AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CHALLENGES OF FOOD SECURITY POLICY IMPLEMENTATION: A CASE STUDY OF THE BAROLONG BOORA TSHIDI PEOPLE OF THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE (SOUTH AFRICA).

A MINI DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF HUMAN SOCIAL SCIENCES IN THE NORTH WEST UNIVERSITY IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTERS OF ARTS IN PEACE STUDIES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

NORTH WEST UNIVERSITY
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SUBMITTED BY : **KEGO LORATHU**

STUDENT NUMBER : **10247653**

SUPERVISOR : **MR KALE EWUSI**

CO-SUPERVISOR : **MRS MATSHIDISO POOE**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of contents	ii
Declaration	iv
Acknowledgement	v
Abstract	vi

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Background	1
1.2 Rationale of the study	3
1.3 Statement of the problem	4
1.4 Aim of the study	4
1.5 Objectives of the study	4
1.6 Literature review	5
1.7 Theoretical Perspectives	11
1.7.1 Functionalism	12
1.7.2 Conflict Perspective	12
1.8 Hypotheses	15
1.9 Significance of the Study	15
1.10 Methodology	15
1.11 Limitations of the Study	16
1.12 Ethical Considerations	17
1.13 Organisation of the Final Report	17

CHAPTER 2
Demographic characteristics of the Respondents

2.1 Gender structure	18
2.2 Age structure	18
2.3 Household Heads	19
2.4 Marital Status	20
2.5 Welfare Grants Recipients	20
2.6 Knowledge of Government Projects and Programmes	21

CHAPTER THREE

The impact of Food Security Among Barolong BooraTshidi in Lekoko village

3.1 Strategies for ensuring food Security in Lekoko Village	22
3.1.1 Letsema	22
3.1.2 Indigenous Methods of Food Production and Preservation	22
3.1.3 Food Preservation	23
3.1.4 Marketing	24
3.2 Current status of food Security in Lekoko Village	24
3.2.1 Poverty	25
3.2.2 Lack of Purchasing Power	26

CHAPTER FOUR

The role played by the North West Provincial Government in the Implementation of Food Security policies in Lekoko Village 27

CHAPTER FIVE
Challenges of Food Security in the Barolong BooraTshidi People in the North West Province
5.1 Combating Food Shortages 30
5.2 Access to Land 31
5.3 Accessing Government Aid 32
5.4 Welfare Payments 33
5.5 Training 33
5.6 Market Initiatives 33
5.7 Lack of Income 34

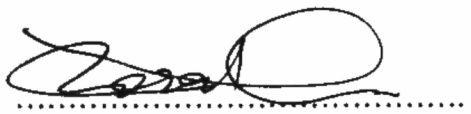
CHAPTER SIX
Conclusion and Recommendations
6.1 Conclusion 35
6.2 Recommendations 35

REFERENCE LIST 37

APPENDIX A QUESTIONNAIRE 39

DECLARATION

I, hereby, declare that this dissertation submitted for a Degree of Master of Arts In Peace Studies and International Relations, at the North West University, has never been previously submitted by me for any degree at any University. It is my work in design and execution and all material contained herein has been duly acknowledge.



KEGOMODITSWE LORATHU

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ABSTRACT

The study found that there is marked poverty in Lekoko village, and that food security is lacking. Purchasing power of household commodities and consumables is observed to be non-existent. Agriculture as a form of food security has eluded many because of drought. All those who practised subsistence farming are unable to do so. Food security is greatly impaired; the people cannot access sufficient aid and nutritious food. This includes the problem of food production, preservation and storage. The projects and programmes initiated by the Government to alleviate poverty do not reach the people. Substantial changes are needed to expedite the distribution of food Production resources. Formal and informal institutions should be involved in bringing about transformation of the structures, which are currently blocking the socio-economic. Premium access to information and social networks as well as to the State should be improved. The onus rests with extension officers to support the people and bring about generation of livelihoods with institutional reform to reduce vulnerability and risks.

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 BACKROUND

Frost (1993) defines food security as access to the food needed for a healthy life by all people at all times. The right to adequate food is the right of all individuals in the community with others or alone. This can be achieved by the ability of the nation or household to meet consumption needs in terms of access to food. There are many activities involved in food security such as having a reasonable degree of stability in the supply of food per annum and that each household has access to food. Markets, like local farmers markets, community-supported agriculture; indigenous food processors should be included in the food security system. The right to adequate food includes food safety and food security, for example food should be free from adverse substances like adulteration, poor environment hygiene or other causes (United Nations, 2002)

Continued poverty, which is manifested in food insecurity, affects a large number of South Africans, that is, fourteen million people. They are unable to consume a sufficient number of calories (Land Redistribution Program, 2000). A great number of women, children and the elderly are susceptible to food insecurity especially in rural areas. On addressing food insecurity, the Government of the North West Province of South Africa has implemented programmes that target women and women farmers ensuring fair proportional access to resources for female-headed households.

The North West Province of South Africa is mainly rural with poor food security. The community practices subsistence farming, where production of food is mainly consisting of maize of low quality. Food insecurity is also exacerbated by the small piece of land that around the households. Since the 1970's employment has declined rapidly. Machines have substituted manual work. This has resulted in food Insecurity and inability to pay for goods and services. This state of affairs has resulted in many challenges for South Africa (S.A) of which food insecurity is one of them. The most affected communities are those households which are vulnerable especially women

headed households because of unreliable food production, lack of buying power and poor nutritional status.

The report by The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2002), proposed a right to food approach to agricultural trade in agreement to the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on agriculture. A right to food approach to the agreement would stress the human rights principle of non-discrimination encouraging affirmative action for the poor.

Trade rules for the protection of vulnerable people.

According to the Strategic Plan for South Africa (2001) the Government should provide an environment in which the sectors can compete. It should also promote the creation of competitive advantage. It must make structural adjustment incentives to reduce the costs of switching into competitive products. It also must introduce financing instruments to help the small business and existing farmers manage the effect of high rates and cash flows. Given the historical background of South Africa the origins of food insecurity resulted centuries ago from colonial and apartheid policies. These policies were designed to create conditions unfavorable to the well being of black people in all its aspects, especially in the former homelands. The position of African blacks was hampered by food insecurity where they were only expected to provide labour to mining industry and largely to agriculture. Before the 20th century the means of agriculture for the blacks was agrarian but it has grown rapidly through the growth of commodity markets.

According to the Integrated Food Security Strategy for S.A.(IFSS SA, 2002), South Africa is able to meet its national food requirements for major food items from domestic production and inputs, the future trends and macroeconomic developments call for cautions in food security policy and programmes. The primary objective of IFSS is to overcome food insecurity by increasing participation of food insecure household in productive agriculture sector activities. These include increase access to productive

resources, improve access to credit by the poor including women, support extension agents to disseminate information through the media particularly the radio, and improve nutritional standards and food safety by supporting targeted interventions (e.g. micro nutrients, vitamin supplements etc, (IFSS ,2002).

By 18th August 2003 the North West Provincial Government distributed R64,8 m food parcels to seventy two thousand households. The distribution of food parcels should be supplemented by distribution of agricultural starter packs. The NWP Department of health, through community based nutrition programmes, and the Department of Agriculture through the activities of extension officers are also involved in community development and income generating projects, often with explicit nutrition and food security aims.

To emphasise its intention the North West Provincial Government has advertised in The Mail, (2nd July 2004) that NGO's and CBO's dealing with Food Security and Economic Development Programmes should submit their proposals and guidelines for grant applications in relation to programmes of poverty eradication. The grants are amounting to five hundred thousand rand with a maximum of eight hundred thousand rand per grant.

1.2 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

This study focused on food security and providing opportunities for the community to access any Government aid or projects by the North West Province Government (NWPG). There are projects and programmes initiated by the Government to ensure food security in poverty stricken areas. This venture ensures interaction between then the communities and the Government. It has a significant social, political and financial implication to the community as the Government is able to come closer to the communities. The end results may include the revision of the strategies of implementing food security projects.

Many households are experiencing poverty and those who are dependent on agriculture do not harvest enough to make a living. The researcher has thus observed that the communities are failing in their endeavour because they may find it difficult to access Government aids.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.

The North West Province of South Africa is mostly rural. The communities are dependent on agriculture for food security. Agriculture sector is also dependent on rain, which is often scarce because the province is in a semi-desert, and is an arid region. The state of affairs is translated into impoverishment. The researcher, has, thus observed the poverty in vulnerable households especially female headed households. The study was guided by the following research questions: -

- What is the status of food security in Lekoko village ?
- What are the challenges to food security that exist in the Barolong boora Tshidi people in the North West Province?
- Are the Barolong Boora Tshidi in Lekoko village able to access Government aids?

1.4 AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study was to investigate the challenges into food security policy implementation among the Barolong Boora Tshidi people in Lekoko village in the North West Province.

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study examined identified and documented the following specific aspects.

- The impact of the status of food security in Lekoko village.
- The available projects and programmes initiated by the NWP

- Government in Lekoko village. The role played by the NWP Government in the implementation of food security policies in Lekoko village people in the NWP.

1.6 LITERATURE REVIEW

Concerns about food security have formed part of the debates in many forms of gatherings especially summits on sustainable developments like The Johannesburg Summit, 2002. Food security manifests itself as poverty but it has its roots on food production deficits. Since the nineties there has been a great concern in relation to food insecurity hence the revelation by The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, (FAO, 1999) that the total number of people that will encounter food insecurity by the year 2015 will be six hundred and thirty five (635) million.

The colonial power destroyed indigenous food production and security systems by its primary economic task of integrating people in the colonies into the worldwide capital market. As most of the African colonies were considered essential sources of agricultural raw materials, this task basically compelled African population to produce those commodities required by the European industries, like, sisal, cotton, tea and other commodities, the method to attain this objective, this practice generally differed from colony to colony.

Laws promulgated destroyed traditional methods of food production and security systems. Communities were compelled to cultivate particular crops, cash crops, from which they had no profit or income rather than food crops.Socio-economic structures had been built in order to ensure a more permanent flow of agricultural raw materials from Africa to Western Europe and North America (Loewenson, 1992).

During colonial ruling economy was pervaded by exploitation of blacks from full participation in the economy. Only lowest paid jobs had been opened to blacks. This deprivation led to economic gains for whites only. Whites were able to secure higher

occupational status, lower rates of unemployment and higher family income. Blacks could not be absorbed in the labour market, they practised subsistence farming which left them very poor.

Colonial agricultural strategy focused on commanding a surplus production from indigenous smallholders. Colonial authorities justified their strategy and the use of forced agricultural labour on the assumption that traditional farmers had surplus and extra labour time, which they spend, on their subsistence farms. Consequently, the food crop production of indigenous farmers declined. Faced by the demand to work in the commandants' fields, and to find money to pay taxes and other arbitrarily imposed dues, indigenous farmer used their reserve grain stocks to cover household food shortfalls; ultimately in this situation they could not meet their needs.

From the beginning of mercantilism in the eighteenth century, Africa was characterized by slave trade which had to supply the labour power in order to speed up the process of capital accumulation in the Atlantic Europe. Slave trade, apart from its other horrors, led to a regression of agricultural food production systems, poverty in African states. The African states found themselves in a dilemma of economic development whose contrasted effects are even more explosive because of rapid urbanization and mass employment shortage and agricultural stagnation, soil deterioration, famine and massive imports of food products, and the growing external dependence the emphasis is to maximise food production and security especially on and developing countries.

Agriculture plays an important role in addressing the needs of a growing population to eradicate poverty especially in developing countries and enhancing the role of women at all levels and in all aspects of rural development, agriculture, nutrition and food security are important.

Agricultural policies in developing countries including South Africa focus on maximising short-term profits rather than long-term sustainable management of local

resources by local farmers. Sustainable agriculture and rural development are important to the implementation of integrated approach to maximising food production and enhancing food security and food safety (Political Declaration and Plan of implementation - UN).

In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) made the world aware of the potential danger related to food insecurity and challenged it to come up with policies to address such problems.

Following the call by WCED in 1987 many organisation focused their attention on food security and sustainable development. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) helps the developing countries and countries in transition modernise and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all. FAO focuses its effort on regular access to enough high quality food to lead active healthy lives to the people. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information (www.fao.org). In the background paper of the UN following the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2002, it is stated that the different governments should utilize maximum available resources, respect for food and water.

A background paper of the UN (date unknown) states that the States have obligations to proactively engage in activities intended to strengthen people's access to and utilization of resources and means to ensure livelihood. Under the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – General Comment no 3 it is stated that the States have an immediate obligation to ensure at the very least a minimum essential level of the right to drinking water and that even in times of severe resource constraints, vulnerable or marginalized groups must be protected by the adoption of relatively low cost targeted water programs.

Following the South African history of discrimination, Act 108 of 1996, made

provision for the constitution. The Chapter 2 (27:1 (6)) states that everyone has the right to have access to sufficient food and water. It further indicates that the State must take reasonable legislative and other measure within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of the rights. The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) in 1994 identified food security as a priority in the objective of the policies.

The South African Government has, thus, focused the public spending on improving food security conditions of historically disadvantaged people (The Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme (IFSNP, 2003) .National Governments of developing countries have to improve their policies on food security by involving their locals in making solutions to food insecurity (National Consultation to food Security, 1997) In order to alleviate poverty the developing countries should make their policies central to food security strategies.

In South Africa the agricultural policies are centred on improving household food security especially in vulnerable homes and women headed households by a more equitable resource distribution of resources. There must be agricultural reforms with policies that support the emergence of a diversified production structure with an increase in the numbers of smallholder farming enterprises. This will lead to availability and affordability of nutritional food (Departmental News, 1999) . At the national level there is food security in South Africa . There is enough staple food and the surplus is exported. National food security indicators have revealed that South Africa is able to meet the needs of the growing population from domestic services in the past twenty years.

Horticultural products and sugar are over one hundred and sixty percent, resulting in exportation where enough foreign exchange has efficiently generated funds to import food products it cannot produce. Maize exports are only confined to SADC countries. South Africa is the largest exporter within SADC countries (Minutes, IFSS, 2002). However according to statistics South Africa; about thirty percent of

the total population is vulnerable to food insecurity, especially women and children and the elderly. It has been proven that in 1996 a third of household spent less than one thousand rand per month on food.

The distribution of poverty in the country is uneven while the intensity differs from different provinces. In the North West poverty is experienced in the rural areas including Lekoko village. Rural households are vulnerable because they rely on remittances from urban areas. There is limited economic activity in the adjacent communities, inappropriate farmer support services, poor gainful employment and lack of information and transport.

Five geographical location of worst affected poverty nodal points have been prioritised according to Statistics South Africa' coping. The North West province is third in the list. Mafikeng is noted to be the most hit.

The whole province has to receive two thousand food parcels. Children enrolled in primary school feeding programme are supposed to receive food parcels on identified days for three months. Minister Skweyiya launched an emergency food programme where the largest programmes were to be launched in the North west near the Botswana border where seventy two thousand households were identified, by 13 March (Afrol news,2005)

The International Food Programme (IFP 2003) spelt out the two broad options for achieving food security at national and house hold levels i.e. food self sufficiency which means satisfaction of food needs through domestic supply and food reliance in order to maintain food level production in order to meet the food needs of the population.

The Johannesburg Summit, 2002, has encouraged many people have hope towards sustainable development. The summit dwelled on poverty eradication and emphasized the role of national policies and development strategies which are regarded as the

responsibility of each country. The officials encouraged the different states to halve the proportion of the worlds people whose' income is less than one dollar per day by 2015.

Food security approaches are strategies to combat poverty through linking capacity building and economic empowerment e.g. in South Africa the White Paper on Social Welfare advocates for developmental social welfare, which stresses empowerment of individuals and groups towards attaining self reliance.

Community based nutrition programmes by the Departments of Health and of agriculture through the activities of the extension workers are involved in community development and income generating projects. Non-governmental organizations (NGO's) play a role in community self help initiatives (Agricultural Policy Unit, 1997).

The Integrated Food Security Strategy for South Africa (IFSS, 2002) defines food security as access of food for all people at all times to enough food for an active healthy life. This definition has three but inter-related components.

Food availability which is effective supply of food at national and household level; Food accessibility of nation and its household to acquire sufficient food on sustainable basis. Reliability of food - utilisation and consumption of safe and nutritious food distribution- equitable provision of food to points of demand at the right time and place.

The South African Government has thus initiated programmes, which are aimed at meeting the needs of the people as defined by IFSS and envisaged by the African National Congress in their charter. The objective of the IFSS is to overcome rural food insecurity by increasing the participation of food insecure households in productive agriculture sector activities

The North West Government has initiated projects like Integrated Food Security Strategy Programmes (IFSS) and Food Mountain. These are in line with the Food Security and Nutrition Strategy as approved by the cabinet in 2002. These projects must benefit from all poverty alleviation projects (The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment, 2003).

Though South Africa is able to meet its food requirements there is a need to improve food policies and actions through research, evaluation and involvement of the public (National Consultation in Food Security, 1997). Poverty in developing countries makes their agricultural policies central to food security strategies. The success of developing countries is dependent on regulation of domestic agriculture and the removal of policies that distort and interfere with people' rights to food for themselves. This will lead to availability and affordability of food (Departmental News, 1999)

The Special Programme for Food Security states that food security exists when all people have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preference for an active and healthy life at all times, hence they help those living in developing countries especially with low income to improve their food insecurity through increases in production.

MEC of Agriculture in the North West has emphasized the importance of food security. He has called for a united and meaningful approach between local municipalities, NGOs and private companies and the government to fight hunger. He indicated his concern for a few communities like Gatshekedi in the Kgalagadi region who suffer from chronic hunger and malnutrition. He emphasized the need "for mobilizing the poor to feed themselves and put an end to hunger." He mentioned the fact that eliminating hunger as the first step towards reducing poverty and ensuring food for all to build a people's contract and advance the vision for a better life for all to eradicate poverty and create jobs.

In his address to the guests which included traditional leaders, politicians, church leaders in Gatshekedi village he encouraged to communities to cultivate a culture of garden plots to fight hunger and accelerate change.

1.7 THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

These issues of food security, especially approaches, have been in theory and practice perceived and conceptualised in different perspectives. This section discusses the various perspectives pertaining to indigenous food security strategies. It is important to analyse indigenous approached to food security from different perspectives because societies perceive food security in different perspectives.

1.7.1 FUNCTIONALISM

From the functionalist perspective, society is like an organism and every part of the organism must contribute to the maintenance and survival of the organism. Society also has basic needs or requirements, which must be met for its survival (Haralambos and Holborn, 1991). Food is one of the basic needs needed for the survival of the society or members of society.

Since food is the source or metabolic energy, the minimum requirement of the food system is to produce enough food to keep the family and society as a whole alive, the children growing and eventually reproducing society. For instance, food security for the survival of the present and future generations has been one of the most important occupations of most indigenous communities. A number of local strategies were used. Every member of society in the basis of age and gender was expected to contribute to the food security of the community at both the household and community levels.

1.7.2 CONFLICT PERSPECTIVE

Conflict theories on food security argue against the functionalist approaches. They believe that there are fundamental differences of interests between social groups or members of any society. These differences are due to the existence of different classes, races and ethnic groups in societies.

They lead to conflicts in preferences of food production and security Approaches and technologies. Conflict perspectives to food security further argue that it is the failure of society to allocate its resources fairly that explains the continued existence of food insecurity. Marx blames food security on capitalism and social class, which is purely based on economy.

People are influenced by their economic material position. He believes capitalism generates poverty. The capitalist society exploits labour employing people to produce items for sale. The wage is less than the value of production.

The dominant class exploits the subordinate working group. This exploitation increases poverty. The economy works against the poor. It entraps them in a vicious circle i.e. they are paid only poverty level wages, they cannot get better paying jobs and cannot leave their jobs.

Globalisation and other forms of imperialism have affected indigenous approaches to food production and security in developing countries. Globalisation is the process whereby the population of the world is increasingly bonded into a single society (Gellner, 1992). According to Miller, biodiversity has tremendous implications for agriculture. The range of food resources has declined over time, although this trend has long been ignored. It is estimated that more than three thousands (3000) plant species have been used for food throughout human history; however there has been a significant reduction in the varieties. Now, most of the world's food comes from twenty (20) species.

This reduction is primarily function of conquest and domination, which were usually associated with the suppression local crops and the introduction of exotic varieties, and plant breeding programs, which have focused on a narrow range of crops (Land 1996)

The leaders of Africa have discovered that poverty and backwardness of Africa can be observed to be in contrast to the prosperity of developed world, and that there is continued marginalisation of Africa from the globalisation process. The logic of Africa's development has been undermined by the credit and the aids from other countries. This hinders the growth of African countries. There is absence of fair and global rules.

These have made the strong nations to advance at the disadvantage of the weak ones especially in trade, finances and technology. The weak nations are not compensated. The process of mobility of capital where borrowers compete with each other in global markets has been borne disproportionately by Africa. This distribution of benefits makes global interests by Africa quite invisible (NEPAD, 2001). Africa finds it difficult to harness the process of globalisation because of the stunt growth and development due to resource outflows unfavourable terms of trade. It finds conditions difficult to compete in. Environmental management should not be restricted to conservation of natural resources only, but measures to help the poor use and manage environment in a sustainable position.

Agriculture and rural development that is equitable, effective and sustainable cannot be pursued without an explicit recognition of the tremendous contribution of rural women to food and agricultural production and their crucial role in determining and guaranteed food security and well being of the entire household. Women are beneficiaries of development since their husbands have migrated into the cities to work in mines.

This issue of patent is at the core of the debate over the equity issues related to gem plasm. Farmers and scientists in the industrialised world have altered structures of plants through selective breeding. Consequently, researchers used the Third World as the source of free primitive gem plasm. These genetic resources are used to produce genetically altered seeds for the international markets. The patented stuff is often environmentally as well a financially costly. The food security picture of developing country farmers focus on hybrid varieties to the detriment of, and at the risk of causing disappearance of indigenous seed varieties (Yearley, 1996).

1.8 HYPOTHESIS

The study was based on the following hypotheses:

- There is no government support to Lekoko Community.
- Food security problems encountered at Lekoko tend to be the least to the Department of Social Welfare.
- The social workers seem to be more interested in other areas of Mafikeng than in Lekoko Village

1.9 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study will assist in identifying the problems and obstacles that prevent the community from accessing Government aid, improved technologies and management practices.

The Barolong Boora Tshidi communities will also be empowered in terms of the resources available to them, while the Agricultural extension workers will be assisted in formulating the methods they can use to educate the different communities and how to access the resources and ensuring that the different projects are geared at reaching the people in order to improve the food security of the people.

1.10 METHODOLOGY

This case study was used to describe and explore the implementation of projects and programmes in food security in rural areas initiated by the NWPG. The longitudinal method of case study was used to obtain current information with regard to the past and present status of food security in the Barolong boora Tshidi community in Lekoko village.

Both qualitative and quantitative research methods of investigation were used. Information was obtained from the key persons in the village which included elders in Lekoko village and the chief. Other subjects included the youth households heads and the women. Interviews and questionnaires were used as method of data collection.

Sixty questionnaire were distributed. Only forty were returned and analysed. Face to face interviews were conducted in private in a language preferred by the respondents. They were also encouraged to discuss all aspects on food security. Questions were mostly semi structured to help in focusing on the study on hand and provide a better response. They were also centered in the respondent's life world and to understand the phenomenon in that world. The questionnaire is attached as Appendix A

Data analyses

Data was analysed following consideration of interviews and responses on questionnaires.

1.11 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Strained cooperation from the respondents was expected because the respondents may have never been exposed to research investigations before. Some elderly people were too old that they became short tempered to provide information. Some respondents

also felt that the researcher was wasting their time. Literacy level also prolonged the period of study.

Questionnaires were not all be returned because most of the people in the community were not interested because they believe the results would not help them in any way. The researcher had to include questionnaire in her interviews.

1.12 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Respondents were treated with respect and courtesy. They were assured of complete anonymity and confidentiality. They were also informed that participation in the study was voluntary .

1.13 ORGANISATION OF THE FINAL REPORT

Chapter One - It provides the background, aim, objectives and methodology of the study.

Chapter Two - The Demographic Characteristics of Respondent community members.

Chapter Three –Focuses on the impact of food security among the Barolong Boora-Tshidi in Lekoko Village.

Chapter Four – Role-played by the North West Provincial Government in ensuring food security in Lekoko Village

Chapter Five: Challenges of food security in the Barolong Boora Tshidi people in the North West Province.

Chapter Five: Conclusion and Recommendations

CHAPTER TWO

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARECTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

The study was interested in establishing the demographic characteristics of the respondents' in Lekoko Village in terms of age, gender, marital status, number of people receiving welfare grants per household, number of people per household and those who are familiar with governmental aid in rural areas. This was important for establishing categories of women and men involved food security issues in the study area. The study concentrated on female respondents , because in the traditional communities, most people who are involved in food security are women. . However, a small proportion of males were found.

1. GENDER STRUCTURE

Firstly, the study wanted to establish the gender structure of the respondents in order to establish which gender in the study area was involved in food security. The findings are reflected in Figure 1 below.

GENDER	PERCENTAGE (%)
MALE	16.7
FEMALE	83.3
TOTAL	**100**

Figure 1: Gender Structure

Figure 1 indicates that the majority of the respondents in the study areas were female. This is because most of the time females are the ones who are responsible for food security in rural communities as the case is in Lekoko Village.

2. AGE STRUCTURE

The study also wanted to establish the age structure of the respondents who practiced food security. Identification of the age groups of the respondents is significant for

understanding why the respondents use the survival strategies that they employed to ensure food security within their households. The findings are reflected in Figure 2.

AGE GROUP	PERCENTAGE (%)
25 – 30 YEARS	0
31 – 40 YEARS	16.7
41 – 49 YEARS	16.7
50 + YEARS	66.6
TOTAL	**100**

Figure 2: Age Group

Figure 2 shows that the majority of the respondents in Lekoko Village (66.6%) were in the age group 50 years and above. The age groups 31 – 40 years and 41 – 49 years had an equal representation of 16.7% each. Young people, in the age group 25 – 30 years, were not into food security issues. They preferred going to look for work in towns to get money and provide for their basic necessities

3 HOUSEHOLD HEADS

The study wanted to establish the households, which were headed by females as compared to those headed by males. Figure 3 shows the results.

HEAD OF FAMILY	PERCENTAGE
MALE	90
FEMALE	10
TOTAL	100

Figure 3: Household heads

Figure 3 shows that 90% of households had males as heads of the family while only 10% of the households are female headed. The households who were living within the bread level and that understand more about the grants are those that are male headed.

4. MARITAL STATUS

Thirdly, the study also wanted to find out the marital status of the respondents in order to establish whether males, who were married, family men, were the ones involved in food security, as they had families to take care of. The findings are shown in Figure 4.

MARITAL STATUS	**PERCENTAGE (%)**
MARRIED	50
SINGLE	0
DIVORCED	33.3
WIDOW	0
WIDOWER	16.7
TOTAL	**100**

Figure 4: Marital Status

According to Figure 4, half of the respondents (50%) were married. They engaged in farming because they had to provide food for their wives and children. 33.3% of the respondents were divorced and the remaining 16.7% widowed.

5. WELFARE GRANTS RECEPIENTS

Figure 5 shows the number of members of the community who receive welfare payments. This indicates the level of Government aid that reaches the people. This will give a picture as to level of food security.

NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
CHILDREN	37.5
ADULTS	62.5
TOTAL	100

Figure 5: Welfare Grants recipients

Figure 5 shows that only 37.2% children and sixty two (62%) of the adults receive welfare payments whereas there is a big number of members of the community who are entitled to such an opportunity but do not receive any.

6. KNOWLEDGE OF GOVERNMENT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Figure 6 gives a picture of the percentage distribution of people who know how to access Governmental aids as a way of alleviating poverty and food insecurity among rural people.

GENDER	PERCENTAGE
Males	50%
Females	15 %

The above figure shows that fifty percent (50%) of males and fifteen percent (15%) of females know how to access the aid

CHAPTER THREE

THE IMPACT OF FOOD SECURITY AMONG BAROLONG BOORA TSHIDI IN LEKOKO VILLAGE.

The aim of this chapter is to highlight the impact of food security in the communities of Lekoko village. Various methods of food security will also be highlighted.

Increased poverty and unemployment compounded by seasonal variability in income levels experienced by households in South Africa made it difficult for them to meet their daily food requirements. Since 1970 there has been a decline in employment. This has resulted in food insecurity in the country especially Lekoko communities. People are unable to pay for goods and services necessary for living. This occurs mostly in rural areas.

3.1 STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING FOOD SECURITY IN LEKOKO VILLAGE

The communities of Lekoko village utilised many methods to ensure food security, which included "Letsema: and other methods of food preservation.

3.1.1 LETSEMA.

This was the popular method of food security where the farmer invites members of his family and other members of the community to be involved in the harvesting process. During this process the farmer ensures food security for the harvesters. At the end of harvesting the produce is divided among the people who were involved. This method ensured food security for members of the community.

3.1.2 INDIGENOUS METHODS OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND PRESERVATION

Women in Lekoko village played a big role in food security. They were responsible for ploughing the fields and providing food for the whole family.

Traditional structures of resources provided them with the authority to access basic factors of food production like seedlings and ploughs. In spite of their subordinate position to men they were the backbone of food production, and were involved in resource control and production.

The Lekoko communities produced crops which were diverse and not static depending on the nature of the seasons. Multiple cropping by the farmers was sustainable with the help of extension workers. Farmers considered maize and sorghum without the inputs of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Animals like donkeys and cows were used for ploughing and weeding. The planting process started as soon as the rainfall started. Cropping was a conscious process, as a result the process of picking the grown crops was attended to in preparation for the next crop.

3.1.3 FOOD PRESERVATION

To prevent destruction of stored crops by pests the Lekoko communities preserved food in bags while vegetables like pumpkins were dried on roof tops to ensure a strong and nutritional product. The seeds would also be strong enough to withstand pests. The grains were sprinkled with ash to preserve them.

The women built houses with mud (diboana) for storage purposes. The houses were completely closed except for a small window where grains could be retrieved. These were demolished and new ones were built as soon as new crops were available. To ensure future food supply the women cooked different produces like mielies and vegetables and dried them. The cooking methods prevented pest infestation and rotting. The dried food were also stored in big clay pots (ditsaga) to be cooked later.

When cattle, goats and sheep were slaughtered they were cut in different parts, cut into thin long strips, sprinkled with salt and dried to be cooked later. Biltong was also made and eaten later.

3.1.4 MARKETING

They were also involved in household agricultural output marketing. Their chief method of generating income was through trading. They had small stalls in the village and in town markets where farm produce were sold.

3.2. CURRENT STATUS OF FOOD SECURITY IN LEKOKO VILLAGE

Lekoko village is a rural area where indigenous methods of food production is used. The basis for sustainable agriculture where there is a struggle to produce enough nutritious food for the family and to maintain productivity of the land by using local technologies is lacking. Food output has declined because of soil erosion, pollution and loss of organic matter and salting of irrigated land.

Many people lacked land, capital, employment and education. Those who had small pieces of land around their households lack the means of working them. For a large number of people the need was to find employment. The community consisted mostly of elderly residents as younger people had gone into towns to seek employment.

Employment could only be found in the farms where wages were very low where employees were paid low wages like two hundred rand a month in spite of the Government' policy on standardised wages and registration of employees.

Apart from farm work, there is local employment. Some better off households employ domestic workers with low wages. Young people obtain money through

small- scale trading in urban areas as a result they spent the day from home leaving the elderly to fend for themselves.

Others provided services as house building and often look for work with contractors in town and neighbouring cities.The poorest were prime - age adults with no regular income and no pension. The elderly received pension monthly, but, because of the rate of unemployment in the area many households share the pension where often one household consisted of thirteen members. A grandparent often shares a house with his children who also has children. Some are married and bring their spouses into the common domicile.

Many are unable to seek employment outside farming as they are not skilled. They live permanently under the authority of white farmers because this arrangement offers food security. Lack of information in relation to social security entitlements prevents many elderly and the disabled to access welfare payments. They often depend on their children and neighbours to contribute money or food and labour for their upkeep. Pensioners are often expected to look after the grandchildren and be paid a meagre wage for it.

3.2.1 POVERTY

Insufficient and unstable food supplies at household levels has resulted in hunger and malnutrition in Lekoko village. Most of the producers in the former homelands are unable to feed their families because they have a narrow production base. Many people rely on purchased food and non- farm income to meet most of their household needs. Crisis is often experienced because of climatic variations. Droughts that occur on regular basis substantially threaten the food security position of agriculture -based households. There is always extreme crop failure and asset loss. The Government assistance is often a major source of income. There is,

therefore, periodic bouts of hunger. The collapse of the Bophuthatswa Government has worsened the situation. Many farmers are in debt with Agricor and are unable to pay.

3.2.2 LACK OF PURCHASING POWER

The rate of unemployment is very high as many people were retrenched from their former employments. This has led to reduced purchasing power. A great number of households have no cash to purchase food as many are unemployed. The communities have the lowest standards of living and are much more vulnerable to poverty and food insecurity. Poor nutritional status is noted in one child in six under the age of six. This is highlighted by the increase in malnutrition in rural areas. The sad story has been observed in Lekoko village.

CHAPTER 4

THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE NWP GOVERNMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD SECURITY POLICIES IN LEKOKO VILLAGE.

This chapter will show that the NWPG has initiated a few projects in the Province especially in poverty stricken areas like Maiyaiyane and Mabudutswane.

The North West Province which is significantly affected by poverty uses the definition of R800 per month as the minimum food basket, thirty seven percent of households in the Province is classified as poor while fourteen percent of household are with no income and fifty two percent live below the breadline Statistics South Africa, 2002). The Province has initiated The Food Mountain or Letsema la Mantsha-tlala project in order to seek to improve food security at the household level.The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment has been allocated R3,5m for agricultural production aspects of the project. The activities include mobilisation of the community, training of participants, physical verification of beneficiaries, income generating starter packs, training of trainers and baseline survey.

According to the memorandum to the Economic Development and Infrastructure Exco Committee of 20 Feb. 2000, Agricultural products to be distributed to each household should include twenty four week old African fowl chicks worth R240 and infrastructure support for chickens at R130, a few household sharing a milk cow, rabbits and provision of a sow in an area where swine fever is not a major problem (IFSS, 2002). Only one group is involved in poultry farming with aid from the Department of Agriculture.

IFSS initiated by the Government has a primary objective of reducing food insecurity by increasing the participation of food insecure households in productive agricultural activities and increase income and job opportunities.

Through Letsema la Mantsha tlala different programmes and projects such as Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) and Land Redistribution Agricultural Development (LRAD) to uplift the lives of the people. Communities of Maiyaiyane and Mabudutswane were assisted through these projects. They were provided with broilers, seedlings and goats. In other communities boreholes were provided and repairs were done on existing farms.

The most vulnerable households will benefit from measures to be handled by the National Food Emergency Scheme. The measures include food parcels, production starter packs, sifted maize meal packets monthly at discounted prices through a chain of retail outlets. Food parcels were be issued for three months in order to combat poverty among the destitute, thereafter social grants and food production starter packs and/or income generating activities were to be instituted. After three months the affected households will be expected to produce their own food. Many households do not receive the food parcels or any starter packs. No one heard about them.

Food security is non existent in Lekoko village because many people are still living below the bread level. Unemployment is still rife and many have left their homes to seek employment elsewhere.

Some community members have "tuck shops" in their yards so as to generate income. These may not yield enough but it is able to sustain life. Commodities are very expensive. No purchasing power.

A few number of people receive grants for their children, where in some instances a grant of one child maintains a household of two adults and two children.

The policy of the Department of Agriculture states that for grants to be afforded people should form groups of ten and above. No application for individuals will

be considered. The reason for this is that the benefits should be spread to as many individuals as possible in view of limited resources (Sedumedi, 1997).

The NWPG had encouraged people to form cooperatives, where they would get assistance from the Government. Those who could be successful in these projects, could be introduced into another project. This happened in Mabudutswana where sixty four (64) families were each provided with two goats each family and piece of ground for vegetable farming. The group that progressed was provided with a green house and borehole.

In Lekoko village only one cooperative was formed and was provided with broilers. This cooperative was assisted with the business plan and training by the Department of Agriculture but it later collapsed.

CHAPTER 5

CHALLENGES ON FOOD SECURITY IN THE BAROLONG BOORA TSHIDI PEOPLE IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

This chapter looks at the challenges that the Barolong Boora Tshidi have to deal with in order to secure food. The understanding of the community in Lekoko village can only be done by their attempt to organise effective strategies for survival in relation to the development process.

According to Andile Mngxitama, blacks need a piece of ground on which they can live in order to prosper, but this is difficult with Lekoko community they do not have access to more land (The Round Table, SABC 3)

The community of Lekoko village practised subsistence farming as a result they could not be settled in commercially viable farms. There is a shortage of arable land. There is little space for growing crops or keeping stock on some house sites.

There are many challenges in food security which include food shortages and impoverishment, methods of food production, structural adjustment, market accessibility initiatives, claims and resources that are available to them, activities they have to undertake in order to generate a sustainable livelihood, commodities and services they require for an acceptable standard of living.

There is lack of exposure because of the educational status and distance from the resources of the community. The community has to seek information on different programmes and projects.

5.1 COMBATING FOOD SHORTAGES

The situation is compounded by the fact that the communities have no land for crop production. Many households have plots around their houses where they practise

subsistence farming. Some lands lay barren because the owners have no means of ploughing their fields. The amount of food produced is not enough for the size of each household. More often there is only one type of crop produced, commonly maize which makes planting seasonal.

Methods of planting were very conservative. There was lack of income as a result there is no money to buy fertilisers to improve the quality of the soil. They depend on the manure from their kraals which is not effective. There are tractors to be hired but, these can only be afforded by only a few. It is, therefore, necessary to introduce technologies to improve the quality and amount of the produce. The communities , therefore, depends on the Government for support.

5.2 ACCESS TO LAND

The communities have no land of their own except for small pieces of land around their houses, which lay barren because of lack of capital.

Some members of the community keep livestock especially goats. Goats are favourable because they can withstand the drought. They are always not enough to cater for the needs of the households.

The people need to look for cooperatives by the Government where they can get involved in the Government projects and programmes.This focuses on resettling commercially viable farmers from previously disadvantaged communities by Land And Redistribution Programmes.

The communities of Lekoko village practised subsistence farming as a result they could not be settled in commercially viable farms. There is a shortage of arable land. There is little space for growing crops or keeping stock on some household sites.

5.3 ACCESSING GOVERNMENT AID.

Climatic conditions played havoc with their crops where in many instances their crops are destroyed. Whenever they lose their crops there is no remuneration.

The farmers had to content with credits/debts from the commercial banks. They now have to learn how to access aid. They had to look up for agricultural credit schemes that were made available to smallholder producers as well as agricultural starter packs that are distributed to cooperative development systems. The community had to make sure that they are able to access assistance, programmes and projects that were established for sustainable rural financial systems. Cooperatives that were established and introduction of stock agricultural financial assistance.

One elder in the village spoke of an application they made towards assistance in relation to farming. The people formed a group of two hundred and thirty members (230) who were advised to form a Poverty Stricken Farmers Union by the Department of Agriculture. They secured two farms in Nooitgedacht and Ga-Khunwana. The group applied for the aid but only received it after four years. They had started ploughing but they are unable to pay for the commodities as the claim forms are lying on a senior officer's desk and they are made to understand that he was refusing to sign them. No explanation is given. Chances were that the project was doomed to fail.

According to the chief in the village officers from home affairs came three times last year to inform the community about accessing welfare payments and identity documents. They also taught them to access them.

Not all members attended the meetings, they , therefore, do not have information as to new developments in the community and the aids by Government.

5.4 WELFARE PAYMENTS.

Lack of information on entitlements to security grants and the households' marginal position within the community prevented them from getting welfare payments. The community had the onus of getting access to the state offices. Registration of the disabled was a problem as many did not know that they were entitled to Governmental grants . The elderly who are often left with the grandchildren did not know how to obtain the necessary documentation.

The community must obtain the identification documents in order to access welfare payments. There are no offices nearby where documents can be obtained.

There is a family of two brothers who are unemployed, while one is mentally challenged, who do not get any welfare payment. There are many others who do not know how to go about to apply for grants.

5.5 TRAINING

This can only take place in certain institutions of which some are known to have created insecurity for a number of the population. This could only be obtained if adjustments can be done on some structures. The chief who is the commander in chief of the village has to be trained first lest the community remains in the dark. The community should look for institutions that would train them on the available resources to them. Training was insufficient as many wanted to apply for the Government aid but did not have knowledge as to go about it.

5.6 MARKET INITIATIVES

There is no exposure to markets for those who could secure Governmental aid markets where their produce can obtain a better price in order to generate a

sustainable livelihood. The communities do not have a leeway of selling their produce. The community who deal with broilers in Lekoko village supply the butchery in town with chickens do not have a contract with the said butchery. This allows the owner of the butchery to have an opportunity to buy cheaper chickens elsewhere. The community is then left with many chickens which they were compelled at the street corners at a lower price.

5.7 LACK OF INCOME

The rate of unemployment is high so the community has to overcome the difficulty. There are farms like Kliparani nearby where members of the community can seek employment but they have to be trained on their rights.

Some community members have "tuck shops" in their yards so as to generate income. These may not yield enough but it is able to sustain life. The culture of saving is not known as a result like in a community of Madibogo the post office must teach the people saving initiatives.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusion

The study draws its conclusion from a number of observations and make recommendations to that effect. Poverty and unemployment played a big role in the lives of the Lekoko villagers. Though projects and programmes are initiated in Lekoko village they did not take place for several reasons which include lack of land, training and skills. With the Government initiative of LRAD the Government would be able to purchase a farm for any group of people who have identified a farm for farming purposes.

Though the communities had information in relation to forming cooperatives they had no knowledge of accessing training or aid in any form. The other conditions like starting a banking account had made many suspicious. This has discouraged a few others to an extent that some members of the group have left because they could even afford to open a joint savings account.

Cooperatives were not easy to establish because of lack of knowledge, capital and group dynamics. The arrangement by the Government benefited only a few and the targeted clients got very little out of it.

Farmers did not get the results of the tests done on the soil. They therefore did not know whether their fields were fit for planting and which seeds should be planted.

Government employees did not come to assistance of the poor as they kept on giving them different dates on which to submit their applications.

The communities that stay in an area near the main road were accessed easily and were the only ones who were able to register for welfare payments. Those

who stayed about 30 kilometres from the house of the chief or road were not helped and nobody had ever reached them.

The chief did not have support from the councillor who stayed 100km from his constituency. He did not know the problems of the community he is supposed to serve. The community seldom saw him and did not even get to know of any developments from the Government.

6.2 Recommendations

Individual participation should be weighed and initiated by the NWPG. It is imperative that the extension officers should be appointed and get into the community and train all those who are interested in starting their own cooperatives and give them support throughout the projects. They should be informed of the relevant institutions like the Department of Agriculture and what they offer.

Policies should be revised and loans be granted to clients of low income groups with low interest rates. To look after their assets the banks should employ NGO' s to train and advise the farmers.

The Government should put structures in place to ensure that their initiatives are carried out and that follow ups are done. Extension workers do not update the relevant parties as to their activities and the results of the test they undertake in their surveys. Every laboratory test should be published and the relevant parties be advised accordingly.

Training and development on new projects cannot be over emphasized. Obstacles like land distribution, structural adjustments and loans by banks should be removed so that people gain access to land, loans and welfare payments.

The government should purchase land for farmers who are interested for farming purposes. They should be supported throughout.

Mobile clinics should be employed so that social workers can go deep into the village and register the destitute and orphans and vulnerable children so that they can register for welfare payments.

Whenever there is a "pitso" at the "kgotla" the clerks from home affairs should be employed to register those who do not have identity documents and birth certificates in preparation for registering for welfare grants.

Councillors should come from the same village as the community the serve so as to know their problems and assist them as soon as possible and give them information on the new developments and make sure that they receive grants.

Batho Pele principles (the Government policy which put people first) should be applied and assistance should be easily made available. People who serve the people should be those who know the situation on the ground and apply the said principles in order to serve the people.

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APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE

GENDER

MALE		FEMALE	

AGE STRUCTURE

20- 30	
30 -40	
40 –50	
50 +	

Who is the head of the family?

GENDER

MALE		FEMALE	

MARITAL STATUS

Marital Status	
Married	
Single	
Divorced	
Widow	
Widower	

Who receives welfare grant in the family?

Recipient of welfare grant	
Adults	
Children	

Do you have any income? _____

What is the number of members in your household ? _____

Do you know of any Government projects in your area? _____

Is there any Government support that any member of your household is receiving? _____

If any, which one? _____

Do you know how to access Government aid? _____

Do you attend any meeting by the Government employees or any "pitso" at "Kgotla" ? _____

Have you ever heard anyone talking about grants ?