



Impediments to Effective Youth Participation in Rural Community Development

Hlekani Muchazotida Kabiti, Joseph Francis and Simbarashe Kativhu

*Institute for Rural Development, University of Venda, Private Bag X5050,
Thohoyandou 0950, South Africa*

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ABSTRACT This paper is based on a study conducted in Makhado Municipality of Vhembe District, South Africa. It sought to unearth the factors hindering youth participation in community development. In this sequentially integrated mixed methods study, respondents in phase 1 were purposively sampled. Data were collected in reflection circles established considering gender. The results of the first phase were consolidated into a questionnaire requiring responses on a 10 point Likert-type scale. In phase 2 the questionnaire was administered to the same categories of youth in reflection circles. Descriptive statistics and nonparametric tests for significant differences across gender categories and hindering factors were computed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences. No significant gender differences were raised. It was concluded that youth desire opportunities to demonstrate their community leadership abilities. The need for change in leaders' attitudes regarding the role of youth in development work is evident.