents or boyfriends for the female youth. The negative effects of youth unemployment affect youth from different countries differently (Graham and Mlatsheni, 2015). In countries like Australia and Sweden unemployed youth turn to suicide, fall into depression and lack of confidence (Ibid.). In South Africa, over and above what has been stated, youth unemployment leads to young people being mentally ill due to depression (Ibid.).

## CHAPTER 3: OVERVIEW OF THE LINDELANI INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides the background to Lindelani informal settlement as the area of study in this report. The location of the area of study is described. The chapter also provides socio-economic information in order to establish a broad basis for understanding the conditions in the settlement. This chapter also explores the interventions taken by the state in assisting young people. The following maps show Lindelani, Benoni, Apex and Kingsway:

**Figure 3:Location maps**




*Source: Google Maps (2018)*

Bottom left shows Apex and informal settlement shaded in colour. Bottom centre outlines the typical CBD and Industrial hub of Benoni. Bottom right is a typical outline of Kingsway. Top right

is the Lindelani informal settlement, and top left is overall of Benoni. Following is the area of study (Lindelani informal settlement)

**Figure 4:Area of Study**




*Source: Google Maps, 2018.*

### 3.2 Lindelani Informal Settlement

Lindelani informal settlement is located in Ward number 71 within Region D of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (EMM). Region D is one of the six regions with three of the Central Business District in the EMM known as Benoni, Brakpan and Springs. The EMM has a population of 3,5 million in total (City of Ekurhuleni, 2018). In 2012 the population of region D was 233 000 of the totals. An annual population growth rate is 2.47% with an unemployment rate of 28.8% (City of Ekurhuleni, 2015). The Ekurhuleni area was historically known as the East Rand and it has traditionally been South Africa's manufacturing heartland (Ibid.).

People have migrated into Ekurhuleni in search of job opportunities. One of the areas people migrated into was the Apex village. It is also located at 10,8 km from the Benoni CBD and 3,3 km from Actonville, Wattville and Tamboville which is where industries are situated. This area had easy access to job opportunities and was close to existing residential areas with community facilities and other urban amenities like schools, community centres, crèches, clinics, and shopping centres. The Apex village was earmarked for housing development by the Greater Benoni City Council in the 1990s. As a result, the residents of Apex village were to be relocated. In 1999 they were relocated to a temporary area before they were transferred to the new housing project in Kingsway (Marais, 2014; Van Dijk, 2018).

This temporary 'transit camp' was named Lindelani which means a place of waiting. The Lindelani land is privately owned and intended for mining purposes (Van Dijk, 2018). The Lindelani settlement was to accommodate 1780 families from the Apex village. In 2005 when the development of Kingsway was completed, however, the number of families in Lindelani had more than doubled to a population of 3 981 people (Ibid.). The additional residents are in-migrants who came in search of better economic opportunities. The increased population of Lindelani was challenged because not all these families were able to be accommodated in the Kingsway. The families that moved into the houses in Kingsway, however, did not demolish their dwellings in the Lindelani informal settlement. These informal structures were occupied by family members or tenants of those who received housing at Kingsway. The Lindelani population kept growing and by 2011 the population numbered 11 932, (StatsSA, 2011). The total number of youth in 2011 was 7 950 comprising 62,9% of young men and 37,1% of young women (Ibid.).

The community in the Lindelani informal settlement lack access to adequate basic services, i.e. electricity, sanitation, water and social services (City of Ehurhuleni GDS, 2025). As a result, they qualify as indigent and should benefit from the Indigent Support programmes of the EMM Indigent Support Policy (2018). This policy is designed to 'to ensure that persons and households classified as indigent have access to basic services' (City of Ekurhuleni ISP,2018:2). Lindelani informal settlement has no schools, and no health facilities and so residents have to go to Daveyton (which is 1h40min walk) to access these facilities. The young people are aged 19-35 years. The settlement has high levels of poverty which are estimated at ±40%. The lack of basic services makes it difficult for the youth to pursue their livelihood activities. This means that the youth are faced with socio-economic challenges that affect their livelihoods and they have to resort to desperate ways of survival (City of Ehurhuleni GDS, 2025).

Due to the growing population at Lindelani, the City of Ekurhuleni identified Alliance Ext 9 which is next to Lindelani as additional land for development (City of Ekurhuleni, 2018). This area was only to accommodate those who qualify for housing subsidy which amounted to 634 stands. People were moved from Lindelani which is under private ownership to Alliance Ext 9 in 2008 (Ibid.). The preparation for the development of Alliance Ext 9 started in 2009. In 2010, a contractor was appointed for the design and construction of water and sewer network systems, and toilet structures for 634 stands. Unfortunately, the contractor appointed to perform works only got access to 296 stands and 338 stands were inaccessible because the residents did not want to be relocated. Therefore, only 42% of work was done (Van Dijk, 2018) due to limited access and community unrest not wanting to be placed on another temporary place for construction to take place. In 2012 the contractor terminated the project and there is still no resolution on the situation by the Municipal Department of Human Settlements (Ibid.). The municipality is still pursuing other places for resettlement. See figure 5: Pictures of Alliance Ext 9. During the development of Alliance Ext 9, the population in the Lindelani informal settlement was provided with communal taps for water and chemical toilets to be shared. The toilets in Alliance Ext 9 are also used.

**Figure 5: Alliance Ext 9**



*Commencement of the development at Alliance Ext 9 in 2010 by a contractor who was appointed in 2009. Road infrastructure on the right and the left side shows toilet structures which are to date not completed. Source: Author (2018).*

**Alliance Ext 9**




*Continuation of work done during the development of Alliance Ext 9. Project terminated in 2012 due to the community not wanting to be relocated*. *Source: Author (2018).*

An occupancy audit of Lindelani was done between the months of November 2015 and February 2016 and it was found that the number of the population has increased to 4 136 families (Van Dijk, 2018). However, only 1 865 people (or under half the population) qualify for the housing subsidy of which were not all accommodated at Alliance as it only had 634 stands (Ibid.). This means that there is still a substantial number of people who will remain without decent housing in the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, the mayor of Ekurhuleni Municipality in his State of the Nation Address in 2015 acknowledged indicated that informal settlements in the city are in an appalling state (Ibid.). He then noted that Lindelani would be amongst the first to benefit from development in the next three years (Ibid.).

Some of the Lindelani residents including some of the participants in this study were relocated to Alliance Ext 9 where reblocking was to take place. Reblocking could not continue due to poor communication from the municipality. Relocation means among other things, losing livelihoods. For the reblocking to take place, they were to be relocated to another identified area. That was not acceptable to the youth. Nonetheless, reblocking has positive results or benefits for the residents only if comprehensive planning, communication and community participation is considered (Geffen, 2015). The poor youth was opposed to relocation indicating that it disturbs

their livelihoods. Reblocking comes with the security of tenure where the owner can upgrade their homes and collect rent from tenants (SERI, 2012). In the Lindelani case, most owners are parents, they would generate money from the upgraded house to help out the youth. However, the youth refused the reblocking of the Alliance Ext 9.

### 3.3 Economic overview

The Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality has the lowest economic growth rate and highest unemployment and low investment in skills development as compared to Gauteng (City of Ekurhuleni, 2018). Manufacturing provides 19,2% of the city's employment. However, the sector declined from its peak in the 1970s and between 1980 and 1996 the City of Ekurhuleni lost 117 000 manufacturing jobs (Ibid.). Between 1996 and 2001 employment levels grew by 26%, adding 30 235 new jobs (Ibid.). Although employment has declined to 21,5%, it still accounts for 27,9% of the country's overall gross value addition (GVA), (City of Ekurhuleni, 2018). This economic growth has attracted large numbers of relatively low-skilled and semi-skilled job seekers from other provinces. Ekurhuleni has the fastest population growth with an annual growth rate of 4,1% per annum in the period 1996-2001. The area also saw a remarkable 39,2% increase in the number of households in 2015 (City of Ekurhuleni, 2018).

### 3.4 Education level and employment opportunities

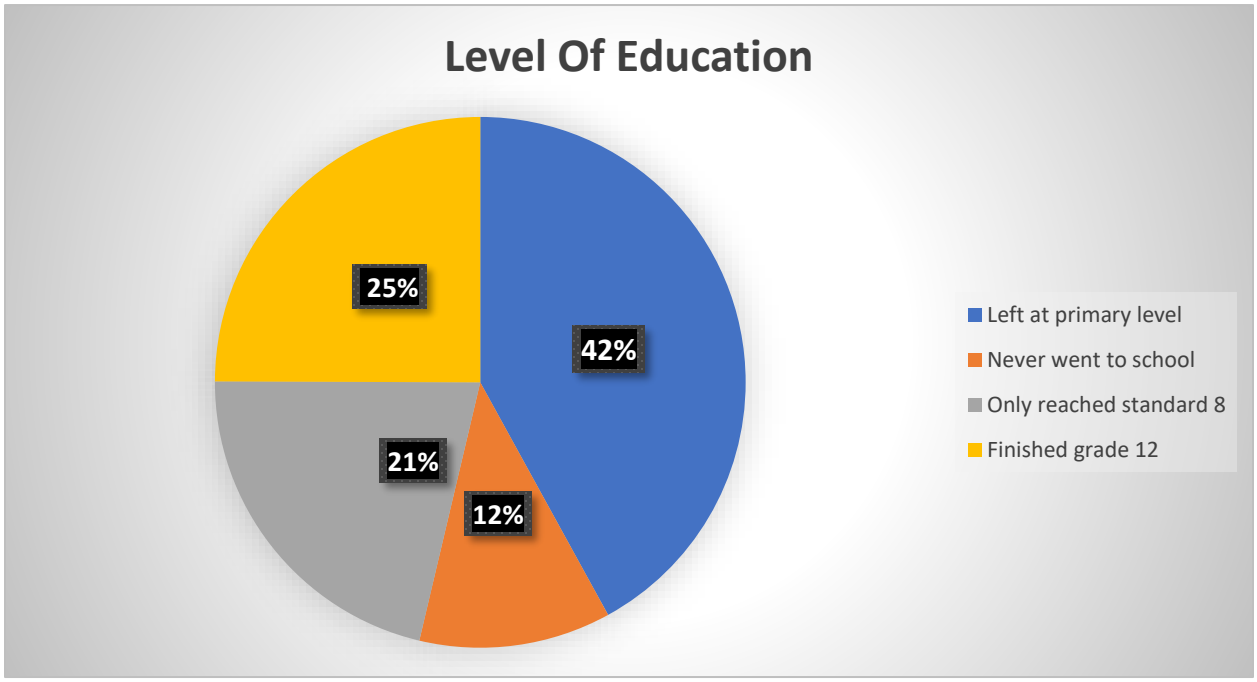
The following are the socio-economic factors that have effects on youth and their livelihoods. In South Africa, access to education is expanding owing to the free education that has been provided. However, free education is not for all as schools are not components of informal settlements. The low level of education in the Lindelani informal settlement is worsening. Based on the occupancy audit conducted between 2015 and 2016 the youth level of education was still low. Those who complete matric but never further their studies were 49,89%, those who ended at standard eight were at 42,73%, those who had some primary education were at 84% and those who never went at 23,38% (Van Dijk, 2018). The following table shows the level of education of the youth in Lindelani by gender.

**Table 2: Level of education of youth in Lindelani**

| | Male% | Female% |
|---|---|---|
| **Matric Completed** | 16 | 33,89 |
| **Reached Std 8** | 40 | 2,73 |
| **Have some primary education** | 24 | 60 |
| **No schooling** | 20 | 3,38 |

*Source: Author (2018)*

**Figure 6: The percentage of the level of education youth in Lindelani**




*Source: Author (2018)*

Uneducated youth find difficulties to get formal employment. They do not have the skills needed by employers of formal employment. As the youth policy states that currently, the targeted youth for employment is only the skilled (CoE Youth Policy, 2016). These low levels and/or non-education deem the youth as unskilled. Therefore, the youth have to use what is available to them

and create livelihood strategies to survive. The level of education in this area as well as in Metro as a whole affect the rate of unemployment. The lower the level of education, the higher the rate of unemployment. Ekurhuleni municipality shows 29% of unemployed youth (City of Ekurhuleni, 2017). The lowest level of education in Ekurhuleni accounts for 34% which are those who never went to school and those who passed matric account for 37% (Ibid.). Comparing with the Lindelani informal settlement, the lower level of education is 84%, which means the unemployment rate is high.

### 3.2.2 Living standards

The poor standards of living in the Lindelani informal settlement is indicative of the settlement been stricken by poverty. As mentioned above, the limited access to basic services affects the poor youth's well-being the youth and it makes it more difficult for them to address their vulnerability. Inadequate housing lowers human dignity, and for the poor owning a decent house is very important. The government is obliged to provide housing as a human right enshrined in Section 26(1) of the Constitution of South Africa (South African Constitution,1996). The informal settlement dwellers prefer upgrading of housing instead of being relocated. Upgrading of informal settlements allows for better basic services and good road infrastructure which should assist the youth in pursuing their enterprises. With water and electricity, it will easier to run crèche. There also will be easy access to transport to work or to seek jobs outside the settlement. In an upgraded informal settlement there should be social places where youth can meet and share information about economic opportunities and many more other things. In this way, both the physical and social capital of the youth would be enhanced. The Apex village relocation of the residents to the Lindelani informal settlement was an inconvenience. The relocation of informal settlement dwellers without considering their socio-economic issues always bring more challenges. People from Apex village were taken far from job opportunities as well as urban amenities. Apex village was occupied by people from different provinces which implied that the social capital was strong, as they tolerated one another. These people came to take advantage of the job opportunities in the Benoni area and industries around Apex village (Marais,2014). Relocating these people to Lindelani informal settlement meant a negative impact on their livelihoods especially the youth who was to stop going to school due to lack of transport money (Ibid.).

### 3.3 Interventions for poor youth

The National Youth Policy 2009-2014 had programmes aimed at addressing the challenges that hinder the development of youth (NYP,2014). This policy defines youth development as a method of providing a conducive environment to opportunities and support so that the young people creative energies that can be maximised for personal and societal development (Ibid). In ensuring the successful implementation of such policy, the government has adopted an outcome-based approach (OBA) that assess the implementors as well as validates the institution and the policy's effectiveness (NYP,2014). The Ekurhuleni Youth Policy (EYP) considers youth as the beneficiaries of the socio-economic services and the ones who would change the socio-economic state in the municipality (Ibid.).

The Ekurhuleni Municipal Mayor in the Youth Economic Summit held in Boksburg in January 2018 acknowledged the fact that the city has a challenge of youth unemployment, lack of business opportunities for young people and poor skills (Advertorial, M&G, 2018). In trying to resolve that they have an economic strategy known as Ten Point Plan which will ensure employment, investment and transformation (MSOCA,2018) There was also indicated that the City of Ekurhuleni has partnered with the Gauteng Provincial Government in developing Tshepo 1 Million (Ibid.). This initiative is aimed at developing youth's skills, create employment and developing their entrepreneurship skills for the youth to be self-reliant (advertorial, M&G, 2018). There are also programmes like Vukuphile where youth benefit from through the Expanded Works Programme (EPWP), (MSOCA,2018). All these initiatives and intervention do not prioritise youth in the informal settlements.

The EYP (2013) indicates that enough opportunities should be created for the youth to use their talents to earn sustainable livelihoods. The young people to be provided with adequate education and training to be able to get formal employment and be provided with entrepreneurship skills (Ibid.). Developing young people prevent them to be a source of social and political instability (GDS,2025). The Ekurhuleni Youth Policy (EYP) also states that youth development should focus on education and training, job creation and allowing them to realise their full potential and participate fully in their societies and their future (EYP,2013).

### 3.4 Conclusion

It is clear that youth unemployment in South Africa is a problem that is not going to disappear in the near future. Therefore, it is important that young people be empowered. Programmes and initiatives that the EMM have for the youth need to cater for all youth especially those in informal settlements. The lack of youth active participation in the formation of policies makes one wonder how the poor youth can be assisted in achieving sustainable livelihoods if their needs are unknown or neglected. The Lindelani informal settlement is reflected by higher levels of unemployment, which among other issues are poverty; lack of basic services; poor education; the socio-economic exclusion and the lack of social cohesion. Unemployment is suffered mainly by young people than other members of the labour force.

## CHAPTER 4: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents and discusses the findings. The purpose of this chapter is to obtain a better understanding of the youth's livelihoods in informal settlements. Initially, the demographic profile of the participants is presented. The evidence collected through in-depth interviews, group discussions and my observations is then discussed according to themes identified from the participants' responses as well as the Sustainable Livelihood Approach. These interviews were conducted with unemployed youth from both Lindelani and Alliance Ext 9 informal settlements; officials from the Department of Human Settlement; and the Ward Councilor. It was a total of eighteen in-depth interviews and one focus group discussion consisting of only youth.

**The demographic profile of the participants**

With the assistance of the youth leader, I categorized the youth participants according to their ages. This assisted me in identifying the behaviours of youth in a certain age group and I was able to make a subjective decision. The age band of youth differed in marital status, level of education, dependence on parents or family, and positions they held in the community. The sample consisted of 18 respondents, 15 were youth, one ward councillor and two municipal officials. Out of the 15 youth, six were young women, nine were young men. All the respondents were living at Lindelani at that time of the interview. However, they all have a different origin. Two women and three men were from KwaZulu Natal; the 35-year old man is from Pakistan; two men and one woman were from Limpopo, and the other two women were from Eastern Cape. Some participants have lived in the settlement since it started in 1999, while others joined as the settlement was already established. The youth in this area are deprived of education as some never completed matric and those who did not further their studies. This is because of the lack of funds for transport, money for food and school uniform. Table 3 shows participants age, place of origin, and length of residence:

**Table 3: Participants age, place of origin, and length of residence:**

| Participants | Age | Place of origin | Length of residence |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Female** | **20 years** | **KwaZulu Natal** | **2 years** |
| **Female** | **32 years** | **KwaZulu Natal** | **5 years** |
| **Male** | **20 years** | **KwaZulu Natal** | **3 years** |
| **Male** | **24 years** | **KwaZulu Natal** | **5 years** |
| **Male** | **28 years** | **KwaZulu Natal** | **20 years** |
| **Female** | **19 years** | **Limpopo** | **3 years** |
| **Male** | **20 years** | **Limpopo** | **2 years** |
| **Male** | **24 years** | **Limpopo** | **6 years** |
| **Female** | **19 years** | **Eastern Cape** | **4 years** |
| **Female** | **32 years** | **Eastern Cape** | **20 years** |
| **Male** | **35 years** | **Pakistan** | **3 years** |
| **Female** | **20 years** | **South African** | **8 years** |
| **Female** | **26 years** | **South African** | **20 years** |
| **Male** | **31 & 33 years** | **South African** | **20 years** |

*Source: Author (2018)*

### 4.2 Community organization

Informal settlements throughout the world are organized, however, some are fully organized, and others are not well organized. This depends on the size of the settlement and the support they get from outside the settlement, especially from the non-governmental organisations. Lindelani informal settlement is one of those settlements that are not well organized. There are only two structures, a Community Forum and the youth league. The Community Forum is led by eight (8) people and the chairperson is the community member who participated in this study. Their main duties are, among others, to control the influx of new people in the settlement, give people spaces to build their dwellings and to provide stands numbers to the community (Community member,

personal communication, 2019). They also organize community meetings whenever needed (Ibid.). The other structure is the one they named Youth League which is led by the community youth leader and supported by youth from different political groups (Youth Leader, personal communication, 2019). Their main concerns are youth issues like drug abuse, crime and the organization of social clubs where they generate income through 'umshayelwano'. They also engage the ward councillor around service delivery (Ibid.). It is unfortunate that in this informal settlement the NGOs are invisible. This is a disadvantage to the community as they need those organisations to facilitate their needs to the state and the private sector, as do not have the power to do so.

### 4.3 Access to different forms of capitals: Human capital and financial capital

The levels of education of the poor youth in Lindelani, as well as their economic activities, are presented in the table below. It shows low levels of education of the youth in this settlement which is correlated to high levels of unemployment. The participants indicated that due to the low levels of education and unemployed status, they were involved in a variety of economic. They earn between R400.00 to R800.00 per month from their economic activities. The economic activities practised by the youth in Lindelani are: Painting, tiling, selling of vegetables and drugs, prostitution, hair salon, fixing bicycles, tuck-shop and bottle recycling. However, this income is not sufficient some of them have to pay rent, while others have children that they have to care of. In this way, they are forced to engage in other activities to augment their income. Others are smoking and selling drugs as they are not involved in any employed. Those who do painting and tiling rely on friends to get temporary jobs.

A respondent said:

Young man: *The situation is bad here, I push a trolley selling vegetable for livelihood with a matric certificate. The informal economic activities that we are involved in are not paying enough. Sometimes you go back home with R80.00/R100 per day when business is good. I don't make enough money, only to help pay rent and eat.*

Another respondent said:

Yong man*: Life is difficult here because people have no formal jobs to survive. Young women are prostitutes and young men are selling drugs. This is mainly because of the government support grants not being enough. These kinds of activities are dangerous as women get infected with HIV and men get addicted to drugs and health facilities are not available here.*

A female respondent said:

Young woman*: It is very difficult for us women in this place as we did not finish school and there are no economic opportunities for us. To make our living, we get into dangerous relationships that will support us financially. We even turn to prostitution for a living.*

**Figure 7:The picture shows a participant pushing a vegetable trolley:**



*A type of economic activity: Selling vegetable on a trolley. Source: Author (2018).*

Amongst the participants, two women aged 19 are depending on their parents' government support grant and child support grants. They were out of school with no formal employment. One of the women had this to say:

Young woman: *I have a child aged 3, I depend on my mother's government support grant and the child support grant. To add on these as they not enough I would sometimes sell an insurance policy. I do this to augment what my mother would normally provide as I have no means to go back to school.*

She is a discouraged young woman who has recruiting skills. She feels that if her skills were developed she would be living a better life than the current one.

The young woman who runs a tuck-shop with her partner said:

*Young woman: If it was not for my boyfriend from Pakistan who owns this shop, I don't know how I was going to look after my two kids and mother. Sometimes you need to get into strange relationships to survive.*

The other 19-year-old woman was doing temporary jobs where her aunt was working as a domestic worker. The other two 20-year-olds and one 26-year-old woman was involved in running a tuck-shop, another 32-year-old running a crèche, a 20-year-old selling old clothes and a 20-year-old operating a hair salon. The 31-33-year-old men were doing piece jobs, like, gardening, tiling, painting and building. Some of the men were street vendors, selling vegetables from a trolley, recycling bottles, repairing shoes and running a tuck shop. Two of the men aged 20 and 24 were involved in dangerous activities like 'Zama-Zama (illegal mining). The respondents were never formally trained on any skills. The two who passed matric did not further their studies due to lack of funding. Table 4 shows participants' education and type of economic activity:

**Table 4: Participants education and type of economic activity**

| Participants Gender: Female (W) & Male(M) | Age | Level of Education | Type of Economic Activity |
|---|---|---|---|
| F | 19 | Completed Matric | Sells insurance |
| F | 19 | Ended at Std 8 | Piece job as a domestic worker |
| F | 20 | Completed Matric | Runs a crèche |
| F | 20 | Ended at Std 8 | Hairdresser |
| F | 32 | Primary education | Selling old clothes |
| F | 26 | Ended Std 8 | Runs tuck-shop |
| M | 20 | No schooling | Zama-Zama (illegal mining) |
| M | 20 | Completed Matric | Painter |
| M | 24 | Completed Matric | Sells vegetables |
| M | 24 | No schooling | Zama-Zama (illegal mining) |

| Participants Gender: Female (W) & Male(M) | Age | Level of Education | Type of Economic Activity |
|---|---|---|---|
| M | 28 | Ended at Std 8 | Shoe-repairs & bicycle repairs |
| M | 31 | Primary education | Recycling bottles |
| M | 33 | Primary education | Tiling |
| M | 33 | Primary education | Builder |
| M | 35 | No schooling | Runs tuck-shop |

*Source: Author (2018)*

The Ekurhuleni Youth Unit cited in the EYP (2013) confirms that social injustice, like drugs, HIV, fewer opportunities etc. the young people are faced with circumstances that continue to destroy them. The respondents were frustrated that they were not able to finish school as they knew that education and skills are important in their lives. They said that they are aware of the fact they as the youth from the informal settlement are the most deprived of almost everything as compared to youth who live in the townships. One of the respondents had this to say:

Young woman: It is said that officials from the municipality and the government as a whole are spreading the words of youth development but here am I selling old clothes that I begged from other people to earn an income of which is not much. Remember people do not buy clothes every day. I've passed matric, unfortunately, I couldn't go further with my education because my parents do not have money. The poor education we have is also a problem because you have to make your opportunities.

**Figure 8:A tuck-shop run by both a young woman and man who are partners**



*Source: Author (2018).*

**Figure 9: A bicycle repairs enterprise**




*Source: Author (2018*)

**Figure 10:Bottle recycling activity**.



*Source: Author (2018).*

**Figure 11:Two young men are involved in Zama-Zama (Illegal mining) where they clean the gold and sell it.**



Source: Author (2018)

**Figure 12:A crèche at the back of the shack.**



Source: Author (2018).

Since the youth in this report have low levels of education it means they remain low skilled they are unable to read and write. They possess some human capital; however, it needs to be enhanced to achieve sustainable livelihoods. The poor youth took pride in their economic activities because they can put food on their table. Even though they don't generate much income, they know how to make money and use it. This then indicates that they possess some economic capital. It is then important that the youth's capabilities be improved by empowering them with skills and knowledge and investing in their wellbeing to enable them to participate in the labour market (Ibid.)

### 4.4 Physical capital

The respondents were dissatisfied with the poor living conditions at Lindelani informal settlement. The youth viewed adequate housing as important in pursuing their livelihoods. A respondent had this to say:

*Young man: If we are provided with adequate housing we will also be provided with electricity and the roads. There will then be easy access of taxis to Daveyton and other places. As it is now we do not have electricity which disturbs our economic activities. Tuck-shops closes early (as soon*

*as the sun sets) to avoid crime. We will also get enough water; waste will be collected. Life will be better.*

Another responded:

*Young woman: To add on what my brother is saying; a dignified place of stay means that our children will get to go to school and finish school. This is because even though the schools are far from here and transport will be available to go there. We will be able to make more money because we will close the tuck-shop later than usual.*

The youth said that inadequate housing is their main challenge. Lack of access to adequate housing compromise poor youths' health and make them more vulnerable to diseases (Tshabalala, 2015). There are always threats of being evicted because of insecure tenure (SERI,2018). Eviction is a way used by the government to relocate people far from economic opportunities (Ibid.). The youth said that living in inadequate housing defeats the possibility for sustainable livelihoods especially if the place is far from economic opportunities. One of the respondents said:

*Young man: The municipality brought us here (Lindelani) to make us suffer more. If they can give us houses we will live a better life. Houses reduce the risk of fires because they will not be close to each other like the way we are living at the moment. They can protect us from bad weather and stay healthy as we need healthy bodies to look for jobs.*

Another respondent concurred to what the above respondent said, by saying:

*Young man: A decent house can make a difference in our lives and can be a way out of poverty. Because having a decent house that belongs to you the fear of being evicted will go away.*

Feeling very angry, another young man added that they are living with inadequate sanitation, insufficient water system, no electricity, no schools and health facilities. He added that they were removed from a place where everything was near. He said:

*Young man: In Apex village, even though the houses were not of permanent structures, we walked to places of work. We could even sit by the gate of the firms waiting for jobs and walk back home late in the afternoon. All the social facilities were available at a reasonable distance.*

When they were asked of possible economic activities if their informal settlement was upgraded. They had this to say:

*Young woman: You see an upgraded place to stay is what we want because everything will be near. Starting with schools and clinics. It will be also easy to start a business, for example, we will have spaces allocated for retail business. We will open our hair salons there, sell vegetables and fruits.*

The young man who sells vegetables in a trolley added:

*Young man: With spaces for retail, I will no longer push the trolley, people will know where to find me. Those who are recycling bottles will also recycle plastics to make handbags and sell them.*

**Social capital**

The youth in Lindelani said that the conditions they live under do not allow for group cohesiveness. Group cohesiveness is important especially to people who live under severe poverty (Cloete, 2014). With good social capital, i.e. trust, cooperation, participation and networking the community will be kept glued to each other (Ibid.). When they were asked to further explain the situation that does not allow for group cohesiveness, one respondent said:

*(M24): Here in the settlement there are no public places that we can meet as a youth to discuss our problems. The only time we meet is when we are desperate for something. For example, when we needed electricity, we met by the street corner next to the main road and we were disturbed by the police. We need places where we can meet regularly so we can grow with each other. It is even worse because to have a job you need to know someone who works in that company.*

*Young man: Once our settlement can be upgraded, our relationship and social network as a community will be strengthened and organized. We will organize neighbourhood watches to prevent crime and drug abuse.*

To add on this a young woman said:

*Young woman: There are some of the older men who work in the construction business. We can organize social programmes using public spaces where construction skills are transferred to us as young people.*

This indicated that an upgraded settlement would be appreciated by the youth and would protect them from being vulnerable.

**Figure 13:This picture shows youth protesting *over water and electricity:***




*The Lindelani youth fighting for water and electricity: Source: Springs Advertiser (2018)*

A young woman added:

*Young woman: There is a church that sometimes opens their gates to us, but they are always there attending to their church rituals. We respect them that is why we say we want better housing where more public places will be available. Public places are where we can network and learn more about how to make money and live a better life.*

Another respondent said:

*Young man: There are different political groups in this area, most of us here we belong to the ANC like our youth leader. People go to them when they want a place to stay. In my opinion, there is not much that they do for the youth. They see that the municipality ignores us but still they do not help us in what we want. We only see their existence when it's time for elections.*

The respondents' longing for adequate housing suggests that they still have hope for better living. Their physical and social capital need support so they can be able to actively participate in the betterment of their lives. Political group leaders and the ward committee members seem to be invisible as indicated by the participant. They need to be available to encourage social cohesion.

### 4.5 The challenges facing youth in Lindelani

Even though the youth in Lindelani take pride in the economic activities they are involved in, they still are facing challenges of poverty. More than 50% of the South African population lives in poverty (StatsSA,2011). StatsSA (2011) reports that the number of people living below the poverty line of R441 per person per month has increased to 13.5 million in 2015 compared to 11million reported in 2011. Income inequality is the highest among the black Africans with a Gin coefficient of 0,65 (Ibid.). This has been confirmed by the income the youth in Lindelani made from their economic activities. What contributes mainly to poverty challenges they experience is unemployment. The unemployment rate of Youth between the ages of 15-35 is at 38,2% in South Africa (StatsSA,2011). In Ekurhuleni Municipality the unemployment rate of youth between the ages of 15-35 is at 36,6% (Ibid.). The youth wish for more opportunities where they could be able to grow the small enterprises they have into a bigger business. Their economic activities are not sustainable, they are just from hand to mouth. These young people, especially those practising illegal mining are facing several challenges. They are running a risk of being apprehended, being killed by other groups who are doing the very same job and deported as some of them are not South Africans. However, they continue doing what they do best to put bread on the table. With this, they understand that they need big businesses to invest in their small businesses plus the government, plus ANC, etc.

The official from the Youth Unit of the office of the Mayor on what programmes they have for the empowerment of youth explained:

*Official 2: We do have programmes and initiatives that we advertise for youth to take advantage of. It is unfortunate that most of those programmes have a minimum requirement of completed matric. These programmes are meant to develop youth skills and prepare them for formal employment. For those who don't qualify, we always advise them to attend the TVET colleges which are now free.*

I asked how they ensure that these programmes reach the very poor in the informal settlements. He said:

*Officer 2: Over and above publishing the information, we mainly liaise with Ward Councillors, they would then cascade the information to their wards.*

The municipality has programmes and initiatives for the youth to be developed. I got the sense that the targeted youth are the most advantaged who have opportunities to attend and complete

matric. The poor youth in informal settlements are not prioritized. The ward councillor was asked about programmes and initiatives for the Lindelani youth. He had this to say:

*(WC): There are programmes and initiatives planned for youth. However, Lindelani is a temporary place of stay, therefore, it is difficult to plan for them. This is a second term being a councillor of this ward. The Council is busy looking for a land where they will relocate people from Lindelani. It would be only then that we can be able to reach the youth. Having said that, when programmes and initiatives are available I forward to the team I work with, which hasn't done anything yet. The CBOs or in this case the Ward Committee would be informed of these initiatives and they are the one who spread the word.*

I am noticing that the different officials instead of taking the initiative they put the power of change on the other officials, for instance, the official from the Youth Unit leave the responsibility of taking care of the poor youth to the ward councillor, who leave that responsibility with the Ward committee.

The ward committee member indicated that the municipality needs to provide the youth with a better place to stay as this is important to the youth in Lindelani. As well as build places where they would meet and easily convey the messages from the councillor. He added by saying:

*(CM): It is very difficult to convey messages from the municipality as we don't have tools to do that. We don't even have a schedule of meetings, this is because of the lack of a venue to hold those meetings. I would put the blame to the municipality for dragging their feet to place us in a better place. Until then, our children are bound to have limited education as the schools are far from where we stay. We have no money for transport as well as furthering their education. With health-care services, they also far from the settlement, the water taps are limited with no electricity, and the sanitary system is very poor. Young people who do not have a decent place to stay also deserves to benefit from the resources that would better their lives.*

The youth in this area feel that the municipality does not bother about their situation.

With anger, a young man stated that:

*Young man: It seems that we do not exist as we don't have a decent place to stay. We have been staying in this appalling state for many years. It is also difficult to better our livelihoods in such a situation.*

When asked about this dissatisfaction of the youth and what programmes they have to better the situation. The official from the Human Settlement Department in the municipality had this to say:

*Official 1: The community must understand that firstly the municipality is still looking for a land to build houses for them. Nevertheless, it is only those who qualify for those houses who will benefit. Secondly, they also know that Lindelani is a privately-owned land of which cannot be upgraded. The municipality had moved some residents who qualified for housing to Alliance Ext 9. A reblocking program was initiated at Alliance Ext 9 where the very same youth and the whole community never gave full access to the contractor. As a result, the project was terminated due to community unrest. If they don't want the services, we take the services to where it is needed.*

The official added:

*Official 1: In this project, the youths were going to benefit by getting jobs even though it was going to be for a short period of time. The programme they were going to benefit from is the EPWP where they were going to be trained in different construction trades and get accredited certificates. They can use these certificates to gain entrance at the TVET colleges.*

The young people interviewed in the discussion group when asked why they revolted against re-blocking, they responded by saying:

*We were never told that the contractor is going to demolish our parents 'houses' and be made small in sizes. They demolished them leaving us stranded not having places to sleep. To be re-relocated is another struggle because we also never told how long this was going to happen.*

This is an indication that communication was poor on the side of the municipality. The community and the youth participating in this study do not know what reblocking involves. It also concurs to the point the respondent raised that the municipality does not care about them. It has been discovered that the settlement is only represented by the Ward committee (Youth leader, personal communication, 2018). It was found that there are no NGOs assisting the area.

In a group, the youth were asked of any community projects that they were involved in. In their response they said:

*There are no community projects as such, however, some of us are involved in something we call it 'umshayelwano', a social club. It is conducted by different groups of ladies, in a group, there are ten ladies. We meet every month and contribute each R200.00, R180 is taken to the bank and R20 goes towards food that is being prepared for us to socialize. The banked money will then be withdrawn in December with interest and be shared among each other.*

For the young men, they said:

*We as guys, we also are doing something nearly the same as ladies, but, ours we do not take to the bank. As a group of ten as well, we give one-person R300 a month and that person will get from nine people and then we rotate. We also contribute R20 towards food and the person we are giving money to will prepare food for us.*

When asked if any other community projects available in their settlement beside the social club.

They said:

*We only get involved as a community when there is a project running in the nearby community, for example, at Kingsway or at the Modderbee prison. There we would participate in the EPWP. Other than that, there is nothing.*

The youth in Lindelani has a strong social capital as they are people who are from different countries as well different political parties existing in the area, they are not against each other, however, their demands are directed to the municipality and the state. Their demands will benefit all. This social capacity shows that they are tolerant towards each other's ethnicity, culture and language. With this strong social capacity, they can form social networks and relationships to realise economic opportunities to strengthen their survival strategies. This relationship between the youth in Lindelani can also have a positive influence on the state and the municipal interventions aimed at improving the youths' lives. The interventions will have been influenced by the youths' participation during the planning process. To the youth, the risk of uncertainty will be reduced. With appropriate interventions, the youth will benefit accordingly and have safety nets that will protect them from shocks of ambiguity.

The Lindelani youth as per this study lacks the human capital. Their low levels of education, lack of skills and the fact that they have to travel a long distance to access health facilities is an indication of a poor human capital. The youth in Lindelani used their informal skills engaging in different economic activities. Once the youth gets sick, his capacity to overcome external shock can be reduced and becomes vulnerable to extreme poverty. It is therefore important that the state and the municipality support the youth financially and develop their skills so that they can have a variety of livelihood options. It is also imperative that both the state and the municipality build on the assets the youth possess to better their livelihoods.

The participants mainly depended on economic activities that generate income for survival which is not sustainable, and those who are informally employed generate inadequate income to cover all their needs. The relocating of the residents of Lindelani informal settlement had a negative

impact on the youth's livelihoods. Improving the settlement by providing infrastructure and basic services can improve youth's livelihoods through income-generating initiatives. Improved informal settlements strengthen community governance and reduce vulnerabilities (Tshabalala, 2015). Generally, during the improvement of informal settlements socio-economic vulnerabilities of the youth are dealt with (Ibid.)

### 4.6 Conclusion

This section has presented and discussed the findings of this research. The interviews aimed to ascertain the challenges facing the poor youth in the informal settlement and to understand how they cope and survive under such conditions. It has been discovered that access to adequate housing; health facilities; education and skills development are regarded as the main necessity towards improving the young people's livelihoods. Having a better place to stay will also create good governance in the settlement. Providing youth with public places where their social capital can be strengthened through networking is important. Unemployment was seen to be caused by poor education and a barrier to curb sustainable livelihoods. Most youths haven't finished school due to a number of reasons. This is seen with 84% of youth at Lindelani informal settlement having low levels of education (Personal observation 2018). The main reason was lack of funds to continue their education or to travel to schools. Nevertheless, the youths have used their available skills in doing business although not to their full potential. For the youth's ability to sustain themselves, they need to be ready for the economic opportunities. In this way, education, skills and good health are imperative to them. They also need to play a participative role in their communities and be able to have networks that allow for sustainable livelihoods. Once the youth in informal settlements can be provided with basic services, they can be able to deal with poverty.

The lack of comprehensive communication with the Lindelani residents by the official from the Department of Human Settlement has deprived the youth of socio-economic opportunities. The inability to improve the living conditions of the youth during the reblocking decreased the chances of increasing the youth's livelihoods. Those who performed temporary jobs were no more performing them as the place of work were far. This indicates the shock of relocation and the youth livelihoods vulnerable. The provision of stands that were not able to accommodate all residents indicated that adequate community profiling and enumeration was not conducted, that is where the needs of the youth would have been better identified. The dependence of the official from the Youth Unit on the councillor for informing the youth of the programmes that are meant for the youth development showed that the youth unit is less concerned about the well-being of

poor youth in informal settlements. The young people are seen as country leaders of the future; therefore, their needs and well-being should be prioritised by everyone; the community; the state; and the municipality. However, the councillor from ward 71 Lindelani informal settlement never showed youth prioritisation. This increases the youth's stress of relying on external sources. Youth participation in the planning of programmes and initiative be allowed to be involved in the decision making by the municipality is imperative for their development. Enhancing their human asset will increase their employability. Nonetheless, informal learning (e.g. learnership), and community skills development especially in areas like Lindelani where finances are a problem, is important. Informal learning enhances the creativity and innovative capacity of the youth for their employability, (Bamber,2012).

# CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## 5.1 Introduction

This report investigated the livelihoods of young people in the Lindelani informal settlement. This was done to ascertain how can the young people be supported so that their livelihoods and be strengthened. The Lindelani informal settlement was used as a case study area of this report. The Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA) has been used to understand the youth livelihoods and their assets to ensure that interventions supporting their livelihoods are appropriate and well-targeted. The SLA is also used to select the capitals based on the challenges facing the youth in Lindelani informal settlements. For this study, these capitals were human capital (i.e. issues of education, skills and health), financial capital (i.e. issues of income), physical capital (i.e. housing) and social capital (i.e. social relations and social networks). This section of the report summarizes the main issues, guided by the main and sub-questions of the study report. In the end, recommendations are proposed.

## 5.2 Summary of key findings

- **Sub-question: What does past experience suggest about how the various assets of the youth can be enhanced to support more sustainable livelihoods?**

This report has identified that although the poor youth from Lindelani informal settlement are faced with socio-economic challenges, they have managed to survive. Despite the poor education they have, youth in Lindelani managed to employ the limited assets available to them for their livelihoods. The use of their parent's houses for business purposes also indicated that they have the capability of using assets available to them. In this way, the poor youth showed the ability to use the little knowledge and the low level of skills by engaging in different livelihood strategies. Over and above the risks they put themselves under by doing drugs and involved in prostitution, strength in the human capital was seen in the poor youth, however, it needs development.

It has been revealed in the study that the poor youth in Lindelani possess some social capital, which is an important asset to them, as they took collective action in things that are of benefit to them. They protested for the installation of electricity in their settlement. They supported each other, by buying from their peers especially those who are street vendors. The supporting of each other's businesses indicates the potential of their financial asset. They also created groups called

'Umshayelwano' to save money for themselves. It has been seen in the study that youth in Lindelani possess different livelihood assets, although they need to be developed. Those assets can be diversified to create more income for sustainable livelihoods. Livelihood assets are the source of youth's livelihoods and are essential for sustainable livelihoods (Kimand Sumberg, 2014). In this way, diversifying those assets will increase and sustain their livelihoods (Ibid.).

- **Sub-question: In what ways can informal settlement upgrading be harnessed in ways that strengthen the livelihoods of young people?**

The study found that poverty and vulnerability in the Lindelani informal settlement are a result of different issues. These issues include lack of basic services, the location of the settlement on the urban periphery and unemployment. The relocation of Lindelani residents from Apex settlement to Lindelani, a temporary residential area, was very disruptive to them. They were moved to an urban periphery from an informal settlement which was in an area where social amenities and employment opportunities when not far (Van Dijk,2018). In this way, the youth had reduced opportunities for building financial (income and human (education) capital. Due to distance those who would find any available jobs open couldn't do that anymore. Those with jobs had to spend more money which disturbed their livelihoods. It has been found that the youth in Lindelani are informal workers, and most they use their parent's homes as their place of work, e.g. the crèche and the hair salon. The poor use their homes either as a primary workplace or storage (SERI 2012). Therefore, relocating informal settlement dwellers from their initial place of stay does not benefit them. Upgrading of the informal settlement that is located where economic opportunities are in close vicinity is preferable. Such upgrading means better wellbeing of the youth as they will benefit from better roads, transport and electricity to pursue businesses. The basic services are essential to livelihood development (Ibid.).

- **Sub-question: Are there any initiatives that are taking place or have been proposed that may support the youth?**

This study revealed that although the Ekurhuleni Municipality has programmes that are set to develop and empower youth to become self-reliant and achieve sustainable livelihoods. These programmes are advertised as well as given to the ward councillors to share with youth in their wards. Those programmes, however, did not reach the respondents in the Lindelani informal settlement because of poor representation. To access these programmes there are requirements to be fulfilled. One of the minimum requirements of these programmes is for the youth to pass

matric. In the case of Lindelani informal settlement, most youth never completed matric due to lack of funds for fees and transport.

Initiatives aimed at reducing youth unemployment, promoting skills development and creating business opportunities that have been introduced by the City of Ekurhuleni (CoE). Tshepo 1 Million is aimed at providing youth with entrepreneurship skills and employment creation. The youth do not get to know about these programmes, but even if aware of them, they would not benefit due to the requirements. To access these programmes there are requirements to be fulfilled. One of the minimum requirements of these programmes is for the youth to pass matric. In the case of Lindelani informal settlement, most youth never completed matric due to lack of funds for fees and transport.

- **Sub-question: What is the nature of the youths' livelihoods in Lindelani informal settlement?**

The study revealed that the youth's livelihoods strategies in Lindelani are made up of different kinds of informal jobs. These involve tuck-shops; bicycle repairs; crèche; painting; tiling; building; etc. The high rate of youth unemployment in South Africa does not show improvement any time soon. It is, therefore, imperative that the informal economy that is practised by youth in Lindelani be supported. As the Gauteng Informal Business Sector Strategy of 2014 indicates that lack of finance, lack of business infrastructure and lack of relevant policies are the ones that disrupt the success of the informal economy. Supporting of the informal activities and prioritising it can reduce the social ills and increase the skills of the youth to able to achieve sustainable livelihoods. They need better education and skills, be afforded with a decent place to stay and be empowered to sustain themselves.

- **Sub-question: What kind of support may be necessary to strengthen the livelihoods of the youth in Lindelani informal settlement?**

The informal settlement dwellers are poor with youth that is mainly not formally employed. To generate income, they are involved in informal income-generating or economic activities. To be supported in strengthening their livelihoods, there should be adequate information on what assets they have that need to be built on. Getting such information is possible only the youth are involved. The state, municipality, non-governmental organisations and the private sector need to come together in support of the poor youth to strengthen their livelihoods. Providing youth with

infrastructure and basic services (water, sanitation, electricity, education, skills development, health facilities, and housing) to improve their living conditions and strengthen livelihoods is essential. There should be trading spaces in the settlement where youth can be able to start their businesses. The youth need to be provided with spaces where they start gardening and be taught to start gardening for income-generating. At the same time, safety and security should be provided to reduce risks of insecurities. Informal learning through learnership for skills development is important for strengthening livelihoods. This study revealed that although the Ekurhuleni Municipality has programmes that are set to develop and empower youth to become self-reliant and achieve sustainable livelihoods. These programmes are advertised as well as given to the ward councillors to share with youth in their wards. Those programmes, however, did not reach in the respondents in Lindelani informal settlement.

Funds should be raised by the state, the municipality and the NGOs to support initiatives and programmes that will sustain youth's livelihoods. Initiatives aimed at reducing youth unemployment, promoting skills development and creating business opportunities that have been introduced by the City of Ekurhuleni (CoE). Tshepo 1 Million is aimed at providing youth with entrepreneurship skills and employment creation. To access these programmes there are requirements to be fulfilled. One of the minimum requirements of these programmes is for the youth to pass matric. In the case of Lindelani informal settlement, most youth never completed matric due to lack of funds for fees and transport. These programmes should reach or priorities the poor youth in informal settlements. Supporting of the informal activities and prioritising it can reduce the social ills and increase the skills of the youth to able to achieve sustainable livelihoods. They need better education and skills, be afforded with a decent place to stay and be empowered to sustain themselves.

### 5.3 Recommendations

This report concludes with the recommendation that the youth leaders from different political organisations and the ward committee prepare a profile of the youth in Lindelani using the SLA so to be in a position to assist them appropriately. In so doing, they will know what assets they possess and how those can be properly enhanced. This can assist the Youth Unit from the Mayors' office to be able to prepare appropriate programmes and initiatives for the youth.

The City of Ekurhuleni has programmes and initiatives for the development of youth. It is recommended that attention should also be given to the youth in informal settlements. The municipality needs to involve the poor youth through their youth leaders and the Ward committee

in the development of the programmes. Active youth participation and their input during the planning of the programmes is important. Empowerment has a wide range of dimensions and can be used in a great variety of ways (Ongwere, 2014). It is associated with self-power, self-reliance, independence, capabilities and it should be sustainable (Ibid.). Therefore, empowering the poor youth would be expanding their assets and capabilities so they can be able to participate wherever their lives are affected. The youth empowerment can improve their capabilities to make rational decisions on livelihood strategies.

With the help of the Municipal Department of Social Development, the youth that started crèches in the informal settlement should be supported to make it formal. The youth need to be given secure premises and good location for economic activities. It is also recommended that the programmes should be introduced to the youth in Lindelani be to develop their entrepreneurial skills.

The Department of Human Settlement in their process of upgrading and/or reblocking the informal settlements needs to consult with comprehensive communication and planning, so they can get the buy-in of the youth and the community. This is important to the youth as a decent place to stay with good infrastructure and basic services provide better ways of making business.

### 5.4 Further research

The SLA has aided this study in identifying the assets that youth in Lindelani informal settlement possesses and those need to be enhanced through reblocking for them to achieve sustainable. Lindelani informal settlement could not be upgraded as the land was privately owned, the residents were relocated in Alliance Ext 9 and reblocking took place. Therefore, the study could not fully reach the extents that would have been helpful to fully comprehend the upgrading of informal settlement and the support needed for the youth to achieve sustainable livelihoods. Further research is recommended to help reach those extents.

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**Appendices:**

**Appendix 1: PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET: YOUTH AT LINDELANI INFORMAL SETTLEMENT**

***TITLE:*** **Sustainable livelihoods and youth empowerment in informal settlements-: The case of Lindelani informal settlement, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality**

Greetings

My name is Rachel Lindiwe Mabona and I am currently a part-time student studying towards a Masters in Built Environment (Housing) in the School of Architecture and Planning (SOAP) at the University of Witwatersrand. I am currently investigating the appropriate interventions that can support the youth in the informal settlements' livelihoods and promote poverty reduction, social cohesion, and improve their living conditions.

I am inviting you to be part of the study through an interview process.

The interview will take no longer than an hour of your time. This will take place at a place and time of your convenient**.** During the course of the interview, you will be asked questions regarding the assistance you need to enhance your capabilities to achieve sustainable livelihoods, and what empowerment is needed thereof.

I will conduct interviews. During those interviews, I will ask your permission to audio record you so that I do not misquote your contributions. In will also use written notes so that I do not forget what has been said. That will be done with your permission.

You have been selected to participate in this study due to your status as you are resident of this settlement and are between the ages of 19-35.

Your participation is **voluntary**, you may refuse to answer any questions that make you uncomfortable, and you may withdraw at any time without penalty or loss. You will receive **no payment or other incentives for your participation.**

Your participation will be completely **anonymous,** and you will not be personally identified in the final report. You will be referred to as a Young Man 1 or a Young Woman 1 as appropriate

In the event that I use direct quotations from this interview, please note that your identity will not be revealed. Any comments that you make that you deem "**off the record**" or similar, will not be quoted. Further, any information that you share will be kept **confidential** and can only be accessed by me on a **password-protected computer**. There are also no foreseeable risks associated with your participation.

The research undertaken is **solely for academic purposes** and once completed will be available electronically and can be accessed publicly.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments or if you would like a copy of the final report, please feel free to contact me at lindit79@gmail.com or my supervisor at Amanda.williamson@wits.ac.za

Masters in Built Environment (Housing).

**NAME**

**DEGREE**

**Appendix 2: PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET: WARD COMMITTEE**

***TITLE:*** **Sustainable livelihoods and youth empowerment in informal settlements-: The case of Lindelani informal settlement, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality**

Greetings

My name is Rachel Lindiwe Mabona and I am currently a part-time student studying towards a Masters in Built Environment (Housing) in the School of Architecture and Planning (SOAP) at the University of Witwatersrand. I am investigating the youth current livelihoods in order to get a better idea of what kind of state support is required to strengthen their livelihoods. In so doing, will promote poverty reduction, social cohesion, and improve their living conditions.

I am inviting you to be part of the study through an interview process. You have been selected to participate in this study as members of the ward Committee in Lindelani.

The interview will take between 30 minutes and an hour of your time. This will take place at a place here in Lindelani at a public place and at a time that is convenient for you**.** During the course of the interview, you will be asked questions regarding youth empowerment, skills development and initiatives for the youth to improve their lives and have sustainable livelihoods.

I will conduct interviews. During those interviews, I will ask your permission to audio record you so that I do not misquote your contributions. I hope to make handwritten notes so that I do not forget what has been said and this will only be done with your permission.

Your participation is **voluntary**, you may refuse to answer any questions that make you uncomfortable, and you may withdraw at any time without penalty or loss. You will receive **no payment or other incentives for your participation.**

Your participation will be completely **anonymous,** and you will not be personally identified in the final report. You will be referred to as a member of NGO 2 or member of CBO 2 as appropriate.

In the event that I use direct quotations from this interview, please note that your identity will not be revealed. Any comments that you make that you deem "**off the record**" or similar, will not be quoted. Further, any information that you share will be kept **confidential** and can only be accessed by me on a **password-protected computer**. There are also no foreseeable risks associated with your participation. You may be identifiable because of your association with the organisation, however, you will not be personally identified, and the name of your organisation will never be mentioned.

The research undertaken is **solely for academic purposes** and once completed it will be available electronically on the University's library website and can be accessed publicly.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments or if you would like a summary of the final report, please feel free to contact me at 1740353@students.wits.ac.za or my supervisor at Amanda.Williamson@wits.ac.za at 011 717 7713.

**NAME: RACHEL LINDIWE MABONA**

**DEGREE: Masters in the Built Environment (Housing)**.

**Appendix 3: FORMAL CONSENT FORM FOR THE YOUTH**




**Research Title: Sustainable livelihoods and youth empowerment in informal settlements-: The case of Lindelani informal settlement, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality**

I hereby confirm that I have been informed by the student researcher of the purpose, procedures, and my rights as a participant. I have received, read and understand the written participant information sheet. I have also been informed of:

□ the nature of my participation in an interview

□ the place and duration of the study

□ the reasons why I was selected to participate in the study

□ the voluntary nature, refusal to answer, and withdrawing from the study

□ no payment or incentives

□ no loss of benefits or risks

□ anonymity

□ confidentiality

□ how the research findings will be disseminated

I, therefore, agree to participate in this study by responding to the questions of the interview.

**I AGREE / DO NOT AGREE** to the researcher taking handwritten notes of the interview

**I AGREE / DO NOT AGREE** to audio-recording during interviews.

PARTICIPANT:

_____

_____ _____

Signature Date

## Appendix 4: CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

[redacted]

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
HUMAN RESERCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE PLANNING

**CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE**
**PROTOCOL NUMBER:** SOAP038/07/2018

| | |
|---|---|
| **PROJECT TITLE:** | Sustainable Livelihoods and Youth Empowerment in informal settlements: The case of Lindelani informal settlement, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality |
| **INVESTIGATOR/S:** | Rachel Lindiwe Mabona (Student No: 1740353) |
| **SCHOOL:** | Architecture and Planning |
| **DEGREE PROGRAMME:** | Masters of Built Environment (MBE) |
| **DATE CONSIDERED:** | 18 September 2018 |
| **EXPIRY DATE:** | 18 September 2019 |
| **DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE:** | Approved |

**CHAIRPERSON**
(Professor Daniel Irurah)

**DATE:** 20-09-2018

cc: Supervisor/s: Amanda Williamson

**DECLARATION OF INVESTIGATORS**
I/We fully understand the conditions under which I am/we are authorized to carry out the abovementioned research and I/we guarantee to endure compliance with these conditions. Should any departure to be contemplated from the research procedure as approved I/we undertake to resubmit the protocol to the Committee.

School of Architecture & Planning
University of the Witwatersrand
Private Bag 3 Wits 2050
Johannesburg South Africa
www.wits.ac.za

T +27 11 717 7623
F +27 11 717 7649

**Appendix 5: RESEARCH INTERVIEW GUIDE**

**SECTION A**

| | |
|---|---|
| Name & Surname | |
| Gender | |
| Age | |
| Residential Place | |
| Employment Status | |
| Level of education | |
| Skills acquired | |

**SECTION B (Youth in the informal settlement)**

What is your experience as a youth living in an informal settlement?

How do you make a living?

How do you think your skills if any can be enhanced to be able to sustain your livelihoods?

What do you want to see happening as far as your empowerment is concerned?

Are your living conditions assisting you in achieving sustainable livelihoods?

Are there any programmes by the state that are meant to improve your living conditions available?

How do you think the state can assist in reducing poverty in your community?

Do you feel economic and socially excluded more than the youth living in better-located areas?

If yes, please explain.

**SECTION C (Ward Committee)**

What is the level of youth unemployment in the Lindelani informal settlement?

What initiatives have been taken to reduce the level of youth unemployment in this community?

Are there any socio-economic stability programmes introduced in this community?

What challenges have you encountered in the implementation of those initiatives?

Is information about the development of this community and youth empowerment provided to the youth?

What type of skills available and/or needed by the youth that would enhance their capabilities and be able to achieve sustainable livelihoods?

What opportunities can be provided to the youth of Lindelani informal settlement?