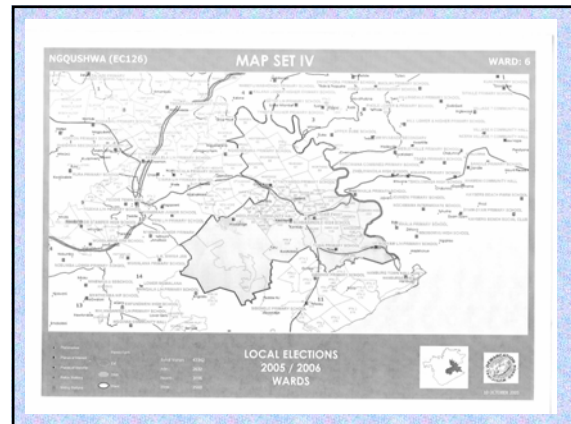


“wathint’ umfazi wathint’ imbokodo”



Socio-economic and demographic characteristics of Wooldridge in the Ngqushwa Municipality.

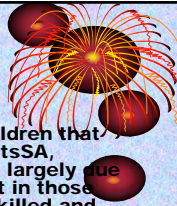


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## PROBLEM STATEMENT AND LOCATION OF SURVEY AREA

- The aim of the paper is to investigate socio-economic and demographic aspects, including the mobility and migration patterns of these rural villages, as well as the implications of these in determining the level of poverty.
- Poverty makes it difficult for African women to secure food for their families.
- The state of poverty is the recurring theme for many residents in Wooldridge.

- The Ngqushwa Municipality has a black population of 84003, a white population of 107 and a coloured population of 117 and only 3 indian or Asian people in the area (NMIDP 2005/6:34).

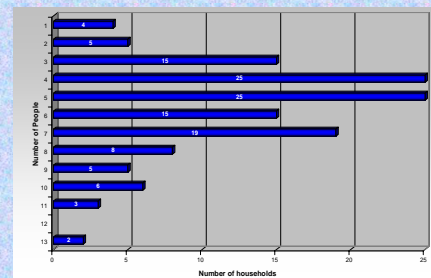
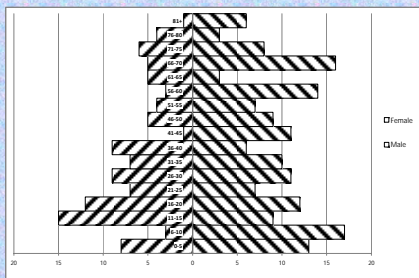
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- there are more women and children that are unemployed than men (StatsSA, 1996:6; NM, 2005/6:35). This is largely due to the decrease in employment in those sectors that employ many unskilled and poor people.
  - Another problem is that girls receive less education in rural areas. Studies suggest that the basic education of girls has to improve, because it gives a higher rate of return on investment than public infrastructure (Todaro & Smith, 2006:376 and 379). Education discrimination against women also perpetuates the social inequality and hinders economic development.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- An official map of the municipality was used. All 80 households that exist in the area were interviewed. Structured interviews using questionnaires were conducted in all households.
- Ethical clearance for the project, which included scrutiny and acceptance of an informed consent form, was obtained beforehand from the Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

- Post-graduate and undergraduate students from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University were used as IsiXhosa-speaking fieldworkers and were trained before and during the survey. The questionnaire, informed consent form as well as a field guide for the fieldworkers was translated into the local language, IsiXhosa, and back-translated to ensure accurate and reliable translation.
- Students were trained to deal with refusals. No refusals were encountered. Most respondents cooperated willingly.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

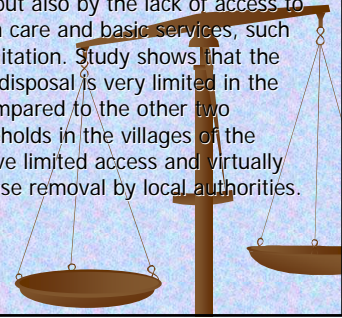


36 percent never attended school. The percentage of people with a Grade 5 or lower was 52.6 percent. This means that more than half of the total population can be considered functionally illiterate. Only 33.6 percent of the total population attended a secondary school, and of this number only 11.2 percent had obtained or was busy with a Grade 12 qualification. There are no postgraduate qualifications.

- only 2.9 percent were formally employed while 5.5 percent were informally active. This shows that 85.3 percent would have been dependent on the 14.7 percent of those working if the social payments, in the form of pensions and child grants, were not made. The large family sizes and relatively low education levels contribute to the high dependency ratio of these communities.

The study shows that 62 households moved once, 3 moved twice and 1 moved 3 times. This means that 66 households or half of the households have never moved and have lived on the same stand since birth. All these moves were from within the former Ciskei areas. These were relocations from the urban areas of the Ngqushwa Municipality. Some people also moved from areas close to the free way and the sea. Although there has been some migration, this is on a limited scale and concentrated mainly within the borders of the former Ciskei. As such most of the movement qualifies as mobility within the same area, rather than migration.

- Poverty is not only measured by the levels of unemployment, but also by the lack of access to education, health care and basic services, such as water and sanitation. Study shows that the access to refuse disposal is very limited in the Eastern Cape compared to the other two provinces. Households in the villages of the Eastern Cape have limited access and virtually no access to refuse removal by local authorities.



- 93.7 percent of the households had electricity available on site, while 6.3 percent did not.
- Electricity was used for lighting because it was unaffordable. Wood and paraffin used for cooking.
- There are no flush toilets. Respondents did not have water on site. None of the households had tarred roads in their streets.

## SUMMARY OF THE MAIN FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- This survey covered low density rural settlements. The regional unemployment and poor services in the Eastern Cape and Ngqushwa Municipality make Woolridge one of the poorest villages in South Africa.
- The dependency ratio of black people is the highest in the Ngqushwa Municipality with 78 percent of the population either unemployed or not economically active. More than half of the cooking and heating is done by wood or paraffin.
- There are little or no refuse-disposal facilities and ventilated pit latrines are only the most basic toilet facilities available. This together with the high poverty levels in this deep rural area highlight the plight of these rural settlements.

**Thank You!**  
**Dankie!**  
**Ngqibongo! Ndiyabulela!**  
**Ke a leboga!**