

**A STUDY ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN THE INFORMAL SETTLEMENT  
COMMUNITIES IN WINDHOEK: A CASE STUDY OF BABYLON COMMUNITY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study is to investigate the levels of poverty in Babylon informal settlement community in Windhoek. Babylon was selected as a case study, since Babylon was amongst the first informal settlement areas to be established in Windhoek. Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, and it is characterised by lack of power, exposure to risk, malnutrition, high mortality rate, low life expectancy, and insufficient access to socio-economic services, and opportunities for income generation.

The principal research objectives of the study were:

- 1) To determine the prevailing conditions of poverty of the people living in the Babylon informal settlement community in Windhoek.
- 2) To identify ways on how to alleviate the poverty of the people living in the Babylon informal settlement community in Windhoek.

The target population consisted of people living in Babylon informal settlement community. The sample size was 150 heads of household. Out of 150 heads of households, only 100 heads of household were available for interviews. The data was collected with the aid of two instruments, namely a questionnaire and semi structured interviews which were presented in one form of participatory poverty assessment discussions. The data of the study was analysed as follows: issues were arranged in a logical order, and specific issues were clustered into discernable themes, that gave meaning to the data obtained.

The study concluded that even if poverty were to be totally eradicated, there is still a need to ensure sustainability. The study further found that there is a need to undertake action research and policy review which cut across the economic, social and ecological dimensions for the purpose of sustainable development. Economic challenges are associated with the manner in which society produce and consume goods and services.

The study recommends that, a Poverty Reduction Strategy for Namibia be reviewed and centred on the 'basic needs' approach of poor people. This approach emphasizes the importance of the involvement and participation of the people in the process of needs identification. Poverty alleviation should be attainment through the provision of health services, education, housing, sanitation, water supply and adequate nutrition. Improvement of basic services should become an integral component of long term sustainable poverty alleviation strategies of these households.

# TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page(s)
<b>ABSTRACT:</b>	(i-
ii)	
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	(iii)
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS:</b>	(iv-
vii)	
<b>DECLARATION:</b>	
(viii)	
<b>ABBREVIATIONS:</b>	(ix)
<b>LIST OF TABLES &amp; FIGURES:</b>	(x-
xii)	
<b>Chapter One: Introduction of the study</b>	<b>1-5</b>
1.1 Background:	1
1.2 Population:	1-3
1.3 Statement of the problem:	3-4
1.4 Objectives of the study:	4
1.5 Research questions:	4-5
1.6 Significance of the study:	5
1.7 Limitation of the study:	5
<b>Chapter Two: Literature review and theoretical framework</b>	<b>6-</b>
<b>14</b>	
2.1 Introduction:	6-8
2.2 Comparative Analysis: A Nigerian case:	9-
14	
<b>Chapter Three: Research methodology</b>	<b>15-</b>
<b>19</b>	
3.1 Introduction:	15
3.2 Research design:	15
3.3 Population:	15-
16	
3.4 Sample:	16

3.5	Research instruments:	16
3.5.1	The questionnaire:	16
3.5.2	Semi-structured interviews:	16
3.6	Procedures for data collection:	17
3.7	Data analysis:	18
3.8	Research ethics:	18
3.8.1	Confidentiality:	18
3.8.2	The right to privacy:	19
3.8.3	Anonymity:	19

**Chapter Four: Presentation of data/research findings** **20-52**

4.1	Introduction:	20
4.1.2	Locality:	20
4.1.3	Demographic characteristics:	20
4.1.4	Available services:	20-
	21	
4.1.5	Natural resources:	22
4.2	Livelihood Systems:	22-
	25	
4.2.1	Characteristics:	22
4.2.2	Livelihood strategies:	22
4.2.3	Informal Businesses:	22-
	24	
4.2.4	Begging and scavenging:	24-
	25	
4.2.5	Casual Labour:	25-
	26	
4.3	Poverty wellbeing and vulnerability:	26-
	52	
4.3.1	Community perception:	26
4.3.2	Social causes and effects of poverty	26-
	27	
4.3.3	Economic causes and effects of poverty:	27-
	28	
4.3.4	Employment:	28-
	29	
4.3.5	Economic activities:	29-
	30	
4.3.6	Unemployment	30-
	31	
4.3.7	Self-employment opportunities:	32
4.3.8	Wages:	33
4.3.9	Educational qualifications, skills and knowledge:	34-
	35	
4.3.10	Alcohol abuse:	35-
	36	

4.3.11	Criminal activities:	36-
37		
4.3.12	Land and property ownership:	37-
38		
4.3.13	Factors of migration:	38-
40		
4.3.14	Gender and marital status:	40-
41		
4.3.15	Age composition:	41-
42		
4.3.16	Level of education:	42-
43		
4.3.17	Household size:	44
4.3.18	Income:	45-
46		
4.3.19	Housing structure:	46-
47		
4.3.20	Cooking arrangements:	47-
48		
4.3.21	Ablution services:	48-
49		
4.3.22	Sources of water supply:	49-
50		
4.3.23	Monthly expenditure:	50-
52		

<b>Chapter Five: Conclusion and recommendations</b>	<b>53-</b>
<b>61</b>	

5.1	Introduction:	53
5.2	Recommendations:	53
5.3	Institutional structures:	54
5.4	Roles of the Windhoek City Council	54
5.5	Community involvement and participation:	55
5.6	Stakeholders involvement:	56
5.7	Steering Committee:	56-
57		
5.8	Goals of the Steering Committee	57
5.9	Strategies of developmental goals	58
5.10	Holistic perspective:	58
5.11	Training:	59
5.12	Political Accountability:	59
5.13	Public and Private sector partnership:	59-
60		
5.14	Conclusion:	61

<b>References:</b>	<b>62-</b>
<b>64</b>	

## **Annexures**

**Annexure A:** Questionnaire

**Annexure B:** Map: City of Windhoek

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## **DEDICATION**

## **DECLARATION**

I, Taukuheke Dawidt Sem declare that this study is a true reflection of my research, and that this work, or part thereof has not been submitted for a degree in any other institutions of higher education.

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### **ABBREVIATIONS**

1. N - Naira – Nigerian Monetary Currency
2. N\$ - Namibian dollars - Namibian Monetary Currency
3. SIAPAC – Social Impact and Poverty Assessment Corporation
4. UNAM – University of Namibia
5. MRCC – Multi Disciplinary Research and Consultancy centre
6. DDS – Design and Development Services
7. SAP – Structural Adjustment Programme
8. % - Percentage
9. NGO – Non Governmental Agencies
10. CBO – Community Based Organizations
11. NDP(III) – National Development Plan 3
12. UNDP – United Nation Development Programme
13. PPA – Participatory Poverty Assessment Discussions
14. JCC – Joint Consultative Committee
15. NYC - National Youth Council
16. NABTA – Namibia Bus and Taxi Association
17. UNAM – University of Namibia
18. Politech - Polytechnic of Namibia

## LIST OF TABLES & FIGURES

	<b>Page(s)</b>		
1. Table	4.1.5	Available services:	21
2. Figure	4.1.5	Available services:	21
3. Table	4.2.3	Informal businesses:	23
4. Figure	4.2.3	Informal businesses:	24
5. Table	4.2.4	Effects of begging and scavenging:	24
6. Figure	4.2.4	Effects of begging and scavenging:	25
7. Table	4.2.5	Casual labour:	25
8. Figure	4.2.5	Casual labour:	26
9. Table	4.3.2	Social causes and effects of poverty:	27
10. Figure	4.3.2	Social causes and effects of poverty:	27
11. Table	4.3.3	Economic causes and effects of poverty:	28
12. Figure	4.3.3	Economic causes and effects of poverty:	28
13. Table	4.3.4	Employment	29
14. Figure	4.3.4	Employment	29
15. Table	4.3.5	Economic activities:	30
16. Figure	4.3.5	Economic activities:	30
17. Table	4.3.6	Effects of unemployment	31
18. Figure	4.3.6	Effects of unemployment:	31
19. Table	4.3.7	Self-employment:	32
20. Figure	4.3.7	Self-employment:	32
21. Table	4.3.8	Effects of wages:	33
22. Figure	4.3.8	Effects of wages:	33

23. Table	4.3.9 Effects, lack of qualifications, skills and knowledge:	34
24. Figure 34	4.3.9 Effects, lack of qualifications, skills, and knowledge:	
25. Table 35	4.3.10 Effects of alcohol and drugs abuse	
26. Figure 35	4.3.10 Effects of alcohol and drug abuse:	
27. Table 37	4.3.11 Effects of criminal activities:	
28. Figure 37	4.3.11 Effects of criminal activities:	
29. Table 38	4.3.12 Effects of non-availability of land and property ownership:	
30. Figure ownership:	4.3.12 Effects of non-availability of land and property ownership: 38	
31. Table 39	4.3.13 Factors of migration:	
32. Figure 39	4.3.13 Factors for migration:	
33. Table 41	4.3.14 Gender and marital status	
34. Figure 41	4.3.14 Gender and marital status:	
35. Table 42	4.3.15 Age composition:	
36. Figure 42	4.3.15 Age composition:	
37. Table 43	4.3.16 Level of education:	
38. Figure 43	4.3.16 Level of education:	
39. Table 44	4.3.17 Effects of household size	

40. Figure 44	4.3.17 Effects of household size:
41. Table 45	4.3.18 Monthly income:
42. Figure 46	4.3.18 Monthly income:
43. Table 46	4.3.19 Housing structures:
44. Figure 47	4.3.19 Housing structures:
45. Table 47	4.3.20 Cooking arrangements:
46. Figure 48	4.3.20 Cooking arrangements:
47. Table 48	4.3.21 Ablution services:
48. Figure 49	4.3.21 Ablution services:
49. Table 50	4.3.22 Sources of water supply
50. Figure 50	4.3.22 Sources of water supply:
51. Table 50	4.3.23 Monthly expenditure:
52. Figure 51	4.3.23 Monthly expenditure:
53. Table 52	4.3.24 Basic needs:

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **Orientation of the study**

#### **1.1 Background**

Namibia occupies an area of 824,268 square kilometres, and it is projected that, the population of Namibia in 2008 would be approximately 2,051,896 million people. (The National Planning Commission, 2006, p. 5). Namibia is situated on the south-western Atlantic coast of the African continent bordering Angola, Zambia for a short distance, and Zimbabwe in the far north east, South Africa in the south and Botswana in the east. Windhoek is the capital city of Namibia and is situated in the Khomas Region.

Khomas Region is bordered by Erongo Region on the west and northwest, Otjozondjupa Region to the north, Omaheke Region to the east, and Hardap Region to the south. Windhoek is the administrative, legislative and judicial centre of Namibia. Windhoek hosts all the head offices of the various ministries as well as the headquarters of banks and financial institutions. (The National Planning Commission, 2003, p. 5)

#### **1.2 Population**

Namibia became independent in 1990 and the new majority government inherited a country marred by widespread poverty and deep inequality after more than a century of colonial rule and apartheid. The National Planning Commission (2003, p.10) revealed that, in 2001 the Khomas Region had a population of 250,262 people. Out of these 126,649 were males and 123,613 females, these translated into 103 males for every 100 females. The City of

Windhoek (2001, p. 3) indicated that, in 2001 the total population of the informal settlement community in Windhoek amounted to about 79,352 people, which represented 31.7% of the population of the Khomas Region. The City of Windhoek (2001, p. 4) further revealed that, the population breakdown of the Khomas Region in 2001 was as follows: Katutura Central 21,243 people, Katutura East 17,745 people, Khomasdal North 27,950 people, Moses //Garoeb 25,642 people, Samora Machel 29,382 people, Soweto 13,865 people, Tobias Hainyeko 34,348 people, Windhoek-East 17,674 people, Windhoek-West 42,201 people, and Windhoek Rural with 20,212 people.

Van Zyl (2008, p. 47) found that, in 2001 the population of Windhoek urban amounted to 93.3% of the total population of the Khomas Region. She projected that, in 2008 the population of the informal settlements in Windhoek will be 118,000 people. The National Planning Commission (2003, p. 11) stated that, in 2001 the population of the Khomas Region compared to the national average of 2.1 persons per square kilometre, the population density within the Khomas Region was estimated at 6.8 persons per square kilometre. The report further indicated that, in 2001 the Khomas Region had a total of 58 580 households with an average size of 4.2. Of these households, 64% were headed by males, 29% were younger than 15 years, people 60 years and older accounted for only 3%, while 67% were in the age category of between 15 to 59 years.

The National Planning Commission (2005, p.11) revealed that, the population growth of the Khomas Region in 2001 was estimated at 4.0% and projected that, the population growth of the Khomas Region in 2008 will be 1.9%. The City of Windhoek (2001, p. 10) found that, in 2001 the natural growth rate of the population in Windhoek was estimated at 1.52% per annum and the migration rate was estimated at 3.92% per annum, resulting in the annual growth rate of approximately 5.44% per annum. This means that approximately 595 people moved to the city every month since 1991, at an average of 469 people, which translates to a migration rate of 146 people per

month. The political, cultural and historical background of Namibia is amongst the major contributing factors for the formation and establishment of informal settlements in Namibia. Before independence informal settlements in Namibia were prohibited and restricted by the then municipal by-laws. (The City of Windhoek, 2001, p. 9). Informal settlements were perceived as a “health and security risk”. Nonetheless, with the inception of Namibia’s independence in 1990 and the resultant freedom of movement, people started to freely migrate to the urban centres to settle. The relaxation of control and laws opened up possibilities to migrants to claim unused open land and people started erecting informal structures on the outskirts of Windhoek, resulting in the formation and establishment of several informal settlement areas in Windhoek. The informal settlements in Windhoek are nowadays found in the constituencies of Moses //Garoeb, Samora Machel and Tobias Hainyeko. In Windhoek, Babylon informal settlement was amongst the first informal settlements to be established. (The City of Windhoek, 2001, p. 11). Babylon is located on the north-western side of the City and is bordered by other informal settlements of Okahandja-park on the eastern side, Kilimanjaro on the southern side and One Nation on the western side. The Social Impact and Poverty Assessment Corporation (SIAPAC, 2006, p. 15), et al indicated that, Babylon was among the most fortunate informal settlements in Windhoek. They have access to an emergency satellite centre, communal water taps, waterborne toilets, a school, a playground and an informal market. However, there is still a lack of health facilities such as clinics and health centre in the area. The residents use wood for cooking and candles and paraffin oil for lighting. SIAPAC, et al (2006, p. 12) found that, unemployment and the lack of affordable housing are amongst the other major contributing factors responsible for the mushrooming and proliferation of informal settlements in Windhoek.

### **1.3 Statement of the problem**

One of the biggest challenges faced by the Windhoek City Council is the continuous influx of people into the city, mostly from the northern regions of the country. (The City of Windhoek, 2001, p. 19). People migrate to Windhoek

in search for employment and a better life, but more often than not find themselves living in the informal settlements, without employment. Unemployment is amongst the major contributing factor to poverty in the informal settlements in Windhoek. (The City of Windhoek, 2001, p. 19). Most of the people in the informal settlements in Windhoek live under poor living conditions.

Their houses are constructed from corrugated iron and metal sheets and these houses are located mostly near riverbeds. (SIAPAC et al 2006, p. 16)

In Windhoek the provision of basic services are not subsidized by National Government. However, basic services are provided, rendered and sustained through revenue collected from the business community and residents of Windhoek. (The City of Windhoek, 2001, p. 22). The prevailing conditions of poverty in the Windhoek informal settlements, if continued unabated, the informal communities could experience difficulties and would be unable to afford for basic services rendered. (SIAPAC et al 2006, p. 15). As a result, the Windhoek City Council could experience tremendous pressure on its limited resources. Alternatively, the Windhoek City Council could experience enormous challenges in sustaining and expanding its revenue base. Consequently, the situation might negatively affect the living standards of the informal settlement community and its repercussions could pose serious challenges to the Windhoek City Council, the business community and residents of Windhoek. (The City of Windhoek, 2001, p. 24).

#### **1.4 Objectives of the study**

The study will seek to address the following objectives:

- a. To determine the prevailing conditions of poverty of the people living in the Babylon informal settlement in Windhoek.
- b. To identify ways to alleviate poverty of the people living in the Babylon informal settlement in Windhoek.

#### **1.5 Research questions**

The purpose of this study was to investigate levels of alleviating poverty of the people living in Babylon informal settlement community in Windhoek.

The study attempted to provide answers to the following questions:

- a. What are the living conditions of the Babylon community?
- b. What type of socio-economic interventions, programmes and projects can be introduced to alleviate poverty in Babylon with the aim to enhance the living standard and the quality of live of these people?

### **1.6 Significance of the study**

The significance of the study was to establish levels of alleviating poverty in Babylon. The study seeks for means and provided the Babylon community with the opportunity to re-evaluate their own situation with the aim to improve their living conditions. In this way, the study assisted the Babylon community to alleviate poverty in their community and strengthen their socio-economic well-being. The study solicits information from the Babylon community to enable the Windhoek City Council to formulate and implement effective poverty reduction plans. The study envisaged to provide poverty alleviation strategies to policy-makers and planners within Government, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) and Community Based Organizations (CBO's) to develop effective policies and implementable plans that are aimed at alleviating poverty in Babylon. The findings of the study are to be made available to Local councils, Regional and Traditional Authorities to enable them to use the results as the basis for agenda setting.

### **1.7 Limitations of the study**

The study encountered problems of language barrier as envisaged. However, it was surprising to note that many respondents expressed themselves well in English, after only a few months in the city. The data was collected over the festive season in December and January. During the months of December and January people often visit family and friends, as the result only 100 of the intended 150 heads of households were available for interviews.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

## **Literature review and theoretical framework**

### **2.1 Introduction**

The Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries (1999, p. 15) stated that, "Poverty alleviation has been a priority of the United Nations, and it is at the very heart of the mandates of the organizations of the United Nations systems that carries out related activities at international, regional, and country levels." Thus, the prevalence of poverty in the informal settlements in Windhoek should not be seen as an isolated problem, but rather as a national and regional challenge that needs to be addressed at both national level and grass-roots level. "Poverty is a phenomenon of multi dimensions. Human poverty is about deprivation of the most essential capabilities, including leading a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable, having an adequate standard of living, and participating in community life. It is about more than just a lack of income; nonetheless, income and money are extremely important for accessing basic amenities such as food, shelter and clothing." (The National Planning Commission, 2006, p. 14). Poverty alleviation has been the overarching policy goal in Namibia since independence. Therefore, the key challenge for the Windhoek City Council is to stimulate economic growth in the informal settlement communities, by focusing its attention on the provision of basic services, job creation, the promotion and expansion of the small and medium enterprises and to improve access of the poor to productive assets including credit facilities and land. (The City of Windhoek, 2001, p. 25)

Although Africa's poverty is predominantly a rural phenomenon, urban poverty is on the rise for the continent as a whole. (Lipton and Longhurst, 1989, p. 10). The authors projected that, by 2025 Africa's urban population would surpass the rural population. This projection has implications as far as provision of amenities and other essentials services such as housing and clean water is concerned, to an increased population. However, Town Councils and Village Councils in Namibia are often not able to provide basic

services adequately to their residents. Truong (2005, p. 15) argued that, the rise in urban populations generally increases competition for limited employment, housing, and other public, private, and natural resources. He further argued that, urban poor typically depend on very erratic earnings from self-employment, and live in unplanned slums and squatters settlements without legal status, suffering from overcrowding, poor sanitation, and the lack of safe drinking water. (Truong, 2005, p. 15).

The situation described by Truong (2005, p. 15) can be said as accurately describing the prevailing conditions of poverty in Babylon. The houses in Babylon are characterized by informal structures often constructed from corrugated iron and metal sheets. The Babylon community use communal water taps, wood for cooking and candles and paraffin oil for lighting. The National Planning Commission (2003, p. 9) revealed that, in 2001, 56% of households residing in the informal settlements in Windhoek were unemployed, while the population of Windhoek accounted for 30% of Namibia's total urban population. The National Planning Commission (2003, p. 11) further indicated that, in 2001 the unemployment rate in the Khomas Region was estimated at 29% and projected that, it would increase to 35% by 2008. SIAPAC et al (2006, p. 16) found that, unemployment remains among others the major contributing factor to poverty in the informal settlements in Windhoek. The report argued that, the main reason for the high unemployment rate in the informal settlements in Windhoek is the fact that the people living in the informal settlement communities lack basic education, knowledge, and skills needed to create self-employment through self-help, small and medium enterprises. However, more often than not the informal settlement communities lack either start-up capital or the necessary resources and know-how to sustain their businesses. (SIAPAC et al, 2006, p. 16)

The City of Windhoek (1995, p. 19) indicated that, the prevailing conditions of poverty in the informal settlements do not only revolve around low income, unemployment, and the lack of basic services, but revolved around low achievements in education, health and nutrition. However, both City of

Windhoek (2001, p. 22) and SIAPAC et al (2006, p.18) agreed that, unemployment remains one of the major cause of poverty in the informal settlements in Windhoek. The National Planning Commission (2005, p. 11) indicated that, there are many construction and manufacturing enterprises based in Windhoek. These enterprises often make use of the labour of unskilled and semi-skilled workers who mostly emanates from the informal settlements in Windhoek.

SIACPAC et. al (2006, p. 23) lamented the high unemployment rates in the informal settlements in Windhoek. They noted that, there are more than 15 established formalised informal trading markets and more than 10 formal industrial stalls in Windhoek. As such, those various efforts provided people living in the informal settlements with the opportunity to become either employed or self-employed. Jacobs (1997, p. 5) revealed that, unemployment, the lack of income earning opportunities and the absence of affordable housing remain among other the major contributing factors to poverty in the informal settlements in Windhoek. Nonetheless, if the above are tackled appropriately by Windhoek City Council and National Government few such areas would exist. She argued that, poverty alleviation in the informal settlements is not only about increasing economic growth and improvement in social services, it is about generating the conditions for sustainable livelihood, which required a broader range of interventions than job creation and increased public spending.

Van Zyl (2008, p. 146) reported that, “informal settlement is a common trend in developing countries. The implications of this phenomenon are real and its attention urgent. Local authorities ought to familiarize themselves with the coping mechanisms for dealing with the informal settlement and of the mind shift from perceiving informal settlement as an insurmountable problem to a potential assets that is very much part of the city community fabric.” However, the manifestation of poverty in the informal settlements is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, since poverty does not emerge in isolation. In the light of the above, it is imperative that national, regional, local government pull resources

in order to alleviate poverty at national, regional and grass root level with the aim to improve and to enhance the living standard and the quality of live of these community.

## 2.2 Comparative Analysis: Nigerian case studies

There is always the difficulty in deciding where to draw the line between the poor and the “non-poor” (Aluko, 1995, p. 10). He refers to poverty as a lack of command over basic needs. He further, indicates that the inadequate levels of consumption give rise to insufficient food, lack of clothing and/or shelter, and the lack of certain capabilities, such as being unable to participate with dignity in society.

The World Bank (1999, p. 9) defined poverty as the inability to attain a minimum standard of living, and constructed two indices based on minimum levels of consumption, indicating the practical aspects of poverty. The first index was a country specific poverty line, the second was global based, allowing for cross-country comparisons. However, Walton (2000, p. 17) indicated that the United Nations had introduced the use of indices such as life expectancy, infant mortality rate, primary school enrolment ratio and number of persons per physician. In this context poverty has also been conceptualized in both the “relative” and “absolute” sense. This was based on whether relative or absolute standards were adopted in the determination of the minimum income required to meet basic necessities. The relative conceptualization of poverty was largely income-based.

However, from the above mentioned definitions, the study found that the most important fact to deduce from is the fact that, poverty should be perceived, defined and measured using various ways and methods that are relevant and valid for analysis and policy making in a given time and space. The World Bank (1999, p.33) reported that, in Nigeria, for example, the prevalence of both relative and absolute poverty were recognized and supported by various National Developments. The World Bank (1999, p.22) further stated that,

strategies for poverty alleviation in Nigeria received strong support during the 1995 Annual conference of the Nigerian Economic Society NES. World Bank (1993, p.34) further revealed that, the 1995 NES conference was devoted to sensitize the nation about the poverty menace. NES indicated that, poverty exist when incomes or disposable resources were inadequate to support a minimum standard of decent living. The World Bank (1999, p. 33) further indicated that, while the 1995 NES devoted to strengthen Structural Adjustment Programme SAP on poverty alleviation in Nigeria. The report indicated that the majority of the consumers in Nigeria were not producers. The report found that the majority of people who were not producers rely on imported products to satisfy their needs. Therefore, the aim of the 1995 NES was to encourage and to provide financial support to local producers to ensure sustainable production.

Dudley (1999, p. 22) agreed with the strategies of the NES that improvement in basic needs such as medical, housing, education, and access to nutritional food should be encouraged and supported. Dudley (1999, p. 22) further indicated that basic needs, of society should include such things as food, clothing, shelter, education, health, work and mobility. Dudley (1999, p. 26) undertook a study on poverty alleviation in Nigerian. He found that, 30% of households in Oyo state were malnourished, while more than 72% of households, in the Lagos state lived in one-room houses. Dudley (1999, p. 35) continued by stating that, access to basic services varied from two-third of the population in the South to one-third in the North of Nigeria.

Steward (1995, p. 15) indicated that, there was a substantial under-reporting of basic indicators such as child birth, mortality rates, diseases and morbidity in Nigeria. She further stated that, there was a positive urban bias in the provision of basic services, employment creation, and the lack of income to meet basic food needs let alone basic services. The strategies of conceptualizing poverty within a basic needs framework, of prioritising basic needs and setting minimum levels of poverty in Nigeria had been the focus of (Ogwumike and Odubogun 1999). Ogwumike and Odubogun (1999, p. 12)

defined poverty as a households inability to earn sustainable income to satisfy households basic needs of food, shelter, education, clothing and transportation. The authors indicated that, minimum standards for food supply were based on nutritional requirements. The authors further revealed that, shelter and education, the number of person per household and the number of children attending school (and the level of schooling), were adopted as minimum standards. Ogwumike and Odubogun (1999, p. 13) indicated that the challenges of defining minimum standard for clothing and transportation persisted, given the fact that poverty had been correctly conceptualized, under traditional approaches, since the measurement started with the specifications of poverty line and the value of basic needs considered adequate for meeting minimum levels of decent living in the affected society. Ogwumike and Odubogun (1999, p. 13) further argued that poverty was measured using the head count ratio which was based on the ratio or percentage of the number of individual or household whose income were not equal to the poverty line of the total number of individuals or households. Ginneken, Bardhan and Ahluwalia (1998, p. 12) further indicated that another method of measuring intensity of poverty was the "income-gap" ratio. The authors further argued that, the deviation of the poor's incomes from the poverty line was the average, divided by the poverty line and expressed it as the percentage. Ogwumike and Odubogun (1999, p. 13) used the core basic needs approach to examined the utility of poverty measure that took into account the basic needs of life based on the Nigerian scenarios. Using data from a sample survey of households, Ogwumike and Odubogun (1999, p. 15) conducted studies in Borno, Imo and Oyo States between October 1997 and January 1998. They derived at minimum levels for basic needs such as food which was estimated at (759.5 kilo cal/week and 2533.3 gm/week protein), shelter (N1000/month per person), education (800/month/per person) in Nigeria. Their study derived at a poverty line of N 500 per person per month for Nigeria based on food and non-food needs. Ogwumike and Odubogun (1999, p. 11). Found that the food component constitutes about 80% of the total expenditure and calculated the extent of poverty (those with income less than the poverty line of (N800) at 57.14 % of the sampled households.

Ogwumike and Odubogun (1999, p. 17) concluded that a greater proportion of the population in Nigeria continued to be deprived of their needs unless radical poverty eradication programmes are instituted.

The World Bank (1999, p. 33) constructed poverty lines on the basis of 1997 income data, which amounted to N650 per family in urban area and N350 per family in rural areas, in Nigeria. The report indicated that poverty line of households were determined at N500 for food and rest for housing, clothing. The report further indicated that according to these lines it was estimated that 34% of the people were living in urban areas, while 40% were living under the poverty line in rural areas. Drawing results from these study, The World Bank (1999, p. 45) also conducted research study on poverty lines in Nigeria. The report indicated that the poverty lines in Nigeria were set at N500 for urban and N300 for rural areas using 20% of urban households and 17.2% of rural households who fell below poverty line or food insecurity. The report indicated that these resulted in around 18% of all households classified as poor. Oni and Anthonio (2000, p. 14) conducted a household survey in Ibadan between 1995 and 1996. The aim of the study was to increase the understanding about food consumption patterns in an urban area (Ibadan) of Nigeria. Oni and Anthonio (2000, p. 22) presented concrete solutions which deals with poverty alleviation challenges in Nigeria. The survey by Oni and Anthonio (2000, p. 14) covered three areas namely, University of Ibadan senior staff quarters, Abadina community and Ojaogbo which represented the high, middle and low-income areas respectively. The households covering less than N2000 per month were classified as low-income households, those earning at least N2500 but less than N3000 per month were classified as middle income earning households while those earning N5000 and above per month were classified as high-income households. Oni and Anthonio (2000, p. 17) found that about 62% of the aggregate disposable income were spend on basic food. They indicated that the percentage dropped to about 39% for the middle-income groups and declined to about 16% for the high-income group. Oni and Anthonio (2000, p. 18) further found that the high-income group saved about 11% of their disposable income, while the low-income

group saved only 6%. The study further disclosed that the proportion of income that was spent on non-food items increased with income. Oni and Anthonio (2000, p. 19) concluded that, other factors such as the size, age, occupation and other demographic characteristics of households were the major contributing factors to poverty.

According to the study by Echeiri (1999, p. 25) household data were collected from sixteen villages in Abia, Anambra, Enugu and Imo States for the period of November 1997 and December 1998. A total of one hundred and fifty five (155) households were surveyed. Households were categorized into low, medium and high income groups to capture differences in income levels. Echebiri (1999, p. 215) concluded and indicated that, household income is best estimated using monthly expenditure and repeated cost-route visit techniques. Echebiri (1999, p. 40) further revealed that, four poverty line criteria were used to estimate the incidence of poverty and it included minimum calorie requirement, food share of total expenditure, N395.41 per capita per month at 1995 prices and N1500 per capita per month at 1996/97 prices. The analysis of this rural socio-economic profiles showed striking locational variations among low, medium and high income groups. The variations were discovered and relate intimately with Agro ecology (a major occupation) and used urban inference as key correlates of household income. Echebiri (1999, p. 140) found that food dominates household expenditure and comprised of about 69%, 65% and 54% for low, medium and high income groups respectively. Van de Walle (1990, p. 22) carried a study on poverty alleviation in Nigeria. She suggested that the satisfaction of basic needs should be directed to alleviate some of the most severe consequences of poverty. She contended that healthy, well-nourished and educated individuals had a higher standard of living than sick, hungry and ignorant ones. She indicated that, this was because the former were more productive and better able to respond to new opportunities. She further, suggested that investment in human capital and involvement of the poor in developmental programmes and projects are the pertinent characteristics of poverty alleviation in any given country.

The World Bank (1999, p. 33) indicated that poverty in rural communities in Nigeria was related to poor physical facilities, food insecurity, obsolete agricultural practices, poor nutritional values, little access to savings and credit, general inability to educate children due to high cost, inadequate diet, and homes without amenities such as latrines, bathrooms and kitchens, irregular water supply and electricity as well as the inability to cloth oneself. World Bank (1999, p. 39) further assessed the poverty trend in Nigeria between 1995 and 1998 and used two-thirds of the mean of households expenditure as the poverty line. The findings of the study were firstly, poverty was more pronounced in rural than urban area. Secondly, the southern part of the country had less poverty than either the central or northern part of the country. As the result, poverty in Nigeria declined between 1995 and 1998 from 36% to 20%. The study showed that the per capita household expenditure in 1995 rose from N592.81 in 1995/96 to N792.61 in 1997/98. The World Bank (1999, p. 44) indicated that, the estimated moderate and extreme poverty lines stood at N695.41 and N792.61. Moderate poverty was reported to have fallen from 31% in 1995/96 to 20.5 percent in 1992/93, while extreme poverty rose marginally from 12% in 1995/96 to 13.6 percent in 1997/98. The World Bank (1999, p. 45) indicated that, the incidence of poverty fell nationally between the two periods, and that poverty severity rose during the same period.

The World Bank (1999, p. 46) further revealed that, the incidence of poverty rose in some states such as Kano, Rivers and Sokoto. The severity of poverty also rose in states like Borno, Benue, Cross Rivers, Kano, Kwara, rural Lagos, Plateau and Rivers. The World Bank (1999, p. 55) concluded that the incidence of poverty for all poor in 1995 was 36.4 percent for rural Nigeria and 30.4 percent for urban Nigeria. These indicated that poverty did not exist in rural areas only, but it also existed in urban areas.

From the foregoing studies, it can be deduced that poverty has long been in existence in Africa. The incidence, depth and severity of poverty have been

increasing over the years. More so, over the years, it has been shown that poverty was not only limited to the rural areas of Africa but the prevalence of poverty in urban areas has been on the increase.

## **CHAPTER THREE:**

### **Research methodology**

#### 3.1 Introduction

The study used the following methods to collect data:

#### 3.2 Research design

The study used a case study which involved the Babylon community. According to Leedy and Ormod (2005, p. 135) a case study refers to, “a particular individual, program, or event which is studied in-depth for a defined period of time.” The Babylon community was studied in-dept and information about their living conditions was obtained.

#### 3.3 Population

The population of the study was the Babylon community in Windhoek.

#### 3.4 Sample

The sample for the study consisted of 150 heads of households living in the Babylon informal settlement community in Windhoek. The study used a simple random sampling method to select a representative sample of 150 heads of household living in the Babylon community in Windhoek.

The sample was selected as follows: The plot numbers of all household structures in Babylon were listed and with the aid of the Microsoft-Excel program a sample of 150 heads of household were drawn randomly to allow for the degree of representativeness. However, out of the 150 heads of household only 100 heads of household were available for interviews. Most of the households were not available due to the festive season. The 100 heads of household were interviewed individually. The study used a questionnaire to interview these heads of household. From the 100 available respondents 20 heads of households were selected to respond to in-dept questions by means of semi-structured interviews.

### 3.5 Research instruments

The study used the following research instruments to collect the data.

#### 3.5.1 The questionnaire

The study used a questionnaire to collect data from the sample. The aim of the questionnaire was to obtain information from respondents about their socio-economic conditions, livelihood, employment status, income and level of education. Information sought from households included household income, sources of income, household size, monthly expenditure, occupation, employment status, unemployment rate, and other basic needs. The study considered consumer items such as, food, housing, clothing, transport, fuel and light, school fees, drinks.

#### 3.5.2 Semi-structured Interviews

The study used semi-structured interviews to obtain in-depth information from a selected 20 heads of households. The semi-structured interviews were held in a form of participatory poverty assessment discussions. Semi-structured interviews enable a researcher to ask specific questions, with the aim to obtain detailed and in-depth information from respondents. Hence, the application of participatory poverty assessment discussions as a method of data collection was useful, since it enabled the researcher to use both closed-

ended and open-ended questions to obtain detailed and in-dept information from respondents.

### 3.6 Procedure

The data was collected over a period of five weeks. Interviews with respondents were held from the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2008 until the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2009. The participatory poverty assessment exercise was carried out from the 12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> of January 2009.

#### 3.6.1 Procedures for data collection were as follows:

The data collection process commenced with a consultative community meeting. Constituency councillors, community leaders and the Babylon community were invited to the meeting. The purpose of the consultative community meeting was to inform the Babylon community about the aims and objectives and also to sensitize them about the significance of the study. The first four weeks data was collected with the aid of a questionnaire and close to 150 households were visited. Out of these 150 heads of households only 100 head of households were available for interviews. 20 heads of household were selected on the basis of their capability and willingness, and participated in the participatory poverty assessment discussions.

The importance of using participatory poverty assessment discussions as a method of data collection was the fact that it provided respondents the opportunity to state and analyse their own situation, and priorities. During, the participatory poverty assessment discussions respondents to presented proposals, made demands and took might lead to sustainable and effective implementation of programmes and projects in Babylon. The researcher facilitated the participatory poverty assessment discussions. The information obtained from the respondents were reviewed on a daily basis and the researcher made preparations for the respondents. The last day of the participatory poverty assessment discussions the researcher prepared feedback to the respondents for the purpose of information validation.

### 3.7 Data analysis

The data of the study was analysed as follows:

The information obtained from respondents about specific issues was arranged in a logical order, and different categories were drawn from those specific issues. This enabled the researcher to cluster the data into discernable themes. Thereafter, specific incidents were examined and meanings to specific issues were assigned. The information obtained from respondents was used to identify specific patterns which provided meaning to underlying themes. Other patterns were identified. Over all portraits of different issues were constructed, conclusions were drawn and generalization were made. Tables and graphs were constructed that indicated which responses received the greatest number of reaction and which had the least number of reactions. Finally, descriptive statistics were used and it provided an indication with regard to different responses obtained from respondents. Responses obtained from each category in relation to specific issues were identified and constructed.

### 3.8. Research ethics

The responsibility of the researcher was to conduct the study in an ethical manner. The following research ethics were applied during the course of the study:

#### 3.8.1 Confidentiality

The researcher ensured that the data collected respondents were not be divulge or made available to outsiders.

#### 3.8.2 The right to privacy

The privacy of respondents was respected. The data of the study was be collected during the day as from 09:00 until 18:00.

#### 3.8.3 Anonymity

The researcher kept respondents nameless in relation to their responses in the study.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **Presentation of data/research findings**

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter provides the presentation of data as obtained from the respondents.

#### 4.1.2 Locality

Babylon informal settlement community is located on the outskirts of Windhoek in the Tobias Hainyeko constituency.

#### 4.1.3 Demographic Characteristics

Babylon informal settlement was amongst the first informal settlements to be established in Windhoek. The study revealed that Babylon was established in the early 1990s, mainly by individuals, family members, and migrants from other regions in search for a place to stay and those looking for employment. The current number of people living in Babylon was estimated at 2500 people. The majority of inhabitants in Babylon are Oshiwambo and Damara>Nama speaking people.

#### 4.1.4 Available services

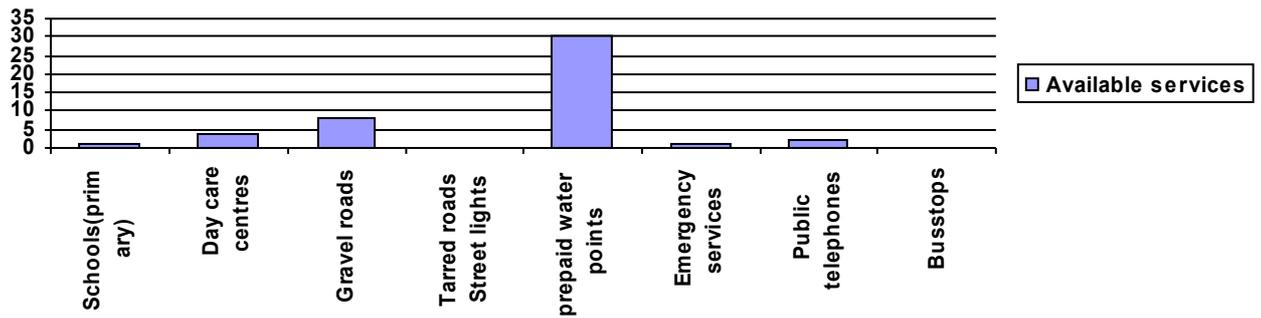
Houses in Babylon are constructed from corrugated iron and metal sheets, and these houses vary in size, shape and appearance. There are twenty two communal water taps shared between 2500 people. There are close to 30 communal toilets in Babylon. There are four high mast lights that cater for lighting at night. The Babylon community has access to a primary school, day care centres, an open market and a fire emergency office.

However, there is still a lack of health facilities such as clinics and health centre in the area. The main road is called Omuvapu street, and is a gravel road. The communal water points in Babylon are connected to pre-paid water machines. There are no bus-stops in Babylon and people commute by taxi from and to different areas.

Table: 4.1.4. Available services

	Total number
School (primary)	1
Day care centres	4
Gravel roads	8
Tarred roads	0
Communal toilets	0
Prepaid water points	30
Emergency services	1
Public telephones	2
Bus-stops	0

Figure: 4.1.4 Available services



#### 4.1.5 Natural resources

Babylon is situated on the rocky hills on the outskirts of Windhoek. Except for dry fuel wood there are no natural resources that can be used by the community. Dry wood is collected in the outlying hills for cooking purposes.

### 4.2 LIVELIHOOD SYSTEM

#### 4.2.1 Characteristics

The economic activities of households consist of household-shops called shebeens. These shebeens sell commodities ranging from can-food, bread, cigarettes, beverages and liquor. The shebeens sell home-made and traditional alcoholic brew. The informal market caters for products such as vegetables, fruits, sweets, fat cakes, cooked and un-cooked meat.

#### 4.2.2 Livelihood strategies

Respondents revealed that formal employment was the livelihood strategy of the households. Respondents further indicated that since heads of household need to put bread on the table to feed their families they needed employment in order to survive. The respondents indicated that most of them earned wages below N\$ 2000 per month, which is very low to sustain their families.

#### 4.2.3 Informal businesses

Respondents indicated that people seek formal employment, in order to earn an income. However, due to the lack of formal employment opportunities the households engaged themselves in informal business such as shebeens and

sell kapana (cooked meat). 24% of the respondents indicated that they were self employed. 12% indicated that they were involved in shebeens as a means of self-employment.

Respondents indicated that they experienced problems to sustain their businesses due to the lack of financial support. 2% of the households indicated that they collected wood and sell it to earn an income. They indicated that they had to walk long distances to collect wood, and they estimated that for a pale of wood weighing 10 kg they earn approximately N\$ 30-00. However, the female households indicated that they collect wood for domestic use. The households indicated that they find it difficult to be self-employed. They revealed that, competition in selling informal products like kapana was very high, since everybody tends to make a living by selling these as a way of survival. 1% of the households were engaged in motor repair, and indicated that business was very slow since most of the car owners preferred to take their car to qualified mechanics rather than to make use of his services. One of the respondents indicated that the Windhoek City Council should construct industrial stalls in their areas to promote self-employment.

Table: 4.2.3 Informal businesses

	Male	Female	Total number
Shebeens	7	5	12
Kapana (cooked food)	3	6	9
Wood collection	2	0	2
Motor repair	1	0	1

Figure: 4.2.3 Informal businesses



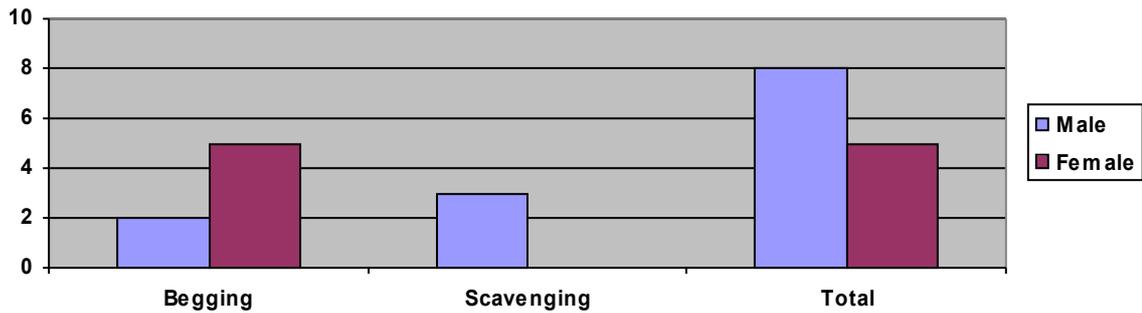
#### 4.2.4 Begging and scavenging

The study found that 39% of the households were unemployed. However, 8% of the households indicated that they commute to the city centre to beg for money. They indicated that some of them sat at street corners expecting good Samaritans to give them something. They indicated that they experienced difficulties in begging, since people are not that generous as they used to be. 5% of respondents indicated that because of the lack of employment opportunities, they spend half or even the whole day at the different dumpsites around the city, collecting food from these dumpsites. They indicated that they collect different types of goods ranging from dumped food to empty bottles. They revealed that they sell empty bottles and received up to N\$ 15-00 a day if they collected many bottles.

Table: 4.2.4 Effects of begging and scavenging

	Male	Female	Total
Begging	5	3	8
Scavenging	5	0	5

Figure: 4.2.4 Effects of begging and scavenging



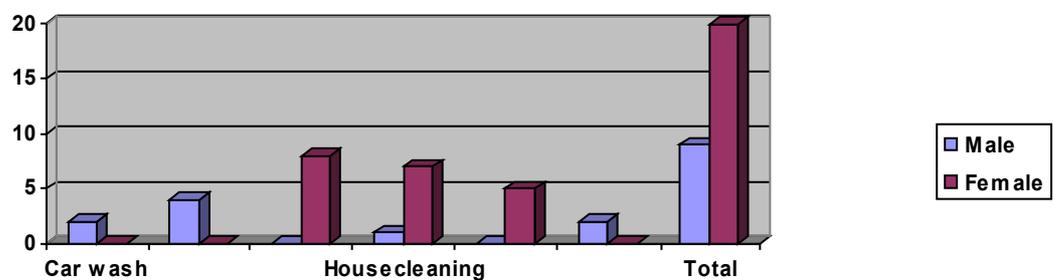
#### 4.2.5 Casual labour

29% of the households indicated that they were employed in the private sector. The study revealed that most of them were employed as casual labourers, with employment activities ranging from cleaning cars, gardening and yard cleaning, while women do casual work such as washing, ironing, house cleaning and baby sitting.

Table: 4.2.5 Casual labour

	Male	Female	Total
Car cleaning	2	0	4
Gardening and yard cleaning	4	0	4
Washing & ironing	0	8	8
Housecleaning	1	7	8
Baby sitting	0	5	5
Labourers & security officers	2	0	

Figure: 4.2.5 Casual labour



#### 4.3 Poverty, community well-being and vulnerability

#### 4.3.1 Community perception

Respondents defined poverty as the state of having little or no income or material possessions. The study found that households often experience the lack of basic services. However, respondents revealed that poverty means disempowerment. They indicated that poverty means the lack of basic needs, such as housing, water and food. The households revealed that they struggle to acquire basic needs, as a result they experienced poor living conditions. Respondents indicated that they need to acquire basic services in order to improve and uplift their living standards.

Respondents further argued that they lack political power or voice to be heard. They indicated that they were excluded from developing their community. Respondents revealed that they had come to believe that they cannot do anything for themselves, and therefore had to wait for government to provide for them.

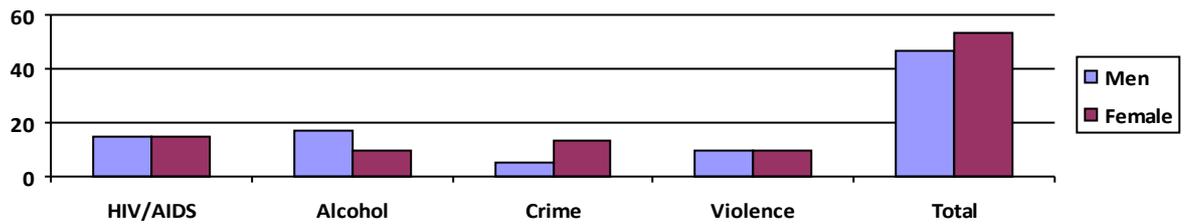
#### 4.3.2 Social causes and effects of poverty

Respondents indicated that there was a definite or direct link between causes and effects of poverty. They argued that causes of poverty were directly linked to the effects of poverty. Respondents further stated that the effects of poverty contributed severely to poverty in their households. Respondents indicated HIV/AIDS, alcohol abuse, crime and violence were among the other contributing factors to poverty in their households.

Table: 4.3.2 Social causes and effects of poverty

	Male	Female	Total
HIV/AIDS	15	15	30
Alcohol	17	10	27
Crime	5	13	18
Violence	10	15	25
Total	47	53	100

Figure: 4.3.2 Social causes and effects of poverty



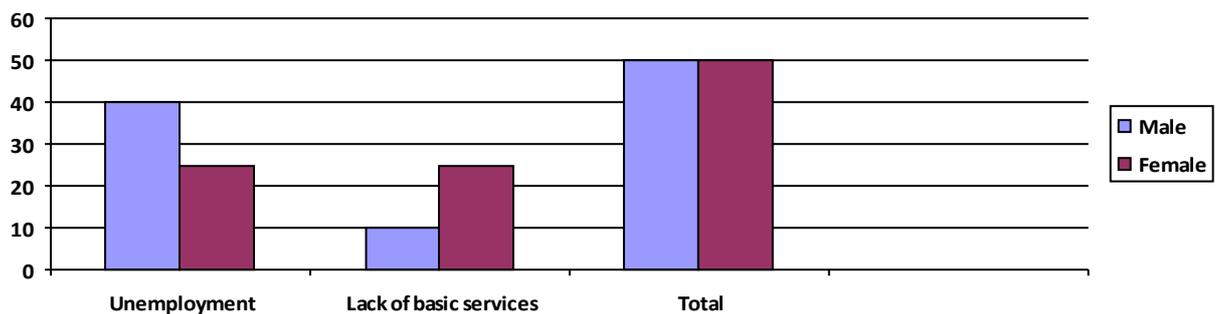
#### 4.3.3 Economic causes and effects of poverty

Respondents indicated that the lack of basic services, unemployment in their households, had a negative effect on their households. Respondents referred to socio-economic causes such as the lack of electricity, water and money. They said that, although some of them were employed or self employed they had to provide food and other basic needs to the unemployed members in their households. They indicated that socio-economic problems remain a challenge in their households. Respondents revealed that unemployment of household members negative affect their disposable income and influence their purchasing power.

Table: 4.3.3 Economic causes and effects of poverty

	Male	Female	Total
Lack of basic services	10	25	35
Unemployment	40	25	65
Total	50	50	100

Figure: 4.3.3 Economic causes and effects of poverty



#### 4.3.4 Employment

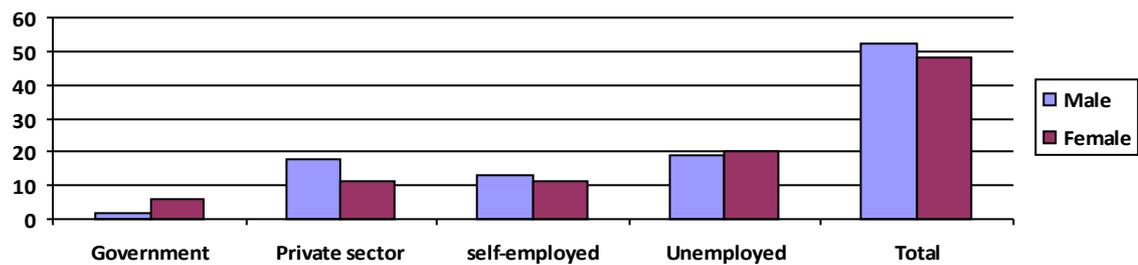
The study found that although 65% of the households received primary and secondary education, only 8% of households had formal employment, while 24% of the households were self-employed. About 39% of the households were unemployed, while 24% were self-employed. This situation affected the

living standard of households. The respondents indicated that employment guarantees an income, and that income put a person in a better position to acquire basic needs that will enable a person to improve his or her living conditions.

Table: 4.3.4: Employment

	Male	Female	Total
Government	2	6	8
Private Sector	18	11	29
Self-employed	13	11	24
Unemployed	19	20	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>

Figure: 4.3.4 Employment



From the above it can be deduced that the high percentage of unemployment is as a result of lack of knowledge and skills, and the lack of employment opportunities experienced by the surveyed households.

#### 4.3.5 Economic activities

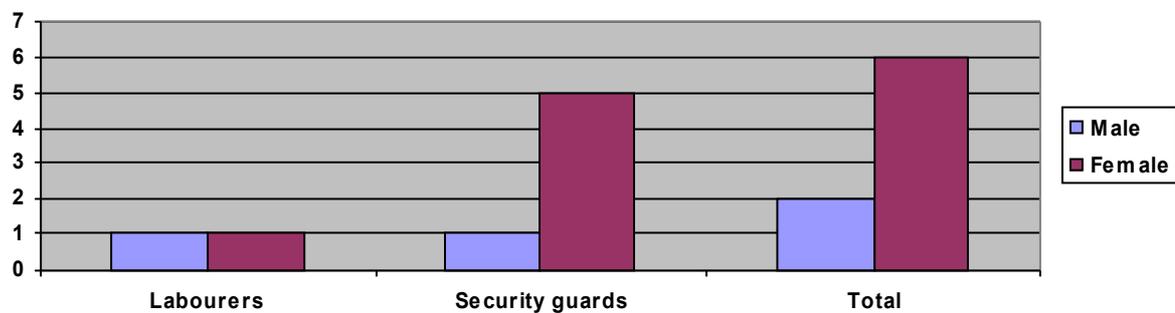
Two percent of the respondents indicated that they were employed as labourers in the public sector. They revealed that, although they received benefits such as medical aid and other benefits, their basic wages as labourers were very low and they could not afford basic services such as housing. Six percent of the respondents indicated that they were employed as security guards. They revealed that as security guards they earn very low wages without any benefits.

They revealed that as security guards they received monthly wages ranging from N\$650 to N\$750. Respondents indicated that they have no other employment alternatives, and they have to work as security guards to earn an income.

Table: 4.3.5 Economic activities

	Male	Female	Total
Labourers	1	1	2
Security officers	1	5	6

Figure 4.3.5 Economic activities



#### 4.3.6 Unemployment

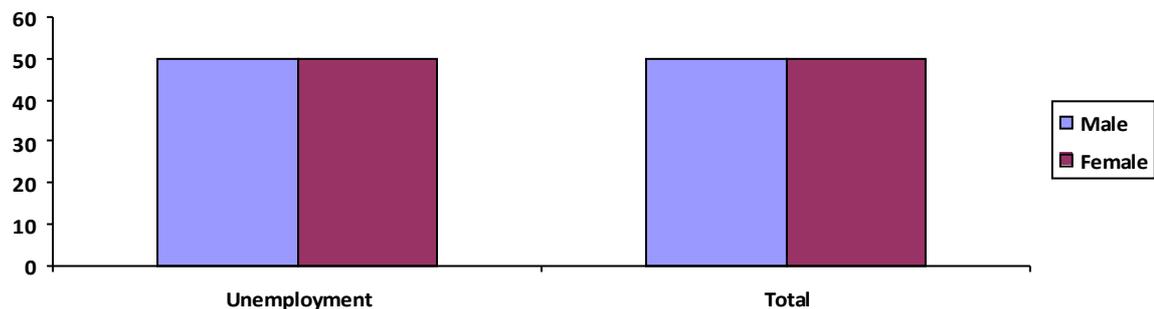
All respondents claimed that unemployment remains one of the major contributing factors to poverty in their households. Respondents stressed that unemployment was the cause of meagre income in their households. 39 percent of the respondents indicated that they were unemployed. They revealed that the lack of income inhibits them to acquire basic needs that could improve and enhance their living standards. They claimed that the basic services included access to clean water, electricity and food. Respondents further argued that, the lack of income was the contributing factor of other social problems, such as the inability to afford for health services and school fees. Respondents argued that unemployment forced household members to engage in criminal activities as a means of survival. The respondents revealed that unemployment remained very high in their households. They claimed that unemployment was amongst other factors the major contributing factor to poverty in their households. They felt that unemployment caused

severe poverty in their households. Respondents further indicated that unemployment created a lack of income, and the lack of income made it difficult for them as households to survive.

Table: 4.3.6 Effects of unemployment

	Male	Female	Total
Unemployment	50	50	100

Figure: 4.3.6 Effects of unemployment



The study found that although 61% of the households were employed or self-employed. Unemployment affects the livelihood of all households.

#### 4.3.7 Self-employment

Respondents indicated that an educational qualification enables a person to find employment. They argued that the lack of an educational qualification inhibited them to find employment. They argued that people obtain knowledge and skills from education, therefore without the knowledge and skills it became extremely difficult for them to find formal employment or to create self employment.

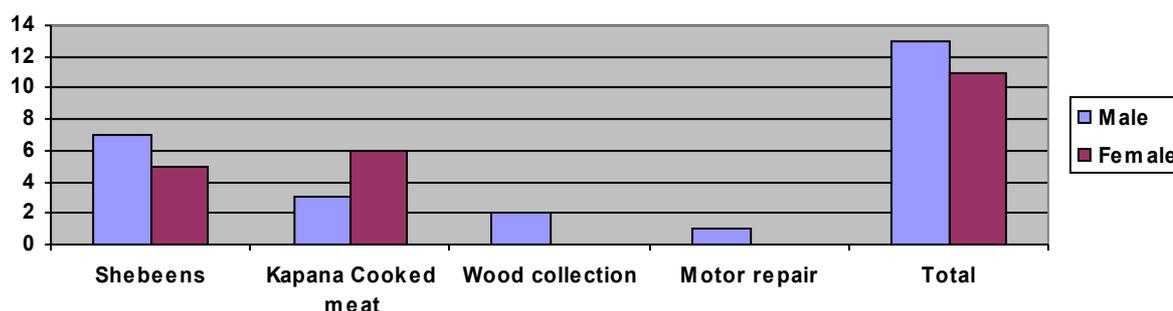
The respondents further indicated that the lack of basic education, knowledge and skills made it very difficult for them to create employment and to sustain their businesses. The respondents further showed that the lack of start-up

capital or the lack of financial support hampered self-employment opportunities in their households.

Table: 4.3.7 Self - employment

	Male	Female	Total
Shebeens	7	5	12
Kapana Cooked meat	3	6	9
Wood collection	2	0	2
Motor repair	1	0	1

Figure: 4.3.7 Self - employment



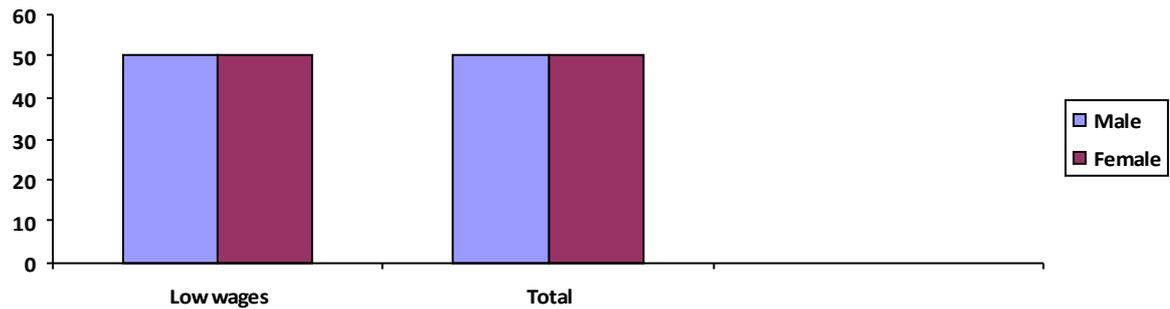
#### 4.3.8 Wages

The study found that although 37% of the respondents were employed they received very low wages. The study further indicated that the wages were meagre and thus they households could not afford basic services. They argued that with such meagre wages they need to compete for services. The respondents further argued that the lack of an educational qualifications, knowledge, skills, and competencies was another contributing factor for unemployment. The respondents indicated that because they lacked educational qualification they were mostly employed as labourers or security guards and received very low wages. As a result, although they received wages these wages were not enough to satisfy their basic needs that could enhance and improve their living standards.

Table: 4.3.8 Effects of wages

	Male	Female	Total
Wages	50	50	100
Total	50	50	100

Figure: 4.3.8 Effects of wages



#### 4.3.9 Educational qualifications, skills and knowledge

Respondents indicated that people obtain skills and knowledge through education. They further argued that the lack of educational qualifications inhibited them to find employment. Thirty percent of the respondents indicated that they lacked knowledge and skills and they found it very difficult to make ends meet. The respondents indicated that the majority of their households were poor because they lacked educational qualifications that could enable them to find employment.

Forty percent of the respondents argued that the lack of educational qualifications inhibited them to find formal employment. They further argued that there was a close link between education and employment. They opined that education provided a person with skills and knowledge. They further revealed that the skills and knowledge enabled a person to secure employment. Respondents claimed that employment enabled a person to earn an income. They further indicated that income enabled a person to satisfy daily basic needs. The respondents argued that the higher the households educational qualification the higher their wages, and the lower the education qualification the lower their wages.

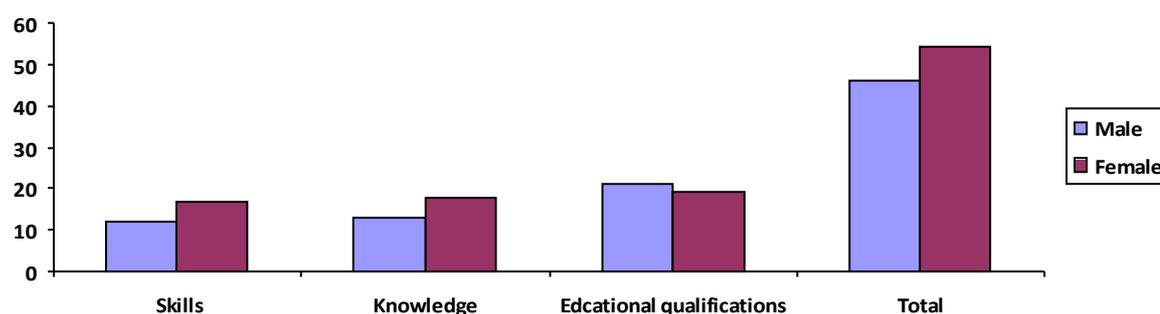
Twenty nine percent of the respondents indicated that because their lack of knowledge and skills they experienced difficulties to find employment, and

therefore would remain poor. The lack of knowledge and skills hindered them from getting employment and also to create self employment.

Table: 4.3.9 Effects of educational qualifications, skills, and knowledge

	Male	Female	Total
Skills	12	17	29
Knowledge	13	18	31
Educational qualifications	21	19	40

Figure: 4.3.9 Effects of educational qualifications, skills, and knowledge



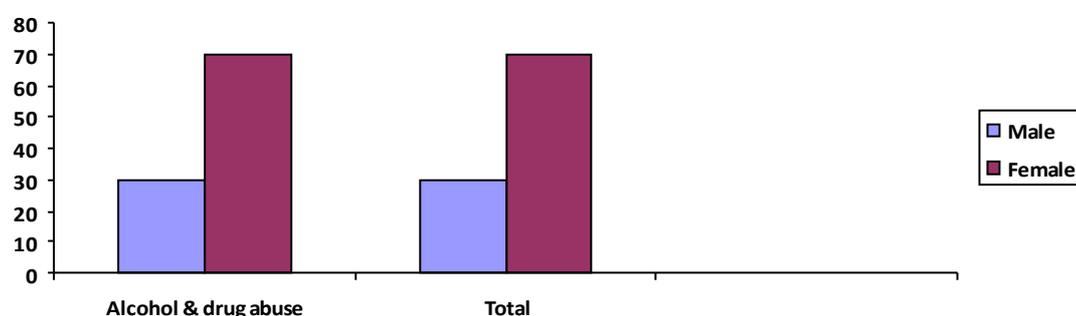
#### 4.3.10 Alcohol abuse

All respondents indicated that alcohol and drug abuse negatively affected their socio-economic well being. They revealed that household members were depressed and therefore abused alcohol. The respondents argued that drugs and alcohol were readily available to households. They further argued that alcohol and drugs were the contributing factors to many social problems in their households. They revealed that alcohol abuse was one of the major contributing factors to poverty in their households. They indicated that alcohol abuse leads to social problems such as domestic violence and gender-based violence. Respondents were of the opinion that battering and drunkenness were other contributing factors to poverty in their households. They argued that households spent their money or income on alcohol and therefore found it difficult to buy food for their families, as the result they experienced poverty.

Table: 4.3.10 Effects of alcohol and drug abuse

	Male	Female	Total
Alcohol & drug abuse	30	70	100

Figure: 4.3.10 Effects of alcohol and drug abuse



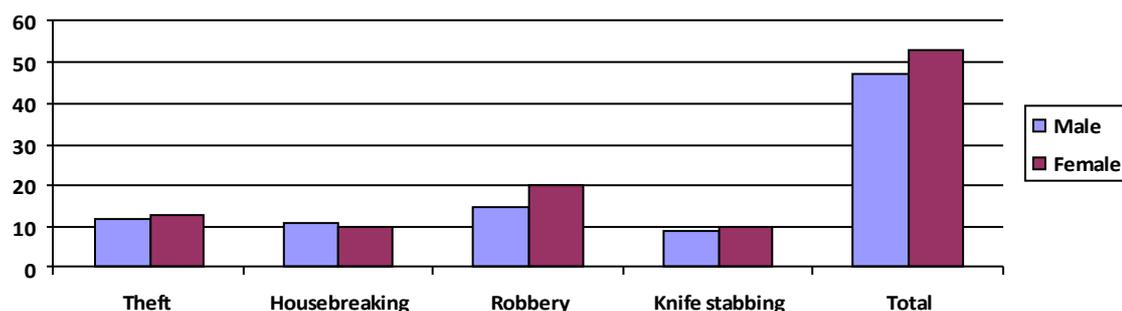
#### 4.3.11 Criminal activities

Respondents claimed that crime was part of the vicious circle of poverty. They indicated that poverty forced people to steal. Respondents emphasised that crime causes severe losses to victims as the result of the loss of their household goods and items. Respondents claimed that unemployment forced people to engage in criminal activities as a survival strategy. They felt that, crime and violence were perceived as underlying factors contributing to poverty. Respondents opined that crime such as housebreaking, theft, knife stabbing was relatively low in the early days when people settled in Babylon. They said that criminal activities were mostly prevalent at night when criminals hide behind bushes and attacked or robbed community members. One participant lamented crime, she said that she wish government could review the policies of change from summer to winter time, since, households member were attacked and robbed at night. Respondents indicated that with the establishment of the city police crime in their area had dropped. They complained that they lack facilities such as telephones to report crime. Respondents indicated that another problem that was affecting them was the shebeens. They claimed that shebeens were perceived as an income generating activity of households, and at many a time these shebeens operated throughout the night. This in turn, increased the risk of crime.

Table: 4.3.11 Effects of criminal activities

	Male	Female	Total
Theft	12	13	25
Housebreaking	11	10	22
Robbery	15	20	35
Knife stabbing	9	10	18

Figure: 4.3.11 Effects of criminal activities



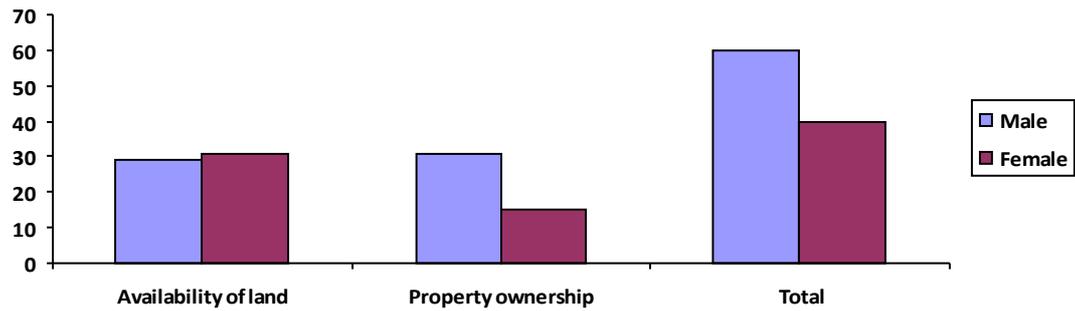
#### 4.3.12 Land and property ownership

Forty percent of the respondents claimed had no land ownership. They claimed that they needed land ownership in order to improve their living standards. Forty percent stressed that property ownership could enable them to acquire land tenure and could provide them with the security and peace of mind to invest in their properties.

Table: 4.3.12 Effects of non-availability of land and property ownership

	Male	Female	Total
Non-availability of land	29	31	60
Property ownership	25	15	40
Total	44	46	

Figure 4.3.12 Effects of non-availability of land and property ownership



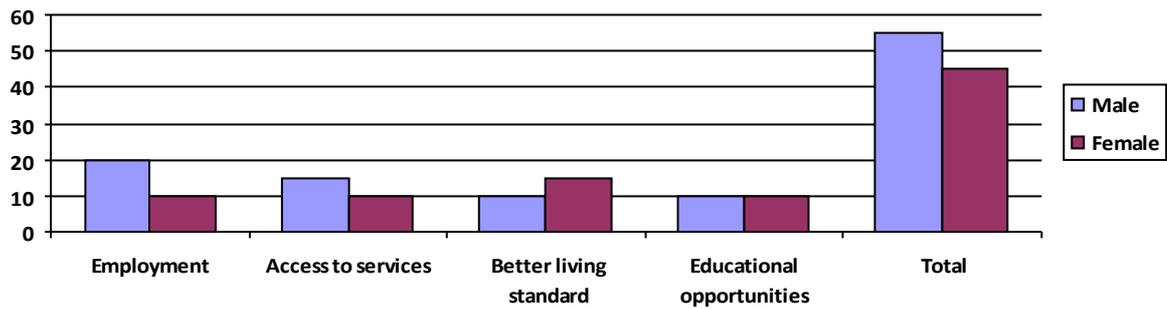
#### 4.3.13 Factors of migration

Respondents indicated that they migrated to Windhoek, with expectations to improve their livelihood.

Table: 4.3.13 Migration factors

	Male	Female	Total
Employment opportunities	20	10	30
Access to services	15	10	25
Better living conditions	10	15	25
Educational opportunities	10	10	20
Total	55	45	100

Figure: 4.3.13 Migration factors



Close to 30% of respondents indicated that they migrated to Windhoek to find employment. They indicated that employment meant the ability to earn an income, to consume and to have assets. They further argued that employment was the key to social security, material well-being and social status. Twenty five percent of respondents indicated that they migrated to Windhoek, with the expectation to gain access to basic services.

Respondents indicated that human capabilities are based on health, education, nutrition, clean water and shelter. They further stressed that access to basic services was vital for the well-being of households. They argued that access to basic services could lead to improvement in their living standards and could enhance their quality of life. Respondents indicated that access to services required involvement and participation in the socio-economic and political sphere. Respondents further indicated that they lacked political capabilities including human rights, a voice to influence public policies and programmes and projects. Respondents further complained that they were excluded from decision making process of issues that affected their socio economic well being.

The respondents pointed out that deprivation from basic political freedom or human rights was one of the major contributing factors to poverty, since it excluded them and weakened their ability to participate in programme and projects that aimed at improving their living conditions. They felt that they were deprived from having access to their basic human rights.

The respondents further indicated that there was a need for social status, dignity and other cultural conditions that could bestow a feeling of pride and belonging to their households. Respondents claimed that geographic and social exclusion were the primary contributing factors to poverty in their households. About 45 % of the respondents indicated that they migrated to Windhoek with the hope of finding educational opportunities, which could improve their living standards. Contrary to that, they find themselves living under poor living conditions without employment.

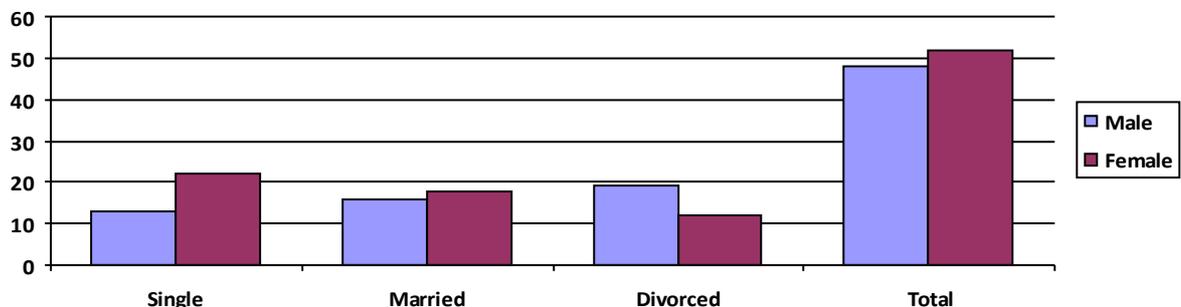
#### 4.3.14 Gender and marital status

The study showed that 34% of the respondents were married. However, the percentage of married women exceeded that of men. The study further indicated that 10% of women were divorced. The respondents indicated that this situation affected their socio-economic well being as heads of households. Respondents, especially women argued that it became very difficult for them to cater for the needs of their households as single parents. The percentage of single headed households was 35% while more females were single than males.

Table: 4.3.14 Gender and marital status

	Male	Female	Total
Single	13	22	35
Married	16	18	34
Divorced	19	12	31
Total	48	52	100

Figure: 4.3.14 Gender and marital status



#### 4.3.15 Age composition

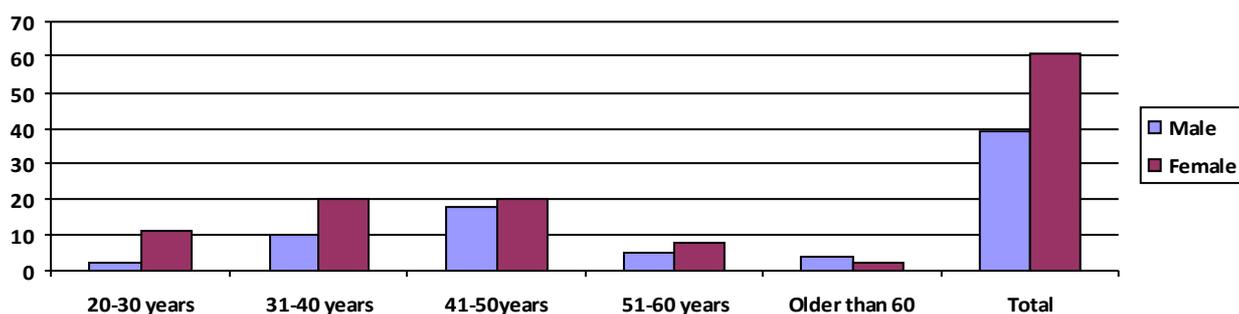
The study indicated that 66% of households were between the age of 20 and 50 years. The study showed that 66% of households were still in their

economically active age, but most of them were unemployed and lived under poor living conditions.

Table: 4.3.15: Age composition

	Male	Female	Total
20-30 years	2	11	4
31 – 40 years	10	20	24
41 – 50 years	18	20	38
51 – 60 years	5	8	20
Older than 60 years	4	2	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100</b>

Figure 4.3.15: Age composition



#### 4.3.16 Level of education

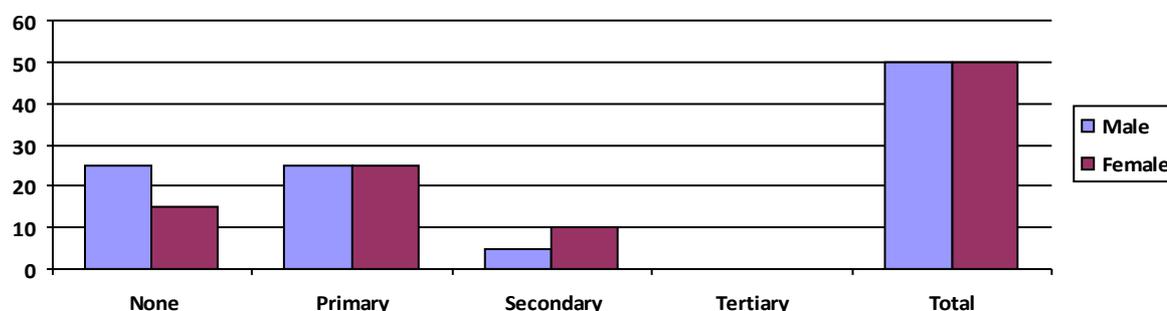
Table 4.3.16 indicated that 40% of the households never received basic primary education, while close to 60% received primary and secondary education. None of the respondents hold any tertiary qualification. The study found that the higher the educational qualification the better the living standard of the particular household.

Table: 4.3.16 Level of education

	Male	Female	Total
None	25	15	40
Primary	25	25	50
Secondary	5	10	15
Tertiary	0	0	0



Figure: 4.3.16 Level of education



The study found that 40% of the households never received basic primary school, meaning that the average of 40% of households never received basic primary education. The study further indicated that 30% of males compared to 35% of female received primary and secondary education. The study further indicated that 5% of the male households received education lesser than females. Fifty percent of the respondents have educational qualification below secondary school level. These qualifications, by Namibian standards, are inadequate to find formal employment that could ensure higher earnings.

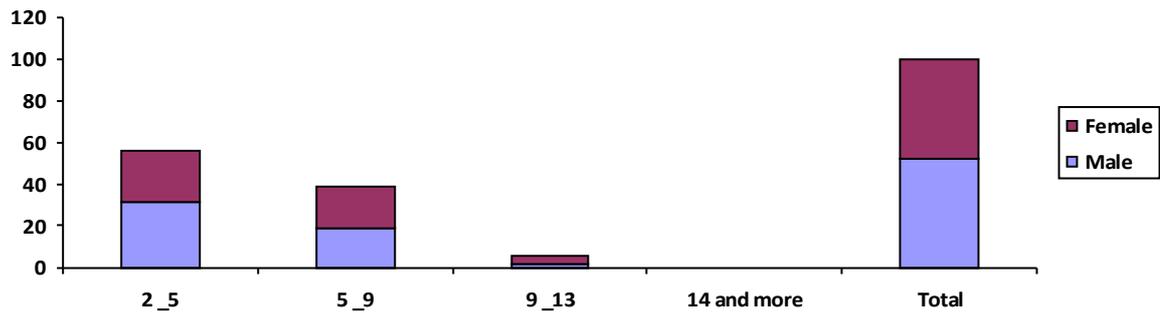
#### 4.3.17 Household size

The study found that the household size of respondents ranged between 2 to 13 persons. The study found that the average household size was 6 people per household. The respondents indicated that the impact of a large household was such that it reduced the disposable income of that particular household.

Table: 4.3.17 Effects of household size

	Male	Female	Total
<b>2 – 5</b>	31	25	56
<b>6 – 9</b>	19	20	39
<b>10 – 13</b>	2	3	5
<b>14 and more</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	52	48	100

Figure 4.3.17 Effects of household size



The study further indicated that 95% of households fell between a household size of between the range of 2-5 and 6-9 people. Respondents indicated that larger household tend to reduce the disposal income of breadwinners. The study further found that the more employed people in a household the greater their disposable income and the better their living standard

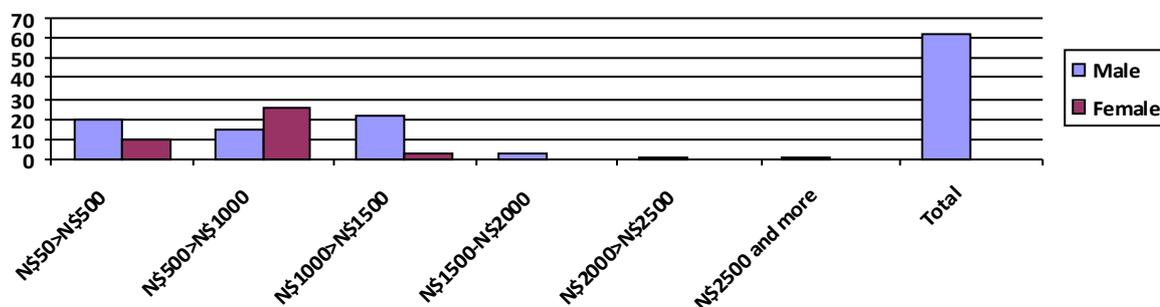
#### 4.3.18 Income

The study found that 37% of respondents were employed, while 24% recorded as self-employed. However, respondents indicated that their livelihood depended on various sources of income. They further indicated that employment was the main source of income, since it provided them with a consistent income per month. They revealed that employment enabled them to afford basic services, such as school fees, and to gain access to basic services. However, respondents indicated that household income was a determinant factor of households poverty levels, since income determined the affordability and acquisition of basic needs.

Table: 4.3.18: Monthly income

	Male	Female	Total
N\$50> N\$500	6	10	16
N\$500>N\$1000	15	15	30
N\$1000>N\$1500	7	4	11
N\$1500>N\$2000	2	0	2
N\$2000>N\$2500	1	0	1
N\$2500 > and more	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>61</b>

Figure: 4.3.18: Monthly income



The study found that household income ranged between N\$50 to N\$ 2500 per month. About 57% of the households earned a monthly income of below N\$1500 per month, while 4% had a monthly income of more than N\$1500. The study found that the households were employed labourers, casual workers, security guards and consequently, earned relatively low wages.

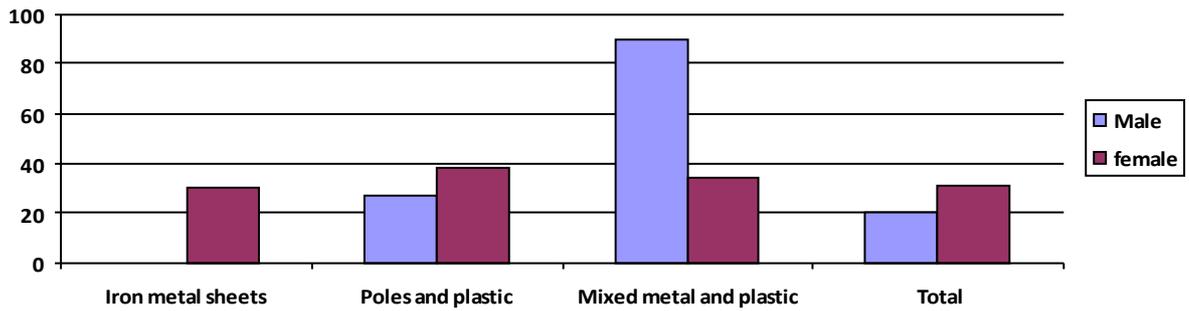
#### 4.3.19 Housing structures

The study found that all households in Babylon in were living in structures made from iron metal sheets.

Table: 4.3.19: Housing structures

	Male	Female	Number
Iron metal sheet	60	30	90
poles and plastic	2	0	2
Mixed metal sheets and plastic	3	5	8
Total	65	35	100

Figure: 4.3.19: Housing structures



The study indicated that 90% of the households lived in households structures constructed from iron metal sheets. Ten percent lived in structures that were either constructed from poles and plastic, while 8% lived in structures constructed from mixed metal sheets and plastics. The study found that these households lived under poor living conditions without proper housing.

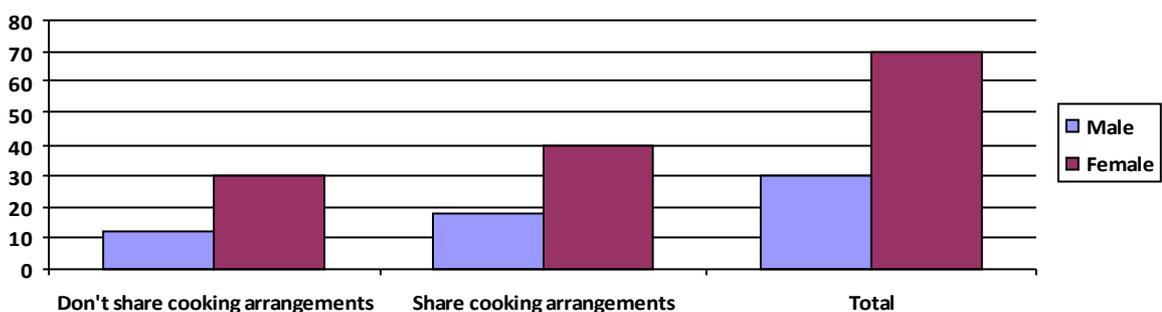
#### 4.3.20 Cooking arrangements

The study indicated that 42% of households had their own cooking arrangements, while 58% shared their cooking arrangements with family members and friends. The study further found that these household structures lacked facilities such as kitchens and ablution services.

Table: 4.3.20 Cooking arrangements

	Male	Female	Total
Do not share cooking arrangements	12	30	42
Shared cooking arrangements	18	40	58
	30	70	100

Figure: 4.3.20 Cooking arrangements



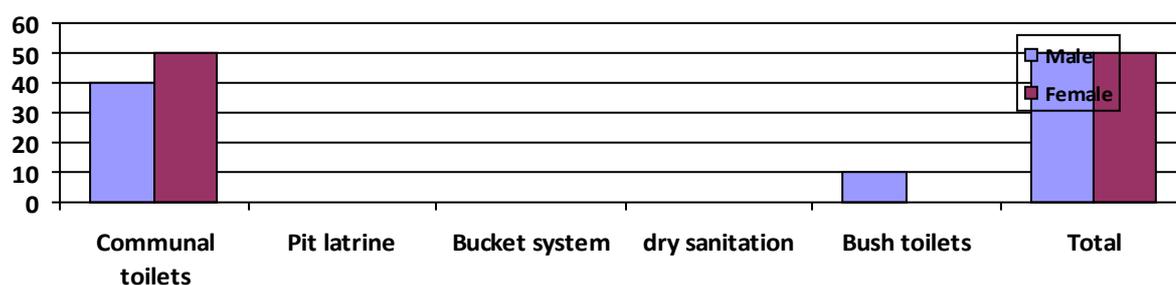
#### 4.3.21 Ablution facilities

The respondents indicated that communal toilets were the only ablution services available in Babylon.

Table: 4.3.21: Ablution facilities

	Male	Female	Total
Communal water borne toilets	40	50	90
Pit latrines			-
Bucket system			-
Dry Sanitation			-
Bush toilets	10	0	10
Total			100

Figure: 4.3.21: Ablution facilities



The respondents indicated that 90% of the households used communal water borne toilets, while 10% used bush toilets, especially at night. The communal toilets were located a distance from their houses and it became dangerous for household members to visit these toilets, especially during night time. However, the use of bushes as toilets poses a serious health risk to the households and the Babylon community at large.

#### 4.3.22 Sources of water supply

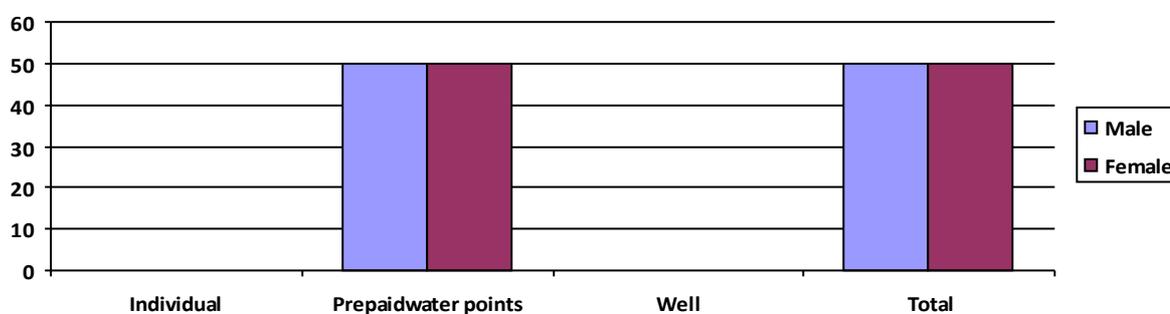
The study found that all households in Babylon used pre-paid water system for their daily needs. The study further found that pre-paid water systems were connected to main water points and households accessed water by inserting a card into the system. The prepaid cards are purchased from the

Windhoek City Council and contain water units. Once the water units are depleted the households purchased water units from the City Council. This method of water supply was regarded as reliable since households were regarded as reluctant to pay for communal water consumed through normal water points without any prepaid water system.

Table: 4.3.22: Source of water supply

	Male	Female	Frequency
Individual water tap	-	-	-
Pre-paid communal water Taps	50	50	100
Well	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Figure 4.3.22: Source of water supply

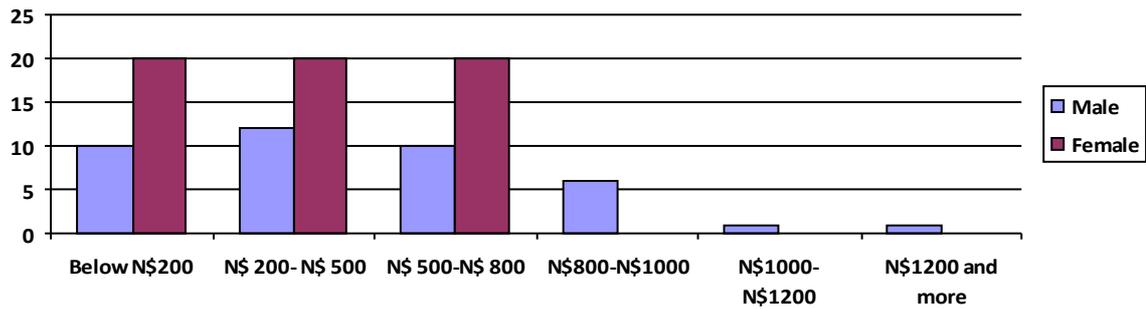


#### 4.3.23 Monthly expenditure

Table 4.3.23: Monthly expenditure

	Male	Female	Total
Below N\$ 200	10	20	30
N\$200- N\$500	12	20	32
N\$500-N\$800	10	20	30
N\$800-N\$1000	6	0	6
N\$1000-N\$1200	1	0	1
N\$1200 and more	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

Figure: 4.3.23: Monthly expenditure



The respondents indicated and provided the list of basic food items consumed by them. The prices of these items were obtained from outlets in Windhoek.

#### 4.3.24 Basic needs

Households indicated that the list of food items provided in Table 4.3.23 was regarded as their basic needs. The respondents indicated that they could not afford some of these food items. They indicated that they only bought basic items such as maize-meal, sugar, coffee, soup, soup bones and bread. The study found that the expenditure per household varied from N\$ 200 to N\$ N\$1200 per month. The study found that 90% of the households incurred expenditures of between N\$500-N\$800 per month, with 8% of the households spending between N\$ 800-N\$1000 per month. The study found that these households could not afford a higher living standard. They only had one meal a day which was of low nutritional value. The study further found that sources of protein such as meat and fish, were absent from their daily meals.

4.3.24 Table: Basic needs

Food items	Cost per item	Basic needs	Cost
Mealiemeel 12.5kg	N\$80-99	School fees	N\$ 500-00 per year
Cooking oil 750ml	N\$ 11-99	Medical expenses	N\$ 4-00 per person
Sugar 5kg	N\$ 32-99	Prepaid water	N\$ 50-00
Coffee 750g	N\$ 40-99	Electricity	None
Soup 750g	N\$24-99	Clothing	N\$ 150-00

<b>Salt 750g</b>	N\$7-99	Liquor (beer)	N\$ 80-00
<b>Washing powder 2kg</b>	N\$15-99	Transport	N\$200-00
<b>Soap 100g</b>	N\$3-59		
<b>Matches</b>	N\$3-59		
<b>Vaseline</b>	N\$ 12-59		
<b>Bread</b>	N\$4-99		
<b>Soup bones 10kg</b>	N\$50-99		

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **Conclusion and recommendations**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter discusses the conclusions and recommendations of the study, as drawn from responses received from data obtained through interviews and semi-structured interviews.

#### **5.2 Recommendations**

Poverty alleviation initiatives involve marshalling the collective resources of a given geographic area to confront the most pressing issues in that community (Ginneken, 1998, p. 15). The study found that, households required specific concerted efforts that could engage them as citizenry and to mobilize the resources required for revitalisation. The study recommends that the Windhoek City Council should become the primary driver of community development needs, and should develop strategies and policies that are

aimed at improving, uplifting and enhancing the living standards of all communities.

The study recommends the following:

### 5.3 Institutional structures:

- a) Successful poverty alleviation initiatives require institutional support. These structures should provide the stability and continuity required to mobilise resources in order to reduce poverty.

### 5.4 The Role of the Windhoek City Council.

The roles of the should include;

- a) Contributions to poverty alleviation initiatives in the communities,
- b) Provision of basic services such as clean water, electricity, drainage and sewerage systems for the community, and aim to create a healthier environment, in order to develop a sustainable economic base for the community, and ultimately to construct orderly, clean, safe and accessible community structures;
- c) Encourage opportunities for entrepreneurial business development, manufacturing and contracting initiatives aimed at training and capacity building of the communities;
- d) Provide financial support;

- e) Provide leadership training and capacity building programmes to the people living in the informal settlement communities; a
- f) Monitor and ensure sustainable services delivery of developmental programmes and projects in these communities.

#### 5.5 Community involvement and participation:

The effective and efficient implementation of sustainable poverty alleviation programmes depends on the involvement and participation of local communities. Therefore, poverty initiatives should involve every aspect and needs of the communities. Firstly, key groups should be identified. Once these key groups are identified, intensive poverty alleviation efforts should be made to facilitate continuous support, involvement and participation of the local communities, and should include;

- a) Intensive “grass roots” community based participation should be strengthened in order to allow full involvement and participation of community members;
- b) The Windhoek City Council in collaboration with the local communities should define the needs of the communities;
- c) Extensive planning aimed at creating practical programmes and projects of poverty alleviation should be enhances and strengthened;
- d) Participate in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the poverty alleviation programmes and projects;

- e) A high level of inclusion that should ensure the greatest chance of poverty alleviation success, since inclusion should draw upon the collective assets and knowledge of households with the aim to empower them with knowledge and skills to enable them improve their livelihood.

#### 5.6 Stakeholders involvement:

- a) Key stakeholders such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), Community Based Organizations (CBO's) and those who have an influence over poverty alleviation policies need to be involved in the design and development of poverty alleviation programmes;
- b) Informal communities often do not have the expertise, resources or networks required to successfully implement programmes and projects aimed at poverty alleviation;
- c) Stakeholders platform should be created which involve all stakeholders, and stakeholders should play a critical role in;
- d) Creating financial streams for communities,
- e) Create private and public partnership;
- f) Provide technical assistance;
- g) Coordinate or network poverty alleviation initiatives,
- h) Introduce best practices that deal with poverty alleviation challenges,  
and

- i) Provides policy advocacy at grass root, regional, and national level.

#### 5.7 Steering committee:

The study recommends that a steering committee should be established. The aim of the steering committee should be to define the overall economic and financial framework for allocation of resources to programmes and projects aimed at poverty alleviation. The steering committee should comprise of the following stakeholders:

- a) Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing and Rural Development,
- b) The Windhoek City Council,
- c) Joint Consultative Committee (JCC),
- d) National Youth Council (NYC),
- e) Namibia Bus and Taxi Association (NABTA),
- f) Tertiary institutions in Namibia: University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia,
- g) The Ministry of Safety and Security,
- h) The Ministry of Health and Social Services.

5.8 The developmental goals of the steering committee should include:

- a) Reviving and sustaining economic growth in the informal settlement communities;
- b) Employment creation;
- c) Reducing income inequalities;

5.9 The study recommends that the strategies by which these development goals are to be achieved should include:

- a) Provision of an enabling environment for sustainable socio-economic development;
- b) Investment in human resources development;
- c) Promotion of participatory development and equity;
- d) Ensure sustainability of programmes and projects; and
- e) Ensure that the resources of stakeholders should be responsive and utilise effectively and efficiently.

5.10 Holistic perspective

- a) Poverty alleviation initiatives should be reflected and should link training and capacity building, employment creation, health and should facilitate, or be based on, an integrated, multidisciplinary approach aimed at alleviating poverty;

- b) Successful poverty alleviation initiatives should provide a mixture of programmes and projects which are aimed at poverty alleviation in these communities. These programmes and projects should be aimed at addressing the needs of housing development, job creation, health care, child care, environment and other related social challenges.

#### 5.11 Training

- a) Training is crucial to poverty alleviation initiatives, since most successful developmental programmes and projects require a wide array of skills; and
  - a) The skills should include strategic planning, programme and project development, people and process management, meetings facilitation and a spectrum of other job specific skills needed to capitalize on the economic opportunities of these communities.

#### 5.12 Political accountability

- a) The study recommends that, since the community lacks political voice and is under-represented in local, regional and national political arenas;

- a) Poverty alleviation initiatives should provide the means for these communities to become politically integrated in order to hold elected officials accountable for the developmental programmes and projects.

#### 5.13 Public and Private sector partnership

- a) The study recommends that public and private partnerships should be established, since community revitalization cannot occur without substantial monetary investment. Hence, the public and private sector should provide technical support aimed at poverty alleviation initiatives;
- b) Co-ordination between national, regional and grass root level should be aimed at maximising the impact of developmental programmes and projects in these communities;
- c) Provision of sustainable poverty alleviation programmes aimed at enhancing concerted efforts that could leverage financial resource for all programmes and projects initiated; and
- d) Establish outreach programmes through radio and other media advertisements, posters and public speaking arrangements in order to promote public forums and public discussions aimed at addressing the most pressing needs of these communities.

Finally, in order to ensure the successful implementation of poverty alleviation initiatives, monitoring, evaluation and progress reporting system should be

developed and maintained. This system should aim at measuring the progress towards the goals in order to monitor the selection of key indicators for each strategy achieved.

#### 5.14 Conclusion

In conclusion, to address the plight of the urban poor, the Windhoek City Council must among other things provide basic services such as housing, water, improve health care services, develop public transport and establish educational facilities. These initiatives could ultimately create employment opportunities in these communities.

Different initiatives of the provision of basic services should be aimed at contributing enormously towards poverty alleviation of these communities. The poverty alleviation strategies should be aimed at building capacity that should drive poverty alleviation initiatives for the benefit of the communities.

The National Planning Commission (2004, p. 51) highlighted, poverty alleviation initiatives as one of the national objectives of Namibia's economic development. The report laid out sector-based strategies for economic development which depicts a situation whereby challenges of poverty are address with the participation and involvement of the communities. Nonetheless, if poverty were to be totally eradicated, in these communities, there is still a need to ensure livelihood sustainability. Meaning that care should not only be taken in line with sound and coherent redistributive policies which target only those in extreme poverty, but that people should be made aware of the dangers and consequences of poverty. In order to alleviate

poverty in this community, there is need to undertake programme and policies that cut across the economic, social and ecological dimensions of sustainable development. Sustainable poverty alleviation programmes and projects should be achieved within the framework of the Poverty Reduction Strategy for Namibia, which pays great attention at developing sustainability livelihood programmes and projects that are aimed at alleviating poverty in these communities.

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