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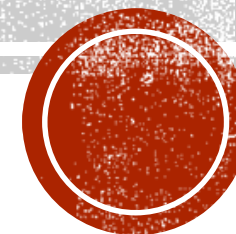
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***ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS(HEI) IN  
CASCADING AND MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT  
POLICIES IN KZN.***

By

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## **STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION**

- 1. Introduction.**
- 2. Purpose of the paper.**
- 3. Challenges of rural areas' communities.**
- 4. Role of HEI in cascading and monitoring the implementation of rural areas development policies in KwaZulu-Natal.**
- 5. Conclusion.**





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# 1. INTRODUCTION

- It has been a tradition for the majority of Higher Education Institutions (Universities and TVET Colleges) to focus on three functions, namely:
  - To provide higher education to the public, mostly students;
  - To do research in various fields in response to both academic and societal demands; and
  - To provide academic and professional services to their communities.
- What has been noticed though is that the provision of academic and professional services to the communities is the most suffering wing function.
- Furthermore, the graduates that these Higher Education Institutions produce find more interest in servicing the urban areas than rural areas although some of these graduates come from the rural areas.
- This leave the rural areas with the problem of continuously being underdeveloped.
- This would have been called elite urbanisation or being attracted by the bright lights of the urban areas instead of making an effort of developing the area where you come from.
- It is an undisputable fact that education forms a very good base for development.
- What one has noticed in South Africa is that during the budget speech, education normally get a biggest slice. Why?
- Simply because education is taken as the basis of whatever development one can think of in these modern days. It is also true that education no matter how informal it is but it is the key to one's development.





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## 2. PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

- This paper aims at revealing some true facts that Higher Education Institutions in association with governmental departments can play in understanding governmental policies which are aimed at developing rural areas in South Africa thus playing a partial role in assisting govt. towards providing solution in the triple challenges which poverty, unemployment and equality.
- The paper also aims at challenging Higher Education Institutions towards revisiting their curriculum so that the curriculum can be speak to the needs of the country and the communities they are servicing.
- The question one asks himself or herself is: What Higher Education Institutions have done to at least compare what they are doing with the National Development Plan 2030.
- How relevant are the research conducted by both students and lecturers to the demands of the National Development Plan or Provincial Development Plan?
- How accessible are the findings of these research to the communities of South Africa or governmental departments?
- Collaboration between Higher Education Institutions and governmental departments is seen as one solution amongst many can be an answer.





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### 3. CHALLENGES OF RURAL AREAS' COMMUNITIES.

- There are many challenges that are associated with the variety of rural areas communities but in this paper one is going to pick up some few.
- Some of these challenges are affecting the whole country and some are only affecting certain sections of the population.
- The triple challenges that almost every South African is well aware of is that of poverty, inequality and unemployment.
- Over and above these challenges some rural areas communities are faced with the problem of illiteracy, poor education, lack of skills, lack of infrastructure, food insecurity, lack of basic facilities and many more.
- Not that the government is not doing anything about these challenges, the government and some Non Profit or NGO has taken some strides towards solving them.
- The question that remains where are some of the Higher Education Institutions.
- What are they doing? How is community services being interpreted by these institutions?
- Is there no space that can be filled by Higher Education Institutions when they work in collaboration with governmental departments towards providing partial solutions in the above mentioned challenges?







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## **4. (A) WHAT ROLE CAN HEI PLAY IN CASCADING AND MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.**

- As it has been afore mentioned that Higher Education Institutions are at the core of providing high quality education, research and community services, they need to be seen working in collaboration with governmental departments in these areas as well.
- Higher Education Institutions have lecturers and professors from different fields with necessary education. They can assist in the interpretation of policies. Interact with the community.
- The engagement between the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) through the Centre for Sustainable Integrated Rural Development has shown the potential of working on the following areas:
  - Provision of Formal Education.
  - Provision of Non Formal Education.
  - Conducting Research on Rural Areas Development.
  - Technology Development and Technology Transfer.





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## **4.(B) WHAT ROLE CAN HEI PLAY IN CASCADING AND MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.**

➤ **Collaborate on areas of technology transfer events such as:-**

- (i) workshops
- (ii) farmers' days
- (iii) symposia
- (iv) seminars

➤ **Collaborate in identifying and conducting *inter alia* the following Outreach and Capacity building activities: -**

- (i) Specific skills Training.
- (ii) Technical Assistance.
- (iii) Advisory service (Extension).
- (iv) Finance access assistance (funding





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## **4.(C) WHAT ROLE CAN HEI PLAY IN CASCADING AND MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.**

- **Collaborate with regard to the promotion of agriculture in schools: -**
  - a) Review Curriculum in schools.
  - b) Vegetable gardens in schools.
  - c) Host workshops at schools with the aim of promoting Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes.
  - d) Initiate and host Agricultural Schools Competition.
  - e) Host career exhibitions.







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## **4.(D) WHAT ROLE CAN HEI PLAY IN CASCADING AND MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.**

- **Collaborate with regard to the promotion of agriculture and rural development in HEI: -**
  - i. Admission of students to HEI**
  - ii. Financial support**
  - iii. Bridging programme**
  - iv. Placement of agriculture graduates to schools**
  - v. Training of educators**
  - vi. Organising career days, field trips**
  - vii. Development of learning and agriculture teaching aids**





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## **4. WHAT ROLE CAN HEI PLAY IN CASCADING AND MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.**

### **➤ Upskilling and Re-training of Educators**

- i.** Provision of short Accredited Courses to Educators.
- ii.** Develop tailor made training programmes based on the identified needs of the educators

### **➤ Work in collaboration with each other towards the development of Integrated Rural Development Strategy in the following areas:**

- ❖** Advancement of Centre for Sustainable Integrated Rural Development.
- ❖** Conceptualizing, developing and offering short training courses, post graduate programmes on sustainable integrated rural development, and developing Community Development Practitioners as a strong focus area.





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- Together with other relevant role players provide input in the development of the Rural Development Strategy. Providing capacity building to local communities, non-governmental organisations (NGO's), community-based organisations (CBO's) and other agencies through relevant training and capacitation programmes. Identify priority areas for collaboration as guided by the national as well as provincial imperatives
- Transferring knowledge and skills to community development initiatives to promote rural economic development and entrepreneurship.
- **Making Communities to Understand Government Initiatives.**
  - Cooperatives.
  - Provincial Development Plan.
  - Understanding of the Rural Development Policies





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## 5. CONCLUSION

Higher Education Institutions in KwaZulu-Natal must come to understand that most of them are found in urban areas but the student population they have come from both rural and urban areas. One justice they can do is to service both these areas with a view of assisting the government in the implementation of both the National Development Plan and the Provincial Development Plan. This can only be done through collaboration. The collaborative work between these two institutions can play a positive role in developing rural areas from all the facets of life.





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**THANK YOU**

