

The socio-economic relations of South Africa and Botswana: A Poverty Alleviation Strategy

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DECLARATION

I, Kaone Emmanuel Gwai, hereby declare that the dissertation, “The socio-economic relations of South Africa and Botswana: A poverty alleviation strategy?” has not been submitted by me or any other person at the North West University, Mafikeng Campus or any other university. It is solely my work in design and execution and the material contained herein has been duly acknowledged.

Signed.

Date

.....

.....

Researcher

DEDICATION

In loving memory of my daddy and mamazala, may your souls rest in peace.

To my wife and kids, you are very special.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My sincere gratitude goes out to my family for their love and support. To my mother, who is passionate about the education of her children, God be with you.

My friends and colleagues, who inspired the effort despite the hard times we were facing together, I thank you.

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ABSTRACT

The study aims to identify whether the social and economic relations between South Africa and Botswana can assist both countries in achieving poverty alleviation. Despite the borders, they share historical, social, political and cultural similarities. They are both members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), United Nations (UN), and were formerly colonized by Britain. The political landscape of both countries are almost the same. Batswana worked in South Africa as migrant labourers and some even got their education in South Africa. South Africans fled to Botswana during the apartheid era. The study is conducted in both South Africa and Botswana to evaluate how they can assist each other in poverty alleviation. Economic growth and socio-economic development are the primary objectives of both the governments' foreign policy. The cooperation and integration aims to alleviate poverty and to promote peace, security and democracy within the SADC region. However, deadly HIV/ AIDS and communicable diseases are still a major concern. Gender mainstreaming and corruption are also the challenges that the two countries are faced with. South Africa and Botswana are morally and legally bound to use all the measures to promote achievement of the objectives of SADC. The study use both qualitative and quantitative methods and a questionnaire was also distributed to evaluate whether the relations of both the countries can assist in poverty alleviation. The resources of the region should be optimally utilized so that the region emerges competitive and participates effectively in the world economy. The relations, according to the study, can assist both the countries with their poverty alleviation strategies.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Botswana has always been an economic and social partner of South Africa. The relationship between the two countries is not simply a client patron one. According to (Dale, 1969: 9), Botswana is landlocked and lacks the requisite infrastructure either to adequately defend the integrity of its territory or to accomplish the social revolution of the growing expectations of her citizens. South Africa is therefore, a natural and, in a more excellent geographical spot to create and take the socio-economic relations of the two countries to a greater extent. Botswana is rich in minerals, which have only been discovered and charted, but the state lacks both skilled labour and employment opportunities for all its citizens. Botswana has intentionally been focusing on industrialization and not participating actively in major productive activities, especially in the area of exports. Most of the manufactured goods in Botswana are sold under preference. South Africa accounts for more than 85% of the Botswana's duty free imports, whereas South Africa takes slightly less than one-fifth of Botswana's exports of beef and animal products (Zizhou, 2009:v).

South Africa's regional standing changed for the better when it was admitted to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in August 1994. The SADC is a structure of fifteen member countries that intend to advance regional cooperation and economic development through good governance and efficient productive systems. Both Botswana and South Africa were previously colonized by Britain and are members of the African Union (AU) and Commonwealth of Nations. They are also members of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The groundwork for this relationship can be traced back to the bedrock of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) in 1910. The connections between the two countries were ascertained with the enactment of Representative Offices in both countries in 1992. The relations were boosted and resulted into a complete diplomatic stage in 22 June 1994. The bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest were reviewed in 2003, which were similar to the Agreement on the Establishment of a Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation. The governments of the two countries are trying to diversify their economies but those attempts have yet to bring forth the outcomes due to the challenges of poverty and underdevelopment that they are contending with (Hanson, 2008).

Poverty, can be described as, not being able to see a doctor when you are sick. It is not being able to go to school and not being able to read. It is not having sufficient clothes, not working and not being able to plan for the future. Poverty is when you die as a result of illness caused by unclean water. Poverty is not being able to choose where and how to live. In most cases, a person is considered to be poor if they consume or earn less than the amount regarded significant to meet minimum acceptable levels of nutrition, shelter and other necessities (*in The New Book of Knowledge*, 2008:418). There are many approaches used to study and understand poverty in and across societies and over time. Poverty is a global issue.

Extreme poverty fell in percentage terms in sub-Saharan Africa but rose in absolute number so much so that in 2013, about half of the people living in poverty across the world were concentrated in this region according to Jefferson (2018:3). He goes on to argue that no one wants to live in poverty, yet many people do live in poverty, especially those living in Botswana and South Africa. There are many causes of poverty, amongst others, are, dysfunctional institutions, low social capital, discrimination residential segregation, social stratification, the business cycle low wages and unemployment. Poor health, culture, shifting norms about the family structure and technological advance can also be regarded as other causes of poverty. Industrialization, globalization, international trade expansion, holes in the safety net of the society and anti-poverty policies themselves are causes poverty (Jefferson, 2018:7).

Botswana is a semi-desert country with a land area of 585 370 square kilometres and the population of 2.262 million in 2014. Botswana maintained economic progress which averaged 5% per annum over the past decade, according to the 2015 World Bank Report. The population of the country is also noted for its slow population. Botswana is traditionally pastoral, hence the larger part of the population lives in rural areas. Poverty is geographically spread in Botswana and it affects some areas massively than others. This country is blessed with abundant and diverse wildlife resources which are enough to contribute to the economic growth of the country. It is heavily dependent on tourism, cattle raising and beef export. Subsistence farming and employment are other sources of finance (Muchapondwa & Stage, 2013).

The mining industry, has since independence on 30 June 1966, been Botswana's economic backbone. According to Zizhou (2009: v) the mining industry contributes about 4% to employment because of its capital intensive nature. However, high unemployment rate remains a problem and estimated closer to 40%, most of them being in the central and local government,

according to the 2015 Worldbank Report. It remains heavily dependent on South Africa socially and economically, because of its landlocked position. Several poverty alleviation programmes have been introduced in Botswana. They include programmes for orphans and the poor, assistance for Self Help Housing Agency (SHHA), remote area dwellers (RADs) and agricultural schemes. The Botswana government aimed to surpass the Millenium Development Goal target of cutting down intense poverty by half by 2015 but failed to achieve this (Mosha, 2010:4).

On the other hand, in South Africa, the landscape spreads from mountain range to far-reaching plateau, from shores to meandering rivers and desert dunes. The diversity of the country's topography and the great extent of possible recreational activities have also stimulated a diverse tourism industry. Tourism caters for a whole range of diverse tourism pigeonholes backed by various specialized operators. South Africa's wildlife is far more different from the proclaimed "Big Five", and is backed by an incredible biological diversity. Tourism is crucial as it has the potential to act as a motivation for other sectors of the economy. The tourism division can be classified as crucial to making sure that the country attains its developmental goals. One of these goals is that South Africa aims to alleviate poverty and eliminate inequality in the country by 2030. Many strategies used by the South African government are mostly meant for the formal sector, and less about the informal and the non-remunerative roles that women in rural areas perform. It is noted by Muchapondwa & Stage (2013) that, the policies for poverty alleviation are mostly not very well enforced and as a result are not beneficial to the larger portion of the citizenry.

Botswana and South Africa signed a number of agreements. Amongst others, they signed a double taxation agreement in 2003. In 2005, they also endorsed six agreements to intensify co-operation in different areas, including, health, agriculture, sports, local government, transport and culture. In 2006, the Ministers of Environment for Botswana, South Africa as well as Zimbabwe, signed an agreement for a Transfrontier Game Park named the Limpopo-Shashe Transfrontier Conservation Area. The Game Park that sprawls the borders of Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe, is meant to effect profound political, social and ecological changes. The 960 kilometre railway line from Mafikeng, South Africa, to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, passes through Botswana. The freight traffic in Botswana has been highly reduced by this line according to Lunstrum (2010:129). The link has resulted into harmonization of expectations and business collaboration in terms and of resource distribution.

Botswana is rich in diamonds and is now a diamond processing centre. However, the diamond-mining company, De Beers, and the Botswana Government (Debswana), operate the country's diamond mines together. Most of the revenue from this partnership has been directed to social development which has led to Botswana enjoying stability and economic growth. It ranks highly on the continent in international anticorruption ratings, and continues to be unharmed by the political instability that has plagued many African nations. The Botswana Poverty Assessment established that poverty decreased from 30.6% to 19.4% between the years 2002 and 2010, according to the 2015 World Bank report. Despite these achievements, the price of fuel and food is high and unemployment is huge. In addition, the country is confronted with one of the world's highest HIV/AIDS infection rates (Hanson, 2008). Inequality is prevalent in Botswana and it creates social tensions and disintegrates the society further. There are also catastrophic cultural habits such as witchcraft and sorcery and prejudiced beliefs towards some members of the society, such as the Basarwa. The life of indigenous people of both South Africa and Botswana has been ruled by abuse of human rights, killings and eviction, despite that their economic resources and heritage can be used for the development of economy of their respective countries (Amusan, 2016:6).



South Africa has got a pleasantly developed system of roads, railroads, and port facilities which provide a crucial link for trade in southern Africa. There is an attempt to lower the trade barriers whereas encouraging the states' intervention in the market economy for the stabilization of both political and economic environment and achieving national interest (Amusan, 2016:3). The headquarters of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), a body established to lower the trade barriers, are found in South Africa. This gives a common customs ground for Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Namibia. It provides duty-free flow of services and goods between member states and calls for a common foreign tariff in foreign trade. SACU goes beyond a pure customs union because it also encompasses excise duties (Maasdorp, 1993:239).

Both Botswana and South Africa belong to an initiative whose objective is to improve economic relations among African states. The initiative is termed the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). NEPAD was founded in 2001 by countries that shared same interest concern in maximizing the speed of Africa's development. Although the founding countries shared similar characteristics, like poverty and underdevelopment, there were also contrasts reflected on the territorial and other priorities. It can be said that NEPAD reflects the compromises involved in arriving at a single initiative, being; the Millennium Africa Recovery Plan (MAP), the Omega Plan and the New African Initiative (NAI). According to Melber et al

(2002: 7), NEPAD emphasizes the “common vision and a firm and shared conviction”. The aim is to tackle Africa’s development problems with a new perspective. The main objectives of NEPAD are, amongst others, the alleviation of poverty; and the steering of Africa into a development path that is worthwhile. Other objectives include, halting the marginalization of Africa and empowering women.

NEPAD emphasizes that African leaders should anchor the programme in their drive to release themselves as well as their continent from the discomfort of exclusion in the global world and underdevelopment. This suggests that the people of Africa have begun to demonstrate their rejection to meagre political and economic leadership. African people, as the NEPAD initiative suggests, should shape their own destiny through their own initiatives. For the goals of NEPAD to be achieved, the leaders must declare joint responsibility. The prerequisites for longer lasting development are identified in peace, security, good governance and democracy. The long term objectives, amongst others, is the alleviation of poverty and the promotion of the role played by women Melber *et al.* (2002: 8).

Many African countries were decolonized between the 1960s and the 1980s. The years after colonization were however also characterized by military coups, political instability, dictatorships and the intensified Cold War politics authority in Africa. With decolonization, Africa was confronted with the beginning of an economic dilemma, enormous foreign debts and the social development slump. The independent African countries were faced with the collapse of the international financial institutions' free market policies. Many attempts were made by the African leaders to reverse these trends through the establishment of different sub-regional economic communities, like the SADC and SACU. Despite the planned developments through anti-poverty policies and programs, the number of the poor is increasing, although economic progress has been made in Africa. Amusan (2016: 1) states that the poverty that is widespread in African countries is as a result of local and global politics which led to hunger amongst the poor. Furthermore, the type of development that is led by the states has over the years invented the symptoms of dependency and a lack of action amongst the citizens.

The three pillars of sustainable development are economic, social and environmental development. They are associated with different set of institutions. Hence, it is very important to strengthen governance between these pillars. It is also crucial to seek an approach to development that will help alleviate poverty. In Africa, according to Borat and Kanbur, (2006:61), the lack of economic growth and not creating enough jobs increased the questions

on the compatibility programmes and the growing concern with rising unemployment and poverty. Equality and sympathizing with others conveys happiness in the society, whereas inequality brings about conflicts, despair, animosity, insecurity and anger (Amusan, 2016:3).

The goals and tasks of NEPAD, as articulated by Melber *et al.* (2002: 7), emphasize that poverty can be alleviated if, amongst others, democracy and human rights are fostered and protected by establishing clear standards of accountability, transparency and participative governance. Infrastructure should be developed and agriculture be diversified to ensure long term sustainable development. The provision of technical training, education and health services should also be extended. The role of women in economic and social development should be promoted as well. According to Brown and Santa Barbra, (2014), while Botswana has experienced rapid economic growth, they have implemented an economic route that maintains poverty and also deepens inequalities. The non-diversified economy also poses a threat in Botswana as their diamond resources will soon be depleted.

There are great socio-economic gaps between men and women in South Africa and Botswana. There are gaps in education, income status and other factors which allow individuals to be autonomous and self-supporting. As a result, many women who poor and alone, uneducated and powerless, must depend on a man to support them and their children (Langen, 2005:189). Poverty can only be alleviated through the advancement of gender equality, acceptance of international trade and investment, and forging of new collaborations between states, the private sector and with civil society. Discrimination excludes people from resources and opportunity. People can be discriminated against on the basis of their race, gender, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation or religious belief. People who discriminate put members of the discriminated group at a disadvantage (Jefferson, 2018:8).

For Africa, development starts with the quality of its human resources. The endless challenges of sustainable development cannot be solved without having a competent human resources devoted to them. Human resources, according to Osei-Hwedie (2004: 10), can be enhanced by providing better education and training, especially in Information Communication Technology (ICT). Other skills that are fundamental to a globalizing world are superior health care which prioritizes the treatment of HIV/AIDS and other pandemic diseases. The growth of the economy is always classified as a vital component in poverty alleviation. The magnificent accomplishment of the economy of Botswana over the years, with the policies and associated development efforts that were aimed at poverty alleviation has not done much.

According to Kapunda (2003:51), the poverty alleviation programme for Botswana, as informed by the Long Term Vision 2016, has been rolled out with the following guidelines:

- To assist all participants to understand the fundamental principles of the poverty alleviation programme;
- To make sure that there is a common ground for implementers throughout the country;
- To provide a priceless knowledge transfer across the nation which is to be used to initiate their own projects at different levels; and
- To make sure that the fundamental principles of transparency and impartiality are ingrained into the programme.

The policy reforms that have been undertaken by the Botswana government have been mostly helped by informed research by local research and academic institutions with the assistance of multilateral organizations as advisors (Zizhou. 2009: v).

The guidelines are to be updated after every two years. This is aimed towards the realization of Vision 2016. In addition, Botswana has expanded the people's access to social services through stepping up social spending. The high incidence of poverty in Botswana may represent a failure to address a number of institutional and structural constraints for poverty alleviation (Wilson *et al.*, 2001: 219). The poverty alleviation strategy depicts the interaction between government expansion of access to social services and people's participation in taking advantage of the opportunities presented. The strategy used for poverty alleviation is guided by many internationally accepted foundations, like the Millennium Declaration, the MDGs, and the International Development Goals.

According to Bond (2008: 1038), South Africa has high poverty rate and low-growth. The rate of unemployment is high, the society is unequal, and the economy is volatile, vulnerable and elite-oriented. Due to this, South Africa has experienced a movement of local protests from 2004, and many of them resulted in violence. These protests were by the very poor communities who allege: insufficient delivery of basic goods and services. According to Mbuli (2008: iii), 45% to 57% of South African citizens are poor. Inequality exists extensively between the country's men and women as well as between black and white people. According to the 2015

World Bank Report, the Gini coefficient of South Africa ranges from about 0.660 to 0.696, making it one of the utmost persistently unequal countries in the whole world.

Poverty alleviation requires people's participation and involvement in the decision-making process, mobilization of social energy, and development of capacities at all levels of society. Poverty is an economic status caused by lack of both money and basic requirements needed to live successfully. These basic requirements include, among others water, food, education and shelter. People living in the conditions of poverty lack a number of economic resources. The most severe poverty is found in the developing world, but there is proof of poverty in almost every region. Absolute poverty is a status that refers to people with the lowest income, little education, the lowest social status and lesser opportunities (Everrat & Maphai, 2003: 80). South Africa and Botswana can, therefore, not be excluded. Poverty and inequality are two imposters co-habiting in both countries. The inability of the people of South Africa and Botswana to use and develop the land profitably for agriculture also perpetuates poverty.

Poverty is one of the enormous challenges facing South Africa and Botswana. The families live in unsatisfactory conditions. Both governments work hard and implement their poverty alleviation strategies. Poverty also appears to be increasing from bad to worse as the countries try to fight it. The majority of the people of both countries are not employed. In some unfortunate cases, the family's breadwinner loses the job or dies because of HIV/AIDS. Vulnerability is associated with lack of ownership of assets. The four vast classes of assets are recognized as:

- Human capital, which includes labour, health and education;
- Social and institutional assets, which include, relations in the household, trust and being able to make decisions;
- Natural resources like land, water and common property; and
- Human-made assets which include, housing, infrastructure that is productive and social infrastructure.

The possession of land is a major decisive factor in determining the status of wealth and poverty in Africa. This applies to both individual and national holdings. The administration of land also plays a crucial role. The development agenda is about poverty alleviation, economic growth, prevention of conflict, and the war against land degradation. The tenure reform in South Africa

and Botswana must be seen to address a range of problems arising from settler colonisation and dispossession. The dual system of land rights which is racially-based and was introduced by colonial regimes continues to prevail in both countries. According to Adams et al. (1999:4) the access to land, natural resources and social capital, determines how and how far livelihoods can be enhanced. On the other hand, there are three identified categories of land tenure in Botswana, that is, the tribal land, state land and freehold land. The policy in Botswana has been to increase the area of tribal land at the expense of both state and freehold ownership. The consistent thread which runs through the policies and legislation of Botswana is the endeavour to provide the land, shelter and production needs of all citizens (Adams, no date: 1).

The majority of Africans do not have land and as a result, physical work and manual labour become the poor man's abundant assets. The land has to be distributed equitably for Africa to succeed in the fight against poverty, with a ceiling put on the amount of land one can own. Social security measures which include financial and material support in the form of disability and old age grants are efforts made by the South African and Botswana governments to alleviate poverty. In South Africa, the grants increases corruption among the government officials who are the watchdogs of the programmes, as they misappropriate the funds meant for the poor regardless of the Chapter 9 institutions of the constitution of the country (Amusan, 2016:7).

Tourism has emerged as one of the massive and rapidly growing sector in the world economy. It generates benefits that are substantial to both host countries and tourists' countries of origin. For Southern African region, it is based more on wildlife and nature assets and is environmentally sustainable in most cases. It has become the main driver of socioeconomic advancement through the export income collected, infrastructure development, and the creation of enterprises and jobs. Tourism contributes more to poverty alleviation to an extent that other aspects of sustainable development and overall income generation are less explored (Muchapondwa & Stage, 2013). The potential for the growth of tourism in developing countries has explains growing attention being paid to the sector as a mechanism for poverty alleviation. The money spent by visitors on beverages, accommodation, local transport, shopping and entertainment is a crucial variable which could be influenced to create the much-needed employment and opportunities for the development of Africa. Tourism can potentially promote social development in the form of job creation, redistribution of income and poverty alleviation. It is a positive force that is able to diminish tension and suspicion by shaping national politics, international relations and world peace.

Poverty and Africa have almost been regarded as synonymous and therefore unavoidable. Ever since the independence of African states, the civil wars have been a pervasive feature of the region. The conflicts have caused devastation leading to large scale destruction of life and property. State discrimination, lack of social integration and competition instead of cooperation are some of the causes of poverty. Poverty manifests itself to crime, substance abuse, lack of education and social skills and ill-health (Osei-Hwedie, 2004: 7). Historical factors such as imperialism and colonialism, inadequate support structures and insufficient capital contributed to the levels of poverty in both South Africa and Botswana. The poverty alleviation issue has drawn attention of both local and international concentration for the past years, leading to a more critical assessment of the methods used to tackle the problem. According to NEPAD, the actors must become true partners in development without pushing their own agendas in the process.

Poverty was a major social problem in the twentieth century and it will continue to be so in the twenty-first century. What it means to live in poverty depends on which part of the world you are (Jefferson, 2018:50). The Botswana and South African government attempts, and many international donors efforts combat poverty continue to fail to yield the intended impacts. The collapse can be explained in terms of the absence of participatory governance in South Africa and Botswana.

1.2. Objectives of the study

Broadly, the aim of the study is to investigate how the social and economic relations of South Africa and Botswana can assist in poverty alleviation in both countries. Both countries have all the required resources to help each other out of poverty, achieve economic growth and political stability. The study looks at the solutions to problems that are associated with poverty alleviation in both countries.

The specific objectives of this study are:

- To examine the dynamics of socio-economic relations and poverty alleviation in South Africa and Botswana.
- To examine the factors that can be regarded as the main causes of poverty in South Africa and Botswana,
- To examine whether South Africa and Botswana have succeeded in their efforts to alleviate poverty because they have all the resources at their disposal,

- The programmes initiated by both Botswana and South Africa towards poverty reduction.

1.3. Research questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

- What is the nature of socio-economic relations between South Africa and Botswana in their effort in poverty alleviation?
- What are the main causes of poverty in South Africa and Botswana?
- What can be done socially and economically by South Africans to help the Botswana with poverty alleviation and vice versa?
- What programmes are implemented by Botswana and South Africa towards alleviation of poverty?

1.4. Rationale of the study

The study is important because it investigates the role that can be played by the social and economic relations between South Africa and Botswana.

NEPAD is identified as a multilateral poverty alleviation initiative and it acknowledges the fact that the solution for Africa's problems lies with the Africans together with the West's willingness to support Africa's efforts.

The availability of a labour force that is adaptable and flexible, minimal living costs, a good quality lifestyle and warm climate, all make South Africa and Botswana the popular destination for foreign investors and tourists.

South Africa and Botswana are mostly rural and blessed with array of resources. The study investigates how these resources can be used to the advantage of the poor.

Policy makers need to be aware of the different needs between the rural and the urban areas. The study, therefore, looks at the ways that can be used to help them.

1.5. Methodology

The study utilised a mixed method, the quantitative and qualitative approach, to determine how the social and economic relations assisted in alleviating poverty in South Africa and Botswana. The method used is mixed in order to complement the shortcoming that might come up in the

usage of one method over the other. A total of 100 (one hundred), questionnaires was also administered to assess the citizens of South Africa and another 100 for Botswana citizens. However, the population was narrowed to the major stakeholders, which are, the people travelling frequently between the two countries. Their knowledge about their countries, whether they realize any efforts by NEPAD towards poverty alleviation were assessed. Both countries are rich in minerals, agriculture and human resources and yet remain the poorest.

The study is based on the examination of secondary and primary data, documents, literature as well as the internet on information relating to poverty, poverty alleviation strategies, and the Republic of South Africa and Botswana. The findings will generate knowledge whether the socio-economic relations of Botswana and South Africa can assist in poverty alleviation in both countries.

1.6. Sources of data

The following sources of data were consulted through interviews and questionnaires:

- People living in the Republics of South Africa and Botswana, especially those living in the rural, poor and inaccessible areas;
- A questionnaire was distributed to 100 (one hundred) citizens of South Africa and the same number for Botswana citizens.
- The tourist attraction areas of both South Africa and Botswana;
- The mining and other job providing institutions in South Africa and Botswana; and
- The departments and ministries of South African and Botswana governments.

1.7. Methods of data collection

People living in South Africa and Botswana, especially those who do not have access to basic resources such as health facilities, clean drinking water, shelter and food, were used as a focus group.

Interviews, both structured and unstructured, were conducted with the officials from the Department of Tourism, Housing, Mining, Economic Development and Agriculture in South Africa and Botswana to establish facts about their governments' role in poverty alleviation.

The NEPAD documents and the website were frequently visited to investigate the latest developments on issues of poverty alleviation.

Most of the information was obtained from the questionnaire distributed both in South Africa and Botswana. The questionnaire was distributed in Mafikeng and Rustenburg in South Africa, Gaborone and Lobatse in Botswana. A total of 100 questionnaires were distributed for each country.

1.8. Data interpretation

The study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods collect data from the field. Most of the information concerning the study was qualitative because it was based on primary and secondary sources such as interviews with key persons, journals and the internet access.

Data analysis was based on content analysis of viewpoints, feelings, attitudes and opinions of respondents.

A total of one hundred (100) respondents were identified in each country and questionnaires were distributed and collected from them. The interviews were conducted regarding the role that can be played by the social and economic relations in reducing poverty in South Africa and Botswana.



1.9. Limitations of the study

The limitation is that the researcher could not control the data collected since the participants were allowed to take the questionnaire home to complete it; therefore, the responses could have been discussed. As the participants were allowed to take the questionnaires to complete, the participants might have been biased in their responses. However, the researcher made it a point that, the sample size was fair and representative of both the people of South Africa and Botswana.

The study was limited to the people of South Africa and Botswana, especially those living in the rural, poor and inaccessible areas.

1.10. Ethical Consideration

The researcher was guided by the North West University research ethical rules.

The researcher informed the participants that:

- The information from respondents is treated confidentially;
- The respondents are also informed that participation was voluntary; and

- The researcher undertakes to provide the respondents with the report of the findings.

1.11. Significance of the study

The study is of utmost importance because it will help the decision-makers in government, private sectors, NGOs and multinational corporations with the strategies to use in their efforts to alleviate poverty.

The study will also make people aware of NEPAD, especially those from South Africa and Botswana. It will further raise their consciousness on the role they have to play in order to make the goals of NEPAD realistic as well as what they stand to benefit from the whole concept.

It will also help to encourage people to use whatever they have, and not to be dependent, to make their living standards better.

National and international organizations will come to realize that poverty needs a holistic approach because it has a crippling effect on the human society.

Also to be realized through this study is the difference between rural and urban poverty. South Africa and Botswana are mostly rural, hence the strategies to deal with poverty in both countries should be different.

The study sought to investigate the measures that could be used to promote and sustain Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) development in the poor areas of South Africa and Botswana. It finally provides strategies that can be used to focus on job creation.

1.12. Organization of the chapters

Chapter one is the introduction, background, research objectives, research questions, rationale of the study and significance of the study.

Chapter two is the literature review.

Chapter three focuses the causes of poverty in South Africa and Botswana.

Chapter four provides the findings.

Chapter five provides the recommendations and conclusion.

CHAPTER TWO

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

The theories of development are about understanding how the process of change in a particular society take place. In the 1940s the researchers from the countries that were less developed stressed the role of the state and their critiques from the liberal perspectives gave the role of the market a priority. However, there is no theory that is not vulnerable to the changes in the social values or the current policy problems (Harris, 2013: 1). He further states that development is about bringing about the potential that is latent in something. In the case of this project, an investigation is done on how the social and economic relations of South Africa and Botswana can assist in poverty alleviation. Both countries are considered as the Southern Africa's democratic icons. Their democratic rule, however, happens in the framework of dominant party structure. A single party leads for a protracted era in a system of democracy. The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), has been ruling Botswana since 1965, on the other hand, the African National Congress (ANC), has ruled South Africa from 1994. They have not experienced the alternation of power since their first democratic elections. According to De Jager and Meintjies (2013: 235), South Africa and Botswana are economically prosperous, compared to many African states. The lives of many citizens of South Africa and Botswana have improved under the rule of the BDP and the ANC. They are both categorized as the middle income countries by the World Bank. The economy of South Africa features many relatively developed sectors. However, Botswana's economy has not been successful in the attempt to diversify away from diamonds.

2.2. Growth centred approach to development

The idea that development is the one and the same as the growth of the economy has been subjected to serious criticism. The growth of the gross domestic product (GDP) has become an obsession of nation states (Harris, 2013: 4). However, some economists disagree that it is not important to use a specific body of theories about the economies that are developing seeing that the principles of economics are universally applied, Harris argues. A greater number of South Africa and Botswana citizens are unemployed and poor. For the citizens of both countries, middle class life-style is new and rare, but is a growing phenomenon. It is such an

environment that those in power, issue tenders, create jobs, determine the economic policy, influence the movement of resources and create jobs.

The approach to development used in South Africa and Botswana is the growth and the people centered approach. With the growth centered approach, the craft of development, growing the economy is the most important goal. Concentration is focused on the objective because the wellbeing of the society depends on it. However, critics argue that economic growth has been employed to justify political oppression and the denial of basic human rights in some situations. They criticize the development approach because its adherence accepts inequality for the fact that equal allocation of the fruits of development minimizes the pace of economic growth. With the people centered approach, people are placed at the core of the development process. Economic growth is not an ultimate goal of development, but it is only seen as a means of satisfying people's needs (De Beer & Swanepoel, 2000: 125).

Theories about what causes poverty are the basis upon which poverty alleviation strategies are focused. Some of the theories on poverty in the developing world are based on cultural characteristics as a hindrance of supplementary development. Other theories are based on social and political conditions that maintain poverty. The knowledge of the poor has a serious bearing on the design and execution of programs aimed at alleviating poverty. The theories of poverty are in a crisis state. The Eurocentric and progressive biases have been disgraced although not totally abandoned (Motloun & Mears, 2002:532). According to the human growth approach, poverty alleviation can be possible if productivity is improved at a personal, household, urban and rural level. The policies that are aimed at poverty alleviation in South Africa and Botswana can be identified from the limited prosperity of the smaller groups, lesser rights for the larger group and preferred distributional equality of income for all people.

2.3. The Marxist theory

The Marxists attribute poverty in society to the class divisions that exist. They insist that poverty assists in keeping up of the superiority of the bourgeoisie, it protects the interests of the wealthy or the owning class. There are other sociologists who associate the continuation of poverty to the poor themselves. They argue that the poor as individuals, are to blame for their own poverty, or they develop, as group, a culture of poverty that bolsters their own poverty. The individualistic theorists blame poverty on the poor themselves. They claim that the poor people are lazy, do not want to work and as such, should not be allowed to eat. The Individualists characterizes poverty to atrocious moral character, which has now been coined

“survival of the fittest”. This type of attitude still prevails today. For instance, Stark (2009: 386) observes that under the international law, the rich North is not legally obliged to aid the poor South.

Meier and Stiglitz (2001:389) state that “the past 50 years have seen marked changes in our understanding of development. We know that development is possible, but not inevitable”. They say that there are no formulas for success that are fool proof. Some tactics appear to work for some time and then stop. A couple of strategies also appear to function in few countries and not the rest. This theory of economics has emerged as a justification for the failures and successes. Development is no more identified as a basic means of capital multiplication, but rather the means of organizational change. Although more capital may be helpful, it may however, be neither necessary nor sufficient for sustained economic growth. It is important for South Africa and Botswana to appease the anticipations as a result of the democracy attained with the certainties of the problems and the potential of the economy together. As the two countries attempt to alleviate poverty by way of development, it is very important to harmonize the perpetually rising and competing demands against natural resources which are limited.

2.4. The development theory

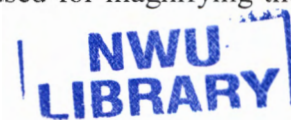
Development theory has now become clothed with the new demands arising out of the developments in the crisis of colonialism, which included the way the colonial powers were to deal with the crisis of decolonization (Padayachee, 2006: 37). Development planning in South Africa and Botswana is oriented towards the alleviation of poverty in its various guises. It further provides rural populations with alternative income opportunities to that of urban employment. Planning encourages an approach to development which focuses on large, visible projects rather than smaller, less obvious forms of development, a tendency which is often reinforced by both overseas aid agencies and local politicians.

Botswana and South African governments must do more with less in order to achieve their mandate if development is thought of in the form of the people’s potential to bring about the stuff that they have reason to value (Harris, 2013:4). Development can therefore be seen as a process of broadening the real freedoms that people appreciate. It is fundamental for both to practice and implement what the society has been promised in terms of their constitutions. Social services should receive more attention but not necessarily neglecting other functions. The success of such a development objective rests on the “recognition of the existing avenues for, and constraints upon, making a living in rural areas, rural aspirations, the causes of rural

poverty, and national and local strategies to cope with the human suffering and social dislocation usually associated with the conditions of extreme poverty (Derman, 1992: 215).

Development projects targeted at helping the poor have a tendency to neglect the markets. They do not provide training, subsidies and infrastructure for the poor, regardless of the context, cost, and their participation levels. However, the projects that work in collaboration with the markets are beginning to emerge and are yielding much desired results. How the poor access financial markets is an important element that facilitates their participation in markets in most cases. Governments or international aid agencies intervention can contribute positively to changing the circumstances that cause poverty. According to Padayachee (2006: 124), it is important to make appropriate interventions in economic policy that will allow for the enhancement of economic growth and social development. Balancing the two objectives is critical to the achievement of the long term objectives of reducing poverty, unemployment and social deprivation.

The part played by the state was identified in the work carried out under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in calculating an index of “human development,” starting in 1990s (Harris, 2013:26). Human poverty is human deprivation because it involves reduction in years of life, health, housing and knowledge, lack of access to safe and water, lack of participation, lack of personal security and environmental degradation (UNDP Human Development Report, 2005). Poverty does not only involve lack of fundamentals of material well-being, it is also about being denied of the opportunities required for living a decent life. Life can be made difficult and shortened as a result of poverty. One can be deprived of self-esteem and self-respect, dignity, and as well as respect for others. The features of poverty limit and plague the lives of many. According to the UNDP Human Development Report of 2015, the primary objective of development is to establish a conducive environment for people to appreciate the lengthy, healthy and creative lives, of which the poor are deprived of. Human development is understood as a technique used for magnifying the people’s choices by expanding their capabilities and opportunities.



2.5. Structuralism theory

Harris, (2013: 27) says that by the 1990s, the theory of development was in critical situation, because of the realistic breakdown of both liberalism and structuralism, and the basis that a number of the developing countries, notably in Africa, were faced with violence and civil war. It is the lack of possessions and entitlements, both physical and non-physical, which deprive

the people of South Africa and Botswana to develop their capabilities and which in turn, keep them in the condition of poverty. The processes that govern possession, both material and non-material, have to be restructured for poverty to be alleviated. Poverty is known, to some researchers, as a defect in one's social and economic capabilities. Its revelations include aspects like lack access to both basic services and to assets, income, information, social networks or social capital. The larger approach to poverty calls for engagement with the reality of poverty and the combination of things that should be done to deal with it (Anon, 2008: 4).

There is no a specific type of economic accuracy holding the basis to a productive analysis of all economic problems. And still, there is no perfect economic theory that is resistant to changes in social values or current policy problems (Harris, 2013:32). The basic approach adopted by NEPAD is that, in order for Africa to overcome impoverishment she needs to be further integrated into the present globalization process and the global economy. There is no ideal political system, neither communism, socialism nor democracy, that has so far been able to alleviate poverty. It has also been agreed that a healthy and productive environment is an imperative for NEPAD. Partnerships have to be reinforced among government departments and agencies, businesses, organized labour, civil society and NGOs. Interventions are required to change the plight of the rural poor in line with Spatial Development Perspective.

Wilson and Ramphela (1989: 258) emphasize that poverty is not a morally impartial phenomenon which needs to be simply accepted. It is an evil that must be out-rooted. However, there is no strategy used against poverty alleviation that can be totally effective. The countless spheres of poverty and its interconnecting causes need a diversified strategy attack. They argue that, in southern Africa, power lies at the center of the problem of poverty. They further insist that those hungry children cannot study properly and malnourished adults cannot be fully efficient as workers. A conducive environment and access to environmental goods and services are the prerequisites for the alleviation of poverty and economic development. The poor South African and Botswana people depend disproportionately on the natural resources for their livelihoods. They are at higher risk to natural and human made disasters. The people living in poverty are most probable to be disempowered through poorly defined land rights. It is about time that we recognize poverty as human rights violation or realizing that the promotion of human rights could alleviate poverty. However, a human rights approach to poverty alleviation is currently being internationally recognized and implemented.

Over the years, the low living standards are exhibited in the income patterns which are low, health which is poor, limited or no education and, in most cases, a general impression of sickness and hopelessness. It is required that one must know about the groups that are affected by poverty and the nature of their economy to improve their situation. NEPAD is a plan to lure investment inflow and carry Africa into a faster development tract. The poverty alleviation tactics that are being implemented in many African countries can only flourish if they are unified with the NEPAD priority projects and programmes across African regions. The harmonization should be done more precisely by way of collaboration and cooperation with Regional Economic Communities. The question of whether African leaders are ready for the transformation challenge remains open. The changes in inequality and poverty are key elements of the transformation of any economy (Bhorat & Kanbur, 2006:95). South Africa and Botswana have embraced the principles of democracy. However, others African leaders continue to rule through theft, despotism, and corruption. There is hope that Africa is able to build upon its wealthy resources and remedy the pressing disease, institutionalized corruption and poverty that have faltered its well-being for years.

NEPAD is typically portrayed by its architects and supporters as an effort to address Africa's many development challenges. Some have called it a Marshall Plan, while others view it as a development method and a programme for the African Union (AU). Critics perceive it as a 'neo liberal' project and its proponents view it as a revolutionary plan. Critics also call it the 'Africanisation of GEAR'. NEPAD has evidently brought about a lot of debate (Landsberg, No date). When viewed as a development plan, NEPAD sees an inevitable connection between politics and economics. It makes a link between peace, development, security, governance and democracy. Landsberg further states that, if African leaders could hold each other accountable, then the industrialized powers of the world would recommit themselves to Africa's development, as a trade-off. It was prompted by the post-Cold war reality of the imbalances of power between Africa and the industrialized North. NEPAD is an effort to turn around pessimistic understanding of Africa. If the international community were to acknowledge constructively and positively to NEPAD, their engagement of the continent would assist to curb the increasing poverty and inequality on the continent, and also help in changing the economic, political and social landscapes of Africa.

According to Wilson *et al.* (2001:165), poverty should be seen in the framework of having access to all forms of resources and facilities provided by or within a nation, and therefore socio-economic factors ought to be taken into consideration as well. The state, in recent years,

is now answerable for the welfare and well-being of the citizens. Traditionally, this happens in the form of social services. Everyone should have access to food, clothing and shelter and acquire the foundations for self-determination. Poverty and inequality are structural features of political economy and wide values of differences; men to women, the young and the old, the poor to the rich that are associated with South Africa and Botswana. Poverty alleviation is a mobilization or integration of the poor in the cause of economic growth. The poor must be helped to accept responsibility for their own destiny. However, this must be done in the context of world order that depends on economic growth. Both governments have prioritized the children's needs in their efforts to alleviate poverty.

Globally, government's primary role should be leadership, identifying and promoting cost-effective approaches to health and facilitating the activities of public and non-government providers. Poor health imposes enormous economic costs on individuals, households and the society at large. AIDS will also have immense economic consequences in South Africa and Botswana in years to come. It is fatal and primarily strikes adults in their most productive years. Illiteracy, lack of sought after skills, deficiency of knowledge regarding the hazard of infection and the lack of backing to act on this knowledge contributes to the spread of HIV/AIDS. Among others, the factors that make HIV/AIDS flourish at the different levels of infection are, the failure to discuss sex and high population mobility, according to Tladi (2006:370). The deaths of parents from AIDS will lower the incomes and wellbeing of their households, thus reducing the consumption level of survivors. South Africa and Botswana need to make basic commitments, such as building health systems and providing modest education. The promotion of gender equality and global protection of human rights are also crucial. To improve human development in Africa, the health strategy that has been adopted by NEPAD identifies capacity building in Africa for addressing challenges, the priorities as well the continents' needs. It also advocates and supports the development of new vaccines and drugs which are pressingly required by Africa and pricing them reasonably. The quality of collective research activities on TB, HIV/AIDS within Africa and public-private partnerships, needs to be improved, in particular with industry.

Children living in rural areas are more inclined to be poorer than those in urban areas. They are the worst victims of poverty in South Africa and Botswana. They find themselves in a culture where the previous policies have left a legacy of harsh regional and racial imbalances. Many South African and Botswana families live in conditions that do not allow them to meet the most basic or developmental needs for their children, while others in the nearby communities, live

in comparative wealth and are able to provide for all the educational and developmental needs for their children. Destitution, brutality, malnourishment, poor health, inferior education and prejudiced social security systems have created and entrenched severe disparities in access to social services for children of different racial groups, geographical areas and genders (Robinson *et al.*, 1999: IV). Migration to urban areas exacerbates poverty for children living in densely populated urban squatter camps and for those who remain in the poorly serviced rural areas.

“Tackling poverty has long been the *raison d’etre* for development studies and aid policy if not always the guiding principle” (Webster *et al.*, 2002:1). They stress that nearly a quarter of the world’s inhabitants still survive on incomes less than one US dollar a day. Improving the awareness and understanding of poverty must serve as a basement for better policies and programmes established to alleviate poverty. The dynamics and dimensions of poverty have to be known so that the attempts to alleviate it can be successful. Economic growth and better access to markets are crucial requirements but are neither sufficient, nor leaving poverty alleviation as a problem of the state. In African countries, the institutional channels through which policies and decision-making can be influenced and challenged by the poor are often very limited, if not altogether absent. South Africa and Botswana governments and donor agency intervention can assist in shaping the framework in which local development course can happen, they are not able to direct the actions and responses of local actors.

South Africa and Botswana are doing their best to overthrow the strain of race, class and inequality based on gender they inherited during the era of colonialism and Apartheid. The principal goals of the process of transformation include facilitating the socio-economic development and growth, improving the living standards, and empowering the historically disadvantaged people, women and the poor, in particular. However, those who do not have political connections remain poor, when they have the potential to produce food in their backyards (Amusan, 2016:9). The critical role of leadership is to resolve conflicts, build peace and protect the environment, poverty alleviation and to ensure sustainable development.

Achieving the goals of NEPAD is closely and directly linked to population factors, therefore improving human well-being should be at the core of human development. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cannot be achieved without programme interventions that accommodate and at the same time influence the dynamics and characteristics of populations. The MDGs were not achieved in 2015 in South Africa and Botswana because of the structure,

the rate of growth, and population dynamics including HIV/AIDS. Population related interventions help individuals to climb out of poverty through improving their understanding of the effects of their situation of early, frequent and late childbearing. Their ability to control their own fertility, access to reproductive health knowledge and services should be improved. Gender equity and empowerment of women should be promoted. In the case of South Africa, the women's parliament is held every year to focus on issues that are pertinent to women. This activity creates a platform for women from various sectors of South African society to meet and talk about the achievements that have been made and the challenges they encounter.

Conclusion

Social welfare services are remedial, developmental and interventionist in nature. They should therefore present services to many people and are funded solely by the state. They may be indigent children, the aged, disabled, or people that have been victims of crime. The diagrams of poverty are deeply gendered (Padayachee, 2006:160). Women are likely to be poorer as compared to men; in addition, girls are more vulnerable than boys and older widows are also more vulnerable than older widowers. These patterns are gender based and they also combine with the racial patterns. Race determined model for the allocation of resources and opportunities under colonialism and apartheid era. However, the eventuality of social welfare on poverty alleviation is controversial. Does it achieve its goal of reducing poverty as it is supposed to? Enthusiasts of social welfare services argue that welfare has minimized poverty in developed countries. The opponents on the other hand, find welfare to be creating a negative motivation of not finding work and thus sustaining or even creating poverty. The programmes need to be coupled with skills development and capacity building so that people are empowered to escape from the poverty trap. Social welfare services is about what is generally known as social work, which includes the provision of remedy, intervention, protection and alternative care services.

CHAPTER THREE

3. THE CAUSES OF POVERTY IN SOUTH AFRICA AND BOTSWANA

3.1. Introduction

Economic growth is mostly perceived as a critical element in poverty alleviation. The causes of poverty are many, and some of them are basically entrenched. Overpopulation is mostly to be blamed for spreading the resources too light and leading to hunger. Poverty can be blamed on a number of causes like, the harsh natural environment, bad governments, runaway population growth, evils of past colonialism or the present greed of the rich world. African people are poor because of a perceived number of circumstances working together. Some issues are entrenched in the past while others are much present features. They also function at different scales which may be global, continental, national, regional, local and even personal. Hence, in most cases the set of policies to alleviate poverty also differ from place to place. The poor countries of the world are sometimes labelled developing countries, which is inappropriate because development is by meaning the same thing as economic growth. According to O'Connor, (2002: 43) development is extremely difficult to achieve without economic growth and indeed without rising per capita incomes.

3.2. Poverty in South Africa and Botswana

South Africa and Botswana's progressive constitutions and legislatures certainly afford the legal groundwork for non-discrimination and equality. However, the threat remains to be the implementation of these measures inherently so as to improve the living standards of the historically disadvantaged, especially women and the poor. The collection of data would assist in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of NEPAD. The data collected will assist in the development of information systems, which help the decision-makers at all levels to take decisions that are informed, taking into account the difficulties faced by the poor and responding more effectively to the needs of the poor. The aspirations of NEPAD are to alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life for African people, for each individual man, woman and child. It is founded on the laudable principle of African ownership, leadership and respect for basic human rights and is universally accepted and acclaimed as the long-term development framework for the African region for the coming decades.

The South African and Botswana relations were formalized by the foundation of Representative Offices in both countries in 1992. The relationship was further strengthened to

full diplomatic level on 22 June 1994. Botswana is an excellent player on political and economic integration of southern Africa. To Botswana, the SADC is an active vehicle for economic development. The attempts to turn the region to police itself in terms of preventative diplomacy, resolution of conflict, and good governance, are also promoted by Botswana. The post-apartheid South Africa has been welcome by Botswana as a partner in these efforts. Botswana subscribes to most of the African general agreements in most leading international concerns and is affiliated to international organizations like the United Nations and the African Union. Botswana is also an affiliate of the International Criminal Court. South Africa plays an active role in the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), and Commonwealth of Nations. It has been thought-out as a possible permanent inclusion to the United Nations Security Council. She is a global actor taking a major role in Africa. However, South Africa and Botswana share more than second-order ranking in the Human Development Report (Wilson *et al.*, 2001: 7).

Poverty is multidimensional and shows the removal of people from socially acceptable standards of living and it includes a number of deprivations. The scope covered by poverty includes the obvious aspects of human capabilities, that is, economic, human, political and socio-cultural. Poverty does not merely address the issue of income as it covers issues of access to health care, education, drinkable water, better sanitation, roads, markets and opportunities for productive employment (ILO, 2008: 3). This multi-faceted definition must be considered in the context of local circumstances. The determinants of poverty vary from one country to another, so is the case with South Africa and Botswana. History, geography and governance all configure development templates. Environmental degradation, gender prejudice and rapid population growth are also other causes of poverty. HIV/AIDS has also cropped up as a cutting issue which requires a holistic action. Lack of employment and underemployment remain at the root of poverty. For the poor ones, labour is mostly the only treasure they can use towards improving their well-being. The establishment of employment producing opportunities is, therefore, important to achieve poverty alleviation and create sustainable economic and social development. It is essential that befitting jobs be provided, giving both income security and empowering the poor, especially women and younger people. The creation of decent work should be the pillar of economic policies. It should attract investment and bring about job creating initiatives.

Positive economic, corporate and political governance are important requirements for winning both the Official Development Assistance (ODA) flows, and the foreign and domestic and

private investment to materialize (Amoako, 2001: 12). There is still much to do to improve perceptions and practices within Africa as well as in the UN system. The enhanced agricultural performance has the ability to grow rural revenue and buy power for more people. Agriculture, more than any other sector, can best improve people. An effectual cycle of minimized hunger, optimized productivity, increased wages and viable poverty alleviation strategy can be started in South Africa and Botswana.

According to Dykes and Jones (2016), the Public-private partnerships are cooperative measures between governments and multinational corporations (MNCs) and are created to finance, construct and manage infrastructure projects. They are a means for governments to yield the much-needed private sector investment and expertise for economic development. An alternative set of commitments between African states, donor governments and the private sector as a plan for managing Africa's inclusion into the world economy needs to be initiated. It should be aimed at developing a new framework of global cooperation, including the industrialized countries and multilateral organizations as a means of setting Africa on a prosperous path. The development of crucial infrastructure in Africa can be accelerated through better cooperation and appropriate partnerships. In the case of South Africa, instruments have been found by the private sector for the funding of hospitals, prisons and public roads. The South African and Botswana governments have been requested to include the civil society when implementing the development projects. The incorporation will make sure that the project is people centered and that the country is also dedicated to public and private partnership, alongside with its national development agenda. The projects have a direct impact on the livelihoods of the community. The agriculture-led development leads to self-reliance and economies becoming productive are capable of reducing poverty and hunger. This can be realized through a resolution as arrived at by Mbeki who states that, "Africa needs new rulers, the people themselves who understand that the path to prosperous future lies in hard work, creativity, knowledge and equity" (Mbeki, 2009: xii). The skills and art of leadership, its values and ethics, and the tasks and competencies are required to make excellent leaders in a national, regional and international framework are critical.



Preparing the circumstances that will make smart money to come to Africa. Private investment will bring to South Africa and Botswana more funds than any measurable amount of global assistance could bring. The current rules of trade are creating serious barriers to the speeding up economic growth, generation of higher income for workers, and to making the much needed imports affordable so that investment can be focused on transport and the infrastructure

required for development. According to Bhagwati and Srinivasan (2002: 180), trade is profitable for poverty alleviation in developing countries. Africa can also put more effort to stimulate trade inside the continent. The barriers of trade between African countries are abnormal. They are a hindrance to integration of the region, growth of the economy and inward investment. The liability to a trading policy based outside helps the poor indirectly since they are vulnerable to inflation.

African countries are more anxious about combining and growing national economic and political structures of their own than with simply promoting accelerated economic development (Todaro, 2000:37). This scholar further states that the most important was the establishment of the three dynamic and totally new ideas of taxation on private property, personal taxation and the demand that taxes be paid in money rather than in kind, he says. However, fully-fledged states were created and each of them admitted into the UN on independence. They were however fragile structures, and in some cases they even partly collapsed. Africa would benefit greatly if politics ceased to function so very largely in terms of nation-states, and if, instead, there was emphasis on both global and local scales of decision-making. Africans should break away from the attitude and culture of victimization. The Africans must take responsibility for their own mistakes and become critically aware of their political development.

The African continent is the world's second largest and the second most populated. The continent has myriad natural resources, minerals, forests, wildlife and rich biological diversity. However, this wealth is largely unexploited, and is not reflected in the welfare of the inhabitants of the region for complicated socio-economic reasons which developed mainly over many years ago. Policy measures to tackle poverty must decrease population growth and realign consumption patterns. They should increase using the resources efficiently to make the structural changes to the economy. Those efforts must at the same time maintain the lives of the rich while upgrading the lives of the poor and increasing sustainability. However, it cannot be said that South Africa and Botswana which are on their route to achieving political stability through established ground rules and mature institutions. The contribution made by roads towards economic development is internationally recognized; as a result, countries set aside huge budgets for construction, maintenance and upgrading of roads. The roads are very productive, but not an efficient means of transportation. It is vital to develop the cutting edge capacities at the local level. The capacities would provide local resources and local solutions to solve local problems while affording profitable global impacts (UNU Report. 2002).

Conyers and Hills (1990: 1) define planning as “a continuous process which involves decisions, or choices, about alternative ways of using available resources, with the aim of achieving particular goals at some time in the future”. Planning is about choosing and allocating resources. It is a means for achieving the goals and is for the future (Conyers & Hills, 1990: 4). It is about making choices between alternative courses of action. There is an important relationship between planning and decision-making. Many of the specified methods used by planners are drafted to improve the way in which decisions are made. Allocating resources in this case, refers to whatever which is treated by the decision-makers to be of possible use in the achievement of a particular objective. It does not only include natural resources, manpower and finance are also included. Planning is about making the best use of the resources at hand. Conyers and Hills emphasize that the quality and the quantity of the resources have got an impact on the procedure of selecting between the various courses of action.

3.3. Population growth as a cause of poverty in South Africa and Botswana

Africa is unique in its demographic extremes as the birth and population growth rates are higher. The status of African women and their access to socio-economic remain lower as compared to men. Adolescents between the ages of 15 and 19 are highly fertile. The youth, from age 15 to 24, with their special needs and problems, constitutes a larger proportion of the population of South Africa and Botswana. Maternal morbidity and mortality are also higher in both countries. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is worse in the two countries and is reversing the earlier gains in life expectancy. Both governments have to contend with the challenge of providing a strong adolescent sexual and reproductive health programmes, education programmes and programmes for satisfying livelihoods. Thus, South Africa and Botswana, which have the most serious socio-economic problems in the world, are the countries with the most challenging population problems. Social exclusion lumps together symptoms closely associated to absolute poverty. Being deprived of material, having housing problems, being vulnerable to disease and under-nourishment are symptoms of poverty (Osei-Hweide, 2004:9). The poor people are not a homogenous group. They are easily affected by problems relating to gender, endowment of resources, region of settlement and cultural tradition.

When the rate of fertility is huge, the bulk of the community is comprised of children and teenagers, as compared to the portion comprised of working adults. When the rates of fertility decrease, the percentage of possible workers (people aged 15-64) to non-workers (people 14 or younger and people aged 65 and older) increases, meaning that more workers are

accountable to fewer children. "Social change is significantly correlated with major changes in politics" (Huntington, 1965:388). It brings about increased urbanization, literacy, exposure to mass media, industrialization and expanded per capita income. The children from bigger families do not do well both in school and on the tests of intelligence as compared to those from smaller families. Children from larger families are also likely to have weaker health and lower prospects of surviving. When the family is large, it restrains the physical development of children, possibly through poor nutrition and inferior-quality maternity care. The relationship between the size of the family and parental welfare measures are not clear enough and differ over the cycle of life. The way the mother allocates time for pregnancy has an effect on the time for seeking employment and leisure. The time for work must be compatible to that of child care.

The poor are far and removed and thus they cannot influence the national policy. For many years, income and consumption indicators, levels of education, and the status of health have been the assessment tools used to determine the levels of poverty. The new approach is now to use the participatory poverty assessment (PPA), to sharpen the examination poverty and to understand it better, from the poor man's perspective (Robb, 2002: xxv). The belief is that the poor people have got competence and should participate in the decision-making process. The PPA, according to Robb, have indicated that the poor are capable to analyse, appraise, plan, and act to a far greater extent than it has been previously acknowledged. However, many countries have resorted to the privatization of enterprises owned by the state and opening up of weak economies to competition much attention to regulatory frameworks. Active participation of the community is important to building an empowered community. The empowered communities score outstanding citizen satisfaction with their community. All groups are allowed to be involved; the responsibilities are shared so that the particular talents and interests of contributing organizations are employed. The power and responsibility are separated. Their business is conducted openly and it also widely publicized. There is no space for something called a bad idea in participating communities.

It should be borne in mind that "South Africa is not the only country to have been conquered, it is not the only place where slavery existed, not the only economy whose workers have had a long harsh struggle against militant bosses. Nor indeed is it the only country where one group has used control over the state to raise barriers against another group, to capture the lion's share of public resources" (Wilson & (Ramphela, 1989:197). Evidence abundantly reveals how public expenditure was used in education, agricultural support, and job creation in the past to

support whites, far more than the blacks. The apartheid government invested in the whites as people and also assisting them with resources for infrastructure in rural as well as urban areas to improve their economic wellbeing. Similarly, poverty affects the masses in Botswana and it has led to concerns being raised about policies and the attempts linked to development that focus on, or have aspects targeted at poverty alleviation. The Botswana government has put in place some social policies to help the vulnerable groups such as the poor, the elderly and remote area dwellers (RADs). Many households and individuals continue to experience poverty regardless of these attempts, (Osei-Hweidie, 2004: 7). Poverty alleviation is an essential element to the achievement of development that is sustainable in most countries, South Africa and Botswana included.

The people of South Africa and Botswana have to organize their lives with the little income and very few material possessions. Political factors played a major role in keeping poverty alive in Africa. The political structures that took over from the colonial period have not been very helpful. The African states have been greatly preoccupied with their own survival rather than with the welfare of the people. Many Africans are engaged in some form of the oldest occupation in the world, which is begging. According to Burkey, (1993: 53), the basic needs are the things that an individual must have in order to survive as human being. Survival of the human race does not depend on the survival of a single individual, but on that of the communities. It is therefore important to expand the list of basic needs to include those of the community.

Population growth is threatening the economic, social and political wellbeing of South Africa and Botswana. Social development talks about the availability of and access to social services and social justice and the overall quality of life. A social problem is a subject that relate to the understanding of the society about people's personal lives. There is an interrelationship between poverty and economic decline. Poverty affects an individual's state of existence in a society negatively. It is a condition that is largely viewed as undesirable in a community. It is common to all societies and there are often latent results from efforts to deal with certain social situations. Social problems in South Africa and Botswana are:

- Poverty,
- Unemployment,
- Corruption,

- Sexually transmitted diseases,
- Anti-social behaviour,
- Drug and alcohol abuse,
- Economic deprivation,
- Violence and crime, and
- Environmental problems.

Without exception, all problems are met with the same solution, demanding more from government, which eventually leads to increased taxes, high inflation and greater controls on the private sector. Social problems come into existence when people think that they do not exist. The infrastructure that is not well organized limits the possibilities of social inclusion and efficient economic growth. The case of social problems is not problematic itself. Poverty is still the most detracting social problem that needs to be addressed. Social exclusion can be extended to the general analysis of poverty. There is an inter-relationship between issues of poverty and racial or ethnic marginalization and social exclusion on a global scale (Wilson *et al.*, 2001:74).

The Sub-Saharan African region has the most rapid growth of the rate of population with the lowest level of birth control. This is the case with South Africa and Botswana. The progress aimed at reducing the level of acute poverty is not apparent. Poverty could be blamed for high fertility because many people who are poor yearn for more children, because to them, children equals wealth. It is believed that they will be able to assist with household chores and they are conveniently, some social security for their ageing parents. The women who are not empowered are mostly not able to decide for themselves to acquire the services of birth control. This is an indication that education for women and their job prospects need to be improved urgently for them to have a better control of their lives and depart from poverty (Merrick, 2002).

Information is not easily accessible and the physical and human capital assets are fewer for the poor people of South Africa and Botswana. They need access to these so that they can benefit from the little convenience afforded by the reductions of fertility. When people are enabled to have lesser children, it adds positively to upward mobility and assists to inspire development. Women who participate and make decisions on their reproductive health with their partners are

actually exercising their rights. When they exercise their rights it makes them more involved in making decisions within families as well as in communities which benefits most. As women get better education, they will bear fewer children, and fully and actively participate in the labour market (UNFPA, 2005).

3.4. Unemployment as a cause of poverty in South Africa and Botswana

All over the world, unemployment is classified as a bigger cause of poverty. Poverty causes illness, hunger, substance abuse, crime, family breakdown and suicide (Osei-Hwedie, 2004:10). Poor wages also trap workers in poverty. In the sector of agriculture, not owning livestock is seen as a source of poverty both in South Africa and Botswana. The socio-cultural and institutional difficulties restrict the poor from accessing credit facilities, land and water. In Botswana, some of the causes include separation of communal land, reduction of hunting and gathering opportunities, gender inequality and the continued transformation from the traditionally agriculture society to an economically based one. Meeting the basic needs of each individual member of the population should constitute one of the major concerns in the overall objective of reducing poverty, achieving economic growth and attaining development that is sustainable.

Over the years, poverty has drawn the attention of both local and international attention, leading to a more critical appraisal of means to be employed to deal with the problem. NEPAD is fundamentally an answer to problems caused by the conditions commonly linked to financing from the international companies. African governments are given more power by NEPAD to model the conditions for financing in order to improve their consistency, coherence and political legitimacy (Robinson, 2001:8). The Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) which were formulated to reorganize and bring back to life the economies of the developing countries and to set up the conditions that enable growth, have negatively impacted on the poor communities of South Africa and Botswana.

Increasing employment opportunities, human resource development, skills development, promotion of small and medium sized private sector enterprises, are the necessary elements of poverty alleviation strategies in South Africa and Botswana. Such policies and programmes target the disadvantaged groups being, the poor, women and youth. This would include issues on the continuing need for national capacity building in the area of ICTs, data collection and analysis and the development of population as well as development strategies and their training implications (UNFPA & ECA, 2002:21). Seeing that both South Africa and Botswana are

disregarding the existence of the indigenous people on purpose, poverty will remain prevalent with them (Amusan, 2016:7).

Poverty is closely related to poor education and lack of employment. It is commonly used in international documents to explain the limited access to schools. There have been international campaigns to cut down the cost of schooling and increase social spending. In the case of South Africa, the introduction of no-fee school and the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), has led to a dramatic increase in enrolment. Poverty is most of all a rural phenomenon. The policies that are meant for rural areas in Sub-Saharan Africa are probable to foster the overall growth and tackle poverty. Rural-based policies are likely to have beneficial results on the whole economy for many reasons. First, growth that is rurally based is commonly followed by enhancements in the distribution of income. Secondly, where reduction in income inequality comes from land reform and changes in land tenure, it has a tendency to increase agricultural productivity because of the resultant intensification of labour input on land. Thirdly, rural development involves increased investment in human capital of the poor, expanding their economic opportunities, while on the other hand, directly improving their quality of life. With agriculture in Africa, the emphasis is conventionally based on poverty alleviation strategies. Agriculture is still the dominant source of incomes and employment for the rural poor. Its enthusiasm relies critically upon the conditions dominating in rural non-farm sectors (Mwabu & Thorbecke, 2004: 7). Poverty has often been the reason for school drop outs.

Observation shows that poverty is far more complicated than income deprivation. It encompasses the lack of knowledge and of opportunity as well as lack of income and capital, amongst others. Despite having better access to education, the poor people, and mainly women, the socially disadvantaged groups, the physically disabled, people in rural areas are often deprived of basic education. The availability of basic education will enable the poor to go for it because they find the direct and opportunity costs that go with it too high (Calitz, 1991: 89). Poverty and the unavailability of basic education can be blamed for deficient access to, or completing formal education. Crime and violence are also a severe threat to peace and economic stability in South Africa and Botswana. Not only does poverty delay school entry, it also protracts the journey through school.



The people of South Africa and Botswana are not educated poorly because they are poor; they are poor because they were poorly educated. The international concern has been focused on the need to expand access to elementary education, the need to expand secondary education in

order to achieve the MDGs target. Lack of education and illiteracy are common in poor countries. The people in the rural areas of South Africa and Botswana cannot afford good public schools. Poverty affects the success of children at school drastically. It is because of lack of education that most people cannot find work that is generating income. The poor often do without schooling in order to put focus on a minimal living. The risk factor with children with low resources is similar to justification such as high levels of teenage pregnancy, juvenile delinquency and the economic dependency upon their parents with low income. The employment opportunities for people of South Africa and Botswana are few and as a result they see no reason to go to school.

3.5. Corruption as a cause of poverty in South Africa and Botswana

Humans are inherently prone to crime and cannot be trusted, thus extensive government authority is needed to keep people in line (Schumaker, 2010:127). Other researchers claim that humans are inherently good; it is the institutions and practices that bring out the worst in humans. They believe that people could coexist without any coercive government. Human desires for earthy goods that were scarce and the competition that such desires engendered are the reason for corruption. Humans are set against each other by their conflicting natural desires. They are naturally concerned with themselves and will want what others have. Therefore, all men will live in fear of one another and envy what others have. The right sort of political arrangement will help, as much as the wrong sort will make matters worse (Schumaker, 2010:71).

Transparency International identifies corruption as the “abuse of the entrusted power for private gain and it hurts everyone who depends on the integrity of people in a position of authority”. The people in authority make decisions that affect the lives of ordinary citizens. When decisions that do not benefit the public are made, the situation spirals down to corruption. Citizens should demand accountability from their leaders and governments should know what to do in order to tackle corruption. The loopholes and poor enforcement of rules on ethics make countries vulnerable to corruption. The constitution of the country should ask for more accountability, transparency and access to information, anti-corruption commission included. A constitution that is well designed can set up strong governance structures that promote the rule of law, protects fundamental rights and ensuring the separation of powers between the executive, judicial and the legislative sectors of government (Kempe, 2017). The creation of an independent judiciary with the mechanisms designed to make different state branches

accountable and have respect for the right to information is a very crucial element. Corruption is the common enemy of South Africa and Botswana. It is an incurable disease that every citizen should try to combat. Political corruption is frequently perceived as a special characteristic of government in developing countries (Lodge, 1988:160).

In the Case of Botswana, the government has set up a Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC). It is hoped that it will serve as an anti-corruption initiative which will bolster anti-corruption culture in ministerial operations. Consultations in the form of assignment studies, workshops and seminars are conducted to examine the systems and procedures involved in a prescribed area of activity within an organization. The aim is to point out the current flaws in the system and to recommend the means of improvement. This effort provides management conforming presentations for management of organizations with the intension of improving the quality of management. According to the DCEC, their techniques include, amongst others:

- The introduction of and adoption of Codes of Conduct and ethics;
- Transparency and Accountability;
- Corruption Prevention measures; and
- Corruption Risk Assessment.

The rationale for these is to maintain a consistent check on organizational operations and procedures and to close all opportunities for corruption. The public servants are also being sensitized on the causes and the consequences of corruption.

The high rate of development in Botswana has brought about both benefits and problems. The development growth rate is the root cause of economic crime and corruption. It has brought about the considerable acquisition of revenues and a quicker expansion of the public service. It is therefore very difficult to maintain close control over the problems and benefits despite the political determination. Some shortcomings have cropped up, particularly at the middle management level where assigned authorities have been abused. Botswana has recognized the scope of the problems it is faced with, and has taken a firm action in the form of the enacted specific and powerful legislation and also established a dedicated anti-corruption body. Rre Boammaruri (Mr Honesty), takes the form of a cow, which is a highly respected animal in

Botswana, as it represents wealth and prosperity. Rre Boammaruri is a character that appears in person at public functions and schools to promote public education on corruption.

In the case of South Africa, corruption is largely inherited. Democracy and restructuring have made South Africa more open to attack by new forms of abuse at various locations (Lodge, 1998:157). The National Integrity framework was built by South Africa in the early years of democracy as a cornerstone in the fight against corruption. The strategy, according to the Public Service Commission, is meant to:

- develop a national strategy that is clearly articulated, to fight corruption in all sectors of society;
- give commitment to all stakeholders must in dealing with corruption, and
- recommend legislative measures that give muscle to structures that deal with corruption.

The National Anti-Corruption Forum (NACF) is composed of three sectors made up of government, civil society and business. The relevant constituency nominates ten members to represent each sector. It was formed to build integrity and raise awareness and to combat and prevent crime.

In South Africa, there are two forms of corruption and economic crime, they are; tenderpreneurship and BEE fronting. Tenderpreneurship describes the people who enrich themselves through corrupting the awarding of government tender contracts, mostly on personal connections and corrupt relationships. The contracts are bloated and the contractors are mostly incompetent to execute the projects at hand (Amusan, 2016:9). Sometimes it involves a politically elected office bearer holding business interests at the same time. With BEE-fronting, the rules governing the Black Economic Empowerment are being abused. The members on the board of directors of a company are the qualifying people. However, they have no power to make any decision in the company. This makes it easier for a company to qualify for contracts with government in terms of BEE. The Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, 2004 (Act No. 12 of 2004) gives measures that prevent and combat corruption and corrupt activities strength. It declares corruption and other offences relating to it as crime. The register for people who have been involved in corrupt activities in tenders and contracts has been established. The Public Protector also plays a role in the fight against corruption.

Democracy and development have made the South African and Botswana governments less secretive, preventing corruption in certain spheres. However, it is observed that extending government's activities is like opening up possibilities for abuse in others (Lodge, 1998:157). The lower corruption levels in Botswana can be attributed to the continuation of the indigenous ruling class which obtained its wealth prior to gaining its national political power. Botswana was quoted as the only country having the minimal corruption in Africa, and also among the countries with the least corruption in the world. According to Transparency International, Botswana was the only country to score above 60 on the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) report of 2013.

3.6. The role played by HIV/ AIDS in the economies of South Africa and Botswana

The advantages in life expectancy and other health outcomes gained over decades can be reversed by the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Botswana is susceptible to the most severe epidemic level of HIV/AIDS in the world. It threatens the developmental gains, economic growth and political stability. The epidemic reverses the setting up of a functioning health care and educational system. HIV/AIDS is primarily transmitted through heterosexual contact. The individuals working in military and the young women (15-24) are the ones who are at the higher danger of infection compared to other categories of the population. The infection rate vary by geographical region, the highest being the cities and lower level in the towns and villages. The typical feature of the traditional societies is to accept the world as it is. The modern idea is to recognize change, and that the individuals and societies can do something that can minimize infant mortality, extend lifespans and maximize productivity (Stiglitz, 1998:3).

The Socio-Economic Status (SES) measures the social standing, or class of an individual or a group by a combination of both education, income and occupation. Power, privilege and control are highly emphasized. SES is appropriate to all spheres of behavioural and social sciences, research practice, practice and education and advocacy included. It touches everyone because the low SES and its associates, like poverty, poor health and lesser education transform the whole society. Everyone stands to benefit from the maximized focus on the foundations of socio-economic injustices and the attempts to reduce the deep holes in the socio economic ranks in the world. The socio-economic standing of a person may affect their chances of contracting HIV and maturing to AIDS.

HIV/AIDS is a disease that is entrenched in social and economic injustices. It acts on those with the lower social and economic standing at a very high rate. The SES is an essential factor

because it determines the quality of life for people once they have been affected by HIV/AIDS. Those without too many resources are in most cases left with treatment choices that are limited. Unavailability of socio-economic possessions leads to the practicing of riskier health behaviours, like less frequent use of condoms and engaging in sexual activities at an early age. It affects women mostly because of their lesser social status and the life stress they experience. Ethnicity and social class also play a critical factor in the HIV/AIDS infection. Unstable housing, lack of socio-economic resources, exposure to environmental toxins and injuries makes people more open to the attack to the core effects of the virus. When the people are participating, when their wishes are engaged, they are able to make choices and judgments; they can learn from the past and plan for the future, (Schumaker, 2010:70).

HIV/ AIDS constrain the people of South Africa and Botswana's ability to work and earn income. Most people who live with HIV/AIDS are unemployed because of their physical and mental functioning. They are often discriminated against in the workplace, which leads them to terminate their jobs. Children affected by HIV/AIDS often show cognitive deficiencies, which later hamper their learning and earning ability in life. Patients with lesser SES and are HIV positive have maximized mortality and morbidity rates. The major contributor to health disparities between high and low SES individuals is the delayed treatment initiation as well as little access to the health insurance and contraceptive services. In South Africa, the response to the HIV epidemic was initially slow and interrupted because many political leaders doubted the cause of both HIV and AIDS and antiretroviral treatment.

Individuals with low income are not likely to receive optimal treatment and care or health coverage for HIV/AIDS. According to Schumaker (2010:228), group identity is influenced by a person's particular sense of history, their understanding of social relations, how they reason and express their expressive styles and values. The political problem is that some groups are oppressed whereas others are not. Group representation is the best method where there are social inequalities. It affords a chance for some to say what they need or are interested in, whereas the needs and the interests of those without that representation will not be heard.

3.7. The challenges faced by South Africa and Botswana

Development theory refers to a number of theories about how to achieve a desirable change in the society. Regardless of how vicious, destructive and not conducive to good lives traditions maybe, change is always necessary. These types of theories attract different types of social scientific disciplines and approaches. Development equates a transformation of society, an

evolution from traditional relations, traditional production methods, to more “modern” ways, (Stiglitz, 1998: 3). Development widens the horizons of an individual and minimizes their sense of isolation. It decreases all that causes hurt brought about by poverty and disease, also increasing the lifespans and enhancing the endurance of life.

Amongst others, the challenges facing Botswana and South Africa include conflict resolution, putting an end to autocracy and accelerating democracy, good governance and promotion of human rights, ending communicable diseases such as, malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV and AIDS and uprooting poverty. In order to make the economies of Africa more powerful, there is a need to adopt suitable policies that accelerate regional integration through increased investment. The regional infrastructure projects can strengthen the economy and change the donor/recipient type of connection with the developed countries into a partnership that is true and is rooted on the principles of mutual respect, equality and accountability. In South Africa and Botswana, some of the challenges are, socio-economic inequalities and the growing gap between the rich and the poor, high unemployment, urban and rural disparities particularly among young people, ageing population and HIV and AIDS. According to Stiglitz (1998:3), the changes that come with development give people and societies control over their own destiny. This simply means a new development strategy, in this case NEPAD, is very crucial.

From the perspective of transforming society, development has scholarly suggestions for what governments and aid agencies can do. That perspective assists in how they are to take part in the partnership and proceed in order to promote development. Experience has validated that development is possible and not inevitable. Strategies of the past have not guaranteed success although a few countries did experience rapid economic growth. Most of them did not focus slightly on economics, which is also important, but did not stretch further into the society nor did they agree that the participatory approach was imperative (Stiglitz, 1998:7). The elderly and the unskilled were for most of the time excluded from any breakthrough and were poverty-stricken in the economic crashes that happened with such consistency.

Conclusion

The compromise between growth and inequality differs seriously among countries and their choices of policies also differ completely. The small changes in the distribution of income, in some cases, can have a serious impact on poverty, for others, a serious attention on growth is the only sustainable option (Bigsten & Shimeles, 2005:1). These scholars opine that the rate of economic growth that is necessary to decrease poverty depends to some extent on the flexibility

of poverty with respect to growth of the economy. High flexibility of the trade-offs indicates that a lesser decrease in equality also leads to a reasonable alleviation of poverty. To maintain this inequality level, higher rate of growth is required to achieve a little decline in poverty. The lesser flexibility would mean accelerated growth of the economy which is what matters for reducing poverty. Hence, it can be said that reducing poverty depends on the prevalence of particular circumstances in each country.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. FINDINGS

4.1. Introduction

Most of the rural communities of Africa, are not financially resilient. They are however, self-sufficient in terms of the three needs which are basic like, food, clothing and shelter (Amusan, 2016: 1). He states that as a result of that, the Euro-centric relevance of poverty no longer holds. To some extent, the diversity in mass production and income across countries can be defined by the contrast and policies in economic institutions. Botswana and South Africa have an environment that is conducive for households and firms to save, invest and maximize mass production. According to the Economic Report on Africa (ERA), report of 2013, the global economic and geo-political changes over the past years have changed from international traditional structures of power and brought about the emerging new powers from the South. The information communication and technology revolution has led to reasonable increases in flows of capital across borders as well as trade in intermediate goods and has raised the value of chains. Poverty alleviation is the overshadowing objective of all attempts of development in Africa. African leaders are assessed from the approach of lowering poverty. Like many other countries, South Africa and Botswana experience high population growth rates, income and literacy that are low, and low life expectancy. Political conflicts have deteriorated, economic growth is evident, and governance and political stability have improved.

4.2. Findings



Poverty imposes costs on both South Africa and Botswana's economy as a result of lost human capital and resources that have been allocated poorly. It accelerates the loss of any economy's valuable resource, its people, by depriving them of quality education and health care. Poverty drives people to engage in activities other than begging to multiple low-wage jobs that are less than ideal, in a way that they can spend their time more productively in specialized employment. Poverty is a stain on the fabric of society (Jefferson, 2018:18). It brings about feelings of indignity, alienation, disrespect and can exacerbate crime, large scale public protests and even extremists ideologies that can lead to terrorism.

The ERA is used to review the economy of the region over the years and acknowledges the short and long term prospects. The ERA develops a formula based on how both short term accomplishments and long term viability can be assessed. However, most countries, including

South Africa and Botswana, lack the essentials for sustained future growth, despite the progress in economic policy reforms. They have “a real opportunity, individually and collectively, to promote economic transformation and to address poverty, inequality and youth unemployment” (ERA, 2013:4). They can take advantage on the resources they endowed and high prices of international commodity and how the changes in global production processes are organized” the report states.

The survey conducted clearly shows that both people of Botswana and South Africa strongly agree that the countries need each other in tackling poverty. The questionnaire was distributed in South Africa and Botswana and the target group were the people who frequently travel between the two countries. Most of the Botswana respondents have got roots in South Africa and so do South Africans in Botswana. The respondents also strongly agree that the African countries have got the capacity to address their problems of underdevelopment on their own. However, the people of Botswana strongly believe that the toll roads are very expensive in South Africa and the crime rate is also very high. They say it is safer to stay in Botswana as compared to South Africa.

Botswana is depicted as a success story of Southern Africa. However, a closer look beyond the surface level reveals a different picture altogether. Political economy, to some researchers, is the science of wealth and dealing with the human attempts to feed and satisfy their appetite. However, before it became to be known as a science, it was used as the intellectual characterization for a means of production, distribution and exchange. The management of the household firstly, and later the community, is a social custom, knowledge and practice. It is not restricted to relations between the state and those governed; it focuses mostly on an individual's industrial activities. Development is determined by the structures of governance and is equated with economic growth (Collier & Dollar, 1999:1).

South Africa is positioned perfectly for entry to the fourteen SADC countries. Most of the imports into SADC are produced in or transported through South Africa. The roads and rail links are very well developed and provide a good transportation platform. The commercial ports, seven in all, are by far the best equipped and the largest and most economical network on the African continent. The industrial policy and trade is changing to competitive international economy. South Africa should capitalize on its competitive and comparative advantages. Major political and economic transitions brought about adjustment problems, like the occurrence of violence and crime in the cities, and are not special to South Africa. Foreign

investors are welcome and controls on exchange have been lifted for those who are not residents.

The crisis of poverty, HIV/AIDS pandemic and the social and economic policy outcomes are familiar with Botswana and South Africa. These in turn, reverse the basic social development indicators. However, the first two decades of post-colonial era, as compared to the legacy of colonialism, have showed convincing improvements beyond many indicators of social development (Adesina, 2002:1). The economy of South Africa is relatively large and is diversified. Its resilience was proved through the export performance that is consistent, despite the transitional challenges. The business community of South Africa has proved its world class status in global competition abroad and at home. On the other hand Botswana is dependent on diamond extraction with agriculture accounting very little to the GDP.

The age difference between partners is a determination of the unevenness of power in relationships in the patriarchal societies of Botswana and South Africa. Age and seniority are of considerable importance in social life. The older members expect, and they do obtain great respect from their juniors. Many women enter into a relationship thinking that people who are older than themselves in age or rank should always be treated with deference or respect. The young partner is traditionally bound to honour, obey and submit to the authority of the older partner. According to Langen (2005:189), many men look for younger partners, who are even more physically vulnerable. Education for women needs to be improved and their job prospects should empower them to have better authority over their lives and move themselves out of poverty.

According to Lule & Haacker (2012: 37), HIV/AIDS continues to take a huge toll on the populations of many Sub-Saharan African countries. In the countries with high HIV prevalence rates, life expectancy has declined by more than a decade, and in a few cases, by more than two decades. Botswana is currently experiencing a sharp decline in the life expectancy at birth, largely due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The catastrophic impact of HIV/AIDS on social and economic development continues to be the biggest stumbling block to attaining the national poverty alleviation targets and development goals. Inequality remains very high, although there have been improvements in access to basic services. Social exclusion can be extended to the general analysis of poverty. Most people who are HIV positive are also not employed as the status has an effect on the physical and mental functioning of the individual.

According to Netshitendze (2013), the hardship that goes with inequality falls excessively on the poor and the marginalised. Beyond low income, having unequal access to social services is another poverty indicator. Inadequate access to land and capital and to employment opportunities can also be blamed for the escalating poverty in South Africa and Botswana. The fact that women and men experience poverty differently must be taken into account. It is as a result of the different roles ascribed to both men and women by existing norms, practices and institutions, that women experience poverty. The group members should organize themselves so that they feel to have been collectively empowered. They should show an understanding of their experience and interests as a collective in the societal context. It is therefore in the interest of all sectors of society that inequality is addressed in South Africa and Botswana.

Unlike in South Africa, which has a fund, which is meticulously monitored and regulated by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), there is no funding from the state for political parties in Botswana. Lack of state funding puts the opposition at a serious disadvantage. With Botswana's undiversified economy, the government is a main customer to private companies which are enthusiastic to win its favour. The electoral system used by South Africa is that of proportional representation whereas Botswana uses the first-past-the post (FPTP) system, which is a main hindrance to the opposition (De Jager & Meintjies, 2013: 245).

Shipambe H.K (2003:19), Botswana was performing very well in terms of poverty alleviation as was shown by improving human development basis in terms of life expectancy, infant mortality primary school enrolment and illiteracy rates. It had a system of that allowed for equal participation of all the individuals, although minority tribes and women are excluded from the decision-making processes. There is a need to move the people of Botswana and South Africa away from welfare programmes that created a dependency syndrome on government. The past programmes should be used to shape the future programmes for poverty alleviation in both governments. Various policy measures have had a little impact on poverty alleviation mainly because they were subject to abuse, corruption and fraud.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1. Recommendations

Introduction

The cost of reducing poverty in South Africa and Botswana can be lowered and a larger number of people can be lifted out of poverty, when the policies and the institutions have improved. Dysfunctional institutions impede innovation and wider participation in economic and political life (Jefferson, 2018: 7). Globalization, which is, according to Jefferson, (2018:12), the improved movement of people and goods, money and the expansion of international trade is a positive phenomenon on balance. Aid from donors can also increase. Donors aim their aid to poorer rather than richer countries and to good rather than atrocious policy and institutional environments. Donor agencies have demonstrated to have larger scope for action. Adequate aid allocation alone could make a big difference in South Africa and Botswana, doubling the envisaged poverty alleviation. The poor quality of institutions and policies confines the amount of additional aid that Africa can effectively absorb (Collier & Dollar, 1999:8).

5.2. Recommendations

Education about HIV/AIDS which is, testing, counselling and positive living after being infected plays a major role in minimizing the infection statistics. There must be increased access to health insurance and preventative services for all South African and Botswana citizens. HIV/AIDS impacts negatively on the socio-economic standing because it constrains an individual's ability to work and gain income. The South African and Botswana governments must stop discriminating against people living with HIV/AIDS at the workplace. New infections can be prevented through, advocacy, education campaigns, behaviour change communication and condom distribution (Delpont, 2002:10). They must also fight for having equal access to those means that enhance healthy behaviours. For South Africa and Botswana to attain change that is positive in the lives of their citizens, they must deal with the mainstreaming of gender and use a comprehensive approach to the widespread of HIV/AIDS. There must be a clear strategy for dealing with the HIV/AIDS epidemic from a development perspective. Gender aspects and connections have an effective influence on the causes and have impact on the HIV/AIDS widespread.

Population growth leads to resource consumption and competition for scarce resources. Resource utilization is the leading driver of environmental degradation. Policies that are aimed at tackling the issue of environmental degradation must also be targeted at the reduction of population and reorganizing the methods of consumption. They should maximize the use of resources and efficiency, thus making changes to the economy. They must keep up with the life standards of the rich, lifting up the poor and increasing sustainability. The policies that promote economic development must also limit the greenhouse gas emissions.

The people of Botswana and South Africa must have equal access to the markets where their goods and services can be sold. They must all have access to financial assistance, the victims of extreme poverty and those living at the margin. Lack of participation and excluding the poor from the development programmes are amongst the causes of poverty. Increased economic growth will generate opportunities of employment for the poor, which is crucial for poverty alleviation in the Sub-Saharan Africa. If the growth is not distributed across, less attention will be given to development of human capital, which guarantees sustainability of economic growth over a longer period (The World Bank Group, 1996:5).



In case of rural areas, land reform has the capacity of making a direct impact on poverty alleviation through intended transfers of resources. It is an instruments that can be used as compensation for the injustices of accessing the resources and economic opportunities. Also, there are economic benefits that can be derived from tenure security. Empowerment of women is a critical tool in poverty alleviation. Poverty threatens social and political stability; it puts a serious economic stress on the governments and societies. The present and the future generations are robbed off their overwhelming human resource potential (Delpont, 2002:1).

Destruction of natural resources in South Africa and Botswana has led to environmental degradation and reduced productivity. Poverty alleviation, environmental and gender issues must be at the core of large scale economic and sectoral strategies of Botswana and South Africa. All stakeholders must participate in the conception of assistance plans and in achieving their country's poverty alleviation objective. The economic growth pattern must be beneficial to the poor, either directly through employment and incomes that are increased or indirectly through maximized social services. Other means, like adoption of the cleaner, energy-efficient technologies, must be found to tackle the causes of environmental problems (GEO-2000).

Poverty alleviation is about good politics and good economics; hence it must be at the centre of any social and economic development strategy. All stakeholders must be involved for the

South African and Botswana governments to understand the problems and the needs of the poor. In the attempt to alleviate poverty, the role of women must also be acknowledged. They must have access to credit, be educated and trained and be assured of participating in the economic and political life of their countries. It is both an aim and a process; it must be determined and directed by the women themselves.

The African Development Bank played an important role of providing finance for infrastructure during the past and is also demanding that the private sector play their part. The people of South Africa and Botswana must be informed about NEPAD and its objectives.

The community development projects that link the youth to income that is meaningful and generating opportunities should be encouraged. The poverty alleviation strategies should address issues of autonomy, dignity and taking part in the decision-making process. The successful poverty alleviation strategy and its effects that are gender based requires breaking apart those values, structures and processes that perpetuate subordination of women and justify inequality in access to social, political and economic resources.

Political life has greatly improved because the democratic processes are becoming increasingly adopted, globally. Rising economic inequality creates economic growth for the betterment of everyone (Schumaker, 2010:1). Politics regulate the way individuals live in community and with others, how they work together to bring about benefits for all. It is about how people are governed and how they engage in conflict for better shares of the valuables.

5.3. Conclusion

South Africa and Botswana can do more to alleviate poverty, promote economic transformation and create employment for the youth by themselves. The main sources of employment for the unskilled are manufacturing and entrepreneurship, they should as such be included in the economic system of both countries. The regional institutions like the SACU and SADC can assist in lowering prices for goods and provide increased variety which will be enjoyed by citizens of both countries. The efforts about poverty alleviation have been documented fairly extensively. In any country, poverty alleviation is primarily dependent on the quality of economic policy. When used effectively, foreign aid can also assist governments and society to provide public services. The formulation of appropriate partnerships and better cooperation can accelerate development in both countries. They must demand that poverty be alleviated and that the donors must accept and grease the wheels for that leadership.

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Appendix A

Section A

Demographic Questions

Please answer the following questions by ticking the correct box.

Sex

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>

Age

18-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
25-39	<input type="checkbox"/>
40 and above	<input type="checkbox"/>

Marital Status

Single	<input type="checkbox"/>
Married	<input type="checkbox"/>
Divorced	<input type="checkbox"/>

Race

Black	<input type="checkbox"/>
White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coloured	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>

Highest Level of Qualification

No Schooling Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diploma	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bachelor's Degree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post Graduate	<input type="checkbox"/>

Employment Status

Self employed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employed for salary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retired	<input type="checkbox"/>

Country of Origin

South Africa	
Botswana	
Dual citizenship	

Section B

The social and economic relations of Botswana and South Africa can be used towards poverty alleviation in both countries.

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree by ticking the appropriate box as indicated by the following scales.

1	Strongly disagree
2	Moderately disagree
3	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>
4	Moderately Agree
5	Strongly Agree

		Strongly disagree	Moderately disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree
1	The social and economic relations are important for poverty alleviation for both Botswana and South Africa.	1	2	3	4	5
2	South Africa does not really need the relations with Botswana to address poverty alleviation	1	2	3	4	5
3	Botswana does not really need South Africa in order to address poverty alleviation	1	2	3	4	5
4	Multinational cooperation play an active role in poverty alleviation	1	2	3	4	5
5	NEPAD is the only realistic initiative that can assist in poverty alleviation	1	2	3	4	5

6	The African countries have the capacity to address their problems of underdevelopment	1	2	3	4	5
7	The people in rural areas feel the impact of poverty more than those in urban areas	1	2	3	4	5
8	The social services are better offered in South Africa than Botswana	1	2	3	4	5
9	The construction of roads makes it easier for goods and services to be delivered	1	2	3	4	5
10	Toll roads are expensive in South Africa	1	2	3	4	5
11	The roads are well maintained in South Africa and are free of stray animals	1	2	3	4	5
12	The rate of crime is high in South Africa	1	2	3	4	5
13	The constitution of south Africa protects criminals than ordinary law abiding citizens	1	2	3	4	5
14	There death penalty must be reinstated in South Africa	1	2	3	4	5
15	The road levy paid in Botswana is expensive	1	2	3	4	5
16	The roads are well maintained in Botswana and a free of stray animals	1	2	3	4	5
17	There is no crime in Botswana	1	2	3	4	5
18	The constitution of Botswana protects the law abiding citizens and not the criminals	1	2	3	4	5

19	It is a violation of human rights to have death penalty in Botswana	1	2	3	4	5
20	It is safer and better to stay in Botswana than South Africa	1	2	3	4	5