

EDITORIAL



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The year 2012 concluded with the exciting announcement of a third edition of *Africanus*. This materialised after a meeting between the newly formed South African Development Studies Association, Unisa Press and me as editor of *Africanus*. The need for this meeting arose as the association was in need of a publishing forum. This led to the establishing of a third edition of *Africanus*. Both Unisa Press and I had no objection as it would increase the circulation numbers. It was generally a win-win situation for all concerned.

This issue addresses a variety of themes as can be expected of a journal dealing with both debate and practice in development. The focus this time around is mainly geared towards South Africa and to a lesser extent on southern Africa.

It is perhaps not surprising that the first two articles both argue the issue of tourism and the contribution tourism can make to the employment creation in rural areas. In the first article, Rogerson and Hunt examine the potential contribution of tourism to the well-being of rural communities and how it has impacted the development of local economic linkages. Linkages, according to the authors, represent a vital potential mechanism through which to achieve the objectives of pro-poor tourism. The authors further state that the South African policy frameworks for strengthening linkages must be informed by local evidence and draw from international experience. In the second article on tourism, McLaren and Heath establish a framework to identify and link the range of stakeholders in southern African rural tourism routes. Recommendations are made for rural tourism route organisations to engage with stakeholders through an inclusive membership structure of the route organisation.

Sithole and Coetzee, in their article on food aid for internally displaced persons in Zimbabwe, state that these people are among the most neglected and vulnerable in the world. The study on which the article is based was designed to investigate and evaluate how food aid affects the lives of displaced persons. The focus is on understanding the effects of food aid on households' food security, migration trends and asset loss during periods of displacement.

In their article on networks and support, Mukorombindo and Coetzee consider the association between social networks, social capital and social support for a group of poor and vulnerable people. It is based on qualitative and quantitative research conducted in the Grahamstown/Rini area located in

the Eastern Cape. The study shows how those who cannot afford to be members of social security networks still have access to communal social support networks.

In the article by Van Rooyen, Stewart and De Wet, it is stated that big international development donors have only recently started using 'systematic review' as a methodology to assess the effectiveness of various development interventions to help them decide what the 'best' intervention is to spend money on. The authors use the case of a systematic review of the impact microfinance has on the poor in sub-Saharan Africa to indicate how systematic review, as a methodology, can be used to assess the impact of specific development interventions.

Reddy and Govender believe that a democratic and decentralised governance system will promote local development, address poverty reduction, facilitate civic engagement and ensure national integration. They state that despite 'world class' legislation and 'best practice' local governance system, several governance challenges have emerged. These issues will have to be addressed if Chapter 7 of the Constitution has to become more meaningful to the majority of the populace in terms of discharging its development mandate.

Much has been achieved in ensuring equality of access to services, but inequality still persists in terms of regions, 'race' and income. This is the viewpoint of Catherine Ndinda, Ufo Uzodike and Lolita Winaar in their article. Their paper examines equality of access to sanitation across 'race' and region. Recommendations confirm that greater targeting and more innovative strategies are required to ensure that the most vulnerable groups have access to sanitation.

Perry, in his article, considers the prevalence of sustained agricultural practices (particularly large-scale gardens of the homestead) and questions current public debate that permaculture strategy is foreign to South Africa. The paper speaks about recent ethnographic work by the author in rural parts of the Eastern Cape.

In their rhetoric of participation, Fazel Khan, Sultan Khan and Jayanathan Govender examine the level of people's participation in the planning and development of low-income human settlements in three research localities in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. It highlights that, contrary to policy, mandates to create real opportunities for participation by ordinary citizens remain rhetorical and best serve the hegemony of political actors.