



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SAASTA

South African Agency for Science
and Technology Advancement

University of Pretoria

Project Leader: Dr Carin Combrinck

Academic Disciplines: Architecture; Family Medicine; Public Health;
GeoInformatics; Social Entrepreneurship; Leadership; Sustainable Development

Project Description

Rapid urbanisation in South Africa is exacerbating the socio-spatial inequities of apartheid planning, resulting in the emergence of informal settlements across the urban landscape. Since the dawn of democracy in South Africa, policies have been established to assist in this process, most of which have not been implemented successfully. Most concerning is the impact on women and children growing up in these settlements, where pending citizenship status and economic migration intersect with inadequate essential primary care including maternal and child health, dietetic and sanitation facilities and a lack of education opportunities, resulting in the perpetuation of these cycles of poverty and despair (Kittay 2002).

Project Description Continued

These daily frustrations and survivalist strategies undermine the possibility of social cohesion and agency, contributing to a decrease in governance and accountability. Without a collective seat at the table, residents of informal settlements cannot make a meaningful contribution towards the co-production of space as described by Lefebvre (1991), so that their voices cannot be included in the implementation of policies pertaining to them. High-level data collection, surveys and imposed intervention strategies fail to include the communities themselves in unpacking the micro-scale challenges and potential solutions that could serve to address immediate concerns.

Project Description Continued

Through the continued exclusion of communities in the process of research and production of knowledge, policy instruments remain ineffective in addressing the most pressing concerns of human dignity and safety in these settlements.

Research question

- How can fine-grained data collected using the ukuDoba method contribute to the development of Community Action Plans to address immediate challenges of health, dignity, safety and education faced by communities living in the informal settlements of Plastic View, Cemetery View and Melusi in the City Of Tshwane?

Project Team Roles and Responsibilities

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