

HSRC review

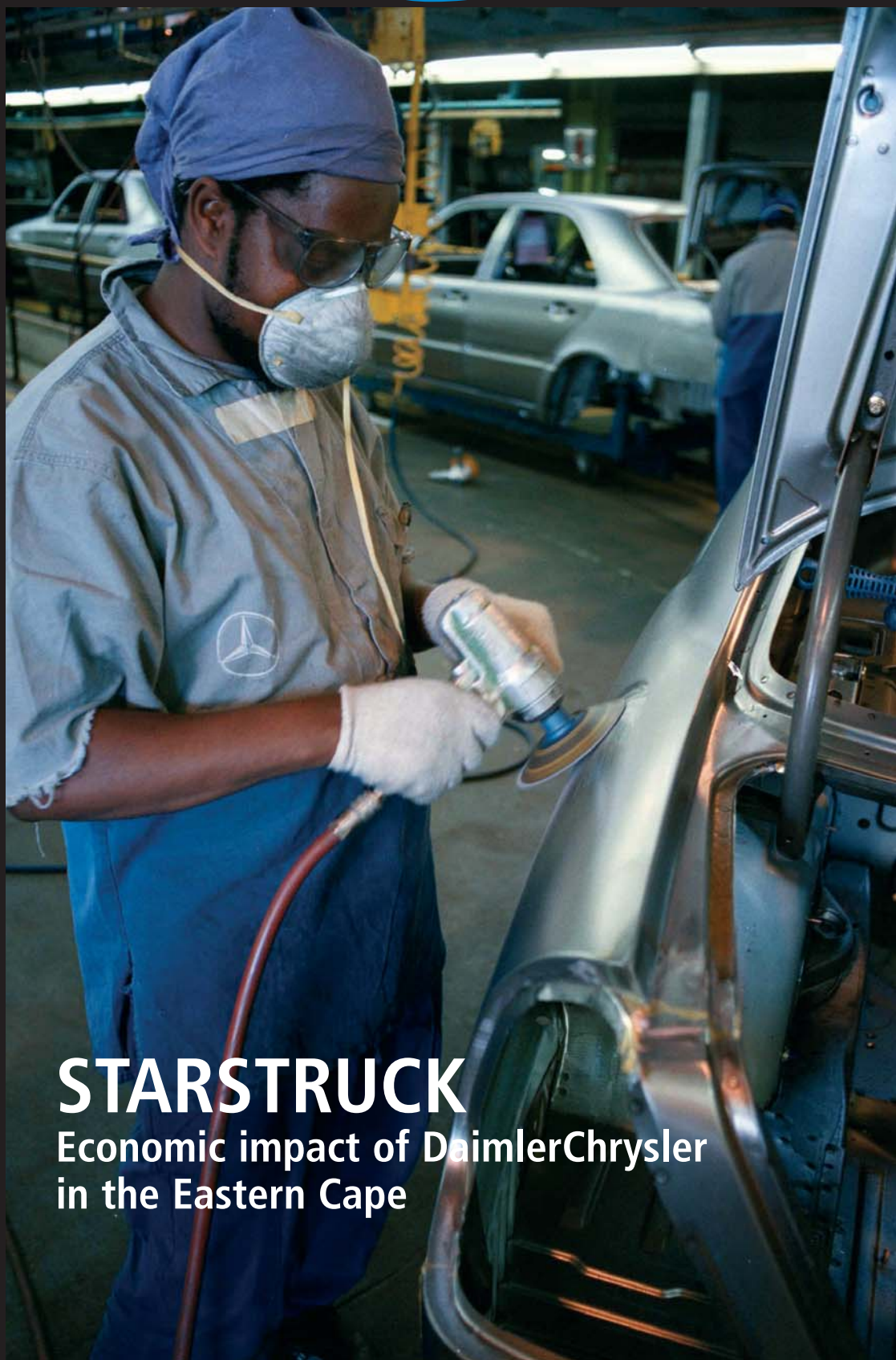
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Human Sciences Research Council

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STARSTRUCK
Economic impact of DaimlerChrysler
in the Eastern Cape

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO DR MARK ORKIN



Dear Review reader –

Since I joined the HSRC as CEO five years ago, the organisation has tripled its researcher complement, its research earnings, and its publications output per head, while becoming a majority-black organisation for the first time. We now handle two hundred and fifty projects per year, in South Africa and the rest of the continent, many in collaboration with other institutions.

In my previous editorials I have described the various developments that have enabled this organisational transformation. Its purpose, of course, has been to provide broader and better applied social research for our users, especially in the public sector.

So, for my last editorial, instead of talking again about organisational change, I asked the formidable Executive Directors who lead our ten research programmes each to recall a specially notable project, whether small or large, among the many achievements of their teams in the last few years. Here is their list, arranged by research programme in alphabetical order and starting, for once, at the end:

- ▶ The murder of 5 petrol station attendants in the Western Cape sparked a collaborative study of industry conditions led by Social Cohesion and Identity. The ensuing debate in the sector, in the media and in Cabinet led to improved safety standards and procedures for attendants and customers at 5000 petrol stations countrywide.
- ▶ The nationally-representative master sample developed by Surveys, Analysis, Models and Mapping enables repeat-visit surveys to 10 000 households. The sample is used, for example, in the HSRC's surveys of social attitudes, and longitudinal tracking of service delivery for several government departments.
- ▶ Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health also used the master sample, in conducting the first nationally representative survey of HIV prevalence. This helped the design and planning of programmes by the South African government. A follow-up is being conducted, as well as replications in 4 other SADC countries.
- ▶ Knowledge Management undertakes annual national surveys of research and development (R&D), covering universities, science councils, government research institutes, and a sample of businesses. The surveys provide official indicators for science planning and monitoring by the Department of Science and Technology and others.
- ▶ The 28-chapter three-yearly review by Human Resources Development covers employment, education and skills development. It found that skills problems are experienced at intermediate and entry levels as well as the top end. The online version and data-warehouse attracts 10 000 hits per month.
- ▶ Integrated Rural and Regional Development led the development of a national mapping and information system regarding food vulnerability for the Department of Agriculture, bringing together natural, life and social scientists from 3 science councils and 3 universities. The results informed the current National Budget.
- ▶ In an action-research intervention that uses the social concept of fatherhood, Child, Youth and Family Development promotes non-violent male behaviour and men's support for children and families. The project has been taken up by NGOs as well as the Departments of

Social Development, Justice, Constitutional Development, and others.

▶ The project on leveraging the services sector by Employment and Economic Policy Research is being undertaken for the Economic and Social Clusters of Directors General. The research shows how to launch South Africa's well-established services into global markets better, and enhance growth and employment in the domestic economy.

▶ The project on overcoming discrimination by Democracy and Governance has informed deliberations on nationhood in the Presidency. It noted that while significant strides had been made in addressing racial discrimination, success on gender and disability is more limited. Transformation successes were mainly recorded in institutions under state control.

▶ Resource banks to help teachers with assessment were developed in 8 languages by Assessment Technology and Educational Evaluation. This helps the improvement of literacy and numeracy teaching in 500 rural junior primary schools. Following evaluation as a "best practice", the study has been extended into the senior primary years.

This is a tiny but vivid selection of our social-scientific work since 2000, worth some R750m, half funded by parliament and half independently. The HSRC is now implementing its mandate magnificently: social research that makes a difference, by informing policy and implementation aimed at improving the lives of ordinary women and men. Our Chair and Council, Minister, Parliament, DG, users, funders and stakeholders, my forbearing family, and above all, my 300 energetic HSRC colleagues, made it all possible. It is in good cheer that I can thank them all, hand the reins to my energetic successor Dr Olive Shisana, and say farewell.

Mark Orkin

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MR LOGAN GOVENDER has been appointed as a Senior Research Specialist in the Assessment Technology and Education Evaluation (ATEE) Research Programme. Before joining the HSRC he was a full-time Spencer PhD Fellow at the University of the Witwatersrand. He also worked at the HSRC from 1993 to 2002 in various capacities, including Senior Researcher in the Education Policy and Planning Unit, and as International Relations Officer in the CEO's office.



DR KATHLEEN HEUGH has been appointed as a Chief Research Specialist in ATEE. Before joining the HSRC in February 2005, she was a researcher, educator and language-planning specialist with the Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa (PRAESA) at the University of Cape Town. She was also the co-ordinator of the National Language Project and editor of the Language Projects' Review and has served as a member of the Pan South African Language Board (PANSALB).



MS URSULA HOADLEY has been appointed as a Chief Researcher in the Child, Youth and Family Development Research Programme. Before joining the HSRC she was a doctoral student at the University of Cape Town. Over the past eight years she worked on numerous research projects in the field of education, and lectured in the sociology of education, education policy and research methods.



DR MCEBISI NDLETYANA has been appointed as Senior Research Specialist in the Social Cohesion and Identity Research Programme. Before joining the HSRC he was a researcher for the Johannesburg-based Centre for Policy Studies and the Steve Biko Foundation. His professional background also involves teaching at various universities in the United States, including the City University of New York (CUNY) and the State University of New York (SUNY).

SPENDING ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IMPROVES

South Africa spent about R10.1 billion, or 0.81%, of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on research and experimental development (R&D) in 2003/04.

This is according to the key results from the National Survey of Financial and Human Resource Inputs into Research and Experimental Development, undertaken by the Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (CeSTII) of the HSRC's Knowledge Management Research Programme.

The survey was commissioned by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and follows that of 2001/02.

The 2003/04 figure represents an improvement on the situation reported in the 2001/02 R&D survey, which recorded R&D expenditure as R7.5 billion, or 0.76% of GDP.

The survey was carried out according to the guidelines provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Frascati Manual and in consultation with national and international experts in the field, especially Statistics Canada.

The intensity of R&D expenditure, measured as the percentage of GDP spent on R&D, is a good indication of the competitiveness of a country's economy. The OECD country with the highest R&D intensity is Sweden (4.27% of GDP), followed by Finland (3.46%).

The United States R&D expenditure measured 2.60% and the average for the 25 European Union (expanded) member states was 2.26%. The European Union has set a goal of achieving an average R&D expenditure of 3.0% of GDP by the year 2010.

The R&D Survey involved comprehensive surveys of business, the Government (including the nine science councils such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Medical Research Council and the HSRC), higher education, and the non-profit sectors. Survey coverage of the business sector was significantly improved, especially in the service sector and in small and medium-sized companies.

SPENDING ON R&D – WHERE DOES IT GO? ACADEMIC PUBLISHING FACES THE CHALLENGE ...

The growth of R&D is welcomed as a healthy indicator of the country's economy, but if research is to affect change and have a positive impact, the information needs to be disseminated. However, the level of scholarly publishing, which traditionally supports R&D publishing, has been steadily shrinking as publishing houses either battle for funds, or are over-subscribed in certain areas. The question, then, is how to find new ways to disseminate vital research information, with cost and accessibility being major factors.

"In this light, the HSRC Press has adopted a dual publishing philosophy with an emphasis on making top-quality research material available through a variety of options", says Garry Rosenberg, Director of the HSRC Press, the publishing operation within the HSRC.

Academic research material can be accessed both in print and online. Printed copies of HSRC publications are available in bookstores, libraries and through online bookshops, while online versions can be downloaded (either as specific chapters or as entire publications) at no cost.

"The HSRC Press Open Access publishing model is set to become a formidable resource both locally and globally. And it goes a long way to addressing the issue of shrinking publishing capacity in an ever-increasing R&D environment," Rosenberg says.

The HSRC Press publishes up to 50 titles a year, promoting social science scholarship through a broad author pool. Both local and international academics and research specialists contribute to an ongoing, peer-reviewed catalogue of publications focusing on a range of topics including democracy and governance, education, and arts and culture.

Visit the HSRC Press website at www.hsrcpress.ac.za.

NewsRoundup

NEW MEMBER OF HSRC COUNCIL

Mr Kimi Makwetu has been appointed as a member of the HSRC Council and will chair the Audit Committee, replacing Mr Sikkie Kajee, who resigned in March. Kajee's resignation followed the awarding of the tender for outsourcing the Internal Audit function to KPMG, where he is the Director of Internal Audit.

Makwetu is a Divisional Director for Finance at Liberty Life, and was formerly a Senior Manager at Deloitte's Assurance Services. His area of expertise includes finance and accounting, auditing, and risk management. He is a member of the Robben Island Museum Audit Committee and a former Trustee of Zanempilo Health Trust.



CHARTING LAND DEGRADATION AND LAND USE

A project to assess land degradation and land use in semi-arid areas, funded by the Global Environment Facility, will identify and map vulnerable land with the aim of developing alternative land use strategies.

The project spans all countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and other African countries, says Professor Simphiwe Mini, project leader and Chief Research Specialist in the HSRC's Integrated Rural and Regional Development Research Programme.

The intention to build the capacity of participating countries in land degradation assessment techniques and technology to counter land degradation is the core focus of the project.

South Africa will co-ordinate the research, which will be conducted by the HSRC in collaboration with the National Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs and Forestry, the Agricultural Research Council and other research institutions and universities. It will be funded by the Global Environmental Facility.

A two-day round table discussion, School-to-Work Transition and Labour Market Intermediation in Developing Countries, was hosted in Pretoria by the HSRC's Employment and Economic Policy Research (EEPR) Programme. The discussion focused on the context of developing countries with regard to career development, career guidance and labour market transition issues (policies and service delivery). Themes included broad international perspectives, guidelines and considerations, as well as specific country perspectives from Brazil, Bangkok, Thailand and Botswana. From left are Ms Ellen Hansen (ILO, Geneva), Dr Moeketsi Letseka (HSRC), Professor Dulce Soares (Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil), Dr Rènètte du Toit (HSRC).



Ghanian scholar, novelist and poet, Ayi Kwei Armah, the first of a group of African writers to participate in a lecture series hosted by the HSRC's Social Cohesion and Identity (SCI) Research Programme. Armah is best known for his novels, The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born and Two Thousand Seasons, the latter a powerful indictment of post-colonial corruption among independent African states. The second lecture in this series took place on 31 May and featured Dani W. Nabudere, Executive Director of the Afrika Study Centre, Uganda, and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Political Science at the Islamic University in Mbale, Uganda.



Bio what? Public has scant knowledge of biotechnology

Eight out of ten South Africans have no knowledge of biotechnology and well over half have never heard of the term. Despite this lack of understanding, an average of 57% indicated that different applications of biotechnology – the use of living things to form or change useful products and tools – should continue.

This is according to the most comprehensive survey on public perceptions of biotechnology undertaken in South Africa to date. The survey involved a representative sample of 7 000 adults i.e. aged 16 and older, in households across the country.

The survey was undertaken by the Human Sciences Research Council for the Public Understanding of Biotechnology (PUB) Programme. The aim was to find out what people think, feel, and understand

about biotechnology.

The survey results revealed that, in terms of food content, 51% of respondents seldom or never read food labels, while 23% do so on a regular basis. When asked what additional information they would like to see on food labels, 21% of the respondents said that information regarding ingredients and health content would be useful.

Interestingly, only 1% specified that they would like to see information on genetically modified organisms (GMOs). GMOs are plants, animals or microbes that contain genes that have been altered or transferred from other organisms or species in a way that conventional techniques cannot do.

Universities were regarded by 23% of respondents as the most trusted institution to provide reliable information on bio-

technology, followed by the media (21%), and then government (16%). Consumer groups and environmental organisations were fourth, followed by religious organisations and then industry.

Just over a quarter (26%) of respondents did not think biotechnology posed a risk for society, compared to 21% who did, while 42% did not know. Seventy-three per cent of respondents did not know if genetic modification (GM) is positive or negative and only 11% considered it positive, while 10% considered it negative.

The survey report is available on www.pub.ac.za. For more information, e-mail Mr Zakes Langa (gzlanga@hsrc.ac.za), the principal investigator and a Researcher in the Surveys, Analyses, Modelling and Mapping Research Programme.

EMBRACING THE RAINBOW NATION COULD HELP BRIDGE THE COLOUR DIVIDE

Does a strong national identity or patriotism matter for the formation of a non-racist and united South African society? MARLENE ROEFS asks this question, based on the findings on nation building in the HSRC's South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) 2003.

The nation-building project seems to be bearing fruit. The majority of African, white, coloured and Indian South Africans do feel strong ties with the nation and show patriotism. At the same time, both whites and Africans think that fellow South Africans of another colour are more racist than their own race group.

Findings from the HSRC's South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) 2003 raise the question of whether strong national identity or patriotism actually matters for the formation of a non-racist and united South African society.

Almost 2 500 South Africans were asked three questions about their relationship to the nation, or what we call "national identity". In answer to the question whether "the world would be better if countries were more like South Africa", over half (58%) said they (strongly) agreed. The strongest agreement was among Africans (64%) and whites – with more than a quarter of the respondents being indecisive.

Approximately two-thirds (64%) of the group were of the opinion that "South Africa is better than most other countries". Again, Africans agreed most strongly (70%), and whites the least strongly (45%).

A large majority of all respondents (83%) would "rather be a citizen of South Africa than of any other country". Over two-thirds of whites (65%) and four-fifths of Africans (88%) agreed with this statement. Overall, coloureds showed a similar pattern to that of whites, whereas Indians were more similar to Africans. These percentages and findings from earlier studies show that patriotism and national identity are widely shared within the nation.

In addition, it was found that a strong national identity does not preclude a strong

racial identity. As with national identity, race identity was stronger among Africans than among the other three race groups. Most people seem to combine an African, white, coloured or Indian race identity with a strong national identity.

Although a sense of national identity has been formed, the SASAS findings show that there is definitely a need for improvement in race relations. We found that the different race groups equivocally think people from other race groups are racist. What is more worrying is that a clear majority of South Africans seem to believe people of other race groups are racist. Especially among African

Would racial identification have less negative consequences if one at the same time strongly identifies with the nation? Indeed, among Africans such a combination of race and national identity, or what we call "dual identity", coincides with more positive views of other race groups. Among the racial minorities, in contrast, national identity is more contested, especially when combined with a strong group identity. Interestingly, this contestation tends to result in more negative perceptions of racism among other "fellow" minority groups.

This study suggests that a national identity is in the process of formation and that this

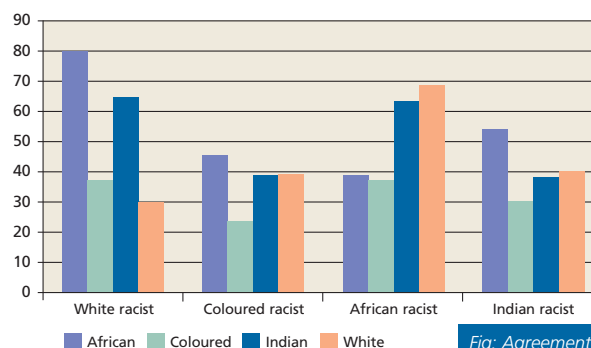


Fig: Agreement with the statement that whites/coloureds/Africans/Indians are racist (%).

83% of respondents would rather be a citizen of South Africa than of any other country

and white South Africans, racism is reciprocal, with Africans thinking whites are racist and whites thinking Africans are racist.

With regard to each of the four race groups, we asked the respondents whether they agreed that most members of a particular race group had racist attitudes. As is shown in the graph, whites were most negatively perceived, especially among Africans. The historical African-white schism is confirmed by the mirroring pattern that most whites regard Africans as racist. Coloureds and Indians were generally regarded as less racist than the other race groups.

might contribute to unifying, rather than excluding and dividing, various population groups. Even if, as some argue, South Africans are claiming their South African identity only because it was previously denied to them, this is not necessarily happening at the expense of minority race groups. Rather, national identity seems to be associated with some rivalry among minority groups in terms of maintaining each other's stereotypes of racism. •

Dr Marlene Roefs is a Senior Research Specialist in the Surveys, Analyses, Modelling and Mapping (SAMM) Research Programme. This article is based on a chapter in a book on the South African Social Attitudes Survey, 2003, scheduled for publication in 2005.

It sometimes feels that an HIV/AIDS bandwagon is passing through Africa, and in order to be “relevant” and caring, it is necessary to drop all else and join it. This is indeed a danger. Yet, the impacts of the virus are all-pervasive, and combating the epidemic needs thorough understanding from multiple perspectives.

Mental health problems are both a risk factor and a consequence of HIV/AIDS, and they may interfere with treatment. In this article, we look briefly at two important interrelationships between HIV/AIDS and mental health and at some recent research results.

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

Impaired mental conditions make people more vulnerable to infection. Though current evidence is taken mainly from developed countries, local research increasingly points to a high vulnerability to infection in people with mental disorders, intellectual disabilities or who abuse substances. They may be susceptible to infection through decreased responsiveness to “mainstream” educational messages, and, for some, greater impulsivity and an impaired ability to assert and protect themselves.

From preliminary data collected by the HSRC’s Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health Research Programme (SAHA) it also appears that the shock of a positive HIV diagnosis, and the ongoing depression linked with a positive status, make some people particularly vulnerable to reinfection. Following the diagnosis some people care little about their future and engage in risky behaviours while others may even seek a generalised “revenge”. In this state, they may put others at risk of infection.

The HI virus infects the central nervous system of a significant number of people. AIDS dementia and other cognitive disorders have been detected in as many as 50% of infected individuals. Psychosis may also be present in a proportion of people with advanced AIDS.

Living with HIV/AIDS can be highly distressing and stressful. For some people this may be short-lived, cyclical and result in “despondency” rather than a frank mental disorder. For others, disorders such as depression or anxiety resulting from their status may be serious enough to fundamentally impair functioning.

This stressful condition is made more difficult by stigma and discrimination, difficulties in disclosure, lack of social support, difficulties

with establishing and maintaining relationships, and inadequate services to deal with mental health problems. A large prevalence study currently in progress within SAHA should provide important additional information on a number of the above issues.

Treating people with antiretroviral therapy (ART) has, together with ongoing prevention

is reduced. Again, one needs to rely mainly on research conducted in developed countries, but there is sound evidence that people with mental health problems are poor adherers to chronic medication – including evidence of being poor adherers to ART.

As a result of this a number of programmes exclude HIV sufferers, with substance abuse

TREATING THE MIND OF HIV/AIDS SUFFERERS AS CRUCIAL AS TREATING THE BODY

The mental health of people living with HIV/AIDS is increasingly being recognised as having a serious effect on the population. It demands our serious attention and response, writes MELVYN FREEMAN and NKULULEKO NKOMO.

programmes, become the major health intervention for people living with HIV/AIDS. But rolling out treatment is a highly complex process. For example, it requires skilled health workers, access to high-quality laboratory services, an ongoing supply of low-cost drugs, and people to support the patient.

In addition to the external or environmental factors needed for a successful rollout, it also needs people who are ready and able to start and sustain treatment. The “internal” world of the person must be as robust and prepared as the external factors.

If someone suffers from poor mental health – and this is probably more than half of all people starting ART treatment – the likelihood of them sustaining an ART programme

and mental disorders, from ART treatment. While this may be understandable, it is discriminatory and paradoxical to exclude people on the basis of direct or indirect symptoms of HIV/AIDS itself. Logic suggests that treating the mental health problem will increase the chances of better adherence, but thus far the scientific evidence is lacking. The HRSC and international researchers are currently planning a randomised, case-controlled study to investigate this.

ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

A second fundamental area where HIV/AIDS affects mental health is through parental illness and death. It has been projected that



The “internal” world of the person must be as robust and prepared as the external factors

without major shifts in behaviour and comprehensive treatment programmes by around 2015 as many as one third of all children in South Africa will have lost one or both parents.

The mental health impact of this is difficult to measure or even to imagine. Some research has started in African countries such as Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa but the scope and approach of the research are not adequate to lead to clear policies and interventions.

The peak of orphanhood in most countries is still some years off, and studying current mental health impacts may not reflect the cumulative problems that may arise when a much larger number of children are left without parents.

It is true that many children have high levels of “resilience” in the face of adversity and that predicting a mental health disaster for children is neither likely to be empirically correct, nor helpful. On the other hand, without stable homes and families in which to grow up, the emotional health of many children is likely to be severely compromised and interventions to prevent this are needed.

Possibly the best intervention for children who have lost parents would be to place them in a family environment which will provide the nurturance and support critical to healthy development. A problem, though, is that as numbers of deaths of people of childbearing age increase, so do the pressures on older people and the availability of potential younger

foster/adoptive parents decreases.

Recent SAHA research, *Guardianship in the Time of HIV/AIDS – Realities, Perceptions and Projections. A mental Health Perspective*, shows an extraordinarily high willingness, or “in principle” agreement among family members to take orphans into their homes if needed. But the research also shows deep levels of poverty that will, in all likelihood, impede the good intentions of many.

Old age is also likely to be an inhibiting factor. Pressures of number are likely to push many families to breaking point and unless assistance is provided, neither the willingness, nor the extended family structures, will save many children from life without an adult carer.

Among various other considerations, the research looked at what people would require to ensure that an additional child, or children, would not overburden them. Though the child-care grant of R170 would be some incentive, mainly to the poorest of the poor, most people felt that this would hardly make a difference to their decision on whether to take in a child or not.

However, a grant of R600 (similar to a foster care grant), or R1 000, was seen to make a considerable difference. Having education paid for was also seen as a considerable incentive – in fact, on a par with receiving a R1 000 grant.

Many people also indicated that having a visit from a trained person, and help from time to time, would impact greatly on their decision on whether to take in a child or not.

As more and more parents die, the need for government to make clear policies and to intervene to help families in need of assistance is obvious.

Other people psychologically affected by HIV/AIDS include close family and friends, and formal and informal carers.

Clearly, the relationship between HIV/AIDS and mental health is real and profound. It is also highly neglected. More research, leading to policy and service delivery, is needed in each of the above-mentioned areas to understand the effect of the epidemic on individuals, families and societies. •

Professor Melvyn Freeman is a Chief Research Specialist and Nkululeko Nkomo a Research Intern in the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health Research Programme.

STARSTRUCK: Economic impact of DaimlerChrysler on the Eastern Cape

Brakes may be put on foreign direct investment if the Eastern Cape region takes its eyes off competitiveness, writes JO LORENTZEN.



What do croissants have to do with Mercedes Benz C-Class luxury cars? This unusual question was posed to participants at a workshop in East London in March 2005. Managers of automotive component suppliers, representatives of DaimlerChrysler and education and training institutions, and a consultant to the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC) met to discuss the impact on human capital of DaimlerChrysler's investment in the province.

Some industry representatives were members of the East London chapter of the South African Automotive Benchmarking Club (SAABC), but for many the workshop was the first occasion to share their concerns about economic development in the province with other stakeholders.

The Overseas Development Council (ODI), a development think-tank based in London, led the project, which was funded by the UK Department for International Development (DfID). DfID contracted the HSRC to do a case study of the automotive industry in South Africa.

We know that when multinational firms shop the globe for investment locations, one factor they consider is local capabilities. Smart regions are likely to attract more

Smart regions are likely to attract more sophisticated foreign technology than those with limited capabilities

sophisticated foreign technology than those with limited capabilities. Once firms have invested, they start training workers in-house and contract with public and private education providers to improve the skills profile along the supply chain. Presumably, this has an effect on prospects for local and regional economic development. In a nutshell, this is what the ODI project tried to establish empirically.

The research leading up to the workshop was in two parts: The London-based team leader, Dirk Willem te Velde, analysed the relationship between capital inflows and school enrolment rates in 111 developing countries from 1970 to 2000. The HSRC team looked at the role of the two luxury carmakers, BMW and DaimlerChrysler in South Africa (DCSA).

We chose these two manufacturers because of their upmarket focus and because, following the government's Motor Industry Development Plan (MIDP), the German assemblers had aggressively developed their local operations into export platforms. This obviously puts a

premium on skills and competencies, without which world-class quality and continuous improvement – essential requirements of automotive assembly for world markets – remain elusive.

At the workshop, Dirk presented the global study. It finds that inflows of foreign capital and school enrolment rates are indeed related, which suggests that the presence of foreign capital raises the returns to education.

Justin Barnes, the Managing Director of the SAABC, illustrated with data from Benchmarking Club members that component suppliers in East London tended to have worse human resource performance indicators than automotive firms in the rest of the province, the country, and other parts of the developing and developed world.

In presenting my case study, I showed that in the five years since DCSA had first produced C-Class cars for export, the car manufacturer had profoundly affected the skills and competencies of its workers and managers, and those of its suppliers. The consequences were visible even outside the automotive sector, because insights from advanced production processes in car assembly had been transposed to other industries, including unrelated ones. That was the good news.

The bad news was that economic planners in

the municipality and the province had never given any thought to what might happen to the region should DCSA ever decide to shut down its East London plant. Not only would this put some 10 000 jobs at risk, it would waste the skills, work practices and tacit knowledge accumulated by local human capital, thanks to its exposure to a demanding global value chain.

Whenever I had broached the subject during interviews for the research, development

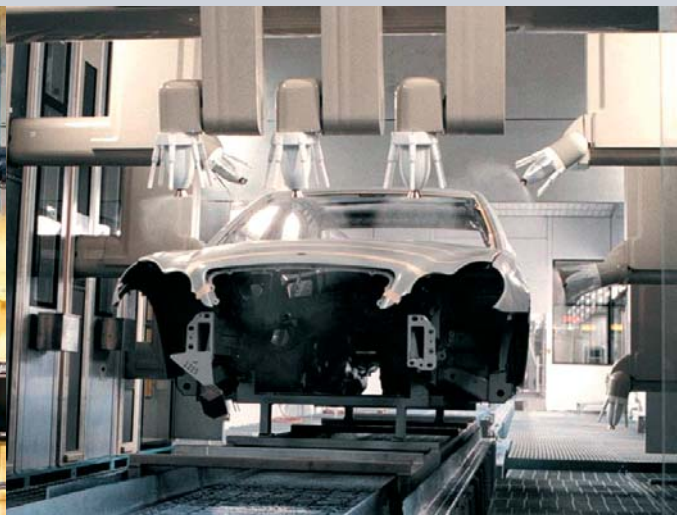
upgrading of skills and competencies on the shop floor and across management.

He broke the news that Leoni had lost the successor contract for the new C-Class model in favour of Botswana-based Delphi, and that he would essentially be winding down the operation over the next year and a half. He and his colleagues were at a loss as to what would happen to the workforce, although he had no doubts that much of the human capital created over the last few years could in

lived in (the real) London before becoming Assistant Director of the new East London campus of the University of Fort Hare, "Because," she said, "you can't even get a decent croissant in this town."

Voksie went on to raise the larger issue of the absence of an organised dialogue around regional development prospects between universities, technical colleges, firms, private sector associations and public authorities.

Her point was well taken. Human capital in



officials denied that this was even a remote possibility. It appeared as though the people from the ECDC believed their own glossy brochures, according to which the Eastern Cape is a competitive hub like no other. They totally discounted the threat from higher-growth markets in China and India; the looming phase-out of the MIDP, which will undoubtedly make South Africa a less attractive production site; and competitiveness problems afflicting the ECDC in a global car market with a perennial surplus capacity.

The development officials' optimism contrasted with a more downbeat assessment by the director of the local Chamber of Business, Les Holbrook, who quipped that when DaimlerChrysler leaves, would the last person to leave East London please turn off the lights.

Local stakeholders had the last word in the matter. Sean Ellis of the SAABC had put together a panel to kick off a debate on the relevance of our research and the larger questions it raised. The first contribution came from Gareth Evans, Production Manager of the local subsidiary of Leoni, a German manufacturer of wire harnesses that employs about 400 people right across the street from the DCSA plant. He confirmed that supplying harnesses for the C-Class had led to an

In the five years since DCSA had first produced C-Class cars for export, the car manufacturer had profoundly affected the skills and competencies of its workers and managers, and those of its suppliers

principle be utilised in other productive activities, even outside the automotive sector.

Brian Harmse, Owner-Manager of Fabkomp, a manufacturer of a wide range of components for DCSA's truck division located in a township near King Williams Town, underlined the need for diversification away from the automotive sector to achieve a more balanced risk exposure. He explained why it is difficult for small firms to figure out opportunities for international contract manufacturing and cautioned that skills at medium and high levels were always a constraint.

Peter Miles, representing the ECDC, struck an optimistic tone. He held up the flag for the various development instruments in the province and found it a mystery that East London, despite its high quality of life, did not draw more professionals. The deadpan answer came from Voksie Vokwana, who had

the Eastern Cape has definitely benefited from foreign direct investment. But multinationals come and go, and hence their arrival must not be taken to mean that everybody will live happily ever after.

The challenge is how to harness the knowledge that foreign firms bring, whether they stay forever or just a short while. Investment in innovative activities that contribute to restructuring and diversification must come primarily from the private sector. But when competent and highly committed firms cannot individually overcome the kinds of information and co-ordination failures brought to light by our study, governments must engage with them to figure out jointly where new productive and profitable avenues for local capital lie, and to counter disincentives for exploring them.

This requires systematic dialogue, to which the workshop will hopefully have contributed. ●

Professor Jo Lorentzen is a Chief Research Specialist in the Human Resources Development Research Programme of the HSRC.

Note: The conversation between the HSRC and industry is ongoing. Len von Graevenitz, Vice President of the Human Resources Division at Toyota SA and a participant at the workshop, will introduce the launch of the HSRC's Innovation Club Jour Fixe on 14 June in Pretoria, entitled "The Leadership Gap: From Local to Global". (NB: Croissants provided – thank you, Voksie.) For further details, please e-mail media@hsrc.ac.za.



In conversation with
Michael Aliber



WHO'S BUYING OUR LAND?

The use of the Deeds Registry to track race and nationality of land purchasers

The suggestion that the Deeds Registry – the public register of land – will henceforth record the race and nationality of those purchasing land is predictably causing a stir.

Among those who suspect sinister motives, the concern relates to the Government's ultimate purpose for collecting this information. But the real question is not the imagined political implications, but the practical question: what purpose, indeed, would be served by this approach?

The Deeds Registry was not created to generate data that can be analysed for policy purposes. As elsewhere in the world, the purpose is to ensure a legal record of property rights.

That said, the Registry has for a long while been used by some people for information's sake, in particular by property valuers, who often seek to estimate the market value of a property by accessing information about comparable sales; and by estate agencies, who

try to gauge trends in property markets. Over the past several years, the Chief Directorate Deeds Registration has significantly improved the accessibility of its data, which in any event are by law open to the public.

What it has not done, however, is to greatly change the type of information recorded. Perhaps it is just that the Deeds Directorate has not considered the other uses that its data could serve, for example, when a transaction is registered with Deeds, the municipality in which it took place is not recorded. As a result, the Deeds data are not generally useful to municipalities that might wish to estimate the value of their property tax base. But

**It is worth considering
what value would be
introduced by amending the
information captured with
property transactions to
reflect race and nationality**

potentially, with just a bit of extra information, the Deeds data could greatly assist the entire local government system. For whatever reason, the Deeds database is certainly an under-exploited resource.

Now comes the suggestion that Deeds should record the race and nationality of landowners. In principle, this is not a bad thing. Suspicions of sinister motives aside, when our debates are informed by data rather than anecdotal evidence or speculation, we are in a better position to make good choices.

But it is worth considering what value would be introduced by amending the information captured with property transactions to reflect race and nationality.

Let us examine the question of race. Everyone understands, though not all accept, the Government's imperative to redress the country's racial imbalance in land ownership. This is the reason for the Government's Land Reform Programme, much of which is explicitly redistributive.



The question that immediately arises in respect of the Deeds proposal is, why it is necessary at all? Surely, the Department of Land Affairs (DLA), which is responsible for land reform, knows how much land has been acquired by blacks by means of its own direct interventions, just as the Department of Housing must know how many RDP houses have been built?

While it is certainly true that the DLA's data about its own Land Reform Programme is not as good as it should be, clearly it should fix the problem directly rather than rely on Deeds' information. Even if the Deeds Registry starts to record race, it will be a blunt and simple instrument relative to what it is expected to observe: land reform transactions constitute a tiny fraction of all rural property transactions (generally less than 3% by area), which in turn are far fewer than transactions of urban properties. Moreover, the sort of information needed to really track land reform goes far beyond the sort of data that Deeds can be expected to record.

There are three possible good reasons for amending the deeds data capture system.

Firstly, still in the vein of measuring the progress of land reform, an amended Deeds database could assist in keeping track of the extent to which land transferred through land reform might revert to white owners. Some

land reform beneficiaries may choose, after a time, to resell their land, while others may be forced to forfeit their land if they cannot service their debts. Presently there is no formal mechanism for capturing such events, thus we do not know if they might undo the gains made through land reform, or if the land reforms are of no consequence.

Secondly, the Government might be interested in knowing how much private land passes into, and out of, the possession of blacks outside of the actual Land Reform Programme. This is indeed important to know, and the Deeds database is the ideal vehicle.

Lastly, the Deeds database could, in principle, be amended to allow for the tracking of patterns in foreign property acquisition. The question of how much land is presently acquired by foreigners, and indeed whether foreigners are driving up the land price, and thus hindering land reform, is one which is all the more emotive for lack of comprehensive data.

However, there are two important challenges and one concern that relate to the proposal.

The one challenge relates to whether the attempt to capture race and nationality would be retrospective. It is one thing to change the data capture protocol today, so that from this day forward the Deeds database has the sort of information we desire, and quite another to

determine the race composition or nationality of the status quo. The latter is a far more demanding task, especially for nationality (foreigners have been buying land in "white" South Africa longer than blacks have). Tracking incremental changes without knowing the base would be interesting, but very incomplete.

The other main challenge is that much of South Africa's privately owned land, approximately 17%, is registered in the name of some legal entity such as a trust, communal property associations, or a company, and not in the name of natural persons.

There are ways, in principle, of depicting the race or nationality of a legal entity (for example by looking at its ownership composition), but doing so would likely place unreasonable demands on Deeds. Maintaining it would simply be impossible.

As to the concern with the question of purpose and interpretation: the use of the Deeds database to better establish trends in property ownership patterns could, if

An amended deeds database could assist in keeping track of the extent to which land transferred through land reform might revert to white owners

conducted thoughtlessly, lend itself to further complicate the problem of assessing South Africa's land reform, namely, the obsession with hectares.

From the time the RDP base document was published in 1994 with mention of the target to redistribute 30% of agricultural land within the first five years of the programme, the focus on hectares has remained paramount. This is generally to the exclusion of more important considerations, such as numbers of people, or even value.

The irony is that the collective market value of all of South Africa's commercial farmland represents but a fraction of the value of any one of its metropolitan areas. Understanding the trends in numbers of black property owners and the value of the properties that they own, be they urban or rural, will be a better indication of economic transformation than the one-sided attention to hectares that generally prevails now. •

Dr Michael Aliber is a Research Director in the Integrated Rural and Regional Development Research Programme.

Indigenous knowledge should not be denigrated as “unscientific”, argues TIM HART, but rather be encouraged to incorporate and develop new and appropriate knowledge.

RETURNING TO AFRICAN TRADITION THE WAY FORWARD FOR SMALL FARMERS?

New grafting techniques to produce fruit for export, environmentally-friendly pesticides, and fertilizers improvised from available resources – these are just some of the innovations made by small farmers using traditional methods. Indigenous knowledge (IK) can make a significant contribution towards resolving two key problems facing Africa: poor health, including HIV/AIDS, and poverty.

Approximately 80% of the African population use traditional medicines to meet their health care needs and IK contributes to this field. IK can also help to alleviate poverty if it is effectively applied in agriculture. At present, the vast majority of sub-Saharan Africans depend on resource-poor agriculture, without modern inputs, and they rely almost exclusively on locally available resources for their livelihoods.

Since 1994, much has been said about IK and its role in a democratic South Africa. But for those not directly involved, IK does not seem to have been integrated optimally in development practices.

But Dr Mogege Mosimege, Director of the Indigenous Knowledge Systems Unit of the Department of Science and Technology, has told the Arts and Culture Portfolio Committee that much has indeed happened behind the scenes.

Mosimege's presentation of 9 November 2004 covered the groundwork, vision and goals of a South African Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) Policy. It consists of four key areas:

- ▶ the affirmation of African cultural values in the face of globalisation;
 - ▶ the development of services provided by indigenous knowledge holders and practitioners;
 - ▶ the contribution of indigenous knowledge to the economy; and
 - ▶ the interaction with other knowledge systems.
- The role of IK in health and agriculture is generally considered to fall into areas two and three. But areas one and four are also

Indigenous knowledge is the knowledge that grows within a social group, incorporating learning from own experience over generations. It is also knowledge gained from other sources, and absorbed into local ways of thinking and doing





worth noting. Globally and throughout Africa, IK has had to interact with other knowledge systems, and in particular the dominant paradigm of Western scientific knowledge. Much of this interaction has been on the frontiers of health and agricultural development. It has been far from friendly, or even mutually beneficial for the local population.

Such interaction has often been one-sided and extractive. African and other “indigenous” populations, particularly elders and traditional healers, were sought out for their knowledge of the medicinal properties of various local plants. Given the commodity orientation of the marketing economy, researchers then sometimes used this knowledge for their own enrichment, giving little credit or acknowledgement – and no reward – to the local informants.

These exploitative practices and the subsequent commoditisation of knowledge have raised the need for the protection of indigenous or local knowledge by attaching intellectual property rights (IPR) to it – and this is problematic. Such knowledge is generally held communally or shared by a number of people, who are often not clearly identifiable, and its origin cannot easily be legally established.

This problem is further compounded by the difficulties of attaching IPR to intangible products and the fact that indigenous people are often marginalised and cannot generally afford the costs involved in attaching and enforcing their IPR on intangible goods.

The value that “Western-orientated” and trained researchers place on IK flows from three different views:

- ▶ A large group see IK as a primitive form of knowledge, which is incorrect and unscientific, so that conventional research is needed to educate and modernise its users. Modernisation is the key and considered the best approach by proponents of this view.
- ▶ A small group of applied researchers see IK as a highly valued and under-utilised resource that needs to be carefully studied so that the “best elements” (those considered relevant by scientists) may be extracted and combined with conventional science. This extractive process ignores the social, cultural, spiritual and other dimensions associated with IK, on which its effectiveness depends. It is a weak attempt at legitimising indigenous knowledge in the eyes of the academy.
- ▶ An even smaller group, emerging from the second, argues that neither indigenous nor

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scientific knowledge can be regarded as a complete and static stock of knowledge, since they reflect contrasting epistemologies, created within specific environments. Both forms of knowledge are evidence of dynamic processes of observation, investigation and experimentation. Both can include and adapt external innovations. In this view IK is equal to scientific knowledge and differs only in the resources at its disposal.

This last viewpoint has been given enormous support from agricultural development studies carried out by non-government and other organisations with smallholder farmers in developing countries around the world. This research has shown that if only the “best tenets” of IK are extracted, the resulting technology or innovation is usually less effective. For example, trying to get farmers to plant an improved variety of a local plant without observing the necessary preparatory rituals or social taboos would be tantamount to trying to get an engineer to believe in a new concrete mixture when she knows that the foundations have not been correctly laid.

The complementary potential of these two knowledge systems becomes clear when they are applied to a particular need or problem. In the applied development situation, neither indigenous knowledge nor scientific knowledge can claim superiority over the other. Their complementary application in specific situations is what matters, and this understanding has resulted in a greater awareness of the dynamic nature of IK and its role as an important resource for sustainable local development.

Many South African smallholder farmers rely heavily on indigenous or local knowledge in their farming activities, and innovate using this knowledge. Recent workshops held in KwaZulu-Natal in November 2004 and February 2005 by the South African PRO-LINNOVA programme (PROmoting Local

INNOVation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management) stressed this point.

The workshops reinforced the idea that local innovation is a process through which individuals or groups discover or develop new and better ways of managing resources, building on and expanding the boundaries of their indigenous knowledge. This ability to innovate with IK allows many African farmers to survive in their marginal and restrictive environments.

Examples of local innovations presented during the workshop included the development of technology and the enhancement of social networks, stressing the importance of IK as a resource in development. Farmers, for instance, had developed some workable technologies, using only locally available resources. These included the development of pesticides, developing composting and soil fertilisation systems to improve tree and seedling growth, grafting techniques to produce export quality fruit, developing post-harvest storage facilities that prevent onions from perishing, and making breeding baskets for hens to protect the eggs from predators.

The development of a social network had enabled one Cape farmer to enter into and remain in the apple export market for 30 years, despite the constraints that he and other smallholder farmers had faced.

These and other examples supported the understanding that IK is the knowledge that grows within a social group, incorporating learning from own experience over generations. It is also knowledge gained from other sources, which has been completely absorbed into the local ways of thinking and doing. In some instances, external or scientific knowledge had been combined with IK during the innovation process.

If the implementation of the South African IKS policy takes note of the dynamics of indigenous knowledge and its ability to contribute significantly to development in multiple ways, the South African hills will truly be alive with the sound of indigenous innovation. Indigenous knowledge is more than a mere commodity for sale to the highest bidder, or a resource that can be extracted and shrouded in science. It has the ability to innovate and improve knowledge. •

Mr Tim Hart is a Senior Research Manager in the Integrated Rural and Regional Development Research Programme.



SURVEY GIVES HARD FACTS ABOUT THE LIVES OF EDUCATORS

The first seven reports resulting from a comprehensive study of factors determining educator supply and demand in South African public schools were released at a media conference on 31 March in Cape Town. The principal investigators, OLIVE SHISANA and PETER BADCOCK WALTERS, presented the main findings.

Following worrying anecdotal reports that educators seem to be leaving the education profession in large numbers, the Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC) commissioned a consortium to investigate the validity of this statement. Some of the reasons that were suspected for this included low morale, job dissatisfaction, AIDS and premature mortality.

The consortium consisted of the HSRC and the Medical Research Council (MRC), which produced six of the reports, and the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Mobile Task Team on the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Education (MTT), which produced the seventh report. The following findings warrant highlighting.

EDUCATORS CONSIDERING LEAVING

The HSRC conducted a national survey of 21 358 educators in more than 1 714 randomly selected schools; 97% agreed to participate. This survey revealed that 55% have considered leaving the profession due to inadequate remuneration, increased workload, lack of

career development or professional recognition, dissatisfaction with work policies, job insecurity and lack of choice of where to work.

The factors that prevented educators from leaving were mainly the lack of alternative job opportunities available to them, the opportunities that the occupation allows for the development and empowerment of young people, their participation in decision-making on school policies and the sense of autonomy they experienced because of this, and the friendship and support that they receive from colleagues.

ATTRITION

Intention to leave is not synonymous with leaving. A parallel report, Educator Attrition & Mortality in South Africa 1997/8-2003/04, by the MTT, provides the first overview of estimated gross educator attrition (number leaving the education system for whatever reason) rates and trends, by cause, age and gender, in South African public schools.

The average number of educators in the

system has declined over the last seven years, from 386 735 to 368 548 in 2003/04, largely due to a reduction in the number of temporary educators. Attrition (total loss) in the educator workforce fluctuated over this period: the national rate was 9.3% in 1997/98 as a result of the post-apartheid rationalisation process, reducing to 5.5% in 2000/01, before climbing again to 5.9% by 2002/03. By 2002/03, over 21 000 educators were leaving the system annually, although up to a third of these may re-enter the system at some future point.

While the largest cause of attrition between 1997/98 and 2003/04 was contract expiry (81%), these terminations were almost immediately followed by contract reinstatement and do not constitute attrition in the conventional sense. The next highest cause was resignation (9%), followed by death (3%) and retirement (3%). However, excluding contract expiry and reinstatement, the breakdown of attrition by cause over the same period is as follows: 53.1% due to resignation, 17.7% deceased, 17.7% retirement, and 8.7% medical reasons.

The proportion of attrition due to mortality (all causes) increased from 7.0% in 1997/98 to 17.7% in 2003/04. The proportion of attrition due to medical reasons grew from 4.6% to 8.7% over the same period.

TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Factors affecting teaching and learning reveal significant disparities in conditions, both within and between provinces. Large class sizes of 46 or more are reported in Limpopo (64%), Mpumalanga (60%) and Eastern Cape (59%), in contrast to Northern Cape (22%) and Western Cape (22%). Urban/rural disparities in class size were also observed, 60% of rural educators, compared with 24% of urban educators, reported teaching classes of 46 or more learners.

School fees also affect the teaching and learning environment. Western Cape, Gauteng and Northern Cape have annual school fees averaging approximately R800, while Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga averaged R150.

An analysis of matric results over a three-year period indicates that the wealthier provinces, Western Cape and Northern Cape, obtained high percentages (above 86%) while the poorer provinces, Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape, achieved less than a 60% matric pass rate.

HIV/AIDS AMONG EDUCATORS

Based on a nationally representative sample of 17 088 educators who gave an oral fluid or blood specimen for HIV testing (response rate: 83%) 12.7% are HIV positive; if sex and age are taken into account, the figure is not significantly different from that of the general population.

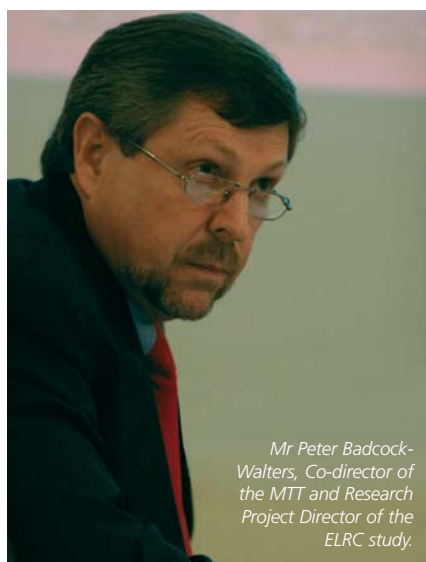
African educators were most likely to be HIV positive compared with the other groups; they were also most likely to be part of low economic status and more likely to be placed in rural areas without their families.

THE KEY FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY ARE:

- ▶ HIV prevalence is the highest in the 25–34 age group (21.4%).
- ▶ More than a fifth (22%) of HIV-positive educators would need immediate antiretroviral therapy.
- ▶ The overwhelming majority of educators (75%) did not drink alcohol in the past 12 months; 20% are classified as low-risk drinkers and 5.3% as high-risk drinkers.



Mr Peter Badcock-Walters, Co-director of the MTT and Research Project Director of the ELRC study.



- ▶ The proportion of educators absent from work for longer than 10 days was highest among those diagnosed with TB in the last five years, high-risk drinkers, and those with lung or breathing problems, heart disease, diabetes, cancer or anaemia. The main reason for absenteeism was high blood pressure, followed by smoking, HIV positive status, stomach ulcers, arthritis or rheumatism, and high-risk drinking. Low morale, intention to quit teaching, low job satisfaction and high job stress are strongly associated with a higher number of days absent from work and days feeling unwell at work.
- ▶ The health of educators is apparently poorer than that of the general population, considering that 10.6% had been hospitalised in the previous 12 months. This is higher than the 7% observed in the general population in the 2002 Nelson Mandela/HSRC study of HIV/AIDS.

- ▶ Two-thirds of educators who were considering leaving the profession were in the scarce fields such as technology, natural sciences, economics and management.

DETERMINANTS OF HIV INFECTION

The HIV epidemic seems to be driven by multiple sexual partnerships, low and inconsistent condom use, having significantly younger sexual partners, spending nights away from home, and gaps in the knowledge of HIV transmission.

WORKPLACE POLICIES

After reviewing all key Department of Education (DoE) workplace policies as well



1 Mr Dhaya Govender, General Secretary of the Education Labour Relations Council at the media conference.
2 Dr Olive Shisana, Principal Investigator of the ELRC study and Executive Director of the HSRC's Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health Research Programme.

as those of two unions, the HSRC report concludes that the transformation of the education sector has been largely successful, especially in the policy-making arena.

The major criticism centred on the difficulty in implementing the new policies. Some concerns were expressed about some important HIV/AIDS issues that are not covered in the policies.

From the interview-based survey of educators it was found that the majority was aware of some DoE workplace policies or directives, such as giving sick leave to educators (87%) and prohibition of sexual relationships between educators and learners (64%) as well as the DoE's HIV/AIDS policy (65%). However, educators were not aware of their unions' policies (46%).

A slight majority of the educators (52%) had attended HIV/AIDS training and workshops and 48% had taught a class on HIV/AIDS.

... continued on page 15 ▶

SHARED BREASTFEEDING CONTRIBUTES TO HIV-TRANSMISSION, STUDY SHOWS

A study to investigate why some children are HIV-positive and their mothers HIV-negative came up with some unexpected findings. The results were presented by OLIVE SHISANA, co-principal investigator, at the AIDS Impact Conference in Cape Town in April.

Widespread “shared” breastfeeding of babies by a non-biological caregiver with HIV is the single most important factor linked with HIV infection in children, besides the most obvious route of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. The odds of a baby having been breastfed by a non-biological mother is 17 times greater in HIV-positive children, compared to the odds in HIV-negative children.

This emerged from an investigation in the Free State, the first of its kind, into possible causes of HIV infection among a very small proportion of children in the 2-9 age group who had HIV-negative mothers. The study, HIV Risk Exposure in Children Aged 2-9 years Served by Public Health Facilities in the Free State, South Africa, investigated breaks in infection control practices among 4 000 mother and child pairs in 25 public hospitals, three community health centres and 54 primary healthcare clinics in the Free State.

It was conducted by the HSRC, the University of Stellenbosch, the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Centre for AIDS Development Research and Evaluation (CADRE). The Nelson Mandela Foundation commissioned the study, with support from the Free State Department of Health and the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund.

Another finding is that prolonged breastfeeding of children by HIV-positive mothers increases exposure to the risk of HIV infection in children. An overwhelming majority (92.3%) of HIV-positive mothers breastfed their babies for a prolonged period – 60% of them continued breastfeeding after the child was one year old. This greatly enhances the chances of a baby becoming infected with HIV, even if he or she is born HIV-negative.

Management and control of access to expressed milk was also a problem. Breast milk samples were randomly selected. It was found that babies could be exposed to HIV-contaminated milk; 29.7% of the sample

of breast milk destined for feeding babies tested positive for HIV, and six milk samples contained high viral loads.

Only 13 of the 25 public hospitals had dedicated milk preparation areas. In the rest, milk preparation was carried out in the ward, with few infection prevention methods. A major problem was that bottles were labelled by cot number rather than the name of the baby and were rarely checked, allowing milk to be fed to the wrong baby if the cot was moved.

The study also looked at the potential for healthcare-acquired transmission of HIV in the maternity, paediatric and dental facilities in the Free State health facilities. “Poor infection control practices were found in some labour and maternity areas and in dental facilities, in particular through poor cleaning techniques and traces of blood found in these areas and on dental instruments,” said a co-principal investigator, Professor Shaheen Methar of the University of Stellenbosch.

(right)
Dr Olive Shisana at
the announcement of the
results of the study on HIV in
children aged 2-9 in the Free
State, at the AIDS Impact
Conference in Cape Town.

(far right)
Mr John Samuel, CEO of the
Nelson Mandela Foundation,
and Dr Olive Shisana,
co-principal investigator, at the
announcement of the results
of the study on HIV in children
2-9 in the Free State Province.





Of the dental instruments ready to be used on patients, 24.6% had traces of blood. In the case of instruments destined for maternity and paediatric patients, 24% were contaminated with invisible blood and 17.5% had visible blood, which suggests a breakdown in infection control processes over an extended period.

The evidence generated from this study suggests a need to reduce the potential for HIV transmission in dental, maternity and paediatric facilities. John Samuel, CEO of the Nelson Mandela Foundation stated, “The solutions lie not only with policymakers, to ensure that there are policies and guidelines for infection control, and that these guidelines are rigorously implemented, but that patients are educated to demand that health workers wash their hands, wear and change gloves and use sterile equipment. Well-informed patients are best placed to monitor weaknesses in infection control.”

Mothers and children were tested for HIV, and mothers and caregivers answered questionnaires. DNA testing was done on the biological mothers to confirm maternity of the children who participated. Children were also examined for scars inflicted by traditional practices such as circumcision, incisions, birth procedures and scarification.

Findings indicate that the overall HIV prevalence among children in public health facilities in the Free State is 14.3%; among hospitalised children, this figure rose to 21.5% – a heavy burden on public hospitals.

Prolonged breastfeeding of children by HIV-positive mothers increases the risk of HIV infection in children

The study also found that just over 29% of mothers in the study were HIV-positive. •

Dr Olive Shisana is the Executive Director of the Research Programme on the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health. Download a copy of the report for free, or order a printed copy from www.hsrcpress.ac.za.



... continued from page 13

An overwhelming majority were willing to teach their learners about human sexuality and safe sex practices. There were, however, those who were not willing to do so. A minority indicated that their school had an AIDS committee (39%), had a system for replacing absent educators (31%) or were aware that the DoE provided care to educators with drinking problems (22%).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Some of the major recommendations emanating from the study are that the DoE, with the support of the unions, should consider:

- ▶ Restructuring remuneration packages, reducing workload and managing educators' job stress.
- ▶ Improving resource allocation to poorer schools and providing psychosocial support for educators.
- ▶ Setting up a comprehensive workplace healthcare programme.
- ▶ Embarking on a targeted, positive prevention programme starting with those who are HIV positive and an antiretroviral therapy programme for educators.
- ▶ Improving on the implementation of HIV/AIDS and related policies and programmes.

THE REPORTS EMANATING FROM THE STUDY ARE:

- 1 Potential Attrition in Education: The impact of job satisfaction, morale, workload and HIV/AIDS (HSRC).
- 2 Factors Affecting Teaching and Learning in South African Public Schools (HSRC).
- 3 The Health of our Educators in Public Schools: a focus on HIV/AIDS in South African schools (HSRC and MRC).
- 4 HIV-positive educators in South African public schools: Predictions for prophylaxis and antiretroviral therapy (HSRC and MRC).
- 5 The impact of antiretroviral treatment on AIDS mortality: A study focusing on educators in South African public schools (HSRC).
- 6 Workplace Policies in Public Education: A review focusing on HIV/AIDS (HSRC).
- 7 Educator Attrition & Mortality in South Africa 1997/8-2003/04 (MTT). •

Dr Olive Shisana is the Executive Director of the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health (SAHA) Research Programme. Mr Peter Badcock Walters is Co-Director of the Mobile Task Team. Download copies of the reports for free, or order printed copies from www.hsrcpress.ac.za.



Executive Director, Democracy & Governance Research Programme, HSRC

By Ina van der Linde

- Born:** 1965, Pietermaritzburg
- Marital status:** Married to Fatima Habib, the anchor in his life. They met at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, during their student years (1983–1988). They have two sons, Irfan (10) and Zidaan (6). His sons play an important role in Adam's life as he focuses his energies on the nature of the future society and the environment they will be living in one day.
- Mother tongue:** English
- Qualifications:** A PhD and a MPhil in Political Science from the Graduate School, City University of New York, an MA (Political Science) from the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg
- Relaxation:** Swimming, playing TV games with his kids, and having lunch with Fatima.
- Current reading:** *In the Rose Garden of the Martyrs*, by Christopher de Bellaigue.

Think of Adam Habib as the guy with the loudhailer. With a voice like a foghorn, charismatic vigour and sharp intellect, he could very well have been a rabble-rouser or a revolutionary. Instead, he chose to become an academic; a participant in “the contest of ideas” with an aptitude for institution building.

“I was always a rebel and to a certain extent still am, but these days only when it's useful”, he admits. Habib rebelled against his conservative aunts, who formed part of his large extended family and acted as guardians for the three Habib brothers when their mother died and his father, “a typical middle-class Indian businessman”, left for Botswana to set up businesses there.

He rebelled against a particular brand of exclusive Muslim beliefs, and against traditions and entrenched ideas of right and wrong in society in general, and in politics specifically.

In 1980 Habib entered high school in Pietermaritzburg. It was a year of serious school boycotts in schools in the area and marked the start of interest in politics. With his interests ignited, Habib started asking questions, such as, who was Steve Biko? Who was Mandela? What are the ANC and the Freedom Charter?

This quest sparked a love affair with political science that has lasted up to now. “I cannot

imagine taking this route if it were not for my political conversion during the school boycotts. It forced me to define who I was as an individual, as a member of a group, and as a South African.”

Identity is an important theme to Habib. “When I went to India for the first time two years ago, I realised how un-Indian I am. I am as much defined by the fact that I was born on African soil, into a home of Indian ancestry that was Muslim, as by the fact that I was a political activist struggling against a racist political dispensation.

“I am also defined by the wide variety of people with different backgrounds, languages and religions with whom I have interacted, as by the fact that I studied and lived in New York. I am a product of the 21st century, a hybrid of humanity, which transcends geographical and cultural boundaries.”

This view of identity lies at the core of his political scientific endeavours and debates of the last decade. “Our common humanity can only be truly realised in a more equitable context. A redress of the inequities of a tragic past is of fundamental importance. The question is how to redress the past without undermining the rights of the common humanity.”

He is concerned that the debate on humanity in South Africa forgets its universal roots and

tends to define us as Indian, black, white and against one another. In an article in this publication in 2003, he wrote:

“The post-apartheid government's transformation agenda, encapsulated in its programmes and policies, is largely based on race transformation, in all sectors, from education and health to the economy, is defined in racial terms...

“The positive side to this is that in sector after sector, the advancement of black interests has become the primary aim of transformative legislation. But the negative side is that the benefits of this redress policy have been monopolised by a small elite minority within the black population.

“Some white, Indian and coloured citizens perceive the redress project as unfair discrimination. The racial character of the redress project has also led to tensions within the black population, and in particular between people of African and Indian ancestry.

“Coupled with the above is the glamorisation of racial identity by a small elite of black politicians, activists and intellectuals – most with impeccable anti-apartheid credentials. In the new ideology, socially constructed racial identities constitute the cultural blocs of society.

“This is a dangerous phenomenon that will

I am also defined by the wide variety of people with different backgrounds, languages and religions with whom I have interacted, as by the fact that I studied and lived in New York.

come to haunt this elite. It legitimises playing the ethnic card when it suits them and will inevitably lead to a fractured and politically divided society.”

But then, he believes like Leon Trotsky, who, along with Karl Marx, strongly influenced his political philosophy: “The historic ascent of humanity, taken as a whole, may be summarised as a succession of victories of consciousness over blind forces – in nature, in society, in man himself.”

Habib believes history is on our side. “It is not a linear progression, but in one way or the other, whether we step forward or step back, the struggle to move forward is always there.”

With disarming honesty, he also talks about his “neurotic personality” and his conversion to Islam after a bout of bacterial infection, which to him suggested a heart attack. But again, in vintage Habib style, his “liberal orientation to Islam” is inclusive of all other religions and beliefs. “God appears in multiple guises to multiple peoples and who am I to judge how other people worship?”

He joined the HSRC full-time in 2004, because the organisation allowed him to “play in both worlds”, namely the academic, and his other great passion, institution building. •



With permission from the Sunday Times

Over the last year, he partly overhauled the Democracy & Governance (D&G) Research Programme, in the following ways:

- ▶ By achieving financial sustainability, which is different from “commercialism”. “Financial sustainability is rarely about numbers, but it is about strategy. Get the right plan.”
- ▶ By doing research that focuses on the “Big Issues” and makes an institutional contribution to the intellectual conversation at the national level.
- ▶ By doing research that builds institutions, using the HSRC as a lever in raising the entire research system, which is in trouble, to a higher level.
- ▶ By focusing on big programmes that span a various research disciplines.

D&G is focusing on several big projects, which examine:

- ▶ Race and redress, which looks at redress mechanisms in education, the economy, the public sector and sport.
- ▶ South Africa in Africa, investigating the impact of the engagements of the South African government and its corporates, on the continent.
- ▶ The rights of rural women and traditional leadership.
- ▶ The development of skills capacity.
- ▶ *The State of the Nation* book, which appears annually.



The Theatre of Violence: Narratives of Protagonists in the South African Conflict

Don Foster, Paul Haupt and Marésa de Beer

This profound and deeply compassionate study aims to reach into the complexities of political violence in South Africa between 1960 and 1994, and to expand our understanding of the patterns of conflict that almost drew South Africans into a vortex of total disintegration during the apartheid era.

376pp / 0-7969-2095-8 / R180.00 / Softcover

Vocational Education and Training in Southern Africa

Salim Akoojee, Simon McGrath and Anthony Gewer

This volume is intended to develop and share knowledge regarding the challenges faced by vocational education and training (VET) systems within the southern African region and the responses to these challenges. It examines the complexities through a unique comparative study of seven countries in southern Africa: Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

176pp / 0-7969-2043-5 R140.00 / Softcover

Skills Development in Very Small and Micro Enterprises

Edited by Simon McGrath

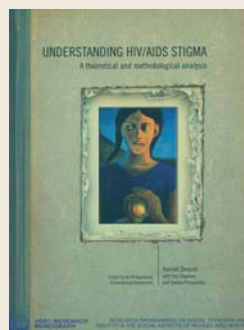
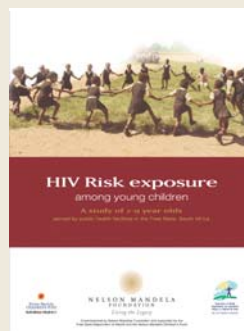
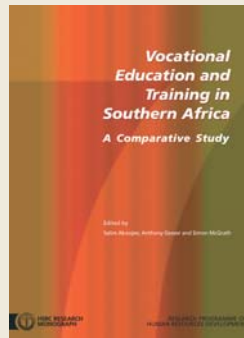
Enterprises employing ten or less workers - very small and micro-enterprises (VSMES) - can potentially make important contributions to meeting South Africa's targets for reducing poverty and unemployment and increasing broad-based economic empowerment. One of the barriers that many such enterprises face is in the area of skills development. This volume draws together studies for the Department of Labour to present a picture of the dynamism of many such firms.

96pp / 0-7969-2098-2 / R110.00 / Softcover

Elusive Equity

Edward Fiske and Helen Ladd

Elusive Equity documents South Africa's efforts to create a racially equitable state education system from the ashes of apartheid



education. Edward Fiske and Helen Ladd describe and evaluate the strategies that South African policy makers have pursued in their quest for equity. They draw on previously unpublished data, interviews with key officials, and visits to dozens of schools to describe the changes made to school financing, teacher allocation, governance, curriculum, and other areas.

288pp / 0-7969-2109-1 / R180.00 / Softcover

HIV Risk Exposure in Young Children: A study of 2-9 year olds served by public health facilities in the Free State, South Africa

Commissioned by the Nelson Mandela Foundation

Much is already known about vertical transmission, which is the dominant mode of HIV transmission among children. However, little investigation has been done into the potential for horizontal transmission of HIV on the population below reproductive age. This report focuses on children aged 2-9 years and presents evidence on the potential for HIV transmission in dental, maternity and paediatric services in public health facilities.

112pp / 0-7969-2099-0 / R90.00 / Softcover

Understanding HIV/AIDS Stigma: A theoretical and methodological analysis

Harriet Deacon, Inez Stephney and Sandra Prosalendis

At a time when alarming numbers of people with HIV/AIDS seek help under cover of darkness, deeply ashamed of their plight, it is crucial to

find ways to better comprehend and address the specific nature of stigma around HIV/AIDS in southern Africa. Drawing on a cross-disciplinary, critical review of academic literature on this issue, the authors explore a range of theoretical approaches to conceptualising stigma. In highlighting the theoretical and methodological approaches that are most relevant in southern Africa, this study has the potential to significantly strengthen the theoretical base for future research in this crucial new area.

112pp / 0-7969-2104-0 / R140.00 / Softcover