

Ex-mineworkers in communities: An exploratory study of livelihood strategies in mining communities for MDA's intervention in Eastern Cape, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique

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HSRC Research Outputs

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Introduction

- The aim of the study:
 - To understand the impact of the changing nature of the migrant labour system in Eastern Cape, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique in a view to make interventions
- Research Objectives
 - The impact of the changing nature of the migrant labour system and the consequent retrenchments of migrant mineworkers
 - To explain resistance of ex-mineworkers to switching from minework to other occupations
 - The kind of livelihood strategies led by ex-mineworkers, their families and communities
 - To investigate appropriate interventions for the development of the target communities in specified countries

...introduction (continued)

- **The first and second economy**
 - A need to tap into a 'dead capital' in the 'netherworld'
 - How can the first and second economy in the MIC communities be integrated?
 - What else can we do to help Mining Communities?

...Introduction (continued)

- The global Context
 - SA's contradictory role as a big brother in SADC
 - NEPAD vs. SA imperialism
 - Exploitative SA - Internalisation and localisation of the labour market
 - Little incentives for workers to remain in their countries

The phasing out of the formal migrant labour system

- Argue that the system has changed from formal to informal/casualised migrant labour system
 - Gold price in the early 1990s and the ageing of mines
 - Permanent citizenship to foreign mineworkers in 1995
 - 1997 global financial crisis
 - Immigration Act (No. 13 of 2002)

.....Introduction (Continued)

- **Background to study**
 - From formal to informal migrant labour system
- **Target communities**
 - All three countries long-standing labour supplying countries
 - Mining communities are generally rural
 - Central and Southern part of Mozambique
- **Mining culture –different in communities**

From formal to casualised migrant labour system

- Deferred payment contributed more in Lesotho, than both Swaziland and Mozambique
- Economic contributions
 - Balance of payments, GNP and rural economy, but under development
- Social Contributions
 - Mining/ migrant culture
 - Specific type of masculinity – patriarchal
 - *Ma-Russia* way in communities and heroes in communities
 - Mineworkers as sons of the soil, rural aristocrats and ordinary community members

Research Method

- **Limitations of the study**
 - **Not representative**
 - **Key informants in Mozambique**
 - **Differences in analysis**

.....Eastern Cape (continued)

- **Livelihood strategies in communities –**
 - informal sector, livestock theft, sugar cane plantations, agriculture, dagga production and selling and the rise of prostitution
- **Suggested Interventions**
 - Funding
 - NB to consider the political and historical context of interventions
 - A need to shift from subsistence to commercial farming

Country Cases

- **Eastern Cape**
 - Mining synonymous with being skillless
 - Mining culture once significant, but now no longer deep
 - The notion of mineworkers as rural aristocrats as contentious
 - Difficult for mineworkers to adapt in communities

Lesotho

- Identity and minework
 - Mine work as a career
 - Lesotho as part of South Africa
 - Minework resonates with the tradition and culture of Basotho
- Phasing out of the formal migrant labour system
 - Textile and garment industry as a source of living

...Lesotho (continue)

- **Retrenchments**
 - Changed gender roles
 - Social disintegration and the return to the traditional activities
 - Civil society organisations overstretched and seen as source of employment
- **Interventions**
 - **Challenge in survival of projects**
 - Capital, markets, business management and access to information
 - **MDA's lobbying weakness and failure to engage with other CSOs**
 - **A need to change the mind-set with ex-mineworkers and the younger generation in particular**

Swaziland

- Deferred payment not compulsory
- Mining culture and identity
 - Culture not that embedded
 - Womanising as the Swazi culture
- Ex-mineworkers Associations
 - Three – SWAMIWA, SNEMA & SADLASENKOSI
 - Political context – co-operative association turned into a trade union

.....Swaziland (continued)

- **Missing monies and finger-pointing**
 - Inquiry on the issue NB
- **Possible interventions**
 - Rehabilitation of mineworkers
 - A call for social dialogue on mineworkers issues
 - MDA has an NB role to play, but it should clear its name and image

Mozambique

- Workers as the most discriminated, yet most trusted and hard-working in the mines
- Socialist leaning of the country since 1975
- The first to experiment with co-operatives
 - The question more about their sustainability –UJC
- The first country to experience retrenchments amongst the others
- Suggested interventions
 - Funding as the main problem
 - Co-operatives a force to reckon with
 - HIV/AIDS – people have too much information

Interpretation of case studies and interventions

- Funding key, but a need to go beyond it
- Interventions at all level –
 - National, community and household levels
 - Social/individual and institutional interventions
- Social interventions –
 - vocational training/alternative employment
 - Identity – different levels of the embeddedness of the culture
 - Potential entrepreneurs or workers?
 - A need for activities that resonate with cultural practices in communities – gender?

...Interpretation and interventions (continued)

- Institutional interventions –
 - government, business and CSOs collaboration on co-operatives
 - Ensure buy-in from all stakeholders to eliminate rivalry
 - Collaboration with key stakeholders – eg. TEBA, NUM and MDA
- Entitled and potential compensations from both SA government and the mining companies
 - Corruption and fraudulent activities around this

Thank you!!

