



The role of locally-owned Small, Medium and Micro enterprises on poverty reduction, Rustenburg South Africa

DOI nr: <https://doi.org/10.35683/jcm19056.51>

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ABSTRACT

This study sought to find out how locally-owned Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in Rustenburg had contributed towards poverty reduction. The study employed a descriptive research design and a quantitative approach which used self-administered questionnaires to collect data. Out of the 213 distributed questionnaires, one hundred and eighty-two (182) were returned, thus constituting an 85% response rate. Statistical techniques used to analyse data included frequency analysis, analysis of variance (ANOVA), Pearson's correlation test, and Tukey's studentised range test. Empirical findings showed that SMMEs in the mining, manufacturing, construction, and agriculture sectors contributed more to poverty reduction than SMMEs in the services, wholesale and retail sectors. Recommendations were twofold: (1) that government should provide practical development training and sufficient funding to enhance the operations of SMMEs and (2), to improve the regulatory framework that governs the SMMEs sector countrywide. This study focused on the role of locally-owned SMMEs operating in Rustenburg. Further studies could be conducted on the role of poverty reduction by foreign-owned SMMEs.

Key phrases

Locally-owned SMMEs; poverty reduction; regulatory framework; Rustenburg & training and funding

1. INTRODUCTION

Small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) are viewed as the cornerstone of economic development through employment creation and poverty reduction (Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2017:26; Sobrinho 2016). Katua (2014), quoted by Dhanah (2016:10) concur that in recent years, developing countries have realised that SMMEs are their gateway to stimulate their economic growth and address the severe poverty that they are faced with. Leboea (2017:30) asserts that the high incidence of poverty is one of the predominant features of low income developing countries. According to Sobrinho (2016:1), countries such as China, the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America (USA) have made remarkable progress in terms of employment creation and poverty reduction due to their supportive policies of SMMEs. Like other countries, the South African Government has also put measures in place to promote the SMME sector as it is faced with a serious dilemma of an increase in unemployment and poverty levels (Lekhanya 2015:413).

Rustenburg Local Municipality is one of the local municipalities in South Africa which is experiencing the challenge of a high poverty level and its related negativities. Out of a total population of 581 000 people, about 162 000 are estimated to be living in poverty, Rustenburg Local Municipality Draft Integrated Development Plan Review for 2015-2016 (2016a:2).

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

According to Muriithi (2017:37), SMMEs are regarded as instruments to solve socio-economic problems since they act as catalysts for economic activities. Due to the contribution of SMMEs to economic development, the South African Government has been focusing on implementing programmes to promote SMMEs in order to reduce poverty (Lekhanya 2015:413). To assist with this initiative mines around Rustenburg invested R12 million in SMMEs' development programmes over the last three years in order to sustain SMMEs in Rustenburg Local Municipality (Eunomix Research 2016:10). Despite these concerted efforts, the level of poverty is still high in Rustenburg (Rustenburg Local Municipality 2016a:2; Statistics SA 2016:8). Leboea (2017:30) asserts that despite the high rate of entrepreneurial activity in developing countries, the major problem is that most businesses are not making any impressive impact in poverty reduction among people. It was against this background, that this study was conducted in order to establish the extent to which locally owned SMMEs contribute to poverty reduction in the Rustenburg Local Municipality.

3. AIM OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study was to investigate the role of entrepreneurship on the economic development of Rustenburg in South Africa, using poverty reduction as a measure and the extent of their contribution so as to recommend appropriate policies to support the SMMEs sector.

4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What is the role of locally-owned small, medium and micro enterprises on poverty reduction in Rustenburg, South Africa?
- To what extent do locally-owned small, medium and micro enterprises contribute to poverty reduction in Rustenburg?

5. LITERATURE REVIEW

5.1 Overview of the background and nature of SMMEs

Berisha & Pula (2015:18) assert that despite the similarities in the roles that SMMEs play in various economies, there is no universal definition of SMMEs. As it is the definition of SMMEs is country specific. The criteria for defining SMMEs are mainly based on the levels of capitalisation, sales turnover and employment, which differ from country to country (Muriithi 2017:37). Countries with improved economies such as the United Kingdom and the United States use higher values of capitalisation, annual sales turnover and number of employees than developing countries, such as Nigeria and South Africa (Hefer, Cant & Wiid 2015). In the South African context, the definition of SMMEs includes formally registered and informal businesses. These businesses range from medium-sized enterprises, such as established family businesses with a workforce of over 100 people to informal micro-enterprises (Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) 2016:5).

According to the Republic of South Africa (National Small Business Act 102 of 1996), (the original Act), micro enterprises are business entities operated by owners and their families with less than five employees and a turnover of less than R150 000 per year. Very small enterprises are informal businesses that have access to technology, and they employ less than ten paid employees, except mining, electricity, manufacturing, and construction sectors which have 20 employees. Small enterprises are formally registered businesses with fixed business premises. These small enterprises have a complex management structure and they employ up to 50 employees. Medium enterprises which are characterised by a decentralised management structure employ up to 200 employees. The focus of this study

was registered SMMEs as these businesses were easily traceable. There are basically three types of SMMEs as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Types of SMME business structures in South Africa

Type of SMMEs	Definitions	Reference
Sole proprietorship	A sole proprietorship has only one owner, who conducts business in his or her own personal capacity and does not have to register the business as a legal entity. The risks of the business are borne by the owner in his or her individual capacity.	Hofmeyr (2016:51)
Partnership	A partnership is a legal form of business, which has two or more owners who share management responsibilities and profits. The solicitor partnership may have a maximum of 20 partners.	Skripak, Cortes and Walz (2016:118)
Type of SMMEs	Definitions	Reference
Partnership	There is always a contract to formalise each partner's contribution to the business, his or her responsibilities, profit share and the means of resolving disputes.	Skripak <i>et al.</i> (2016:118)
Private company	A private company has at least one and up to fifty shareholders. These shareholders are normally directors of the business and they are protected from individual liability when the business is bankrupt. These types of businesses are legal entities and are registered with a unique company with a registration number assigned to them.	Bertha Centre for social innovation and entrepreneurship (2016:5)

Before determining the extent to which SMMEs contribute to poverty reduction in Rustenburg, it becomes important to examine the concept of poverty in order to put the article in its proper context.

5.2 The nature of poverty

According to Martin and Petersen (2018:205), there is no universal definition of poverty. Poverty has a different meaning depending on the perspective you want to view the concept from. Jansen, Moses, Mujuta and Yu (2015:151) assert that poverty generally refers to a lack of monetary or non-monetary resources. In monetary terms, poverty is linked to insufficient income to purchase basic necessities for survival. In non-monetary terms, poverty is associated with poor access to public services and personal assets, social isolation, poor education, poor health, and exposure to crime. Jansen *et al.* 2015:151) further assert that social exclusion which is one element of poverty is the deprivation and downgrading of the specific groups within society. For instance, individuals may be excluded

from permanent employment, formal housing, good health, education, democratic participation, and membership of social groups. As a result, social exclusion can escalate the poverty levels of individuals. Todaro and Smith (2015:226), also refer to “absolute poverty” which is a situation of being unable or only barely able to meet the subsistence essentials of food, clothing and shelter. This type of poverty is mostly found in African countries. While poverty can be defined from various perspectives, in this study, poverty referred to the deprivation, social exclusion and inequality in the distribution of resources.

Singh (2018:81) identifies various factors that lead to poverty with unemployment being the main factor. Others include poor or no employment access, a family member losing employment, large initial household size and lack of education. Mncayi (2016:33) contends that in South Africa, several other factors that cause poverty are a lack of skills and social capital necessary to attract employment, a lack of education and skills of new entrants to the labour force and ongoing corrupt activities, especially in the public sector. Poverty has a serious socio-economic and social impact towards individuals, and more has to be done in order to reduce its impact. SMMEs are identified as the solution to the poverty epidemic that South Africa specifically and the world at large are facing (Sobrinho 2016:1). Ifeoma, Purity and Yusuf (2018:80) concur that entrepreneurship promotes income empowerment in an economy and provides a new approach for fighting poverty and stimulating economic growth in developing countries.

The next concept that needs to be exposed is the measurement of poverty so as to be able to gauge the extent and impact of entrepreneurship on poverty reduction in Rustenburg. Various methods of measuring poverty are indicated in Table 2.

Table 2: Methods of measuring poverty

Methods	Author	Explanation
Absolute poverty approach	Todaro and Smith (2015:226)	This approach utilises the absolute poverty lines, which define the poor based on an absolute standard applied to income or expenditure. Absolute poverty is a situation characterised by multidimensional deprivation of basic human needs, such as food, clothes and shelter.
Relative poverty approach	Jansen <i>et al.</i> (2015:152)	This approach involves identifying the poorest segment of the population by means of a relative poverty line. Relative poverty is the condition in which people lack the minimum amount of income needed in order to maintain the average standard of living in the society in which they live.
Subjective poverty approach	Jansen <i>et al.</i> (2015:152)	In this approach, individuals make self-assessments on whether or not they feel poor and give out their perceptions about their well-being or poverty status.

Methods	Author	Explanation
		A survey of a representative sample of the population is carried out to gauge the opinion of the population in order to define the poverty line.
Headcount ratio	Todaro and Smith (2015:226)	This is the ratio of the number of poor people to the total population. This gives the proportion of the population with income below the poverty line. The poverty line can be an international threshold (\$1.25 per day; \$2 per day), or a national poverty line (varies by country.)
Multidimensional poverty index	Jansen <i>et al.</i> (2015:152)	This is a measure of poverty designed to capture the multifaceted deprivations that each poor person faces with respect to education, health and other aspects of living standards. It uses micro data from household surveys, and each person in a specific household is classified as poor or non-poor depending on the number of deprivations his or her household experiences.

Despite the various approaches to measuring poverty indicated in Table 2, the subjective approach was the selected measure of poverty as it was found to provide a comprehensive spectrum of the poverty status of respondents (Jansen *et al.* 2015:154).

SMMEs have contributed significantly to poverty alleviation over the past half century but despite these significant improvements, the scourge of poverty rages on in developing countries. More than 1.2 billion people live on an income of less than \$1.25 per day (Todaro & Smith 2015:216). According to Harmse (2013:16) in South Africa, almost 20% of the population is living in extreme poverty at an income of less than \$1.25 per day. It is thus important for developing countries to re-examine policies of reducing poverty in their respective countries. Todaro and Smith (2015:216) explained why it is important to focus on poverty reduction:

- Poverty can lead to a slower-growing economy. Therefore, enhancing the income levels of the poor stimulates an overall increase in the demand of the domestic products.
- A reduction in poverty in the economy is a powerful material and psychological incentive that could attract public participation in the development process of the local economy.

The conclusion that can be drawn is that people who live in poverty are denied opportunities to become entrepreneurs or SMME owners who can reduce their own level of poverty.

6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

6.1 Research design

Bryman, Bell, Hirschsohn, Dos Santos, Du Toit, Masenge, Van Aardt and Wagner (2017:100) define a research design as a framework used to collect and analyse data. This study adopted a descriptive research design. According to Leedy and Ormrod (2015:29), a descriptive research design enables the researcher to analyse various cases from the study participants, thereby obtaining sufficient information. It also allows the researcher to focus on the exact characteristics under consideration; and gather quantitative information that will be analysed statistically. The selection of this research design was influenced by the need to critically investigate the role that SMMEs play in reducing poverty in Rustenburg from the owners' perspectives.

6.2 Research approach

Bryman *et al.* (2017:30) assert that there are two approaches to research, namely, the quantitative and qualitative approaches. According to the same authors, a quantitative approach is a distinctive research approach that emphasises quantification in the collection and analysis of data. By contrast, a qualitative research usually emphasises words rather than quantification in the collection and analysis of data. For this particular study, a quantitative approach was employed in determining the extent to which SMMEs contributed to poverty reduction in Rustenburg and to allow for testing the association between SMMEs.

6.3 Population and sample

The population for this study was 223 registered SMMEs as the focus was only on Rustenburg, in the North West, Rustenburg Local Municipality SMMEs database 2014-2016 (2016b). Two hundred and thirteen of these SMMEs took part in the main study while 10 SMMEs were used in the pilot study. The unit of analysis were SMME owners or managers. Table 3 indicates the types of SMMEs that formed the main study.

Table 3: Categories and size of target population/sample

Types of enterprises	Total population/Sample	Percentage of the total population
Construction	32	$(32/213 \times 100) = 15\%$
Manufacturing	43	$(43/213 \times 100) = 20\%$
Types of enterprises	Total population/Sample	Percentage of the total population
Mining	11	$(11/213 \times 100) = 5\%$

Types of enterprises	Total population/Sample	Percentage of the total population
Services	53	$(53/213 \times 100) = 25\%$
Agriculture	21	$(21/213 \times 100) = 10\%$
Wholesale and retail	53	$(53/213 \times 100) = 25\%$
TOTAL	213	100%

Source: Compilation from Rustenburg Local Municipality SMMEs Database 2014-2016 (2016b)

6.4 Data collection

A validated questionnaire with five-point Likert-type scale questions was used as a data collecting instrument. The five-point Likert-type scale questions consisted of the range of responses between 1 and 5; 1 being the lowest (Strongly Disagree) and 5 being the highest (Strongly Agree). Respondents were able to indicate their degree of agreement or disagreement about the role that SMMEs play in poverty reduction of Rustenburg. A pilot study preceded the full-scale data collection exercise in order to measure the feasibility of the study, check ambiguous questions and instructions, and for testing the measuring instrument (De Vos, Strydom, Fouche & Delport 2016:73). The following ethical considerations were followed before the commencement of the study. Permission was first obtained from the UNISA Research Ethics Review Committee to conduct the study. Respondents were made aware that participation was voluntary, and that they were free to withdraw from the study at any time without any penalties. Verbal consent had to be obtained from the respondents before the questionnaires were distributed. Throughout the study, respondents were protected from undue physical or psychological harm by maintaining the confidentiality and anonymity of their responses. Data was collected over a period of one month using two hundred and thirteen (213) copies of self-administered questionnaires. One hundred and eighty two (182) completed questionnaires were returned, thus translating to an 85% response rate.

6.5 Data analysis

Data was analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. According to Leedy and Ormrod (2015:29), descriptive statistics involve condensing information about a set of measures while inferential statistics are techniques for making statements and decisions on the basis of numerical information relating samples to populations. Bairagi and Munot (2019:175) assert that descriptive statistics are the basis upon which inferential statistics are built. The Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) was used to analyse the data.

Inferential statistics were also used in this study. The general linear model and ANOVA were used in the study where the general linear model was used to measure the extent and strength of the relationship between SMMEs and poverty reduction (Saunders, Lewis & Thornhill 2016:534). Both primary and secondary data were used as data sources, where primary data was obtained from the SMME owners.

In research, it is important that validity is observed. To ensure validity of the study, the questionnaire was first reviewed by the supervisor after which the questionnaire was piloted in order to validate the questions and to ensure that it measured what it was intended to measure. The statistician also tested the results of the pilot study for consistency before the questionnaires were distributed. A Cronbach alpha value of 0.800 for poverty reduction was a sign that the questionnaire was reliable as a data collecting instrument.

7. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The research question that guided the study was to find out the role of locally-owned small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) on poverty reduction in the Rustenburg Local Municipality as perceived by SMME owners.

An analysis of the entrepreneurial activities that SMMEs are involved in was first established and these are shown in Table 4. Table 4 presents the nature of industry in which SMMEs operate.

Table 4: Nature of industry in which SMMEs fall, N = 182

What is the nature of the industry within which your business falls?		
Parameter	Frequency	Per cent
Construction (1)	23	12.64
Manufacturing (2)	35	19.23
Mining (3)	9	4.95
Services (4)	52	28.57
Agriculture (5)	13	7.14
Wholesale and Retail (6)	50	27.47
Total	182	100

Source: Primary Data

Results in Table 4 show that SMMEs in Rustenburg offer the following: services, manufacturing, construction and agriculture respectively. The SMMEs sector in Rustenburg is diverse. These findings tally with those of a study by Maloka (2013:75), which found out that SMMEs are in different economic sectors ranging from the manufacturing to the service sectors.

Table 5 shows the respondents' perceptions of the role of SMMEs in poverty reduction in Rustenburg.

Table 5: Percentages and descriptive analysis of respondents' perceptions of the role of SMMEs in poverty reduction in Rustenburg, N = 182

	1-2	3	4-5		
The role of SMMEs in poverty reduction in Rustenburg	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Mean	Std. Dev
Participates in construction projects in the community	63.7%	6.0%	30.2%	2.48	1.251
Contributes to educational projects in the community	61.5%	6.6%	31.9%	2.56	1.306
	1-2	3	4-5		
The role of SMMEs in poverty reduction in Rustenburg	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Mean	Std. Dev
Contributes to health projects in the community.	63.7%	11.5%	24.7%	2.43	1.214
Offers apprenticeships to members of the community	63.2%	6.6%	30.2%	2.51	1.243
Provides funding for environmental projects (such as waste reduction and recycling initiatives) in the local community	68.1%	6.6%	25.3%	2.39	1.215
Offers insurance benefits to its employees	48.9%	11.0%	40.1%	2.81	1.274
Holds fundraising events to support poverty reduction in the community	70.3%	7.7%	22.0%	2.30	1.148
Promotes other local small businesses by informing customers about their products	34.6%	6.0%	59.3%	3.21	1.314

Source: Primary Data

Table 5 shows that most SMMEs promote other local small businesses by advertising their products to customers (59.3%). Only 40.1% of SMMEs offer insurance benefits to their employees. Findings also revealed that their contribution to construction, education and health projects in the communities is low, shown by 30.2%, 31.9%, 24.7% respectively. Their

involvement in offering apprenticeships, providing funding for environmental projects, holding fundraising events to support communities is also minimal, as shown by 30.2%, 25.3%, and 22.0% respectively. The mean values for most of the statements are less than 3, indicating that most SMME owners disagreed with the statements provided. This was also supported by the standard deviations of more than 1 for all the statements meaning that respondents differed more on all statements provided. The implication was that most SMMEs are not directly involved in reducing poverty.

The validity of the items that measured poverty reduction was constructed in the form of factor analysis.

7.1 Factor analysis results

According to Maskey, Fei and Nguyen (2018:91), factor analysis is a technique that is used to decrease a large number of variables into a smaller number of factors. During the factor analysis process, the highest common variance is extracted from all given variables and grouped into a common score. The purpose of factor analysis is to determine the underlying structure among variables of the study.

Three factors were extracted by using the principal axis factoring method with the aid of the Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) version 9.4 programme. The variables were initially decreased from 27 to 26 by removing the non-loadings defined as items with loadings of < 0.30. The following extracted factors represent:

- Poverty reduction (factor 3).

The factor loadings are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Factor analysis results

Questions: POVERTY REDUCTION	
V19. Participates in construction projects in the community	0.856
V20. Contributes to educational projects in the community	0.800
V21. Contributes to health projects in the community	0.855
V22. Offers apprenticeships to members of the community	0.707
V23. Provides funding for environmental projects (such as waste reduction and recycling initiatives) in the local community	0.799
V24. Offers aid for insurance to employees	0.526

Questions: POVERTY REDUCTION	
V25. Holds fundraising events to support poverty reduction in the community.	0.856
V26. Promotes other local small businesses by informing customers about their products	0.799
Cronbach's alpha	0.800

Source: Primary Data

A Cronbach alpha's value of 0.90 implies that 90% of the data is reliable. An instrument is deemed reliable if Cronbach's Alpha is at least 0.7 for the questionnaire variables (Saunders *et al.* 2016:714). The Cronbach's alpha value for poverty reduction was 0.800, shown in Table 6, meaning that the data was considered reliable.

Based on the factor loadings, the three factors have been named. See Table 7 for poverty reduction information.

Table 7: Poverty reduction

This factor was named after the following high factor loading variables.

V19. Participates in construction projects in the community
V20. Contributes to educational projects in the community
V21. Contributes to health projects in the community
V22. Offers apprenticeships to members of the community
V23. Provides funding for environmental projects (such as waste reduction and recycling initiatives) in the local community
V24. Offers aid for insurance to employees
V25. Holds fundraising events to support poverty reduction in the community
V26. Promotes other local small businesses by informing customers about their products

Source: Primary Data

Based on Table 7, it is evident that variables such as participation in construction projects, contributing to educational and health projects, and holding fundraising events to support poverty reduction, are highly loaded when compared to other variables. This means that

their influence on poverty reduction is high. All variables have significant influence on poverty reduction as they all have a loading of ≥ 0.30 .

7.2 Goodness of fit

Table 8 presents the KMO and Bartlett's test of the study.

Table 8: KMO and Bartlett's test

Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin (KMO) measure of sampling adequacy		0.889
Bartlett's test of sphericity	Approx. chi-square	3011.668
	Df	351
	Sig.	0.000

Source: Primary Data

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) test is a measure of how well suited the research data are for factor analysis. The test measures sampling adequacy for each variable in the model and for the complete model. The lower the proportion, the more suited the data is for factor analysis. KMO returns values between 0 and 1 and values of less than 0.6 indicate that the sampling is not adequate and that remedial action should be taken. KMO values between 0.6 and 1 indicate that the sampling is adequate whereas values close to zero mean that there are large partial correlations compared to the sum of correlations. In other words, there are widespread correlations, which are a large problem for factor analysis. This study obtained KMO value of 0.889, which is an indication that the sampling was adequate.

Goodness of fit test was conducted in this study by using Bartlett's test in order to determine whether the sample data represented the data the research expected to find in the actual population. As shown in Table 8, the data collected yielded a chi-squared distribution ($\chi^2 = 3011.668$) with p-value = 0.000. Therefore, this research has a chi-squared distribution ($\chi^2 > 0$) and a p-value of 0.000 for an $\alpha = 0.05$ level of significance. This shows a highly significant difference, meaning that the sample data represented the data the research expected to find in the actual population.

7.3 Analysis of Variance

The analysis of variance (ANOVA) is a statistical technique that determines significant differences in scale-level dependent variables by nominal-level variable, which has two or more categories.

General Linear Model (GLM) was used to compute the ANOVA for SMME sectors and poverty reduction with the intention of determining which of the SMME sectors contribute more to poverty reduction compared to other SMME sectors. GLM was also used to compute the R-squared values, which were then used to determine the strength of the variance (difference) among SMME sectors in terms of their contribution to poverty reduction. The findings relate to the secondary question, which aimed at determining the extent to which SMMEs contribute to poverty reduction in Rustenburg.

Table 9 and Figure 1 represent the ANOVA on SMME sectors and employment generation.

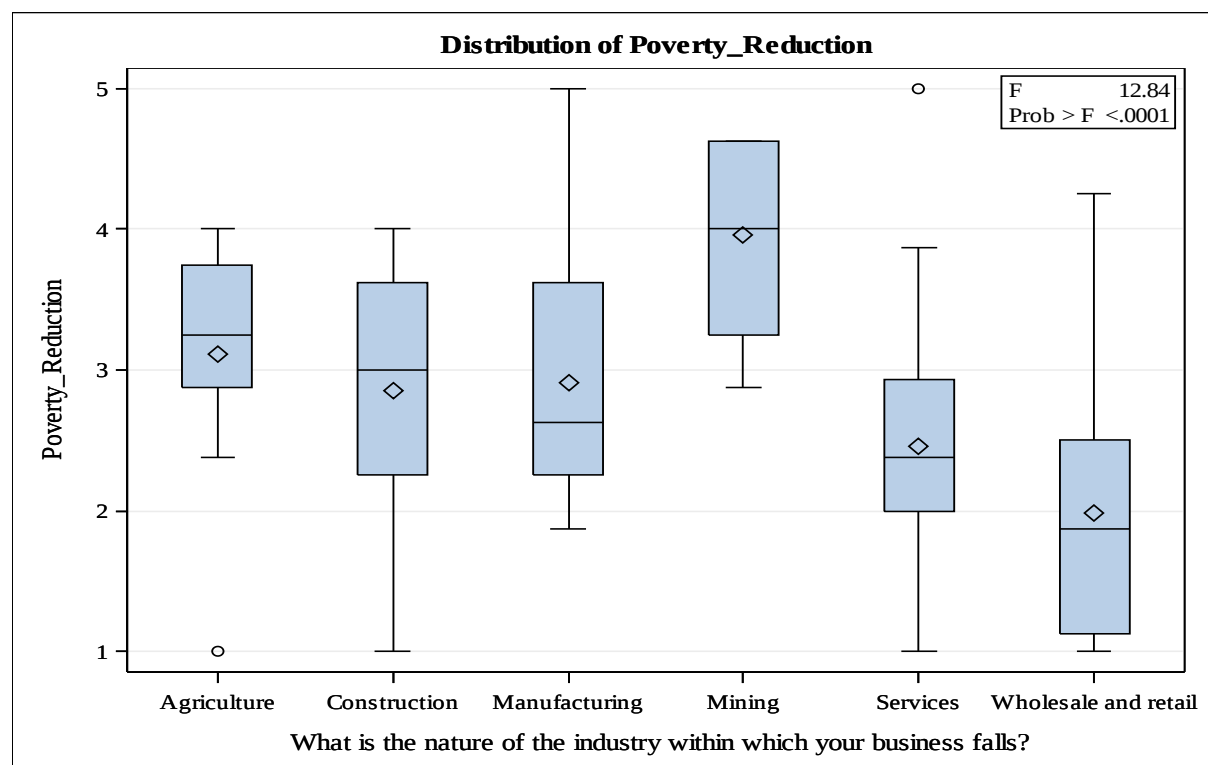
Table 9: ANOVA on SMME sectors and poverty reduction

Source	R-square	F value	Pr > F
Model	0.267290	12.84	<0.0001

Source: Primary Data

Table 9 shows a p-value of less than 0.05 (significant level), suggesting that there are differences in SMME sectors with regard to their contribution to poverty reduction. The R-square value is 0.267, implying that the extent of the differences (variance) is 27%.

Figure 1: Distribution of poverty reduction in SMME sectors



Source: Primary Data

Still on the extent to which SMMEs contribute to poverty reduction in the Rustenburg Local Municipality, results revealed that SMMEs in the mining, manufacturing, construction, and agriculture sectors contributed more to poverty reduction than SMMEs in the services, wholesale and retail sectors.

The results in Table 9 are also complimented by the multiple comparison test reflected in Figure 1, which compares the mean values between the SMME sectors. It is evident from the figure that services, and wholesale and retail sectors have the lowest mean scores, meaning that the contribution of these sectors to poverty reduction in Rustenburg is minimal compared to other SMME sectors. Findings also show that SMMEs explain 27% of the variance of poverty reduction and the remaining 73% can be attributed to the factors that did not form part of this study.

7.4 The Tukey's studentised range test on SMMEs contribution to poverty reduction

Table 10 compares the means scores of each SMME sector whether they differ significantly in terms of their contribution to poverty reduction. The three asterisks indicate that the means for the listed groups differ significantly. The findings also relate to the secondary research question, which aimed at determining the extent to which SMMEs contribute to poverty reduction in Rustenburg.

Table 10: The Tukey's studentised range test on SMMEs contribution to poverty reduction

Comparisons significant at the 0.05 level are indicated by ***				
Q2_2 Comparison	Difference between means	Simultaneous 95% confidence limits		
Mining –Agriculture	0.8429	-0.2019	1.8878	
Mining –Manufacturing	1.0512	0.1507	1.9517	***
Mining –Construction	1.0996	0.1523	2.0470	***
Mining –Services	1.4944	0.6245	2.3643	***
Mining -Wholesale and retail	1.9758	1.1034	2.8483	***
Agriculture –Mining	-0.8429	-1.8878	0.2019	
Agriculture -Manufacturing	0.2082	-0.5744	0.9909	
Agriculture -Construction	0.2567	-0.5794	1.0928	

Comparisons significant at the 0.05 level are indicated by ***				
Q2_2 Comparison	Difference between means	Simultaneous 95% confidence limits		
Agriculture –Services	0.6514	-0.0957	1.3986	
Agriculture -Wholesale and retail	1.1329	0.3827	1.8830	***
Manufacturing –Mining	-1.0512	-1.9517	-0.1507	***
Manufacturing -Agriculture	-0.2082	-0.9909	0.5744	
Manufacturing -Construction	0.0484	-0.5983	0.6952	
Manufacturing –Services	0.4432	-0.0836	0.9700	
Manufacturing -Wholesale and retail	0.9246	0.3936	1.4557	***
Construction –Mining	-1.0996	-2.0470	-0.1523	***
Construction -Agriculture	-0.2567	-1.0928	0.5794	
Construction -Manufacturing	-0.0484	-0.6952	0.5983	
Construction –Services	0.3948	-0.2086	0.9981	
Construction -Wholesale and retail	0.8762	0.2691	1.4833	***
Services –Mining	-1.4944	-2.3643	-0.6245	***
Services –Agriculture	-0.6514	-1.3986	0.0957	
Services –Manufacturing	-0.4432	-0.9700	0.0836	
Services –Construction	-0.3948	-0.9981	0.2086	
Services -Wholesale and retail	0.4814	0.0042	0.9587	***
Wholesale and retail –Mining	-1.9758	-2.8483	-1.1034	***
Wholesale and retail -Agriculture	-1.1329	-1.8830	-0.3827	***
Wholesale and retail -Manufacturing	-0.9246	-1.4557	-0.3936	***
Wholesale and retail -Construction	-0.8762	-1.4833	-0.2691	***
Wholesale and retail –Services	-0.4814	-0.9587	-0.0042	***

Source: Primary Data

As shown in Table 10, the mean scores of SMMEs in manufacturing (1.0512), construction (1.0996), services (1.4944), wholesale and retail (1.9758) are significantly different from the mean score of SMMEs in the mining sector. Table 10 also indicates significant differences between the mean score of the wholesale and retail sector with the mean scores of SMMEs in the sectors of agriculture (1.1329), manufacturing (0.9246), construction (0.8762), and services (0.4814).

Table 10 shows that the mean scores of SMMEs in mining, wholesale and retail differ significantly with mean scores of SMMEs of the other listed sectors. This significant difference means that the SMMEs in the mining, and wholesale and retail sectors contribute more to poverty reduction than other listed SMME sectors. Therefore, these findings suggest that the effect of SMMEs in mining, wholesale and retail in terms of their contribution to poverty reduction is significantly greater than the effect of the other listed SMME sectors.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were made by the study. If implemented, these can enhance the operations of SMMEs in Rustenburg to further reduce poverty.

Governments' support of SMMEs seems to be inadequate as the level of unemployment and poverty are still escalating in South Africa despite the implementation of supporting mechanisms by the government for SMMEs.

Also, SMMEs operate in a highly regulated environment, causing them to face constraints that hinder their growth and survival. Although the study focused on Rustenburg specifically, perhaps a review of the regulatory framework countrywide would enhance the entrepreneurial operations of not only SMMEs in Rustenburg but South Africa at large.

9. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Like every study, some limitations were experienced. One of these limitations was that the given responses were not verified and thus, they remain perceptions. In addition, some of the respondents were unwilling to complete the questionnaires out of fear that their confidential information might be leaked to their competitors. To address this limitation, they were given verbal and written assurance that the study was for academic purposes only and that it would be treated with confidentiality. Also, the study did not reach all areas surrounding the Rustenburg Local Municipality owing to resource constraints. To ensure sufficient time to conduct the study, the researcher, as an employee of an academic institution, utilised his study leave entitlement. In addition, the researcher used some funding from the University of South Africa (UNISA) Postgraduate Fellowship Funds.

10. FURTHER RESEARCH

The focus of this study was on the role played by locally-owned SMMEs operating in Rustenburg. Further studies could be conducted on the role of poverty reduction by foreign-owned SMMEs.

11. CONCLUSIONS

The following practical implications can be drawn from the study. As it has been revealed by this study that most SMMEs play a pivotal role in poverty reduction in Rustenburg, it is now incumbent upon the government to create a conducive environment to enhance the SMME activities. This can be done through an increase in investment in SMMEs' practical development training and provision of sufficient funding.

These findings also create awareness to practising and emerging entrepreneurs, government and other stakeholders of the critical role that SMMEs play in the socio-economic development of South Africa as well as the extent of their contribution to poverty reduction. As a result, these findings may promote entrepreneurial activities in the country as well as motivate government to review the policies pertaining to the regulatory framework that governs the SMMEs sector.

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