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**Project report**

**Proliferation of illegal dwellings in Windhoek suburbs:**

A case study of Goreangab suburb

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**Abstract**

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The world's population is increasingly urbanising, mostly in developing countries. Therefore there is much influx into the cities and hence planning may be a challenge to most of those cities' authorities. These influxes are driven by search for better life. Hence socio-economic factors are the top challenges faced by most poor communities of countries like Namibia, and leads to much of the urban population living in shacks because their expectations of the city life were not met. They hence take refuge into cheap living by simply building their shacks in the city suburbs.

These shacks are likely to be put up anywhere and anytime, creating increasingly misunderstandings/havocs between the community and the authorities. Such misunderstandings are likely argued that are result of weaknesses of the policies or their implementations; lack of communications between the authorities and the community on rules, regulations and their enforcement. To fix such gaps and create understanding between authorities and the culprit communities, a discussion study was conducted in Goreangab suburb as a case study. In this study, discussions with authorities and with illegal dwellers were conducted. The studies have indeed determined socio-economic factors as the drive for the influx of people building shacks on the outskirts of the city and have also found the issue shacks proliferation not an issue of planning but a matter of nation building.

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

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#### **1.1 Background information**

By 2010, more than half of the world's population was living in cities with 90% of urban growth happening in developing countries. (*citiesalliance.org/node/2195*). Namibia as a developing nation would not be an exception. 28%, 33% and 42% of the total Namibian population lived in urban areas as per 1991, 2001 and 2011 population and housing censuses respectively.

As for the latest figures from census 2011 data, 885500 of the total Namibian population were living in urban areas in 2011. A total of 322 00 people lives in Windhoek alone, with Tobias Hainyeko and Samora Machel constituencies having a 45 800 and 49 700 people respectively. (*PRELIMINARY RESULTS of the 2011 census, 2012*). These are the third and second highly populated constituencies and they make up the larger portion of the illegal slums dwellings of Windhoek suburbs.

Like many other developing nations, Namibia urban population is increasing more through in-migration. A large portion of these in-migrants become illegal dwellers in the city suburbs. (*UnhabitatGRHS.2003.0.pdf*). Such population growth would have an impact on planning and development efforts of housing in those suburbs or the city. Thus population increment would mean an increment in illegal shacks and hence a great need for proper authority management.

Goreangab dam is a peripheral locality in the Samora Machel constituency, hence its population makes up a portion of the 49 700 population of the second highly populated constituency in Windhoek and Khomas at large. Since most illegal occupancy of land takes place in the peripheral suburbs, Goreangab could be a good example and study area, with its observational increase in shacks. Hence Goreangab is chosen for such a study.

#### **1.2 Problem statement**

The world's population is increasingly urbanising, mostly in developing countries. Therefore there is much influx into the cities and hence planning may be a challenge to most of those cities' authorities. These influxes are driven by search for better life. Hence socio-economic factors are the top challenges faced by most poor communities of countries like Namibia, and leads to much of the urban population living in shacks because their expectations of the city life were not met. They hence take refuge into cheap living by simply building their shacks in the city suburbs.

"About 9.2% or almost one in ten homes in Namibia were improvised informal shacks in 2001, and this had increased to 12.6% in 2006" an atlas of Namibia's population, (2010). These shacks are likely to be put up anywhere and anytime, creating increasingly havoc between the community and the authorities. Such havocs are likely a result of weaknesses of the policies or their implementations; and lack of communications between the authorities and the community on rules, regulations and their enforcement. Lack of good planning and inflexibility in the planning process also results into such havocs. This study is hence expected to come up with recommendations on how to tackle such shortcomings

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

- The study aims at determining the complications and facts revolving around the increment of illegal shacks in Windhoek suburbs. "Facts" means identifying the needs and finding out what is happening in terms of services delivery and in terms of policies. "Complications" mean what prevents the mitigation of illegal slums.
- Secondly, the study will also examine factors that contribute to the existence and spread of (illegal) informal settlements. These would mean looking in detail what causes the spread of illegal settlements.
- Thirdly, the study aims at identifying the effects of such shacks increment on the society and also on the planning process of the city. Hence the study is also concerned with whether the increment only has bad effects or could have positive effects.
- Fourthly the study aims at assessing the interventions, policies and rules in place and also Identify possible new interventions. Thus it looks at how the problem is being addressed, and what can further be done to reach the optimum.
- Lastly, the study tries to identify the survival strategies of those living in the slums.

#### **1.4 Significance of the study**

The study aims at creating an understanding between community and City of Windhoek/ authorities through the discussions of the above mentioned objectives. Thus the study strives to communicate the community to the authorities. Through this study, the city could find what their communities' demands are and how to go about them while the community could get what is expected of them by the authorities, as well as a chance to give their issues and needs to the relevant authorities.

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## Chapter 2

### Literature review

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“Rural- urban migration discourses dominate recent debates on population mobility worldwide. The UN population fund (UNPFA, 2007:1) predicted the world to reach an invisible momentous milestone in 2008. This means, as UNPFA(2007:6) further argues the world is about to leave its rural past behind and by 2008,for the first time more than half of the globe’s population, 3.3 billion people would be living in towns and cities. Namibia has also rapidly experienced that trend” Niikondo (2010).

Since independence, there have been a high number of rural citizens migrating to the capital city of Windhoek, most of who ended up in shacks of Katutura. This influx in population combined with lack of job opportunities has caused the employment rates to rise (enhancing understanding of utility services, May 2006). Such a trend still exists but unlike in 2006 when most of this in-migrants were less skilled and cannot afford to pay for services, today the much of this in migrants are more un employed or are employed in jobs that are low paying and hence people can’t afford housing. They hence end up building shacks around the city suburbs which are likely to be illegal settlements (enhancing understanding of utility services, May 2006).

Dr Niikondo stated in the research paper entitled “migrants to cities and towns in Namibia” that the legacy of apartheid single quarter which were used before independence have also played a role in the increment of illegal settlements, as the before independence only men were allowed to live the as they were at work. After independence, man got a chance to bring their families where the population exceeded the single quarter’s capacities which were free by then. Hence people used to a free rent, turned into making shacks around the city, which then kept growing as people do not want to invest in the urban areas (Niikondo, 2010).

JS de Kock of city of Windhoek stated “The City has responded with a “zero tolerance policy” in 2000, that relative successfully curtailed illegal settling by municipal land invasion for three years. However, leading to the local council elections in 2004 land invasions peaked ever since, and impossible to control” (Namibia security of land tenure, 2006).

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## Chapter 3

### Methodology and procedures

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#### **3.1 Materials and Methods**

The study was consisted of more qualitative data and less quantitative data (secondary data); hence the main methodology used in the study was the focused group discussion. The rationale in using the focused group discussion was that, the focused group discussion provides more and high quality level data. Group discussion has advantages that, one can express their feelings about the matter and respondents could jot from the memories of others. Body language use is also an advantage as well as self-observation by the facilitator. New ideas on the matter could also be picked up and referral to other relevant respondents is ensured.

Two main groups of participants have participated in this study. The first group of these participant groups is a group of city of Windhoek local authority's officers and the second was a group of Goreangab informal settlement inhabitants. The community's group had five minor discussion groups of which four groups have participated in the study. While the authority's group was meant to have three minor group discussions of which only two groups were represented.

The short Namibian Population and Housing census data of 2001 was used in social ranking of Khomas region constituencies. Thus an analysis using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) was done. Descriptive statistics, Frequencies, histograms and pairwise Pearson coefficient correlation were performed on SPSS to predict best poverty or wealth indicators for illegal informal settlements.

In this study, two short survey questionnaires were used, one for the illegal settlements dwellers and the other for the city of Windhoek municipality officers. The short survey questionnaire for the community and the research objectives were translated into Oshiwambo version to help with language barrier. The copies of the translation then accompanied the copies of every proposal paper provided to the community coordinators. The study has also used note books and voice recorders for the collection of data. A computer was used to store the copies of the recorded data.

A torch was used for lighting during discussions when the discussion was conducted in the evening time.

### **3.2 Procedures**

#### ***(Procedures followed during discussions with authorities)***

The focused group discussion was intended for three city of Windhoek offices, the head office, the community development office and the customer care center office. A coordinating officer from either office was chosen by referral to relevant office and department. This officer was expected to get the colleagues from their department to participate in the discussions, of which it was found that participants were not likely to be available at the same time, hence the coordinator officers likely turn out to be the only respondents.

Here follows the steps taken to carry out the study with the authorities.

- I. The facilitator/ interviewer were referred to the facilitator by an official at the customer care at the head office.
- II. The facilitator then visited the referred office and did a short introduction to the research project proposal.
- III. The research proposal with the relevant survey questionnaire was given to the officer a week prior to the discussion for review.
- IV. The facilitator then kept in contact with the officer via emails and telephones to get when they were ready to have the discussions.
- V. During the discussions a voice recorder was used to keep most of the conversation and note books were also used.
- VI. The officer then refers the facilitator to the next relevant office or departments.

#### ***(Procedures followed during discussions with the community)***

Group discussions were done in the Goreangab illegal settlements stretching from Havana informal settlements towards the south western direction. The group coordinators were selected randomly by simply selecting areas of approximate even distances across the Goreangab illegal settlements and selecting random points as the points to start.



Steps taken were as follows:

- I. The facilitator/interviewer picked a household at random on one end of the illegal settlement provided that there are movements of people. At that point the, the facilitator introduces the proposal and waits for response if the person is willing to participate or not.
- II. Once the coordinator is picked, an introduction into the objectives and throughout the proposal was then given.
- III. Such coordinators were then left with the research proposal, two weeks prior to the discussion day to invite their neighbor to participate in the discussion and to review the proposal too. The proposal paper was also acquitted with the translations and the survey questionnaire.
- IV. The coordinator then looks for the other participants whom they take through the proposal paper and then decide on the place, date and, time they would be available for the discussion.
- V. On the day of the discussion, the group then meets at the coordinator's place or their decided meeting point and was discussed with.
- VI. During the discussions, the conversations were recorded on a voice recorder and notes were taken.

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## Chapter 4

### RESULTS

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#### 4.1 TRANSCRIPTIONS:

The results are presented as transcripts of the discussion' recordings made during field session of the study. The information hence is entirely the facts and answers provided by the respondents, whom were either the members of the Goreangab illegal settlement community or the officials from the City of Windhoek as per specified transcriptions below. The transcripts do not contain the views of individuals or of individual discussions, but provides the common and additional answers given per every discussions of similar category/respondent.

#### **a) Community focus group discussion transcripts**

##### **1. Why are shacks built in the unauthorized zone?**

- Poverty (People Cannot afford plots)
- No plots allocated to the people on site
- People tried getting plots before settling, but the city have no space to give
- People cannot go back to place of origin because they are on struggle for better life and for bread, for schools and school fees
- Build there to show the government, that after 23 years of independence the promises made before independence are still not met.

##### **2. Who build shacks here?**

- Low income people(social workers, nurses, student, police, shop keepers, construction workers, securities etc)
- Struggling people or people looking for jobs
- Business people

##### **3. Are they aware of the risks of building their house here?**

*Very much aware;*

- Aware that they are trespassing on the municipality land but could not help it. They have no plots.

- Ready for all consequences that they can face (sentences, demolition and evictions).
4. Do you think you could be wrong to do these (building in unauthorized)?

Yes, it's not right.

- But people cannot afford
- People are not allocated plots ( there are no plots)
- For some, if provided land, they would pay

5. Do you feel your rights are protected out here?

*Not any bit,*

- People feel like they are thrown away.  
“We are thrown away, we are here living with animals which even destroys our maize gardens” says a middle aged man.
- No security in the slums and there is high crimes
- No protection in health and in all basic human needs

6. What are the common problems you have encountered here? (services delivery, safety etc)

- There is no water for human consumption, no water for household use and no water for emergency use in fire extinguishing
- There is no electricity for household use, neither for lighting over the location for the safety of the community from criminals.  
Lack of power for household uses is the main causes of fire hazards over the location as people are using candles, open fire and gas stoves in their little houses
- No toilets(people are using bushes and valleys )
- No emergency roads and there are no roads in general
- No protection to properties (people works shifts and there are regular break in)
- Crimes are on the rise, people are not protected without lights and there are no police emergency roads
- Fire ( there is a need for fire brigade emergency roads as they are ever late to the scenes)
- People getting sick often

7. How do you deal with such problems?

- **Crimes:** Not much hope but one calls in a cousin or somebody to be in the house while the other is working night shift
- **Fire:** People run to the areas with water taps to fetch water to extinguish. (fire brigades are ever late due to lack of emergency roads)
- **Water:** Work long distances to prepaid water points e.g. the cell one in Havana or pay to the near houses with water for a bucket a day or per month.

8. How would you want the authorities to deal with them (problems)?

*The community requests for:*

- At number one, *water* for extinguishing fires and for household consumptions
- Electricity, street lights and for household consumptions
- Building public toilets
- Building emergency roads for emergencies(police, ambulances and fire brigades)
- Build mobile clinics and police stations
- Allocation of plots
- Patrols by securities or police
- Active leaders and community representatives

9. Further suggestions

- Water, Electricity, Roads, police, toilets, clinics, plots are essential needs of this community

10. UP DATES:

- What is currently happening on the site?
  - **Demolitions;** a shack was demolished, because the owner refused to remove it from municipality cleared land.  
It's understood, the fellow was warned by community and by the city earlier and when he would be removed if he don't do it voluntarily. Despite the warnings and the big placard by the site, he decided to not move to which the city responded with a destruction by bulldozer.

➤ **Closing of illegal businesses**

- What do you think of what is happening?

*People are not pleased any bit by the issue (putting themselves in the shoes of the victim)*

- “It is so immoral to see ones house being destroyed by the same people they have put to lead them. But the community should learn a lesson too, it was a cleared land, obviously something is in plan for it, but it would be unfair to destroy somebody’s shack at place where they have spent their energy cleaning and leveling” says one of the lady responded.
- What do you suggest should be done
  - Allocate plots to the people or move them to a serviced land
  - “Fellow residents should also abide to the instructions given and just move, though it’s hard to move with no destination”, says one of the respondents.

**11. Do you have any say in policy making?**

- No; but there are rumored committees in the area whom probably stays in advantaged areas. Hence what they may provide to city is much different to what is on the ground.
- No meetings made, hence the community voices are not much heard and assumptions are being used in policy making.
- People have only a say in making their own decisions in their own houses since they have no right to stay in the city

**12. Have you ever brought forth your views, problems or suggestions to the authorities as a community?**

- **Not** really, individual attempts been done mostly
- **Committees** are there to do that, though not active as the expectations of the community

**13. Further suggestions and comments**

- Water, toilets and security are of more importance to the community, hence exany developments to be done, should start with those.

- Emergency roads are a necessity in this area
- Municipality should provide plots to people to reduce illegalities , people are willing to Pay

**b) Authorities discussions transcriptions:**

1. Why are the illegal slums increasing?

- It's an issue(of land) of demand and supply
- Urbanization and In migration for economic issues/better opportunities/employments
- Affordability of services and land; people cannot afford.
- People do not want to invest in this area
- Communications(influences) between rural people and their relatives in the city, leading to much influx

2. Which suburbs are more affected?

- Okuryangava, Hakahana, Havana, Goreangab, Otjomuise

3. Which are the vulnerable groups living in these illegal settlements?

- All sort of people(poor/richer)
- Poor without income and those with little income
- Richer (businesses)
- No gender differences
- Youths and children(scholars)

4. What do they have in common ( a contributor to the shacks increment)

- Un employed
- Low incomer
- Looking for employments

5. Have the community approached you in anyway? (for opinions or present problems etc)

- If any approach was done, what have you done about it?

1. Yes, through participative meetings during field work by community development department and visits to office the office by formal and informal settlers although the city do not respond to every request. “The city follows a proper schedule of activities” (says one of the officers)
6. What are the current policies or interventions towards such proliferations?
    - There is an inclusive settlement policies guide “development and upgrading strategy of 1998”
  7. How effective are the policies or interventions
    - The strategy can’t control the influx into the city
    - It does not intend on eliminating but rather upgrading illegal settlements
    - What are the obstacles?
      - Rapid urbanization
      - Some serving groups not performing (e.g. community leaders on site to stop increment in their area/ minimize)
    - What can be done about the obstacles?
  8. Are there some alternative policies or intervention strategies?
    - The development and upgrading strategy, guides all
  9. Eviction and demolitions
    - How is it communicated to the community?
      - Evictions are sensitized through constituency councilor’s office, and community leaders
      - Eviction notices are put up on sites, houses and through media earlier before any action.
      - Sometimes the issue goes to court before enforced
    - Under what rules or constitution are they (demolition and evictions) carried out?
      - There is a city’s squatter proclamation (not constitutional but protects the right of the municipality)
      - Local authorities act on trespassing
    - What is planned for the reclaimed land

- No specific plans for Goreangab, but the land must have a purpose for it to be reclaimed
- What do you have in plan for the victims of the eviction?
  - ‘before you come here, you lived somewhere before’
  - Hence if something has to be done for the evicted people, then it would become an issue of invasion, grabbing and provision matter, where people will keep invading so that they get serviced as they are being removed.
- Confiscated materials and damages
  - ‘It’s more of an ethical question than legality’ says an office
  - The city is not likely to be sued: it’s a state land in trusted to the City, hence a private land. “You cannot demand the law but you should abide to it” (says one of the officials). The city got all the rights to demolish any illegal property on its in trusted land

## 10. Planning

- Do you feel the municipality has failed to plan effectively in concept of shacks increment?
  - Not a failure, but rather an issue of nation building (our people are unemployable). Thus cannot afford
  - High unemployment in the country and Windhoek is seen as the greener pasture for all, hence has the high influx
- How do the increment of illegal settling affect you planning (positively and negatively)
  - **Positive:**
    - Economically wise, there are work benefits, and opportunity to better life
    - It’s better and easier planning for a concentrated population. Services are shorter and cheaper
  - **Negative:**
    - “Urbanization of poverty” (UN description) which refers to a nation that is urbanizing but still remains in poverty.



Crimes increase, insanitary living condition etc

- What do you think should have been done or should be done

#### 11. Safety and service delivery

- Site relief and grounding where the shacks are build
  - “it’s like asking how legal is illegal”; houses in illegal settlements are not subjected to the city legal building requirement, hence where they are situated or materials used, would be totally different.
- Accessibility in terms of emergency
  - Areas are hard to reach.
  - Houses are build with no spaces in between.
  - Uncontrollable shacks increment led to failure of some plans. E.g. a case of the emergency road that was planned for Havana
- Crimes
  - Crimes are on the increase, though contained by the city police.(generally dropped)
  - Increase due to alcohol consumption in the slums and (darkness) no lights,
- Illegal use of services etc.
  - Tapping of services, high especially that of electricity, water pipes being drilled, toilet pots being stolen and selling of illegal land to people

#### 12. Do you have any other comment, opinion or suggestion you would like to put forth

- Illegal settlements increase is not a weakness of policies but an indicator of what is happening in the whole country. If it’s a failure, it’s not just a failure of the municipality but a failure at regional and country level too. Urbanization should be planned well than being seen as the city’s problem
- People do not want to invest in the area.

#### 4.2 POVERTY PREDICTORS Khomas region:

The city is segregated either per social economics, demographic or ethnicity. As the study deals with the increment of illegal settlements which are defined by socio-economic factors, some problems of the community mentioned in transcripts were used to rank the districts in terms of

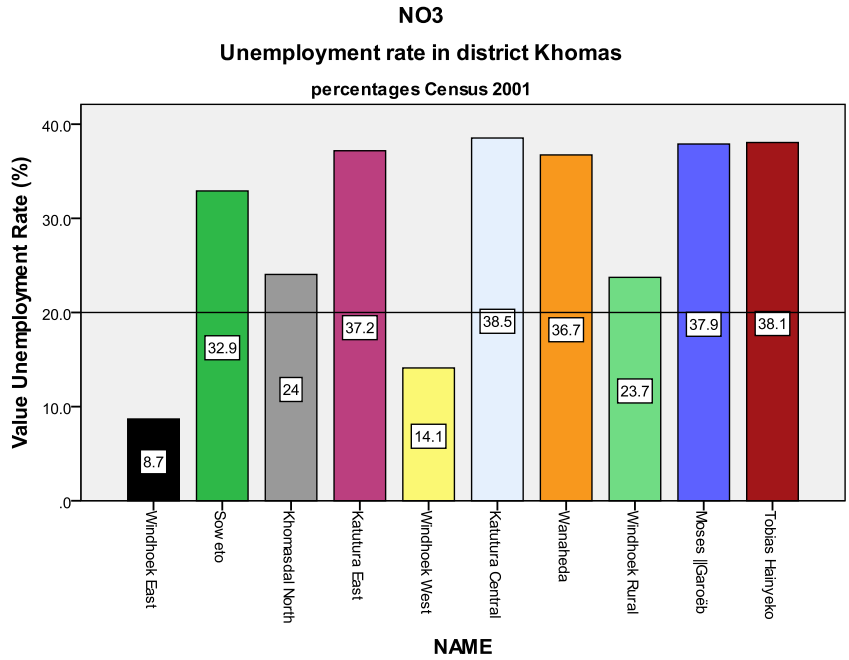
poverty or wealth indicators. Thus four poverty indicators variables of Khomas region 2001 census data such as, unemployment, population living in improvised (shacks) housing, walking distance to water and walking distance to water point. The variables are simply deducted from census questions on sections of housing characteristics and that of labour force.

### 1. Unemployment

Unemployment Rate (%)

N	Valid	10
	Missing	0
Mean		29.187
Median		34.822
Mode		8.7 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation		10.9558
Variance		120.031

*Figure 1*



**Figure 2**

Samora Machel/Wanahenda is having unemployment rate of 36.7 %, making it the 5<sup>th</sup> as ranked from richer to poor constituencies. This value lies above the values of 29.187%, 34.822% mean and median respectively, hence making the Samora Machel one of the poor districts of Windhoek. And this is the constituency which consists of the study area, Goreangab.

**2. Percentage population living in improvised housing**

**Statistics**

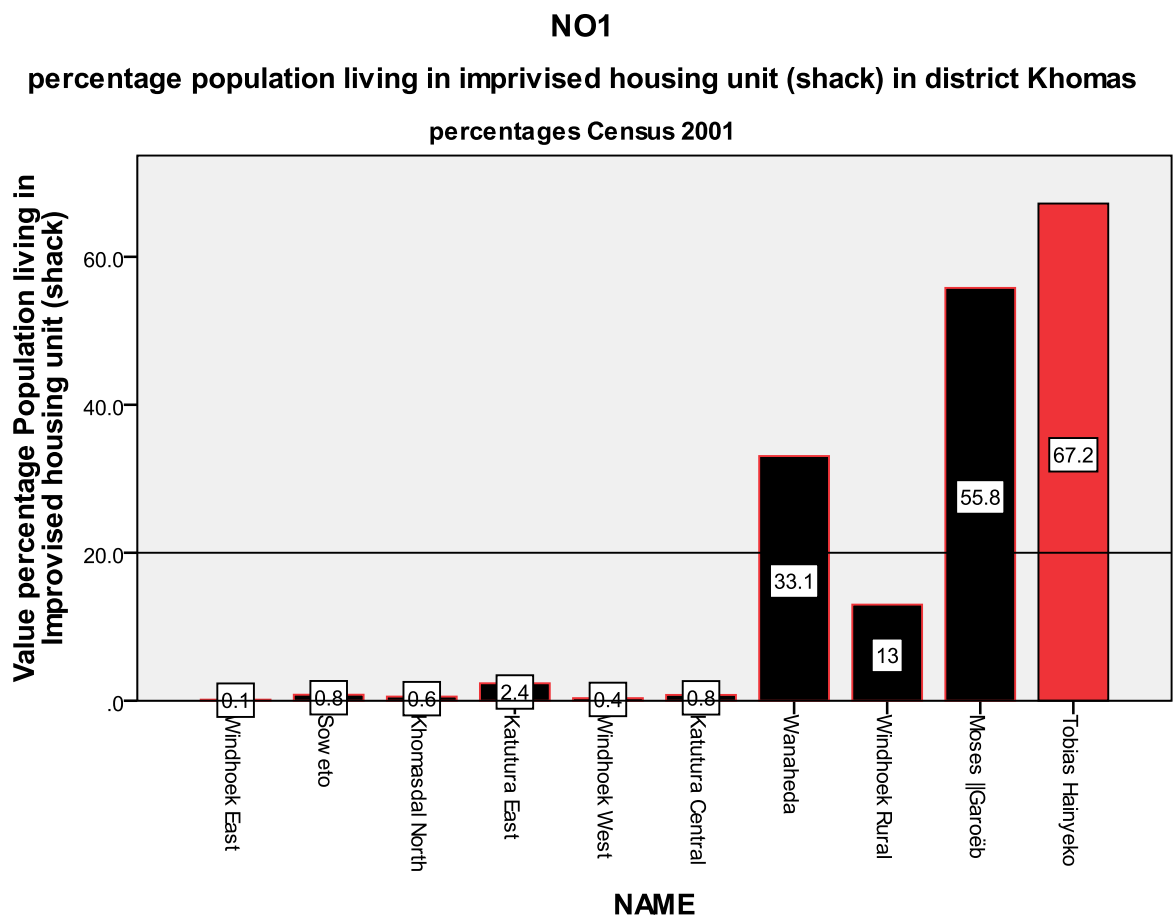
<i>N</i>	<i>Valid</i>	10
	<i>Missing</i>	0
Mean		17.4081
Median		1.5881
Mode		.15 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation		25.53517
Variance		652.045

**Statistics**

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a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

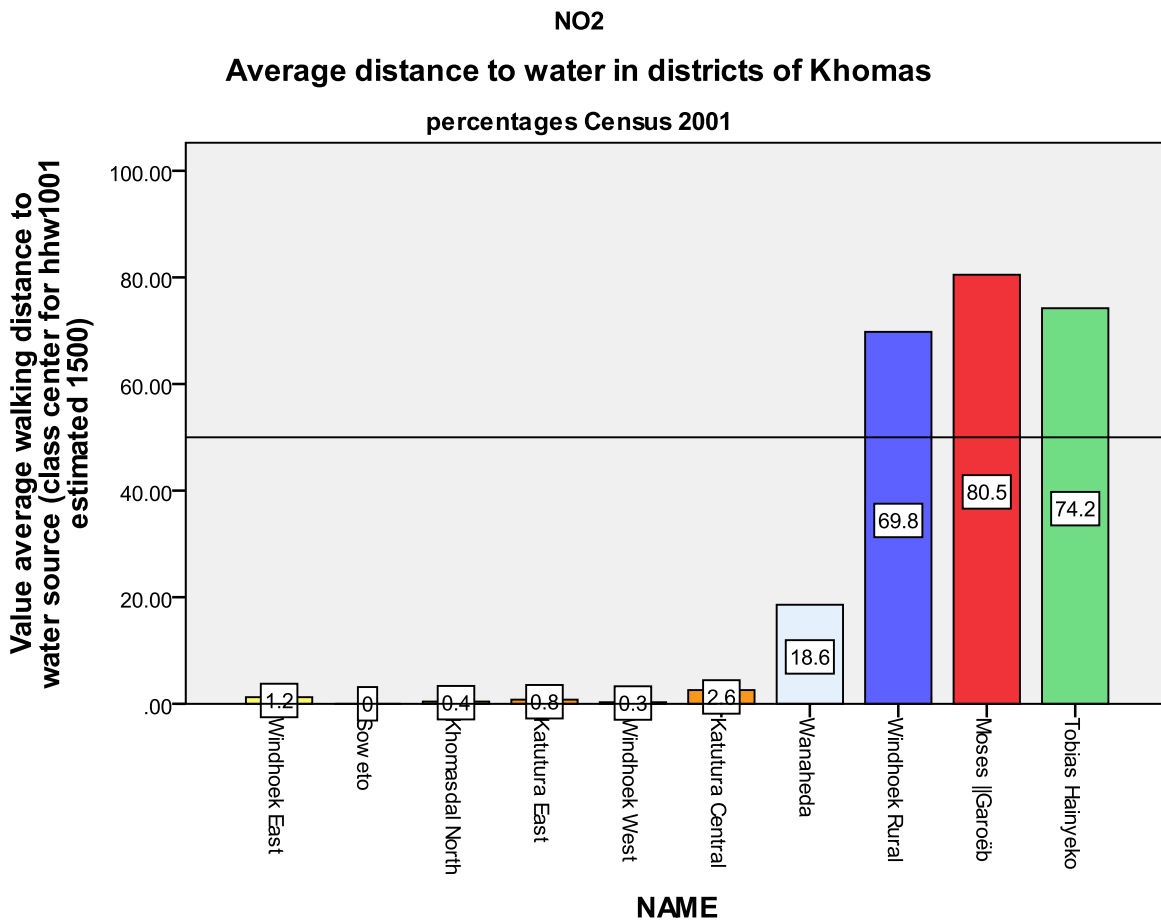
**Figure 3**



**Figure 4**

Samora Machel has 33.1percent population living in shacks, making it the 4<sup>th</sup> poorest district considering this predictor. This value lies above the mean value which is 17.4%, implying the Samora Machel constituency is again a poor district using this socio-economic predictor.

### 3. Average distance to water



*Figure 5*

Using the average walking distance to water sources , also indicates that Samora Machel/ Wanahenda is a poor district with its people walking an average distance of 18.6m to water points.

#### 4. Percentage households with bush toilets

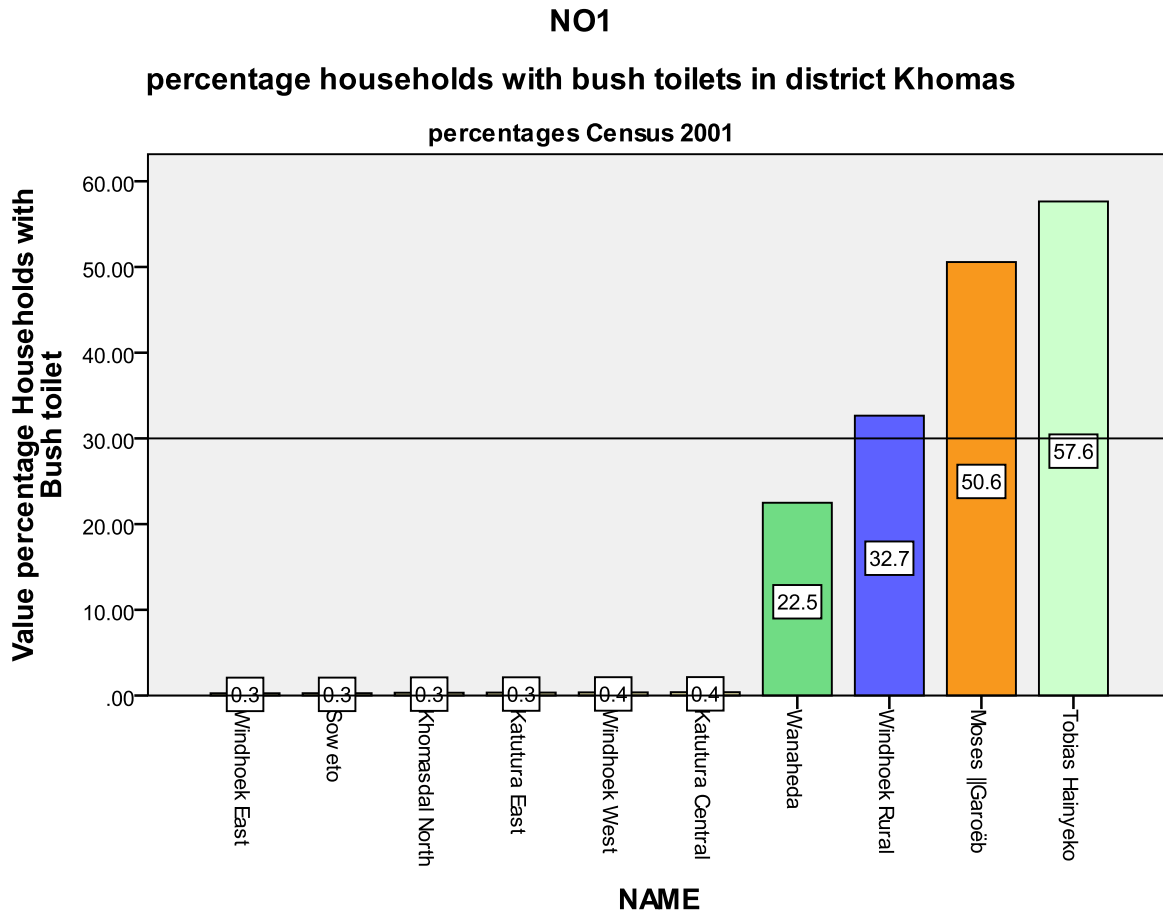
##### Statistics

percentage Households with  
Bush toilet

N	Valid	10
	Missing	0
Mean		16.5343
Median		.3816
Mode		.27 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation		22.89906
Variance		524.367
Range		57.38
Minimum		.27
Maximum		57.64

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

**Figure 6**



**Figure 7**

Using the percentage households using bush toilets as the socio economic predictor, Samora Machel/ Wanahenda still shows a pattern of being a poor district with 22.5% of its households using bush toilets.

**CORRERATION between predictor variables**

**Descriptive Statistics**

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Unemployment Rate (%)	29.187	10.9558	10
percentage Households with Bush toilet	16.5343	22.89906	10
percentage Population living in Improvised housing unit (shack)	17.4081	25.53517	10
average walking distance to water source (class center for hhw1001 estimated 1500)	24.8388	35.02807	10

*Figure 8*



## Correlations

			percentage Households with Bush toilet	percentage Population living in Improved housing unit (shack)	Average walking distance to water source (class center for hhw1001 estimated 1500)
Unemployment Rate (%)	Pearson Correlation	1	.415	.508	.323
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.233	.134	.362
	N	10	10	10	10
percentage Households with Bush toilet	Pearson Correlation	.415	1	.948**	.961**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.233		.000	.000
	N	10	10	10	10
percentage Population living in Improved housing unit (shack)	Pearson Correlation	.508	.948**	1	.830**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.134	.000		.003
	N	10	10	10	10
average walking distance to water source (class center for hhw1001 estimated 1500)	Pearson Correlation	.323	.961**	.830**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.362	.000	.003	
	N	10	10	10	10

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

**Figure 9**

The tables above shows the significant Pearson correlations of .948 between percentage Households with Bush toilet and percentage Population living in Improvised housing unit (shack).

The table also shows the significant Pearson correlations of .961 between percentage Households with Bush toilet and average walking distance to water source. And there is a significant Pearson correlations of .830 between average walking distance to water source and percentage Population living in Improvised housing unit (shack).

Though they are all significant, the correlation of .961 makes the percentage makes the bush toilets and average walking distance to water a good poverty predictor and hence a good indicator for illegal dwellings of Samora Machel (and Goreangab our study area).

#### OTHER DATA

Population distribution by Age group in Samora Machel: percent in age group

- 0-4 years (11.1% )
- 5-14 years (18.0%)
- 15-59years (67.8%)
- > 60years (1.4%)
- Not stated (1.6%)

*(Census 2001, Khomas region basic analysis with highlights p.g 17, table 2.1.1)*

The data above shows the percentages of the population of Samora Machel constituency. From these data, it can be observed that this population is made up of more youths (67.8 %) than any other age groups. Thus the population is made up of more economically active people, and hence justifying the findings in qualitative data. The qualitative data states that the Goreangab illegal settlements which are part of the Samora Machel is made up of (children)scholars ,unemployed youths and employed economically active(youths) people. Children age groups (0-14 years) have made up a sum of 29.1%, reflecting to the claim that the area is composed of more children and youths.

Despite 97.3 % of the total Samora Machel constituency being literate, 80% are school drop outs, making them “unemployable” as stated by facts from the discussions made in the course of the study (*Census 2001, Khomas region basic analysis with highlights p.g 9*). The unemployable people into this part of the city would find it hard to get better jobs and they would therefore build shacks in illegal settlements. The percentages of distribution of households by type of housing units used for walls, shows that in 2001, 38.8% of Samora Machel constituency was corrugated iron shacks compared to 57.3% of cement blocks(*Census 2001, Khomas region basic analysis with highlights p.g 17, table 2.1.1*). Table 8.1.1 on page 42 also shows 37.2% of improvised units compared to a 46.2 of detached units.

This does not really show a significant difference between the two types of housing, implying poverty amongst the nation. These data gives the pattern explained by the study facts from transcripts of the group discussions.

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## Chapter 5

### Discussion and Conclusions

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#### 5.1. Discussion of Results

With the country's urban population accounting to 42 % in 2011, and 33% in 2001, it's evident the in migration process is on an increase in Namibia and hence the country is urbanizing. Out of that 885 500 of the total number of people living in urban areas, 36.4% of it lives in Windhoek alone. Windhoek is seen as the greener pasture by most Namibians and hence there is a much high influx into the city. Thus people come to Windhoek for socio economic reasons. Circumstances define, not everyone would be fortunate enough to get what they expected in city life. The city could only accommodate few of the influx, leaving the rest with no options but to find themselves space to live on, and thus squatting on outskirts of Katutura. Illegal settlements are hence put up in the suburbs such as Okuryangava, Havana, Goreangab, and Otjimuisse.

People in these illegal settlements are all sorts of people though mainly made up by people who got no options as economic means pressures. People living in these areas are low income earners, the poor and unemployed. Business people are amongst those building in illegal settlements for business exploration. There are also people that do not want to invest in the urban area, but rather go invest in their places of origin. In the slums, people experiences problems of fires, sickness and increasing crimes. They claim the problems of fires to be justified by lack of power. People need electricity for lights in their houses and household use as they are currently using open fire for such functions which are highly hazardous in their small and congested environment. They people of Goreangab believes with power, the issues of fire and crimes would be minimized. They express their fear of crimes such as rapes; break in and Robberies, walking in darkness to and from work. People stay far from the bus stops and taxi ranks, so they have to wake up earlier and to get back, they would need to work long distances in late hours. The issue of fire could also be addressed by having nearby fire brigades, emergency roads and the provision of water. People express how tough it is to run over a distance to go get water to extinguish a fire to save a fellow's life. Hence the community requests for nearby common water point which could serve

household needs and fire emergencies. The community also requests for mobile police stations and mobile clinics to cater for, as the area is prone to such emergencies.

Despite these people complaining and requesting for such services, there are those who do not want to cooperate with the instructions given, for example on the attempts to make areas better accessible for emergencies. Certain individuals tend to build their shacks in the main paths intended for emergencies. Some, despite knowing their illegality on site, they still build where they are strictly prohibited. The community hence also advises their colleagues to abide to rules and regulations given, as they are only delaying services or rather causes forceful moves for everyone by the municipality. The city on the other hand have its clear policy guide, “the development and upgrading strategy” of 1998 which guides all policies in development and interventions towards the increasing number of informal settlements. There is a new review of the document, though was not available at time of the study. The strategy is more of upgrading than eliminating or reducing the illegal settlement and its effectiveness is more affected by the uncontrollable high influx of people into the city.

The city sees the increment of illegal dwellers not the city’s planning failure, but rather a national failure, if it is to be described as such. The city describes it such, because they have no control of whom is coming into the city as their free right nor they have control on the skills acquired by those coming into the city. Thus implying that the nation is ill skilled and hence the population is unemployable. Hence it is more of a nation building matter than fault play, thus there is a need for careful urbanization planning. The authorities on the other hand do not appreciate the increment in sense that it’s easier and cheaper to plan for a concentrated population, though such development would be regarded as what is referred to as “urbanization of poverty” by united nations. The city condemns the illegal settlements as it has all power to remove any trespassers of its land. The city also condemns tapping of services and stealing of public properties such as toilet pots in the illegal settlements.

## **5.2 Conclusion and recommendations**

The problems of havocs between the illegal settlement inhabitants and the authorities of the city of Windhoek could be minimized or stopped, as good communication could be introduced between the two parties. It would all start with communication between councils, active

committees and the municipality with the nation at heart. The community of Goreangab has showed an interest in getting on the right side of the law, as they are willing to be serviced and abide to the rules. With this study the municipality knows where to start in terms of servicing the land and serving its people on their demands, which are water, electricity, emergency roads, mobile clinic and police stations, fire brigade and provision of plots. The community would also know what the city expects of them, such as abiding to the current rules and regulations, stopping the tapping of services as they cost the city a lot and hence delaying services to the community. Thus the study was successful.

The study recommends a furthered study in the concept in other suburbs of the city, such as those under the constituencies such as Tobias Hainyeko, Soweto and Moses //garoeb since this are also the much illegal settlement concentrated areas. Such a study would be needed to include the newly 2011 census data and also to include the data which are strictly looking at illegal settlements than looking at informal settlements in general. This is recommended due to the gap observed in illegal informal settlement data as they are not clearly presented in census data or in surveys.

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