

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

KEY WORDS

Non governmental organizations, sustainable livelihoods, sustainable social, economic and environmental Development

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, there is orientation of description of what constitutes a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), what their roles are, and what constrains tends to impede their functioning. The problem statement for the study is sketched out, so are the hypothesis, research questions and objectives for the study. Research methodology is outlined to include literature review on NGOs and sustainable livelihoods; and the empirical survey, chapter outline are highlighted.

1.2 ORIENTATION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The role of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) has been of tremendous significance in the developmental endeavors of both international and local communities since the outset of welfare services. According to chapter 1, Section (1), subsection (x) (a) (b), of the Non Profit Organization (NPO) Act 71 of 1997, NGOs are defined as either a trust, company or associations of persons established for the public purpose and income and property of which is not distributable to its members or office bearers except as a reasonable compensation for the service rendered. NGOs are also commonly known as NPOs (Non Profit Organizations) and both acronyms will be used interchangeably in this study. Furthermore, NGOs are established and regulated by chapter 3 Section 12(1) and (2) of the NPO Act 71 of 1997 which stipulate both the administrative conditions and registration requirement as an NGO.

From the abovementioned definition of NGO as a concept, public purpose for which NGOs are established serve as a most important distinguishing characteristic of these institutions rendering them as significant role-players in provision of services aimed at promoting sustainable livelihoods of the communities which they serve. Several authors (Van Niekerk, 2008:358; Matovu in Nomdo and Coetzee, 20002:59, Swing and Russel (2001) cited in Department of Social Development (<http://www.socdec.gov.za> (accessed 01/05/2009); African National Congress (1994), and Yaziji and Doh(2009) also acknowledges the hard earned credentials of NGOs as one of the community development actors on the basis of their achievements, which are embedded in their rich history. According to Van Niekerk(2008:358), the inherent role/legacy of the history of NGOs in the development of communities can be traced back as far as the Second World War's devastation on affected countries thus necessitating some form of mechanism to provide relief to people in their hour of need. This state of affairs then shaped the nature of social welfare services provision by NGOs and other stakeholders which became predominantly focused on relief even beyond World War II.

NGOs have since been providing supportive and alternative developmental (both tangible and non –tangible) service means to public institutions as the sole public service provider in a sense that they operate at a grass root level and massive scale initiative of people's developmental needs. For example NGOs such as Amnesty international, CARE, Greenpeace, Save the Children, contribute towards helping to organize and give financial support to local communities [Monaheng in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000:129 and Yaziji and Doh (2009)], they are a major force in the economy of South Africa in which total number of employees exceeded the number of employees in many major economic sectors making it a major employer in the country [Swing and Russell (2001) cited in Department of Social Development (<http://www.socdec.gov.za>). The above scenario further indicates that these statistics translates into South Africa's stand at 47 % amongst 28 countries' average 35% work force (<http://www.socdec.gov.za>).

The evidence of this trend lies in the global establishment of numerous developmental agencies which 'had, in most cases, a two fold objective: firstly, to implement the foreign policy of mother country in developing world, and second, to alleviate the plight of the poor' (Van Niekerk,2008:358). Against this backdrop of this information, it can be therefore concluded that NGOs have an indispensable role as alternative service delivery mechanism. Furthermore, the role of NGOs in addressing developmental issues is also acknowledged in the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) (government of South Africa, 1994), RDP can be seen as an integrated post-apartheid programme aimed at poverty alleviation by meeting the needs of communities through various developmental initiatives and projects with focus on peculiar problem engendered by past racial policies of South Africa.

In the view of Wisner; Blaikie; Cannon, and Davis (2004: 96), sustainable livelihoods, is an approach to development resulting from a new thinking in this arena since 1994 and is also similar to access model on which it was based. The concept thus explains how a person obtains a livelihood by drawing upon and combining five types of capital, which are similar to the assets that are involved in access model viz:

- Human capital (skills, knowledge, health and energy);
- Social capital (networks, groups, institutions);
- Physical capital (infrastructure, technology and equipment);
- Financial capital (savings, credit);
- Natural capital (natural resources, land, and water

On those bases, "A livelihood: comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living: a living is sustainable [when it can] cope and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets , and provide sustainable livelihoods for the next generation; and which contributes net benefit to other livelihoods at local and global levels in the long and short term" [Chambers and Conway, 1992: 7-8(in Wisner *et al* 2004: 95-96)].

Implicit in this statement is the notion of both individual and collective ability and efforts taken at a broader scale through utilization of various resources (either physical, material or human) with an aim to meet individuals; families, and community's basic needs to survive. Most importantly is that such an effort and resources should be able to adapt to new life threatening situations in order to be seen as sustainable (Wisner *et al* (2004: 96). Therefore the most important parallel innovation is the advent of the sustainable livelihoods approach to development.

1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Evaton is one of the six townships within Emfuleni municipality, which is also one of the three (including Lesedi and Midvaal) local municipalities constituted under Sedibeng as a district municipality within Gauteng province of South Africa. Emfuleni municipality is situated at the Western-most part of the District, which covers the entire southern area of the Gauteng province extending along a 120 kilometers axis from east to west. It covers an area of 987.45km². The Vaal river forms the southern boundary of the Emfuleni Local Municipality and its strategic location affords it many opportunities for tourism and other forms of economic development. Emfuleni shares boundaries with Metsimaholo Local Municipality and Fezile Dabi District Municipality in the Free State to the South, Midvaal Local Municipality to the east, the city of Johannesburg metropolitan area to the North and Westonaria and Potchefstroom (in north west province) Local Municipalities to the west.

Furthermore, the municipality is strategically located with access to a well-maintained road network-N1 national route linking Johannesburg and Bloemfontein, which transverse Emfuleni. Emfuleni Local Municipality has two main city/town centers, namely; Vereeniging and VanderbijlPark within the area and Sasolburg is only 10 kilometers to the South, across the provincial boundary. It forms the "heartland" of what is formerly known as the Vaal Triangle, renowned for its contributions to the iron and steel industry in South Africa.

When profiling the NPO sector in accordance with the findings of a quantitative survey conducted by Swing and Russel (2002), 'it appears that social service sector has the highest percentages of NPOs numbering 22 755(23%) out of a total 98 920 NPOs in 11 different sectors”.

Urban poverty, HIV/AIDS, illiteracy, lack of municipality infrastructure and basic services (in a form of tarred roads, housing) remain challenges experienced by communities within Evaton. According to Nomdo and Coetzee (2002:54), South Africa, like most of Africa is still predominantly rural, with more than 60% of its inhabitants living in rural areas and a larger share of the population living in towns and cities than in rural areas. Against the backdrop of this scenario, urban poverty is an inevitable reality occurring at a faster pace than cities can readily cope with, placing strain on already inadequate socio economic system in Evaton.

NGOs operating within this area of the study are still left behind in terms of new approaches, models and frameworks of developmental service delivery thereby providing services which are mainly of a relief in nature with the predominant application of sustainable livelihood approach by the Gauteng provincial department of social development as their main and often sole funding institution. These services breed a lot of dependency on welfare system instead of promotion of self reliance for a sustainable livelihood through developmental services. Therefore, despite stated commitments to poverty reduction, the immediate focus of many NGOs and government effort has been on resources and facilities (water, land, clinics, infrastructure) or on structures that provide services (education ministries, livestock services, NGOs), rather than people themselves.

1.4 HYPOTHESIS

NGOs play a very important role in promoting community development through provision of services to the communities in Evaton; yet their service delivery approaches seem trapped in the previous historical evolution of developmental efforts marked by provision of relief as opposed to sustainable livelihood services.

1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Against the backdrop of the orientation and problem statement above, the research will attempt to answer the following questions:

- What does sustainable livelihood approach entail?
- What role do NGOs at Evaton play in promoting sustainable livelihoods of communities in Emfuleni Municipality?
- What are the constraints and benefits of NGOs in promoting sustainable livelihoods of communities at Evaton?
- What recommendations can be provided to improve promotion of sustainable livelihoods by NGOs at Evaton?

1.6 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

From the above research questions, the objectives of the research are the following:

- To provide both theoretical and practical explanation of sustainable livelihood approach
- To investigate the role played by NGOs at Evaton in promoting sustainable livelihoods of communities in Emfuleni Municipality
- To research into the constraints and benefits of NGOs in promoting sustainable livelihoods of communities at Evaton
- To give recommendations that may improve promotion of sustainable livelihoods by NGOs at Evaton

1.7 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To conduct research the following methods were utilized:

1.7.1 Literature review

In order to achieve the aims and objectives of this research a literature review was conducted through the use of a plethora of information available on the subject matter in various sources viz: internet; academic literature on sustainable livelihoods; Unpublished Magister Artium thesis in development studies, and journals. Sources were available at the University of North West library and other libraries in Gauteng. Also available were the primary research findings of agencies already implementing sustainable livelihoods approach.

1.7.2 Empirical research

The scope of the empirical study was limited to Evaton in Emfuleni Municipality. The following research methods were applied:

1.7.2.1 Structured questionnaires

Guided by the supervisor, structured questionnaires were employed to get the views of 10 different NGOs officials in Evaton. The following officials were asked to complete questionnaires: NGOs directors, programme managers and coordinators. The objective was to investigate the role played by NGOs in promoting sustainable livelihoods of communities in Emfuleni Municipality including establishment of the constraints and benefits of NGOs in promoting sustainable livelihoods of communities at Evaton; 5 field workers were also interviewed.

1.7.3 Interviews

A random selection of 10 out of a total of 900 beneficiaries of services rendered per NGOs at Evaton was interviewed in order to determine the limitations in service approaches applied by NGOs as well as the degree of impact of the services received in promoting their sustainable livelihoods. This method was used to enable the researcher to explain the question if the respondents are not clear on what was asked.

One of the other inherent advantages of this method is its ability to probe more deeply as a follow-up of the respondents' response. In the view of Brynard and Hanekom (2006:40), interview is useful method to secure valuable research material.

1.8 Outline of chapters

To achieve the above mentioned objectives, preliminary chapters are structured in the following manner:

Chapter 1: introduction

Orientation; problem statement; purpose of the study and study methodology.

This provides a detailed background and introduction encompassing a description of the topic understudy; and legislative requirement of the subject matter,

Chapter 2: Theoretical exposition of concepts

Entailed herein is a brief overview of theories of development and sustainable livelihoods, global and local trends in application of sustainable livelihood approach.

Chapter 3: Analysis of nature of services delivery by NGOs at Evaton

Chapter 4: Empirical study method

Empirical research on, constrains and benefits of current nature of service delivery, the extent of application of sustainable livelihood framework by these NGOs at Evaton. This section also includes a detailed explanation and description of study methodology, designs, and data collection methods.

Chapter 5: Findings, recommendations and conclusion

Summary of the findings and interpretations of the study, lessons to be learnt from the findings of the study and recommendations for the improvement of NGO functioning are provided.

The next chapter outlines the theoretical analyses of development; sustainable development; sustainable livelihoods and NGOs as concepts underpinning this study.

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL ANALYSES OF CONCEPTS: DEVELOPMENT; SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT; SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND NGOS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Like any other sub Saharan country that experienced colonialization, South Africa was subjected to exploitation by Europeans under the pretext of development. The latter is a highly contested concept in terms of its meaning, from and implications, with more fundamental questions being raised about the extent to which it occurs and its nature. Development was superimposed upon African countries so that they model their imperials. This was done through great influence on current developmental trends and school of thoughts in the region by western countries. -5/19
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While it is not the purpose of this section to enter these debates with new information, it is interesting to note that in the area of development, there is enough empirical evidence and strong arguments, to suggest that the time has now come to put to rest certain old ideas which have clearly not worked and adopt new paradigms for development as a basis for sustainable development and poverty reduction.

This chapter presents issues on development and its dynamics so as to provide insight into the developmental issues and problems facing the contemporary sub Saharan Africa. It also and analyzes sustainable livelihood as a dominant framework within which development agenda is articulated and implemented. In so doing, the definitions of three concepts that form the underpinning of this dissertation viz: development; sustainable development and sustainable livelihoods will be provided for and their conceptual coherence also reviewed. It is also important to note right at the outset that there is a large and intensive body of knowledge that deals with these concepts. It is not the aim of this dissertation to provide an in-depth review of these concepts and so it is mentioned and discussed only as it relates to and form the basis of this document.

This chapter begins with a review of an understanding of development and its origins. Development will be reviewed within its various theoretical contexts since it forms the key to the entire research premise and secondly due to its complicated nature. The concept of NGOs is also defined followed by a discussion of their role as development agents.

2.2 Development

Development is a concept that is faced with a lot of controversies given various perspectives utilized to coin it. Various authors define development as follows:

Ken (in Mzini, 2006:9) mentioned that development means improvement of people's lifestyles through improvement in education, income, skills development and employment. Todaro (in Sebolao, 2008:14) believe that development should be "perceived as a multidimensional process involving the re-organization and re-orientation of the entire economic and social systems. In addition to improvement in incomes and outputs, it typically involves radical changes in institutional, social and administrative structures as well as in popular attitudes and in many cases customs and beliefs", and Swanepoel (De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000:72 &73) view development as not focusing on an area or things, but is a total life transformation. In so doing, a human being's wholeness with his/her environment is accepted as an integrated part.

In the light of the above definitions of development, it is apparent that this concept is commonly understood in general terms as a process of up-liftment, empowerment, and transformation aimed at bringing growth either in people, institutions and policies. When limiting focus to people's development, Mzini (2007:9) asserts that it is also a change which improves the living standards of people and enables them to achieve self improvement in their living conditions in relation to their needs and aspiration. This document embraces an integrated definition of development.

Development was used as an influential factor in shaping relations between the West and Non-west countries and became a strategy largely employed as a cold war weapon (Herman Van der Elst, 2004).

The result was ‘the transition from colonized subject to aid recipient, and from colonial administrator to development practitioner thus highlighting the way in which development theory and practice have been shaped and influenced by colonialism’ (Kothari in Kothari and Minogue, 2002:36).

2.2.1 Theories of development

According to Haines (in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000:31, and Kothari and Minogue (in Kothari and Minogue 2002:1), a large body of theory has emerged in order to comprehend the variety of problems and issues of third world societies since world war II albeit they change over time. However, since it is not the purpose of this chapter to review the vast development theoretical material now available, only key theories are referred to in this section.

2.2.1.1 Modernization theory

Modernization theory emerged in the climate of Cold war. The initial introduction of the development concept illustrates that development efforts were very Eurocentric since they were imported from western countries through development agencies that dealt with transfer of significant amount of aid and provision of extensive technical assistance to third world countries (Haines in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000:31 and Van Wyk, 2004:13). According to Escobar (in Kothari, 2002:58), it was thought that the benefits of modernization would eventually trickle down and ensure that the excluded achieved what the modernist –influenced developers believed to be a better kind of life. Ready to pick up the pieces so as to continue with self governance in the post colonial epoch was a second and last straw that arrested socio –economic and political development of post colonial Sub Saharan countries.

For Breytenbach (in Makgoba, 1999), these countries’ keen to win development assistance of the world powers none of who had been directly involved in the colonization of the African continent, many of our new leaders played right into minefield of intense ideological battle between Soviet-Chino communism and western capitalism.

The result of involvement with US, Soviet Union and Republic of China completely destroyed the young fragile political fabric of new nations thus post colonial Africa became ideological playground for the world super powers and rapidly won independence degenerated into a farce which has since listed famines, wars, economic bankruptcy and other forms of hardships and unpredictable stabilities leading further into the withdrawal from trading with them in the economic market.

The above mentioned relationship remained a status quo which further entrenched the misconception of international countries about Africa as a country of famine, disaster and a place where good people go hungry and bad people run government (Herman Van der Elst, 2004; Thomson, 2000:2; Boetang in Makgoba, 1999). While there are various approaches to modernization theory of development, Haines (in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000: 32) asserts that the modernization approach drew on economic growth theory that helped provide the rationale for guided intervention in developing economy local political elites and foreign donors.

This then influenced developmental approach whereby 'for the past 50 years or so, aid has been viewed by international community as a major instrument for alleviating poverty in the third world' (Chakravarti, 2005:1, and Van Niekerek, 2008: 355). For example the pledge of \$352 million through the UN Southern Africa (Inter-agency Consolidated Appeal process of a total \$ 611 million mainly for food security (Holloway, 2003: 36).The central purpose of aid was to enable developing countries to break out of the vicious circle of poverty to self-sustaining development. In contrast history of development has shown is that it takes place from out side in.

However, in spite of massive flows of aid over the past years, aid has failed to have significant impact on development. 'For example sub Saharan Africa and South Asia saw dramatic drops in per capita aid in the 1990" and this decline in aid has hit hard the countries in greatest need but has since been reversed since the Millennium Declaration in 2000(Human Development Report, 2003:146).

In this light, Korthani and Minogue (in Korthani and Minogue, 2002:3) and Chakravarti (2005) argue that 'while development undoubtedly takes place in some places as measured by shifts in economic growth, relative poverty and inequality have also increased". This is evident in the widening gap between poor and rich countries.

2.2.1.2 Economic development theories

Chakravarti (2005:5), states that economic development theories were postulated during the post-war period and according to these theories, developing countries were in low-level equilibrium trap with low rates of domestic savings and investment. Consequently it was necessary to raise the level of investment and capital formation in order to achieve self sustaining growth takes off. This simply implies that during this era, economic development was seen as the most commendable approach in meeting the needs of the people such that the level of a country's development is largely reflected in the structure of the economy and historical patterns of economic growth as can be found in the recent theoretical and empirical literature in development economics. The government of South Africa is still faced with the major socio-economic challenges of large economic wealth disparities (Gini Co-efficiency of 0.59%- 0, 61%) (Chakravarti, 2005:5).

A dissatisfaction with the abovementioned approach increasingly began because of its prioritization of economic growth, production and industrialization thus placing human needs second. In this light, there was thus the inception of rigorous thinking which critique this model given that economics do not address holistic aspects and spectra of development. In the view of Chakravarti (2005:1), there is currently an increasing perception that aid flows, whether from bilateral or multilateral institutions, have failed to have any significant impact on the economic development of third world countries. For example, women have always been marginalized in issues of development since they were not seen as economic actors given their activities were mainly seen stereotypically confined to the spheres of family and child care (Kothari, 2002:41).

When taking a closer look at the plethora of literature on the phenomenon of development, the history of its philosophical evolution from simplistic modernization view to today's sustainable livelihood is apparent which, rather than focusing on the econometric indicators of gross national product, human development indicators aimed to provide qualitative proxies of human development. The challenge that still remains is a change of mindset.

2.2.1.3 Sustainable development

In the light of the shortfall of the economic approach to development, sustainable development became the new buzz word within development fraternities. This phenomenon entails development which should meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This simply implies three principal components (environmental consideration, human development, and future generations) of sustainable development as also acknowledged by several authors (Mzini, 2007:24, and Mokone, 2007:8).

In addition to the abovementioned components of sustainable development, some of the most important principles of this developmental approach are identifiable as outlined by Council for European Municipalities and Regions (in Mzini, 2007:25) as follows:

- 'Quality of life: human well-being has social, cultural, moral and spiritual dimensions as well as material.
- Equity: wealth, opportunities and responsibilities should be shared fairly between countries, and between different social groups within each country, with special emphasis on the needs and rights of the poor and disadvantaged.
- Holistic thinking: solving a complex sustainability problem requires that all the factors that contribute to that problem be incorporated in the solutions".

From the above information, several related themes that give directions to a new (non-modernization) perspective are identifiable as follows:

- the integrated nature of development
- a holistic orientation towards development thinking
- the importance of social, political, economic and environmental contexts in understanding the integrated and complex nature of development
- the relationship between development and the environment (Kotze in Theron, 2008:7).

What really stimulated international debate on development and environment was the 1987 the Report of the world's commission on environment and development more usually referred to as the Brundtland commission.

Korthani and Minogue (2002:2) assert that poverty reduction, social development and environmental issues (sustainability) is said to be one of the current critical developmental agenda thus rendering the combination of both old and new frameworks in contemporary development. Furthermore, the sustainable development phenomenon was a product of the 1992 Earth Summit and its subsequent international sustainable development treaties, especially Agenda 21, which have since emphasized that approaches to sustainable development require an overarching philosophy which would satisfy the social, economic and political needs of people without the degradation of natural resources (Haines, in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000:51 and Beckenstein *et al*, in Mokone, 2007:8).

South Africa also hosted a world summit on sustainable development in 2002 (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2003: xi). Against this backdrop, a lot of transformation of public institutions, both government and community-based ensued in the country as also a result of the inception of a new democratic government's approach to development.

This entailed an emphasis of interdependence between social and economic development thereby focusing on the maximization of human potential and on fostering self reliance as stipulated in the White Paper on Social Welfare (1997).

The white paper paved a way on transformation of paved a way and charted new directions in relation to the nature of public institutions and the services thereof. Hence Department of Social Development(2004), and UNDP (2003:xi) sees the developmental approach to service delivery in South African post -1994 eras as a major change which impacted on all aspects of life of the people and its institutions as it aimed a lot at improving service delivery to be more accessible. This then popularized the concept of sustainable development. Since the emergence of this definition, the concept of sustainable development has evolved a lot further.

There are various indicators that the concept has become more redefined (Treurnicht, in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000:63). In the view of Theron (2008:17), sustainable development as another theory of development also put emphasis on participation as an additional building block of development that leads to sustainability by entailing local choices because the beneficiaries are the local experts of their meaning-giving context. Therefore, it is important to note that while the abovementioned theories and approaches were a new mode of theorizing which has gained international recognition and entrenchment as dominant macro theories in the North concerned about social change, paradigms, alternative approaches were also as emerging.

2.3 SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS APPROACH (SLA)

Sustainable livelihoods incorporates two words –sustain and livelihoods. For Porrit and Wright (in Mzini, 2006: 11), sustainability simply means “the capacity for continuation into the long term” .Therefore while it is important for people to meet their needs, this should not be done at the expense of the needs of the future generations. The concept of environmental stability plays a more significant role in development theorizing yet there is still significant differences of opinion in how to conceptualize and operationalize it.

On the other hand, according to Chambers and Conway (in Wisner *et al* 2004:95-96) livelihoods entail people’s way of life through which they attain means of living.

“A livelihood: comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living: a living is sustainable [when it can] cope and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets , and provide sustainable livelihoods for the next generation; and which contributes net benefit to other livelihoods at local and global levels in the long and short term” .Implicit in this statement is the notion of both individual and collective ability and efforts taken at a broader scale through utilization of various resources (either physical, material or human) with an aim to meet individuals; families, and community’s basic needs to survive .Most importantly is that such an effort and resources should be able to adapt to new life threatening situations in order to be seen as sustainable (Wisner *et al* (2004: 96).

Mzini (2006:26) further outlines several requirements for sustainability amongst which is a clear understanding of people’s needs, distinctive integrated and coordinated as opposed to silos approach to planning and delivering of services. All this is achievable through the sustainable livelihood approach.

2.3.1 Requirements for a livelihood

As already alluded to in the previous section, five types of capital, are involved in the process of a livelihood:

- Human capital (skills, knowledge, health and energy);
- Social capital (networks, groups, institutions);
- Physical capital (infrastructure, technology and equipment);
- Financial capital (savings, credit);
- Natural capital (natural resources, land, and water) (Wisner et al, 2004).

2.3.1.1 Human capital

Chakravarti (2005:15) sees human capital as indicated by years of male secondary schooling, life expectancy, which is a proxy of health status, have a significant,

positive effect on growth. For example people may choose to obtain a livelihood through education or employment. While some income opportunities have high access qualification such as rare skills that bar most people from taking them up, others are less demanding and these are usually oversubscribed and poorly paid. Most important point to note is that, 'each income opportunity has a pay off in terms of physical product, money or other services, and eventually in health and well being' (Wisner *et al*, 2004:100).

In sustainable livelihood terms, this simply translates that people's basic health and nutritional status relates strongly to their ability to survive disruptions to their livelihoods systems and is an important measure of their resilience in face of external shock. However, this often becomes a remote abstract given the influence of extraneous factors such as HIV/AIDS, famine, illiteracy etc. Hence in the view of Wisner *et al* (2004: 54), people who are malnourished succumb sooner in times of famine than those who were previously healthy. In addition to this, is a generally accepted view that HIV/AIDS has a devastating impact in relation to the sustainable livelihood whereby most deaths are due to its effects.

It is estimated that the life expectancy at birth has dropped to below 40 years in nine African countries making the sub-Saharan Africa just over 10% of the world's population and home to more than 60% of all people living with HIV (UNDP, 2003:378). Furthermore, in 2004 an estimated 3.1 million people in the region became infected (amongst which young people aged 15-24 years, an estimated 6.9% of women and 2.2% of men were living with HIV) while 2.3 million died of AIDS. The devastating effect of HIV/AIDS on human development is that the disease is killing many of the continents' more skilled educated people consequently undermining the human capital available for development.

In addition to the above matter, differential access to resources amongst the poor characterized social relations even at a house hold level where gender and age constituted axes along which inequality was enacted and mainstreamed (Kothari in Kothari and Minogue, 2002:61).

Women, children and elderly people are likely to suffer much more from consequences of unsustainable livelihoods given that development has had a differential impact on the relations between men and women and usually detrimental to the latter. On this note, the decline in access to education and training, and health care during the 1990s has been observed especially in African countries (Wisner *et al*, 2004: 26, and Haines in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000:52). However, a redress has been achieved with a number of NGOs putting an emphasis on women development policies.

2.3.1.2 Social capital

Francis (in Kothari and Minogue, 2002:79), describes social capital as features of social organization, such as trust, norms and networks that can improve the efficiency of society by facilitating coordinated action. In the view of Francis (in Kothari and Minogue, 2002:78 & 83), this definition refers to all aspects of social structure such as networks, norms, links or patronage which are seen as a way of sharing, obtaining information, coordinating action and collective decision making. In this light, it is thought that social capital can provide a kind of infrastructure for reaching livelihood decisions since it is thought of as a glue that holds groups and societies together and enables them to get things done (Francis, in Kothari and Minogue, 2002:77).

Social relationships have always been dominated by lineage and kinship which have since been destroyed by the legacy of colonialism. In several sources (Reader's Digest, 1988:63; Thomson, 2000:7 & 8, and Magubane in Makgoba, 1999:29), kinship and lineage was an important measure through which control was exercised since pre-colonial states did not have permanent and precisely delineated boundaries and in several cases confederations of villages provided security and a community for many thousands of Africans.

As a result, the roots of social ills such Xenophobia lies in the fact that when decolonization became history force after second world war, pan Africanist and nationalist alike accepted the inherited colonial boundaries without reservation to lobby

for their demolition except in Eastern DRC and Northern Angola (Breytenbach, in Makgoba, 1999:93). This implies that instead of re-building of the new decolonized states from their foundation of pre colonial states based on cultural hegemony, “numbers of disparate groups henceforth became citizens of particular states, supposed to forge common patriotism that was non existent” (Boateng, in Makgoba, 1999:95).

However, colonization alone cannot be blamed as the only factor contributing to xenophobia; many other factors need to be considered in order to have a comprehensive insight into the reason and its origin. Hence, for others the recent xenophobic attacks in South Africa are attributed to socio-economic factors such as poverty, anger, and intolerance as acknowledged by the sate president of this country as outlined by Flanagan (in the Star newspaper article 22/05/2008).It is against the view of the above status quo that Treurnicht (in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000:63) highlights the sustainability of culture and its diversity as a second component of sustainable development.

2.3.1.3 Physical capital

While levels of distress may not necessarily be the same, it is commonly noted that poor communities are often marked by overcrowded and underserviced infrastructures which are also environmentally hazardous to their residents. Recently there has been a number of disastrous incidents in Soweto areas which are a predominantly occupied by black people thus causing a lot of loss in monetary, material and human life terms. For example, a man and a girl's lives were claimed by a river (Nombembe, in Sunday Times, 2009:7) while on the other hand Muick –Mere (also in Sunday Times , 2009:7) state that another ‘thirteen year old drowned in Meadowlands(which is an area of this research) after the taxi she was travelling in washed away in raging torrent”. An estimation of 200 houses were also damaged by the storm and the occupants lost house hold belongings leading the area to be declared a disaster area by Johannesburg mayor and the president of African National Congress (in Sunday Times , 2009:7).

The above illustrated scenario paints a gloomy picture depicting the realities of many communities marked by deficiency in infrastructure like roads, houses which are often found in informal settlements and townships. Nomdo and Coetzee (2002:79) rightfully assert that 'these areas encompass government –built match box, formal houses, single sex hostels now often inhabited by both families, and single people ,and shacks". These infrastructures lack resiliency in times of disasters and impact negatively on attempts of sustainable livelihoods.

Evaton is also shares the above characteristic whereby the situation is such that there are squatter camps where remnants and fragments of households live together under one roof. There are very poor immigrants who sequentially share a single bed. There are also hostels for previous workers mainly employed in steel industries and street populations which may not have much to do with conventional household at all (Emfuleni Local Municipality IDP, 2007/2008).

2.3.1.4 Financial capital

It is generally accepted that each household, individual or community makes choices, within constraints to take up one or more livelihood or income opportunities. Employments in a formal labor sector (factory, casual labor, and domestic work) has become a generally accepted means of income generation aimed at earning a livelihood. The flow of income then enter a household as a range of goods and cash; wages, profits from commerce or business and so on. A household budget can be constructed in which expenditures and income are listed and saving or investment of any surpluses. However, unemployment is an unfortunate reality for many people.

The declining steel industry in Sedibeng has resulted in job losses given the previous predominant reliance on steel without any diversification thus contributing to unemployment in this area (Mzini, 2006:15). On this note, a series of sidelines, sometimes illegal or quasi-legal (such as hawking on the streets without license, waste recycling, etc), may become a temporary mainstay to cope with unemployment for urban dwellers.

However, Wisner et al, 2004: 117) caution that 'income diversification strategies can be effective as coping mechanism in the short run, while they undermine the basis of livelihood in the long run". this simply translate that whatever means of income generation put in place as a way of obtaining a livelihood needs to be sustainable into the future while remaining loyal to ecological consideration. In this view, Nomdo and Coetzee (2002:61) believe that the informal sector has a potential to create jobs and, if properly regulated, can serve as one of the vehicles for entering into meaningful employment and subsequently contributing to reductions in urban unemployment.

2.3.1.5 Natural capital

According to Magubane(in Makgoba, 199:19) Sub Saharan Africa was still ruled by Africans and had barely been explored before 1884.However, by 1892, 5 European powers and 1 extraordinary individual (King Leopold) had grabbed almost the whole continent, giving them 30 new colonies through establishment of boundaries. In this light, Breytenbach (1999:92 &94) acknowledges that one factor that served to destabilize many societies, economies and states is Africa's artificial boundaries which were European things as they served their interest(European) in the name of colonialism and the quest for African land, labour and raw material.

However, the African scramble not only ended at a continental level but also permeated its geographic regions whereby the Dutch colonies known as Boers moved away from the Cape colony in protest against British liberal rule and established their own Republic in the North named the Orange Free State and South African Republic (Jaichand, 1997:1). The Native Land Act 27 of 1913 was then promulgated as a way of reinforcing segregation, in South Africa. This Act and other related ones then made land occupation and allocation unequal largely because of dispossession in terms of color bar. As has been shown, one of the worst forms of racial inequity in apartheid South Africa was the practice of systematic land dispossession.

Black people lost their right to purchase land in the reserves and were obliged to utilize land administered by tribal authorities appointed by government, and the Group areas Act of 1966(Jaichand, 1997:1).

On the other hand 'while air and sunlight are generally available in most geographic locations, crops also depend on soil nutrients and the availability of water" (Mzini, 2006:21). Thus natural environment presents humankind with a range of opportunities (resources for production, places to live and work and attain a livelihood. However, the latter is said to be earned in locations that combine opportunities with hazards such as flood plains which are generally fertile for agriculture yet vulnerable to volcanic eruptions (Wisner *et al*, 2004:6). For example, while Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, is situated in the flood plain of major river (Wisner *et al*, 2004:56), Karimanzira (in Holloway, 199:17 & 18) asserts that in South Africa the rainfall scarcity or excess is a seasonal reality with frequent natural disasters being weather related with floods and windstorm together accounting for 85% of all recorded economic losses since 1998.

In the light of the above information, Wisner *et al*, 2004:79) assert that 'it is becoming clear that sustainable livelihoods cannot be supported by natural resources-based activities (primarily agriculture) in many parts of the world , particularly in Sub Saharan Africa such that agriculture provide only 50% of family income even in very rural areas. Therefore there has been a reduction in farming components of livelihoods which can be attributed to many factors. This state of affairs has had a negative contribution to the global food security. For example about 800 million people are said to be going hungry each day (Mzini, 2006:14).

Other additional factor that undermines agricultural activities includes urban migration, droughts and increased demand for import products as opposed to home grown products. However, according to Du Plessis *et al* in (Mzini , 2006: 14), the South African government has taken an initiative to revitalize the agricultural sector as another strategy of sustainable development in agriculture thus reducing poverty and hunger in both rural and urban areas.

In the view of Wikipedia (in Mzini, 2006:21), sustainable agriculture depends on replenishing the soil while minimizing the use of non-renewable resources, such as natural gas or mineral ores because without replenishment, the land would suffer from nutrients depletion and unusable for further farming. A growing number of community initiatives (including those of Evatonians) embrace the agricultural approach to sustainable development since the launching of the Gauteng Agricultural Development Strategy in 2006 in Sebokeng.

In line with the current policies that prioritize poverty elimination and meeting of international development targets, the current aim of sustainable livelihoods framework input into development planning and implementation is to ensure that poor and vulnerable groups either benefit directly from development interventions or where intervention is not targeted specifically for the poor –are not disadvantaged and made poorer as a result of their engagement with the development process.

In this light, 'the sustainable livelihood framework has been widely advocated as a means of improving the livelihood outcomes of the poor through increasing income, reducing vulnerability, strengthening of social networks, improving utilization of resources and opportunities and promoting a more sustainable environment' (Patel and Triegaard, 2005:161). In so doing, development becomes a process through which the people are enabled to conduct their own development and to determine and control resources not merely influencing its directions.

Against the backdrop of the above information, it can then be summarized that "most people are vulnerable because they have inadequate livelihoods, which is not resilient in the face of shocks, and they are often poor" (Wisner et al, 2004; 56). Most importantly is that the SLA seeks to create a framework that shows that the entry point in development has shifted from the economy to human beings whereby local community issues are taken more seriously and development is seen mainly in terms of the improvement taking place in local communities and steps that need to be taken to achieve effective change.

Therefore the essence of development process should be understood more in terms of increasing the capacity of people to influence their own future through interaction with their social and physical environments on a sustainable basis, with the aim of achieving the goals they set for themselves.

2.4 SOME THEMES IN UK RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD APPROACH

According to Ashley and Carney (1999) (<http://www.livelihoods.org> (accessed 01/05/2009), some themes in UK Department of International Development that relates to Sustainable Livelihood Approach are:

- directing assistance to poor and vulnerable people for greater livelihood security
- supporting very poor and marginalized individuals through appropriate safety net provisions that promote social and economic reestablishment and reintegration
- protecting and strengthening social capital in order to reduce/ increase desirable development outcome

The UN system in South Africa is committed to supporting the country in meeting its development objectives in alignment with a national development priorities and within the context of the Millennium Development Goals) MDGs (Eyben, 1998:2). Despite the welcome and consistent sustainable development commitments and impressive achievements in several aspects of its ambitious transformation programme, South Africa's development outcomes remain uneven and weak, particularly in the area of pro- poor economic transfer (UNDP, 2003: xi).

2.5 CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN SOUTH AFRICA

According to Patel and Triegaard (2005:161) sustainable livelihood approach has not been successfully integrated with community development despite being promoted by developing agencies in developing world.

Four central challenges that face sustainable development in South Africa are identifiable as eradication of poverty and extreme wealth inequalities, the provision of access to quality and affordable basic services to all, promotion of environmental sustainability, a sustained reduction in the unemployment. ✖

According to the Human Development Report (2003: V), Davids (in Theron, 2008:24) the UN Millennium summit was held in September 2000 resulting in the Millennium Declaration (i.e. 8 Millennium goals aimed at providing a framework for development was adopted by 189 countries). This Declaration committed to:

- Halving the fraction of those with an income below one US dollar per day: ½ the number of people who suffer from hunger (poverty);
- universal primary schooling education,
- eliminate gender disparity(preferably by 2005
- child mortality: reduce the under –five mortality rate by 2/3 ,
- maternal health : reduce the maternal mortality rate by 31/4 ,
- halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases,
- halve the ratio of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation,
- 7 targets related to: trade, debt, youth, technology, drugs, affordability and special needs (UNDP, 2003).

This move marked an international realization of the plights of post colonial Sub Saharan African states by countries across the globe thus a report aimed at assessing and monitoring the progress of implementing this Millennium Declaration was compiled. This report revealed that meeting these goals in the Sub Saharan African States remains the priority challenge such that 'unless things improve, it will take Sub Saharan

Africa until 2129 to achieve universal primary education, until 2147 to halve extreme poverty and until 2165 to cut child mortality by two thirds”(Human Development Report , 2003:33). Various reasons for these findings were documented amongst which is high death rates of many civilians. During 1990-2001 there were 57 major armed conflicts in 45 locations and Sub Saharan Africa has been hit hardest killing 3,6 million and injuring many more , but no region has been unaffected(Human Development Report,2003:45). Therefore, eliminating poverty depends not merely on achievement of basic livelihood security and reducing the vulnerability of the poorest of the poor and on securing access to basic services.

In addition to the above factors ,De Rato (cited by Davids, in Theron, 2008:25), cites that many African countries’ miss of the MDGs by a large is attributable to the overly ambitious goals themselves and unrealistic expectations placed on aid and not necessarily as a result of African inaction. Furthermore, decades of piecemeal efforts have brought only limited success despite many dubbing 2005 the year of development (De Rato in Theron, 2008:24). Against this backdrop, the conventional development efforts’ limited impact on poverty reduction led development thinking towards the third sector of civil associations i.e.NGOs. The term Non- Governmental Organization is defined below with a purpose of understanding and obtaining insight for the scope of this study.

2.6 DEFINITION OF NGOs

A coherent understanding of NGOs is a necessary precondition for proper consideration not only their activities and influence, but also of their nature. In this section definition of NGOs, their typology for conceptualizing and the different varieties of NGOs is provided. Several definitions of the phenomenon of NGOs exist on the basis of a range of theoretical perspectives and approaches applied to coin it. Definitions of NGOs encompass certain criteria and their classification into categories. As with other concepts, various perspectives and approaches are used in defining the term non governmental organizations.

According to Liebenberg (in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000:109), 'the problematic nature of NGOs and therefore the difficulty in finding a definition for them is illustrated by Salem and Eaves , who declare that until 1983, there was no world bank statement which clearly and comprehensively defined NGO. In the same breath Zayiji and Doh (2009:4) indicates that the term NGO dates from 1950 when the UN coined the expression. For the purpose of this document, NGOs is an umbrella term referring to institutions outside the government sector that engage or intervene in a development process. It is important to note that there are different categories, characteristics, types, roles of NGOs that further defines this concept (Zayiji and Doh, 2009:4).

2.6.1 Criteria and Characteristics defining NGOs

According to Liebenberg (in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000:109), Kane postulated three criteria for the definition of an NGO which Davids (2005:69) refers to as characteristics which entail:

- it should be privately set up (as opposed to being set up by the state) and structured , and sufficiently autonomous in its activity and financing;
- it should be a non -profit making institution to ensure its voluntary or benevolent character
- It should support development, this is what ensures its public interest

'Another more technical definition is offered by Hudson and Bielefeld (in Zayiji and Doh, 2009:5): NGOs are organizations that (1)provide(in some specified legal sense) goods or services , thereby serving a specified public purpose (2) are not allowed to distribute profits to persons in their personal capacities (3) are voluntary in the sense that they are created , maintained , and terminated based on voluntary decision and initiative by members or a board and(4) exhibit value rationality, often based on strong ideological components, and 'Teegen et al. provide a more succinct definition, referring to social purpose NGOs as: private, not – for-profit organizations that aim to serve particular societal interests by focusing advocacy and /or operational efforts on social,

political and economic goals , including equity, education, health, environmental protection and human rights(Zayiji and Doh , 2009:5). In Line with this definition, several sources [Davids, 2005:67; NPO Act 71 of 1997,) (<http://www.socdev.gov.za>), Yaziji and Doh, 2009:4] emphasize community ownership (as opposed to state owned entities) as a common distinguishing factor for NGOs and that they are established with an aim of rendering voluntary services to the society.

Davids(2005:67) further draws a distinction between community based organizations (CBOS) and NGOs .The former(CBOs) ‘refers to a wide-ranging number of community organization that are distinctive in that they usually have a clear membership based, elected leadership, and define their role in relation to a specific geographical area within which their members reside” while the latter (NGOs) are seen as service organizations that have a paid staff and deliver specific services to an identifiable constituency. This document adopts an international usage of the term NGO in a more expansive manner which includes CBOs rather than a South African usage which excludes CBOs.

2.6.2 Classification of NGOs

According to Liebenberg (in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000:110), another method of understanding the nature of NGOs, is to analyze the various categories into which NGOs can be classified along the following broad lines:

- their evolutionary stage;
- their organizational type;
- their functional nature;
- their geographical classification;
- *their membership.*

In view of the above characteristics and categories in which NGOs are classified so as to gain an understanding of their nature, the central focus of this study is upon NGOs which in essence are defined as autonomous, privately set up, non-profit-making

institutions that support, manage or facilitate development action. All these elements are mainly covered by second to third categories viz: organizational type, functional nature; geographical classification as outlined in the above outlined definition of NGOs.

When limiting one's focus to the first category, in terms of the evolutionary classification of the NGOS Korten (1990:115-124) argues that they must proceed through an evolutionary process that is characterized by four generations or stages. These four generations are: relief and welfare; small-scale self-reliant local development sustainable systems development and public conscientizing. By stating that NGOS must go through a process of evolution Korten is arguing that as an organization, NGOs will have to adapt themselves to their environment and the needs that the NGOS is addressing is satisfied the NGOS will change its character and function In order to address the new demands that develop out of its environment. In order for NGOS to survive they must be able to adapt themselves to the way in which the needs of the people which serve change. Kortens' classification has identified the following stages of evolution through which NGOS can evolve:

First generation: relief and welfare organization that tend to be defined in terms of their primary commitment to relief and welfare.

Second generation: small scale self-reliant local development organization is organizations that satisfy the basic needs of a community by utilizing local resources;

Third generation: sustainable system development organization are organizations that seek to maximize decision-making power control by the local population of the macro-processes that concern themselves by focusing on sustainable system development.

Fourth generation: public conscienceitisation aim to raise public awareness and change policies through development education by stating that these generations are evolutionary by nature Korten is arguing that the specific needs which each of these generation tries to address; become void as a result of the nature of evolution. In other words as the organization tries develops the function that it performs at a particular state of evolution in which it find itself; become as void as the organization

start to perform the function that are required of it in the next evolutionary stage . Thomas (1992) state that it is important to realize that although Korten argues that this generation follows each other this might not be the case in practice.

He argues that it would rather be the programs of the organization that could be divided into the various generations and not the organizational design of the particular NGO. An NGO might be able to implement a combination of all four of the categories at any given time for example an NGO might be busy with a feeding scheme which can ne classified as a first generation type of activity, while it simultaneously implementing a public awareness campaign which could be defined as fourth generation development activity.

Furthermore, Yaziji and Doh (2009:5) asserts that NGOs can be broadly divided along two dimensions-(a) whom the NGO is designed to benefit and (b) what the NGO does. The former typology refers to self beneficiaries and financial and labor contributors to such NGO (e.g. church groups, unions, business associations, and community patrol groups) while the latter entail other benefiting NGOs by contrast are those in which the primary capital and labor contributions are not themselves members of the primary intended beneficiary group.

From the various NGO typologies provided above, the role played by each in the development field shall be analyzed in the following section.

2.6.3 Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as agents of development: roles

The important role of NGOs as one of the agents of development cannot be overemphasized. Hence it is important to have an understanding of the nature of, and way in which NGOs function.

2.6.3.1 Roles of NGOs

According to De Beer and Swanepoel cited by Monaheng (in Theron, 2008: 131) and Plummer (2000:75&77), their tasks can be divided into the following categories:

- expert;

- guide;
- enabler;
- advocate;
- mediator, and
- Organizer.

Despite the clear definition of NGO role, Plummer (2009:78) feels that NGO interest vary enormously and it was an incorrect assumption that service-oriented organizations would want to take on community development work. Thus against the back drop of the many roles played by NGOs in the field of development, several NGO activities are also identifiable.

2.6.3.2 Types of NGO activities

Yaziji and Doh (2009:7-10) outlines various NGO activities viz: advocacy, service and Hybrid and evolving NGOs as follows:

2.6.3.2.1 Advocacy NGOs

Advocacy NGOs work to shape the social, economic or political systems to promote given set of interests or ideology by engaging in lobbying, serve as representatives and s to decision. These types of NGOs are said to play their advocacy role through various activities such as mitigation, stage citizens' tribunal etc just as the name given to this type of NGOs denotes. Zayiji and Doh (2009:9) alerts that there is a finer distinction between two types of advocacy NGOs –watchdog and social movement.

While the former are less ideologically radical (given their satisfaction with the broader *economic, legislative, political and social institutions*), relative to the communities in which they live, in contrast the latter are more radical. In this light, advocacy NGOs are those that contribute to the development of communities they serve mainly through two succinctly different activities of (1) merely act as a vanguard against unsatisfactory

development practices be it in the economic, social, political field (2)more pragmatic stance through radical actions.

2.6.3.2.2 Service NGOs

In the view of Zayiji and Doh (2009:9), the activities of these NGOs are mainly service-oriented (e.g. Red Cross crescent, Doctors without Borders) in as far as provision of goods and services to communities with unmet needs. Thus they play more of a safety net role especially in areas where politically challenged, indebted or corrupt states are unable or unwilling to provide for societal needs.

2.6.3.2.3 Hybrid and evolving NGOs

In contrast to the above type of NGOs activities which are either service delivery or advocacy orientated, the Hybrid and evolving NGOs pursue both sets of activities simultaneously, or evolve from one to the other (e.g. Oxfam global development and poverty relief organization advocacy in public policy and direct contribution to health, education and food security in developing countries) .A closer look at the type of activities of this NGO shows that they support the critique of Korten's classification of NGOs in terms of their evolutionary stage classification as stated that above that an NGO might be able to implement a combination of all four of the categories at any given time for example an NGO might be busy with a feeding scheme which can be classified as a first generation type of activity, while it simultaneously implementing a public awareness campaign which could be defined as fourth generation development activity it can Thomas (1992).

Furthermore, the role of NGOs in addressing developmental issues is also acknowledged in the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) (Government of South Africa, 1994).The latter can be seen as an integrated post-apartheid programme aimed at poverty alleviation by meeting the needs of communities through various developmental initiatives and projects albeit its focus on peculiar problem engendered by past racial policies of South Africa (Monaheng in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000:132).

Yaziji and Doh (2009:3) adds that NGOs have gained considerable influence in government, business and within broader society. This has been the case in spite of various types of approaches applied to understand the nature of NGOs by activities, categories and classification. In order to facilitate such an understanding, this section will focus on a discussion of the role that NGOs can enact in promoting sustainable livelihoods.

2.7 THE ROLE OF NGOS IN PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS.

The South African government, like its counterpart countries, has recognized the role played by NGOs in provision of developmental services. Most importantly is that the provision for the state's responsibility to the NGOs is also stipulated in Section 3 of the NPO Act 71 of 1997. NGOs have been actors of development stages longer than any official agencies (World Bank, United Nations NGOs have greater diversity, credibility and creativity than ever before). Hence, 'it is generally believed that NGOs have become very important and permanent institutions in the implementation of development programmes and projects' (Liebenberg in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000:108, and Kothari, 2002:68) .The enhanced role of NGOS comes at a time when the thinking of the official development agencies is in considerable confusion. Development as they find it is no longer working ; rates have improved in the wake of improvement in social services which have only enabled people to survive their poverty and not to be freed from it orthodox approach is oriented to the technical fix for technical problems.

None of this addresses why people cannot afford to eat, why the poor are exposed to disease. The failure of development has been brought into a sharp relief in recent years by the waves of famine in Africa by UN folding environmental disasters and by debt crisis stemming form the impossibly high interest rates bills developing countries are expected to pay for their debts to Northern government and banks. The international bodies which have been principal development; post world war II have promoted a style

of development which has often been insensitive to the needs of people and to the environment(Haines, in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000).

Indeed the focus on wealth production rather than wealth distribution, production for export rather than for the needs of local populations, extraction of natural resources rather than environmental protection, often compounded the problems which are now regarded as critical. However, there is now global recognition that poverty alleviation, eradication of hunger protecting the environment, grass root development and safe guarding the poor from debt crisis are priorities. These are areas in which NGOs have limited experience or discover tremendous operational difficulties. Yet this also makes an exciting and challenging time since they are no longer regarded as irrelevant find themselves drawn into mainstream development to achieve critical role demands first, clear statement about the direction NGOs wish development to head, and what lessons they draw from contemporary world events (Liebenberg, in De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000).

Because of the diversity of the sector it will be unrealistic to expect a single coherent position, however, a wide range of influential and like minded NGOs would be able to reach a consensus on the most salient issues this would enable them to exploit the unique window of opportunities which recent tide of world affairs bring opportunities for NGOs have never been greater nor the resources at their disposal. NGOs have the chance today not to only influence the shape of projects being executed by official agencies but also to influence the critical aspects of development and its policy.

2.8 CONCLUSION

Throughout the chapter, it has been apparent that understanding and assessing the social impacts of development, its policies and programmes requires the combination of sound analytical skills with an awareness of the complex causal factors that drive development outcomes, there are variations in the theoretical frameworks applied to different countries and regions. Turning to a short overview of development theories, only few amongst other important theories are discussed given that development is

just another form of social change that cannot be understood in isolation. The most important parallel innovation is the advent of the sustainable livelihoods.

Against the background information on development and its theories, it is generally recognized that the current economic, social and political situation of developing countries cannot be understood without adequate understanding of their historical background. The advent of the 21st century has also seen an emerging interest in the unintended effects of development such that a shift of focus is now on developing people themselves.

If aid is to make an effective contribution to poverty reduction and development, radical changes need to be introduced. This was more so because of the realization that the process of westernization did not necessarily translate into development in the poor areas. An introduction of sustainable livelihood as a paradigm shift in development was thus necessitated by such flaws. This approach was based on a key concern about how to ensure that people can be assured of a livelihood in a form which is sustainable as many of them have to make a living in marginal and fragile environments as a way of poverty alleviation. According to the SLA, different kinds of assets and capital contribute to the livelihoods of different people in different proportions in different places.

Securing a livelihood may entail building up capital to enable poor communities and individuals within them to transform their own lives and livelihoods. Sustainable livelihoods as a framework can be seen as emerged to meet this need and its profile is increasing and has also publicly come to acknowledge the importance of a people-centered approach to poverty reduction.

While this paradigm can be seen as centered on a vision of the poor two components of the concept are apparent i.e. care of the environment, the second component is on sustain humane way of living. However, sustainable livelihoods does not replace all previous ideas on development, but provides us with a new framework for development thought with new sometimes radically different questions and answers. In this light, we now realize we need different types of information to fit a particular context.

This chapter provided a context for the next chapter that focuses on the origin of South African NGOs', their key social development programmes: social welfare services and different theoretical perspectives that informs them. The next chapter entails an overview of the rationale, origin and evolution of NGOs within the South African social welfare context.