

The impact of substance abuse among youth on the risk profile of Bekkersdal community

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DECLARATION

I, Mabeba Gladys Kekana, declare that *The impact of substance abuse among youth on the risk profile of Bekkersdal* is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

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SIGNATURE

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ABSTRACT

The influx of youth abusing substances is a major problem. The effect of substance abuse may have far-reaching consequences for defining the vulnerability of the offending group as well as for contributing to the disaster risk faced by the community as a whole. The effects of substance abuse on young people have the potential to contribute to an increased vulnerability of this group. It becomes the responsibility of the family and community to bear the burden of its drug-afflicted members and the implications of their addiction. The study was conducted in Bekkersdal, which is a community that has a significant problem with youth abusing substances. The degree to which their abuse affects families and the broader community in terms of increasing risk has not been examined. The dissertation aims to evaluate the effect of substance abuse among the youth on the risk profile of the Bekkersdal community. According to Disaster Risk Reduction, one of the important activities of the state is to increase capacity of communities and households to minimize the risk that may occur and also most importantly, monitoring the likelihood of and the state of alertness to disasters that may occur. A qualitative, explorative research design was employed and data gathered using structured interviews involving 30 adults namely School Principals, Teachers, Community Social workers, Community Leaders, Religious Leaders, Disaster managers and a Nurse from the area.

The interviews were analysed by means of themes. The research indicated that substance-abusing youth create conditions which undermine human, physical and social capital and hence contribute to instability in the livelihood-based system. It was also evident to this research that it encourages the importance of engaging community members in discussions about aspects that concern them which is an empowerment process in itself. As they become more involved, they also have hope that things will work better for them by actively rebuilding their own lives and communities. All the information gathered revealed the link between the negative impacts of substance abuse and its risk profile in the Bekkersdal community.

Keywords: Bekkersdal, Community Risk Profile, Disaster Risk Reduction, Substance Abuse, Youth

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this study to my mother, Grace who had since passed on, my husband Papile, my children Sello, Neo and Seshwahla and the Efalao family.

ACRONYMS/ ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AMD:	Acid Mine Drainage
CDA:	Central Drug Authority
CDBM:	Community-Based Disaster Management
DFID:	Department for International Development
DMA:	Disaster Management Act, 2002(Act No 57 of 2002)
DRR:	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWARF:	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
FBO:	Faith-Based Organisation
HFA:	Hyogo Framework for Action
HIV:	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
IFRC:	International Federation of Red Cross
ISHP:	Integrated School Health Policy
ISS:	Institute for Security Studies
MRC:	Medical Research Council
NDMC:	National Disaster Management Centre
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organisation
SACENDU:	South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use
SAPS:	South African Police Service
SASA:	South African Schools Act No.84 of 1996
SLF:	Sustainable Livelihoods Framework
UNESCO:	United Nations Economic and Social Council
UNODC:	United Nations Organisation for Drug Control
UN-ISDR:	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
WCDR:	World Conference on Disaster Reduction
WHO:	World Health Organisation

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 ORIENTATION

Substance abuse remains one of the critical challenges facing South Africa. A number of research studies that have been conducted locally and internationally reflect the diverse nature of causes and effects of substance abuse (Department of Social Development, 2007:2). These studies, relating to substance abuse, also reflect a sharp increase in the number of young people succumbing to the temptation, as well as an increase in the demand and supply of illicit drugs (Department of Social Development, 2007:2)

By definition, substance abuse is the over-use and dependence on drugs such as stimulants, depressants or other chemical substances (which can be addictive or non-addictive) and which can have negative effects on the physical and mental health of the user. The implications and effects of substance abuse on young people can directly and indirectly contribute to the increase of vulnerability in this group. It becomes the responsibility of the community to bear the burden of its drug-afflicted members. The inherent link that exists between poverty and increased vulnerability prevalent in many at South African townships including Bekkersdal community is already a contributing factor which negatively shapes the overall profile of risk characterizing this area. The addition of young persons that exploit illegal drugs and alcohol further reiterates the potential threat to the community by possibly influencing the vulnerability of this distinct group. Unfortunately where vulnerabilities are greater the impacts of adversity are most profound.

According to the United Nations Organization for Drug Control (UNODC) (2005:23), in recent times, it has been documented that substance abuse has increased the prevalence of negative physiological health effects, ranging from minor issues like digestive problems or respiratory infections, to potentially fatal diseases, like AIDS and hepatitis C and premature death. The UNODC reports that psychological effects such as stress and anxiety, depression and self-esteem are also common effects. Some drugs are very addictive, like heroin, while alcohol, glue and benzene are less addictive. Regular drug abuse or sustained exposure to a drug - even for a short period of time - can cause physiological dependence. The dependence means that when the person

stops taking drugs, he/she experiences physical withdrawal symptoms and a craving for the drug (UNODC, 2005:23).

According to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNESCO) (2005:129) youth have, in recent years, been the biggest population affected by HIV/AIDS. Persons who inject drugs and share drug injection equipment face a high risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS because it is transmitted effectively through such sharing (UNESCO, 2005: 129). HIV/AIDS transmission is also occurring among people who trade sex for non-injected drugs. Trading sex for drugs is often associated with unprotected sex and having multiple sexual partners. Furthermore, the use of non-injected drugs or alcohol can place a person at risk for HIV/AIDS transmission because these substances lessen inhibitions and reduce reluctance to engage in unsafe sex (UNESCO, 2005:129).

The statistics of the Department of Social Development's Central Drug Authority (CDA) indicate that nearly 15% of South Africa's population have a drug problem, with substance abuse being a major contributor to poverty, reduced productivity, dysfunctional family life, political instability, the escalation of chronic diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, injury and premature death (Van Wyk, 2011:80).

The use of drugs creates negative implications extending beyond personal health issues. From a social perspective the link between drugs and crime, research conducted by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg in February/ March 2000 suggests a strong link between drug use and various crimes, for example, over 70% of persons arrested for either theft of motor vehicles or house-breaking, tested positive for abuse of substances (ISS, 2000). The South African Police Service (SAPS) claims that 60 percent of crimes committed nationally were related to substance abuse (Van Wyk, 2011:80).

From a broader perspective substance abuse contributes to economic and social issues. According to Parry (2000:448) less data are available on the impact of substance use on the economy of the country and social development in general, but it is likely to be considerable. In economic terms, based on international experience, the economic costs associated with alcohol and illicit drugs could amount to about 16% of the total economic cost (Parry, 2000: 448). The trickle-down effects are often seen in our affected communities.

According to the 1st Biennial Substance Abuse Report, over the past decade there has been a rapid increase in the incidence of alcohol and drug abuse in South Africa (Department of Social Development, 2007:5). According to the South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (SACENDU), an increasing number of young patients who are between 14 and 35 years old are being admitted to rehabilitation centres for drug-related problems. According to the South African Risk Survey conducted in 2004 (as cited in the Department of Social Development, 2007 2) nationally, 49% of teens use alcohol, 31% smoke and 13% use marijuana regularly. This abuse poses challenges, as half of South Africa's population comprises children and adolescents (South African Community Network on Drug Use Report 11, n.d.).

The increase in drug taking among youth as a demographic group includes the age range of learners in the secondary schools. Not only do youth consume alcohol but they also use drugs to the extent that abuse of substances pose dangers to the health of the youth and ultimately to the well-being of the nation (Jagero&Mbulwa, 2011: 188).

In his speech at The Economic and Social Council on 24 May 1985, the erstwhile United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar describes the wide-reaching implications of drugs on society. Perez de Cuellar said that "drug abuse presents as destructive a threat to the present and coming generations as the plague which swept many parts of the world in earlier centuries" (UNODC, 2005:23). -Substance abuse often leaves communities vulnerable and helpless.

The study builds on this premise by recognizing that substance abuse has a negative impact on the group of individuals who use them but also on the communities that they live in. These negative impacts undermine the ability of the residents to withstand adversity, hence increasing their vulnerability and ultimately contributing to the increased risk profile of a particular area.

From a holistic perspective vulnerability is seen as the degree to which a system is susceptible to and unable to cope with adversity (UNISDR: 2009). Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude and variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity, and its adaptive capacity. According to Adger (2006:268) in the case of an individual, vulnerability is the state of personal susceptibility to harm from exposure to stresses associated with environmental and social change and from the absence of capacity to adapt (Adger, 2006:268). However, for the purposes of this study, we

endeavoured to use the definition of vulnerability provided by Wisner *et al.* (2011:1) in which vulnerability is defined as “the characteristics of a person or group and their situation that influence their capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist, and recover from the impact of a natural hazard”. Risk and vulnerability are inextricably linked and therefore vulnerability must be understood if risk is to be managed (Jagero&Mbulwa, 2011:188).

The critical link needs to be established regarding the holistic implications of drug abuse by youth on our communities. Substance abuse creates negative conditions for its victims where these youth are no longer able to make meaningful contributions to social, economic and physical aspects of life as a result of their dependency on the illegal substances. Their failure to thrive and make positive contributions to their community ultimately undermines the localities’ overall resilience. This diminished capacity contributes to the increased risk profile of the community.

The concept of risk is often explained schematically as $R = H \times V$, which represents the relationship among three key elements namely risk (of a disaster), vulnerability and hazard exposure (Wisner *et al.*, 2003:49). The authors argue that the risk of disaster is a function of the hazard exposure and the presence of exposed persons, characterized by the varying degrees of vulnerability to that specific hazard (Wisner *et al.*, 2003:49). This equation is significant because it presents the realization that vulnerability is a contributor to the creation of risk. When one considers the case of substance abuse, a person who abuses substances is potentially made vulnerable by the impact that the drug has on their ability to maintain their own physical and mental well-being. This vulnerability is extended when the implications of drug abuse impair their ability to contribute to society. The spread of substance abuse across communities increases the number of persons unable to maintain their own health and contribute to upliftment of the society. These groups of youth, through the use of substances, ultimately strengthen their own vulnerability, both directly to their physical and mental health as well as indirectly by potentially undermining the communities’ ability to resist adversity. As members of a community, these abusers undermine the holistic strength of the community as a whole and weaken its ability to address risk.

Based on the previous information, it might well be fair to consider that in communities with greater issues of youth-based substance abuse there is a significant segment of the population that is inherently vulnerable based on the definition of the vulnerability

concept presented. In the light of the growing threat posed by disasters and the realization that disasters have increased over the last 40 years with ever-growing negative impacts on humans and their livelihoods (Lavell, 2008:3), the need to reduce risk is both imminent and pressing.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Substance abuse among the youth is a serious problem in the Republic of South Africa. Its effect may have far-reaching consequences for defining the vulnerability of the offending group as well as for the contributing to the disaster risk faced by the community as a whole. This research endeavours to assess the impact of substance abuse among youth on the risk profile of the Bekkersdal community.

1.3 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the research study were as follows:

- To identify the risk profile of the Bekkersdal community;
- To evaluate the effect of substance abuse among the youth in the Bekkersdal area;
- To determine the extent of the impact of substance abuse among the youth on the risk profile of Bekkersdal; and
- To determine disaster risk reduction strategies which target the risks derived from substance abuse in the Bekkersdal community.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research attempted to answer the following questions:

- What is the risk profile of the Bekkersdal community?
- How does substance abuse affect youth in the Bekkersdal community?
- To what extent could the impact of substance abuse influence the risk profile in Bekkersdal?
- What disaster risk reduction strategies can target the specific risks derived from substance abuse in the Bekkersdal community?

1.5 CENTRAL THEORETICAL STATEMENT

As part of the central theoretical statement that was formulated to inform and guide this research study, there were a number of relevant conceptual frameworks in which to ground this study. These models are briefly explained below and those the best suited for the purposes of this research study were identified.

1.5.1 *The Sustainable Livelihood Framework*

The Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF) places people, particularly rural poor people, at the centre of a web of inter-related influences that affect how these people create a livelihood for themselves and their households.

Key elements of this approach as stated by Birkmann (2006:19) are the five livelihood assets or capitals (human, natural, financial, social and physical capital). A livelihood comprises the capabilities and assets, both material and social, and activities required for a means of living (Birkmann, 2006:20). Within the livelihood framework, the term *sustainability* is often linked to the ability to cope with and recover from stresses and shocks as well as to maintain the natural resource base (Birkmann, 2006:20).

This framework emphasises that especially the transforming structures in the governmental system or private sector and respective processes (laws and culture) influence the vulnerability context, and determine both the access to and major influences on livelihood assets of people (Birkmann, 2006:20). The approach underlines the necessity of empowering local marginalized groups in order to reduce vulnerability effectively. A central objective of the approach is to provide a method that views people and communities on the basis of their daily needs, instead of implementing ready-made, general interventions and solutions, without acknowledging the various capabilities that poor people offer (Birkmann, 2006:20-21). This model focuses on the stability of the functioning systems as a means of reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience. Any actions which undermine the stability of the system create greater risk to the target individual or community.

1.5.2 *Sen's Capability Approach (CA)*

According to Clark (2005:2) over the last decade Amartya Sen's Capability Approach (CA) has emerged as the leading alternative to standard economic frameworks for

thinking about poverty, inequality and human development generally. In her approach, Sen emphasises that economic growth and the expansion of goods and services are necessary for human development (Clark, 2005:3). In judging the quality of life we should consider what people are able to achieve (Clark, 2005:3). Sen then observes that different people and societies typically differ in their capacity to convert income and commodities into valuable achievements. In comparing the well-being of different people, not enough information is provided by looking only at the commodities each can successfully command but how well people are able to function with the goods and services at their disposal (Clark, 2005:3). According to Clark (2005:4) Sen makes some distinctions in her capability theory. Firstly, a functioning activity is an achievement of a person: what she or he manages to do or be. It reflects a part of the state of that person. Achieving a functioning (e.g. being adequately nourished) with a given bundle of commodities (e.g. bread or rice) depends on a range of personal and social factors (e.g. metabolic rates, body size, age, gender, activity levels, health, access to medical services, nutritional knowledge, education and climatic conditions). Inherent to this approach is effectively communicating these knowledge and techniques at all levels, and that persons who are under the influence of substances are not able to fully utilize commodities and therefore cannot make substantial achievements. A functioning therefore refers to the use a person makes of the commodities at his or her command (Clark, 2005:4).

Secondly, a capability reflects a person's ability to achieve a given functioning. For example, a person may have the ability to avoid hunger, but may choose to fast or go on a hunger strike instead (Clark, 2005:4).

Sen emphasizes that capabilities reflect a person's real opportunities or positive freedom of choice between possible life-styles (Clark, 2005:4). Their inability to be productive reinforces poverty which has an inherent link to vulnerability to adversity. Vulnerability undermines the resilience of communities and contributes to risk.

Despite the contributions of Sen's Model, this study rather utilized the Sustainable Livelihood Framework Model as the means of determining how substance abuse can undermine the functioning of a community or family by examining how it affects the capital which serves as one part of the system. One cannot solve the problems of vulnerability in isolation from the processes that initiated it.

1.6 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section presents the literature review and databases consulted in addition to the empirical investigation that includes research design, sampling, data collection, data-analysis techniques, as well as limitations and the significance of the study.

1.6.1 Literature review

A literature review was conducted in this study. It deals with published information on a comparative international perspective on substance abuse and the impact thereof on the youth. Furthermore, drug abuse and its relation to vulnerability are addressed. The literature review also includes information about drug abuse among South African youth, including relevant statistics. It looks at drug abuse in the Gauteng Province and the Bekkersdal area. The research covers the period since 1994 to date so as to understand efforts made by the South African Government to deal with the problem of drug abuse among the youth. Relevant publications in both the health and Disaster Risk Management sectors will be consulted to inform the research. A preliminary assessment of literature on this research study was conducted and indicates that sufficient literature and material are available to conduct research on this topic.

The instruments that were used for the purpose of this research included structured interviews. A literature review was conducted in this study. The publications used included consultation of primary literature as sources of original information, drawn from journal articles and internet resources. Secondary data, part of the literature review, were also used. These included books, government publications, journal articles, reports on performance management and research reports. A preliminary assessment of literature on this study was conducted and indicates a sufficient amount of literature and material. The structured interviews were conducted with parents of the youth and relevant people who work with the youth on a daily basis in Bekkersdal.

1.6.2 Data-bases consulted

The following databases were consulted to ascertain the availability of literature for the purpose of this research:

- Catalogue of books: Ferdinand Postma Library (North-West University).
- Catalogue of theses and dissertations of South African Universities (NEXUS).

- EBSCOhost Database.

1.6.3 Empirical investigation

An empirical investigation is an investigation that relies on or is derived from observation or experiment. The study drew on observation and experiences of critical persons in an attempt to better understand the effects of substance abuse on the risk profile of Bekkersdal.

1.6.4 Research design

This research used a qualitative research design. According to Denzin and Lincoln (1994:2) “qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or interpret phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them”. For this study, a qualitative research design was most appropriate because the research involved the study of human behaviour in its own unique setting, which in this study focused on the youth of Bekkersdal.

Appropriately applied, qualitative research methods are neither soft science nor a mere journalistic reporting of values, beliefs, and behaviours (Denzin& Lincoln, 1994:2). According to De Vos (2002:124) a research design is the plan that offers the framework according to which data are to be collected to investigate research hypotheses in the most economical manner. Qualitative research involves the studied use of a variety of empirical materials, namely, case study, personal experience, introspection, life story, interview, observational, historical, interactional, and visual texts that describe routine and problematic moments and meanings in individuals’ lives. This study therefore applied a case study design. The case study focused on the parents of youth and critical persons in the community that deal with youth substance abusers in Bekkersdal. Bekkersdal was chosen purposively as no previous studies on the topic had been conducted in this area based on a comprehensive review of literature and previous dissertations.

Qualitative research includes interviewing people and documenting what they say, observing people in the course of their daily routines, and recording their behaviour. Another characteristic of qualitative research for the researcher is the primary person responsible for data collection and data analysis (Denscombe, 1998:112). This means that the researcher is present during interviews and this can either be beneficial or have

an artificial influence on the data. By being present the researcher may have an impact on how the participant responds to the questions. This may be a positive aspect. The researcher can clarify questions, pick up on non-verbal language and can adapt to the conditions of the interview if needed (Denscombe, 1998:113).

1.6.5 Sampling

Patton (2002:244) notes that there are no rules for sample size in qualitative research. It is governed by the goal of the study, what the researcher wants to achieve, whether sufficient rich data are obtained and the availability of time and resources. In this method, participants or informants with whom contact had already been made used their social networks to refer the researcher to other people who could potentially participate in or contribute to the study.

Purposive sampling was applied to the study in order to identify a representative sample derived from a person involved with substance abusing youth in Bekkersdal. The sample for this research study was generated from the sources obtained from the community. Three (3) secondary schools in the area were identified, namely Kgothlang Secondary School, Simunye Secondary School and T.M Letlhake Secondary School. These schools served as starting points for approaching the parents and guardians of child substance abusers. Social resources in the area were also utilized as potential sources for identifying the families dealing with substance abuse such as Bekkersdal Youth Development Centre, Bekkersdal police services, Social Workers and local NGOs that are involved with youth substance abuse. The Youth Development Centre, an initiative of Bekkersdal community, targets youth from different ethnic backgrounds whose substance addiction has led to risk-taking behaviours including rape, gangsterism, theft, assault, irregular school attendance, car hijacking and Satanism (Hlengwa, 2003:3).

1.6.6 Data collection

The data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. For the former, interviews were used. To get the most reliable information, to cross check the information and to be more reliable, structured interviews were performed with multiple stakeholders involved in the situation parents and guardians of the youth who abuse substances. De Vos, Strydom, Fouché and Delport (2002:292) inform that interviewing

is a predominant mode of data collection in qualitative research. Interviews were conducted with parents of the youth who abuse substances, officials at the three schools, Bekkersdal Youth Development Centre, the Social Worker and officials of NGOs.

1.6.7 Data analysis

Huysamen (1994:48) contends that data analysis refers to compiling data and drawing conclusions. Data collected through qualitative techniques were analysed and disaggregated thematically to derive meaning from the responses. Data from the questionnaire were analysed qualitatively in terms of the research study objectives. The use of multiple informant interviews provides the basis for triangulating the responses for greater validity.

1.7 LIMITATIONS AND DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The following could be considered as limitations and shortcomings of the research. The participants, mainly parents of the youth who are involved in substance abuse, were difficult to interview, particularly when they did not want to be recognised as parents of substance abusers. Another factor limiting the study was the scale reflected in the relatively small number of informants. The fact, however, that this is a mini-dissertation discounts this limitation to some extent.

It is also possible that the respondents might be available but fail to be honest with responses because of wanting to protect themselves. Language might also hamper the researcher in getting the true results as some of the parents did not understand English and it may also be time-consuming when repeating questions to parents and for that reason an interpreter might be needed to assist. And the most obvious limitation is the fact that the study was focused on the parents and other key role players rather than children directly. This was intentionally done to avoid ethical issues surrounding researching with minors.

1.8 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The findings of the research can be used to bring about greater awareness of the potential influence that substance abuse has in contributing to disaster risk. It could

encourage further studies regarding substance abuse as a critical contributor to community vulnerability and thus disaster risk.

1.9 CHAPTERS IN THE STUDY

This study is divided into the following chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 1 presents the orientation of the study, the statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions and the central theoretical statements.

Chapter 2: Literature review

This chapter details the problem of substance abuse both globally and within the context of South Africa. It presents the potential implications of abuse as documented in research particularly among youth. The study then presents the Sustainable Livelihood Framework Model as a means for analysis for the study.

Chapter 3: Research methodology and design

This chapter describes the methods used for collecting the data necessary for addressing the objectives of the study.

Chapter 4: Empirical findings

This chapter presents the research results about the impact of substance abuse among youth on the risk profile of the Bekkersdal community. The analysed data are presented in this section.

Chapter 5: Conclusion and recommendations

This chapter provides a synthesis of issues raised about substance abuse and its role in contributing to vulnerability in Bekkersdal. It draws conclusions based on the hypotheses provided and provides recommendations on the best ways to deal with disaster risk in Bekkersdal and other communities that may share the same make-up as that of Bekkersdal.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

Young people who persistently abuse substances often experience an array of problems, including academic difficulties, health-related problems (including mental health), poor peer relationships, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. Additionally, there are consequences for family members, the community, and the entire society (Hawkins, Catalano & Miller, 1992:88).

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This study holds it to be true that substance abuse is a societal problem that contributes to other developmental, health, psychological, mental and physiological challenges. Those youths who indulge in substance abuse in turn become, as this study proposes to argue, more vulnerable and less able to contribute to their families and community in general. There is a further link between substance abuse and violent behaviour, road traffic accidents, suicide, violent crime, and sociopathic conduct (Weiner, 2005). The impact of substance abuse can influence the lives of the users but also the lives and welfare of the community through its contribution to increased risk.

This chapter of the study seeks to examine the relevant literature on the topic under investigation. It is the aim of this chapter to sample insights and observations from leading researchers and scholars in the subject area. The literature review section of this study also helps to deepen and lengthen the scope and understanding of the subject by the researcher. As a conceptual approach to substance abuse to a societal problem, this study employs an analysis of vulnerability and how the problem of substance abuse contributes to the increased risk faced by youth and subsequently the community.

2.2 UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FRAMEWORK

As a basis for this study the principles contained in the diagram below, developed by the Department for International Development (DFID) was used to explain the Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF). The essence of the White Paper on International Development in 1997 was a commitment to the internationally agreed

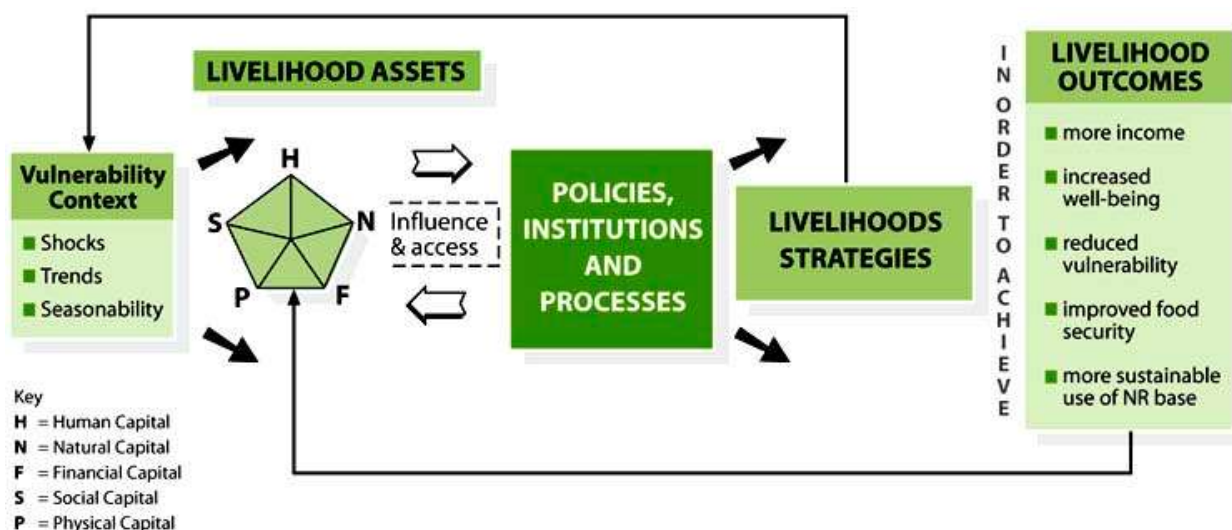
target to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015 (Sustainable Livelihoods Guidance Sheets 1999:1)

The DFID seeks to work in partnership with governments which are committed to the international targets, and also seek to work with businesses, civil society and the research community to encourage progress which will help reduce poverty. The White Paper stresses the importance of partnerships, collaborations and communication at all levels. i.e the debate around the development and implementation on the SLF will eventually provide the basis for deeper understanding and more meaningful development partnerships (Sustainable Livelihoods Guidance Sheets 1999:1.2). It is appropriate to say the aim of their SLF is to help stakeholders engage in discussions about many factors that affects livelihoods, their relative importance and the way in which they interact with one another. The framework offers a way of assessing how organisations, institutions, policies and cultural norms shape livelihoods both by determining who gains access to which type of asset and explaining what range of livelihood strategies are open and attractive to people (Carney & Ashley, 1998).

It is important to note that figure A promotes the holistic framework about Sustainable livelihoods focusing on sustainable development in mind. The different principles of SLF namely; Vulnerability Context, Livelihood Assets, Policies, Structures and Processes that are transformed, Livelihood Strategies and Livelihood Outcomes and Analysis will be discussed in totality. The diagram is used as a discussion tool to explain the importance of SLF in sustainable development.

The aims of the Sustainable Livelihood Framework according to (Sustainable Livelihoods Guidance Sheets 1999:2.1) can be outlined as follows:

- To help users think through the different aspects of livelihoods, and particularly those factors that causes problems or create opportunities.
- To stimulate debate and reflect, which should result in more effective poverty reduction.
- To provide a way of thinking about livelihoods that are manageable and that helps to improve development effectiveness.



SOURCE <http://www.eldis.org/vfile/upload/1/document/0901/section2.pdf>

2.3 ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FRAMEWORK

The framework has been developed to help people understand and analyse the main factors that affects people’s livelihoods .The sustainable livelihoods approach considers vulnerabilities as the main factor that shapes how people make their living. The level of vulnerability of an individual or community is determined by how weak or strong their livelihoods are, what occupational activities they are engaged in, the range of assets they have access to for pursuing their livelihood strategies and the strength and support of the social networks and institutions that they are part of or which have influence over them.

2.3.1 *Vulnerability Context*

As an entrance to the SLF, it was deemed necessary to evaluate the vulnerability context as a key component in the framework. It reflects to the shocks, trends and seasonal shifts affecting people’s livelihoods. They are usually sudden events that have a significant impact that usually has negative effects on livelihoods. Good examples are civil conflict, job losses, illness, accidents and violent disputes (DFID1999:2.2). Secondly trends, shocks and seasonal shifts are important factors in the vulnerability context because they have direct impact upon people’s assets and the livelihoods that are open to them. Although there is a link between trends and shocks, they can impact upon a household or individual as severe shocks, while seasonality happens at a particular season such as shifts in health, production, food availability and shifts in prices. They are known to be the most sources of hardships for poor people according

to (DFID, 2000:10). The impact of shocks on livelihood can also force people to abandon their homes as part of coping strategies (DFID, 1999:2). The impact of trends on the poor is that they are unable to benefit from those trends because of lack of access and institutions working in their favour even if they (trends) move in the right direction. The above-mentioned factors are not measurable and are associated with severe and devastating implications. On the other hand, the vulnerability context can be managed by helping people to become more resilient and better able to capitalise on its positive aspects. It can also be achieved through supporting poor people to build up better assets, e.g. increasing people's access to appropriate financial services and insurance as one way of reducing vulnerability. Another approach will be to ensure that critical institutions and organisations are responsive to the needs of poor.

2.3.2 Livelihood Assets

Within the livelihood assets, sustainable livelihood seeks to understand the many factors influencing people's choice of livelihood strategy and then reinforce the positive aspects and mitigate the constraints. Human capital represents the skills, knowledge, capacity to work and good health that enable people to pursue different livelihood strategies and achieve their livelihood outcomes while natural capital is used for natural stocks, e.g. trees, land and clean air. Natural capital is very important to those who depend mainly on resource-based activities such as farming, fishing and mineral extraction. Survival of all people depend on the key environmental services and food produced from natural capital (DFID 1999:2.3.3) Land and trees provide direct benefits by contributing to income and people's sense of well-being. It is important to note that one asset can generate multiple benefits. When somebody buys a land, that land can be utilised for multiple work, i.e. for ploughing or keeping livestock on it with the purpose of generating income to that particular person which in turn helps to increase financial capital of that livelihood. Financial capital is also an important aspect that people use to achieve their livelihood objectives. A good example is when women save money to pay their children's school fees. This initiative has already been practised by many countries as a way of minimising women reliance and dependency on men in cases of disasters. With regard to physical capital, infrastructure such as roads, rails and telecommunications can assist in alleviation of poverty. According to (DFID 1999: 2.3.4) poor infrastructure can affect important institutions such as education, health services and income generation. For example, without transport infrastructure, essential

fertilisers cannot be distributed effectively thereby affecting agricultural products which in turn affect markets because products cannot be transported. On the other hand social capital can also play a pivotal role in sustaining livelihoods by increasing people's income and rates of saving. For example, if there is death in the family, that particular family can cope due to the fact that they have affiliated to a particular association or organisation which acts as a safety net to ensure survival during periods of intense insecurity (DFID 1999:2.3.2).

2.3.3 Policies, Institutions and Processes

Structures in the framework are the organisations, institutions, policies and legislation that shape livelihoods. They function at all levels, from the households to the international arena, and in all spheres, from private to public (DFID 1999:2.4.1). Analysis should therefore focus on the roles and responsibilities of the different levels of structures and identify those that are of great importance to livelihoods. When people lack access to organisations of the state, they also lack knowledge of their rights and have limited understanding of the way in which government functions (DFID 1999:2.4.1). For the mere fact that structures and processes can transform livelihoods, the aim should be to build and reform laws, institutions and policies that can create better opportunities for the poor. Structures and processes can be provided to the public only if a systematic, well-planned and effective legislation is implemented and thoroughly monitored, which addresses not only a certain problem but a whole lots of factors regarding the external and internal factors of the organisation. Positive choices can be reinforced by transforming structures and processes. If the operation is good, they will facilitate mobility in labour markets and minimize risks associated with them. Therefore legislation is meaningless if it is not properly implemented. In order to achieve the organisation's objectives it is important to comply with legislation entrusted to it. To implement policies and legislation that are meaningful, clear and specific roles and responsibilities allocated to role-players will always assist the organisation to function effectively in line with their scope of operation. The terms of reference under which each structure would be able to function will be developed. For the structures to function effectively and efficiently, the role-players should be conversant with the rules and regulations of their organisation. Although most of the policies and legislation are more impressive pronouncements, the biggest challenge is the implementation (DFID 1999:2.4.2).

2.3.4 Livelihood Outcomes

Outcomes are used to indicate that the DFID is not concerned entirely with people's own objectives but also with the sustainability objective. Outcomes focus mainly on results and the progress made towards poverty elimination rather than thinking only about what people are trying to achieve. Livelihood outcomes are important because they help people to understand what their priorities are as a basis for planning support activities. Improved food security will be elaborated as an example of aspects that can be utilised to explain livelihood outcomes because the survival of every community depends entirely on the supply of food. Families without food are usually vulnerable to diseases, domestic violence and most annoyingly family break-up and child-headed families (Pawar 2008:65-67). The causes could be unemployment and shortage of money to supply families with food which erodes the financial capital of the households. Food insecurity is categorised as one of the causes of vulnerability to disasters because the outcome thereof is bad to an extent that the society could starve and many diseases and death could result.

2.3.5 Livelihood Strategies

The concept *Livelihood Strategies* means the way in which people combine their income, the way in which they use their assets; which assets they choose to invest in, and how they manage to preserve existing assets and income. Poor sanitation in communities has led to more people prone to water-borne diseases such as cholera which contribute in undermining the human capital of livelihoods. According to Biswas (2004:248) for every country with its local municipality to meet human needs such as water, proper management of this resource should be prioritised and sustainable usage of it should be encouraged. If the above strategies are implemented, they will undo the gains and efforts of development and reverse poverty and vulnerability especially if it is properly managed thereby increasing the natural capital within communities.

2.3.6 Livelihood Analysis

It is worth noting that poverty analysis has shown that people's ability to escape from poverty is critical for purposes of their access to assets. Livelihood analysis should take into account the circumstances of marginalised and excluded groups in society development processes. According to Ikeda (2009:65) gender concerns should be fully

addressed by the community and integrate in the actions they take up to reduce disaster risks. Therefore the capacity and resilience of every community to deal with disasters will also need women and girls who are well prepared and adequately sustainable to deal with any disaster.

2.4 DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following section presents definitions regarding central concepts and terminology in the study to help provide context.

2.4.1 Youth

UNESCO (2013:14) defines youths as those members of society that are undergoing a transition from childhood and its freedoms and dependencies to adulthood and its associated responsibilities:

Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and awareness of our interdependence as members of a community. Youth is a more fluid category than a fixed age-group. However, age is the easiest way to define this group, particularly in relation to education and employment.

The National Youth Policy (South Africa, 1997) defines youth as young males and females between the ages of 15–35. According to the National Youth Act of 1996, youth in South Africa are defined as persons in the age group 14 to 35 years (SSA, 2001:1) It is accepted that this is a very broad definition of youth. It is a definition that embraces varied categories of the youth, which have been exposed to different socio-political and historical experiences.

The difference between youth and adolescent is that adolescence, which is a stage in youth development, is a time when enormous changes take place in the process of normal development (Harris *et al.*, 2006:45).

2.4.2 Substance abuse

This can be defined as the over-indulgence in and dependence on stimulants, depressants or other chemical substances, leading to effects that are detrimental to the individual's physical or mental health, or the welfare of others (Harris *et al.*, 2006:1646).

According to the WHO (00.17:11) substance abuse refers to using a substance continuously even with knowledge that it causes serious problems and eventually the abuse may lead to the individual becoming addicted.

2.4.3 Community

Community is widely acknowledged as a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common (ISHP, 2010:16). This definition is reflective of the persons living in the Bekkersdal area. It is also a critical level of consideration for disaster risk reduction practice.

2.4.4 Vulnerability

The extent to which a person, group or socio-economic structure is likely to be affected by a hazard related to their capacity to anticipate it, cope with it, resist it and recover from this impact. (UNISDR, 2009:30). On the other hand, vulnerability is the amalgam of characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard (UNISDR, 2009:30). Therefore it is recognised as a set of prevailing or consequential conditions arising from various physical, social, economic and environmental factors, which increases the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards (ISDR, 2002:46). Vulnerable communities are susceptible to hazards due to political, social, physical and economic conditions.

2.4.5 Disasters

Disasters, according to Ahrens and Rudolph (2006:207), 'result from a combination of hazards, conditions of vulnerability and insufficient capacity or measures to reduce the negative consequences of risk'.

Disasters can be defined as a serious disruption of the operations of the community or a society involving a widespread human, material, or environmental losses and impact which exceeds the ability of the affected community to cope with the current resources (UNISDR, 2009:09).

2.4.6 Risk profile

A risk profile is a snapshot of all the risks a target human system is subject to within a given timeframe (UNISDR, 2009:26). From this definition, a risk profile provides a

picture of possible risks that an individual or community faces - the potential effects of such threats and the preparedness of the individual to handle or manage the effects as they come. The data are collected and organised to describe the environmental status and public health conditions of the community as fully as possible. Reliable data must form the heart of the community profile. Sound and reliable data of a demographic, environmental and epidemiological nature must form the heart of the community risk profile (Wernick, 1996:602).

2.4.7 Hazard

A hazard is defined as a dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impact, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage (UNISDR, 2009:17)

Hazards can be single, sequential or combined in their origins and effects. Each hazard is characterized by its location, intensity, probability and likely frequency. Typical examples of hazards can be the absence of rain (leading to drought) or abundance thereof (leading to flooding).

Twigg (2004:20) states that disasters are triggered not only by natural hazards, but also by those of biological origin, whereas, in analyses of disasters, geophysical and biological events are frequently identified as triggers in a chain of various causes which are linked to social factors at the root of human vulnerability (Wisner *et al.*, 2004:07).

2.4.8 Risk

In the context of disasters, risk is the probability of harmful consequences from a hazard event, such as deaths, economic losses, injuries, physical and environmental damage, or destruction of livelihoods (IDSR, 2004:17). Risk relates to the relationship between an event and the vulnerability of the affected community. Specifically, the following conceptual formula is used (ISDR, 2004:17).

RISK = HAZARD (LIKELIHOOD OF EVENT) X VULNERABILITY (CONSEQUENCE)

In this calculation, vulnerability is the measurement of the proneness to disasters, whereas disaster is the effect a hazard will have on the people and property it strikes

(Baumwoll, 2008:14). It therefore follows that by reducing either the frequency of a hazard or its effect on the population, disaster risk will be reduced.

2.5 YOUTH AS MEMBERS OF A COMMUNITY

Youth are those young people who are at the stage of growth where they are expected to begin to be aware of their individual and communal responsibilities. It is a crucial stage of making choices and taking important decisions that may spell success or failure in one's life. In many cultures it is a time for developing a person's sense of self-identity, a process that involves separating from parental attachments and values and establishing new societal ties, values and ideals (WHO, 2002:02). This is reflective of the UNESCO definition of youth which alludes to how communities have an investment in their youths and take an interest in their development to being dependent and productive social beings that are 'aware of their role in society.

In separating from parents, youth need to form other meaningful relationships. Sometimes the peers with whom the growing youth associates influence them to adopt drugs as part of their social behaviour. However, the effects of drugs may not be to enhance social relationships and self-identity. Rather, the drugs may cause the growing girl or boy to become apathetic and emotionally detached and consequently, to face problems of establishing social bonds, with the result that the youth becomes increasingly isolated emotionally and socially (UNDCP, 1995:21).

It is for that reason that substance abuse among youths, which has the potential to undermine the health and welfare of the group, leads to increased vulnerability and as a result should shift the degree of risk faced by communities such as Bekkersdal.

Therefore, it is of critical importance to look at the detrimental effects of substance abuse among the youth on the risk profile of a community because once the risk is increased, the burden on the community is increased.

Youths are social beings and like any other person they want to have relationships with others. Any discourse on youth without mentioning family and friends would be incomplete as they are a vital support structure for this group of people. Those relationships can be in the formation of starting friendships. Family and friends share their triumphs, help them through tough times, and just help them pass through this difficult time. Youth have a position within family structures as children, siblings,

cousins, nieces and nephews. Their unique roles in family units also add value to their position within communities. Communities comprise multiple family units co-existing in a common geographic location sharing similar cultures, resources and support systems.

As members of the community, youths often depend on significant adult members in their family or community for guidance and support on how to manage and cope during and after the event. For example, youths who have an accumulation of protective factors such as security, good health, social networks and support are likely to be less vulnerable and recover more quickly from any form of disaster (Babugura, 2008). On the other hand, youth lacking such protective factors are likely to be at higher risk when faced with hazards and poorly able to recover after a disaster (Babugura, 2008).

According to Beguile (2007:02) who says that “It takes a village to raise a child”, this encapsulates the wisdom embedded in African societies in which see the raising and embracing children as a communal responsibility.

2.6 YOUTH AS CONTRIBUTORS TO COMMUNITY

Ruthanne Kurth-Schai (2008) provides an elaborate argument about youths as key role players in their communities. As much “as youths try to shape society after their imagination”, she argues “society also tries to shape the youths after its expectations” (Ruthanne Kurth-Schai, 2008). This has occasioned a situation where youths sometimes are “victims of adult society” as much as they are sometimes “a threat to adult society”. However, this means that while much of the attention given to building local capacities is often focused on adults, youth are increasingly visible and active components in community development efforts. Such involvement contributes to both the development of community and the social and psychological development of the youth involved.

The role of youths as caretakers and caregivers in the community cannot be overlooked. In most instances youths, amongst themselves, are a hidden population of caregivers. In many South African households, according to research, children have to take care of sick and ageing family members. In South Africa the problem is exacerbated by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. World-wide, South Africa has one of the greatest proportions of child-headed families.

In such communities as Bekkersdal youths are valuable to their friends and families in daily life at home and on social networks as contacts and pillars of social support. As

peers and team members for other learners at school the youths form a community of future leaders and providers in communities. Some youth support their parents with domestic chores and sometimes other chores and duties, while other youth participate in families and communities as care-givers and assistants. For that reason, substance abuse and its attendant challenges to health and normal life threaten the balances necessary for youth to contribute to productive society.

2.7 YOUTH AS SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

According to the Department of Social Development (2007:2) one in four young South Africans is hooked on drugs, which spells out a huge percentage of youth that are involved in substance abuse. The most common drugs used by young people in South Africa include cigarettes, alcohol, dagga, mandrax, ecstasy, cocaine, crack, heroine, nyaope and whoonga (Bandura, 1989). Other substances being used are glue and aerosols used to achieve cheap chemical highs.

Table 1 presents statistics compiled in West Rand District Municipality in Relation to Substance abuse in the District Municipality (IDP, 2014;10). These statistics were compiled for the last three months, i.e. April to June 2014. The table below shows that the main substances that were abused by youth in this area were alcohol, dagga nyaope and cigarettes. These statistics were compiled for the last three months in 2014 in this area.

Name of Drug	PRE-TEST		TOTAL	AGE
	Mostly Abused	Never		
Alcohol	20 66,7%	10 33,3 %	30 100%	18-20
Glue	1 3,6 %	27 96,4%	28 100%	18
Benzene	26 92,9	2 7,1%	28 100%	19
Dagga	27 96,4%	1 3,6 %	28 100%	18-35
Nyaope	28 100%	0 0%	28 100%	18-35
Mandrax	0 0%	0 0%	30 100%	18-20
Snuff	2 6,9%	27 93,1%	29 100%	18 - 19

Cigarettes	28 100%	0 0%	28 100%	18-35
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TABLE 1: Different types of substances used by youth in the West Rand District Municipality

The table also shows that 20 youth (66, 7%) in the pre-test group had drunk alcohol in the past three months which means that the majority of youth used alcohol in this municipality. With regard to glue, the table shows that it is used by few. Benzene, glue, dagga, nyaope and cigarettes were most widely abused by the youth.

2.8 NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE ON YOUTH

Substance abuse has negative effects on both the individual users, families and by extension the broader community.

The abuse of substances by youth is observed to be a propellant to poor health, anti-social behaviour and increased risk of injury, disability and death (Groppler, 1985:146). Mental health problems such as depression, developmental lags, apathy, withdrawal, and other psychosocial dysfunctions frequently are linked to substance abuse among adolescents, as was revealed by Bureau of Justice Statistics (1992). Substance abusing youth are at higher risk than non-users for mental health problems, including depression, conduct problems, personality disorders, suicidal thoughts, attempted suicide, which are prevalent among youth, has been shown to interfere with short-term memory, learning and psychomotor skills (Nowinski, 1990:77). Hostile behaviour, broken relationships, violent fights and sexual misconduct are all ills whose increase has been scientifically traceable to substance abuse among youth offenders (Ellis, Thomas, Stein &Meintjies, 2012).

Cases of suicide, destitution and vagabondage are also causes for concern in South Africa, as Rodgers links them to substance abuse, which this study considers as a key agent in exposing youth to vulnerability (Rodger, 2004:46). Related to Groppler's observation is the statement by Hawkins, Catalano and Miller (1992:237) who have noted that substance abuse among youths contributes to declining educational standards and underdevelopment of society educationally and therefore developmentally.

What this compelling observation contributes to this study is a strong view that indeed, substance abuse among young people jeopardises their educational and professional development and in the process impacts on families, society and the country by impinging on development and eroding a healthy working class which under-develops the country (Ungar:2004).

2.9 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF VULNERABILITY

The sustainable livelihood framework places people, particularly rural poor people, as the centre of a web of inter-related influences that affect how these people create a livelihood for themselves and their households. The livelihoods framework helps to organise the various factors which constrain or provide opportunities and to show how these relate to each other. It also aspires to provide a way of thinking about livelihoods that is manageable and that helps improve development effectiveness.

According to the DFID (2000) the SLF is designed to help understand and analyse poor people's livelihoods. The SLF starts from a developmental standpoint and puts livelihoods at the centre of the discussion. The aim of the SLF is to help stakeholders engage in debate about the factors that affect livelihoods, their relative importance and the way in which they interact. The framework is based on the full functioning of each of its components and any weaknesses or failure in the components contributes to the susceptibility of the system to the effects of adversity and shock. Hence the system is at greater risk when its components are weakened or vulnerable. Participation of vulnerable people in analysis and implementation is of paramount importance.

The approach underlines the necessity of empowering local marginalized groups in order to reduce vulnerability effectively. A central objective of the approach is to provide a method that views people and communities on the basis of their daily needs, instead of implementing ready-made, general interventions and solutions, without acknowledging the various capabilities that poor people offer (Birkmann, 2006:20-21).

2.10 SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN YOUTH AS A CONTRIBUTOR TO VULNERABILITY

Substance abuse among young people can have negative repercussions for physical, mental, interpersonal and psychological aspects of their lives as individuals and for the community. According to the SLF, the resilience of the system is determined by having all conditions functioning at optimal levels. Any deviations or deficiencies within systems

such as limitations in the areas of human, natural, financial, social or physical capital can greatly affect the strength and resilience of the system. This translates to vulnerability in so far as impairments to capital components create vulnerability for the individual group or in broader terms the community. As vulnerability increases so does risk.

2.11 INCREASED VULNERABILITY WITHIN COMMUNITIES

As mentioned in the previous section, the impact of substance abuse on youth has the potential to increase the vulnerability of the users. Based on the realization that youth do not live in a vacuum but rather exist as part of larger social networks and units such as families and communities, it's only natural to assume that their lives have the potential to influence or have repercussions of the persons that they interact with.

In the context of the study, when the SLF is applied to the community context, it is suggested that substance abuse has the potential to negatively affect capital components which could destabilize the system as a whole and increases the overall vulnerability of the system which represents the broader community.

Even without the consideration of substance abuse by youth and its effects, the Bekkersdal community is already struggling. It is a black township in the Gauteng province of a population of hundred thousand (100000) people (Census, 2013).

The majority of the population are unemployed mainly because of lack of skills and other competencies; consequently the prospect of a bright future is limited. Critical infrastructure is lacking or deficient in some cases. For example, there are no public health facilities and as a result poor persons are prevented from accessing free health care (WRDM Report, 2013). Factors such as having limited funds and assets characterized by conditions of poverty have resulted in persons being forced to live in close proximity in poor conditions. Urbanization for example has also seen a push of rural residents migrating to urban areas such as Bekkersdal to seek better access to employment and services. This has added to overcrowding in the area. In the light of the already poor circumstances in the broader community, the effects of substance abuse further reinforce conditions and characteristics of vulnerability of this group directly and of the community as a whole.

For example, the actions of youth abusing substances can affect others around them through violent crime (ISS, 2000). Social services such as welfare services, public health care, and social grants are drained of their resources as the number of substances abusing youth's increases. Over and above this, substance-abusing youths have limited or no reinvestments into the community but become a liability when such costly developments as injuries, mental illness, diseases and violent crime set in. These actions by youth can erode the capital resources of communities thus creating greater vulnerability.

2.12 THE IMPLICATIONS OF VULNERABILITY ON COMMUNITY RISK PROFILE

A Risk (Disaster) Profile is a perspective of all the risks a target human system is subject to within a certain time (Thys Van Der Merwe,2013). From this definition, a risk profile provides a picture of possible risks that an individual or community faces and the potential effects of such threats and the preparedness of the individual to handle or manage the effects as they come.

A community risk profile can also be involved in generating and regularly updating a local risk database accessible to a wide range of users (Wernick, 1996:601). The data are collected and organized to the conditions of the community as fully as possible. Reliable data must form the heart of the community profile. Sound and reliable data of a demographic, environmental and epidemiological nature must form the heart of the community risk profile (Wernick, 1996:609)

According to Thys Van der Merwe (2013) a risk profile involves an evaluation of willingness and susceptibility of an individual or group to face threats as well as the effects of those threats together with the chances and probability of their occurrence. The aversion of the individual or the community to such threats, as well as the chances to prevent them, form part of a risk profile.

Risk, as previously mentioned, comprises both hazard exposure and vulnerability and diminished capacity. According to reports, Bekkersdal is vulnerable, based on the factors such as the high rate of poverty/unemployment (National Planning Commission, 2010:8). The vulnerability is combined with the exposure to hazardous by-products and contamination from mine run off, as revealed by the team for acid mine drainage in Johannesburg (Oelofseet *al.*, 2006:1). Pegg (2005:378) indicates that mining activities

have toxic chemicals, including those used in mining tailing dams. According to the information identified in the literature review, the Bekkersdal community is exposed to hazards including acid mine drainage (AMD). The gold-mining industry, which is proximate to Bekkersdal, is responsible for ADM which has tremendous negative impact not only on the environment through water and soil contamination (Davie, 2011:01). The AMD “refers to the water that drains over the surface of acid-bearing rock which has been exposed through mining, becoming toxic as it rises to the surface of disused mines and making contact with air” (Davie, 2011:01). This form of hazard threatens health conditions of both humans and the environment especially water quality (Davie, 2011:01).

As much as communities are beneficiaries of the contribution of youths to society, they are also negatively affected by the impact of substance abuse, so that is an added problem in having a sub-group of residents that are vulnerable due to their use of drugs compounds the risk faced by the community as a whole. In the case of youth substance abuse, the risk profile of the community is influenced by conditions of the community and all of its residents. The impact of substance abuse increases the vulnerability of affected youth and community members which has the potential based on the independent dimensions of vulnerability and hazards exposure to shift the nature of risk in that area.

2.13 APPROACHES TO DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES

The management of risks is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. The ever-growing population, economic and environmental losses due to natural or human-made disasters provide the need for a systematic approach to the management of risks. It is generally accepted that a multi-disciplinary understanding of disaster risk management and reduction is required.

The long line of documents and in particular the Disaster Management Act, 57 of 2002, also triggered the necessity for a comprehensive and thorough look at the challenge of disaster risk management at all spheres of government, with the involvement of communities.

According to Keith Smith (2004), risks also need to be assessed in a qualitative way that is more accessible to lay people. The key step in disaster reduction is risk management that aims to lower the threats from known hazards whilst maximising of any related benefits. Risk cannot be avoided as long as we do not know what the future holds. Risks also continuously evolve and change. Assuaging and managing risk is the essence of any decision-making process.

When one looks at the devastation that many countries of the world experience as a result of natural disasters, it becomes very clear that some form of intervention is necessary to mitigate its adverse effects. The incentives for support efforts to reduce the risk associated with disasters are multi-faceted. Motivations for reducing risk can be moral, reducing the extreme loss of life; economic, reducing the value of damage and loss which could impact the development of many countries; social, keeping societies and communities intact in the face of disaster; and political, both providing security for political institutions and reflecting the overall relationships between governments and the political goals of individuals, nations, regions and organizations (ISDR, 2004:19).

The UN/ISDR defines its motivation for investing in disaster risk reduction and risk management as being about improving standards of safety and living conditions with an eye to protection from hazards to increase resilience of communities (ISDR 2004:19).

In February 2004, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 58/214, deciding to convene the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR). The resolution set out the objectives of the WCDR, which were to: conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action with a view to updating the guiding framework on disaster reduction for the twenty-first century.

Following two preparatory committee meetings in May and October 2004, the WCDR was held from 18-22 January 2005 in Kobe, Japan. The WCDR aimed to increase the international profile of disaster risk reduction, promote its integration into development planning and practice, and strengthen local and national capacities to address the causes of disaster that hamper development.

The 168 states attending the conference adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, which called for nation states and the international community to ensure that Disaster risk Reduction (DRR) is a national and local priority with a strong

institutional basis for the implementation of disaster risk reduction (UN-ISDR, 2004a:5; Pelling&Holloway,2006:7). The Hyogo Framework for Action was endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 60/195, and committed governments to five priorities for action, which were to: ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; reduce the underlying risk factors; and strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels (IISD, 2007:2).

Within the context of South Africa, disaster risk reduction and risk management are guided by the Disaster Management Act of 2002. It is very important to take into consideration the policies and duties that are given to disasters. Firstly, according to S.A, the DM Act of 2002 outlines those responsibilities of the National Disaster Management Centre to the extent that it has the capacity, must give guidance to organs of state, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, communities and households to disasters that may occur. The (NMDC) also has to be involved in the development and implementation of appropriate prevention and mitigation methodologies with development plans, programmes and initiatives and the management of high risk development.

One of the important activities of the state is to increase the capacity of communities and households to minimise the risk and impact of disasters that may occur and also most importantly, monitoring the likelihood of, and the state of alertness to, disasters that may occur. The NDMC may work at the local level with disaster management to engage in community based disaster management (CBDM) which recognises the importance of understanding the nature of risk in communities and using an analysis of this risk to guide risk reduction efforts through vulnerability and building capacity.

CBDM was an approach developed out of a need to acknowledge the specific needs and capacities of individual communities to contribute to the reduction of risk. The concept of CBDM was pioneered as early as the 1980s by the Peruvian NGO Centro de Estudiosy Prevencion de Desastres (or Disaster Prevention and Study Centre, known as PREDES) and the Network for Social Studies on Disaster Prevention in Latin America. However it was accepted and promoted in documents such as the Hyogo Framework and the Yokohama strategy to help communities recognize risk and to collaborate to reduce it (La Red) (Victoria, 2002:270).

CBDM aims to increase the community's capacity for mitigating and preventing the impact of a hazard event, building individual capacity to survive and strengthening the community as a functioning support system. The pillars of this approach are: appreciation of indigenous knowledge, local capacities and proactive planning to reduce risk and capacity development of community organizations (HFA). Finding out which types of activities are the appropriate ones in a particular community requires an understanding and ability to act on the information provided by community members. Facilitating genuine community participation requires an understanding of local power relations, patterns of community interaction and potential conflict, working with different sub-groups and avoiding the privilege of particular group.

Engaging community members in discussion about aspects that concern them is an empowerment process in itself. As people become involved, they are likely to become increasingly hopeful, better able to cope and more active in rebuilding their own lives and communities. Understanding both the vulnerabilities and capacities of disaster-affected communities is essential for putting in place actions that enables communities to get involved in responding to their disaster, while at the same time ensuring that people with special needs are looked after (Ungar, 2006).

2.14 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

Substance abuse by youths has the potential to negatively influence their vulnerability, and based on their role in our communities, there is the potential for this to have implications on the risk profile on the area as a whole. This literature review section of the study has provided a discussion of arguments and observations regarding youth substance abuse in general and more specifically based on local data. The review sought to link using theory on firstly the role of youth in communities, the implication of substance abuse on youth, and the contributions of substance abuse to creating vulnerability, how the vulnerability of a group can contribute to risk of the community within which the group exists. The next chapter will focus on the methods or approaches that could be implemented to gather the information and collect data for this study.

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

A research method that directs the output and outcome of this dissertation is the focus of this chapter. Research methodology refers to the approaches taken to connect the research questions and objectives to information gathering and analysis in a consistent manner (Badenhorst, 2007). The purpose is to provide a systematic application of research procedures followed in this study for gathering information, collecting data and sampling design. This chapter also assesses limitations and ethical considerations.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

Terre Blanche *et al.* (2006) have argued that a research design consists of a framework for action that serves as a bridge between the research questions and the execution or implementation of the research. They further argue that research designs are plans that guide the 'arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy of procedure'. Mouton (2001) concurs and states that the research design is a plan of how one intends to carry out the research.

The research plan ought to include the type of study planned, the outcome sought as well as data and facts required to address the research questions without ambiguity. It is a plan which includes aspects of a proposed research study and its results. It is also referred to as a general preparation by which research questions are answered or hypotheses are tested (Himmelstein, 2010). The research design therefore constitutes a coherent cycle that links both the theoretical review and empirical data collected to the key research questions and its conclusions (Nyagwachi, 2008).

A research design entails an array of circumstances for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure. The extensive and detailed nature of the data collected provides an acceptable utilisation of this research design. The design is founded on the postulation that the selected population is a representative of the entire population. It is added that a general plan by which research inquiries are responded or hypothesis are tested constitutes a research design (Moore & Richards, 2007).

This study is two-fold, consisting of secondary source material and empirical research supported by primary data. According to Leedy (1997), the research design entails the planning, visualisation of data and the problems associated with all the data in the entire research. This strategic plan and blueprint for conducting research constitutes a framework according to which a research investigation becomes possible and viable in an economical manner. This study is therefore based on existing data of substance abuse as well as primary data collected through the structured interviews and analysed in the next chapter.

3.3 RESEARCH APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

This study employed a case study research design which was preferred because it was consistent with the purpose of this study, which was to determine the effects that substance abuse by youth has on the risk profile of the Bekkersdal community. This design employed a cross-sectional approach that embraced direct interviews with key respondents such as parents, school principals, teachers, community leaders and religious leaders on addressing the impact of substance abuse within the Bekkersdal community.

The present study used the structured interview method. This interview method is flexible and useful in gaining insight into people's personal beliefs and perceptions (Smith, 1996). Using structured interviews provides an opportunity to get to know people closely and gain insight into how they feel and think (Terre Blanche & Kelly, 2006). The interviewer's role in structured interviews is of paramount importance. An interviewer or researcher is responsible for the collection and analysis of data which compels the interviewer/researcher to develop skills such as empathy and listening (Terre Blanche & Kelly, 2006) This type of interview method is valuable when dealing with complex emotional processes and personal issues (Smith, 1996).

As demonstrated in the previous two chapters, limited research using qualitative methods sought to explore the subject of youth affected by substance abuse in the Bekkersdal community, including parents carrying the responsibility of staying with those youth in their households. The structured interview method offers a number of advantages. The method provides an opportunity for developing rapport with participants (Terre Blanche & Kelly, 2006). The interviewer is also able to follow the

interest and concerns of the interviewee (Smith & Osborn, 2003). Another advantage is that the questioning tends to be more open-ended.

3.4 RESEARCH POPULATION

Welman *et al.* (2005) argued that the population for the study consisted of individuals, groups, organisations, human products, events, data sources or the conditions to which they were exposed. Within this context, it can be argued that the target population consisted of all the units of analysis about which this research intended making specific conclusions. The population of this study included all the identified respondents with the knowledge of factors affecting the abuse of substances by the youth in Bekkersdal.

3.5 SAMPLE

Within the population the study identified specific units of analysis through the use of purposive sampling. As already shown in the preceding chapter that provided a theoretical orientation of this study, the following chapter deals with empirical responses from all the elements that make up the units of analysis. Purposive sampling, which according to Watters and Biernacki (1989:420 and De Vos *et al.* (2005) involves a purposeful systematic method by which controlled lists of specialised populations within geographical districts are developed and detailed plans are designed to recruit adequate numbers of cases within each of the fields.

The population described above represented a specialised unit of analysis that was able to present a picture that was as close as possible to being a true reflection of the topic under study. Three Secondary schools, namely Simunye, Kgothlang and TM Letlhake in Bekkersdal served as the starting point for approaching parents and guardians of youth substance abusers. Social resources in the area were also utilized as potential sources for identifying the families dealing with substance abuse such as Bekkersdal Youth Development Centre, West Rand District Municipality, Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Social Development, Local NGOs and FBOs.

3.6 RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

There are numerous research instruments for collecting data; however, for the purposes of this study interviewing was the primary means. Interviewing is perhaps the most familiar data-gathering process in qualitative research (Henning *et al.*, 2005).

Interviewing can be explained as the get-together of two persons to trade information and thoughts through questions and responses, resulting in communication and united creation of a meaning about a particular theme (Anselm & Corbin, 2007). In qualitative studies, interviews are frequently open-ended (Henning *et al.*, 2005) and this was the way in which they were implemented for the entire study.

Personal interviews with the respondents represent the most appropriate instrument through the emphasis of key points to sustain those interviews whilst simultaneously avoiding error and bias. The structured interviews were used because they enabled the researcher to gain understanding from respondents' beliefs about or perception or accounts of a particular topic (De Vos *et al.*, 2005:296). Furthermore, the researcher could follow up on particular interesting facts that emerged in the interviews to ensure that respondents felt at ease about the topic under investigation.

3.7 DATA COLLECTION

The primary data-collection method for this research was structured interviews. Open-ended questions were posed to each respondent in a systematic and consistent manner, but the participants were allowed an opportunity to discuss issues beyond the confines of the questions. With structured interviews, the researcher would have a set of questions on an interview schedule (De Vos *et al.*, 2005:296).

Interviews were conducted with the parents of the youth who abuse substances, officials at the three schools, Bekkersdal Youth Development Centre, Officials from NGOs and FBOs. The recording of interview sessions and transcribing assisted in avoiding partial responses, inaccurate responses, irrelevant responses and non-responses.

3.8 DATA ANALYSIS

De Vos (2000:203) states that the analysis of research data does not in itself provide the answer to research questions; in order to do that, the interpretation of data analysed is necessary. On conclusion of the interviews with the respondents, all the primary data obtained were subjected to a vigorous analysis of the study. The data were analysed to identify key themes, concepts which emerged from the interviews and relate directly to the objectives of the study.

3.9 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY

The researcher documented the process so that it can be replicated again to prove that it was sound. More than one type of persons such as teachers, principals and disaster managers were asked different questions at different times with regard to a particular time for a particular individual. Transcripts of the interviews are in the Appendices for review.

3.10 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The very subject of the study requires that ethical issues be addressed in a very sensitive manner. The focus of the study involving the youth demographic has obvious implications based on their age and the potential for dealing with incriminating activities. To eliminate the issues of potentially dealing with minors (under 18 years of age) or dealing with impaired persons who may not be able physically/mentally able to make sound decisions, it was then decided that only their parents would be targeted as credible sources of information. However, interviewing parents on their experiences of carrying the responsibility of taking care of addicts is a very sensitive issue. There is a measure of stigma and discrimination associated with drug abuse for both the victims and their families (Strode, 2001). The second means of addressing potential stigma and discrimination was to ensure the commitment of the researcher to confidentiality particularly of parents to confirm this.

The researcher presented the interviewees with a consent letter detailing the purpose of the study, their rights to withdraw and their rights to confidentiality. After explaining it in multiple languages as needed to the interviewees, the interviewees were asked to sign the document.

3.11 LIMITATIONS

This aspect was discussed after the interviews had been conducted with the respondents. The most obvious limitation was the fact that the study focused on the parents and other key role players rather than the children directly. This was intentionally done to avoid ethical issues surrounding researching with minors. Language also hampered the researcher to get the true results as some of the interviewees could not understand English and as such not provide adequate information. This might be seen as having hampered the credibility of the research.

3.12 SUMMARY

This chapter explained the research plan and methodology used in this study. Further, it highlighted instrumentation, research type, population, sampling method, and data-gathering methods from a theoretical perspective. A discussion of how these were applied in this study was also presented. The researcher tried to ensure that the interviews were structured as much as possible, so that the participants could be free to divulge as much information as they wished on the experiences of youths that abuse substance. This advantage is supported by Kristiansen (2009:29), as an approach that is sensitive and people-orientated, allowing interviewees to construct their own words. The next chapter presents the study findings used in rejecting or accepting the raised questions. A structured interview is a convenient method of data collection, which was used in this study. The researcher will continue to analyse data in the next chapter (4) in relation to Sustainable Livelihood Framework using themes and categories.

CHAPTER 4: FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter highlights the findings of the study and presents the analysis of the data. The study proposed to investigate the impact of substance abuse among the youth on the risk profile of the Bekkersdal community. The methodology presented the means in which the data were gathered and this chapter analyses the findings in relation to the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF) Model. The framework describes the aspects of people's vulnerability while pointing to the social, political and economic structures and processes which influence vulnerability. Hence efforts to establish the level of disaster risk faced by community must take into consideration and understanding of how certain factors, in this case, how youth who abuse substances contribute to the vulnerability of the Bekkersdal community. The analysis applied the SLF model to the data acquired through structured interviews.

4.2 DATA-COLLECTION ACTIVITY

One researcher conducted all the interviews. In accordance with the ethical issues in this study, the researcher started the interview session by discussing the contents of the consent form (see Appendix B) with the interviewees. Although the consent was in English, it was, however, necessary to translate the contents into the interviewee's home language, i.e. Setswana and Sesotho for two parents who did not understand English very well. The interviewer requested the interviewees to express themselves in any language that they felt comfortable with. The researcher transcribed the interviews. The duration of the interviews was approximately 20 to 30 minutes. (A copy of the structured interview questions is provided as Appendix E.)

The number of interviews conducted on each day varied. On some days, four to five interviews were conducted. Interviews were conducted on Saturdays at the premises of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, where the researcher was provided with an office to conduct interviews since most of the parents and officials were not working on weekends. The office was offered to the participants by the church management as a safe venue to conduct the interviews.

Data were acquired through conducting thirty structured interviews with three teachers; three school principals; two disaster risk managers; one nurse; three social workers;

three parents; four religious leaders; three community leaders; one employee from Bekkersdal Youth Development centre; two retired policemen and two counsellors.

4.3 THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS ABOUT SUBSTANCES ON THE YOUTH OF BEKKERSDAL

This section presents findings provided by key informants regarding their specific perceptions first hand or indirectly based on their positions within the community regarding the effect of substances on the youth abusers in the Bekkersdal community. To protect the anonymity of the participants, their names have been replaced by non-descriptive codes to delineate individual respondent.

4.3.1 Theme A: Identifying the risk profile of Bekkersdal community

According to the Disaster Risk Managers, disaster risk assessment is the first step in planning an effective disaster risk reduction programme. It examines the likelihood and the outcomes of expected disaster events. A risk assessment is a means of establishing the overall risk profile of a community. The findings of an assessment would detail the presence of hazards, conditions of vulnerability and capacity that shaped the community. A summary of the data gathered from local disaster risk managers assesses this information.

4.3.1.1 Hazard exposure

Hazard threats are represented in the SLF by their impact which is classified as shocks, trends or seasonality. Depending on the nature of the threat, the Bekkersdal community may be exposed to constant threats or face an irregular impact. According to the first Disaster Manager interviewed, the two primary hazards that are being experienced in this community are sinkholes and shack fires. According to the framework the impact of sinkholes could be considered as a shock or seasonal if made worse by heavy rains (ISDR:2002:24), whereas shack fires would be considered more likely as seasonal in South Africa, usually most prevalent in August-September (South Africa 2002).

In the case of Bekkersdal the issue of the dolomitic environment and Acid Mine Drainage cannot be ignored. The dolomite environment was, according to disaster risk managers, associated with sinkholes arising from the mining history in the area. Acid Mine Drainage refers to the water that drains over the surface of acid-bearing rock which has been exposed through mining, becoming toxic as it rises to the surface of

disused mines and making contact with air (Davie, 2011:01). This form of hazard threatens health conditions of humans and undermines the environment especially water quality. According to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWARF, 2000a), contamination of water resources through industrialization in processes such as mining, can have an adverse effect on water resources.

4.3.1.2 Vulnerability

The SLF suggests that the stability of the cycle is undermined by inconsistencies and imbalances in the conditions described in the model, which is one of the considerations in the vulnerability context which is established through an analysis of the five aspects of capital. Any deficiencies in these areas contribute to increased risk face by the community. According to the responses given by the Disaster Managers, they identified factors such as poverty, urbanization, illegal settlements, and shacks in close proximity, unemployment and lack of information as key contributors to vulnerability. When applied to the context of SLF framework these conditions can illustrate implications such as limited access to financial capital as seen in poverty, limited physical capital which results in persons not owning their land hence they are forced to live in illegal settlements and in close quarters (DFID, 2001:7-10).

According to Disaster Manager One, poverty forces the adoption of unsustainable land use practices and communities with a legacy of deforestation, soil erosion and over-cultivation – they find their environment more vulnerable to hazards like diseases such as cholera and typhoid due to lack of clean water. He continues to say that rapid urbanization has caused people to be overcrowded in very small dwellings which in turn created the mushrooming of shacks in all available spaces. These shacks have proven to be health hazards as people are sardine-packed, thus giving diseases fertile ground to breed. In South Africa, people who live in informal settlements like that of Bekkersdal often lack services such as running water and sanitation, and consequently find themselves having to live close to rivers - this makes them vulnerable. According to Disaster Manager Two, often the marginalised in society like those in Bekkersdal are relegated to live and work in the least expensive areas such as on unstable hillsides where the risk is even greater.

According to this respondent, they acknowledge the role of substance abuse among the youth in Bekkersdal community as a contributing factor to vulnerability. The respondent

feels that vulnerability caused by the youth unemployment resulting in the youth loitering and participating in wrong activities which erodes human capital. This in turn becomes a vicious circle where the youth are trapped in maintaining bad habits. Economic factors such as lack of insurance, fixed income, non-liquid assets and credit contribute to a higher relative need of the youth. Lack of financial capital as a component in the SLF is a concern for substance-abusing youth as they are not employable or don't have either an income or another form of livelihood, which then quickly threatens independence and can precipitate a range of consequences including threats to basic needs such as food and water, shelter, protection and health care.

According to the SLF the vulnerability context is driven by the quality of five types of critical capital. In instances where this capital is undermined by external forces, this creates increased vulnerability and hence increased risk when examining the risk profile of a community. In the context of the Bekkersdal community, DM acknowledges that substance abuse impacts negatively on schools and communities, linking it with physical capital creating instead a place where children learn fear and distrust. Children also develop distorted perceptions of identity, self and worth, and they also acquire negative social capital. If substances are not effectively and efficiently managed, vulnerability of the Bekkersdal community has the potential to increase the risk of residents.

4.3.2 Theme B: Establishing the effect of substance abuse among youth

In order to establish the effects of substance abuse among youth, it was necessary to gain insight into the lives of this group. In accordance with ethical guidelines it was not suitable to interview the youth as minors and as a result interviews were conducted initially with parents as their representatives. As parents, not only are they responsible for nurturing the growth of their children, but also raising them to make positive contributions to the wider community. Substance abuse has the potential to undermine the contributions of youth to help reduce the risk profile of the community of Bekkersdal. According to these interviewees, they share the same sentiments that aggressiveness, poor concentration, poor school performance, behavioural problems and most of them drop-out from school at an early age due to substance abuse. This again is a way in which substance abuse erodes the quality of human capital namely the youth who abuse substances.

The respondents acknowledged that the youth in Bekkersdal abuse substances. According to the respondents interviewed for this study substances such as nyaope, dagga and glue were identified as the main drugs used by youth in the Bekkersdal community. According to the respondents, there were four youths out of every ten in the Bekkersdal community involved in the abuse of substances.

Respondents revealed that they were aware of changes in their children's behaviour, including their bullying of other learners. Violent behaviour in schools eroded the social capital of the community, thereby creating instead places where learners do not enjoy learning anymore, where their academic performance drops, and some of them drop out if the safety-related threats are not effectively and efficiently managed. According to parent one, "the families of youth who abuse substances are often the victims of personal theft by their abusing children - as a result they have reduced financial capital because they have lost money and household belongings".

The second respondent mentioned that consequences of violent behaviour have a diminishing effect on youth capabilities and desire to excel academically at school, which undermines the capacity of this group to develop skills which contribute to their human capital in so far as the skills and education they need to maintain effective livelihoods. Instead they become involved in criminal and delinquent behaviour which contributes to the reduction of the quality of social capital for the community by creating distrust and fear among residents.

The last respondent mentioned that young people's right to dignity and security to live in safety, free of or from violence was inhibited. Violence in schools is one of the major contributing factors to non-enrolment, school drop-out and non-completion. Even those learners, who remain at school despite experiences of, or fear of violence, will experience that their ability to achieve within the classroom and perform academically, is likely to be compromised.

According to SLF, the findings suggest that substance abuse erodes human capital in the sense that dependent youth are absent from school while spending their time abusing substances. They end up obtaining poor marks and failing at the end of the year. Most of the teachers participating in this study indicated that most of the youth abusing substances are repeating grades, which has a negative impact on the allocated budget to schools which in turn erodes financial capital. Those repeating grades create

greater demands on the education system by adding more students to already full classes, requiring the provision of supplies (such as stationery and furniture) for students who should no longer be in the schools reinforce demands of limited physical capital possessed by the Department of Education in the broader context. In addition, strategies such as hosting extra classes may be implemented to improve academic performance of these youth which may be costly in terms of time and finances. Convening meetings, writing letters and contacting parents through telephone calls to discuss learner behaviour and academic performance can be costly (Department of Education, 2007:10).

According to the Department of Education (2007:10) “teaching and learning activities have declined due to absenteeism of learners from school arising from substance-related illnesses”. The rate of people who are not educated will not improve because of the youth abusing substances. Some of them may end up dropping out of school or being expelled because of their use of substances. Thus the effort mandated by the South African Constitution of availing opportunities and empowering the youth in particular as well as previously disadvantage communities like Bekkersdal will be a fruitless and wasteful expenditure which erodes financial capital (Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996).

When asked about the extent of substance abuse in their schools, they all regarded substance abuse as a serious challenge which requires urgent attention. There was also a sense of certainty that the mainly abused substances in their schools are dagga, glue and nyaope. They also had similar answers when asked about what could be done to help the youth to overcome substance abuse. They all mentioned that intervention by all stakeholders is of paramount importance. Interviewees see a great deal of improvement because the curriculum of Life Orientation presents teachings about substance abuse, i.e. the problem had been very significant but has been somewhat reduced in response to the government-led curriculum.

4.3.3 Theme C: Establishing how substance abuse affects the community

In order to establish how substance abuse affects the community, it was necessary to gain insight into the profile of the three schools in this community. Respondents from three secondary schools participated in the interviews for this study. The three schools had very different characteristics. In the first instance School A is known for gangsterism

among the youth. According to the Police Officer he reports that the findings from the Police Ministry suggested that “gangsterism was perpetuated by the abuse of substances by youth”. In response to the brutal killings of two learners in that school, police raids were frequently done in search of dangerous weapons such as guns and knives.

School B is situated next to an informal settlement which affects the community severely with crimes such as snatching of bags and cell phones, sexual and gender-based violence. Social issues that are widespread in communities are known to permeate the school environment to various degrees. The crimes and delinquent activities occurring within the schools among learners often mimic those occurring in the broader community surrounding the school. The youth raised in homes and communities where their caregivers and guardian model violent and criminal behaviour receive the message that it is acceptable to engage in these behaviours, hence the abuse of substances.

The final school, School C, is known as the hub of substance abuse by community members. Most of the learners skip classes during breaks and hide in the space next to the school where they carry on smoking nyaope and dagga. On a whole respondents were able to testify to the problems specifically to the commonality of crimes (including violent crime) committed by substance-abusing youth which include housebreaking, rape, car hijackings, theft/robbery and murder were predominant in the community. The problem of theft was highlighted in these interviews with community leaders and they also knew the youth who were committing those crimes with impunity, which undermines the safety of the community as a whole and erodes the financial capital of those who are the victims of the robberies. The impact of drugs on family members and the community at large is that the youth steal other people’s property and valuables only to satisfy their needs. Their theft extends to the stealing of corrugated iron whereby the community is also deprived of electricity for days on end. Communities and service providers are then forced to divert money and supplies to repair the damage, hence putting additional burdens on financial and physical capital in terms of materials.

The failure to see change regarding the frequency of crimes emanating from the substance abusing youth has been discouraging. It appears to participants that even when these youth got arrested, they were soon back on the streets to continue with various criminal activities. The failure to remediate these offenders illustrates a failure to

protect and restore their potential contributions to human capital as they now have criminal records and there is a failure to prioritise that rehabilitation which could help to re-validate them as contributing citizens in the community. The justice system was therefore failing the community in that regard which leads to social capital being undermined. According to these respondents, various complaints had been lodged with the relevant authorities but without any success in addressing the continuing incidents of criminal activities caused by substance abuse among youth which explains that the human capital is undermined. Failures to address these problems leads to distrust of the community police system and other community members as individuals are forced to ensure their welfare without social and government support.

The respondent also stated that arising from this substance abuse, there was the prevalence of violence among family members which contribute to social security, increased risk of HIV/AIDS infections and sexual transmission disease for young girls, which increases their vulnerability by impairing their health status and also erodes human health and hence reducing the quality of human capital.

In the context of the community, government resources are being re-directed and channeled to address the implications of drug abuse by youth (as individuals) through costs of prevention campaigns and treatment for overdoses and drug related complications (HIV/AIDS infections, sexually transmitted diseases) as well as treating the in-direct implications of youth substance abuse related illnesses, stress and anxiety for parents and guardian of abusing youth or treating victims of violent crime related to youth abusers. These resources could be directed to more significant activities such as developing more clinics or improving clinic quality in Bekkersdal. People who abuse substances constitute a large proportion of new admissions to mental and general hospitals, which in turn causes the medication for treatment of substance to be expensive and which also leads to financial capital which becomes undermined. Substance abuse is a financial burden for the community of Bekkersdal and has eroded the financial capital of the community particularly related to health.

According to these respondents, substances were being abused and sold in view of adults as there was nothing that could be done, given the level of fear which in turn erodes the social values of the entire community. According to the SLF, moral degeneration has eroded social capital in the sense that the youth no longer value morals and respect which serve to support living in community settings. Again this kind

of behaviour is happening in schools in front of other learners who cannot do anything about it. According to the SLF the human capital of others were eroded in the sense that they feel weak and disempowered and their quality of life was severely compromised in terms of deterioration of life as well as continued fear that everyone was subjected to. Stress and depression are other consequences that emerged from these interviews whereby other learners were affected, especially to the fact that this was actually caused by children from their own and neighbouring families. Ultimately, this behaviour arising from the abuse of substances has caused, according to the responses from interviews with this group, deaths of the parents of the youth who abuse substances which will further the negative impact on the human capital in relation to the SLF.

4.4 THE EFFECTS OF YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE ON THE RISK PROFILE OF BEKKERSDAL

Based on the findings of the study as sourced from key informant interviews applied to the analytical SLF model, it appears that the effects of substance abuse by youth are negative in terms of the three forms of capital (human, social and financial). This serves to help people to understand the instability caused by substance-abusing youth on the community and the risk it creates through undermining its ability to function effectively as a whole. When examined in depth the responses from participants indicate that substance abuse undermines the aspects of human, social, human and financial capital. Pertaining to human capital, the respondents presented the notion that youth substance abuse contributes to youth dropping out of school, thus having a limited education which erodes their future earning potential and limits livelihoods and again the exposure to illnesses and diseases that challenges their mental and physical wellbeing. In terms of financial capital, youth substance abuse with regard to theft has resulted in persons having to replace items that were stolen and to repair damaged goods due to crime. In this context the effort mandated to avail opportunities and empowering the youth will be a fruitless and wasteful expenditure. With regard to human capital, substance abuse impacts negatively in schools and communities, creating a place where children learn fear and distrust, where they develop distorted perceptions of identity, self and worth and where they acquire negative human capital, if substances are not effectively and efficiently managed. Due to their violent behavior and aggressiveness, their social lives will be affected because nobody will like to be associated with them.

The Bekkersdal community possesses a complex risk profile, according to the local disaster risk manager, characterised not only by hazardous exposure to threats from both natural and manmade sources, such as the dolomitic terrain and AMD, shack fires and diseases, but also a number of factors which contribute to its vulnerability. In addition the conditions such as poverty, urbanization, overcrowding and poor infrastructure, vulnerability in the Bekkersdal community is significantly undermined by the effects of substance abuse among the young population as documented in the previous sections based on the fact that the direct actions of youth abusers, the resulting implications for the community undermine the stability of the community itself hence making it more vulnerable to the effects of hazards and hence negatively influence the risk profile of the community.

4.5 SUGGESTIONS MADE BY RESPONDENTS AS TO POTENTIAL SUPPORT FOR REDUCING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AS A MEANS OF REDUCING DISASTER RISK

With regard to reduction strategies that are currently being implemented to assist youth who are abusing substances, social workers mentioned that practicing strategies for avoiding substance use, coupled with guidance on how to deal with various high risk situations, will help build refusal skills, especially when done with role-play. They continued to mention that strategies should be in place for the early identification of troubled learners who could be at high risk for using or abusing substances. They also mentioned that the provisioning of resources stipulated, i.e. budgeting in order to increase the capacity of schools and communities to respond to substance abuse or use, and the implementation of an approved curriculum, which forms part of the Life Orientation learning area. Furthermore, it was suggested that the educational psychologists and social workers should be required to assess and refer learners who indulge in substance abuse to rehabilitation centres. That may be costly since admissions to rehabilitation centres is expensive (Pludderman *et al.*, 2007; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2008). In addition, money may be required to empower youth to refrain from substance abuse, through campaigns such as “Ke Moja, No thanks, I am fine without drugs” and support structures such as Teenagers against Drug Abuse (National Drug Master Plan, 2006). The local government assumed responsibility for cleaning the open spaces, making sure that they would be well-lit and so making the route to and from school safer. The Department of Social Development

has offered strategic support in the form of parenting workshop, substance abuse programmes and household level actions that may affect the families of the youth.

From a safety perspective, the police need to continue to play a role in assisting the schools in establishing school safety committees. Police can conduct crime threat analyses to inform the specific interventions in the plan as well as identifying partnerships required to eliminate the safety threats facing the community at large.

4.6 DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES WHICH TARGET THE RISK DERIVED FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The main drivers of risks in Bekkersdal related to substance abuse amongst youth are linked to conditions or factors which add to increased vulnerability of the population. According to Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF) which represents livelihoods in a system or model as the basis for determining stability or vulnerability against external shocks, substance abuse in this study has been found to undermine livelihood assets particularly human, social, financial and physical capital. These forms of capital are used in the model to help establish livelihood security which helps to build resilient households and communities to reduce risks.

Therefore the disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies to remedy the deficiencies need to take into account the strengthening of social, financial, human and physical capital. DRR, although not directly mandated through legislation to target issues linked to crime, education, health and social services, needs to acknowledge in its strategy formation, with the aim of solving substance abuse in communities such as Bekkersdal, which contributes to increased disaster risk. One such strategy could be to develop a multi-stakeholder committee, which has representation from relevant external agencies such as department of health, education, social development and South African Police Service (SAPS). In this forum disaster manager can work to build alliance, open communication and create partnership for addressing the community conditions which are the result of the impact of substance abuse on Bekkersdal youth.

Based on the findings of the study which conclude that substance abuse has personal and community level implications on specific issues such as crime, dropping out of school, mental health and delinquent behaviour, the strategies need to get support from external agencies that are mandated to address those issues including department of social development as the leading agent in the presentation, treatment and

rehabilitation of substance abuse. In executing this responsibility, the department is expected to work with all relevant departments across the spheres of government, parents, civil society, faith based organisations, media houses and private sector. Although substance abuse reduction is a joint effort, SAPS has programmes that provides drug demand reduction and supply reduction. Visible policing ensures visible crime deterrence by proactive police actions and directorate of priority crime investigations has declared drug trafficking as one of their key focus areas.

According to (Vorhies, 2007:10) multi-stakeholder committee and partnership are important in the sense that they would reduce costs that are more likely to be caused by the impact of disasters. Therefore multi-stakeholder committee relations would assist in identifying disaster risk in order to prevent or alternatively mitigate it.

According to Asia Disaster Management National Platform (2009:01) the multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms have been identified as a good strategy of disaster risk reduction by Hyogo framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA). The establishment of multi-stakeholder structure is to effectively advance objectives of disaster risk reduction which include building resilient communities and nations to disasters. The primary goal or objective of multi-stakeholder structure is to analyse, advocate and advice accordingly on disaster risk reduction issues. This will then be achievable through participation of different structures which include government, communities, private sector and non-governmental organisations. This stakeholder also plays the coordinating role in ensuring that all represented are taken on board. The inclusion of non-governmental organisation which are the community members ensures unbiased in the whole process. The process of disaster risk reduction is about development of people that is why it is important for them to be included in the process.

Lastly the importance of multi-stakeholder committee is that it provides a platform to different stakeholders in advancing objectives of disaster reduction. Disaster reduction on its own is a very difficult concept therefore inputs of different stakeholders will contribute positively in ensuring that objectives of disaster risk reduction are achieved. Multi-stakeholder committee for disaster risk reduction commitment to effectiveness leads to building of nations and communities that are resilient from disasters (Mercado, 2010:01). Therefore disaster risk reduction through this committee would strengthen economic sustainability which will benefit all parties. All the above mentioned

departments will assist in the reduction of substance abuse only if they collaborate, coordinate, communicate and cooperate with one another.

4.7 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

As this section draws together the various threads that run through this chapter, it is important to emphasise that substance abuse among the youth in Bekkersdal appears to be contributing to the increased vulnerability of this group and as a result it has negative implications for the community. This is evident from the responses from the key informant interviews held with the selected respondents among the various groups highlighted above: parents, social workers, religious leaders, and community leaders. The risk profile of the Bekkersdal community is characterised by exposure to hazards such as sinkholes and shack fires and high vulnerability as a result of conditions such as urbanization, overcrowding, poor infrastructure, poverty, school drop rates. An analysis of findings, using the SLF, confirms that the effects of youth substance abuse contributes to the erosion of financial, human and social types of capital. Furthermore, the stability of the community is compromised.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The central concern of this dissertation has been to explain the extent to which the impact of substance abuse has influenced the risk profile of the youth in Bekkersdal. This chapter presents a review of the research objectives as a summary of the findings of the study and then also proposes recommendations.

5.2 A REVIEW OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The study sought to achieve a number of strategic objectives as a means of directing its progress. The following objectives have been reviewed in relation to the findings of the study and they seek to provide validation for the answering of the problem statement of the research,

To identify the risk profile of the Bekkersdal community

This study found that the risk profile for the youth of the Bekkersdal community reflects high vulnerability as a result of conditions such as urbanization, overcrowding, poor infrastructure, poverty, school dropout rates, unemployment and illiteracy which all contribute to increased vulnerability according to its negative influence on capital. The risk profile of the Bekkersdal community is characterized by exposure to hazards such as sinkholes and shack fires.

To evaluate the effects of substance abuse among the youth in the Bekkersdal area

The analysis using the SLF has shown that any alternative negative or positive has the potential to undermine the stability of the system which represents the community. As capital conditions are eroded by factors linked directly to the substance abuse of youth, it can contribute to greater risk. According to the SLF model it appears that the effects of substance abuse by youth have negative effects on three of the five aspects of capital which serve to help determine the context of vulnerability for the community particularly human, financial and physical capital.

To determine the extent of the impact of substance abuse among youth on the risk profile of Bekkersdal

In this specific study the evidence gathered presents the idea that substance-abusing youth create conditions which undermine human, physical and social capital and hence contribute to instability in the livelihood-based system which undermines the welfare of the community to maintain itself and prosper. The failure of a community to be stable and sustainable creates instability which can be aggravated by stressors such as hazards. The instability is often reflective and indicative of the exposure of the system to disaster related risk. When examined in the current context of Bekkersdal it has been determined that the increase in vulnerability caused by actions related to substance abusing youth has negative implications for the welfare of the community as a whole and contributes to instability and an increased risk profile in Bekkersdal.

To determine disaster risk reduction strategies which target the risks derived from substance abuse in the Bekkersdal community

Addressing risk may not just be the job of disaster managers who deal with risk but the inclusion of members of the community can also play an important role in the reduction of disasters. Issues such as crime that could end up disastrous could easily be identified by members of the community i.e. hotspots and people who commit crime. It is very important to note that elements of risk reduction be looked into and how best they could be managed. Aspects such as vulnerability, societal resilience and adaptation, mitigation, preparedness and recovery or response measures should be properly managed. Issues such as vulnerability to hazards due to poverty and unsustainable livelihoods to any society could make it difficult and slow to recover and rebuild lost property.

According to the SLF the vulnerability context is driven by the five types of capital. If any capital is undermined, it creates increased vulnerability and the risk profile of that particular community also increases. With regard to physical capital, DM acknowledges that substance abuse impact negatively on the schools and communities. That is, children in schools are no longer safe and their ways of learning are affected by fear and distrust as mentioned by one of the school principal. Violent behaviour in schools has also eroded the social capital of the community thereby increasing the learners not to enjoy learning anymore, their academic performance dropping and failing at the end of the year. The issue of theft also contributed a lot of financial loss and household belong-

ings as mentioned by parent and community leader. Community members were deprived of electricity for days by theft of corrugated iron committed by youth abusing substances. The human capital of these youth becomes eroded as they already have criminal records which will impact negatively on their lives in future when they apply for employment. Their lives will also be affected by the stigma they carry of coming from prison. Again the allocated budget to schools by the Department of Education becomes undermined by youth abusing substances due to their failure to progress to the next class. Those repeating classes creates a great demand for resources such stationery and furniture thereby causing overcrowding and posing a serious threat to teaching and learning. Lack of basic needs such as food, water and shelter undermines natural capital because youth abusing substances cannot afford to earn a salary which will help them to look after themselves.

The vulnerabilities and capacities of communities such as Bekkersdal are essential for putting in place actions that enable communities to get involved in reducing risk (Ungar, 2006). As people become involved, they are likely to become increasingly hopeful, better able to cope and more active in improving their own lives and seeing their role in the communities. Therefore stakeholders such as religious leaders, parents, school officials, community leaders, government officers such as social workers and health care workers should be identified as being crucial in addressing the increased risk associated with youth substance abuse problem in Bekkersdal community. Based on the study findings, they can work together to find means to collectively build, improve or protect existing capital resources such as human, financial and physical capital that has been negatively affected by the impact of youth substance abusers in their communities. These efforts can help to reinforce the stability of the community structure through improving access to and resilience of livelihoods.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no community or society that has not suffered from the impact of disasters that are destructive and can rob many people of their loved ones. It is therefore the challenge for disaster practitioners and community members to take part in reducing risks. Every community knows more about its day-to-day conditions based on first-hand experience, and they can use their understanding and prioritization of problems which contribute to increased vulnerability and risk to guide disaster practitioners. Although substance abuse is not a disaster per se or fall specifically under the mandate of the Disas-

ter Management Act(57 of 2002), disaster practitioners have a role to play in reducing risk and this matter, based on its current impact and implications, should be presented in community stakeholder committee meetings comprising active representatives of the community.

The study therefore recommends that disaster practitioners convene a stakeholder grouping committee to establish and implement time-bound strategies for incorporating the reduction of risk.

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NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY
YUNIBESITHI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT
POTCHEFSTROOM CAMPUS



PERMISSION LETTER

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR DISASTER STUDIES

Research Focus Area: Social Transformation
North-West University
PUK Campus
Private Bag X6001
Potchefstroom
2520
Tel: +27 (0)18 299 1671
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TO : THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

I, Mabeba Gladys Kekana am a third year MA in Development and Management student with North West University (NWU)-Potchefstroom Campus. As part of my studies, I will be conducting a research on the title "The impact of Substance Abuse Among Youth on the Risk Profile of the Bekkersdal Community". The research will seek to utilise interviews as the means of gathering data from critical persons.

The aim of my planned research is to determine the impact of substance abuse among the youth in Bekkersdal and determining disaster risk reduction strategies which target the risks derived from substance abuse in that community.

Ethically it would not be appropriate to speak directly to the minors themselves and therefore I am requesting permission to approach the direct or front line service providers involved with these youth, within your Department, specifically the three school principals namely Mr J.F. Moleki (Kgothlang Sec), Mr T.J. Mudau (Simunye Sec) and Mr N. Nkhoma (T.M.Lethake Sec) along with three teachers in their institutions. These three teachers will be identified by the principals based on their involvement, knowledge and interaction with the youth that are at the focal point of the study.

Consent will be sought from each individual at which time they will be informed of their rights during the study including the right to withdraw. The interviews will take approximately 20-30 minutes and can be done at their participants' convenience. The participant's name will remain confidential throughout the research process. There will be no costs to your Department in the undertaking of this activity.

For further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact any of the following:

- I. Ms Mabeba Gladys Kekana – 082 224 4632
- II. Ms Kylah Forbes-Biggs (Supervisor) – 018 299-1671

Thank you for your time.

Yours truly
Ms M.G. Kekana

RECOMMENDATION BY:

APPROVED BY:

Ms Kylah Forbes-Biggs (Supervisor-NWU)

Manager-

Date: 25 October 2013

Date: _____



GAUTENG PROVINCE

Department: Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

For administrative use:
Reference no: D2014/300

GDE RESEARCH APPROVAL LETTER

Date:	22 November 2013
Validity of Research Approval:	10 February to 3 October 2014
Name of Researcher:	Kekana M.G.
Address of Researcher:	P.O. Box 191
	Diepkloof
	Soweto
	1864
Telephone Number:	011 753 1071 / 082 224 4632
Fax Number:	011 693 4904
Email address:	gladys.kekana@gauteng.gov.za
Research Topic:	The impact of substance abuse among youth on the risk profile of the Bekkersdal Community
Number and type of schools:	THREE Secondary Schools
District/s/HO	Gauteng West

Re: Approval in Respect of Request to Conduct Research

This letter serves to indicate that approval is hereby granted to the above-mentioned researcher to proceed with research in respect of the study indicated above. The onus rests with the researcher to negotiate appropriate and relevant time schedules with the school/s and/or offices involved to conduct the research. A separate copy of this letter must be presented to both the School (both Principal and SGB) and the District/Head Office Senior Manager confirming that permission has been granted for the research to be conducted.

*M.G. Kekana
2013/11/22*

The following conditions apply to GDE research. The researcher may proceed with the above study subject to the conditions listed below being met. Approval may be withdrawn should any of the conditions listed below be flouted: 1

Making education a societal priority

Office of the Director: Knowledge Management and Research

9th Floor, 111 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, 2001
P.O. Box 7710, Johannesburg, 2000 Tel: (011) 355 0506

ANNEXTURE 5B

PERMISSION / CONSENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

GREATER WESTONARIA MUNICIPALITY

SHOP NO.7 PAKEMAN

WESTONARIA

1779



social development

Department
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: Mrs. Mojaji
Tel: 011 753 1258
To: Mrs.M.G.Kekana
From: Mrs. Mojaji (Social Worker Supervisor)
Date: 28 October 2013

SUBJECT: PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH

1. This letter refers to the subject stated above.
2. Permission is hereby granted for the study of substance abuse and its impact, among the youth in the risk profile of Bekkersdal community which falls within the Greater Westonaria Municipality.
3. I wish you all the best as you conduct the research, my office will, where possible, provide you with all the support you will need in your project.
4. I hope that the above is in order with your expectations.

Kindly regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mojaji', written over a dotted line.

Social Worker (Supervisor)
Mrs. Mojaji

DATE 28/10/2013

ANNEXTURE 5C

PERMISSION / CONSENT FROM DISASTER MANAGEMENT



Enquiries: Ms Molebatsi R.A
Tell: 011 411 5205
To: Mrs M.G. Kekana
From: Mr Mokoto P
Date: 28 October 2013

SUBJECT: PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH

The matter supra bears reference

This office has received a request (as above mentioned) from Gladys Kekana, a researcher attached to North-West University. I have interacted with her in a bid to understand the modalities of the research and how the outcome will benefit the system. It did come out that the results may assist the schools in our District Municipality and Disaster Management.

Please be informed that you have been granted the permission to conduct your research.

Wishing you well in your academic endeavour

Kind regards


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Mr. (Mokoto P)
Senior Disaster Manager

28-10-2013
DATE

ANNEXURE 5D

STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS

North-West University

The impact of substance abuse among youth on the risk profile of Bekkersdal community

Instructions

The purpose of this interview is to gain an understanding on the impact of substance abuse among youth. You are therefore requested to answer the following questions during the interview session.

COMMUNITY LEADERS

1. Do the youth use substances in Bekkersdal?
2. Which drugs are mostly used among the youth?
3. Do you see substance abuse as a problem for youth in Bekkersdal?

Explain Why?

4. Do you know of any youth in the community that use Drugs?
5. How has substance abuse affected your family or people you know?
6. Name three crimes that are repeatedly committed by the youth who abuse substances in this community.
7. To what extent are these crimes committed? Elaborate:
8. What do you think can be done to assist the youth to overcome substance abuse?
9. Are there any activities in this community that can help the youth to overcome substance abuse? Name three of them and explain why you think they can assist?
10. As a community leader do you think it is your responsibility alone to reduce substance abuse in this community? Explain why?

PARENTS

1. Do you suspect that your child uses substances?
2. How often?
3. What does he /she use?
4. Do you see him or her as an addict?
5. How do they support their substance abuse financially?
6. Have you noticed any ten changes in your child since using them? Describe them:
7. How do you feel about this?
8. How has this affected you?
9. Describe how this affects your family?
10. Are the community, friends and the school aware of this situation with your child?
11. How did you become aware?
12. Have you or your family discussed the problem with anyone else in the family or community, e.g. the church, extended family or social worker?
13. Has this been a positive or negative experience for your family and why do you say so?
14. What can be done to remedy the situation?
15. Discuss in five lines how vulnerability with regard to substance abuse can be altered?

RELIGIOUS LEADERS

1. Do you agree that some of the youth in this community abuse substances?
2. Which are those substances that the youth mostly abuse?
3. What role does the church play in terms of substance abuse reduction?
4. Are there any activities that can be implemented in the church to assist the youth in overcoming substance abuse?

5. Most of the youth who abuse substances complain about service delivery, e.g. lack of recreational resources or facilities. Do you agree with this statement?

Elaborate your views on the above mentioned statement.

TEACHERS AND SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

1. Do you know any learner at your school who sells illegal drugs?
2. Have you ever seen illegal drugs sold in your school or on the school grounds?
3. What is the extent of substance abuse in your school?
4. Which substances are mainly abused?
5. What do you think can be done to help them overcome substance abuse?
6. What is your perception on the role of parents providing information on the dangers of substance abuse?
7. Does your school present any lectures or teaching about substance abuse and how?
8. What is your perception of existing reduction programmes?
9. Mention the 4 (four) types of crimes that are usually committed by learners who abuse substances.
10. What are the signs or symptoms that you have observed in learners who abuse substances?

DISASTER MANAGERS

1. What is the risk profile for Bekkersdal?
2. Have you done a disaster risk assessment for Bekkersdal?
3. Can you present the findings?
4. What factors / conditions contribute to vulnerability in communities?
5. Do you feel that substance abuse among youth is a problem in the community?

6. How do you feel that substance abuse among youth in Bekkersdal contributes to disaster risk in the community?
7. What is your understanding of Disaster Risk Reduction?
8. What strategies could you suggest that could use Disaster Risk Reduction to target risks derived from substance abuse?
9. Mention three scenarios of extreme vulnerability that you are experiencing in this community and explain them in full.
10. Why is Disaster Risk Reduction a developmental concern with regard to substance abuse?

COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORKER

1. Do you agree that drugs exist in this community?
2. If yes, how do you deal with these challenges?
3. What are the stats in your department concerning substance abuse in this community?
4. Which crimes are mainly committed by the youth who abuse substances?
5. Which reduction strategies are implemented to assist the youth who abuse substances? Name and explain them.

COMMUNITY NURSE

1. Do the youth use substances in Bekkersdal?
2. Which drugs or substances are mostly used amongst the youth?
3. Do you see substance abuse as a problem for youth in Bekkersdal?

Explain why/how?

4. Do you know of any youth in this community who abuse substances?
5. How has substance abuse affected your family or people you know?

OTHERS

- 1 Do the youth use substances in Bekkersdal?
- 2 Which drugs or substances are mostly used amongst the youth?
- 3 Do you see substance abuse as a problem for youth in Bekkersdal? Explain why/how?
- 4 Do you know of any youth in this community who abuse substances?
- 5 How has substance abuse affected your family or the people you know?