

**Exploring the role of women in development in the case of Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu
District in KwaZulu-Natal**



By

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Master's Degree

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Abstract

The study intends to survey the difficulties that are influencing the local area of Sweetwater with respect to development. The study's primary focus was on 'women in development' by highlighting the intersection of gender and culture that gives inadvertently unequal opportunities amongst the genders.

This study explored the role of women in development in the case of Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu District in KwaZulu-Natal. A desktop study was used to analyze the role of women in development. No primary data was collected for this study. Radical feminism theory was used in this study. The objectives of the study are to explore gender roles through a cultural lens in Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu; to examine the opportunities that women encounter in development in the study area; to examine the challenges that women face in development in Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu and to explore the challenges in the land tenure reform program in Sweetwater. Findings indicate that a grassroots movement is required to eliminate the inequalities and social injustice that prevail among gender. The findings show that South Africa has suffered great historical events. However, the researcher believes that despite of all the historical events, culture oppresses women and their role in development. The Msunduzi municipality advocates for a green economy. It is progressing although it still encounters challenges with addressing equality amongst gender. The inequalities affect women the most. The inequalities amongst genders deprive women of an opportunity to enhance their livelihoods. The unity in society would assist in rectifying the injustice against women that took place during the colonial and apartheid era. To promote gender equality; the traditional leaders, communities, and the government should work together to promote sustainable livelihoods to improve their position in society. Women should participate in women empowerment; there should be fair distribution of land and resources and there should be government interventions and Gender equality awareness programs.

Declaration

I, Zinhle Nomawethu Buthelezi declare that “Exploring the role of women in development in the case of Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu District in KwaZulu-Natal” is my own work and that all the sources I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

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Signature

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Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Professor Oliver Mtapuri for the great supervision, support, and guidance throughout the research.

Z.N. Buthelezi

December 2020

Abbreviations

- SDGs - _____ Sustainable Development Goals
- WID-_____ Women in Development
- ANC-_____ African National Congress
- PPE - _____ Personal Protective Equipment
- SMEs-_____ Small and Medium Enterprises
- CRDP-_____ Comprehensive Rural Development Programme
- ITA-_____ Ingonyama Trust Act
- ICT-_____ Information and Communication Technology
- IDP-_____ Integrated Development Plan
- CBDH-_____ Community-Based Digital Hub

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CHAPTER 1:

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1.Introduction

This chapter outlines the background of this research, the problem statement and the introductory literature review. The issue of development in South Africa has been debated amongst scholars. In the initial twenty years, 1965–84, the most conspicuous subject was the international setting and

its impact on the development process (Evans and Stallings, 2016). Most of the articles focused on the dependency theory. Many scholars argued that this was the approach that contended the development in underdeveloped nations; it was thwarted by their relationship with the international system, both financially and politically (Rodney, 1973). Furthermore, the scholars argue that institutions play a significant part in shaping the development rate of countries. However, democracy, inequality, and the influence of international organisations are all center fields of discussion in development (Evans and Stallings, 2016).

Rodney (2018) believes that the development of a country depends on its increased capacity to control both internal and external relationships. In South Africa, urbanization and industrial development outlined the imbalance among the "urban capitalist" sector, all the riches as well as the courtesies were directed to the white population (Ogura, 1996). This resulted in social disorganisation as the process thrived to develop white people (Magubane, 1973). Development is usually a term which is used to describe the economic status of a country. However, some refer to development as a tool of attaining independency of social groups and freedom of people (Rodney, 2018).

The development and sexual orientation issues in South Africa are subsequent of verifiable setting. The issues of gender can be traced back to apartheid where there was a linkage of racism and sexism. When discussing the history of women and development, it is vital to discuss categories such as 'ethnicity, class, and gender' to comprehend the status quo of women in South Africa. The power relations still exist in South Africa such as "White Madam and Black Maid" relationship (Ahamer and Wittmann, 2012: 5). Therefore, due to the inequalities in socio-economic position and structural imbalances among women will affect them differently. In South Africa women have experienced oppression and marginalization from men however, white women were privileged more than black African women.

The issue of colonial legacies and post-colonial educational development in South Africa has been an issue of contested debates among many scholars and researchers. According to Hofmeyr and Buckland (1992), the apartheid education policy was discriminatory, based on race and culture. It favoured Afrikanerdom, whereby Afrikaans was championed and elevated to the medium of instruction in all learning institutions. As such, some scholars believe that there is a need for decolonising education in South Africa (Santos, 2014). However, a decolonial curriculum is a

global phenomenon, especially in Africa. This is supported by Zembylas (2018:2) who believes that:

Colonialism was a process where one country was dominated by another (Ocheni 2012). Colonialism was an extremely gendered procedure; it enforced patriarchal ideologies where it reinforced the subordination, exploitation and oppression of women (Wood, 2016). Colonialism and apartheid were a destructive process as it promoted male supremacy which gave rise to gender inequality (Leonardo, 2004). These historical events enforced male dominance which was adapted and still practiced in the current state of South Africa through societal and cultural norms (Coetzee, 2001).

Foreign nations had control over South Africa's resources; this negatively impacted Africa as it shaped both the economic and political structures, ensuring that Africa served the interest of the first world nations (Badat, 2008). The exclusion of African people resulted in a great economic loss, which resulted in high levels of underdevelopment. Furthermore, Africans were evicted to the peripheries where they had limited resources (Tomlinson, 2017).

Gender is a social construct which gives 'gender roles' to men and women. Gender roles differ from cultures; however, they produce inequalities between men and women. Therefore, it is imperative to highlight the colonial past, together with the patriarchal culture systems that form masculine and sexual traits (Ouzganne and morel, 2005).

1.2. Background

Globally, women and girls deserve equal rights and opportunities. Further, they have the right to live freely, which means that they must be liberated from violence and discrimination. Women's equality and empowerment is number 17 in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which state that it is vital for women to be included in all dimensions of sustainable development (Women In Development, 2014).

Modernization and Women in Development (WID) theories were an application of the dependency theory; these two theories believe that women have consistently been associated with the development stages (Ndimande, 2001). The researcher believes that the involvement of women in development can be traced back until the present day. Further, their current involvement in natural resources, forestry and agriculture is adequate evidence attesting to their active role in

development matters. Ndimande (2001) believes that women's role in development is vital as it results in sustainable development. The involvement of women in both informal and formal employment is important for economic development, as it improves living conditions in households.

There is an improvement in the position of women, however; rural women from KwaZulu Natal face various difficulties, for example, unemployment, poverty, inadequate education and basic services (Ndimande, 2001). The Republic of South Africa (2015) reveals that the poverty rate has decreased since apartheid, yet; women tend to be poorer than men. Although there are inequalities amongst gender, there exist differences amongst the females. Women in the countryside are more defenseless against destitution than those living in cities. (The Republic of South Africa, 2015). Black African females and coloured women experience higher rates of poverty compared to white females. The differences in opportunities result in unsustainable patterns of development which intensifies gender discrimination because women and girls are excessively influenced by economic, social and environmental shocks and stresses (Neumayer and Plümper, 2007).

1.3. Problem statement

Rural women and girls are disadvantaged compared to men (Sultana, 2010). Most women in rural areas are constrained by 'cultural norms' that describe them mainly as wives and mothers and are often limited to domestic spheres (Kelbert et al., 2014). Women are expected to be subservient to men, which increases their vulnerability to abuse (Boonzaier, 2008). Land is valuable as it provides for people; it helps with providing basic needs (Perring et al., 2016). Current gender inequalities in land distribution threaten the sustainability of future generations. The researcher believes that if women are granted land ownership, they will be motivated to find ways of utilising the land in a productive way, which will help them to develop economically. Therefore, land has many purposes; thus, if women get access to it, they are likely to make good use of it to the extent that they may contribute to the economy, allowing rural development to take place effectively.

Historically women have been at a disadvantage, their rights and equality were different compared to men for instance; no woman was elected in the national legislature until the enactment of democracy. In addition, capitalism also impacted negatively on the status of women. Clark (2013) believes that the arrival of capitalism negatively affected women as it decreased their economic status. Capitalism resulted in the division of labour where men were paid more whilst women were

reduced to do unpaid household work (Clark, 2013). The division amongst sexes has formed gender stratification, which is a global phenomenon. Gender inequality occurs globally and the biggest challenge that women face is patriarchy which fosters the perception that ‘women are subordinate to men’ Chouliara (2016). Furthermore, the hindrance of women in the economic sector or any other development processes affects the economy of the country. Violence against women is a prevailing societal issue perpetuated through inequalities that exist within society (Grabe et al., 2015). It is imperative to address social structures that give rise to gendered hierarchies since this will combat gender-based issues.

The researcher believes that culture is used as a way of oppressing women. Culture, which refers to a set of values, norms, and beliefs amongst people, oppresses women (Wilson, 2013). The researcher outlines the impact ‘culture’ has on women’s development as it restricts women because of their gender. In the traditional African society, women are often mistreated. For instance, if someone approaches a household and asks for an elder and finds out that there is no male figure, they will go away or make an awful remark. Culturally, women are expected to be interminably reliant on men thus they are often objecting of misuse. These stereotypical gender roles automatically form gender gaps and influence the development of women in society.

Gender inequalities affect women and their offspring tremendously (Rogan, 2014). In Sweetwater, most of the land is under traditional authorities, which endangers women’s livelihoods as they are deprived of title deeds to own land. Women were historically underprivileged; they were deprived of the opportunity to articulate their struggles as they were excluded from decision-making (Rogan, 2014). This study shows that women are still imprisoned by cultural norms. Women are excluded from the developmental processes; they are deprived of equal rights to land and denied freedom of speech in the political system (Nelson, 2015). Women are belittled and they suffer the triple burden of race, class, and gender.

1.4. Aim:

The aim of this study is to explore the role of women in development in the case of Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu District in KwaZulu-Natal.

1.5. Objectives of the study

1.5.1 To explore gender roles through a cultural lens in Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu.

1.5.2 To examine the opportunities that women encounter in development in the study area.

1.5.3 To examine the challenges that women face in development in Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu

1.5.4 To explore the challenges in the land tenure reform programme in Sweetwater.

1.6. Main Research Question

What is the role of women in development in the case of Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu District in KwaZulu-Natal?

1.7. Research Questions

1.7.1 How significant are gender roles through a cultural lens in Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu?

1.7.2 What opportunities do women encounter in development in the study area?

1.7.3 Which challenges do women face in development in Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu?

1.7.4 How has Land Tenure Reform been implemented in Sweetwater?

1.8. Significance of the study

Momsen (2008) believes that women form an important structure in development, however; the societal and cultural norms have hindered the ability of women to develop to their full potential. In addition, Women are naturally creative multi-taskers and they are solution-oriented. Women have participated in development processes without realizing it because they lack leadership, entrepreneurial skills, self-reliance attitudes and they are isolated and marginalized in the development policies (Kongolo, 2009). The involvement of women in agriculture has shown that they are capable, as they have made a significant impact in both the economy and livelihoods in the developing countries (Boserup, 2007). The researcher believes that involving women in the development process can assist in eliminating gender discrimination and enforce women empowerment and economic development. The researcher has discovered that the relationship between development and culture is interconnected; therefore, equal involvement of women will limit the inequalities that are present in Sweetwater.

The researcher believes that researching about women is essential to highlight the prevailing challenges that they still encounter. The study of women and their role in society will help to expose the gender inequalities within various government departments and find ways to balance

these issues out. Women will benefit positively from equal opportunities as it will enable them to be involved in the financial market. The municipalities will be aware of the disparities and try to implement strategies that will create employment. Developing women will reduce gender inequality, improve the lives of people specifically ‘women’, it will provide markets for local inputs and produce local goods and services. This will assist to redistribute national income not only between rich and poor but also between men and women.

1.9. Layout of the dissertation

This dissertation comprises five chapters.

Chapter 1 Introduction and Background: This chapter gives a brief outline of the problem statement, research objectives and methods of investigation. It also presents the motivation for the study regarding the role of women in development in the case of Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu, its prospects, opportunities and challenges.

Chapter 2 this chapter focuses on the review of relevant literature, that is, the documentation of the research topic. This chapter provides a brief overview of the role of women in development from a global, regional (African) and local (South African) context. Furthermore, it explores the theoretical framework that is well suited for the topic.

Chapter 3 presents the research methodology. It highlights the study context, data collection methods, the limitations of the study and the ethical considerations.

Chapter 4 presents the study findings and interpretations.

Chapter 5 provides conclusions and recommendations based on the study.

1.10. Conclusion

The chapter outlined the background of the study and explained why the study was important. The study is fundamental as it explores the opportunities and challenges that are faced by women in a selected rural setting in South Africa. The background of the study underlined the key points on these issues. The next chapter discusses the relevant literature on the role of women in development, using the case of Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu District in KwaZulu-Natal Province.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

This chapter presents the literature that is relevant to women and development. It focuses on the opportunities and challenges experienced by women in development in the context of South Africa. This chapter reviews global, continental (African) and local (South African) literature to establish the gaps in the role of women in development.

2.2. The position of women in society under apartheid

Patriarchy and colonialism had a detrimental outcome on the position of women in society. Women have been classified as subordinate and primary caretakers whose role is limited to household chores such as cleaning, cooking and taking care of children (Goodwin, 2005). Such gender roles have been normalised and this situation has occurred for ages. However, male dominance has continued because women feel obliged to submit to men. Nonetheless, in South Africa there is a women's movement that aims to eliminate inequality by promoting equal rights and opportunities

between. However, this movement has not been effective as it has failed to address various patriarchal forms that thrived under apartheid (South African History Online, 2011). Throughout literature, the researcher acknowledges that the historical events that took place, especially in the developing countries, had a detrimental effect on the development of women. The researcher argues that patriarchy is interconnected with toxic masculinities that advocate male supremacy (Pearson, 2019). In addition, the researcher is bent on exploring the effect of patriarchy on the development of women to determine if it has triggered the escalation of violence against women and children. Further, the researcher questions the role of patriarchy as a tool that has been used for social control and ‘intimate terrorism’.

2.3. The effect of patriarchy in Gender Equality

Clark (2016) defines apartheid as ‘apartness’. It was a method used by white people to control Black people and thus prevent them from moving freely. Hence, Black people remained confined to their subordinate status. This system hindered Black people from occupying political, private, and domestic spaces. Moffett (2006) believes that rape epitomised patriarchal control. When a woman has been raped, it is believed that she is ‘corrected’ and deserving that kind of action. What is disturbing is that the act is brutal; however, it is somehow not considered to be a criminal act (Moffett, 2006). Similarly, domestic violence has been viewed as a necessity that maintains social stabilisation. The power relations that exist between genders outline the toxic masculinities that have been practised by men for centuries. Unfortunately, these acts have severely affected Black women; thus, shaping their social status. Furthermore, these acts gave rise to issues that promote gender inequality, severely retarding the development of Black people (Moffett, 2006).

2.4. Gender and masculinities

Masculinity refers to normalized behaviour that are expected of men and boys. Morrell (2001) reveals that South African masculinity can be traced back to the colonial and apartheid eras. The structural and historical inequalities resulted in the White man being dominant whilst the Black man remained subordinate. African men needed to comply with the apartheid regulations in order to avoid brutalities and hardships; for instance, if they deviated from the policies, they would be excluded from the jobs they were performing. Nonetheless, African men enforced patriarchy over women in their households; their actions were not questioned (Morrell, 2001).

Connell (1995) believes that masculinity is based on being tough, a provider and heterosexual; these norms have been extremely difficult to achieve, though men aspire to uphold them, and this influences their behaviour. Societal norms have influenced the positioning of masculinities; they determine which masculinity is hegemonic and which one is subordinate. South African literature outlines that the apartheid system encapsulated the process where racial and economic inequalities created different masculinities (Msibi, 2012). Additionally, men in Southern Africa are financially unstable; therefore, this strains them as they are incapable of providing for their households and the notion of 'being a man' is undermined (Moosa, 2020). The failure to attain the societal standards pressures men; thus leading them to participate in toxic masculinity acts which promote violence, including sexual assault and domestic violence.

Butler (1988) believes that gender is performative. The author proposes that the performances of women are constrained and upheld by historical social practice. Butler (1988) further argues that sex is performed without one being aware of it, though this does not mean that this performativity is "programmed or mechanical". This researcher study asserts that gender roles are practised from childhood; however, these roles derive from accepted societal practices. Sexual dominance and biological essentialism, coupled with gendered roles, have produced a division of labour where women perform work that depends on these customary adaptations of sex and gender (Lynch and Lyons, 2008). Gender roles lead to many problems; for instance, women experience pay gaps and are denied leadership positions by the patriarchal system. In addition, women do not have access to equal opportunities; therefore, this hinders their ability to develop (Jones, 2016).

2.5. Women's activism

Both global and local gender activists met during the 1990s to campaign for the proclamation of the two principles pointing toward battling brutality against women. This Gender Based Violent act was implemented after the first democratic elections, when the South African government sanctioned the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women. This commitment is reflected in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act No. 108 of 1996 (Crowe, 1997). Furthermore, the Domestic Violence Act No. 116 was implemented in 1998. It was then followed by the Criminal Law (Sexual Offense and Related Matters) Act No. 32 of 2007. Women's activism sought to restore gender relationships in South

Africa (Rosenthal, 2001). Moreover, the movement advancing gender equality has been stagnant, although it has been integrated into the policy process (Orner, 2000).

Milestone (2006) studied Women's Organizations and Democracy in South Africa – Contesting Authority., investigating issues that affect women's movement, such as the South African liberation struggle and the country's democratic transition. The author underlines the role and disappointments of the ANC Women's League in eradicating gender inequality. Moreover, the Rural Women's Movement is a programme that helps with issues of land, gender and development at both local and national levels. This organisation assisted vulnerable women to overcome the harsh apartheid policies as well the traditional authority structures (Kemp et al., 1995:144). Throughout the programme, it emerges that even after colonialism and apartheid, women residing in rural areas still live in abrasive conditions (Gouws, 2019). The 'custom-based approach and the gender-based approach are inherently contradictory, and neither has always been beneficial to women' (Perreira, 2017:19).

2.6. Women and leadership positions

Globally, women are increasingly becoming prominent and acknowledged as professionals in society; this has been endorsed by many factors such as the financial development and changes in societal attitudes towards independent working women (Burke and Richardsen, 2016). Regardless of women's expansion in the workforce in all countries, they are still not equal to men (World Economic Forum, 2015). The Global Gender Gap Index shows that in 145 nations, including Saudi Arabia, there is a huge gap between women and men in terms of economic participation and political empowerment (World Economic Forum, 2015).

Women have been marginalised and excluded from leadership positions because of the hierarchical practices rooted in the assumptions that take 'men as pioneers. When women deviate from the norm, they are often neglected in society (Acker, 2009). Gender bias is the most significant factor behind the dearth of females in top administrative positions. Additionally, patriarchy prioritises men over women; this is viewed as the main hindrance to women's access to leadership positions (Abalkhail, 2017).

2.7. Woman and development in South Africa: Assessing the needs, opportunities and challenges of women in development

Women have always been experiencing poverty and inequality even before the advent of democracy in South Africa. The government of South Africa recognises the fact that more accentuation should be directed to women and youth entrepreneurship; this can help them grow and create employment for other people (Madzivhandila and Dlamini, 2015). Entrepreneurship fosters economic development, economic independence, job creation, social welfare, as well as political stability and the national security of a country (Fatoki, 2014). The formation of organisations such as Small Enterprise Development Agency, Small Enterprise Finance Agency and National Youth Development Agency among others sought to strengthen and quicken employment creation; however, unemployment appears to be expanding every year (Madzivhandila and Dlamini, 2015). In South Africa, the SMME is confronted with many challenges such as limited skills, infrastructure, and finance; this has created problems in the creation of employment opportunities mostly for women and the youth. In Kenya small enterprises are recognised as great contributors to financial development and are reportedly contributing 20% and 72% to the country's GDP and employment, respectively.

Women entrepreneurship aims to eradicate poverty through established labour markets (Kongolo, 2010). Okurut and Ama (2013) believe that push factors for 'women entrepreneurs' comprise joblessness and inadequate family income. The pull factors include the need to succeed in a way that is better than others as business entrepreneurs. According to Kongolo (2010), both internal and external factors contribute to the challenges that women encounter in entrepreneurship development in South Africa. However, Gwija et al. (2014) outline that the main factor constraining successful development among women and the youth is the lack of consciousness and the inaccessibility of entrepreneurship support structures and programmes in the community. Additionally, the researcher believes that women and the youth who come from disadvantaged backgrounds face difficulties accumulating capital for their businesses. People-centered development can help to improve the local communities, self-reliance, and participatory decision making (Korten, 1984).

2.8. Women, politics, and power: a global perspective

According to Paxton et al. (2020), structural theorists believe that power does not arise from an individual; however, it derives from the societal norms. Historically, women were prohibited from

participating in politics and were deprived of their right to partake in the voting process. Women were excluded from the democratic process as it was believed that they lacked the qualities and capacities to be part of the political structure (Paxton et al., 2020). However, New Zealand was the first country to allow women to vote. The researcher believes that it is essential for women to participate in parliament and other representative bodies, as this does not only benefit women but the society.

It is just during the last three or four decades that women's role has been acknowledged in South Africa. Historically, women experienced a high level of oppression. Although they fought for their rights, the main struggle was gender inequality which was generally disregarded by society. The role of women in policy formulation and implementation depends on a country's dominant ideology as well as the socio-economic and political features of the country's development. The researcher believes that politics is linked to power and aggressiveness which embody the patriarchal ideology. However, there has been a slight improvement in the participation of women in South Africa's political structure (ANC, 2019). This was implemented to promote non-sexism and gender equality (Makgale et al., 2019). The ANC had two female premiers out of nine, the Free State's Sefora 'Sisi' Ntombela and Mpumalanga's Refilwe Mtshweni. Out of ANC's top twenty-five competitors, just nine were females, with men dominating the senior positions (Makgale et al., 2019). The involvement of women is beneficial to society as it creates a peaceful and stable political environment. When women are comfortable with their position in society, sustainable development prevails.

Social movement refers to several people who want to achieve a common goal. The year 2006 was a revolutionary year in which there was a gigantic Women's March to the Union Buildings in Pretoria. Women had to put their names to petitions and, in this manner, they registered their outrage and dissatisfaction at having their opportunity of development being confined by the despised authority passes. The fortitude of these women who marched up the streets was commended for they demonstrated organisational skills and consciousness (SAHO, 1970). Women were tired of living a restricted lifestyle that victimised them principally based on their race, class and sexual orientation. Chapter Two of the constitution of South Africa contains the Bill of Rights, a human rights charter that protects the civil, political and socio-economic rights of all people in South Africa. Therefore, the Bill of Rights allows women to inherit traditional leadership.

In South Africa, Thursday was viewed as a heavenly day, with females from various ethnic and social foundations meeting to present a petition. The gatherings paved the way for economic growth; women initiated *stokvels* and reserve funds clubs for females. It was women who did not have a place within any political associations during the 1950s who began these structures. Furthermore, there was an organisation called 'Zenzele Club' that was initiated by two women, Josie Palmer (Mpama) and Madie-Hall Xuma. Zenzele Club urged women to earn enough money from knitting; this motivated women to be independent as they had a shared objective.

Feminist scholars that influenced this study are Buckingham Hatfield 'Gender and the Environment'; Susan Griffin 'Women and Nature' and Wangari Maathai 'The Green Belt Movement'. The Green Belt Movement (GBM) is an indigenous, grassroots and non-legislative association situated in Nairobi, Kenya and has adopted a holistic approach to development by protecting nature and uplifting communities. The planting of trees has enabled a great deal of networks particularly amongst women, thus assisting in conserving the environment. Wangari Maathai initiated a tree planting programme that aimed to improve the economy in developing countries. Wangari believed that women had a great impact on the environment; therefore, the programme was mainly focused on them. The tree planting programme accommodated the family's fundamental requirements, for example, cooking, fencing and to some degree, it helped balance out soil and improve farming. Women responded well to this programme, as it helped alleviate poverty. Therefore, the researcher strongly believes that if women gain equal access to land, they will be able to utilise it efficiently.

2.9. Position of women in South Africa

According to Kehler (2001), South Africa is in its transformation phase; it is attempting to defeat the weight of racial, class and sexual inequality acquired during the times of imperialism and apartheid. The primary objectives of the transformation are to enhance livelihoods and improve the standard of living for the previously disadvantaged, mostly women and the poor. Moreover, women's realities in South Africa are still controlled by race, class and sexual orientation as these determine their access to resources and opportunities. This further suggests that race, class and sexual orientation are the determinants for the predominant political, social, and financial inequalities. As a result, poor Black women's access to resources, opportunities and education and development is harshly restricted. African Black females are confronted with numerous problems

such as having limited resources and opportunities; therefore, they experience high levels of poverty (Kehler, 2001).

According to Flatø (2017), female-headed units have difficulties under climatic shocks. The gap between genders exists from workplaces to households where women face challenges accessing land. The main reason why women are situated at a low labour market is due to the gender roles that they are entitled to such as being 'primary care-takers'. African Black women are the most vulnerable due to high unemployment rate and low paying jobs such as domestic work (Hinks, 2002). In addition, 37.9% of family units in South Africa were female-headed, which accounted for up to a sum of around 6.1 million people (Kamar, 2020). Women have a high unemployment rate compared to men, reaching around 32.4% for women and 28.3% for men in 2020 (Kamar, 2020).

Furthermore, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the effects of Covid-19 were uneven owing to high inequalities existing in South Africa. Women were affected the most during the lockdown period (Blouws, 2020). In South Africa, women are still marginalised and they face intense poverty. The pandemic restricted the movement of people, thus hindering them from doing their daily income-generating activities. Women in both formal and informal sectors were severely affected compared to men; 33.1% of the women in the informal sector and 30.1% in the formal sector lost their jobs (Rogan, 2020). These losses of income gave rise to numerous socio-economic issues such as famine, food deprivation and undernourishment. The informal workers stated that their household had lost sources of income since the Covid-19-induced lockdown began, negatively affecting their livelihoods (Rogan, 2020). In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic has caused economic loss at both regional and national levels. The pandemic has underlined the inequalities that exist in societies; it has contributed to the inequalities and vulnerabilities.

The relief fund was distributed to people to help them cope and recover from the stress and shocks of the pandemic. However, due to the large numbers of people who were dependent on the grant, not all citizens received it. Nonetheless, those who received the grant were not fully satisfied as the grant did not cater for all their household basic needs. Furthermore, the grants and food parcels were used inappropriately by councillors (BBC NEWS, 2020). The misuse of the Covid-19 allocated funds worsened the situation within the poor households; they had no food parcels, income, and required personal protective equipment (PPE) (BBC NEWS, 2020). Small and

Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are an important aspect for sustainable inclusive employment (McQuaid et al., 2020). It is believed that investing in SMEs is advantageous as it remains undisturbed in crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic (McQuaid, 2020). SMEs create employment as well as a more balanced and healthier workplace (Schumacher and Gullingham, 1979; Burchell et al., 2014).

2.10. Importance of land tenure

Land is a necessity for production; thus, it is essential that women get equal access to resources like men do. What is problematic is that in rural South Africa, land is mostly occupied by men; apparently, if women could have the same opportunities as men, the rate of development would be rapid. FAO's Gender and Land Rights Database year 2010 shows gender inequality when it comes to land; men in Africa have more access to land ownership compared to women (Doss et al., 2015). Land tenure is important in rural areas in terms of rural development; it assists in fostering a sustainable livelihood. A livelihood is sustainable when it can recover from stress and shocks without compromising its natural resources (Ayeb-Karlsson et al., 2016). The distribution of land and having property rights in rural areas aids in balancing assets in rural households. In addition, when there is a failure to produce successful land tenure, there will be social conflicts, and food insecurity will cause vulnerability to rural livelihoods. In an African context, land does not only produce for economic purposes, but serves as a source of prestige and power (Goheen et al., 2011).

2.11. Traditional authorities

Traditional authority, also known as 'uBukhosi' (referring to a leadership role that is given to a particular person), is embedded in traditional practices of society under certain principles. Traditional leaders are not required to have any special skills; the authority is passed on through their bloodline. Mabutla (2007) believes that traditional leaders need the government's unbiased attention. This reduces the hardships that traditional leaders are exposed to; for instance, the issue applies to rural areas where male supremacy has been normalised, thus side-lining women. In addition, in rural South African environments led by traditional leaders, women have suffered the brunt of exclusion owing to skewed land tenure programmes (Deininger et al., 2014).

2.12. The three pillars of South Africa's Land reform programme

The Land Reform Policy Discussion Document for the year 2012 is informed by a new trajectory which seeks to provide a new approach to the South African land reform programme. The new

approach to Land Reform is integrated within the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) under a three-pronged strategy. The new policy is based on an integrated, coordinated, and broad-based agricultural transformation. This new and improved land reform programme is aimed at benefiting rural communities (Land Reform Policy Discussion Document, 2012).

The targets and extent of the post-politically sanctioned racial segregation reflected in land change are set out clearly in the 1997 White Paper on South African Land Policy. The aim of the Land Reform was to redress the inequalities of apartheid, to bring solidarity amongst people and to promote economic development. Moreover, the Land Reform was introduced to improve the conditions of households by eliminating poverty (Department of Land Affairs, 1997). The three pillars of the Land Reform are specifically land redistribution, tenure reform and restitution.

2.13. Land redistribution programme

The goal of land redistribution is to provide historically deprived people with productive land for residential and agricultural purposes. South Africa has redistributed 7% of land to their target population; in 2014, it managed to redistribute 30% (State Land Summit Report, 2010). According to the Land Access Movement of South Africa (2010:10), the redistribution of land in 2014 was approximately 24.6 million hectares. In 2011, a total of 228 hectares had been moved to recipients through the reallocation programme since the beginning of land change in South Africa (Umhlaba Wethu, 2011:1).

Land redistribution in South Africa has been criticised for not serving its purpose, ‘the ideal of social justice’; instead, it perpetuates the ‘colonial present’ and ‘recolonisation’. Politicians impelled a radical movement to mobilise the redistribution programme, one that is based on deeply conventional practices. It is believed that the status quo represents a betrayal of the idea of land reform as decolonisation, and that a radical shift in policy and practice is needed in order to align Land redistribution with a project of decolonisation in South Africa (Kepe and Hall, 2018).

2.14. Land restitution programme

Land restitution aims to return individuals to the land which they were forcefully dispossessed of, given that each land inquirer can demonstrate that the dispossession happened before 19 June 1913. Restitution constitutes the thrust of the Land Reform programme in South Africa and is firmly connected to the requirement for the redistribution of land and tenure reform (Tenure Act, 1997). The restitution programme assists in addressing land rights to claimant communities. An aggregate

of 79,000 cases were stopped by the commission on compensation of land rights before the 1998 cut-off date. In 2011, the compensation programme returned 2, 760, 527 hectares of land to the previously dispossessed people (Umhlaba Wethu, 2011:1).

2.15. Tenure programme

The tenure reform programme points towards improving the security of residency for all South Africans and to change the race-based double land residency that developed under imperialism and apartheid. There has been a lot of enactment that has been utilised to improve tenure security; for example, the Labour Tenants Act 1996, the Extension of Security of Tenure Act, Counteraction of Illegal Eviction from and Unlawful Occupation of Land Act and the Communal Land Rights Act. In 2011, 4% of land was transferred through the tenure reform programme (Umhlaba Wethu, 2011:3). In communal land tenure systems, women access land through their associations with 'male family members'. Women lack the power to have control over land and other resources. Land transactions take place privately; therefore, in situations where debates emerge, they cannot be tended to in a public discussion (Umhlaba Wethu, 2011:3).

The South African tenure reform policy, especially with respect to communal areas, has done very little regarding the necessities of most of the poor Black females in South Africa's rural areas. The Draft Land Rights Bill of 1999, for instance, provides that where ensured tenure rights are mutual by relatives, the rights must be enlisted together, by two grown-up individuals, and one of these grown-ups must be a woman. One of the significant reactions to the Bill was that it neglected the need to characterise the implication of "where functional". Also, the Draft on Tenure Reform bears negative ramifications for gender inequality.

South Africa's proposed Land Rights Bill of 1999, to some extent, undermines land rights of vulnerable groups, especially females. Women are especially helpless under customary and mutual land residency frameworks and are additionally not ensured land rights under any arrangement of residency while cultural qualities remain in a general sense man-centric (Walker, 2005). The tenure system is controlled by the community; therefore, it is difficult for the government to improve women's positions through formal legislation. Capitalisation showed that the number of women that profited by the tenure programme were 18, 284 (Department of Rural Development and Land Affairs, 2010:21).

2.16. Tenure in rural areas

2.16.1. Men and patriarchy

Men are entitled to ownership as they inherit birth rights; in rural areas, they are most fortunate as they own the majority of livestock and land. For a man to be respected and to gain sufficient land, he is expected to have a big family, and this includes having plenty of children (Human Rights Monitor, 2001). Household politics occurring in the families has resulted in patriarchy developing at childhood stages; this male dominance has invaded other social institutions, particularly marriage, education, and governmental issues such as the economy. In rural areas, traditional authorities contribute to the challenges that are experienced by women; for instance, the Ingonyama Trust Act (ITA) led by King Zwelithini outlines patriarchy and land ownership issues. The Ingonyama Trust Act has been disapproved for gender inequality as it gives preference to men; women are often excluded and denied their rights to land. Furthermore, when women are in search of land, they are represented by male relatives. This Act is unjust as it outlines that women are incapable and undeserving (Juda-Chembe, 2018). The ITA has been criticised for lack of transparency (Ingonyama-trust-controversy, 2018).

2.16. 2. Women and patriarchy

According to Spivak (1988), women are still imprisoned in cultural norms; they are the subaltern. Furthermore, in the patriarchal culture, they are expected to be submissive and seek to constantly satisfy men's needs. The patriarchal system forces women to rely on their husbands' support; for instance, women depend on their partner to gain access to land. Women remarry for financial stability (Kambarami, 2006). Women's powerless position in the patriarchal culture makes them vulnerable and affects their livelihoods as they remain voiceless. The unequal distribution of land paves the way for exploitation; thus, women continue to be oppressed. According to Thamaga-Chitja (2012), study has shown that land ownership policies are gender-insensitive. There are gender inequalities that underpin property ownership; women continue to be second beneficiaries to user rights.

The South African Constitution (1996) recognises and protects both customary law and the Bill of Rights. Customary law is recognised as a fully established system of law, not simply as a set of traditional or long-standing practices (Communal Land Rights Act, 2004: 204). Customary law is one of the long-standing practices that have inhibited women from gaining access to land in South Africa. In most patriarchal societies that practise customary law, women have limited rights when

it comes to property ownership. The Communal Land Rights Act of 2004 provides that men and women have equal legally secure tenure rights and prohibits gender discrimination (Communal Land Rights Act, 2004).

Women should participate in decision-making. Enabling both genders to participate in decision-making assists in outlining the challenges that are faced by women and to find solutions to various problems experienced by women (Butt et al., 2010). In addition, there should be gender-sensitive policies that assist in eliminating any forms of discrimination that are taking place in rural areas. These policies assist in promoting equity and equality between genders in rural development.

Socio-economic problems in South Africa tend to escalate, especially in rural areas. The gender inequalities that are occurring in rural areas tremendously affect women and their offspring (Rogan, 2014). In rural areas, most of the land is under traditional authorities, thus endangering women's livelihoods as they are deprived of land and seen as the 'other' by men. Women were historically underprivileged; they were deprived of voicing their struggles through exclusion from decision-making (Rogan, 2014). Women are capable of sustaining lifestyles in households, yet they suffer the triple burden of racial, class and gender-based discrimination (Mullings, 2014).

Sweetwater is under the Ingonyama Trust Fund; what needs to be determined is whether women equally participate in the development processes and to establish the extent to which they participate. Rural development refers to the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in the rural areas (Chambers, 2014). The study outlines gender inequalities occurring in rural areas, highlighting how these inequalities affect women and how policies can improve the equal representation of both genders in the development of Sweetwater.

Globally, women have been deprived of land ownership; for instance, South African women are often side-lined when it comes to land ownership. In India and Bangladesh, widows are deprived of their rightful ownership of land (Agarwal and Bina, 1994). Land is viewed as a critical entry point for women's empowerment and development; thus, the inaccessibility of land hinders the growth of women (Agarwal and Bina, 1994). The study used the Radical Feminism Theory, which questions why other people are left behind because of their sexual identity (Crow, 2000).

2.17. Theoretical framework

Radical feminism embodies the theoretical framework for this study. The theory rejects male supremacy and any form of oppression against women, including the patriarchal system. Radical feminists believe that society generally supports patriarchy; thus, their aim is to eradicate male dominance by liberating women from an unjust society by challenging the prevailing social norms and institutions (Robinson and Victoria, 2003).

The Radical Feminist Theory aligns with the topic of this research study as it outlines that the root cause of women's oppression is patriarchy. In this case, men use culture as a method of keeping women suppressed; this occurs in rural areas where traditional authorities prioritise the needs of men. In rural areas of Sweetwater, large tracts of land are under the Ingonyama Trust; therefore, through the land tenure programme, title deeds are given to men. This is discrimination against women as they are excluded from the land tenure process. Culture plays a significant role in the livelihoods of African people; however, it tends to enforce gender roles from childhood, resulting in toxic traits. Men exploit and dominate women to a point where women are viewed as 'the other'.

According to Brown (2020), Sizani Ngubane has spent decades fighting for women's land rights in rural areas of South Africa. Sizani's father was a migrant worker; while he was away on work, her uncle evicted her mother from their land. Her uncle said, 'You're a woman, you have no rights to this property if your husband is not around'. Sizani then became an activist from a young age. She has become a voice for other women who have experienced humiliation like her mother. Sizani states that if women are given land, there will be decreased rates of abuses in society, as women would be able to inherit land shall their male relatives die. Sizani Ngubane's movement has empowered rural women to speak out; they are now aware of their constitutional rights. She is one of the three finalists for the Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders. She has experienced hardship regarding land ownership; thus, her determination can assist in the liberation of the oppressed women in the rural areas of South Africa.

Chigbu (2015) believes that women play a vital role in development; however, the patriarchal norms hinder the ability of women to develop to their full potential. Women have participated in development processes; for instance, community development projects such as community gardening and farming. The involvement of women in agriculture has showed that they are capable, as they have made a significant impact on both the economy and livelihoods the

developing countries (Chigbu, 2015). Women make up 60–80% of Nigeria's agricultural labour force (Ogunlela and Mukhtar, 2009) and actively participate in other non-agricultural activities. However, their potential for development remains extraneous because of prejudiced cultural practices that cause gender imbalances. Further, the researcher believes that there is a link between South Africa's recent history, and the failure of its citizens to respect women's rights to bodily autonomy and integrity under the democratic dispensation. The apartheid legacy has contributed two critical problems: the subsequent focus on race still tends to repress the open scrutiny of gender issues; and the tendency of apartheid to drive violence into intimate and domestic spaces continues to fuel the epidemic of sexual violence.

2.18. Conclusion

This chapter has discussed the history and development of women in the global and South African contexts. The shortcomings of the policies were highlighted and discussed. Evidence suggests that women do not access the same opportunities as men; instead, they are relegated to a subordinate status and perform stereotypical roles. The researcher believes that involving women in rural development can assist in eliminating gender discrimination and enforce women empowerment and economic development. The research shows that women are underrepresented at every level, and women of colour are most underrepresented group of all, lagging behind white men, men of colour and white women. The present study revealed that the underrepresentation of women is due to patriarchy that prevails in society. The present study explored the gender gap by exploring how diverse people are affected by various phenomena. For policies to work, institutions to function, and security to last, diverse perspectives must be included. Observing the livelihoods in rural areas of South Africa, the researcher has discovered that the relationship between development and culture is interconnected; therefore, equal involvement of women will limit the inequalities prevalent in Sweetwater. In addition, empowering women in the economy and closing gender gaps in society assists in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The chapter also discussed the theoretical framework underpinning this research.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Introduction

The previous chapter presented an overview of the history and development of South Africa and the Radical Feminism Theory was discussed as the theoretical framework which is suitable for the study. This theory assisted the researcher to underline the factors underpinning the development of women. This chapter presents the method which was used to collect data for this study. This chapter discusses the data collection process and presents the ethical issues that were upheld throughout the research.

According to Creswell (2003), methodology and data analysis encapsulate the steps followed during the data collection process and the methods which are used in the process. This chapter details the data collection methods and tools as well as the data analysis process. The aim of the study is to discover the intersection between culture and gender in the development of women in Sweetwater.

3.2. Research design: Desktop research

The desktop research method was used to gather information and through written work, comparisons were made to draw conclusions regarding the topic. According to Holden and Lynch (2004), a suitable method for a research is determined by its natural social phenomena. Methodology helps to explore and examine issues being researched on and assists in reasoning and breaking down data applied to understand the research phenomenon, enabling the reader to

basically assess the study's validity and reliability. Methodology aims to answer the question: How was the information gathered and analysed?

A desktop research, which was chosen for this study, used appropriate secondary data. According to Johnston (2017), secondary data refers to the data collected prior to the current study. This type of data includes reviewing existing documents that can either be published or unpublished. However, the use of secondary data helps an individual to gain more knowledge about a particular topic from different sources. This is highly effective as an individual could compare what has been discovered and navigate through new discoveries and nuances. This enables the researcher to come up with new solutions to a particular problem. Smith (2008) appraises desktop research for its cost-effectiveness and convenience. This has also been supported by Hox (2005) who maintains that desktop research is cost-effective because the information is already available, obviating the need to collect fresh data. Existing data will be used to gather information about women and their experiences regarding land and other assets. The focus, however, is on land. The chapter concludes with possible solutions that help fortify women's position in rural areas.

Data analysis refers to the process of analysing collected data; the researcher assesses the data used throughout the chapter using analytical and statistical methods. The data analysis procedure comprises outlining objectives, cross-examining data, data collection, transforming data, analysing data and making relevant suggestions for the present topic. Through the data analysis process, the researcher ascertains whether the objectives, research questions and theoretical framework align with the study. The discoveries therefore indicate whether to accept or reject several statements that were highlighted by the researcher in the study.

Secondary data was collected in UKZN Library (research space), blogs, strategic frameworks; pieces of legislation, policy documents and journal articles were used as well as documentaries on YouTube channels. Statistics were obtained from StatsSA. Reviewing theses written by students and academic scholars assisted the researcher in getting information relevant to this study. Secondary research is inexpensive, as it uses existing data (Travis, 2016).

The researcher obtained a large number of articles by searching single or combined words on the Internet; such words include 'women and development', 'patriarchy', 'cultural and social norms',

‘statistics of women in the economic sector’, ‘challenges and opportunities that women have in society’, ‘how patriarchy denies women land’, ‘land ownership’ and ‘land policies.

3.3. Limitations of desktop research

The available data may be outdated. Lived experiences will be missing because the researcher will not be able to conduct face to face interviews as well as focus group discussions. When using desktop research, modification of data will need to be done and this may elude the context of what the researcher is trying to outline.

3.4. Thematic analysis

Data analysis is essential in summarising the collected data; it assists in the interpretation of data gathered using analytical and logical reasoning. Thematic analysis will be used to analyse data collected for this research (Braun, 2012). Thematic analysis is one of the most common forms of analysis and it helps in identifying, interpreting and analysing patterns of meanings in the data. This method of analysis is suitable for this research as it guides the researcher’s choice of theoretical framework, appropriate research questions and data collection methods (Braun, 2012). Thematic analysis can be used to explore questions around participants’ lived experiences, perspectives, behaviour and practices. Thematic analysis assisted the researcher to discover the factors and social processes that influence and shape the role of women in development (Guest et al., 2011).

3.5. Location of the study

Sweetwater is in KwaZulu-Natal, under Msunduzi Local Municipality in the District of UMgungundlovu. It encompasses the City of Pietermaritzburg, which is the capital of the KwaZulu-Natal Province, which is also the economic hub of UMgungundlovu District Municipality. Msunduzi Local Municipality is situated along the N3 Highway at a junction of an industrial corridor (from Durban to Pietermaritzburg) and an agro-industrial corridor (stretching from Pietermaritzburg to Estcourt). The coordinates of Msunduzi are 29°37.

The area is dominated by Africans and governed by traditional authorities. Sweetwater is predominantly rural and under tribal land which is under the Ingonyama Trust (Msunduzi Local

Municipality IDP, 2018-2019). The main economic sectors in this community are government services, agriculture (where subsistence farming is practised in the form of small-scale cropping) and remittances from people working elsewhere. According to Msunduzi Annual Report (2018/2019), the total population of Msunduzi is 639, 653. **Figure 1** below shows the different places which are under the Msunduzi Local Municipality.

Figure 1: Map of UMsunduzi Local Municipality (IDP, 2017)



Source: Draft Integrated Development Plan for the 2016 2017 to 2020 2021

3.6. Document analysis

Document analysis is defined as a method of research analysis which includes revising existing documentation to accumulate the data needed to address research questions (Olison, 2012). The researcher researched on the development of women in South Africa. Moreover, Bowen (2009) characterizes document analysis as an exceptionally regular strategy used to gather information since it depends on the arrangement and investigation of existing data as kept in records and archives. The study incorporated information on women and development in developing countries, these included information from records, life stories, paper articles, web articles and exploration articles by different experts.

3.7. Ethical considerations

Since this is a desktop research, the researcher applied for an ethical exemption clearance. The University approved the ethical exemption clearance. The researcher adhered to the University of KwaZulu-Natal research protocol. Furthermore, the researcher followed the research ethics, privacy, obscurity and confidentiality prerequisites of sound scientific research.

3.8. Conclusion

This section has presented the research methodology that was utilised in the research paper. The section justified why the desktop research was utilised for this study. It further looked at the study area, document analysis, thematic analysis and ethical considerations. The following chapter will be about the research findings and understandings.

CHAPTER 4:

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study within the context of the themes. This chapter discusses the findings that are aligned with the research questions guiding study. The researcher believes that in order to find the hindrance of development, the Msunduzi Municipality should be inspected in its entirety. Therefore, this research seeks to outline the challenges and opportunities occurring within the Msunduzi Municipality; this is inclusive of other areas that fall within the local municipality. Therefore, the analysis comprises the area within Msunduzi Local Municipality, including Sweetwater. The reason for including other areas within the municipality is to compare the role of women in development and determine if these areas are affected by the same phenomena. The researcher believes that by focusing on the Municipality as a whole, the researcher would then be able to obtain an in-depth understanding of women's position and development rate, specifically in Sweetwater. The findings of the study are obtained from secondary data collected from documents, Internet websites, books and journals that paid attention to the women's position in development. The South African government is confronted with challenges regarding the need to balance the policies that accommodate both customary and democratic practices.

4.2. Presentation and discussions of findings

This chapter outlines the thematic analysis that was attained from secondary data. The research questions guide the researcher with the analysis of data.

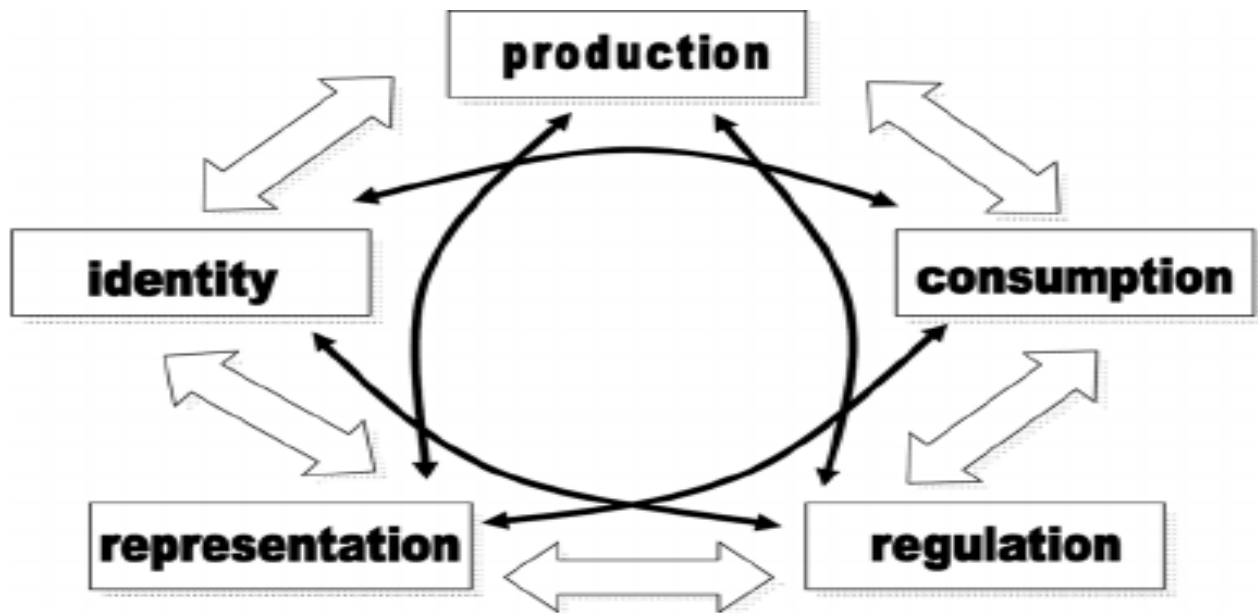
4.3. Gender roles through a cultural lens in Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu:

The question was posed with respect to how significant gender roles were through a cultural lens in Sweetwater uMgungundlovu.

Extant literature shows that gender is culturally constructed. Gender is culturally constructed, and it is commonly characterised as a cycle of socialisation and culture according to a specific society. Children are socialised into sexual orientation from their birth. They are conditioned to behave in certain ways; these gender roles are reinforced throughout their lives. The researcher views gender roles as a major impediment to development.

According to Hall (1997), culture is concerned with the construction and exchange of meanings between people in society. It is about the things people state, feel, and consider and how they represent them, thus giving them meanings (Hall, 1997). Thus, the implication is that through this cycle, people manage to organise the set principles, guidelines and standards determining the way public activity is requested and administered (Hall, 1997). In any case, the ideas of culture and identity are profoundly discussed (Chiang, 2010). (See **Figure 2** below).

Figure 2. The circuit of culture



Source: The Circuit of Culture Centre (Hall, 1997)

The circuit of culture is a framework that is used in cultural studies; there are five aspects which are namely regulation, representation, identity, production, and consumption. As per objective, it is essential to break the culture into five component elements (Gay and Hall, 1997). The components of the circuit of culture are interconnected with the study's objectives, thus the researcher will briefly explain each component.

Representation is a description or a symbol of something; it explains what the thing signifies to whom. Representation leads to effective communication because it relies on some kind of understanding 'of what something is and what something is not.' This raises questions about whether women are represented in the study area. Identification refers to the positioning of the participants, this comprises of identifying the culture and their social relation, who produces, consumes, and regulates it? The identification process is essential as it shows us who is involved and who are the outsiders; in relation to the study traditional leaders have a great impact on the positioning of women as of result women are excluded from some development programs such as the land tenure. Production refers to the producing an economically successful product, cultural meanings, norms, and values are important factors. Production will not take place effectual in the study area because of unequal opportunities amongst genders. Consumption represents power, ideology, gender, and social class. Regulation outlines the formalized government policies and

regulations. These components play a fundamental role in outlining the researchers' objective. The Circuit of culture shows how complex culture is and how it shapes the way of doing things

According to Schalkwyk (2000) culture refers to the beliefs and practices of a society. Gender is shaped by culture; it attributes the 'acceptable behaviour' of men and women. Gender identities and gender relations are important aspects of culture as it shapes the way of living and doing things in communities, workplaces and within families. Women in rural areas experience the social construction of gender (Midgely, 2006). The social construction that the researcher is referring to is the cultural and traditional norms that are carried out in Sweetwater, whereby women and men are assigned different opportunities. Men and women face unequal opportunities, for example, they access resources differently and unequal sharing of family responsibilities. Through a cultural lens women are portrayed differently compared to men, they are expected to be feminine and carry out domestic responsibilities (Midgely, 2006). Sweetwater comprises of traditional dwellings this implies that the community is under traditional leaders which follow patriarchal systems. In a patriarchal system women are viewed as domestic providers, the researcher thus believes that women are undermined causing them to be left behind in the development process as they are still subordinate to men. Social organization and culture influence the involvement in activities and the gender disparities result in unequal distribution of benefits between genders (Warren, 2002).

4.4. To examine the opportunities that women encounter in development in Sweetwater.

A question was posed that attempted to identify the opportunities that women encounter in development in Sweetwater. This framed the way literature was pursued to address it.

There are several opportunities that women encounter in development within the areas in which they reside. For instance, Public works programmes are a way of maintaining sustainable livelihoods utilising the Zibambele Road Maintenance Programme, a programme that aims to eliminate poverty in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Poverty, which is more prevalent in rural areas, often affects women. Public works programmes help in giving work to jobless individuals who are financially dynamic; this assists in creating an inclusive economic environment. This programme is directed to women, with roughly 95% of the contractual workers being females. Zibambele plans

to improve their position by diminishing their danger of neediness (IDP, 2017). The programme is centred on women, as key to the improvement of the family government assistance, moreover when an individual is incapable of doing work duties someone else within the household can perform the work can assume up her position (McCord, 2002). This project entails a bottom-up approach, whose potential is essential as there is community inclusion (Roodt, 2001). In addition, the bottom-up approach motivates people to advocate for their rights.

Zimbabwe plays a significant role in the development of rural infrastructure and in economic growth. This enables the transportation of agricultural and non-agricultural goods; this results in a greater access to the market, thus increasing employment opportunities for local residents. Therefore, neglected roads serve as an obstacle to economic growth (DoT Manual, 2001). The Zimbabwe Project introduced saving clubs which helped women to utilise money efficiently; this reduced vulnerability level amongst women as it promoted financial independency. As much as the job helps people to gain an income; it is unfortunate that people remain unskilled as they perform unskilled labour. The next section looks at women and their role in the green economy.

4.4.1. Women and the Green economy

South Africa is an upper middle-income nation (in view of the Gross National Income per capita) whose economy is exceptionally dependent on mineral assets; for example, coal for power, adding to the country's high carbon impression (Bond, 2002; Maia et al., 2011; Urban Earth, 2012).

Green economy has been defined by UNEP (2011) as:

“an economy that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. It is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive”.

South Africa is confronted with difficulties of water shortage, soil degradation, and poor waste administration, high levels of joblessness and escalating poverty (Musyoki, 2012). Women are the poorest and they grapple with the highly infectious Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). South Africa, which has the most striking Greenhouse gases emissions in Africa, started pursuing systems that could create jobs, reduce poverty, enhance education, and lower carbon emanations (Musyoki, 2012; Urban Earth, 2012). One such technique is the green economy which was first

distinguished as a significant driver of economic development and a system that sought to address sustainability in South Africa's 2009-2014 Medium Term Strategic Framework (DEA, 2010). Due to South Africa's dependence on natural resources for economic development and its extensive poverty, a transition is important to secure the resources for future development and to create green jobs.

Women endure the worst brunt of any ecological changes, their environmental knowledge makes them to be suitable to participate in the green economy and sustainable development (Stevens, 2012). Women are accountable for making economical family units as they settle on over 80% of buyer decisions and are more cognisant of ecology than men in their buying decisions. Nevertheless, they face challenges such as limited purchasing power (Stevens, 2012). A sustainable green economy must involve advancement inherent in the Earth's biological cut-off points and should guarantee equal distribution of resources, not only among nations and social groups but also between men and women (Women's Major Group, 2011; Becher, 2012).

For women to be uplifted out of poverty, they should be granted the same opportunities; thus, they should secure the same employment and entrepreneurship opportunities as men (WESC and WOW, 2009; Women's Major Group, 2011). However, women still face challenges regarding participation in the global green economy. These challenges include structural gender inequality; women face discriminatory laws and employment patterns favour men. Sweetwater advocates for 'green economy'; to achieve such, they should address the occurring challenges within the community. The inclusion of women in the green economy is poised to alleviate poverty and secure their social welfare. Therefore, the green economy presents an alternative vision for growth and development. According to Lodovici and Pesce (2012) sustainability and the green economy are interconnected. A good recycling program and a community garden are two main activities that women in Sweetwater can partake in. These programs will help women to be involved as they will gather to reduce negative environmental impacts by promoting sustainable agriculture; reducing food transport cost and reduce water runoff.

4.5. Challenges Sweetwater women face in development.

Challenges that women face in development in Sweetwater increased their vulnerabilities and risks in development.

4.5.1. Women's vulnerability and gender-based violence

According to Regchand (2020), women in uMgungundlovu District were severely affected during the Covid-19 pandemic-induced lockdown. During this lockdown, there was a rise in gender-based violence (Regchand, 2020). The paper further underlines the fact that 1, 095 gender-based violence cases were reported to the Lifeline between April and June 2020 in uMgungundlovu District.

According to Jankie (2020), gender-based violence is a major problem in South Africa. The violence is prevalent; thus, South Africa has been classified as a 'rape capital' of the world. Violence occurs in both public and private spheres; the complex web of inter-linked factors has a detrimental effect on women. These comprise poverty, inequality, unemployment, societal and cultural norms (Jankie, 2020). One comprehends that the violence that occurs is embedded in patriarchal systems which oppress women; this automatically lowers the status of women. Moreover, with such prevalent challenges, women cannot improve their autonomy. What are the implications of this for policy and practice?

Within the contexts of patriarchal oppression, women lose their self-esteem and autonomy to the extent that they lose confidence, and this implies that for practice, programs that empower and raise the confidence women are important to institute. Similarly, policies that empower women and raise awareness and address patriarchy should be formulated.

“Women and children were locked down in the same homes with the perpetrator’; this elaborates the view that toxic masculinities are practised in households. Men generally think that they can do whatever they want at any given time regardless of the consequences that will be suffered at the end. The constitution has been criticised for failing women and their rights, women declare it a poor justice system because perpetrators get away with the crime they committed; for instance, women report that their perpetrators are still roaming the streets. Furthermore, there was a case where a woman stated that she was having problems with attaining protection

order against the father of her child. She stated that, “in the domestic violence court, you are viewed as mentally unstable and a liar” (Jankie, 2020).

Gender-based violence serves as a factor that hinders the development of women.

4.5.2. Factors that hinder development in Msunduzi Municipality

Individuals dwelling in informal settlements face difficulties regarding service delivery; this is primarily because of land which was illegally occupied. Furthermore, the informal unit lacks necessities to live a healthy lifestyle; they have insufficient sanitation, and the residents consume large amounts of natural resources, contributing to the emission of greenhouse gases (Napier, 2007). The informal settlement in Sweetwater faces problems with waste disposal; this is problematic as it causes land pollution and infectious disease hazards (Napier, 2007:15). The migration that is taking place requires uMsunduzi Municipality to supply housing that accommodates the existing populace; the more the informal settlements, the greater the demand for suitable sustainable households (Sexwale, 2013). The researcher argues that the informal settlements are an obstacle to service delivery; a high population rate makes it difficult for the uMsunduzi Municipality to effectively deliver the required services. As the population competes for resources, it is unfortunate that not all the people will be catered for due to the district's constrained budget plans. Moreover, the carrying capacity of the municipality is exceeded. Therefore, the rise of informal settlements gradually reduces the rate of development. The researcher chose the Jika Joe as a typical example of an informal settlement within the Msunduzi Municipality (See figure 3. below).

Figure 3. Map of Jika Joe informal settlement



Source: Msunduzi Municipality, (2015)

Figure 4 below shows the type of structures constructed by residents in Jika Joe. It also shows the congestion in the settlement. The fire hazards inherent in this settlement are also evident from the burnt-out structures shown in the picture below.

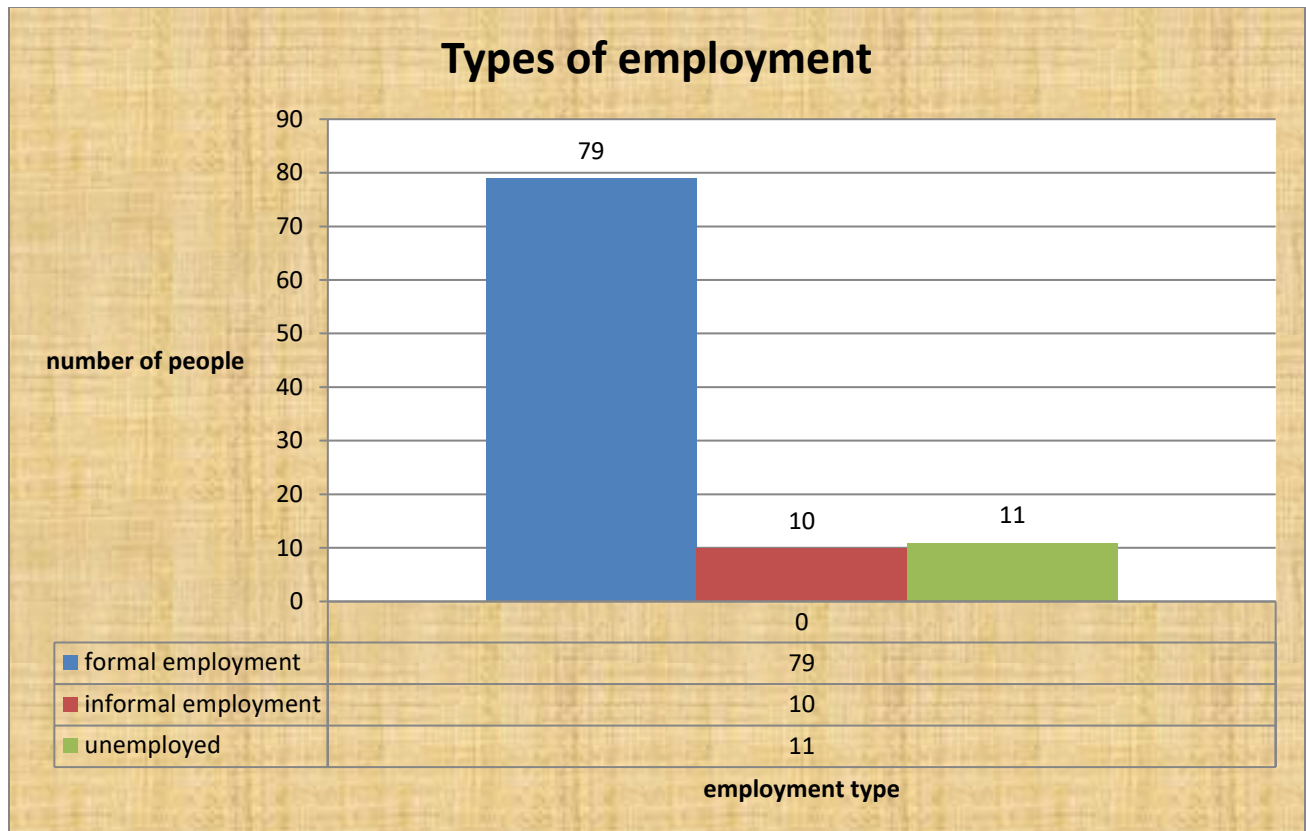
Figure 4. Structures in Jika Joe and inherent fire hazards



Source: Msunduzi Municipality, (2015).

There are almost 400 households in Jika Joe, which translates to 57% males and 43% females (Msunduzi Municipality, 2015:03). The graph below (Figure 5) indicate that 79% of the Jika Joe population is employed; 10% of the population is in informal employment and 11% is unemployed. The rest of the population are employed as domestic workers, gardeners, and retail and factory workers. Pensions and grants serve as revenue for households.

Figure 5. Types of employment



Source: Msunduzi Municipality, 2015

The skills which the individuals residing in Jika Joe have comprise "carpentry, sewing, cooking, baking, and gardening" (Msunduzi Municipality, 2015:03); these are the areas which present conceivable employment. The residents can utilise their skills to create employment that can enhance their livelihood and improve development in the area. Nonetheless, there are difficulties which could prevent the achievement of successful business such as lack of capital, no help once the undertakings have started, or the inaccessibility of land (Msunduzi Municipality, 2015:03).

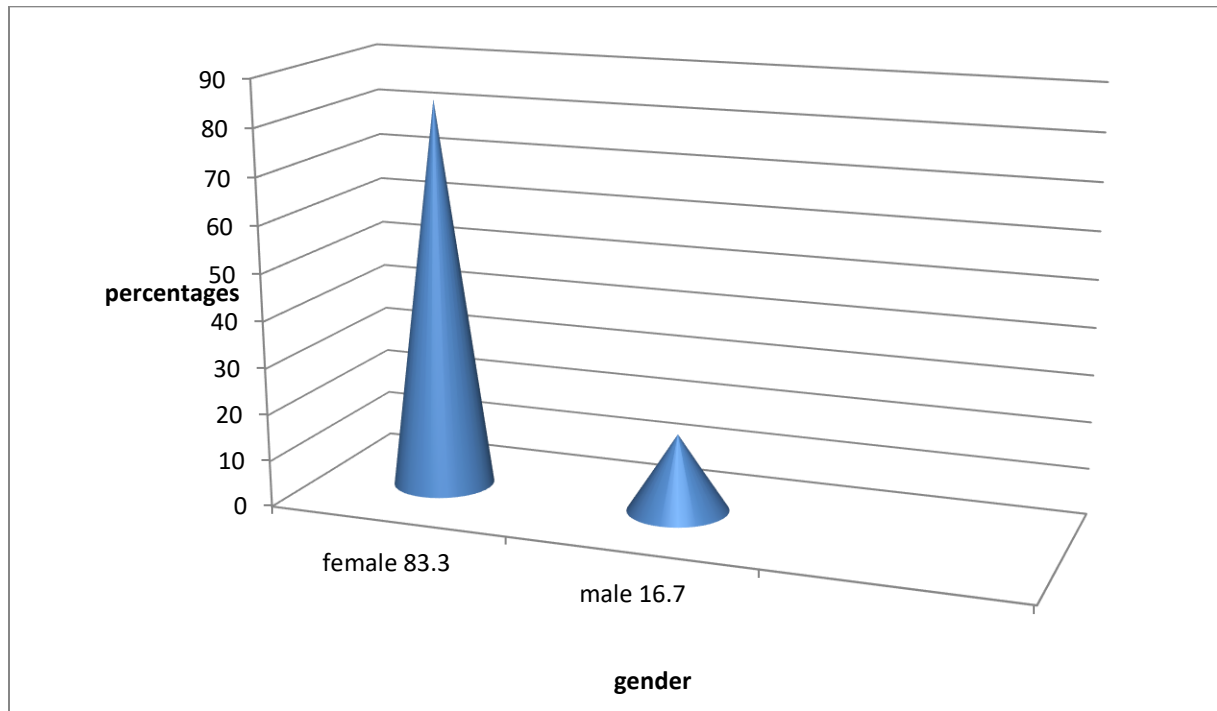
Jika Joe community has a community garden for underprivileged children, a community garden for women, uphold gatherings at church and implemented a cleaning and rubbish forum (Msunduzi Municipality, 2015:03). Although there is potential for development, the area still encounters socio-economic issues and environmental problems. Men outnumber women owing to migration and the gender roles that they are entitled to. Men are required to maintain the needs of their household; they migrate in search of better opportunities. However, they end up in informal settlements due to limited houses, whereas women remain in rural areas to nurture their children and to ensure that everything is well taken care of in their households.

4.6. Challenges in the land tenure reform program in Sweetwater

The study also examined how land tenure reform has been implemented in Sweetwater.

4.6.1 Agricultural practices

Figure 6. Gender participation in farming in the Msunduzi municipality



Source: Msunduzi Municipality, 2015

Agriculture remains a vital sector in the district of Msunduzi Municipality. People practice subsistence farming. In addition, the areas under Msunduzi Municipality have programmes with community gardens. However, due to restricted land people have difficulties utilising land freely. Moreover, women do not access some of the resources they need, thus limited resources pose a disadvantage to people. Ingonyama Trust Land, on which most of the rural populace lives, usually has a very restricted agrarian capacity (LEDP, 2014). However, an emphasis on economic development and job creation will stimulate development in the study area.

The reviewed literature revealed that the residents of Msunduzi Municipality are highly food insecure. Crush (2014) believes that Msunduzi displays perceptible indications of the apartheid

legacy, which comprise “unequal development between city and suburbs, the spatial allocation of land which actually runs along unequivocally racial lines and the genuine underdevelopment in ‘black’ townships” (Robbins and Hobbs, 2012). The effects of uneven development have been detected in the prevailing socio-economic issues such as housing, water, electricity, sanitation and pollution (Smith & Green, 2005; Goebel et al., 2010; Goebel and Dodson, 2011; Boayke and Akor, 2012).

The requirement for sustainable human settlements is a continual challenge facing South Africa in general and the Msunduzi Municipality in particular (IDP, 2019). This need is partly an outcome of relocation brought about by financial forces and push factors; however, it is generally an outcome of past financial and spatial arrangement, acknowledged by politically sanctioned racial segregation, administration and spatial arrangement. Those in urgent need of proper housing are mainly the landless, the poor and low-pay workers. As per Stats SA (2011), over 61% of the inhabitants of Msunduzi live in poverty.

4.6.2. Local housing

In Sweetwater the households are under the customary law. The South African government acknowledges traditional communities and leaders under Chapter 12 of the constitution (Hagg, 2017). Tenure reform in rural areas is a complex issue; it includes fortifying rights regarding law and practice. The laws should be transparent, democratic and promote equality. The South African government is confronted with challenges about balancing policies that align with both customary and democratic acts. The laws should ensure that people in rural areas have secure land tenure as stated in the constitution.

4.6.3. House type in Sweetwater

It is important to show the demand house type because it helps in showing which kind of housing dominates in the area. Furthermore, this helps to categorize the area as rural or modernized. Table 1 below shows that the Msunduzi municipality is dominated by traditional dwellings.

Table 1: House type in Sweetwater

Demand by current house type					
Traditional Dwelling	Backyard Rooms	Informal Dwelling	Informal Shack	Caravan / Tents	Total
27, 581	3, 086	4, 347	9, 151	97	44, 263

Source: Stats SA (2011)

4.6.4. Dwelling place

Table 2 below outlines the traditional dwellings that are dominant in the Msunduzi Municipality

Table 2 Main dwellings within settlement areas in the District

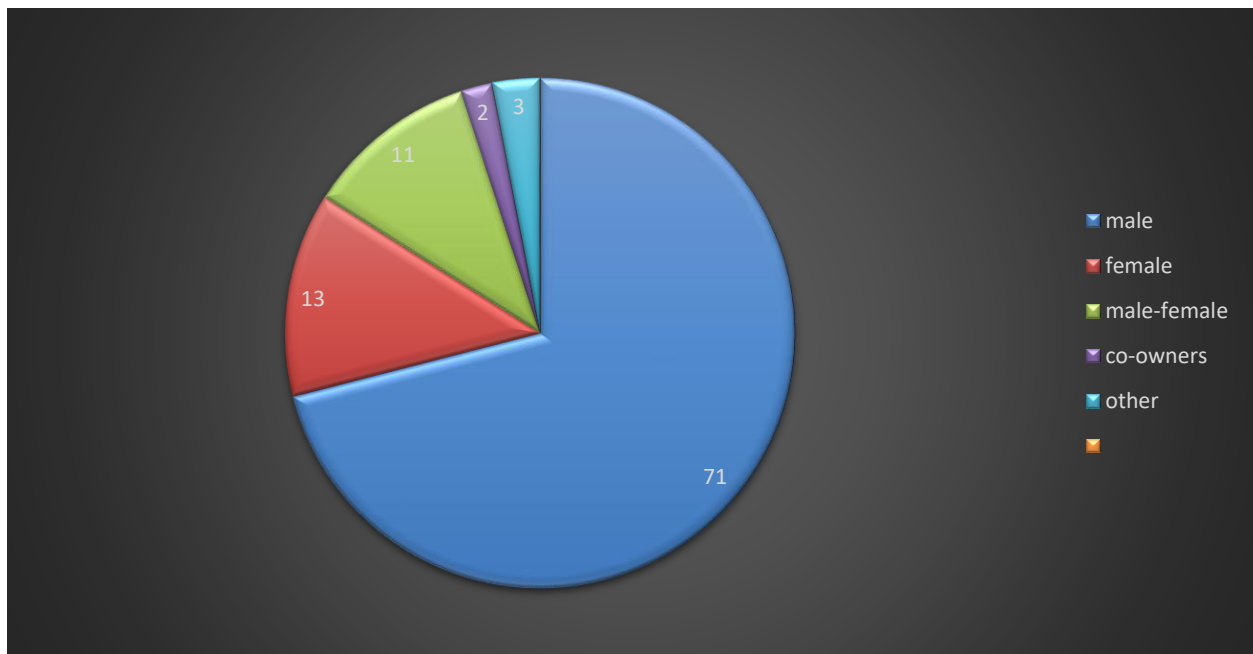
Formal	Informal	Traditional	Other
228,768	22,387	520,244	19,062

Source: uMgungundlovu District IDP (2019)

4.6.5. Land ownership

Figure 7 below illustrates that the majority of males are the owners of land; approximately 71% of the men own land. Comparatively, about 13% of the females own land. On aggregate, males and females that own land constitute about 11%. The co-owners of land constitute 2% and the rest ‘other’ account for 3%. This outlines the inequalities that occur in South Africa in terms of land ownership; thus, one is made to understand that the tenure programme is biased as it favours men more than women.

Figure 7: Land ownership by gender



Source. NDP 2017

4.6.6 Marital status of the males in Sweetwater

In a study by Dlamini (2014), of the 10 people, who owned land, 2 men were not married and 8 were married as indicated by table 3 below. These were their views about the land; it is a prerequisite for men to be married to secure land in Sweetwater. This was a qualitative study; the researcher did not intend to quantify the number of people who had land. There are more women and men in Sweetwater than 10.

Table 3. Marital status of males in Sweetwater

Marital status	Number of males
Single	2
Married	8
Total	10

Source: Dlamini (2014)

4.6.7. Marital status of females in Sweetwater

Table 4 below shows that marital status of the females in the Sweetwater. Table 4 indicate that out of ten people, only five are not married and the other five are married; three of the single participants are not married and the remaining two are widows (Dlamini, 2014).

A fee called ‘khonza’ is required to secure land (Dlamini, 2014). A participant stated that when you pay the umkhonze fee, it does not mean you are only paying for the land; however, it is a way of demonstrating gratitude to the king. In addition, the cost displayed was controlled by hectares of the land. The amount of land differs, for example, if an individual needs to build a church or a shop, the cost would not be similar to that of an individual who needs to build a house. It is unfortunate that it is a prerequisite for men to be married in order to secure land in an area under Sweetwater.

This shows how gender roles negatively affect people and their rate of development. The researcher argues that compelling people to get married is inappropriate as it puts strain on them because if they fail to perform the expected gender roles, they are classified as deviant.

Table 4 Marital status females in Sweetwater.

Marital status	Number of females
Single	5
Married	5
Total	10

Source: Dlamini (2014)

4.6.8. Total employment in the economic sector in Msunduzi, uMgungundlovu

Table 5 below shows that Msunduzi Municipality has the most active economic sector. It employs a total of 215, 000 people. The local municipality that has the least economic sector compared to other municipalities within uMgungundlovu is Impendle Local Municipality with a total of 3, 890 employed people. Various forms of public engagements have been held in this financial year to ensure public involvement in the development of the IDP.

Table 5: Total employment in the economic sector- Msunduzi uMgungundlovu, 2016

	Msunduzi	uMshwathi	uMngeni	Mpofana	Impendle	Mkhambathini	Richmond
Total	215,000	27,700	36,700	13,400	3,890	12,500	17,500

Source: IHS Markit Regional eXplorer version 1070)

4.6.9. The importance of information and communication technology (ICT) in development

The rural places under uMgungundlovu District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa were studied to examine residents' access to information and communication technology. The

study revealed that the factors that influence access to ICT in the rural communities are literacy and the technical skills of local communities and the stakeholders. Mukerji (2013) believes that technology generates opportunities for the social and economic growth of poor communities in developing nations. Access to information and communication technology is often skewed in favour of the privileged society, which is problematic to rural residents in the rural areas as it widens the socio-economic gap between the poor and the rich (Heeks, 2010). The lack of information and communication amongst people causes them to be excluded in the process of development.

4.6.10 Challenges militating against community based digital hub (CBDH)

Table 6 below shows that lack of land hindered the successful implementation of the community-based digital hub. Most of the land was either privately owned or fell under traditional authority or ‘izinduna’. This shows that people residing in rural areas under the uMgungundlovu District face difficulties accessing land. Furthermore, this outlines the conflict embedded in the land question in rural areas. The restrictions on land hinder people from gathering, thus retarding community development.

Table 6: The descriptive summary of the challenges militating against community-based digital hub (CBDH)

Respondents	Lack of Land	Lack of Electricity	Shortage of skilled people	Maintenance of structure	Permission to build on land	Communal land control conflict	No challenge
Total	9	4	3	1	1	1	1

Source: Myeni, (2018)

Tables 5 and 6 show the importance of information and communication technology (ICT) in development. The land under traditional authority tends to be problematic. In the African tradition, it is customary to have a traditional leader or ‘induna’ who is appointed to help resolve issues affecting the area under their jurisdiction. However, in the uMgungundlovu District, it seems the

presence of the traditional leader oppresses the people. Therefore, the researcher believes that culture hinders the development process.

4.7 Discussion of findings

The study was able to achieve most of its objectives. It explored the opportunities and challenges that are experienced by women in Sweetwater. However, the researcher had difficulties obtaining the statistics. Data revealed that the study area had tenure problems; women encountered problems accessing resources as well as securing land. They face difficulties associated with land tenure just because they are 'women'. Women must remarry for financial stability and to secure land. However, this does not guarantee them access to land. In most cases when women reside in rural areas under traditional authority, it is essential for them to have a boy child so that land is passed on to them when the male representative of the household dies.

Furthermore, the study found that it is not only women who encounter problems with securing land; men too experience hardship with accessing land. Moreover, men are also oppressed by the patriarchal system; for instance, 'married men' of Sweetwater are prioritised at the expense of unmarried men. The researcher observed that a great deal of literature has dwelt on the oppression and marginalisation of women through patriarchy. However, the study has revealed that patriarchy is likely to occur to both women and men. Men also experience racial discrimination and inequality especially in the land reform programme. Although both genders experience patriarchal oppression, women are highly affected by it. The inequalities between the genders deprive women of an opportunity to enhance their livelihoods.

There are programmes that exist within the community of the Msunduzi Municipality; such programmes include Zibambele and Sukmasakhe Projects. The IDP (2017) revealed that the programmes are used to engage members of the public on development issues. This is a vital step in the development process as it promotes 'inclusiveness'; thus, people take part in the development process. Land is vital for the prosperity of the community. Development can result in changes in the landscape; for instance, it can cause deforestation, habitat destruction and transformation of the ecosystem. However, development can generate jobs, improve livelihoods, and unite the community members.

4.8 Conclusion

The chapter discussed the findings as interpreted in the literature review in Chapter 2. In addition, the chapter discussed all of the themes accordingly. The dominant themes attest to the fact that South Africa has suffered a great deal owing to apartheid and colonialism. However, that should not be used to justify the prevailing inequities amongst communities. However, the researcher believes that despite of all the historical events, culture oppresses women and downplays their role in development. The researcher believes that land is essential in development as it helps to sustain people's economic well-being. The Msunduzi Municipality advocates for the green economy> it is progressing, although it still encounters challenges with regard to addressing gender-related inequalities which affect women the most. These inequalities deprive women of an opportunity to enhance their livelihoods. Statistics indicate that land is mostly owned by men. However, this study shows that men also experience hardships, as they grapple with racism and inequality characterising the land reform programme. When one wants to secure land that is under the traditional authority, they are required to pay the 'khoza fee'; however, this fee does not mean that one has attained land ownership. The issues of women were outlined; however, there are inadequate programmes that foster the development of women. The areas under Msunduzi Municipality face almost similar problems. The study has revealed the prevailing challenges; therefore, it will be easier to collectively unpack them.

CHAPTER 5:

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Introduction

This chapter presents a summary of the study, the conclusions drawn from the data collected and analysed from secondary sources. This chapter concludes by proffering recommendations for future studies on the present topic: ‘The role of women in development’. This chapter further indicates whether the objectives of the research have been achieved and whether the research questions have been answered.

5.2. Objectives of the research

The aim of this study was to explore the role of women in development in the case of Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu District in KwaZulu-Natal. The research has revealed that women encounter more challenges than opportunities in the development process. The study found that the policies need to be rejuvenated for them to be inclusive of both genders. The rejuvenated policies, together with a radical movement, will assist in improving the livelihoods of women, not only in the study area but in South Africa as a whole. The participation of women in the development process will enable them to develop financially; thus, their involvement will uplift their livelihoods and communities, and this impacts positively on the country’s economic development.

The aim of this research was to underline the role of women in development, including community programmes. The study revealed a great deal of inequalities that exist globally; however, the researcher reiterates that outlining these challenges will limit the disparities existing in South Africa. The research discovered that women are still discriminated on the basis of class, gender and race. The challenges that women face can be traced back to the colonial and apartheid eras which exacerbated social injustice (Miller, 2016). This research has answered the research questions bordering on women and their role in development as outlined in Chapter 1. The researcher avers that women encounter huge development related challenges. Thus, promoting an environment that is not restricted by gender roles will uplift all people regardless of their gender.

5.3. Apprehension of objectives

- ❖ **5.3.1 Objective 1:** To explore gender roles through a cultural lens in Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu.

This objective outlined the opportunities and challenges experienced by women in Sweetwater. The gender representation in land ownership was outlined to a certain extent, but there were limitations on statistics, especially on the study area. The reviewed literature outlined the tenure problems that are occurring in Sweetwater, and they originate from culture, which is described as a set of values, norms and beliefs held by a particular group. In the African culture exists patriarchy that exalts men as heads of households; therefore, when a woman is the head of a household, she is often discriminated. Women encounter problems in terms of accessing resources as well as securing land. They have difficulties with land tenure just because they are ‘women’. Women have to remarry for financial stability and to secure land, though this does not guarantee that they would get the land. Often, when women reside in rural areas under traditional authority, it is essential for them to have a boy child so that land would be passed on to them when the male representative of the household has passed away. The cultural norms gendered the roles are to the disadvantage of women.

- ❖ **5.3.2. Objective 2:** To examine the opportunities that women encounter in development in the study area.

This objective was achieved. The study found that as much as women are oppressed and faced with inequalities, there are some projects that are implemented to enhance their development. The development process that occurred in Sweetwater has been fostered by the Zibambele and Sukmasakhe Projects. These projects assisted with public works programmes that gave work to jobless individuals who are financially dynamic; this will assist in creating an economic environment. Women in Development (WID) (Tiessen, 2016) aids in discovering various dimensions of women’s subordination such as capitalist issues, gender division and gender inequalities. The study reveals that the root problem undermining women’s position is the patriarchal system. This system stifles the impact of available opportunities in the study area as women need more opportunities to live sustainable livelihoods.

- ❖ **5.3.3. Objective 3:** To examine the challenges that women face in development in Sweetwater, uMgungundlovu.

This objective has been achieved for both men and women; it comprises the whole population and the challenges that they face as Msunduzi Municipality. The community faces problems accessing basic needs such as water, housing, and sanitation. In addition, the study revealed the prevailing socio-economic problems, especially in the informal settlements of Msunduzi Municipality. When people lack necessities, they are exposed to other external problems. Moreover, due to the prevailing gender gaps, women are more vulnerable to poverty.

- ❖ **5.3.4 Objective 4:** To explore the challenges in the land tenure reform program in Sweetwater.

This objective is essential as it highlights the rate of development in Sweetwater. This objective shows that culture plays a major role in driving development. It influences development through shaping individuals' lifestyles by impacting their behaviour and values. In addition, individuals' interaction with nature is generally influenced by culture. Sweetwater is under the traditional authority which usually promotes male dominance. Culture is a way of doing things; therefore, women are expected to be submissive whilst men dominate all the sectors of society. Additionally, the study found that culture is closely entwined with economic development. Land tenure affects both genders but affects women more than it affects men as they are seen as secondary possessors of land after their husbands or any other male figure. Men ought to be married or be in the process of getting married to have full access to land. The prerequisite for land ownership discriminates against people's livelihoods.

5.4 Implication for policy and practice

South Africa's Gender Policy should empower women so that they can achieve equality. Women should be uplifted through inclusion in all aspects of planning, policy formulation, legislation, development, and the transformation of the justice system. People-centred development is an approach used to help improve the local communities through fostering self-reliance and participatory decision-making (Korten, 1984). This approach will be useful in Sweetwater, as it seeks to address the social, political, and environmental difficulties. This approach will promote

economic growth for all. Furthermore, policy makers, gender activists and development specialists should implement policies that help eradicate all sorts of oppression against women and this will be achieved by involving both women and men in the development process.

These steps can help to reduce gender inequality:

- ❖ Increase enforcement of existing laws against gender-based discrimination
- ❖ Increase public consciousness of patriarchy, sexual assault and sexual harassment
- ❖ Implement policies and measures to address cultural and structural factors that affect gender equality.
- ❖ Increase funding for women and girls to enable them to advance their skills, to help them to face their fears by taking control of their lives. This will expand their opportunities and their well-being will not be compromised.

5.5 Recommendations

5.5.1 Women's active participation in women empowerment

According to IFAD (2010), women need skills, information, and training to empower them to take up positions of authority and to voice their interests. The researcher avers that women's empowerment and attainment of gender equality is necessary for the country's sustainable development.

There are various ways of facilitating the inclusion of women in the development process; firstly, there should be gatherings in community halls to discuss the prevailing issues, such as exploring gender issues, thus promoting a two-way communication with rural women. This will foster an understanding of the needs of both genders and how to address them appropriately. The meetings will help to highlight the customs, taboos and constraints that women encounter; this will redirect the role women can play in developmental issues. When all has been discussed, it is important to support and fund women's groups. This will unite women and include them in decision-making and political processes. Working together creates an inclusive environment and giving women the same opportunities as men will help address many issues that are prevailing in Sweetwater, such as the tenure issue. Furthermore, the collaboration of genders will assist in addressing issues affecting the community, including the land challenge that women and some men are encountering.

According to the IDP (2017), the Msunduzi Municipality wants to partake in the ‘green economy’, which is described by considerably expanded interests in financial areas that expand on and upgrade the world's regular capital or decrease natural shortages and ecological dangers. Arguably, the green economy comprises both economic policy and development policy. The introduction of the green economy will promote the well-being of individuals and improve the environmental system (de Oliveira et al., 2013). To have the green economy operational in Sweetwater, there should be income-generating projects in rural communities. Agriculture is the dominant sector in Sweetwater therefore women in the community have skills to do small-scale farming. Furthermore, women are gifted in animal production, processing and preservation. Moreover, there should be projects that can help promote economic growth; for instance, community gardens, home gardens, animal production, dairy products, sewing, knitting, embroidering, and carpet making. The implementation of community projects will help create jobs for local people. If the majority of the people are employed within the community, wealth will circulate within the community, resulting in the development of women in Sweetwater.

5.5.2. Fair distribution of land and resources

Throughout literature, it has been stressed that women are very close to the environment and this is seen through their activeness in subsistence farming. Thus, women should have access to land. They work collectively when farming, which helps in exchanging knowledge about traditional ways of repairing land. The involvement of women in Wangari Maathai’s GBM showed that women are competent; thus, women should be given opportunities to land ownership. Agriculture still dominates economic activities in Sweetwater. Therefore, focusing on women’s movement in the study area will promote economic development and the protection of natural resources.

Furthermore, in Kenya men are barred from living in Umoja Village. Only women are permitted to live there. This started off as shelter for the overcomers of sexual brutality and its occupants are flourishing in a single-sex community. This village has empowered women in various ways; they assist each other financially. For instance, they make beads which they sell to tourists and in this way, they can save money to meet their necessities. Furthermore, the money that they gained was used to build a school for children residing within the community. Umoja Village is a perfect example of women’s movement. It is possible to achieve a common goal when everyone is determined. However, to address the issues of gender, men should be part of the solution. The

combination of both genders will development, increase capacity building and produce decorous leaders. This is in line with the following words from the World Development Report (2012) which stated that.

“Just as development means less income poverty or better access to justice, it should also mean fewer gaps in well-being between males and females” (World Development Report, 2012).

5.5.3 Government interventions and Gender equality awareness programs

The government is aware of the gender inequalities that take place in social, economic, cultural and political spheres. The gender imbalances have prevented women from the development process. The framework and campaigns that aim to address gender inequality are critiqued to be ineffective with regards to implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Therefore, it is vital for the government to implement effective and efficient gender awareness programs that will target women in rural areas. The programs should provide women with skills, knowledge, capacity, and information that they will use to improve their livelihoods. To achieve gender equality men should be involved in order to tackle gender issues and strategies.

5.6 Conclusion

According to Martinez (2009), patriarchy imposes itself in gender relations as well as within the capitalist society. The researcher thus believes that patriarchy is the root cause of gender division as it promotes ‘male dominance’. Women are thus subordinate and viewed as primary caretakers whose duty is to look after their husbands and children (Martinez, 2009). Social construction and the unequal treatment of the two genders hinder the development of women. If there are societal norms determining gender roles, the durability of gender inequalities will always exist. However, it is the researcher’s conviction that women exacerbate patriarchal dominance by being submissive towards men; therefore, this maintains male domination.

The restriction of women in terms of land ownership triggers other socio-economic problems for them; for instance, they suffer the brunt of vulnerability, poverty, and food insecurity. The Constitution of South Africa (1996) stipulates that women should have equal access to land. However, these policies have failed women who still struggle to secure land and access other resources. It is essential to note that the involvement of women in policymaking will enhance an

understanding of their struggles and it is recommended that women should be helped to grow and improve their lifestyles. Arguably, the gender role allotted to women confines them to 'domestic chores', thus shaping their livelihoods because some of them remained at home to fulfil these duties at the expense of being educated. Education is important in the development process; it helps to broaden and improve women's skills. Most importantly, it will empower them and improve their well-being.

The policies that are put into action continue to be gender-insensitive; thus, they fail to eliminate inequalities that occur in Sweetwater. Moreover, the position of women in Sweetwater is shaped by culture and customary laws. These are the factors that suppress women, as they exclude them from decision-making, resulting in the development of an 'exclusive environment'. It is unfortunate that women suffer triple oppression namely classism, sexism and racism. In order to close the gender gaps in the study area, it is vital to rejuvenate policies to accommodate everyone in the development process. Nonetheless, women have strived in both the formal and informal employment sectors; thus, the researcher strongly believes that they deserve fair opportunities for them to improve their livelihoods.

The Land Reform programme should equally benefit all people. This can be achieved through educational programmes. These programmes should comprise traditional leaders who assist in developing problem-solving skills and creating equal opportunities. Furthermore, these educational programmes will foster empowerment and they will create a modern society and will also help in giving back to the communities. Additionally, women can help develop each other by changing each other's mind-set; for instance, they should hold a different view of patriarchy and normalise standing up for their rights. This involves deviating from the usual perception of 'patriarchy' to gain independence and stability in their lives.

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Appendix 1: Ethical Clearance