

**COMMUNITY VIEWS ON CERTAIN SOCIO-ECONOMICAL
ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS IN THE ETWATWA INFORMAL
SETTLEMENT**

by

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DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to my husband, Elphas, my parents Norma and Harold and my sons Ntokozo and Samkelo.



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ABSTRACT

This research essay is an endeavour to gather the Etwatwa community views on those socio-economical environmental problems facing them. The Etwatwa informal settlement experienced rapid growth, resulting in this community being unable to enjoy a healthy environment. Some of the people who moved to this area were unemployed, immigrants and tenants from the old Daveyton Township, all desperately in need of accommodation.

Lack of accommodation caused them to occupy the reserved area unlawfully with no resources to build proper shacks. By means of intensive investigation conducted through interviews, observation and a survey questionnaire, a conclusion was drawn that there is a dire need to re-awake this community concerning self-empowerment so as to alleviate their problems. This study will focus on collecting community views, since different problems affect them.

Findings from this study suggests that the Etwatwa informal settlement community waits for things to happen while they observe the situation. Evidence also suggests that this community lack initiative and have self-pity. The local authorities cannot provide for their needs thereby changing the present situation, but all depends upon them improving their life-style by combining their skills to create jobs for themselves. Parents' lack of responsibility towards their children's education also promotes an uneducated society. Each Etwatwa informal settlement resident should endeavour to:

- ▶ Be pro-active towards their needs.
- ▶ Become actively involved in school issues.
- ▶ Consider family planning.
- ▶ Protect the school buildings.
- ▶ Become job creators.

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CHAPTER ONE

OVERVIEW

1. INTRODUCTION

This enquiry is aimed at investigating the community views on certain socio-economical environmental factors in the Etwatwa informal settlement in Daveyton. The research problem is “what are the views of the Etwatwa Community concerning the socio-economical environmental factors that they endure?” Examples of socio-economical environmental factors that the Etwatwa community experience are population growth, poverty, unemployment, immigration, a high rate of crime, an unhealthy environment, the demand for more school etc.

Population growth is an issue at Etwatwa informal settlement in Daveyton. It keeps on escalating, and most people are unemployed. Therefore the researcher thinks that there is a need to educate the community on the techniques of making a living out of their situation. During its inception in 1981 few population was recorded, but to date there is an estimated population of more than 130 000 people. This informal settlement is the largest in Daveyton. The researcher has observed this situation as a teacher in that community for a period of nine years. In Etwatwa informal settlement, the problem is not only caused by the shortage of houses, the demand of schools due to population growth, the high rate of unemployment, immigration, the escalating crime rate and the need for more public transport. The researcher gives as evidence the argument by Mc Nicoll (1984) that population growth is not exclusively a demographic subject, since it spills over into a number of other fields concerned with understanding social, economic and environmental changes.

As already mentioned, the Etwatwa informal settlement community experiences problems. This study is therefore an effort to explore these prevailing problems through a qualitative research approach using intensive observation, in-depth interviewing and a survey questionnaire. To an extent this inquiry is therefore also an action research venture, because

in the course of the investigation the researcher believes community cognizant on self-developing issues will be raised.

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The Etwatwa informal settlement is situated 25 km east of Benoni town. It is on the western side of the old Daveyton location. The last area with formal houses to be built in Daveyton is called Phumla Mqashi. This informal settlement came into existence because the old Daveyton Township was clustered with backroom shacks. The shacks created a great problem to the house owners and the local municipality because of blockages in the drainage system. Electricity supply was overloaded because one house had five to six tenants depending on the size of the yard. Sanitation was also a problem, which affected the health of many families. Ever since the inception of shacks in Daveyton Old Township, the surroundings changed. Before the shacks were allowed to be built, Daveyton was known to be one of the cleanest townships.

As mentioned before, population growth is not only based on demographics, but on many factors such as unemployment, which contribute to population growth. Poverty denied people the status of independence to purchase proper houses. Due to unemployment, large populations living in slums cannot afford the cheapest of formal housing offered to them (Deshpande and Deshpande, 1991). People cannot live up to their maximum standards, but are compelled to adhere to lower standards, thus they have to build a one shack room and also accommodate their extended families in it. The other alternative is to lodge with your family members at the back of that shack. In this instance there is no privacy for adults and the congestion of people results in a health hazard. The limited formal structured houses cannot accommodate the huge number of humans, hence the result of informal settlements. Unemployment has increased the crime rate in the area. The researcher has seen articles like TV sets, hi-fi sets, electrical appliances, videos etc, being confiscated from the shacks. Most taxis refuse to ferry passengers to Etwatwa because there are no lights, which makes it easy for the thugs to hijack cars or taxis.

The influx of immigrants has aggravated the problem of population growth as well as urbanization. According to Hornby and Jones, (1980:103) the push-pull concept simply states that for any individual the decision to migrate results from the interplay of two forces: pressure at the permanent residence (pushes) and inducement from a number of destinations (pulls). Examples of push factors are low wages, unemployment, oppression etc. Pull factors include better medical and social provision and political tolerance. A number of pull factors attract emigrants, which give rise to informal settlement in most townships in the Gauteng Province. The emigrants are usually accepted in our country because they are equipped with skills which South African people lack. They normally specialize in respraying cars, backyard mechanical work and building construction.

Certain employers also prefer them as they regard them as cheap labourers. Oberai (1978) states clearly that a lack of skills among squatter people is a barrier to entry into certain activities, particularly in manufacturing as an own account worker. The presence of immigrants has created job opportunities for a lot of local residents, as other people have gained experience through lending them a hand. Others now work on their own through the experience they have gained. Hence the argument that the immigrants' unique skills have partly alleviated the unemployment problems. They are not ashamed to occupy a street corner selling various articles, and are normally mocked by local residents and called nasty names like "Amakwerekwere". All this shows evidence of negative attitudes towards immigrants. Hanne du Prees (1997:10) cites that one can have all the knowledge in the world about other people, but if one does not have a positive attitude towards them successful communication will be impossible.

What is good about immigrants is that they have initiative, are self-empowering, creative and innovative. In most cases local residents tend to wait for local councillors to provide a means of living for them, claiming that they have voted them in, therefore their problems should be catered for. Immigrants mostly dominate the Etwatwa informal settlement. However, despite several attempts to deport immigrants to their original countries, some certainly come back. Somehow it shows that immigrants are indispensable in our country.

Chances of minimizing their presence are somehow futile because of their needed skills.

Coming to factors that affect schools in this area, it is clear that overcrowded classes make it impracticable to recognize pupils with learning problems. The overpopulated schools are bound to under-perform. This unplanned growth leads to a lack of recreational facilities for learners and the context in which learning takes place is thus regarded as a primary concern for the centres of learning (Brown and Dugurd, 1989:32). Learners are affected by the fact that some parents are uneducated- they have less interest in their children's education. Therefore the people from this area need to be addressed concerning the importance education has for their children, and how they can eliminate illiteracy.

The appearance of Etwatwa informal settlement is highly disgusting. The shacks are shabby. Some of the areas in Etwatwa have gained recognition from the local government, hence the good infrastructure. One of the areas in Etwatwa "Combiza squatter camp," will never be developed nor be officially recognized because shacks are under overhanging electric wires. As a result people have been ordered to vacate the area, although they still refuse to move out of that area. Residents use a few improvised taps, which were erected nearby. Usually taps are overcrowded, and therefore residents have to wake up in the early hours of the morning to fetch water. There are self-made toilets, and when there is heavy rains, potholes are formed all over the place. Water then flows inside the shacks, demolishing people's possessions.

Population growth is experienced in most parts of South African townships, for instance, the nearby townships of Kwa-Thema in Springs, Tsakane in Brakpan, Thembisa in Kempton Park, Katlehong in Natalspruit and others. But this research focuses on Etwatwa informal settlement. Some suburban areas are affected in terms of mortgage bonds. The value of these houses near the informal settlement has depreciated. Apex, an industrial area, which is 3km from Benoni town, was full of shacks. People used to cross a busy road and many accidents were reported. Those people have been removed to another open space next to Modder Bee prison in Benoni. Thus the researcher's claim is that people in informal

settlements can better their living conditions but lack the knowledge and skills to develop themselves.

1.2 THE NEED TO CONDUCT THE RESEARCH

Since the people from Etwatwa informal settlement find themselves under these difficult conditions, the researcher is motivated to conduct the research in order to enlighten the community of Etwatwa on how to make a living out of their potentials and abilities. They should improve their lives by actively participating in different projects. The researcher feels that it is essential to conduct the research in this area because not only the Etwatwa community is affected accommodation aspects, but their neighbours on mortgage bond houses are affected in the sense that when they sell their houses, it is done at a loss because the value has depreciated.

The researcher will use the findings of this research together with literature in an endeavour to eliminate self-pity but also encourage self-empowerment. This community should be aware of the fact that during the process of empowering themselves, natural resources should not be depleted. This is mentioned because when the shacks are built, trees are cut for firewood or sold for an income. The notion of becoming your own boss needs to be stressed to this community since there is a dearth of employment.

1.3 THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions emanated to guide this inquiry.

- What are the community views on population growth at Etwatwa informal settlement?
- What impact does this community have on their environment?
- How does overpopulation affect the learners at school?

- How does unemployment affect their standard of living?
- How do the emigrants affect the lives of Etwatwa's local residents?
- What can be done to empower the Etwatwa population on different skills in order to improve their life style?

1.4 THE FORMULATION OF A CLAIM

The researcher claims that the Etwatwa community lacks knowledge of being innovative, using their initiative and also on how to do things for themselves. Sitting back and thinking the local councillors will erect houses for them or provide employment is impossible. For them to survive, it requires them to be committed and be creative using the natural resource to its minimal. The researcher further claims that the Etwatwa community lacks an awareness on how to improve their life style and make a living from working together. The Etwatwa community thinks it is their right to have erected houses supplied by the local councils whilst they are the audience of the transformation.

1.5 THEORETICAL EVIDENCE FOR THE VALIDITY OF THE PROBLEM

In most cases unemployed families tend to produce more children in their homes. Then poverty attacks them. There is a lack of finance to provide for their families. As a result the money they get is used for their basic needs like food, and other aspects, like education for children, is overlooked. Birdsall (1980) cites that with the increase in family size there is usually a shift in family budgets towards more spending on food and less on education.

Wadhwa (1988) maintains that in the case of informal settlement's upgrading, the finance made available has been inadequate to improve living conditions significantly. This relates exactly to the situation at Etwatwa informal settlement, where improvements are minimal and to a certain extent stagnant. This is due to the fact that while improvements are done,

new and more people come to occupy the open space. The life of these people compel them to live from hand to mouth. Nothing is left for saving. Poor nutrition is a major cause of increasing their susceptibility to illness, and malnutrition is itself a major cause of disease and death (Austin, 1980). Malnutrition is common in this area because people cannot afford nutritious food; they only feed on any food available. This area has two clinics to cater for the whole population, which sometimes results in death because people are unable to reach the Provincial hospital, which is far from their home.

1.6 THE RESEARCH METHODS AND EPISTEMOLOGY UNDER THE STUDY

The population to be interviewed will be from the Etwatwa community in Daveyton. The research design will be qualitative, as this involves social problems. Data will be collected through observation, interviews and survey questionnaires in order to capture the knowledge and the feelings of each person in the sample. The sample will consist of sixteen people: four squatter camp dwellers from Etwatwa, two learners and two teachers from Phandimfundo Secondary school situated at Etwatwa, six people from mortgage bond houses and two from the local councillors. Random sampling will be conducted within the above population. As a researcher one needs to bare in mind that a researcher must not manipulate participants, as they are crucial in helping to find out exactly what is happening in the situation (Patton, 1986).

The research will be conducted in the context of the social environment that I have described. I will observe other critical issues caused by overpopulation and how they relate to the shack dwellers themselves and the neighbourhood. Data will be analyzed in three different ways i.e. data reduction, data display and data discussion (Miles and Hurbeman, 1984). Thereafter the data will be processed through open coding and clustering.

1.7 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Self-development	:	Improvement of one's self
Phumla Mqashi	:	An area where tenants eventually settle formally
Population	:	A large group of individuals of the same kind occupying a particular space at a particular time.
Samples	:	A smaller group drawn from a population.
Emigrants	:	Movements of people from their original country.
Amakwerekwere	:	It is the name given to black people coming from other African countries.
Community	:	People who live in a particular area
Population Growth	:	Increase in human population.
Informal Settlements	:	Dwelling place without structured houses.

1.8 THE STUDY PLAN

This study consists of four chapters, which are classified as follows:

Chapter One

Introduction and the background: The chapter will give the picture of the social settings.

Chapter Two

Review of literature : This chapter provides the conceptual and theoretical framework of the study. Literature will be reviewed within the topic's parameters.

Chapter Three

Presentation of Data : All the information gathered will be presented and analyzed. The methods used need to be illustrated in details.

Chapter Four

Interpretation and Evaluation : The researcher needs to argue the initial claim and provide answers to the questions, as well as draw up a final conclusion.



1.9 SUMMARY

This study will focus on the inquiry based on gathering the community views on population growth in the Etwatwa informal settlement. There is a dire need to address issues caused by over population. The researcher's view this problem as complex and important because it worsens poverty conditions, as labour demand is unable to keep pace with the labour pressure. My claim is that the community from this area needs to be educated concerning support groups and self-empowerment. Therefore, this inquiry will be guided by the perceptions and views of the community. The conceptual framework validated through theoretical argument will assist in this inquiry.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2. INTRODUCTION

Insufficient well structured houses and the escalating rate of the population create a greater demand for shacks in the Etwatwa informal settlement. The government's efforts to erect RDP houses seem to be futile as it does not abate the increasing number of people in this informal settlement. In some cases the occupants of the RDP houses are compelled to pay a certain amount of money as a deposit before occupying them. That on its own worsens the chances of unemployed dwellers occupying those houses, hence the enormous number of shacks that are built. People resort to shacks as it is the cheapest kind of home they can afford.

2.1 UNEMPLOYMENT AS AN URBAN PROBLEM

With the high rate of unemployment, the Etwatwa informal settlement residents experience difficulties in providing for their families while attempting to maintain a balanced life style. Cawker and Whiteford (1993:122) state that unemployment is almost certain to have risen to high levels since 1990 due to political upheavals such as the Boipatong massacre and the assassination of Chris Hani. They further claim that the continued violence and uncertainty regarding the future political dispensation has discouraged investors (both foreign and domestic) from investing in the South African economy. The researcher claims therefore that if this community does not become aware of strategies that can improve their lives, they will suffer because there are slim chances of job opportunities in the corporate world and in government sectors. Husluck (1987:3) suggests that accompanying the economic decline of the urban economies has been an equally dramatic and related increase in social deprivation. He continues to say that as unemployment rises, not only does poverty and individual misery increase, but also the local community is reduced and cannot maintain the

physical and social infrastructure. The appearance of the shacks tells that poverty and frustration rules in the Etwatwa informal settlement dwellers daily lives.

The inhabitants of this area hoped that the local authorities would provide jobs for them as they voted them into power. On the other hand, the local authorities are faced with a fiscal crisis brought about by a sharply reduced local tax base and the rapid rise of local needs like house shortages, sanitation facilities and infrastructure (Husluck, 1987).

Although the local authorities would like to assist with job creation, people in this area lack skills or are uneducated, which makes their lives difficult. Therefore, the aim of this study is to make the community of Etwatwa informal settlement aware that there is still life in the absence of employment, only if they are willing to improve their abilities and potentials. The disproportionate presence of the unskilled among the unemployed emphasizes training and retaining as a solution. Hawkis (1984) and Simpson (1982) found that the proportions of unskilled and semi-skilled and personal service workers, together with marital status, were positively related to male and female unemployment. The Etwatwa community possesses variation in the unemployment track. There are early school leavers, women and men, old and young people are faced with unemployment and experience difficulties when they seek employment.

Unemployment has made the Etwatwa community target schools for burglaries. Thieves remove doors and steal school furniture for their own use in their shacks. In return that cost the department a fortune to replace the lost property. Therefore the Etwatwa community need to realize that schools are their property. They need to protect them and not vandalize them. They need to know that schools are established for their own use and for the benefit of their children.

2.2 THE GEOGRAPHICAL IMPACT OF MIGRATION.

Bogue (1977) cites that migration occurs because migrants believe that they will be more satisfied in their needs and desires than in the place from which they come. Such a form of migration, as a researcher claims, increases the population in informal settlements, because that is the only place that can accommodate them such as in Daveyton Township. Therefore, since the means to curb such migration is in vain, their presence should be catered for as they form part of the population of the Etwatwa informal settlement. They have also added to the uncontrollable rate of shack buildings.

White and Woods (1980:2) state that migration is important, and not just because of the redistribution of the population. Each migrant has certain attributes like sex, family status, occupation, social, cultural attitudes and language or religious affiliation. The Etwatwa settlement has been a non-segregation area. There are different people from different cultural backgrounds staying together. They learn to understand the cultural attitudes of others, unlike in the Daveyton location, where people are segregated according to their nationality. The sections in the old Daveyton location are divided as follows: a Xhosa section, a Zulu section, abaSotho section etc. Segregation used to cause a lot of conflict among people, if for example, a Shaangan person was found in the amaSwazi section, he was killed or mocked because he was not one of them.

White and Woods (1980:44) state that migration can be self-perpetuating as a general system due to the result of its effects on the migrants. Furthermore they say if migrants are satisfied with their move and communicate that satisfaction back to their friends and relatives in the communities of origin, it is likely that a chain migration process will be set up. Manifestation of this behaviour is evident at Etwatwa informal settlement.

Emigrants invite their friends and relatives for holidays, and some never return home because they acquire stands on which to build their shacks. The local authorities have

failed to control this kind of influx from neighboring countries. Some of these immigrants end up obtaining South African citizenship either legally or illegally. The researcher concurs with White and Woods (1980:57) who maintain that migration has a reducing effect on the population growth in the areas of origin, and an expanding effect in the destination areas like towns where opportunities of employment are comparatively abundant.

Migration has also been caused by urbanization. Men leave their families behind at home to work in mines because of the rife unemployment rate in the rural areas. The influx of people to urban areas jeopardizes the plans of the local authorities of Daveyton. They cannot cope with the demands caused by urbanization and migration. Concerning population, this is evident as stated by White and Woods (1980:123). Some of the more pertinent characteristics of the plight of urban centres mentioned by them are as follows:

- Construction cannot keep pace with the population growth, resulting in high density living and the creation of low level housing as in shanty towns, barrios and slum areas.
- The inability to employ available labour, resulting in cities being saddled with severe unemployment problems. It is uncommon for urban unemployed to return to rural areas for seasonal labour.
- Migrants typically lack marketable skills and minimal education, making them even more unemployable.
- Social contacts of immigrants rather than with seasoned city dwellers. Consequently, there is minimal integration into a city life pattern.
- The demography of migrant populations is unbalanced, with young males usually being predominant.
- Services cannot be provided for the greatly expanded population and their levels fall far short of need. This holds true of virtually all-normative urban services. The urban areas are therefore faced with demography problems as they do not have a long-term plan, while there is an urgency to accommodate additional needs

caused by migrants. Places reserved for industrial sites and agricultural areas are converted to residential sites. The immigrants have children who are of school going age and who need to be accommodated in the nearest schools to their homes in the Etwatwa area. That on its own causes problems for the limited schools in the area. Heer (1975:117) concludes that a nation with a growing population must spend a certain proportion of its invested capital on providing the additional people with the same amount of capital and equipment already enjoyed by the existing population. For an example, a growing population will need additional housing, school buildings, hospitals and factories that in turn will provide employment.

2.3 THE EFFECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH IN EDUCATION

Whatever detrimental effects there are to the community, will affect the school, hence it is important for the community and the school to co-operate. When the Etwatwa informal settlement was established in 1981, its population created educational difficulties. As of now there are five secondary schools and nine primary schools with a high enrollment. According to Nam and Gustavus (1976:237) a schools' enrolment measures how many people are currently receiving a formal education. The Etwatwa informal settlement schools have an enormous enrolment due to the fact that the School's Act does not allow any child to be refused entry in any school. Therefore schools are compelled to provide accommodation to those learners. These overpopulated schools are bound to under perform, as discovered by (Cenenda, 2000:2). Furthermore the informal settlement lacks infrastructure and services, which impact negatively on education.

Nam and Gustavus (1976:238) state that the mere size of the population is perhaps not as important for the development and maintenance of its educational system as the rate at which that population grows, and the stability of the growth pattern. Rapid population growth in the Etwatwa informal settlement creates problems for schools as it does for other societal institutions, thus the demand for more schools in this area. The increased

expenditure on education for learners becomes more difficult when the school enrolment also increases. To cite an example in the Etwatwa secondary schools, learners have to buy stationery as the department of education supplies the minimal number of books. In the case of textbooks, there is a dire need for the supply, as pupils have to share textbooks, which contributes to a high rate of failure in the area. Educators have to improvise in the absence of textbooks. Effective teaching and learning is not manageable in the Etwatwa informal settlement schools. Educators strive under uncondusive conditions to perform to the best of their abilities.

Educators are expected to excel under unbearable conditions and to give support to the struggling learners. Purkey and Novak (1984) cite that teachers and administrators who practice Invitational Education face the need to resolve conflicts, handle difficult situations and maintain discipline the same as anyone else in schools or society. Due to large numbers in the classrooms, a teacher becomes a counsellor solving conflicts among learners, and the school ends up being portrayed as a welfare organization. Most learners in the Etwatwa informal settlement are forced by unbearable poverty to leave school after primary education. Instead young labour is encouraged by parents so that the family can survive. Parents are forced by poverty to promote illiterate children. Illiteracy manifests the population's ability to read and write. Some of the people of Etwatwa who are not of school going age are unable to get jobs as they are uneducated. Few people from the Etwatwa population are skilled and work for a living wage. The researcher, therefore thinks that there is a dire need for the Etwatwa parents to be informed about the importance of education for the future of their children.

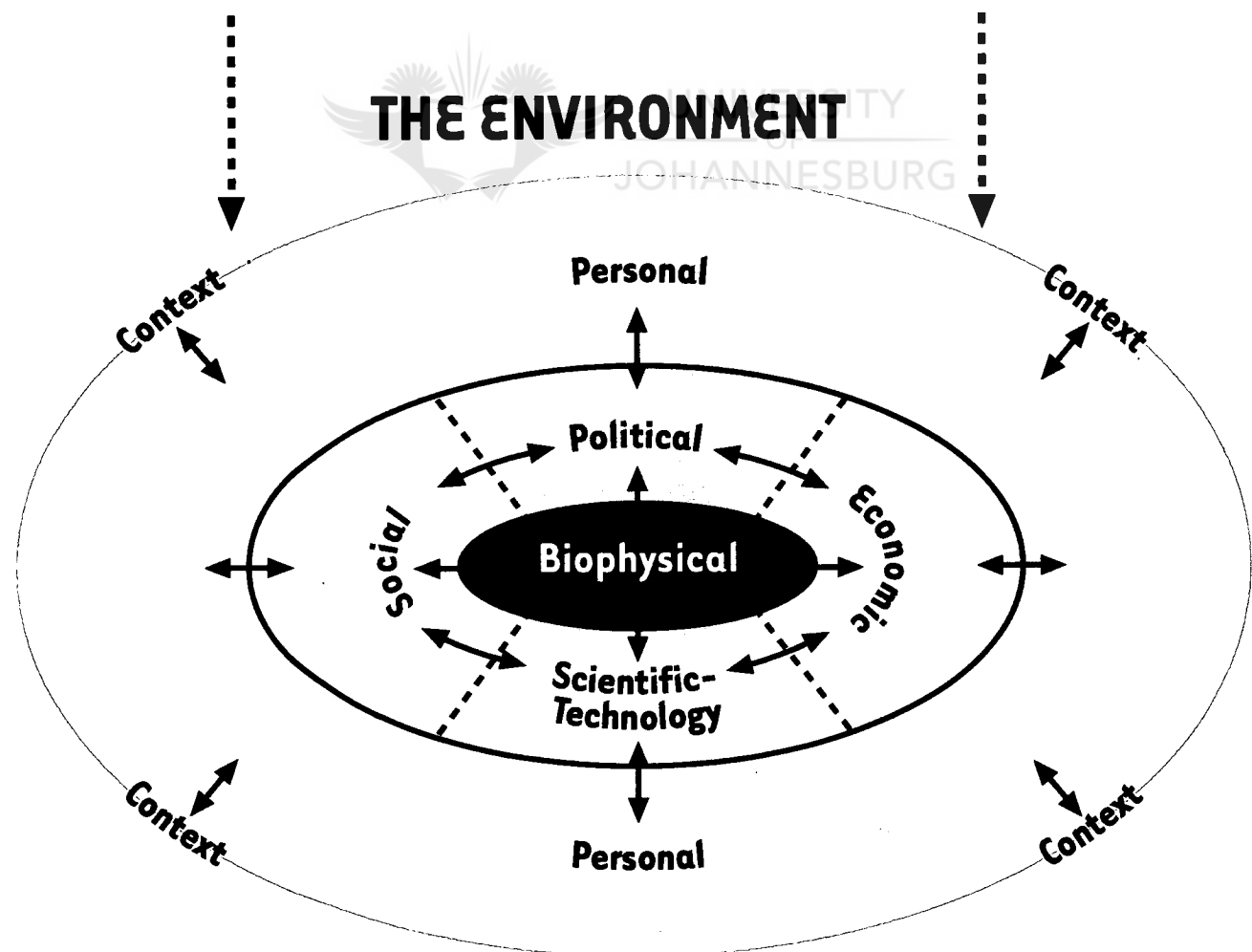
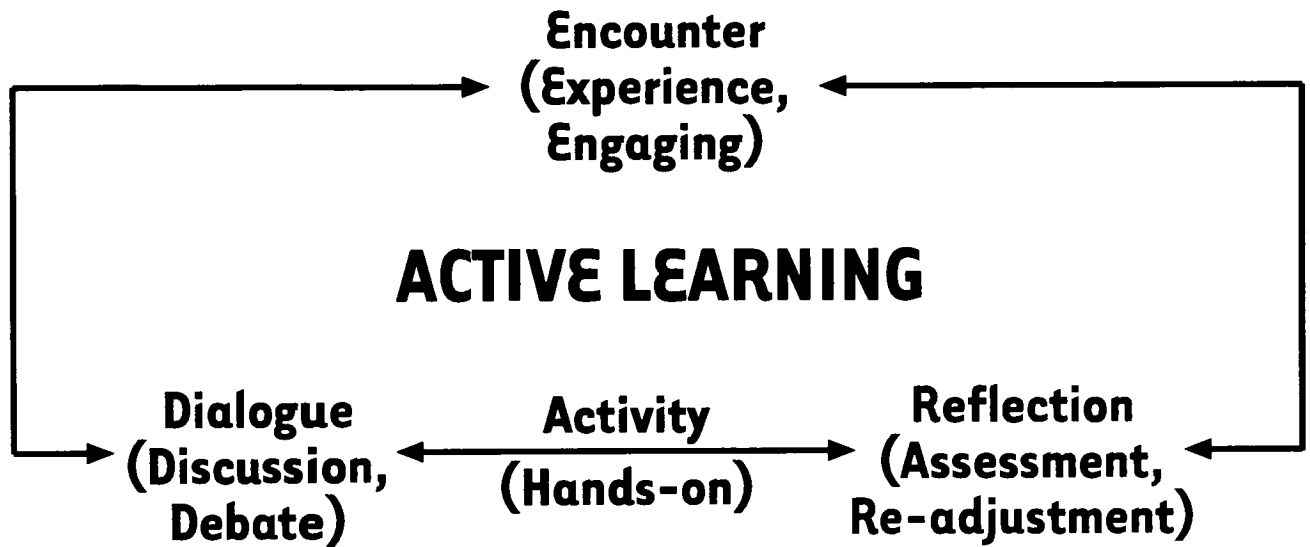
2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND OVERPOPULATION

According to Kok (1986:75) there are four important systems which together form the ecological context, namely the body, relationship, the moral dimension and the environment. All four systems function continuously throughout one's life and influence

each other. Gathering the four systems together with the body referring to a human being, calls for a sound relationship between man and another man, with his environment and lastly the moral dimension referring to man's behaviour towards others and nature. In Etwatwa informal settlement, residents are unaware of how impracticable it can be for them to live if the above- mentioned systems are not consolidated. Disrespect to environmental issues hits back on a community. Therefore a change in behaviour towards the environment will advance their relationship with one another and decrease the high rate of crime. It is important for parents to instill the culture of respect towards the entire environment to their children.

Each time people interact with the environment, something changes. Either people change the environment, or the environment changes people, or a combination of both occurs (Knisley and Myers, 1976:6). The increasing number of informal settlements cause the inhabitants to be completely dependant on natural environment. According to Ehrlich and Ehrlich (1970:141) the deterioration of the environment, both physical and aesthetically, is most apparent in our cities. The dehumanizing effects of life in the slums and ghettos particularly, where there is little hope for improving conditions have been cited as contributing causes of rioting and disturbances. Due to the fact that the Etwatwa informal settlement community is poverty-stricken, they neglect environmental sustainability and misuse the natural environment. According to Van Rooyen's model (2000) which is attached, humans have no absolute power over natural environment, but instead depend on each other. This model further displays that personal, which refers to the human being, economy, technology, biophysical, politicians and social aspects, affect the environment and should have a common goal, which should be to sustain the environment. All the above aspects based on Van Rooyen's model (2000) can be achieved if people can be knowledgeable about environment, change their negative attitude and values towards environment, be willing to sustain the environment and obtain skills on how effectively natural resources can be utilized. The researcher therefore claims that one should recommend that the Etwatwa informal community be aware of the importance of natural resources and how nature can be preserved for the future generation.

EDUCATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT



The Etwatwa informal settlement residents use natural resources excessively to satisfy their needs. Firstly, the land they occupy was used for agricultural purposes, but due to the demand for shelter for the people, the owner of the land had to give it up. Deforestation occurs frequently because the wood is used to build shacks. Firewood for cooking and warming houses is obtained through deforestation. Roger and Watson (1996:191) confirm that fuel wood provides a 'safety net' for the poorest household in the urban areas of South Africa. Wood can satisfy energy needs for cooking, lighting, space heating and water heating.

'More people at a given level of per capita consumption, mean more pressure on land, food energy and a wide variety of other environmental resources, according to (Grubb, 1993:30). With the present human load, the Etwatwa informal settlement people are apt to destroy natural resources, as long as they fulfill their needs. Evidence has accumulated of wide spread ecological degradation resulting from human activity, like soil, losing fertility or being eroded, polluted air and water shrinking forests (Commission on Global Governance, 1995:29). It is impossible to identify clearly the Etwatwa informal settlement at night because of the smoke surrounding the area. Air pollution from the smoke causes illnesses such as respiratory ailments and lung diseases. Altogether the above aspects like air pollution threaten people's lives and make earth less. The researcher claims that if the Etwatwa informal settlement residents can be informed of how their lives are dependent on the environment for survival, then may be environmental sustainability can be exercised.

2.5 IGNORANCE CONCERNING FAMILY PLANNING IN THE ETWATWA AREA.

This study can only be successful if the people's views and perceptions are gathered so as to come up with the remedy to their problems. Most infants in the Etwatwa informal settlements were not planned, which increases the present population. The researcher thinks that it is caused by ignorance concerning family planning. Family planning is discussed daily through the media. There are free pamphlets available to anyone, even at their local clinic,

and all types of magazines provide free tuition on family planning. Falling pregnant cannot be blamed on illiteracy because television is broadcasted in many languages.

Kline and Harman (1972:20) state that population growth should be the concern of every nation. They furthermore claim that new motivational activities need to be undertaken as a part of population abatement programmes so as to inform and persuade the unbelieving majority of the populace that it is to each person's advantage to plan and control family size and population growth.

Since low-economic-status families have more children than high-economic-status families, differences in the developmental process in large and small families may have more to do with this economic factor than with the sheer size of the family (Nam and Gustavus, 1976:285). Families with many children in Etwatwa informal settlement experience difficulties concerning the individual needs. It is even worse where one or both parents are unemployed. The family size has an effect on its members, hence this population needs to take precautions on this issue. Children brought up under unbearable situations tend to be violent towards the society. The Etwatwa families must not bear many children, because nowadays a big family struggles to make ends meet.

Davis (1967:730) cites that, to encourage or discourage reproduction would be to influence the attitudes and motivations of individual couples. He suggests a large-scale educational programme to persuade people of the advantages of small families both to themselves and to society. Indeed, deciding on family size to another person needs a deep understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of a big and small family. This cannot be easily forced onto the society, but as Davis (1967:732) claims, information on birth control should accompany educational efforts and be offered in schools, and should be communicated to adults through a variety of appropriate media, both directly and indirectly.

Though all the above measures can be taken, according to Ehrlich and Ehrlich (1970:243) no form of population control even the most coercive and repressive will succeed for long unless individuals understand the need for it and accept the idea that humanity must limit its numbers. Therefore the Etwatwa community need to make a decision whether to live a better life or to lead a miserable life with many children. The choice lies solely with them. What worsens the situation is that school going teenagers fall pregnant at an early age. Parents leave children behind and share accommodation with their employers due to financial constrains. Therefore young girls are exposed to early pregnancy, and that is so because our black culture restricts any conversation based on sex issues. Pertaining family planning, there is a vast difference between the birth rate in Etwatwa informal settlement and the community from the mortgage bond houses where children attend private schools and sex education is part of learning. In mortgage bond houses, family planning is understood, as the majority of people are educated. Families leave affordable life style and the number of children per family is affordable too.

In most families in the Etwatwa area, the number of children range from five to six excluding the parents. In some cases it is a family with a single parent. Wives have no say concerning family planning. The husbands decide solely on all the house chores. Sustained rapid child bearing threatens the health of mothers and babies alike. The chances of the mother and the infant to survive improves, if the woman is not old and has not had many previous babies as suggested by (Yaukey, 1985:201). This simply proves that most lives at Etwatwa informal settlement are at risk if child bearing continues to be rife. Surely the less children one has, the more chances of a better life for that family. Parents with many children do not share love equally to them. When coming to education, families with many children cannot give their children the best education hence there is high rate of uneducated children and hooligans.

Polygamy is another reason for big families. This practice is common with black men. As a teacher in the Etwatwa informal settlement, I have realized that this affects our learners. They complain that, the father stays with another wife who restricts him from supporting

them. Ehrlich and Ehrlich (1970:273) suggest that polygamy promotes one man to have plenty children of which the larger the family, the less likely the children are to realize their potential levels of achievement. He further states that there is no question that children in a small family can be better cared for and better educated than children in a large family, income and other things being equal. Besides polygamy causing misery to the family, it can spread HIV/AIDS, which can cause burden to Etwatwa families, as they do not even possess a medical aid and cannot even satisfy their basic needs.

Ehrlich and Ehrlich (1970:220) state that for couples whose families are complete and who wish to rid themselves of concern about contraceptives, sterilization is often the best solution. This method can discourage reproduction if the Etwatwa informal settlement women can understand its cons and pros. This method is also a process which clinics should convey to women after interviewed concerning the number of children already they have. The other reason why husbands do not comply with the suggested methods of curbing pregnancy is that only women are involved. Husbands must also get first hand information from the professionals and not from their wives. Their involvement in any advice on family planning could make a difference. This society of Etwatwa informal settlement should be convinced that the number of children they bear is of crucial importance, not just to themselves and families, but also to their society.

2.6 CONCLUSION

The strategies and methods of developing a healthy society were discussed in this section. No society experiencing overpopulation can function well. The plans have to be changed to accommodate the new inhabitants. The high population rate in Gauteng province alone has created a lot of crime. Local residents blame the crime on migration and urbanization. The Etwatwa community needs to be supplied with skills in order to cope with the outside world, which demands competitive labour. Due to the technological development, there is a need for the schools to introduce vocational guidance, so as to develop the untapped skills and abilities. The Etwatwa community should be complaint with the developing industries to better their lives.

CHAPTER THREE

PRESENTATION OF DATA

3. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter a discussion of the methods of data collection is presented. The study inquires into the views of the Etwatwa informal settlement community on certain socio-economical environmental factors. The focus population is the residents of the Etwatwa informal settlement and the neighbouring mortgage bond houses. This enabled me to pursue multiple methods of data collection in order to explore the inquiry (Mykut and Morehouse, 1994).

This chapter is organized as follows:

1. Qualitative inquiry as research method
2. The setting of the inquiry
3. Research instruments
4. Selection of participants
5. Data collection procedures
6. Data processing and analysis

3.1 QUALITATIVE INQUIRY AS A RESEARCH METHOD

Qualitative inquiry is applied when researching social issues. The topic discussed here is based on social issues. Therefore it is imperative that qualitative inquiry as a research method is used in this chapter. Qualitative data refers to the collecting data in words and numbers. According to Morifi (1999:20) quoting Patton (1987) qualitative methods involve recording the interactions and opinions of the people and observing the behaviour. This method allows the evaluator to examine events in depth thoroughly in a detailed manner.

It involves direct and careful descriptions of interactions between people and or the observed behaviour.

Qualitative data is the source of well-grounded rich descriptions and explanations of a process in identifiable local contexts (Miles and Huberman, 1984). A qualitative research has various methods, namely interviews, observations and survey questionnaires. All three methods are used in collecting data according to Miles and Hurberman (1984) as cited by Zebediela (1998:15) when conducting research. The researcher attempts to capture data on the perception of local actors, according to the views they present concerning the theme under discussion. This explains how they act and manage their day-to-day situations of life. The researcher is thus the main measurement device in the study. By means of this process, people's interaction on behaviour is explained and verified.

Qualitative research, as cited by Guba and Lincoln (1981) state that the validity of qualitative research depends on the researcher as a component evaluator. In conducting the research, the researcher should be skillful, accurate and provide a valid research essay, as quoted by (Morifi, 1999:3).

3.2 THE SETTING OF THE INQUIRY

The researcher purposely chose to investigate the Etwatwa informal settlement as a person who has worked in this area as an administrative clerk. Through intrinsic motivation, the researcher then furthered her studies to become an educator from 1997 to date. The Etwatwa area has experienced a tremendous population growth since the early eighties.

The Etwatwa area is connected to old Daveyton location by the main road called Eiselen. This is a two way road from the Daveyton entrance leading from Benoni town. It later narrows to a single lane when it joins the Etwatwa area. During peak hours Eiselen

street gets congested and normally a number of accidents happen.

There is also a railway line which runs across Etwatwa. In this railway line people are killed, raped and dumped. This is also where people cross over to the other side of Etwatwa.

This area consists of different sections named after various members of ANC leaders and local councillors. To mention a few, there is an area called Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. Combiza, named after a community member who decided to open that area, which is the worse section in Etwatwa. This area is without sanitation, and has no gravel roads. There is an area called Emaputo, which is mostly dominated by immigrants from African countries e.g. Mozambique. Another area is called Emaphupheni, which means dreamland.

As mentioned before, this community has a dire need for more schools to be built. The area consists of nine primary schools and five secondary schools. Of the five secondary schools, three have proper buildings, while the other two are temporary structures made up of prefabs. This type of accommodation can only cater for approximately eight hundred students, but because of the high population, it has the same amount of learners as those schools with proper buildings. The enrolment in well structured schools varies from one thousand three hundred to one thousand five hundred. These schools are surrounded by shacks, and are vandalized by uncaring residents.

As mentioned, it is a fact that the Etwatwa informal settlement residents need to be aware of the importance of schools. The schools and the community should work together for the well being of their children. During school hours one could hear loud music from the shacks which disturbs the lessons. Some of the shacks have been built out of the school property. The targeted school equipments are doors, chairs, and Home Economics' utensils like electrical stoves, pots and dishes. All the above-mentioned items were stolen from B.B Myataza Secondary and other neighbouring schools. Therefore the researcher

claims that the Etwatwa community still have an old notion that schools belong to the state, and that if they are vandalized, the state will be responsible. They lack knowledge on the core plus system, which states that community and schools depend on each other.

Taking a look at the shacks themselves, they make you wonder whether a one room or two-room shack can accommodate a family of more than four members. There is a lack of privacy. In the case of a two-roomed shack, one room is used as a kitchen and the other one as a bedroom. The one room shack has a multipurpose. It serves as a kitchen during the day and as bedroom at night. There is no orderly sequence on how shacks are built. Any open space is occupied without consulting anyone. Some shacks are in remote places where residents are exposed to criminals. There have been many cases reported of innocent residents being attacked by unknown people.

3.3 SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

The purpose of qualitative research is to purposely select participants who best answer the research questions (Creswell, 1994). In this research inquiry participants were selected from the community of Etwatwa informal settlement and the so-called 'elite', which refers to mortgage bond residents next to the mentioned informal settlement. Selection or conceptualizing boundaries of the study is the researcher's first task (Le Compte and Preissle, 1993). This entails sampling. Sampling according to LeCompte and Preissle as cited by Morifi (1999:21) refers to a systematical extracted smaller group from a larger group. A smaller portion of that group is used to represent the larger group adequately.

The sample comprises of four residents who are occupants of the shacks from Etwatwa informal settlement as well as two learners, two educators from Phandimfundo Secondary (which means "seek education"), and six people from elite mortgage bond houses. Participants are selected as a target group. In this inquiry participants are randomly selected. Learners are from different grades, that is one from grade ten, and one from

grade twelve in the same school. The purpose is to obtain different opinions from learners of different ages.

Phandimfundo Secondary was chosen because it is situated in the centre of the shacks. Next to it are clumsily built shacks. The shacks are used to sell a variety of vegetables, raw meat and soft goods. There is a busy street that runs from Eiselen street and links the Old Daveyton Township to the Etwatwa area. Phandimfundo Secondary School originates from Daveyton Old Township. Previously it had no building of its own, but leased classrooms from two primary schools a distance away, namely Siphetu, Lerutle and Katlego Primary Schools. It operated from these premises for six years.

There was a dire need for more secondary schools in Etwatwa informal settlement. A well-planned and structured school was built in the Etwatwa area and Phandimfundo Secondary occupied the buildings in 1998. Its existence came as a blessing because it reduced financial problems for Etwatwa parents who had to finance their children to the school while it was still in Daveyton Old Township. Ever since Phandimfundo Secondary started to operate in Etwatwa, most learners simply walk to school and the high rate of absenteeism has drastically decreased. This school has a modern building and compared with the other four schools in Etwatwa, is by far the most beautiful high school there.

3.4 THE RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Research instruments refer to tools that are utilized in data collection. In this inquiry a tape recorder was essential to capture the participants views verbatim and avoid distortion of information. According to Patton (1987:137) a tape recorder is an indispensable piece of equipment for the research. A tape recorder does not change what has been said through interpretation, but depicts an authentic conversation with the interviewee. An interview is used which consequently creates a sound relationship between the researcher and the interviewee.

The second tool used was a survey questionnaire. A survey according to Barker and Blankenship (1975:235) must establish three parameters before a questionnaire can be developed. Firstly, to state the problem that initiated the research so as to determine the information needed to solve it. Secondly, to define the population to be surveyed. Thirdly, to choose the best means of collecting the required information. A survey questionnaire serves to examine the general views of the participants.

Observation is another method used. The researcher has to note whatever she sees or hears. Participants are aware that they are observed. Observation is an interesting method. The participants are observed in their real environment in order to obtain reality about their daily life. The researcher was aware of the fact that it was impossible to observe everything as Patton (1987) suggests.

3.5 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

3.5.1 GAINING ENTRY TO THE SETTING

As stated earlier, the community from the Etwatwa informal settlement would be the participants. Scholars and teachers from Phandimfundo Secondary are to share their experience. Neighbours from elite mortgage bond houses are also participants. Shack dwellers or occupants of Etwatwa informal settlement also form a component of the participating group (participants).

Entry to Phandimfundo Secondary School was gained through written permission. Prior to the visit to the school, the purpose of the research was clearly and thoroughly explained to the principal. The educators and learners were ready to assist me during the visit. The principal allocated a educator to organize the participants, namely two fellow teachers and two learners. The participants were made to feel at ease and were requested to cooperate to the best of their ability. They were asked to express their personal feelings concerning the situation, and to remain calm.

The local authorities selected form part of the Etwatwa informal settlement population. A written letter was personally delivered to the local authorities concerned, requesting entry and access to their offices. The researcher was warmly welcomed at the local authorities' office and the purpose of the research was explained to them. Interest was shown in my research, date and convenient time was scheduled, as local authorities normally have a tight and busy schedule.

The researcher personally approached the occupants of the shacks. I had to explain clearly the purpose of my research because at first there was reluctance from the selected participants. They expressed their fears that strange people come to threaten them concerning occupying the area unlawfully. The researcher had to explain that the purpose of the visit was not to harm them, but only their views concerning the mentioned socio-economical environmental factors were needed. Permission was then granted to me to come and observe and conduct an interview. They agreed to take part in the interview on two consecutive Saturdays.

3.5.2 INTERVIEWING

Interviewing is also a component of collecting data appropriately for this study. According to Merriam (1991) an interview is a conversation with a purpose, where a researcher wants to discover what are other people's opinion. Patton (1987) states that people are interviewed to find out those things that cannot be directly observed, such as their thoughts, intentions and feelings. Schumacher and Mc Illan (1993:251) classify interviews into structured, unstructured and semi-structured interviews. These are used in this study. According to Schumacher and Mc Illan (1993:253) semi-structured interviews do not have choices from which respondents select answers. Rather, the question is phrased to allow for an individual response. This format is flexible, and allows the interviewer to respond to situations at hand, to the emerging worldview of the respondent and to the new ideas on the topic. During the interviewing process the video-cassette recorder was used so as to translate any answer from mother tongue to English.

Group and individual interview techniques were implemented because of time constraints.

3.5.3. OBSERVATION

The purpose of observation is to pay attention to what happens in a particular setting. According to Patton (1987) observation is one method of collecting data, which is very important in qualitative research. An observer should always be alert as one is supposed to write what has been observed and heard in detail about the scene. As an observer one should be prepared to view and observe unusual behaviour and events in a particular situation. The aim of observation in this study is to be able to illustrate what happens when families are together in the Etwatwa informal settlement, how they get along with each other and how different families cope in either a two or three roomed shack.

I chose to conduct an observation on two consecutive Saturdays from 8h00 to 10h00. The Saturday was chosen because some working family members were at home. During observation the participants were asked about their views and opinions on different difficult conditions they live under in the Etwatwa informal settlement.

3.5.4 THE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

A close questionnaire is prepared with the questions and appropriate spaces are provided with ticks of Yes or No (See appendix D, p.60). With a survey questionnaire, I wanted to gather the general views about the conditions of living at the Etwatwa informal settlement from the participants. According to Martins and Louber (1996:216) a survey questionnaire to be used in this research is a dichotomous questionnaire. The latter consists of structured questions and structured responses. The following aspects of question content and phrasing must be considered:

- The questions must be kept as concise as possible. The fewer the words, the more evident the core of the question.

- If the answer solicited has to be definite the question must be definite.
- In surveys conducted among all levels of the population, the questions should be worded in such a way that even the less sophisticated and less educated understand them.
- Questions must be simple. A question with 'and' and "many" consists of two questions with only one expected answer.
- One has to avoid leading questions. A leading question is one that prompts or solicits a desired answer.
- Ask yourself whether the respondent has the relevant information or whether the respondent is able to answer the question.
- Questions that may embarrass the respondent must be avoided as far as possible and at all costs.

For the questionnaire (See appendix D, p.60)

3.6 THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF SELECTED PARTICIPANTS ON THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS

The researcher asked them what their views were on the growing population in Etwatwa area. The overall and general view among the participants was that they were proud and relieved to own the shacks rather than being tenants. The fact that their yards were clustered together and lacked privacy did not bother them, as they were consoled by the fact that they owned a small portion of land. In their response they showed no concern about the health hazard and overcrowded shacks, but they were happy to have their own accommodation. Others claimed that if means were available they would move, but that

there was no other alternative but to endure the deplorable and appalling situation. They also complained about immigrants, whom they blamed for their state of life. Immigrants were used as a scapegoat.

What the observer noticed was that cleanliness did not bother some of the participants. As it was still early in the morning, it was observed that children woke up and put on dirty clothes without washing. They were not at all conscious concerning health issues. That was proved by the fact that a certain woman prepared breakfast without having a bath or washing her hands, as required for hygiene purposes. In a two roomed shack the researcher counted six people who occupied it. The researcher asked a woman who emerged from the shack, how they coped with so many people in a small two-roomed shack. She responded in isiXhosa and said:

“Sesiqhelile, asisaboni nto emphambukileyo kuba kaloku ayikho into esizakuyenza. Abantwana bam ababini balala egumbini lokutyela. Mna nomyeni wam kunye nodade wethu nomyeni wakhe, silala kwigumbi lokulala kwaye xa silalayo sohlukana ngelakana”.

The above statement means that “we are used to the situation, we see nothing wrong. The children sleep in the kitchen. My husband, my sister, her husband and I share the other room. We simply divide the room into two with a sheet. That is a horrible and terrible situation which does not provide the family with privacy”.

When asked about the depletion of human resources, the participants admitted they contributed to the degradation of soil, soil erosion and deforestation, which they caused to the environment. Their main defense was that for them to survive, they needed trees for firewood and to build their shacks. They stated that the importance of natural resources of the environment would hinder their survival.

According to the participant's opinion nobody is responsible for sustaining the natural environment, as it is provided by God.

What the researcher has realized was that the participants were only concerned about the present. The residents claimed that they only live for now, and were not bothered about the immediate future.

3.7 THE EFFECT AND IMPACT OF CERTAIN SOCIO-ECONOMICAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS ON LEARNERS AND EDUCATORS IN THE ETWATWA INFORMAL SETTLEMENT.

Many family members in one single room cause the basic needs of learners not to be met by their parents. Basic needs refer to food, clothing, recreational facilities and shelter.

The selected or participating learners complained about poverty and not having a balanced breakfast before they leave for school. They claimed that their parents failed to provide money for lunch. That caused a great problem, which consequently lead to absenteeism and truancy at school.

Learners who are without a school uniform do not attend school regularly, especially during winter time when cold conditions require warm clothing. Again learners without school uniform had low moral and also lowered self-esteem, which lead to dropping out of school earlier and seeking employment.

When asked about the high rate of vandalism and burglaries in their schools, they responded that they knew about the movable goods at schools which are targets. Naturally schools became the first victim of burglary and vandalism. Property such as chairs, tables, and steel cupboards etc, which were in demand in their community, was their focal point. One learner admitted that he knew of a case where learners organized their friends to pilfer school furniture in exchange for cash. Educators from

Phandimfundo Secondary said they work under stressful conditions in the Etwatwa area. Learners fail to complete homework due to overcrowding. Learners claim it becomes impossible for them to do school work at home because parents complain about candles being wasted. In fact, some parents show little interest in their children's education. When parents are requested to report to school, they fail to come and solve the problems faced by their children, claiming that they are illiterate and will not understand anything concerning school issues.

Late coming among learners was also mentioned. There are learners who always miss the first period of the school day. This occurs among the learners who stay in remote areas of Etwatwa. Classes are overcrowded and range from fifty to sixty learners per class. Therefore individual attention is totally impossible. Some learners fail to participate in class because of problems experienced at home, like fighting among parents, sexual and physical abuse.

Concerning teaching resources, the little that the school possesses is usually stolen. Schools have become the victim of vandalism. According to Brown, Collins and Duguid (1989:40) and Glatthorn (1997:14) as cited by Cenenda (2000:37) learning is not situated and conceptualized as expected. Whatever the school authorities try to put together for the benefit of the learners gets destroyed through vandalism. It is stressful to lose the little you have especially when considering the situation in under-resourced schools, as revealed by the participating educators. The resources normally stolen from school are television sets, video machines, computers, photocopying machines etc.

The community members who build shacks occupy any space left for recreational facilities. A lack of recreational facilities means a lack of leisure time, which contributes to a high rate of pregnancy among teenagers. Parents are unable to put discipline in place because they cannot provide for their children's needs. Children claim that if parents cannot fulfill their needs, then they have to look after themselves, searching for money in whatever way.

When the learners were asked how they assist themselves to develop their potentials, the response was that as the youth of Etwatwa informal settlement, there was a need for social gatherings in order not to end up in prisons. To take an initiative in addressing the Etwatwa community problems, they stated they would utilize those few facilities available, though they are not up to standard such as sport grounds and challenge the Daveyton authorities to assist by granting money so as to develop them.

3.8 UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN THE ETWATWA INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

As an educator in the Etwatwa informal settlement, the high unemployment rate in the area has been a problem. The participants were asked to explain how they survive with both parents unemployed and having no income. The response was that they survive only through God's grace, as there were days which pass by without any meal. One family member said her husband had to indulge in gambling like playing dice, which has two chances, meaning either to lose or win. Another participant interviewed responded by claiming that the arrival of immigrants has opened opportunities, which were not recognized, nor taken into cognizance in the past. The majority of immigrants have technical skills, such as panel beating, spray painting mechanics etc. By working and observing such people one gains experience and exposure. In fact, one can be able to start a backyard panel beating through the skill gained from observing and working with immigrants. During observation the researcher realized that though one claimed that the residents of Etwatwa informal settlement were poor, some could afford entertainment and luxuries such as liquor at informal drinking joints such as shebeens.

Unless the Etwatwa community embarks on empowerment, development and self sustained projects, job creation by the government will not be enough to solve the problem. To combat poverty and unemployment, the participants agreed to be involved in programmes that could equip them with different skills which would enable them to draw up programmes that are self sustaining and profitable. Such projects need very little

capital. These projects would help and empower the entire community.

The selected participants from elite mortgage bond houses were bitter about the erection of shacks next to their houses. When asked how the shack dwellers affect them they, stated a high rate of crime such as rape, burglary, car hijacking and murder took place. Their second point was the devaluation of their properties. The properties were no longer the price that they initially bought them for. They also complained about a lack of security and vagrancy. The elite mortgage bond residents also blamed the local authorities for their situation. They claimed that the authorities have not taken any steps in trying to curb the situation.

3.9 THE VIEWS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

As stated earlier, the local authorities found themselves in an unenviable position. Both the residents of the 'elite' mortgage houses and the shack dwellers blame the local authority for the situation. The shack dwellers believe that if the local authority could have delivered what they promised, they would be having houses, while on the other hand the 'elite' mortgage houses residents believe that if the local authority did their work, there would be no shack dwellers next to their area.

This is a very complicated situation for the local authority. The local authority in turn blame the national government. They allege that legislation pertaining to shack dwellers is still in the hands of the national ministers of housing and land affairs. Local authorities admitted not having the solution to this problem.

3.10 DATA ANALYSIS

All data collected during the three processes was analyzed. The processes of analyzing the raw data is to process it into a clearly legible form that can be understood by the reader. The process involves categorizing and patterning the coding of the transcribed data (Straussa and Corbin, 1991). Pattern coding assisted in the identification and classification of similar data according to patterns. Categorizing was done using data from interviews together with observational data.

3.11 THE ETWATWA INFORMAL SETTLEMENT SHACK OCCUPANTS' PERCEPTION ON POPULATION GROWTH

TABLE 3.11.1

Example of how units are categorized are given below:

TABLE 3.11.1

ETWATWA INFORMAL SETTLEMENT SHACK OCCUPANTS	
UNITS	CATEGORIES
<input type="checkbox"/> Residents happy to have accommodation	Residents have no influence on their living conditions
<input type="checkbox"/> Residents complain about immigrants congesting the area	
<input type="checkbox"/> Residents concerned about uncaring local authorities	
<input type="checkbox"/> Residents need infrastructure in this area	

<input type="checkbox"/> Residents not concerned about health hazard problems	Residents are in an apathy situation
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of privacy is not their concern	
<input type="checkbox"/> Education is meaningless	
<input type="checkbox"/> Residents leave for now	

Learners and educators came up with their opinions, which highlighted to the problems experienced by both parties.

Listed below are the learners and educators perceptions on effects of population growth in Etwatwa informal settlement.

TABLE 3.11.2



UNITS	CATEGORIES
<input type="checkbox"/> Large number of family members	Parents lack the means to meet their children's needs or demands
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic needs not met	
<input type="checkbox"/> Poverty caused by unemployed parents	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment causes parents not to afford school uniforms	
<input type="checkbox"/> The prevailing situation results in early school leavers	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not enough land for recreational facilities	Learners lack parental guidance and the coping skills, hence resulting a in social problem
<input type="checkbox"/> Girls fall pregnant	

<input type="checkbox"/> School boys become criminals if they fail to go to school	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educators cannot cope with individual attention because of abnormal numbers in class	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism at schools impinge on learning programmes. School property stolen	
<input type="checkbox"/> Learners arrive late at school and miss the first period of the day	
<input type="checkbox"/> Learners fail to complete homework due to loud music played from the surrounding shacks.	

TABLE 3.11.3



The elite mortgage bond houses residents aired their views concerning the Etwatwa informal settlement shack dwellers.

UNITS	CATEGORIES
<input type="checkbox"/> The value of their houses depreciate	Residents are inconvenienced by shack erection next to their houses.
<input type="checkbox"/> Their houses are victims of burglaries	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blame is put on local authorities	

TABLE 3.11.4

Local authorities views on population growth in the Etwatwa informal settlement

UNITS	CATEGORIES
<input type="checkbox"/> Councillors in a predicament to please squatter dwellers and mortgage bond houses.	Local authorities are blamed for not intervening to save the situation
<input type="checkbox"/> Councillors cannot provide necessary facilities to the informal settlement.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mortgage bond house dwellers want shacks to be removed.	

3.12 CONCLUSION



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From the data collected it is evident that the population growth has caused problems. It has affected the elite mortgage bond residents but benefited the squatter camp dwellers in Etwatwa informal settlement. Because the lives of people from Etwatwa informal settlement are at risk as their shacks are not proper structures, it has given them a chance to start projects that will empower them like, brick making. Those bricks can be utilized to build proper houses. The whole Etwatwa community needs to come together and improve their standard of living.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

4. INTRODUCTION

The issue of socio-economical environmental factors in the Etwatwa informal settlement was investigated through observation, interviews, and survey questionnaires. In this section, the focus is on the research findings that are an explanation of consolidated data. Consolidated data refer to categories that were formed and were helpful in arriving at conclusions. Analyzed data and consolidated data are interpreted against the background of the theoretical and conceptual framework. The research findings and their implications are discussed in the light of the research question. Recommendations are also suggested in this chapter.

4.1 CONSOLIDATION OF DATA

According to Miles and Huberman (1984:11) through data reduction the researcher is able to analyze, sort, focus, discard and organize data in such a way that a final conclusion is drawn and verified through research. The following categories are established in this study: (see tables 3.11.1-3.11.4)

- ❖ Residents have no influence over their living conditions.
- ❖ Learners lack parental guidance and coping skills, hence resulting in social problems
- ❖ Educators operate under difficult situations
- ❖ Parents lack means to meet their children's needs and demands
- ❖ Educators operate under difficult situations
- ❖ The elite residents from the mortgage bond houses are inconvenienced by the erection of shacks next to their expensive houses.

- ❖ Local authorities are blamed for not delivering to the poor.
- ❖ The elite residents blame local authorities for failing to protect their houses from the shack dwellers.

The present condition in the Etwatwa informal settlement has proved to be a threat to people's life. Concerning health, heaps of garbage on the street corners do not provide healthy environments. Since there is uncontrolled dumping of household waste and a poor or no sewerage system, residents are exposed to diseases. During the interviews, cleanliness was a concern but people complained that the local authorities do not provide assistance. (see paragraph 3.6:11).

The researcher realized during interviews that no one wants to take the blame for the situation. (see paragraph 3.6:32). Shack dwelling residents feel it was their right to occupy the vacant land because they consider the local authorities to have rejected them. Being shack dwellers as opposed to being tenants pleases the community of Etwatwa informal settlement. They claim that as tenants, they were charged unreasonable prices for rent and electricity. They further say that the landlord does not pay the local council for services rendered, and in return forces the tenants to pay that amount to them.

This inquiry solicits opinions and views of the Etwatwa community concerning the social problems that they experience. This inquiry also ascertains the impact of the population growth on the scarce resources. The population growth, as another contributing factor, resulted in overcrowding in the very few available schools. Prices of houses in the mortgage bond area have dropped drastically. Infant mortality rate is high. Treatable diseases such as pneumonia are fatal in such areas, as there are only two clinics which are not well equipped with medication. Immigrants who are likely to clash with locals for little space available also swarm the place.

The learners' poor performance at school indicates the lack of parental involvement in the education of their children. There is a conspicuous lack of interest in the schoolwork of

their children. The majority of parents attribute their lack of interest to their high rate of illiteracy. (see paragraph 3.7:21). There are those who are a bit learned but are reluctant and leave everything to the educators. The Etwatwa area itself lacks basic sources of information, during this era and age where a great volume of information requires learners to be guided to “find, select, organize, interpret and use that information” (Marlowe and Page, 1998:26).

Poor performance at school, combinations of socio-economic problems and a lack of parental involvement leads to learners dropping out of school early and that is precisely the recipe for high unemployment rates which consequently lead to a very high crime rate. Crime in this informal settlement continue unabated due to the fact that the police station available is not effective. Crime is becoming a norm and criminals are operating with impunity. The way crime escalates in this area , it has resulted in one school principal being confined to a wheel chair because of the robbery at his school. Criminals demanded school fund and thereafter shot him.

4.2 FINDINGS FROM THE ETWATWA INFORMAL SETTLEMENT PARTICIPANTS

Through interviews the researcher gathered that the participating residents are delighted to own shacks as opposed to being tenants. The immigrants who make it impossible for local residents to be accommodated occupy most of the land in Etwatwa informal settlement. They claim that local authorities play no part in enforcing laws and regulations that deal with immigrants who have swamped their area. Their feeling is that local authorities are reluctant to develop their area claiming that no funds are available, as the settlement is not catered for in their budget, as it was not part of their planning.

When asked about the unhealthy environment that they live in, they show less concern as they are only too pleased to have shelter over their heads. Another factor that was dealt with is a lack of privacy due to the size of the shacks.

One of the participants said: *“I cannot afford to build a shack with more rooms, me and my husband are unemployed. We live with my sister and her husband in this two room shack who are both without permanent job but do piece jobs. We therefore share the two room shack and we definitely lack privacy.”*

Other participants explained how impossible it is for them to plan for the future due to a lack of employment. They approach each day as it comes without any knowledge of where the next meal will come from. Concerning their children’s education that is their most important worry, but they also state that most educated people are unemployed. The issue of unemployed graduates is used as an excuse. The irregular attendance of children at school is not their concern. Other publicly state that taking children to school is a waste of money.

4.3 FINDINGS FROM LEARNERS OF PHANDIMFUNDO SECONDARY SCHOOL IN ETWATWA INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

Learners complained that due to large families, they are unable to complete schoolwork at home because of the small size of the shacks. Their parents who are unemployed do not meet the necessary requirements for school projects and assignments. For those who live far from the school unemployment is responsible for their lack of school uniform and pocket money for lunch. The concern of the learners was the early drop out problem that can be attributed to parental lack of involvement in the schoolwork of their children and also by socio-economic conditions. Educators lack understanding of the reason why learners are unable to cope with schoolwork. Educators lack the capacity and skills that will enable them to get to the bottom of the problem. Some educators tend to assume that the students are very lazy and lack interest in their studies. The non-existence of recreational facilities was also listed as a hindrance to reach their full potential. They quoted early pregnancy in girls, and boys becoming criminals very early in their lives as examples. They are aware that a lack of recreational facilities results in early pregnancies in students as they tend to indulge in sexual activities very early in life.

4.4 FINDINGS FROM EDUCATORS OF PHANDIMFUNDO SECONDARY SCHOOL

From the interview, the researcher gathered that teachers are demotivated and lack direction, as the local district office, that is responsible for guidance, does not workshop them properly, and communication is not so good. Educators are working under very strenuous and deplorable conditions. Their school is overcrowded as teachers are not permitted by law to turn learners away from school. That happens despite exceeding the enrolment capacity of the school. Educators complained of burglaries that result in the very few teaching aids that they possess being stolen. When such cases are reported, it is very rare that police will follow up the matter thoroughly. Educators claim that learners are often late for their lessons. The majority of them are not present for the first period. This occurs on a daily basis. Parents when confronted about this situation are unable to account for the movement of their children. Learners fail to complete homework due to unfavourable conditions at home because shacks are small and can hardly afford the learner any space for the writing of their homework and studying. The capacity of the shack is exceeded by the large numbers in one family. Some parents restrict the learners when they want to study and excuses like “candles are expensive” act as a deterrent. As the school is close to the tar road used by taxis, loud music from these vehicles are a disturbance. Shack dwellers would switch on their radios very loudly and also that hinders the smooth running of classes. Residents next to schools seem not to value the education of their children, according to the educators from Phandimfundo Secondary School.

4.5 FINDINGS FROM THE RESIDENTS OF THE ELITE MORTGAGE HOUSES

These residents are the most stressed as compared to the other groups. That transpired when the survey questionnaire were completed. Their main gripe is that the situation that prevails is unacceptable. They are stuck with the shack surroundings. Blame is put on

local authorities that they claim betrayed them by not taking appropriate action, nor by enforcing the law and not removing shacks that lower the value of their houses.

Residents claim that they live in fear while interest rates from the banks are skyrocketing and the shack dwellers pay nothing. The participants have been victims of burglaries ever since the shacks were erected. Another issue that was tackled is the heap of garbage dumped on the street corners of the shacks which have unpleasant odours. This causes an unhealthy environment not only for them but also for shack dwellers.

4.6 FINDINGS FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

According to the local authorities, they have exhausted all the avenues to try and alleviate the problem of shack erection next to the mortgage bond houses. They also expressed their concern of addressing the shack dweller's needs but do not promise to build them proper houses as that is beyond their powers. The participating councillors appealed to the shack dwellers in the Etwatwa informal settlement to be patient as their area is in the process of being developed, but they stressed that it could take years. Local authorities argue that development depends on the funds available, and state that the planning of the infrastructure has already commenced in the approved areas in Etwatwa.

4.7 INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

Most residents of Etwatwa informal settlement have lost hope concerning the improvement of their living conditions. In Etwatwa informal settlement, the socio-economical environmental problems like poverty, population growth, unemployment, shortage of both primary and secondary schools, unhealthy environments, small shacks, crime and teenage pregnancies cripple this society to an extent that some of the society members regard life as being meaningless. Moreover, because there is little hope that the economy of the country will improve and job opportunities will be created in order for them to live a better life. The main findings of this study are as follows:

- Local authorities cannot cope with development in the area due to the fact that instead of the population decreasing, it still escalates and people keep on occupying vacant land available. The inflow of immigrants is uncontrollable.
- Unemployment is worsened day by day because of industries closing down or the retrenchment of people due to a lack of funds and globalization.
- The Etwatwa informal settlement residents await the government to create job opportunities for them that are not forthcoming.
- The residents of Etwatwa are less informed about being their own bosses, whereby they will combine ideas and skills and work together towards a common goal. Economically it is called synergy.
- The residents from elite mortgage bond houses are in a predicament situation and have no control over their problems.
- Schools are overpopulated because of the limited number of schools and the increasing population in the Etwatwa informal settlement.
- Educators lack direction on how to cope with the problems experienced by the learners which leads to unnecessary confrontation.
- Illiteracy is promoted due to early school dropouts because of the lack of money to carry out children's needs at school.
- Learners who lack guidance from home and parents show a lack of interest in their education and their general well-being.
- Lack of recreational facilities limit the children from realizing their potentials.

- Women from this area are not aware that they have a right to decide on the number of children they intend having in their families.

4.8 IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINDINGS

From the findings of this study, it is important for the residents of Etwatwa informal settlement to come together and exchange skills, especially with the immigrants, because they are more learned in vocational guidance than academically. Through that process the researcher thinks that the skills gained will assist in rendering services to the community, and earn the members money that will alleviate their social problems in their area. The knowledge gained by the parents for instance will be imparted to their children. That will come in handy because some children cannot cope academically and can be encouraged to develop their skills.

The fact that women have no say on the family size results in a high birth rate and eventually a high population growth. There is a dire need to address the women's needs. Women need to be properly empowered by capacitated and empowered women concerning the issue of birth control. That is of vital importance because an increase in population means more demands on the society, like the provision of houses and more resources. The increased number of people will cause pollution in various forms and there will be less space per person.

4.9 THE COMMUNITY ROLE

The parent's role and attitude need to change towards their children. The former are expected to be role models to their children. The residents of Etwatwa informal settlement need to be responsible and think of the future of their children. Schools serving the Etwatwa area should be proactive and serve as a community centre in the community. There must be an interaction between the school and the community. Members of the community should have access to schools.

Since the community of Etwatwa area is in this challenging situation, it is their duty to stand up and make efforts to try and change their state of affairs. The issue of pointing fingers at each other is taking them nowhere. They need to unite and try to solve problems on their own. It is time to shy away from relying on external forces such as donors. In the absence of the controlled dumping of household waste, responsible community members should teach their society about hygienic living standards that consequently will discourage dumping and littering around the surroundings. Designated dumping areas could be used.

4.10 LIMITATIONS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE STUDY

The following factors are considered as limitations to the study:

- This research inquiry is limited to only one secondary school in Etwatwa informal settlement, though there are more schools. Therefore broad generalization is not possible.

4.11 RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Etwatwa informal settlement population should liberate themselves from the dependency syndrome. Local authorities cannot solve their problems alone. They should unite and make a better life from the resources at their disposal without depleting them, and they should come up with projects.
- Unhealthy environment conditions will cause diseases. Therefore if the local authorities do not provide essential services, it is their responsibility to cater for garbage by organizing people to take turns in keeping the street corners clean.
- Women should form support groups that will enlighten them concerning family planning.

- Parents need to join hands and encourage their children to acquire an education and motivate them on how to reach their goals. The former can start by checking books and by communicating with the educators if a child experiences problems that will hinder them from obtaining a good education.
- Educators, as part of this population, should identify learners with learning problems and refer them to auxiliary services, but with the consent of the parents.
- The Etwatwa residents in their endeavour to make a living out of the natural resources should bear in mind a sustainable environment.
- The unemployed residents should initiate development. Jobs can be created by planting crops and selling them to the community.
- Income can be generated in this community by the exchange of skills, for instance a person with confectionary knowledge could teach others to cook and sell food at affordable prices.
- A group of concerned and committed residents can be identified to facilitate all the suggestions. Jobs are scarce, and concerning the present situation in our country, there are slim chances of jobs being created.
- All the above suggestions can educate the Etwatwa community and make a difference to their environment as well as improve their quality of life.

4.12 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Socio-economical environmental factors in Etwatwa informal settlement have been given little attention by local government, who has failed to address the residents' needs. Since only selected participants contributed to the study, a research is needed to gather the

views of people from the other parts of Etwatwa who experienced the same problems as those interviewed. Further study is necessary since only one secondary school participated out of the five in the area. The views from other educators and learners in other schools may provide a solution for Phandimfundo Secondary School.

4.13 CONCLUSION

In this study the researcher sets out to investigate views on socio-economical environmental factors in the Etwatwa informal settlement. Through investigation, views were gathered from educators, learners, residents of the Etwatwa informal settlement, the local authorities and the neighbouring residents from the elite mortgage bond houses. The research design included interviews, observation and survey questionnaires. Through the findings it was discovered that the majority of shacks were uninhabitable. Their sizes were found to be too small to accommodate the number of family members. The size of the shack impacts greatly on the development of learners (as people) and also on their school life as such. The way the shacks exceed their carrying capacity, that demonstrates that learners hardly have any space where they can do homework or study without any major disturbance or hindrance.

Findings in this inquiry have revealed that there is a need to control population growth in the Etwatwa informal settlement because scores of people still pour in to occupy the vacant spaces. While the schools are limited, development concerning infrastructure is very slow. Some parts of Etwatwa are not even recognized, and the community lacks knowledge concerning a solution for a sustainable environment.

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APPENDIX A

A transcribed interview with teachers at Phandimfundo Secondary

R: "How do you cope in congested classrooms?"

T: "Teaching in this situation is difficult because sometimes as a teacher you cannot maintain discipline."

R: "Do you have enough teaching aids to facilitate teaching and learning effectively?"

T: "We don't have enough and the little bit that we have are stolen by this community which makes it impracticable for us to teach effectively."

R: "What about punctuality on the side of learners?"

T: "It is a problem especially for learners who are from remote areas of Etwatwa. They walk a long distance before reaching school hence the high fail rate because these learners most of the time miss the first lesson."

R: "Do you experience problems concerning completion of school work?"

T: "Of course yes! Learners fail to complete tasks especially homework due to insufficient spacing at their homes. Children complain that they cannot study at home."

R: "Now how do you assist such learners?"

T: "As the school knocks off at two o'clock, learners who experience such problems, have to stay behind between two to three o'clock."

R: "How is the parental involvement in their children's progress at school?"

T: "The parents show little interest in their children's school work and when invited to school, they fail to come and that makes our job to be difficult."

R: “Since your school is surrounded by shacks, are there any disturbances from them?”

T: “Loud music played by the nearby people, disturbs classes and causes children not to concentrate during a lesson.

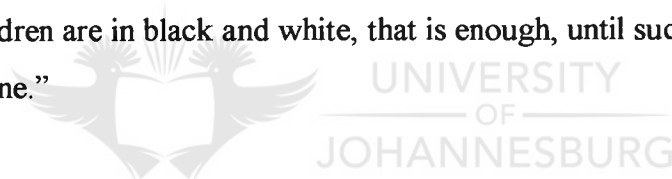
R: “Do parents participate or assist in school financial matters?”

T: “Parents are reluctant to pay school funds claiming that the government said education will be free. Some complain about being unemployed and cannot afford to pay. In cases where the school tries to raise funds, parents do not support such projects with the notion that if the school fund is paid then that is all.”

R: “Are learners always in school uniform?”

T: “Not all learners wear school uniform. Some parents claim that, because of a number of children they have, it is therefore impossible to provide a school uniform. As long as the children are in black and white, that is enough, until such time they can afford to buy one.”

R: “Thank you very much for your co-operation.”



APPENDIX B

A transcribed interview with learners at Phandimfundo Secondary

R: “Since you live in shacks do you have enough time for your studies?”

L: “It is better to remain at school after normal classes, because at home there is not enough time. Besides the shacks have no place to study.”

R: “Approximately how many members are in your family?”

L: “We are seven at home living in a three roomed shack.”

R: “Is it possible for your parents to assist with school work?”

L: “They cannot even read therefore, as I am the elder child at home in a higher standard, it is my duty to assist my siblings with their school work.”

R: “Do you cope with such a burden?”

L: “I have to do it, because without me helping them no one will. Moreover, because my parents instruct me to do so.”

R: “Coming to maintenance, are your parents able to support you?”

L: “My parents struggle to meet our basic needs. We sometimes go to school with an empty stomach. During lunch time we travel back home and walk a long distance to eat whatever is available, of which most of the time it is brown bread without any kind of spread and starch water.”

R: “Why don’t you bring that bread to school instead of travelling back home during lunch time?”

L: “We are scared that other children who eat better food will mock us.”

R: "What about the conditions in your classrooms?"

L: "Our classes are overpopulated. It is impossible for a teacher to attend to us as individuals."

R: "Do you view your class as a disciplined one?"

L: "Not as such. Educators try to maintain discipline but there are those learners who are uncontrollable, therefore discipline is not hundred percent."

R: "Do educators cope with the control of work?"

L: "Handling our work as an individual is strenuous for educators. Group work is the method that seems to assist educators with the control of work."

R: "Do you have sports grounds at your school?"

L: "There are no sports grounds. We normally use those nearby the school."

R: "Do you experience problems concerning teenage pregnancy?"

L: "Teenage pregnancy is rife, even learners from as early as grade eight."

R: "What happens to learners who are found to be pregnant?"

L: "Some leave school, but others are forced by their parents to attend until they are highly pregnant."

R: "Is the issue of drugs a problem at your school?"

L: "Yes some boys carry drugs like dagga, and heavy smokers leave school early and become criminals."

R: "Thank you for your time."

L: "Thank you too Ma'am."

APPENDIX C

A transcribed interview with local authorities at Etwatwa informal settlement

R: “Where the bond house are built did you expect the mushrooming of shacks on their backyards?”

LA: “The mortgage bond houses were built in the area without knowing that one day there will be a cluster of shacks in the area.

R: “Are there any means you can provide to protect the mortgage bond occupants from shack dwellers?”

LA: “No there are no means. It is just a pity that they have to suffer the consequences.”

R: “Are there any plans to remove the shack dwellers next to the mortgage bond houses?”

LA: “We have tried on several occasions but failed. Some areas have even gained recognition already so it is highly impossible now.”

R: “Do you predict a better future for Etwatwa informal settlement residents?”

LA: “If only the latter can join hands, fight against crime and develop their abilities towards a common goal. There is no longer time for them to wait for the government to provide jobs, but they should realize their potentials, work on them and be self-employed.”

R: “Will the government provide proper houses to these people?”

LA: “Chances are very slim because the RDP houses need planning and money to be implemented.”

R: “How do people from the mortgage bond houses respond to the erection of shacks next to their expensive homes?”

LA: “They regret why they have settled in this area and some are moving to town. Others are stuck where they are because their houses cannot be bought.”

R: “Thank you very much for being co-operative.”



APPENDIX D**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN MORTGAGE BOND HOUSES**

Indicate by making a tick in the appropriate place.

Since the inception of shacks next to your houses, did that have an effect on your lives?

YES	NO
-----	----

Most people in this area complain about the high crime rate in Etwatwa. Were you perhaps victims of that situation?

YES	NO
-----	----

More shacks are still built in Etwatwa due to a lack of proper houses and unemployment. Do you have any say concerning that issue?

YES	NO
-----	----

Before the erection of shacks, the Etwatwa area used to be clean and most people preferred the place because of its quietness. Is that still the case now?

YES	NO
-----	----

In a case where one wants to move to suburbs, for a bigger house, is it easier to sell the house?

YES	NO
-----	----

We know that the value of a house increases. Do you get good value for your houses?

YES	NO
-----	----

The Etwatwa area is seen to be dominated by immigrants whom people claim are highly involved in burglary. Is your property still safe as before?

YES	NO
-----	----

Most of the houses from mortgage bond houses do not use coal stoves but there is air pollution caused by the smoke from the shacks. Does that affect your life style?

YES	NO
-----	----

From the shacks there are people who have livestock. Do you perhaps feel that degrades your standard of living?

YES	NO
-----	----

Next to the shacks, there are garbage dumps. Does that affect your health?

YES	NO
-----	----

The survey questionnaire was purposely used with residents from mortgage bond houses, since most of them are able to read and are enlightened. The residents regret to be part of Etwatwa community and lack means to reverse the situation i.e. removing shacks next to their houses. Their situation is worsened by the fact that even the local authorities are hand tight and cannot be of assistance in any means.

