EXPLORATION ON SURVIVAL STRATEGIES OF RURAL WOMEN IN QUMBU, EASTERN CAPE

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SUPERVISOR: Mrs H.F. Ellis

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DEDICATION

To the memory of my father, Cameron Tamsanqa Tshona, by whose ceaseless struggle and sacrifice I attained my B.A in Social Work, and to the memory of my brothers Mzwandile, Mbulelo, Fezile and Simphiwe, who shared some of my fondest childhood memories, but who did not live long enough to share of my struggle and triumphs of later life.

To my husband and children who made a remarkable contribution which encouraged me to take pride of completing my MA in Community Development, and for their support which carried me through.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Ms HF Ellis, for her generosity, her motherly support and her professional guidance, advice and constructive criticism throughout the study.

Most importantly, I would like to take my hat off to my incredible mother, Mrs Doris Nonzaliseko Tshona, for her unwavering support, faith, tenacity and never-say-die spirit for the duration of the study.

My siblings Ntombomzi, Luvuyo, Vuyiswa and Tobile without you on my side the completion of this study would have been impossible.

I wish to pay a special tribute to the women of Qumbu for sharing their lives with me. Without their cooperation, openness and friendliness, the study would not have been a success. This study belongs to them.

To my loving dolls Ayanda, Tandile and Uviwe who have been living close to me during this time, I owe the strength and sanity to carry on and complete the study.

Finally, I most sincerely thank my husband Dumza, who not only put up with being left alone for long periods while I pursued my studies, but also continually encouraged me. Your confidence in me has carried me through.
ABSTRACT

African family structures have not been systematically studied in South Africa. This is a pilot study of household structures in the Qumbu village at the Mhlontlo district in the Eastern Cape. I researched household arrangements in the area, whether migration of husbands to the cities has disrupted the traditional family unit, what the survival strategies are of these women, and whether survival strategies influence household structure.

Fifteen households were surveyed. Questions asked included marital status, household size, ways of earning a living, alternative survival strategies to wage employment and government social grants, contributions to the household, government role to such families, any knowledge about self help groups and decision making skills, power relations, perception of future developments in their communities, fulfillment of essential needs and service rendering, etc.

The study revealed that since traditional family units were disrupted by migration, and wives were left at home to take care for the children, the traditional “extended” African household, dependent on various survival strategies. The main categories are: Five women survived through receiving social grants from the Department of Social Development. Four were domestic workers, three were supported by their lovers whom are from extra marital affair, two from doing piece jobs in the community and 01 from community projects.

The majority have no wage employment and make a living on the land where they dwell, but because of migration, rural food production has declined. However, the community survives also by supporting each other, for example, kin and community networks and neighborliness account for much of the survival strategies.

Many men migrate to the cities, and as a result wives have different feelings towards male migrancy such as anger, regret, self blame, confusion and powerlessness. Dominantly in black societies grandmothers play a vital role in maintaining households and raising the children of migrants.
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the mini-thesis submitted for the Master Degree in Social Work to the University of Johannesburg, apart from the help recognised is my own work and has not been formerly submitted to another university for a degree.

_____________________________
NC TSHONA
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CHAPTER 1

GENERAL ORIENTATION

1.1 INTRODUCTION
According to Clark (1992), the migrant labour system has always existed, not only in South Africa, but also around the world. The experience is similar across cultures and comprises members of a rural community or traditional society, who due to various pressures, be they ecological, social, political or cultural, are forced off the land to go and obtain cash and sell their labour on the market in an urban environment.

May (2002) states that the effects of migration on household structures in rural South Africa today have been theorised to be influenced by a complex set of conditions that have developed since migration started. One of the changes in rural households since the early days of migration has been a growing dependence of the households on migrant remittances to survive as consumer communities.

Rural households face a number of challenges, including: macro-economic policies that result in higher food and transport prices; retrenchment; chronic illness which means increased expenditure on medical bills and funerals; poor agricultural practices and environmental degradation; and isolation from support services for advice, inputs or markets.

1.2 MOTIVATION FOR THE STUDY
In Qumbu (Eastern Cape) there is a high rate of male migrancy to cities to look for jobs, and this has disrupted the traditional family unit in the rural areas. Women are left alone to take care of the children, and to maintain control over land which is the material base of production in rural areas, though it is not adequate for economic self sufficiency. As a result women in Qumbu in the
opinion of the researcher are placed in a particular dependent and marginalised position.

The researcher's sense of professional responsibility to contribute towards the enrichment of the underlying knowledge base of the professional was motivated by De Vos (2002), who stated that one of the reasons for conducting research is when a defect is observed in service delivery. The researcher is interested in the survival strategies of women in the area where she is rendering social services and would like to explore how the women survive and fulfill the needs of their families on a daily basis.

The results of the study will be of benefit to service providers in social development practice by informing decision-making on which intervention strategies would be appropriate in rendering a service to women in the specific rural area.

1.3 THE AIM OF THE STUDY
The goal of the study is to explore the survival strategies of women in the rural area of Qumbu in the Eastern Cape, and provide answers to the question as to how they survive on a daily basis i.e. economically, politically and socially.

1.4 THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
The objectives are as follows:

- To develop a detailed picture of the survival strategies and lives of women subsisting in the rural area of Qumbu in the Eastern Cape.
- To explore rural women’s attitudes and feelings about their present living conditions.
- To establish what their perceptions are about future development in their communities.
- To indicate their workload and their ability to make decisions on matters affecting their living conditions.
- To verify findings with the existing literature.
The research will include a demographic profile of the rural families in terms of age, sex, composition, education, and residential status as well as an increased understanding of the difficulties with the fulfillment of essential needs which these women experience on a daily basis.

1.5 RESEARCH QUESTION
In order to gather information to achieve the goal of the study, questions were asked about the following:

- survival strategies as single women with children
- who makes decisions in the household?
- feelings about male migrancy to cities
- knowledge about migration
- knowledge about services to the community from the government
- knowledge about self-help groups, and perceptions about development in the area

1.6 RESEARCH PLAN

1.6.1 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
There are two types of research methodologies namely, qualitative and quantitative. De Vos (2002 p. 79) defines the qualitative research paradigm as “research that elicits a participation account of meaning, experience and perceptions”. It aims to understand social life and the meaning that people attach to their everyday life. Rubin and Babbie (2005) define qualitative research as a research method that emphasises an in-depth understanding that attempts to tap into the deeper meaning of human experience and that intends to generate theoretically richer observation. Kayrooz and Trevitt (2005) describes quantitative approach as an inquiry into social or human problems, based on testing a theory composed of variables, measured with numbers and analysed with statistical procedures in order to determine whether the predictive generalizations of the theory hold true. The qualitative research paradigm refers to research that elicits participant accounts of meaning, experience or perceptions. It is concerned with non-statistical methods and small samples that are often selected purposively.
The researcher used the qualitative research methodology because it is the approach that seeks to understand the meaning people attach to their daily life, including their experiences and perceptions. This approach is relevant towards traditional family units in rural areas. The researcher is not concerned about the cause and effect relationship or about measuring statistically, but she wants to explore survival strategies of rural women in Qumbu, Eastern Cape.

1.6.2 RESEARCH DESIGN
Mouton (quoted in De Vos, 2002 p. 137) defines research design as “a blueprint on how one intends conducting research”. It is a map that gives direction of where to go. According to De Vos (2002), exploratory research is conducted to gain insight into a situation or phenomenon and is used when little is known about the specific issue to be researched. Grinnell (2001) describes exploratory designs as non-experimental and which only explore the research question or problem area. These designs do not intend to produce statistically sound data and their purpose is to build a foundation of general ideas or tentative theory. The researcher utilised an exploratory design to conduct the study.

1.6.3 POPULATION AND SAMPLING
The population of the study consisted of all the cases of women, on the caseload of the researcher, whose husbands are working in the cities. The researcher used purposive sampling because the subjects of the study are easily available and the researcher has knowledge and information about the women. Fifteen respondents participated in the study. Babbie (2005) indicates that it is better to select a sample on the basis of knowledge of the population and the purpose of the study.

1.6.4 DATA COLLECTION
Data collection is a method of gathering information. Qualitative research employs mostly interviews and observations to gather information. Sewel (in De Vos, 2002 p. 292) defines a qualitative interview as “an attempt to understand the
world from the particular participant’s point of view, to unfold people's experience and to uncover their lived world prior to the scientific explanation”.

According to Babbie (2005), there are three types of one-to-one interviews, namely unstructured, semi-structured and structured interviews. De Vos (2002) confirms that a qualitative study typically employs unstructured or semi-structured interviews.

The researcher utilised a semi-structured interview because she wanted to obtain a detailed picture of the participants' perceptions and experiences on their lived world. An interview schedule was used as a data gathering tool as a guide, not a dictator. Open-ended questions were asked, to prevent persons from answering in specific words. Because the majority of respondents are illiterate people, the researcher translated the questionnaire into Xhosa.

1.6.5 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The research questions and the purpose for which data is collected will determine the nature of the data analysis. De Vos (2002 p. 344) defines data analysis as “the breaking down of the data and searching for codes and categories, which are then assembled to form themes”. According to Babbie (2005) data analysis is a process of making sense of what has been observed. It examines social research data without converting them to numbers.

The researcher adopted Creswell’s (1994) method of data analysis and followed the eight steps namely:

Step 1: Getting the sense of the whole
Step 2: Data cleaning
Step 3: Developing a classification system and categories
Step 4: Coding
Step 5: Formulation of themes
Step 6: Cut and paste stage
Step 7: Recording data
Step 8: Data verification
The researcher worked through the data in order to be immersed and intimate with the data. Data that did not answer the research question were disregarded. The same ideas were identified and grouped into themes.

1.7 VALUE OF THE STUDY FOR PRACTICE
The results of the study will be of benefit to service providers’ social development practice. Results can inform decision-making on future intervention strategies in service-rendering to women in rural areas and the improvement of existing services.

1.8 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS
The following are the major concepts used in the study:

1.8.1 Change
Sheafor, Horejsi & Horejsi, (1997), describe change as a process of transition from old ways to the new way mean letting go of the old and embracing the new; or moving away from the familiar to the unknown when something old ends and something new or different starts.

1.8.2 Empowerment
According to Kirst-Ashman, K.K. & Hull, G.H. (2006), empowerment refers to taking charge, being in control, and participation of people in their own development – be it a group, individual or community level. People who are empowered should feel bold, confident and less afraid of criticism.

1.8.3 Environment
Environment is a vital factor in the treatment process. It includes an entire programme, physical facilities owned and operated, or the physical surroundings, conditions, and circumstances in which a person lives. (Kirst-Ashman, K.K. & Hull, G.H. 2006).
1.8.4 Migration
This entails moving of people from their place of abode to another, either for the purpose of looking for a job or for educational purposes (Fontaine & Schlumbohm, 2000).

1.8.5 Rural area
This is a sparsely populated area with no formal housing structures; there are also poor or no municipal services Nwodo, (1993).

1.8.6 Sustainability

1.8.7 Self-esteem
Compton, B. & Galaway, B. (1999), describe self-esteem as a universal component of the good life, a sense of worth and self respect, and not being used as a tool by others for their own needs. All people and societies seek some basic form of self-esteem, although they may call it authenticity, identity, dignity, respect, honor or recognition.

1.8.8 Social Development
This is a process of planned social change designed to promote the well being of the population as a whole in conjunction with a dynamic process of economic development (Midgley 1995)

1.9 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY
The limitations that arose during the implementation of the study are the following:

1.9.1 The respondents were clients and known to the researcher.

1.9.2 Insufficient literature available on the topic being studied in the South African context.
1.9.3 The number of participants was small and the results cannot be generalised.

1.10 PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY

The study is divided into five chapters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1.1 FORMAT OF CONTENT OF CHAPTERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This chapter provides an overview of the study and how it was conducted. It included a motivation of the study, a problem formulation, a research question, aim and objectives, a research plan, the value of the study, a central concept, and limitations of the study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This chapter provides a detailed description of the research plan, design and method used to achieve the objective of the study. It also covers the sampling procedure, data collection and analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It covers the analysis and the presentation of the research findings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research findings are compared with literature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This chapter focuses on conclusions and recommendations.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1.11 SUMMARY

This chapter contains the orientation to the study. The research design was discussed and the goal and objectives outlined. A structure of the layout and content of the chapters are given. The next chapter will focus on the research methodology.
CHAPTER 2

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION
Research is defined by Mouton (in De Vos, 2002 p.137) as “involving the application of a variety of standardised methods and techniques in pursuit of valid knowledge, which are committed to the use of objective methods and procedures that increase the likelihood of attaining validity”. In this chapter, the researcher will indicate the exploratory research methodology that guides the study. The design selected for the study, how the sample was selected, the method of data collection, and analyses of the collected data will be discussed.

2.2 NATURE OF THE STUDY
There are two types of research methodologies, namely the quantitative and qualitative approaches. The quantitative approach is defined by De Vos (2002 p. 79) as “an enquiry into social and human problems based on testing a theory composed of variables measured with numbers and analyzed statistically”. The approach aims to measure the social world objectively and is interested in the wider view and testing the relationship between cause and effect.

Qualitative research according to De Vos (2002 p. 79) refers to “research that elicits the participant’s accounts of meaning, experiences or perceptions”. The goal of understanding is emphasised rather than prediction regarding the same dependent variables. Qualitative research provides details and adds richness and depth to our understanding of any phenomenon being investigated. A researcher’s understanding of qualitative research is that she/he wants to know how the respondents perceived a certain specific phenomena.
There is no approach better than the other. Each approach can be used to enrich the findings of the other. For this study, the researcher will use the qualitative approach.

Firstly, the researcher wanted to explore a topic which little is known about. There is not much that has been studied on this subject of survival strategies of rural women in Qumbu. Secondly, the researcher wanted to capture the “lived experience” from the perspective of those who lived it and create a meaning from it. The rural women of Qumbu are the ones who are playing huge roles in their households as their husbands are in the labour force in the urban areas. The researcher wanted to come into contact with the respondents and obtain first hand information. Thirdly, the research sought to explore rural women’s feelings about their present living conditions and their perceptions about development in their communities.

2.3 RESEARCH DESIGN

According to Vadum and Rankin (1998), the research design is a general strategy for collecting observations in research. De Vos (2002 p. 137) cites Mouton’s definition of research design as “a plan or blueprint of how one intends conducting research”. Padget (1998) adds that research design indicates how the research will be conducted, thus giving the researcher direction.

Babbie (2005) describes three of the most common and useful purposes of social research, which are exploration, description and explanation:

Exploration is an attempt to provide an initial familiarity with the topic. Exploring the topic is done to examine a new interest, when a subject being investigated is relatively new and unstudied. It is an attempt to develop an initial, rough understanding of some phenomenon.

Description – is the precise measurement and reporting of the characteristics of some population and events that have been observed. Descriptive studies answer the question ‘what?’
Explanation is the discovery and reporting of relationships between different aspects of the phenomenon under investigation. This attempts to explain things and answers the question ‘why?’

The researcher has undertaken an exploratory study because she wants to explore the survival strategies of rural women and their perceptions on community development. Survival strategies of women are a new topic about which not much is known, especially in the Qumbu district, Eastern Cape.

2.4 POPULATION
Population is defined by Rossouw (2003 p. 103) as collective that we plan to study and about which we want to make a statement. De Vos (2002 p. 198) cites Seaberg’s definition of population as “the total set from which the individual unit of the study will be selected”.

When a population being studied is large, it is often impossible and certainly inefficient to study everyone in that population. The researcher must know exactly what is included in the population that will be studied and the boundary of the population must be clearly marked. The population of the study consisted of all the cases on the caseload of the researcher, whose husbands are working in the urban areas.

2.5 SAMPLING PROCEDURE
Rossouw (2003 p. 103) defines sampling as “a process of selecting part of a group under study”. Selecting a sample rather than studying the whole population is convenient and inexpensive because only a portion of the population is selected.

Sampling can be considered as a process of systematically selecting cases for inclusion in a research project. There are two types of sampling, namely probability sampling and non-probability sampling. Vadum and Rankin (1998) state that in probability sampling, each subject selected for the study is a member of a larger group of potential subjects in the population and has a
chance to be chosen in the sample. Rossouw (2003) adds that probability sampling increases the possibility of representativeness because it is based on random selection, which distinguishes it in from non-probability sampling.

Vandum and Rankin (1998 p. 249) point out that in non-probability sampling, there is no way to estimate the probability each element has of being selected or included in the sample and no assurance that every element has a chance of being selected. According to De Vos (2002) non-probability is done without randomisation. De Vos (2002) describes seven types of non probability sampling, and Rossouw (2003), mentions four types that are commonly used, namely:

**TABLE 2.1: TYPES OF NON-PROBABILITY SAMPLING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sampling Method</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Snowball Sampling</strong></td>
<td>Approaching a single case that is involved in the phenomenon to be investigated in order to gain information about another similar person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A purposive sample</strong></td>
<td>Where respondents are selected on the ground of existing knowledge of the population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A quota sample</strong></td>
<td>Requires knowledge of the characteristics of the population being studied. This information is used to select a number of people who have the required characteristics so that the composition of the sample reflects the profile of the population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A convenience sample</strong></td>
<td>Is selected from respondents who are easily accessible and who are in the vicinity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The researcher made use of purposive sampling. Babbie (2005) pointed out that this type of sampling is selected on the researcher’s knowledge of the population and the purpose of the study. The members of the subset are easily identified.
Padget (1998) states that qualitative sampling involves a much smaller number of respondents and is selected based on their ability to provide needed information. Therefore, the researcher has chosen women whose husbands are working in the cities. The researcher has knowledge about all of these cases.

All cases of rural women that have been referred to a social worker for social relief in the Qumbu area were included in the study. The researcher selected only those who best met the purpose of the study. The researcher considered the argument of Padget (1998) that it should come as no surprise that qualitative studies tend to have a built in bias towards respondents who are sociable and verbal.

The choice of this type of non-probability sampling is supported by Rossouw (2003), who states that non-probability sampling is often used in qualitative research. Neuman (2003) adds that purposive sampling is used in exploratory research. Non-probability sampling is limited in representativeness and the findings will not be generalised.

2.6 DATA COLLECTION METHOD

Sewel in De Vos, (2002), defines a qualitative interview as an attempt to understand the world from the particular participant’s point of view, to unfold people’s experience, and to uncover their lived world prior to the scientific explanation. According to Babbie (2005), a qualitative interview is the interaction between an interviewer and the respondent in which the interviewer has a general plan of enquiry but not a specific set of questions that must be answered with particular words. There are three types of one-on-one interview, namely:

i) An unstructured or in-depth interview, in which one is interested in understanding the experiences of other people, and the meaning they attach to those experiences

ii) A semi-structured interview obtains a detailed picture of the participant’s belief or perception of a particular topic
iii) An ethnographic interview describes a particular kind of speech event, so these interviews are used to gather cultural data.

According to De Vos (2002) semi-structured interviews are typically employed in qualitative studies. Therefore, the researcher used semi-structured interviews to collect data.

2.7 DATA RECORDING
Data was recorded on labeled audiotapes and notes were taken during interviews. Transcripts were made after each interview to preserve the data. Permission was obtained from all the respondents.

2.8 PILOT STUDY
According to Singleton as quoted by De Vos (2002 p. 211), a pilot study is defined as the pre-testing of a measuring instrument consisting of “trying it out on a small number of persons having characteristics similar to those of the target group of respondents”. The researcher was also encouraged by Padget (1998) who also suggested a small scale pilot study to smooth out wrinkles in the study’s execution, enhance confidence in the ability to complete the study’s execution, and enhance confidence in the ability to complete the study successfully. The questionnaire was therefore administered to three people similar to those in the sample. Respondents were encouraged to give feedback about the questionnaire and changes were made to some of the questions.

2.9 DATA ANALYSIS
The research question and the purpose for which data is collected determines the nature of the data analysis. De Vos (2002 p. 339) defines data analysis as “the breaking down of the data and searching for codes and categories, which are then assembled to form themes”.

According to Babbie (2005) data analysis is a process of making sense of what has been observed. It examines social research data without converting them to numbers.
The researcher used Tesch’s (in Cresswell, 1994) approach in the data analysis. This was done manually, due to the limitations with regard to the consistent access to a computer software programme to analyse the data. The researcher made use of the proposed eight steps of Tesch as quote in Cresswell. The steps are explained in Table 2.2:

**TABLE 2.2: TESCH’S EIGHT – STEP PROCEDURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 1: Getting the sense of the whole</th>
<th>The researcher will read the transcript more than once in order to familiarise herself and become intimate with the data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Step 2: Data cleaning</td>
<td>Massive overwhelming and unmanaged data will be eliminated. The researcher will focus on the relevant data that answers the research questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 3: Developing the classification system and categories</td>
<td>While the researcher is reading the transcript, ideas on what the respondents were trying to say will be jotted in the margins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 4: Coding data material</td>
<td>Interviewees’ responses will be grouped into categories that bring about similar ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 5: Formulation of themes</td>
<td>Themes will be formulated from the topics within the developed categories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 6: Cut and Paste</td>
<td>Topics with similar ideas will be cut, sorted and pasted together under the relevant themes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 7: Recording data</td>
<td>Existing data will be recorded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 8: Data verification</td>
<td>Literature control</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comment [NB1]: Review?
2.10 ASSESSMENT OF THE RESEARCH AND DATA VERIFICATION
The validity and reliability of qualitative data depends to a great extent on the methodological skill, sensitivity and integrity of the researcher (Patten 1990). The researcher’s aim regarding trustworthiness and validity was to ensure correspondence between the content of the data collected and actual facts. The goal was to describe accurately the experience of the subjects under study, and not to generalise to theories or models.

2.11 SUMMARY
This chapter provided structure on how the research was conducted. It dealt with the nature of the study, the sampling procedure, the data collection method and the data analysis. The next chapter will present the findings and analysis of the data collected through semi-structured interviews preserved on audiotapes and a word for word transfer into transcripts.
CHAPTER 3
ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS

3.1 INTRODUCTION
This chapter covers the presentation of findings, data analysis, and interpretation. Qualitative data analysis is a method of examining social research data without converting them to numerical format. In qualitative data analysis, there is a search for a general statement about the relationship between categories of data. Similar ideas are combined to form themes by coding interviewees’ responses into categories that are discovered (Babbie 2005).

3.2 ORGANISING QUALITATIVE DATA
Before the data is analysed, it should be organised and preserved. Four elements have been considered to be crucial in organising data for this study.

3.2.1 Field notes
Field notes were taken during data collection and immediately after leaving the venue for data collection. The notes helped the researcher to obtain some important information and observed non-verbal behavior. The data was preserved in the form of field notes that were used to compare data during the process of analysis.

3.2.2 The use of audiotapes
Audiotapes were used to record the respondents during interviews. Permission was obtained from the respondents before using the audiotapes. All respondents allowed the interviewer to record them and participated fairly well during the interviews. The cassettes were labelled to prevent the loss of information.
3.2.3 Transcribing
After data was collected, it was transcribed verbatim to preserve data. This was observed to be time consuming and tedious.

3.2.4 Organising files
The transcript of every respondent was organised in different files. Files that focus mostly on the survival strategies of rural women that were interviewed were opened.

3.3 DATA ANALYSIS PROCESS
Data analysis in this study was guided by the fact that the research was qualitative in nature. The researcher had to identify ways of converting data into specific units of analysis, to obtain answers to the research question. The eight steps to data analysis as quoted by Cresswell in the previous chapter were followed as a guide.

3.3.1 Step 1: Getting the sense of the whole
The researcher went through all the transcripts more than once. Marshall & Rossman (1999) recommend that researchers immerse themselves in the data by rereading so that they can become intimate with the data. Through rereading, ideas arise about what each sentence and paragraph mean. Ideas were written down in the margin of each transcript as they occurred.

3.3.2 Step 2: Data cleaning
Cleaning is done to eliminate data that is overwhelming and unmanageable (Marshall and Rossman 1999). The researcher performed data reduction on all the information that was not important for the research.

3.3.3 Step 3: Developing Categories and Themes
While reading, ideas arose from what the respondents meant by what they were saying. The ideas were jotted down in the margins of the transcript. According
to Marshall and Rossmann (1999), the process of category and theme generation involves noting patterns evident in the setting expressed by the participants. The data were classified into three categories and themes were formulated within the developed categories as follows.

Category 1: Experience of women subsisting in the rural areas of Qumbu
   Theme 1: Survival strategies of rural women
   Theme 2: Knowledge and understanding of self-help groups

Category 2: Women’s feelings about their present living conditions
   Theme 1: Feelings towards male migrancy to cities
   Theme 2: Feelings towards the returning of husband from the cities

Category 3: Perceptions about development in their communities
   Theme 1: Perceptions
   Theme 2: Suggestions for future development

3.3.4 Step 4: Coding
Coding in this study was done by using an abbreviation of the categories to mark everything relevant to a particular topic or category. It is an integral part of data analysis and is a process of ‘grouping interviewees’ responses into categories that bring together similar ideas, concepts or themes that were identified. The researcher reduced the raw data into manageable files and retrieved relevant parts thereof. Coding was simplified by focusing on the research questions and allowed the researcher to retrieve the relevant parts of the data quickly (Neuman 2003).
The themes and categories were coded on the next page as follows:
### TABLE 3.1: CODING OF CATEGORIES AND THEMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORIES</th>
<th>CODING</th>
<th>THEMES</th>
<th>CODING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Exp-wom subs-rur</td>
<td>Theme 1</td>
<td>Surv-str-wom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience of women subsisting in the rural areas of Qumbu</td>
<td></td>
<td>Survival strategies of rural women</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Theme 2</td>
<td>Kno-unde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Knowledge &amp; understanding of self-help groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wom-fee-pre-cond</td>
<td>Theme 1</td>
<td>Fee-migr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women's feelings about their spouses and the possibility of their return</td>
<td></td>
<td>Feelings towards male migrancy to cities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Theme 2</td>
<td>Fee-ret-hus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feeling towards the returning of husband from the cities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Perc-dev-comm.</td>
<td>Theme 1</td>
<td>Bei-cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptions about development in their communities.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Perceptions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Theme 2</td>
<td>Sug-fut-dev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Suggestions for future development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3.3.5 Step 5: Cut and paste stage

Topics with similar ideas were cut, sorted and pasted together under the relevant categories and themes. The various pieces of transcribed data were used as supporting material and interpreted in data interpretation.

#### 3.3.6 Step 6: Recording data

This step was about recording the existing data. The researcher went back to her material and reread it to verify that the data was closely placed.
3.3.7 Step 7: Data verification
Part of this phase is to evaluate the data for its informational adequacy, credibility, usefulness and centrality (Marshall & Rossman, 1999). A literature control was done in chapter four.

3.4 PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS
This section of the dissertation deals with the presentation of the findings of the study as obtained from the respondents selected to partake in the study. Firstly, the background variables are presented.

3.4.1 Background variables
The age of the respondents ranged from 30 to 60 as presented in the following table.

TABLE 3.2: DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS OF THE RESPONDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</th>
<th>AGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.5 Findings about categories, themes, and subcategories
The findings will be reported AND interpreted according to the following schedule:
TABLE 3.3: SCHEDULE ABOUT CATEGORIES AND THEMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORIES</th>
<th>THEMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Experience of women subsisting in the rural areas of Qumbu | Theme 1: Survival strategies of rural women  
Theme 2: Knowledge and understanding of self-help groups |
| 2. Women’s feelings about their spouses’ absence | Theme 1: Feeling towards male migrancy to cities  
Theme 2: Feeling towards the returning of husband from the cities |
| 3. Perception about development in their communities | Theme 1: Perception  
Theme 2: Suggestions for future development |

3.5.1 Category 1: Experience of women subsisting in the rural areas
This section focuses on the experiences of those women whose husbands have migrated to cities and how they survived without any contribution from them.

3.5.1.1 Theme 1: Survival Strategies of rural women
This theme focuses on how the women survived without any contribution from their husbands.

One respondent survived because she is a recipient of a social grant. Three women are sex workers, who are also selling fruit at the nearby schools, and one is in receipt of a child support grant. Four women are working as domestic servants and get paid a sum of R400.00 a month. Three women, whose husbands are reported to be cohabiting in Umtata, are having extra marital affairs and get support from their lovers. Two women are doing “piece” jobs that are not frequently available e.g. mud plastering, washing, and hoeing. One woman survives through a community project she joined in 2003, taking care of and cooking for elderly people in an Aged Day Care Centre and is receiving a monthly incentive of R500.00. One woman is receiving an old age grant which is
distributed amongst the family as a whole, as she is perceived as the “bread
winner in the family”

The following responses came from the respondents:
“I hate him for what he has done to me because he left me at a tender age
having a six months old baby.”
“I regret that I left school and get married to him”.
“I am confused because whilst he was here at home he could see our difficulty
and financial constraints; I thought he was going to make things better for us”.
“I blame myself for his migration because he was having a love affair that caused
daily quarrel in our home, may be I should have tolerated it, he would be with us
by now”.
“He doesn’t have place in my heart anymore, I have heard that he is HIV positive
and that cause me to be more powerless because he will come back and infect
me as well, as a wife I cannot say no if he wants to have sex with me”.
“Because of the grant that I am receiving from social workers, I am doing fine
without him, and I am also having a boyfriend now”.

3.5.1.2 Theme 2: Knowledge and understanding of self-help groups.
The women did not understand what was meant by the word self-help group,
until it was interpreted as community projects. The respondents indicated that
they understand that projects are formed through segments of programmes.
They mentioned projects in their localities like poultry, farming, piggery, aged
luncheon clubs, and pre-schools subsidised by the Department of Education and
Social Development.

The respondents made mention of the fact that they learned of the projects
through community awareness campaigns that are done by various government
departments in their communities.
The following are examples of the responses:

“I know nothing about them (self-help groups).”

“Projects (are segments of programmes which involve a variety of human and other resources).”

“I do not understand what they are.”

“I heard about it from Social workers and also on the radio.”

“A group that is made up of community members and do something together for their betterment.”

3.5.2 Category 2: Women’s feelings about their spouses’ absence and the possibility of their return

3.5.2.1 Theme 1: Feeling towards male migrancy to cities

The women have different feelings towards male migrancy to cities. Anger, regret, self blame, is examples of sub-themes.

**TABLE 3.4: FEELINGS TOWARDS MALE MIGRANCY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEELINGS</th>
<th>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anger</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regret</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self blame</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurt</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconcerned</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Anger**

Three respondents indicated that they were angry with their husbands. One felt that leaving is a form of abuse to her. She is a school dropout not because there was no money to send her to school, but because her husband said he wanted to make her a wife and he will do everything for her, and she had a picture of a dignified marriage.
One respondent reported that she mistrusts men, does not want her daughters to get married and added that “gone are the days where males were head of the household and the only ones who were able to put food on the table”.

**Regret**
One respondent felt that she regrets that she left school and married her husband.

**Self blame**
Four respondents blamed themselves. One said that her husband has an affair that she hated most and could not let go of, maybe if she have tolerated it, her husband would be part of the family. The other three blamed themselves for allowing their husbands to go and look for jobs instead of struggling together at home. In doing so, this has disrupted the traditional family unit, and the kinship ties at home. They feel that their homes lost the dignity they deserved.

**Hurt**
Three women reported that at first they felt the gap of their husband's absence at home. They felt hurt that their husbands have not returned home and kept in contact with the family. Now things have changed, maybe this is because of transitions that have taken place in the country as a whole, and which have positively affected them. They have never imagined themselves looking after the household alone, or of being capable of paying school fees and buying food for their families without the support of their husband. They now have grown up sons who were brought up by them single handedly, and are playing the manhood part in their families.

**Unconcerned**
Four women reported that they are not bothered anymore about their husbands' migration to the cities and no longer have feelings of anger, regret, self blame and confusion towards what happened to them. Instead they are happy that they take part in decision making, and are now experiencing a lot of change as compared to the previous time whilst their spouses were home.
The following responses were made by respondents:

“I hate him for what he has done to me because he left me at a tender age having a six months old baby.”

“I regret that I left school and got married to him”.

“I am confused because whilst he was here at home he could see our difficulty and financial constraints. I thought he was going to make things better for us”.

“I blame myself for his migration because he was having a love affair that caused daily quarrels in our home, maybe I should have tolerated it, (and) he would be with us by now”.

3.5.2.2 Theme 2: Feelings towards the returning of husband from the cities

TABLE 3.5: FEELINGS TOWARDS THE RETURN OF HUSBAND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEELINGS TOWARDS THE RETURN OF HUSBAND</th>
<th>NO OF RESPONDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Against return</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relieved</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obligated</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unsure**

Four respondents were unsure not knowing exactly what they would do if their husbands come back home.

**Fear**

One woman had fear of HIV/Aids saying that she has been noticing that many men come back home because of ill health, while others are being retrenched from work and when they are at home show signs of being infected with HIV/Aids. Because she is capacitated she would force him to use a condom.
Against return
Two other women made mention of the fact that they wish their husband would never come back because since they know that the man is the head of the household irrespective of what happened. As this is their traditional norm, they will have to allow their husband to have sex with them without using a condom and suffer the consequences. One reported that she is not taking contraceptives because she is afraid of what people would think of her taking contraceptives whilst her husband is not at home. She feels powerless and is waiting for the day that her husband comes back home and prays that she would not fall pregnant.

Relieved
One respondent stated that she would be relieved if her husband decides to come back home. This will give her the opportunity to ask him why he deserted them and find peace. Another woman said she would tell him how she survived all these years, and how migration has affected her family including the children, and the pain she felt.

Obligated
One respondent mentioned that if her husband came back because of ill health, she will accept his apology “just for God's sake.”

Some of the responses recorded from the women:
“He doesn't have place in my heart anymore, I have heard that he is HIV positive that caused me to be more powerless because he will come back and infect me as well, as a wife I cannot say no if he wants to have sex with me.”

“Because of the grant that I am receiving from social workers, I am doing fine without him, and I am also having a boyfriend now.”

“I would be happy if my husband decides to come back home I have built more huts so that he can see I have managed without him.”

“I would tell him that I survived through being referred by community leaders to various government departments where I have received help.”
“I would ask him why he didn’t fulfill what we have sworn for on our day of marriage, that till death do us part.”

“I would ask him how he is going to replace the time wasted in nurturing and educating our children.”

“I would tell my husband to apologize first.”

3.5.3 Category 3: Perceptions about development in their communities

This section is based on the experiences of the women of community development programmes in communities and their perception about development.

3.5.3.1 Theme 1: Perceptions

The respondents indicated positive and negative perceptions towards future developments in their communities.

Table 3.6: PERCEPTIONS ABOUT DEVELOPMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERCEPTIONS</th>
<th>FEELINGS</th>
<th>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POSITIVE</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>empowered and capacitated</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEGATIVE</td>
<td>powerless</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSITIVE PERCEPTIONS

Good

One respondent perceive development to be fruitful to them, she made an example of the fact that each and every year the government is adding a certain amount to the social grants that they receive, this means that more and better
things are going to happen to them and within their community at large. She also made mention of the fact that the local municipality is also working hard in developing their area as they now have electricity, mobile clinics, water taps and schools in their area, which are things that were not there before.

**Empowered and Capacitated**

**Skills training**

Five respondents said that through the skills training that they received from government officials as well as social workers, they perceive the future as bright for them. No more struggling in order to get food. Community members are trained on many skills like home based care so that they can assist people at home. Others are trained on bricklaying which is more helpful as the people are more frequently hired in assisting in areas where houses are built. Since the government is busy building RDP houses in the Qumbu area, people who are considered first for employment are those from surrounding areas and more especially those who are trained in bricklaying. Two respondents pointed out that they feel very much capacitated as they have been trained free of charge on Home Community Based Care. One woman mentioned that the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture have trained the elderly people on what we call Sangala, which is a dance and an exercise as well. Those rural women who are good in sewing were also trained by trainers from the Department of Labour free of charge.

**Decision Making**

Four respondents reported that they are now able to decide about the thing which is going to directly affect them in their homes and even in communities. One said that she did not know that decision making is a skill on its own that needs one to be capacitated on and that people need to attend workshops that are facilitated by government officials and other stakeholders. She is able to make proper decisions about what suits her family and what not. She feels more respected now.
Community outreach campaigns
Women in the rural area of Qumbu are more empowered through community outreach campaigns brought to them by social workers and other stakeholders. Eight respondents highlighted that community outreach campaigns that are brought to their localities by social workers and other stakeholders have empowered them a lot. They are now aware of their social rights because of these outreach campaigns. They even know how to handle matters that occur in their communities during weekends. They even made mention of the fact that, in communities they even have formed Community Policing Forums, and because of these forums the crime rate has decreased. Because of these community outreach campaigns, they even recognise the calendar events like the sixteen days of activism and others.

At first when social workers visited communities for talks, what usually happened is that women would be withdrawn and wait for a man to take a stand first, but now they are the ones who initiate things and take a stand. They feel more empowered as they freely report to government officials matters that are disrupting community harmony. They even gave examples about the fact that previously if one was raped; they used to report the matter to the Headman or Chief of the locality. Community members would then assemble and the perpetrator would be punished without sending him to the police. You would find out that the fine would be two or three sheep.

Fulfillment of essential needs and service rendering
Five respondents revealed that the “we” culture that they have adopted in their community creates a team spirit on all levels in their community. They help each other and consider others beside themselves. They work together in their community creating a culture in which everybody feels it’s safe to express their opinion and in which they respect each other even if they disagree about something. Women are no longer feeling marginalised as their voices are heard.
Community services rendered

All the respondents made mention of the fact that there is electricity in their households, the roads have improved, transportation is no longer a problem, and that there are bridges to cross over the rivers. A strong interaction exists between community members and the government, schools and clinics that are built in their communities. In other localities there are water taps, as well as many different kinds of projects that the community members have voluntarily engaged themselves in.

NEGATIVE PERCEPTIONS

Powerless

Four respondents felt that they are still powerless in doing certain things in their community and even fear to be involved in decision making about events planned in their community. They feel that if males are involved in a discussion there is no need for females to add anything because culturally it shouldn’t be like that. They feel powerless because they feel that, though they are the ones who clearly know their community and exactly know what their priority needs and resources are, they are afraid to bother government officials and simple keep quite and listen to suggestions given.

Respondents made the following responses:

“I think it’s good because it’s empowerment of self and gives hope for community betterment.”

“People become capacitated as they learn and engage themselves in skills training.”

“It will form unity, and community members will join projects that will develop their community.”

“Through self help groups, there will be re-unification of those disrupted traditional family units.”

“Since we have ward councilors that we have voted for, they will take a stand and represent and voice our grievances in the government.”

“Nothing is going to change our communities, as they were like they are long ago, nobody can ever change them.”

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3.5.3.2 Theme 2: Suggestions for future development
Respondents made the following suggestions about future developments in rural areas where they reside:

Decision Making
More people need to attend workshops that are facilitated by government officials and other stakeholders. Ten respondents reported that they are now able to decide about whatever is going to directly affect them in their communities and even at home. One said that she did not know that decision making is a skill on its own that can be learned.

Family mediation
Five respondents suggested that since migration has disrupted traditional family unity, people must accept that there is a paradigm shift in our societies as well, and things are no longer happening the way they used to in the past decades, where patriarchy was the most dominant strategy used in our homestead. When something is affecting a family negatively, social workers as mediators should try to stabilise such situations in families. For example, in family conflict situations or when both parents are deceased and homes become child headed households.

Because of the democracy and the light that the government has brought to our community, even women are free to voice opinions and have their voices heard. Two respondents also suggested that if there are women that are victims in whatever manner in the community they must quickly report their problems to the police or go to social workers, or even go to Qumbu Women Support Centre where they will receive counseling and be trained in other skills that fight against women abuse, and they will come back being capacitated and capable of being family mediators themselves.
Ongoing community outreach campaigns

The various campaigns that are brought to their localities by social workers and other stakeholders have empowered them. Education and skills training should continue and more educational campaigns for the youth for instance on family planning.

Responses

“Rural women do not take part in decision making, their husband decides for them and their families. Since husbands have migrated, the next of kin males decide for them, and this is painful. Through community outreach campaigns brought to them by government departments, now they freely take a stand and decide to what they want.”

“Because of democracy our voices are heard, (and) today we have electricity and schools in our localities.”

“Teach our children about family planning so that they can decide on how many children one wants. They should learn from our mistakes.”

3.6 INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

The research findings have been interpreted as follows:

3.6.1 The respondents of Qumbu feel they survive because of the assistance that they receive from the government on social grants and even on community projects that they are part of. They are able to fulfill the needs of their families.

3.6.2 They know of the community projects that are subsidised by the government, but only one respondent is at present part of these community projects on a permanent basis.

3.6.3 The women have mixed feelings towards what their husbands have done to them by migrating to urban areas and have lost contact with the family, e.g. anger, regret, self blame, confusion and powerlessness.
3.6.4 The majority have positive perceptions about developments in their communities as they are already experiencing change as compared to the previous period.

3.6.5 These women perceive future development to be fruitful. They are now more capacitated and well informed about things happening in their community (informed consent), before anything is done they are consulted and asked what their opinions are concerning the issue and what is it that they need most (needs assessment).

3.6.6 They presently take part in decision making, and this has raised their self esteem and feelings that they are no longer marginalised as women.

3.6.7 Some of the respondents perceived development in a negative manner. They are powerless and cannot mend the disrupted traditional family unit caused by their husband’s migration to the cities.

3.6.8 Community awareness campaigns have enlightened their minds in many, ways, by informing them on the role of the government, their rights, and by updating them on current affairs and exactly what to do when the problem comes.

3.6.9 Though it’s never enough, the essential needs are being fulfilled, things women never dreamt of are happening directly to them, they are part of women’s leagues, and the decentralisation of services has made things easier for them.

3.6.10 Rural women are self motivated, have high self esteem and believe in themselves.
3.7 CONCLUSION

This chapter of data analysis is the most important part of the research as it brings meaning to the collected information. The findings of the study as obtained from the respondents selected to partake in the study was the presented. Categories and themes were identified guided by the research questions and the purpose of the study. The data analysis process is described and interpretations made by the researcher presented.
CHAPTER 4
LITERATURE CONTROL

4.1 MIGRATION
The common pattern of migrant labour in rural areas is where the adult male leaves his family in the rural area to find work in the city. He works elsewhere in South Africa for a period of time, returns to his family for as long as he feels is economically feasible, and then once again leaves to work in the city. A significant number of migrant workers do not return home. According to Fontaine and Schlumbohm (2000) migration can destroy families. If members do not return, families are deprived of the departing member.

Christopher, A.J. (2006) states that women comprise 52% of the population of the Republic of South Africa. Evidently, females occur in large numbers in South Africa, they are in practical terms, significant members of each and every household, yet rural people and women in particular bear the largest burden of poverty in South Africa. The majority of women are based in rural areas, where their major occupations include farming, childbearing and supporting families in many different ways. Despite all the vital tasks fulfilled by women in households, they are highly marginalised when it comes to the supply and distribution of resources in matters of development.

In a discussion document of the Ministry in the Office of the President (1995) it is stated that 74% of poor people living in rural areas and women are more likely to be poor than men. Women are left alone to take care of the children, to maintain control over the land which is the material base of production in rural areas, though it is not adequate for economic self sufficiency.
Rural households face a number of challenges, including: macro-economic policies that result in higher food and transport prices; retrenchment; chronic illness which means increased expenditure on medical bills and funerals; poor agricultural practices and environmental degradation; and isolation from support services for advice, inputs or markets. In the Eastern Cape poverty is geographic and gendered, with most poor people living in rural areas and women more likely to be poor than men. The environment and natural resources are key assets for rural people, and land, agriculture and livestock are at the core of livelihood strategies. According to my observations in rural localities of Qumbu in the Eastern Cape there are a number of causes of poverty adding to the migration of husbands to the cities, for example; imprisonment of the breadwinner; orphans and abandoned children; neglect by relatives; no male support; lack of and poorly paid employment; ignorance of English.

The fact that most rural dwellers are subsistence farmers with the very long hours of manual work this entails leaves little time for searching for information in books. The social burden placed on women by society demands a high level of knowledge and information for women to prosper and responsibly know their rights and responsibilities in the society. South Africa as a country comprises of many rural settings. One of the poorest and most highly populated provinces in South Africa, following the Eastern Cape, is KwaZulu-Natal, followed by Polokwane in terms of poverty.

Research into the conditions of rural women, has pointed out the necessity of including the value of women’s work in development policy for their contribution to critical economic factors, and has criticised established perspectives for ignoring the sexual dimensions of social change. Women not only constitute the largest proportion of the permanently resident population in most rural areas, but the largest proportion of the poor. Therefore it is a matter of pragmatism to involve them in development initiatives. It has become increasingly clear that the development of women is not about giving them money but an inter-related process of economic growth, self reliance and social justice.
The example of working women indicates that without self-reliance and social justice, in both the micro and macro social structures, economic growth is retarded and development remains lop-sided. Women challenge society today to rethink and readjust existing development concepts and strategies with a view to placing more emphasis on self reliance and social justice in a broad sense.

Women are usually the family caretakers in rural areas and it is therefore essential to recognise that any increase in women's quality of life will probably improve the living conditions and health of children. As a result, projects which focus upon child welfare education, nutrition and health, should all include women as critical economic actors.

From a psychological perspective, Kelly and Kelly (1994) define leisure as perceived freedom, intrinsic motivation, and non instrumentality. Men and women value relaxation and leisure as determinants of psychological well being. They believe that when they are fully rested after a hectic day's work, they are relaxed and sleep well. It was however discovered that men have more time for rest and relaxation than women. In addition, while men have time for leisure (playing indoor games and visiting friends), the women rarely have the opportunity to rest and relax, because of their multiplicity of roles. Added to domestic roles, the women are expected to perform parental roles, marital, kinship, and occupational roles, (which entails on and off-farming activities), since farming activities constitute a major role in rural families.

These changing family patterns give rise to two other questions. How do social roles and expectations evolve according to the strategies chosen or the opportunities taken by the different members of family groups, and how, in turn, do these new experiences reflect upon and transform the culture of families and individuals? The safeguards against these centrifugal forces arose out of obligations that are culturally constructed and socially imposed.
Fontaine and Schlumbohm (2000) are of the opinion that the desertion of wives and children by hard-pressed husbands could even be said to be an extreme example of rational and calculating behavior. Single mothers, poor widows and hard-pressed married couples were perfectly capable of sending their children to live with relatives, sometimes many miles away, as well as leaving them on the parish. Reduced levels of family sentiment were in itself a survival strategy.

According to Bystydzienski, (1992) for women all over the world, women’s movements have been an important means of empowerment. It is through organising and joining women’s groups and actions that many women have become aware of their oppression and have sought ways to gain control of their lives and to change the male dominated structures of their societies.

4.2 POVERTY IN SOUTH AFRICA
The economy of South Africa determines that a common challenge for poor people in this country is access to regular income and economic opportunities. Here in South Africa, trying to resolve challenges that include economic empowerment of citizens involves linking marginalised communities to opportunities in the mainstream formal economy, and also creating income generation opportunities in a relatively under-developed economy.

There is also a prevalence of HIV/Aids which has reached catastrophic proportions and presents real threats to the livelihoods of communities. Government is trying by all means to engage people in a number of interesting on-going and planned initiatives, which have enabled the development of HIV/Aids prevention, care, support and mitigation programmes within the civil society and private sector.

According to Dubhashi (1996), the most pressing problem of the underdeveloped countries is that of poverty of low income households. The over-riding goal of very low income households is to produce or earn enough to eat. Access to land for subsistence production partially insulates the household from rising food costs, providing an important form of food security, but the food needs are not
inadequately met. The rapid loss of forests by commercial contractors leads to forest destruction and affects the supply of cooking fuel to the small farmers. Coastal waters have been overexploited, threatening the livelihoods sustaining fisherman. The plantation agriculture ties up substantial land assets in the hands of a few. Thus, income distribution remains as it is and does not trickle down to the poor. In such a situation the action that is required is slower population growth, balanced equitable development, and specific attention to the needs of the landless to improve their survival strategies and sound management of the environment.

4.3 LINKING FINDINGS TO LITERATURE

4.3.1 Category 1: Experience of women subsisting in the rural areas of Qumbu, Eastern Cape

The White Paper for Social Welfare (1997) refers to survival strategies as a comprehensive and integrated social security system which would include social assistance and social insurance and where there would be co-responsibility between employers, employees, citizens and the state to ensure universal access and coverage of social security. South African social security strategies consist of social assistance, which includes social relief, social insurance and private savings. Social assistance is the most significant social security strategy and refers to a range of benefits in cash or kind which are intended to provide protection for the most needy in a society. These social benefits are also known as non-contributory schemes in that they are publicly funded and are given to an individual or a household according to their income level or their ability to earn income.

Social assistance programmes for families and children, war veterans, the elderly and people with disabilities have evolved over many decades. Child and family support programmes were introduced after the formation of the Union of South Africa. The Children’s Protection Act of 1913 made provision for the payment of maintenance grants for children, and family support was introduced to protect
white families living in poverty. Income from sources including earnings, welfare grants, and child support is insufficient to lift them out of poverty; however the majority of them survive on welfare grants.

In conclusion, the work of women has been shown to have a very specific form in the surveyed village:

i) Women are primarily responsible for most tasks that are essential for the subsistence of the household. An important, but often disregarded part of this is the processing and preparation of grown foodstuffs for household consumption.

ii) An individual who is particularly burdened with many tasks is the daughter-in-law.

iii) Examining the socio-economic profile of women in rural areas, the work and role of women in Qumbu does not correspond with an entirely traditional pattern of activity. Women do participate in some forms of production, and in migration for employment, even though to a limited extent. In addition, the tasks which they perform for the household are essential for its survival, and for the continuation of the migrant labour system.

In order to discover the activities, outside of the home in which women are already involved, several open-ended questions were asked in the interview. These were, “Do you know of any self-help groups in your area?” and “Do you belong to any of these groups?” This permitted the identification of those activities which could be expanded to encompass development goals. Respondents did not exactly know what self help groups were, others thought about community burial societies, buying clubs and Zenzele clubs. Zenzele means “Do it yourself”.

Mchombu (2000) has noted that one cannot have knowledge unless one gets information. She argues that information equips a person with power, the power to choose and to act in an informed manner. It empowers people towards actions that can transform lives, and allows for a great sense of independence.
According to Cillie (2000), information is the key to the development of a strong democracy. Our society needs information because it is the key to wealth, to empower people through knowledge and to create growth and jobs.

A community self-help group which focuses on women often involves community gardens. Two types of buying clubs were identified. Firstly, households would combine funds to purchase a bulk load of a product such as wood, or food, and share it amongst themselves. Secondly a group of individuals would combine funds that they receive from social grants to buy a bulk load of a product, and then resell items for profit.

As can be seen from previous chapters and from data, little was known in terms of self-help groups in Qumbu. The only community projects that appeared to be known on a wider front were the burial societies. These clubs are an important aspect of rural community life. As poverty is so widespread, saving for one’s burial expenses is necessary in terms of preserving the family income. This is because when a family member dies, the family faces the often ruinous expense of a funeral, while at the same time losing one of its working members.

Although burial clubs are necessary, they cannot be regarded as development projects which improve the existing quality of life. The fact that there were so few other development oriented groups that interviewees could belong to, indicates the limited economic opportunities in the rural areas studied. There is clearly scope for the development of a wider variety of self-help groups which could improve the productivity and quality of life of the people. These could include sewing groups, particularly in the making of school uniforms, clubs selling poultry and the small scale marketing of vegetables and fruit.

More specific reasons why self-help groups have not already expanded in the areas surveyed, include:
i) Unwillingness or inability to take on additional responsibilities.
ii) The effects of an already extensive workload on rural women,
iii) The lack of marketing facilities for certain activities,
iv) The lack of appropriate leadership for “self-help” groups’
v) The lack of readily available resources.

These constraints could combine to produce an inability to perceive activities which could effectively improve the respondent’s lives. This inability is seen as an attitude caused by the socio-economic restrictions of poverty upon women. Once quality and choice of self-help is improved, and is directed towards the needs of women, they may well become more motivated to participate so as to obtain some improvement of their living conditions.

Although self-help groups are an introduction to development on a small scale they would be, at least, a first step in initiating women’s participation in development. Without women being actively involved in development, their own needs and interests cannot be effectively represented nor appropriate strategies implemented.

4.3.2 Category 2: Women's feelings about their present living conditions.

Migration is a particularly important factor in analysing rural living conditions because it is extensive, and family survival is contingent on family separation. This sets up conditions which are conducive to the breakdown of the normal conjugal relationship and the traditional roles defined by such a relationship. Female headed households with children are noted for their high poverty rates, as are most racial and ethnic minority groups. Non-metro and central city residents have higher poverty rates than suburban metro residents. Over half of single mothers spend some time living in a household with other adults, usually in response to a crisis (divorce, non-marital birth, spouse migration), and they most often live in households with their parents or with a cohabiting male partner.

Most of the existing literature assumes that migration is a rational response to a given range of resources and choices, and that, as such, the family as a unit,
including the women members benefits from such migration. This evidence shows that high male out-migration has led to a modification in the structure of family life and has transformed women’s social and economic position to their detriment.

Subramaniam (2003) has examined the residential variation in the prevalence of female headed households with children, and how household composition is associated with several key economic well-being outcomes using data from year 2000. Special attention is paid to cohabiting female headed households with children and those that are headed by a single grandmother caring for at least one grandchild, because these are becoming more common living arrangements among female-headed households with children.

The study reveals that household poverty is highest for female headed households with children which do not have other adult household earners. Earned income from other household members lifts many cohabiting and grand-parental female headed households out of poverty, as does Social Security income for grandmother headed households.

The fact that women remain in the rural areas and carry out household tasks is explained firstly by the fact that men are able to command a higher wage in the market place than women. Women also spend more time out of the labour market and are therefore ‘worth’ less in terms of human capital investment that is higher education, work training and experience. It is on this basis that the structures of inequality are perpetuated. The economic insecurity of rural women can be demonstrated by their need to engage in a diversity of informal sector activities, such as beer brewing, petty trading and selling their labour. Women’s poverty is also manifested in frequent cases of ill health, for example malnutrition and gastro-enteritis.
4.3.3 Category 3: Perceptions about future developments in their communities.

According to Patel (2005:267) “developmental programs are built on the strengths, assets and infrastructure available to the people”. Participatory methods, leadership and networking were critical to the success of the programmes. The challenges varied from project to project. These were firstly related to a lack of access to financial capital. Secondly, sustainable income generation programmes combined with building social capital may need sustained inputs for a longer period before they become viable.

Thirdly, leadership is a critical success factor and leadership development is important to the sustainability of the projects. Finally, macro social and economic development policies should support micro development programmes as these provide tangible opportunities to improve the livelihoods of the poor and populations at risk. The programmes should facilitate training and employment, and educational and training opportunities for women with young children through the empowerment of women and the promotion of self-reliance and social well being.

Women in Qumbu are very willing to see their communities being developed but there are problems that need to be addressed. Problems with local shopping, transport, building materials, migrancy and schools fell mostly into the category of limited availability. Specifically, those difficulties relating to local shopping referred to the range of products which were on sale at the local trading store.

Respondents complained that certain essential products such as bread, paraffin and sugar often ran out, and were then not available for several days. Other problems include excessively high prices. Transport problems centered around the lack of travelable roads for buses and taxis. Building materials, particularly wooden poles for roofing were said to be very hard to find, and in short supply. In view of the generally low level of education noted above, half of those with problems relating to education want a high school in the area. It does seem therefore that many parents would like their children to study beyond Std 5, and
are willing to support and encourage their children to study for the betterment of their community.

Subramaniam (2003) states that capacity building, development and or strengthening refer to actions created, reform, or support activities that facilitate sharing of experiences, knowledge, and strategies. Such sharing of actions demands and creates networks. The capacity building efforts facilitate consciousness raising, and serve as sites for interaction among women, thereby connecting women across spatial boundaries of the home and the village.

Capacity building allows for sharing, and making commonalities recognised and alternatives imaginable (i.e. raising consciousness). It also increases the possibility of pooling resources and organising collective resistance, and provides community based groups with information and support that can lead to the creation of formal and informal networks.

The opposite is demonstrated in the Nhlungwane Water Project, The Water Wheel (January / February 2004), where women from the poorest communities are taking the lead. They have demonstrated remarkable resourcefulness over the last few years with their community running water project. There is a high level of involvement by women in the project. The chairperson is a man, but the project is 90% run by women. All caretakers of the standpipes are women as is the pump operator. The women agree that the water project has brought some changes to gender positions and perceptions, and has given women a more prominent role in their community. It has provided an opportunity for women to get involved and play a role in making decisions.

Many women from an African viewpoint prefer men's leadership to that of fellow women. Women oppress their fellow women especially those in weaker positions, this means that women need to be more capacitated so as to build their self esteem. To achieve common goals, community partnership brings together a wide range of formal and informal organisations from communities, social service and development and the private sector. Finding these partners
and mobilising them for community building, renewal and development is a major challenge. Instead of identifying deficiencies in communities, the asset approach to community development alerts practitioners to working with community capacities, skills and assets. The most important assets of a community are its organisations and institutions namely community based organisations, civic associations, faith based organisations, clubs and societies and social, neighborhood and friendship networks.

Leila Patel (2005) highlighted that the family as the basic unit of society plays a key role in the survival, protection and development of children less than 18 years of age. Families should be supported and their capability should be strengthened to meet the needs of their members. Family and community support of youth is vital in making the transition from childhood to adulthood, from school to work and to becoming productive, proactive and responsible citizens of the society. Community mobilisation and community action initiatives should include building local neighborhood and village level structures to respond to local needs, providing support for child-headed households, developing and implementing livelihood programmes to strengthen household economic resources, facilitating access to social relief such as food security, and capacity building and linking care and prevention.

Suzuki (2002) states that decision making is the consequence of many years of learning and maturation. One assumption is that, preferences in decision making can be represented as a goal hierarchy and described by trade-off functions among conflicting objectives. People’s decisions are thus made in two broad phases, and the decision maker constructs a personal conception of the decision situation with he or she is faced.

Betsch and Hohle (2002) reviewed theories of preferential decision making and applied them to explain and predict the choices made by experienced individuals. The review reveals that we currently are not able to precisely predict information search, evaluation and context influences on choices in routine decision making.
According to Akinsanmi (2005 p. 17) the woman may be separated from her husband due to the presence of “another wife” or because the man has to work in a different city. As such, women take over the decision making roles which they do effectively. Where the men are absent from their homes, though employed, their financial contribution to expenditure is low. No man shoulders all or more than half of the financial responsibilities at home. As a result of this, women have to combine various off-farm and non-farm activities to make a living. This means waking up early and going to bed late, going out to fetch the wood and coming back to process the food to be consumed at home or sold in the market. It also means making purchases from one market and taking it to the other to be sold at a profit. The women sometimes have to walk long distances to achieve this.

Rural women are primarily responsible for most tasks that are essential for the subsistence of the household. An important, but often disregarded part of this is the processing and preparation of grown foodstuffs for household consumption. There are fundamental differences in male and female perceptions regarding who makes decisions in the household. While many of these differences relate to the individual who performs the task in question, one common area that is agreed on by both men and women as being under the authority of men is the expenditure of large sums of money. This item places the final control of many aspects of rural existence firmly in the hands of men.

The fact that women should become actively involved in organised development schemes is supported by the data in the thesis which has described women’s productive role and shown that ‘assistance’ from the extended family, and from the male migrant, cannot be relied upon. In addition, very few full-time male farmers were encountered in the surveyed areas. In addition, on his yearly visit, (those who ever come back home) the male migrant may take the cattle for dipping, and attend to tribal / administrative duties, but even the task of ploughing appears to have been delegated to women and children. Therefore women cannot be termed an “auxiliary labour force” for subsistence production in any sense.
According to Leila Patel, (2005) the developmental perspective to social welfare in South Africa is firmly rooted in a rights based approach. Its goals include achieving social justice, a minimum standard of living, equitable access and equal opportunity to services and benefits, and a commitment to meeting the needs of all South Africans, with a special emphasis on the needs of the most disadvantaged in the society. These ideas are firmly embedded in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996), which guarantees to all citizens the right to dignity as one of its central values.

4.4 Conclusion

Women’s work in Qumbu takes place in an underdeveloped and marginalised socio-economic system. As such, the tasks and roles which are performed by these women are subject to numerous constraints. As this study focuses upon the survival strategies of rural women in Qumbu, their household subsistence are also considered. Thus an approach to development which concerns itself with the fulfillment of essential needs seems particularly appropriate. Such strategy has been termed the Basic Need Approach to development, and has been used to structure this discussion on problems encountered when performing daily tasks.

In summary then, in fulfilling the essential needs and services that are rendered in a community, the basic need approach is a multi-purpose strategy which aims to improve the conditions of community life and to increase the capacity for community integration and self-direction. The focus of the approach is on the most available resource in the local area. Generally, in underdeveloped regions, this is the resident population itself. This emphasis implies, therefore, that the local population has some control over the process of development. Darling has expressed this as follows:

It is noteworthy that some other women of the total sample did not perceive the need to migrate as being a problem. This can be explained perhaps by the fact that the migrant labour system is at present a necessary condition for rural subsistence. As such, individuals are not in a position to question the need to
migrate itself, but instead find problems with factors which constrain migration such as poor roads, transport and unemployment. The three types of problems most frequently given were: the limited availability of resources, physical access problems, and problems due to economic poverty.
CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2 INTRODUCTION
Social research produces knowledge about the social world. The research process requires a sequence of steps (Neuman, 2003).

The objectives of the research were to develop a picture of the lives of women subsisting in the rural areas of Qumbu in the Eastern Cape, to explore their survival strategies, feelings about their present living conditions and their perceptions about development in their communities, and suggestions for future developments.

Qualitative research was conducted to get a picture of the experiences of women subsisting in the rural areas of Qumbu. Purposive sampling was used to select fifteen cases known to the researcher.

To unfold the experiences of the respondents and understand their points of view, the researcher constructed and implemented a semi-structured interview schedule. A tape recorder was used to preserve the data. Creswell’s method of data analysis assisted the researcher to reduce the massive data into themes and categories that answered the research question. Research findings were compared with relevant literature.

5.2 CONCLUSIONS
The following conclusions are based on the research findings:

5.2.1 Survival Strategies of Rural Women in Qumbu
The respondents of Qumbu survive because of the assistance that they receive from the government in the form of social grants and on community projects that they are part of. They are able to fulfill the needs of their families.

Adding to the social grants, others also do piece jobs like mud plastering and hoeing people’s gardens, while others are employed as domestic servants in the neighbourhood and sell fruit for school children during lunch times. Others do voluntary services in community day care centers where they are given incentives at times.

5.2.2 Women’s attitudes about their present living conditions

The women have mixed feelings towards what their husbands have done to them by migrating to urban areas and losing contact with the family, e.g. anger, regret, self blame, confusion and powerlessness. One has reported that she suffered for years and she even came to a stage that she forgot that she had a husband who left her 23 years ago. She is now receiving an old age grant.

5.2.3 Perceptions about future developments in their communities

The majority have a positive perception about developments in their communities as they are already experiencing change as compared to the previous period.

The women perceive themselves as more capacitated and well informed by social events happening in their communities. They are consulted and asked what their opinions are concerning the issues and what it is that they need most (needs assessment). They now attend community meetings since their husbands have migrated to the cities, and take part in decision making this has raised their self esteem and feelings that they are no longer marginalised as women.
Community awareness campaigns have enlightened their minds in many ways, by informing them of the role of the government, their rights, and by updating them on current affairs and exactly what to do when a problem arises.

Essential needs are being fulfilled without assistance from their husbands. The women are self motivated, have high self esteem and believe in themselves.

The respondents' perceptions about developments in their communities are that there should be ongoing empowerment projects and skills training.

On the other hand one woman was of the opinion that nothing can change their community and believes that nobody can ever change the way it is.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS
One of the most effective strategies for empowering women is through inclusion. Without inclusion women cannot change their conditions. The following is recommended:

**Empowerment of women through education**
This can be done through formal and informal education whereby women can receive basic education through the Department of Education e.g. Adult Education and other informal training done by Non Government Organisations.

**Families**
Encouragement of families to keep their daughters in school as long as possible, through awareness campaigns that are conducted by government departments in an integrated way, whereby each department will empower families on the importance of education and the rights of children i.e. the right for them to be educated, what role each department plays if a child is taken out of school and the consequences that the parents will face if that happens.
Economic empowerment
Empowerment of women through vocational training and employment.

Participation in decision making
Encouraging rural women in participating in decision making processes at the local level by engaging them into Women's co-ops, which are projects that basically capacitate women and boost their self esteem. Also through programmes that are facilitated by government departments like Victim Empowerment Programmes and Women Manyano whereby they are given a chance to present themselves and voice their feelings.

Family Health and literacy-
Girls in rural areas fall pregnant at an early age. This can be attributed to the lack of knowledge about availability of contraceptives and condoms, and parents not telling their teenagers about the facts of life. For African mothers, particularly in the rural areas, it is considered a taboo to talk about sex education with their children.

Awareness raising
Information of existing projects and benefits to families and the broader community. The programmes and activities should be relevant to the lives of those who access the facilities of the community.

Promotion of interdependence
Encourage the community to form community networks and stress the importance of kinship ties, to help each other in times of need.

Integrated social welfare programmes
Rendering of integrated social welfare programmes as survival strategies by Social Workers. A shift is required from a focus on social security to provide
different types of programmes available to the poor and vulnerable, and how these people can access these services and benefits.

5.4 CONCLUDING REMARKS

The researcher is of the opinion that the overall purpose of the study was achieved. The undertaking of the research was an enlightening experience for the researcher. The findings provided the researcher with an understanding of the importance of the role of the social worker in rural areas, and the ongoing empowerment of women in rural areas.
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Prof. H Nel  
Chair: Dept of Social Work  
UJ

Dear Hanna

This is to confirm that I passed N. C. Tshona’s dissertation entitled “Exploration on survival strategies of rural women in Qumbu, Eastern Cape” on to Dr N R Barnes to edit. The student has approved the final edited document.

I turn to Dr Barnes to assist when I am unable, owing to work overload, to undertake editing work myself. He has assisted numerous UJ MA and doctoral students over the years, and has done so particularly for the Dept of Human Resources Management.

Sincerely

Prof. C. MacKenzie  
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INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

A. Knowledge and general understanding

1. Do you have knowledge of what migration is?
2. Do you have any understanding about self help groups?
3. Did he waste your time by marrying you whilst you were still in schooling?
4. Are you aware of government social grants?
5. Do you understand anything about empowerment and decision making?

B. Effects of migration on household structures in rural areas of Qumbu

6. How do you cope as you were left alone to raise the children?
7. How do you feel about male migrancy to cities?
8. Is there any hope for the reunification of the disrupted family unit?
9. Traditionally, males are said to be the head of households. Since he is away who makes decisions in your home?
10. Did your husband support you financially whilst away?
11. What is it like to be left alone raising children at home?

C. Feelings and perceptions about future development in your community

12. Are there any women groups in your area, and how many projects do you have in the community?
13. What will be your response if your husband decides to come back home?
14. What services does this community receive from the government?

D. Experience on survival strategies

15. What are your survival strategies as you are staying alone looking after the children?
16. Who built and renovated your household, and how?
17. Tell me about fulfillment of essential needs and service rendering.
18. How old were your children when your husband left you?
19. Do you feel that you still need him in your life?
RESEARCHER: How do you cope as you are left alone to take care of the children?

RESPONDENT: I survive through a Child Support Grant that I receive from the Department of Social Development for two children, one is eight years old and the other one is turning ten this year. Though we waited in long queues before we completed the forms for the application of Child Support Grant, but late in the afternoon we were helped.

RESEARCHER: Do you have any understanding about self help-groups?

RESPONDENT: No, I know nothing about them

RESEARCHER: What services does this community receive from the government?

RESPONDENT: Various government departments visit our area and do outreach campaigns on services that each department renders, and that was very helpful to me as many things came into light because of that.

RESEARCHER: Do you have any knowledge about migration?

RESPONDENT: Yes, is when husband or a boy child takes TEBA leaving home to look for job in the cities like Johannesburg.

RESEARCHER: How do you feel about male migrancy to cities?
RESPONDENT: Male migrancy has broken up the traditional family ties, I use to bear a grudge for my husband who left me at a tender age having a six months old baby.

RESEARCHER: Is there any hope for the re-unification of disrupted family unit?

RESPONDENT: Our families have re-united long ago because we heard to have alternatives for leaving.

RESEARCHER: How would you respond if your husband decides to come back home?

RESPONDENT: I would tell him to apologise first, and would be happy for the sake of his parents and children, and also the fact that he would see that I have built many grass thatched rondavels without getting support from him, I have managed without him.

RESEARCHER: Because of the fact that family head is away from home, who makes decisions in your household?

RESPONDENT: Our brother in law is the one who make decisions for us, and this is really painful at times.

RESEARCHER: What are your survival strategies as single women with children?

RESPONDENT: As I have mentioned early on, I mainly receive a Child Support grant for two kids and I supplement it by selling fruit in a nearby school.

RESEARCHER: Besides the fact that there are children and the in-laws, do you feel that you still need your husband in your life?

RESPONDENT: Honestly speaking, he doesn't have place in my heart anymore. We have buried many people who come back from the cities being HIV positive.
that makes me very scared because what if he is also infected, he will come back and infect me as well.