

**SOCIAL STUDY FOR THE
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (EMF) FOR
THE SEDIBENG
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

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1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to address the social issues in respect of the larger report developed by Felehetsa Environmental (Pty) Ltd. This report has been generated as a means of assisting the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment (GDACE) and the Sedibeng District Municipality (SDM) with the Environmental Management Framework for the Sedibeng District Municipality. Towards this end, this chapter is divided into two sections. The first of these sections takes on a comparative stance and focuses on the status quo of the area. The second employs a more predictive approach in addressing the environmental management framework while placing attention on future developments in the area.

2 STATUS QUO

The current social situation in the area is addressed by providing a broad overview of the province of Gauteng and briefly placing the District Municipality of Sedibeng within the context of the Gauteng Province. Following on from this attention is then turned, in a more detailed manner, towards the demographics and social indicators found within the District. In this regard the local municipalities of Emfuleni, Midvaal and Lesedi are discussed and compared against each other within the context of the demographics and social indicators that apply to the entire Sedibeng district.

2.1 Methodology

In an attempt to assess the social status quo in Sedibeng the following data sources were utilised:

- An examination of the Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) for Gauteng Province, Sedibeng District Municipality as well as Emfuleni, Midvaal and Lesedi local municipalities.
- Statistics SA 2001 Census data for the Gauteng Province and the relevant district and local municipalities using new demarcation boundaries as at 9 December 2005, sourced from the Municipal Demarcation Board (<http://www.demarcation.org.za/>).
 - Although outdated, Census 2001 is currently the only officially recognised source of detailed demographic data available at Provincial, Municipal and Ward levels.

- Where appropriate more updated data such as that presented in the Mid-year population estimates (Statistics South Africa, 2006a), the Labour Force Survey (Statistics South Africa, 2006b) and the Community Survey, (Statistics South Africa, 2007) is used.
 - The controversy involving the accuracy of the Community Survey is noted and consequently this data is used on a broad basis and to a limited extent in this report.
- An examination of the 1:50 000 topographic maps for the region.
 - A site visit arranged by officials of Sedibeng District Municipality to the various 'hot spots' in the area as identified by these officials.
 - Interviews with various municipal officials.

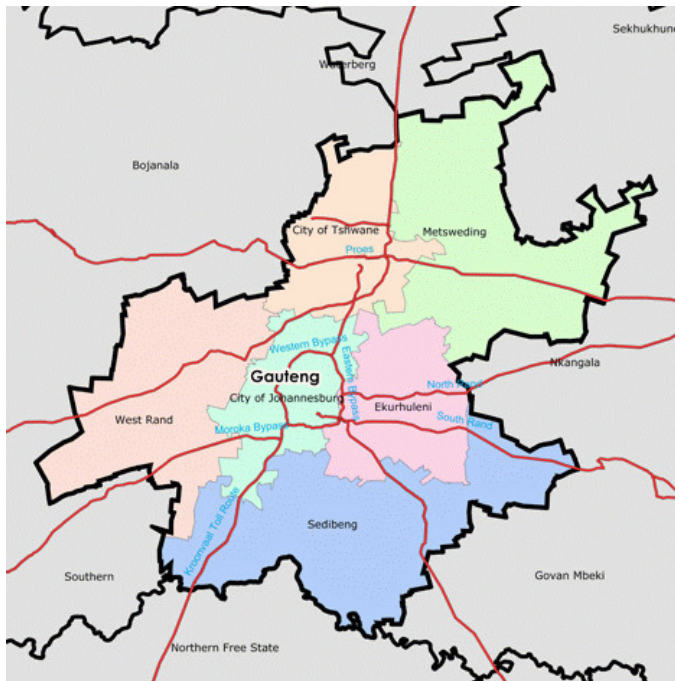
The provincial and municipal context identified by means of this methodology will now be addressed.

2.2 Provincial Context

In terms of land mass, Gauteng is the smallest province in South Africa with a geographical area of 17 010 km² covering approximately 1,4% of the country. Notwithstanding the fact that Gauteng occupies the smallest geographical area of South Africa, it is the most densely populated province with a population of 9, 1 million people in 2001 rising to 10, 5 million in 2007. This reflects a positive change of 20,4% and 13,9% between 1996/2001 and 2001/2007 respectively (Statistics, SA, Community Survey, 2007:7 [due to certain discrepancies, this survey is used here to a limited extent]). A greater proportion of the Gauteng workforce fills professional, technical, managerial and executive positions than occurs in any other province in South Africa. The Province also produces about 38% of the country's GDP and has a 97% level of urbanization. A map of Gauteng is provided in figure 2.1 in which the position of Sedibeng, relative to each of the other five district municipalities within the Province, is illustrated.

According to Statistics South Africa (2001), the majority of the people living in Gauteng are black at 73.8%, The black population group is followed by white 19.9%, coloured 3.8% and Indian/Asian people at 2.5%. IsiZulu is spoken by 22% of the population in the area while 17% speak Afrikaans and 13% speak English.

Figure 2.1 Map of Gauteng Province (Source: Municipal Demarcation Board)



Both agriculture and industry are well catered for in Gauteng and the Province is considered to be a major industrial hub with close on 10 000 firms in the manufacturing sector, employing over 655 000 people. Gauteng Province also incorporates the rapidly expanding “high-tech” corridor of Midrand which illustrates a movement from heavy industry towards the more

sophisticated, higher value-added, technological production. The infrastructure is well developed in the Province with numerous roads, regular public transport and various health, educational and recreational facilities. All this has resulted in a high level of migration as people from the poorer areas of the country migrate to the Province in an attempt to secure work and improve their living conditions. Consequently, this has resulted in a proliferation of informal settlements in certain areas of the Province.

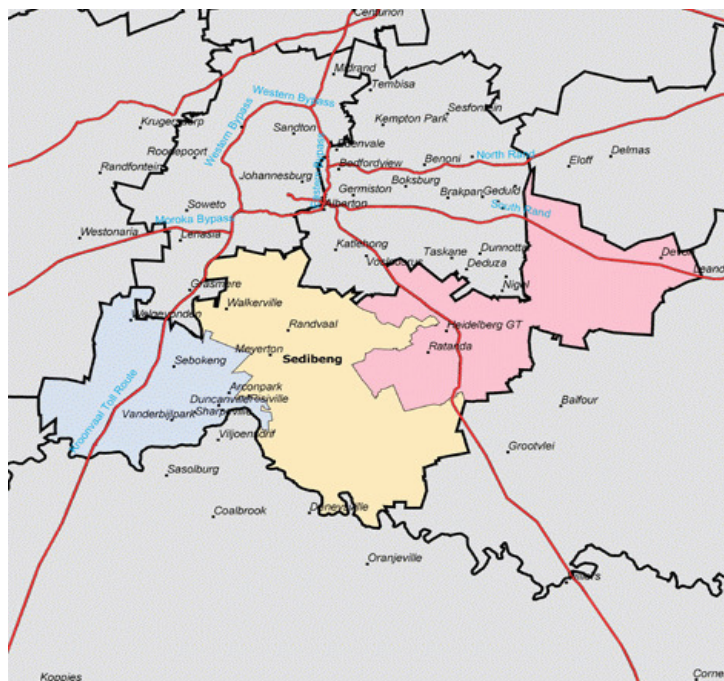
Infrastructure, demographics and industrial sophistication, however, varies to some degree in respect of each of the District Municipalities with those on the fringes such as West Rand, Sedibeng and Metsweding having a more varied industry as well as a larger rural population than the metropolitan municipalities of the City of Tshwane, City of Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni. The District Municipality of Sedibeng, for instance, has a relatively high level of heavy industry and manufacturing particularly in the south west of the district with the ArcelorMittal Steel employing some 5 200 workers at its Vanderbiljpark works and 1 300 at its Vereeniging works.

2.3 District Municipal Context

The District Municipality of Sedibeng (DC42) is situated in the southernmost part of Gauteng, some 35 km south of Johannesburg and includes the towns of Vereeniging,

Sharpeville, Vanderbiljpark Heidelberg and Meyerton. The heavy industry of the region is most apparent in the Vereeniging and Vanderbiljpark areas.

Figure 2.2 Map of the Sedibeng District (Source: Municipal Demarcation Board)



This district, bordered by the Free State Province in the south and Mpumalanga Province in the east, covers an area of just over 4 200.3 km², and incorporates three local municipalities, Emfuleni (GT421), Midvaal (GT422) and Lesedi (GT423) as illustrated in figure 2.2 below.

According to Statistics South Africa (Census, 2001), the Sedibeng District Municipality has an overall population of 796 756 people. Of these people, the majority, 658 417, live in the Emfuleni Local Municipality, 64 640 reside in Midvaal while 73 689 live in Lesedi. The Sedibeng Integrated Development Plan (IDP), however, indicates that the population growth rate is 1.8% pa. On a geographical basis Midvaal covers the largest area at 2312 km², while Emfuleni has an area of 1276 km² and Lesedi an area of 1042 km² (Sedibeng IDP, 2006-2007). This large discrepancy in geographical areas and the distribution of the population of Sedibeng across the local municipalities is illustrated in Table 2.1 and must be kept in mind throughout this report.

Table 2.1 Population of Sedibeng

Municipality	Area	% of Area	Population	Population Density	Overall % of population
Emfuleni Local Municipality GT421	1276 km ²	27.6	658 417	516.00/Km ²	82.6
Midvaal Local Municipality GT422	2312 km ²	49.9	64 640	27.95/Km ²	8.1
Lesedi Local Municipality GT423	1042 km ²	22.5	73 689	70.71/Km ²	9.2
Sedibeng District Municipality DC42	4630 km ²	100	796 756	172.08/Km ²	100.0

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

Although there are no official Statistics SA indications the growth of the Sedibeng population between 2001 and 2008 the Sedibeng IDP refers to there being a total population of 1,362,000 people in Sedibeng in 2006 (2007:13). The IDP refers to the source of this data as being through “Municipal sources”.

Using Statistics SA’s Census 2001 data sourced from the Municipal Demarcation Board, the demographics and social indicators applicable to this population will now be described. Percentages used below are calculated in respect of each municipality’s overall population.

2.3.1 Population groupings

Under this heading the breakdown of race, language and gender in the District Municipality of Sedibeng and the local municipalities of Emfuleni, Midvaal and Lesedi is addressed.

- **Race**

The vast majority of this population, 81.7%, comprises of black people, followed by white, 16.4%, coloured, 1.1%, and Indian/Asian, 0.9%, people. The total population of Sedibeng stood at 796 746 at the time of Census in 2001 (Statistics SA). While Emfuleni has the highest percentage of black people and the lowest percentage of white people living in the area Midvaal has the lowest percentage of black people and the highest percentage of white people. The full racial breakdown of the population of Sedibeng is described below in table 2.2.

Table 2.2 Racial distribution

Population Group	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
Black African	650786	81.7%	553304	84.0%	38168	59.0%	59314	80.5%
Coloured	8747	1.1%	7010	1.1%	888	1.4%	849	1.2%
Indian or Asian	6806	0.9%	5891	0.9%	289	0.4%	626	0.8%
White	130407	16.4%	92212	14.0%	25295	39.1%	12900	17.5%
Total	796746	100%	658417	100%	64640	100%	73689	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- **Language**

Most of the people in Sedibeng, 48.6%, speak Sesotho at home while 16.9% speak IsiZulu and 15% speak Afrikaans. A relatively high proportion of the Midvaal population at 29.3% speak Afrikaans while a high percentage of the Lesedi population, 43.5%, speak IsiZulu although on a numerical basis there are more

Afrikaans and IsiZulu speaking people living in Emfuleni than in Midvaal and Lesedi. The distribution of language in the area is indicated by means of table 2.3.

Table 2.3 Language

Language	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
Afrikaans	119380	15.0%	88001	13.4%	18969	29.3%	12410	16.8%
English	30297	3.8%	19918	3.0%	8108	12.5%	2271	3.1%
IsiNdebele	3859	0.5%	1375	0.2%	227	0.4%	2257	3.1%
IsiXhosa	69140	8.7%	60661	9.2%	4730	7.3%	3749	5.1%
IsiZulu	134328	16.9%	93893	14.3%	8373	13.0%	32062	43.5%
Sepedi	12706	1.6%	10401	1.6%	1333	2.1%	972	1.3%
Sesotho	386948	48.6%	349024	53.0%	20237	31.3%	17687	24.0%
Setswana	21649	2.7%	19897	3.0%	1072	1.7%	680	0.9%
SiSwati	4378	0.5%	3245	0.5%	386	0.6%	747	1.0%
Tshivenda	2609	0.3%	2135	0.3%	279	0.4%	195	0.3%
Xitsonga	7755	1.0%	6737	1.0%	599	0.9%	419	0.6%
Other	3689	0.5%	3129	0.5%	324	0.5%	236	0.3%
Total	796738	100%	658416	100%	64637	100%	73685	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- Gender

On a gender basis 50.7% of the population of Sedibeng are female and 49.3% are male. At the municipal level there is a slightly higher percentage of males in Midvaal and Lesedi as opposed to Emfuleni, where the percentage of females is marginally higher. This data is illustrated below in table 2.4.

Table 2.4 Gender

Gender	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
Female	380361	50.7%	316011	50.9%	29525	48.8%	34825	49.9%
Male	370251	49.3%	304352	49.1%	30927	51.2%	34972	50.1%
Total	750612	100%	620363	100%	60452	100%	69797	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

2.3.2 Age and education

- Age

The majority of the population of Sedibeng, 56.4%, are under the age of 30, while 20.8% fall between the ages of 20 and 29 and 70% fall within the economically active age group of 15 and 64. At the municipal level Midvaal has a slightly older population with 51.5% of its population being under the age of 30. At 71.3% Midvaal has the highest percentage of the population falling within the economically active

age group. The distribution of age amongst the population is illustrated below by means of table 2.5.

Table 2.5 Distribution of age

Age	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
0-4	64898	8.1%	53739	8.2%	4932	7.6%	6227	8.5%
5-9	68082	8.5%	56326	8.6%	4998	7.7%	6758	9.2%
10-14	72433	9.1%	59935	9.1%	5484	8.5%	7014	9.5%
15-19	78006	9.8%	65037	9.9%	5602	8.7%	7367	10.0%
20-24	84789	10.6%	71493	10.9%	5944	9.2%	7352	10.0%
25-29	80667	10.1%	66919	10.2%	6334	9.8%	7414	10.1%
30-34	67620	8.5%	55812	8.5%	5610	8.7%	6198	8.4%
35-39	63952	8.0%	52722	8.0%	5515	8.5%	5715	7.8%
40-44	56957	7.1%	46966	7.1%	4962	7.7%	5029	6.8%
45-49	46137	5.8%	38056	5.8%	4188	6.5%	3893	5.3%
50-54	35036	4.4%	28632	4.3%	3284	5.1%	3120	4.2%
55-59	24889	3.1%	19891	3.0%	2687	4.2%	2311	3.1%
60-64	19347	2.4%	15566	2.4%	1938	3.0%	1843	2.5%
65-69	13351	1.7%	10768	1.6%	1263	2.0%	1320	1.8%
70-74	9138	1.1%	7371	1.1%	842	1.3%	925	1.3%
75-79	5373	0.7%	4348	0.7%	502	0.8%	523	0.7%
>80	6057	0.8%	4831	0.7%	550	0.9%	676	0.9%
Total	796732	100%	658412	100%	64635	100%	73685	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- **Education**

31% of the population of Sedibeng have no more than a primary school level of education while 37.3% have had some secondary schooling. This means that 68.3% of the population has less than a Std 10 or Grade 12 level of education and only 31.7% have an education level of Std 10/Grade 12 or higher. In contrast, at the provincial level 58.7% of the population of Gauteng have less than a Std 10 or Grade 12 level of education and 41.3% have an education level of Std 10/Grade 12 or higher. This indicates that Sedibeng lags behind the Province somewhat in respect of level of education.

Discrepancies in respect of education are also evident on the municipal level. In this regard Midvaal fares best with 34.7% of its population having a Std 10/Grade 12 or higher level of education. Emfuleni has 32% of its population having an equivalent level of education and Lesedi only has 25.9% of its population with an education level of Std 10/Grade 12 and above. This data is illustrated below in table 2.6.

Table 2.6 Education

Education	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
No schooling	52962	10.3%	40219	9.5%	5087	11.7%	7656	16.5%
Some primary	75445	14.7%	60042	14.2%	7133	16.4%	8270	17.9%
Complete primary	30628	6.0%	25628	6.1%	2093	4.8%	2907	6.3%
Some secondary	191566	37.3%	161868	38.2%	14201	32.6%	15497	33.5%
Std 10/Grade 12	122727	23.9%	102568	24.2%	10978	25.2%	9181	19.8%
Higher	39996	7.8%	33054	7.8%	4131	9.5%	2811	6.1%
Total	513324	100%	423379	100%	43623	100%	46322	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

2.3.3 Employment and occupation

Under this section attention will be given to industry, occupation, personal income and employment status.

- **Industry**

Most workers in the district, 6.8% are employed in the community services sector followed by the manufacturing sector at 5.3%, and the wholesale/retail sector at 4.2%. There seems to be an anomaly in respect of the available statistics as they indicate that there are no workers employed in private households yet there are 595 580 respondents (77.3%) who are undetermined. It is most likely that many of these workers classified as undetermined are employed in private households. This situation also holds true for the whole of the Gauteng Province as Statistics South Africa indicates that in respect of Gauteng, 69.7% of worker's industries are undetermined.

Considering this data, on a municipal level Midvaal is strongest in respect of manufacturing, wholesale & retail, business services and, along with Lesedi, agriculture. The distribution of workers across the different industries is reflected by means of table 2.7. It would be interesting to establish the number of workers employed in the hospitality industry particularly amongst the resorts along the Vaal River, however, this information is not available.

Table 2.7 Industry

Industry	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
Agric related work	8145	1.1%	2956	0.5%	2379	4.0%	2810	4.0%
Mining, Quarrying	1742	0.2%	1239	0.2%	276	0.5%	227	0.3%
Manufacturing	41090	5.3%	34246	5.3%	4093	6.9%	2751	3.9%
Electricity, gas, water	2964	0.4%	2369	0.4%	498	0.8%	97	0.1%
Construction	10457	1.4%	7866	1.2%	1467	2.5%	1124	1.6%
Wholesale, Retail	32579	4.2%	26830	4.2%	3153	5.3%	2596	3.7%
Transport, Comm	9118	1.2%	7312	1.1%	839	1.4%	967	1.4%
Business Services	16963	2.2%	13315	2.1%	2307	3.9%	1341	1.9%
Community Services	52266	6.8%	41064	6.4%	4890	8.2%	6312	8.9%
Private Household	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		0.0%	0	0.0%
Undetermined	595580	77.3%	503629	78.6%	39473	66.5%	52478	74.2%
Extra Territ Orgs		0.0%	2956	0.0%		0.0%		0.0%
Rep Foreign Gov	0	0.0%	1239	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	770904	100%	34246	100%	59375	100%	70703	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- Occupation

The majority of workers in the district, 25.8%, fill elementary occupations followed by “other” occupations at 13.8% and clerks and plant operators at 11%. At the local municipal level, Midvaal has the highest percentage of its population occupying the position of “senior official” but also has the highest percentage occupying elementary occupations. The distribution of occupations amongst workers in the Sedibeng District Municipality is illustrated in table 2.8.

Table 2.8 Occupation

Occupation	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
Senior Officials	10714	5.3%	7852	5.1%	1988	7.9%	874	4.1%
Professionals	12421	6.2%	9886	6.4%	1588	6.3%	947	4.5%
Tech/Assoc Prof	18049	9.0%	14857	9.6%	1819	7.2%	1373	6.5%
Clerks	22175	11.0%	18351	11.9%	2313	9.2%	1511	7.1%
Service workers	21071	10.5%	17392	11.2%	1655	6.6%	2024	9.5%
Skilled agric work	3498	1.7%	1097	0.7%	1102	4.4%	1299	6.1%
Other	27712	13.8%	22014	14.2%	3089	12.3%	2609	12.3%
Elementary occupations	51626	25.7%	37306	24.1%	8163	32.4%	6157	29.0%
Occupations NEC	11856	5.9%	7933	5.1%	1681	6.7%	2242	10.6%
Plant Operators	22037	11.0%	18098	11.7%	1767	7.0%	2172	10.2%
Total	201159	100%	154786	100%	25165	100%	21208	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- Personal income

The situation regarding personal income is indicated in table 3.9 which shows that 66.4% of people in the region have no income while 92.6% earn less than R3 201 per month. Again Midvaal fares best in respect of personal income with 53.6% of the

population having no income and 87.2% having an income of less than R3 201. Of all the local municipalities, Emfuleni fare worst with 68.3% of its population having no income and 93.1% having an income of less than R 3 201. At the top end of the scale Midvaal consistently shows a higher percentage of the population earning at these higher levels than do any of the other local municipalities. This data is illustrated in table 2.9 below.

Table 2.9 Personal income

Personal Income	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
No income	529253	66.4%	449882	68.3%	34625	53.6%	44746	60.7%
R1 - R400	39108	4.9%	27558	4.2%	4807	7.4%	6743	9.2%
R401 - R800	73082	9.2%	56980	8.7%	7717	11.9%	8385	11.4%
R801 - R1 600	49532	6.2%	40122	6.1%	4950	7.7%	4460	6.1%
R1 601 - R3 200	46663	5.9%	38262	5.8%	4264	6.6%	4137	5.6%
R3 201 - R6 400	33307	4.2%	26333	4.0%	4058	6.3%	2916	4.0%
R6 401 - R12 800	17178	2.2%	13061	2.0%	2656	4.1%	1461	2.0%
R12 801 - R25 600	5673	0.7%	4151	0.6%	1035	1.6%	487	0.7%
R25 601 - R51 200	1496	0.2%	1043	0.2%	273	0.4%	180	0.2%
R51 201 - R102 400	689	0.1%	454	0.1%	130	0.2%	105	0.1%
R102401-R204800	573	0.1%	445	0.1%	84	0.1%	44	0.1%
R204 801 or more	183	0.0%	125	0.0%	37	0.1%	21	0.0%
Total	796737	100%	658416	100%	64636	100%	73685	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- **Employment status**

27.8% of people in the area are regarded as unemployed. It is, however, likely that, in real terms, this figure is much higher as the definition of unemployment requires that a person classified as unemployed is actively looking for employment. Unfortunately, many people fall outside of this definition as they become disillusioned and give up actively looking for employment. An additional complication driving poverty in the district is that 36.6% of people are not economically active.

At 53.5% Midvaal has the highest level of employment and, consequently, the lowest levels of unemployment and economic inactivity. Emfuleni has the lowest level of employment at 33.1%. The employment status is reflected in table 2.10.

Table 2.10 Employment status

Employment Status	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
Employed	199257	35.5%	153654	33.1%	24805	53.5%	20798	41.1%
Unemployed	155901	27.8%	137109	29.6%	7369	15.9%	11423	22.6%
Not economically active	205428	36.6%	172877	37.3%	14192	30.6%	18359	36.3%
Total	560586	100%	463640	100%	46366	100%	50580	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

The Sedibeng IDP (2007:27) places unemployment levels in the District at 58% for women and 24% for men, these levels are probably a more realistic reflection of the situation in Sedibeng than the Statistics SA figures portray.

2.3.4 Households

Households are discussed in respect of the gender of the head of the household, household income, size, number of rooms and tenure status.

- Gender

66% of households are headed by males and 34% by females as illustrated in table 2.11. Lesedi has the highest percentage of male headed households at 68.3% while Midvaal has the highest percentage of female headed households at 51.2%.

Table 2.11 Household gender

Household Gender	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
Male	152206	66.0%	123100	64.7%	15682	48.8%	13424	68.3%
Female	78432	34.0%	67059	35.3%	5148	51.2%	6225	31.7%
Total	230638	100%	190159	100%	20830	100%	19649	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- Income

87.4% of households in the district of Sedibeng have an income of less than R76 800 per annum or R6 400 per month compared to 79.5% in Gauteng Province. 22.9% of households in the District have no income at all compared to 19.4% in the Province.

The lowest level of households having no income is in Midvaal at 12.0% with the highest, at 22.9%, being in Emfuleni. Table 2.12 illustrates the distribution of household income in the Sedibeng District Municipality.

Table 2.12 Household income

Household Income	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
No income	52932	22.9%	47320	24.9%	2496	12.0%	3116	15.8%
R1 - R4 800	16583	7.2%	12593	6.6%	2027	9.7%	1963	10.0%
R4 801 - R 9 600	35880	15.5%	28596	15.0%	3744	18.0%	3540	18.0%
R9 601 - R 19 200	37859	16.4%	30680	16.1%	3553	17.1%	3626	18.4%
R19 201 - R 38 400	34496	14.9%	28840	15.2%	2602	12.5%	3054	15.5%
R38 401 - R 76 800	23936	10.4%	19964	10.5%	2090	10.0%	1882	9.6%
R76 801 - R153 600	16359	7.1%	12843	6.8%	2150	10.3%	1366	6.9%
R153 601-R307 200	8686	3.8%	6525	3.4%	1465	7.0%	696	3.5%
R307 201-R614 400	2547	1.1%	1822	1.0%	469	2.3%	256	1.3%
R614 401-R1 228 800	587	0.3%	407	0.2%	107	0.5%	73	0.4%
R1 228 801-R245 600	495	0.2%	373	0.2%	77	0.4%	45	0.2%
R2 457 601 , more	262	0.1%	191	0.1%	44	0.2%	27	0.1%
Not Applicable	145	0.1%	76	0.0%	9	0.0%	60	0.3%
Total	230767	100%	190230	100%	20833	100%	19704	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- Household Size

In the Sedibeng district 74.6% of households consist of four or less members, while only 14.4% comprise of six or more members. Amongst the local municipalities, 82.8% of households in Midvaal consist of four or less members while in Emfuleni it is 73.6% and in Lesedi 72.1%. These figures are represented in Table 2.13.

Table 2.13 Household size

Household Size	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
One	42629	18.5%	33927	17.8%	5134	24.6%	3568	18.1%
Two	47969	20.8%	38112	20.0%	5740	27.6%	4117	20.9%
Three	41324	17.9%	34692	18.2%	3356	16.1%	3276	16.6
Four	40184	17.4%	33926	17.8%	3020	14.5%	3238	16.4
Five	25489	11.0%	21603	11.4%	1703	8.2%	2183	11.1
Six	14961	6.5%	12729	6.7%	887	4.3%	1345	6.8
Seven	8152	3.5%	6899	3.6%	465	2.2%	788	4.0
Eight	4524	2.0%	3787	2.0%	251	1.2%	486	2.5
Nine	2455	1.1%	2075	1.1%	109	0.5%	271	1.4
Ten and over	3082	1.3%	2482	1.3%	169	0.8%	431	2.2
Total	230769	100%	190232	100%	20834	100%	19703	100.0

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- Number of rooms

The majority of the households in the district, 68.1%, are accommodated in dwellings with four or less rooms while 32.4% stay in two room residences. Again, on a percentage of population basis, Midvaal fares best with 58.2% of households being accommodated in residence of four or less rooms while 33% are accommodated in houses with 6 or more rooms. The corresponding figures for Lesedi are 61.8% and

28.5% and for Emfuleni 69.8% and 19.8%. Midvaal also shows the highest number of single person households at 24.6% and one room residences at 21%. Table 2.14 illustrates the distribution of rooms in respect of residences in Sedibeng.

Table 2.14 Number of rooms

Number of Rooms	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
One	30067	13.0%	23803	12.5%	4368	21.0%	1896	9.6%
Two	44807	19.4%	38815	20.4%	3658	17.6%	2334	11.8%
Three	20834	9.0%	16841	8.9%	1977	9.5%	2016	10.2%
Four	61359	26.6%	53292	28.0%	2133	10.2%	5934	30.1%
Five	23536	10.2%	19813	10.4%	1824	8.8%	1899	9.6%
Six	20741	9.0%	16385	8.6%	2133	10.2%	2223	11.3
Seven	11139	4.8%	8514	4.5%	1421	6.8%	1204	6.1
Eight	6589	2.9%	4832	2.5%	969	4.7%	788	4.0
Nine	3208	1.4%	2378	1.3%	473	2.3%	357	1.8
Over Ten	3588	1.6%	2438	1.3%	702	3.4%	448	2.3
Not Applicable	4904	2.1%	3121	1.6%	1178	5.7%	605	3.1
Total	230772	100%	190232	100%	20836	100%	19704	9.6

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- Tenure status

33.2% of homes in the District are fully paid up while 20.3% still owe on their houses and 22.5% are rented. As table 2.15 indicates 34.3% of houses in Emfuleni are fully paid and in Midvaal 41.5% of homes are occupied rent free.

Table 2.15 Tenure status

Tenure Status	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
Owned, Fully Paid	76532	33.2%	65187	34.3%	4033	19.4%	7312	37.1%
Owned, Not Paid	46849	20.3%	40468	21.3%	3911	18.8%	2470	12.5%
Rented	52016	22.5%	44803	23.6%	3062	14.7%	4151	21.1%
Occupied rent-free	50339	21.8%	36583	19.2%	8644	41.5%	5112	25.9%
Not applicable	5041	2.2%	3193	1.7%	1187	5.7%	661	3.4%
Total	230777	100%	190234	100%	20837	100%	19706	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- Energy source

Over 71% of households in Sedibeng use electricity for cooking, heating and lighting. The highest percentage of household electricity use occurs in Emfuleni with 81.4% of households using electricity for cooking, 75.3% for heating and 89.8% for lighting.

The next highest percentage of energy use is somewhat varied with 30.8% of the Midvaal population using paraffin for cooking and 30.1% of the Lesedi population using coal for heating purposes. In respect of lighting, 33.6% of the Midvaal

population use candles for lighting. A comparison of the household use of the various energy sources is given below in table 2.16.

Table 2.16 Energy source

Energy Cooking	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
Electricity	177316	76.8%	154891	81.4%	12212	58.6	10213	51.8%
Gas	3137	1.4%	2096	1.1%	707	3.4	334	1.7%
Paraffin	36679	15.9%	26161	13.8%	6427	30.8	4091	20.8%
Wood	2812	1.2%	1049	0.6%	905	4.3	858	4.4%
Coal	9527	4.1%	5192	2.7%	412	2.0	3923	19.9%
Animal dung	548	0.2%	292	0.2%	80	0.4	176	0.9%
Solar	360	0.2%	267	0.1%	52	0.2	41	0.2%
Other	388	0.2%	282	0.1%	41	0.2	65	0.3%
Not Applicable	6	0.0%	3	0.0%	0	0.0	3	0.0%
Total	230773	100%	190233	100%	20836	100%	19704	100%
Energy Heating								
Electricity	164049	71.1%	143331	75.3%	11600	55.7	9118	46.3%
Gas	2871	1.2%	1976	1.0%	617	3.0	278	1.4%
Paraffin	19019	8.2%	13889	7.3%	3020	14.5	2110	10.7%
Wood	6595	2.9%	2609	1.4%	2690	12.9	1296	6.6%
Coal	29870	12.9%	21971	11.5%	1970	9.5	5929	30.1%
Animal dung	460	0.2%	209	0.1%	64	0.3	187	0.9%
Solar	484	0.2%	377	0.2%	59	0.3	48	0.2%
Other	7423	3.2%	5868	3.1%	817	3.9	738	3.7%
Not Applicable	6	0.0%	3	0.0%	0	0.0	3	0.0%
Total	230777	100%	190233	100%	20837	100%	19707	100%
Energy Lighting								
Electricity	197908	85.8%	170789	89.8%	13093	62.8	14026	71.2%
Gas	378	0.2%	243	0.1%	83	0.4	52	0.3%
Paraffin	2550	1.1%	1634	0.9%	576	2.8	340	1.7%
Candles	29395	12.7%	17201	9.0%	6996	33.6	5198	26.4%
Solar	219	0.1%	155	0.1%	35	0.2	29	0.1%
Other	322	0.1%	209	0.1%	54	0.3	59	0.3%
Not Applicable	6	0.0%	3	0.0%	0	0.0	3	0.0%
Total	230778	100%	190234	100%	20837	100%	19707	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- **Refuse disposal**

The most common refuse disposal system in the district is a weekly municipal removal system. The highest percentage of households having a weekly refuse removal system is found in Lesedi at 62.8%. The second most common refuse disposal system is the use of an "own refuse dump" system. The highest percentage of households using the own refuse dump disposal system can be found in Midvaal with 40.6% of households using this type of refuse disposal system. The highest percentage of households having no access to a refuse disposal system is in

Emfuleni at 8.8% which accounts for 16 705 households. Access to refuse disposal systems is illustrated in table 2.17.

Table 2.17 Refuse disposal

Refuse	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
Removed once week	111 877	48.5%	89 073	46.8%	10 430	50.1%	12 374	62.8%
Removed less often	6079	2.6%	4 023	2.1%	241	1.2%	1 815	9.2%
Communal dump	23 528	10.2%	22 498	11.8%	688	3.3%	342	1.7%
Own refuse dump	70 278	30.5%	57 931	30.5%	8 465	40.6%	3 882	19.7%
No Disposal	19 009	8.2%	16 705	8.8%	1 013	4.9%	1 291	6.6%
Not Applicable	6	0.0%	3	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.05
Total	230 777	100%	190 233	100%	20 837	100%	19 707	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- Toilet facilities

79.9% of households in Sedibeng have access to flush toilets connected to a sewer system. In Emfuleni at 84.7% the highest percentage of households have access to the flush toilet sewer system while in Midvaal, at 49.5%, the lowest percentage of households have access to the flush toilet sewer system. In Midvaal 21% of household rely on a pit latrine WO/vent system and 15.6% on a flush toilet tank system. Lesedi has the highest percentage of households with no access to any toilet facility at 6.9%. Table 2.18 displays the availability of toilet facilities in the Sedibeng district.

Table 2.18 Toilet facilities

Toilet	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
Flush toilet sewer	184450	79.9%	161154	84.7%	10304	49.5%	12992	65.9%
Flush toil tank	7141	3.1%	2978	1.6%	3256	15.6%	907	4.6%
Chemical toilet	1170	0.5%	787	0.4%	307	1.5%	76	0.4%
Pit latrine W/vent	2501	1.1%	1433	0.8%	886	4.3%	182	0.9%
Pit latrine WO/vent	24122	10.5%	17998	9.5%	4381	21.0%	1743	8.8%
Bucket latrine	5245	2.3%	1966	1.0%	832	4.0%	2447	12.4%
None	6138	2.7%	3913	2.1%	870	4.2%	1355	6.9%
Not Applicable	6	0.0%	3	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.0%
Total	230 773	100%	190 232	100%	20 836	100%	19 705	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- Telephones

Although most households in the Sedibeng district do not have telephones or cellular phones within the dwellings most, 44.2%, are close to public telephones. Midvaal has the highest percentage of households that have access to either telephones or cellular phones within the dwelling while Emfuleni has the highest percentage of

households making use of public telephones that are close to the dwelling. This data is illustrated in table 2.19.

Table 2.19 Telephones

Telephone	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
Tel/cell(dwelling)	34739	15.1%	27343	14.4%	4676	22.4%	2720	13.8%
Tel(dwell only)	27829	12.1%	23903	12.6%	1831	8.8%	2095	10.6%
Cell-phone only	45118	19.6%	37891	19.9%	3873	18.6%	3354	17.0%
Near neighbour	9721	4.2%	7003	3.7%	1593	7.6%	1125	5.7%
Near Public Telephone	101979	44.2%	85539	45.0%	7644	36.7%	8796	44.6%
Nearby	3879	1.7%	3153	1.7%	383	1.8%	343	1.7%
Far	2845	1.2%	2211	1.2%	372	1.8%	262	1.3%
No Tele access	4519	2.0%	3114	1.6%	455	2.2%	950	4.8%
Not Applicable	145	0.1%	76	0.0%	9	0.0%	60	0.3%
Total	230774	100%	190233	100%	20836	100%	19705	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- **Water**

In respect of water, most households, 45.9% rely on water collected from a regional location (community tap), while 23.6% have water piped into their dwelling and 20.4% have water piped to the yard. Emfuleni has the highest percentage of water piped to the dwellings and, at 25.3%, Lesedi has the highest percentage of water piped to the yard. In Midvaal a relatively high percentage of households, 14%, use borehole water as is illustrated in table 2.20.

Table 2.20 Water

Water	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
No Access to Pipe	3797	0.8%	2052	0.5%	931	2.2%	814	2.1%
Pipe water(dwelling)	109053	23.6%	96286	25.3%	8479	20.3%	4288	10.9%
Pipe water(yard)	94217	20.4%	76616	20.1%	7616	18.3%	9985	25.3%
Pipe water<200m	11941	2.6%	7777	2.0%	1729	4.1%	2435	6.2%
Pipe water>200m	11766	2.5%	7501	2.0%	2082	5.0%	2183	5.5%
Regional Local School	211972	45.9%	182497	48.0%	13694	32.9%	15781	40.0%
Borehole	12533	2.7%	3900	1.0%	5818	14.0%	2815	7.1%
Spring	172	0.0%	55	0.0%	32	0.1%	85	0.2%
Rain-water tank	1579	0.3%	787	0.2%	412	1.0%	380	1.0%
Dam/pool/stagnant	669	0.1%	452	0.1%	80	0.2%	137	0.3%
River/stream	525	0.1%	179	0.0%	241	0.6%	105	0.3%
Water vendor	2474	0.5%	1823	0.5%	395	0.9%	256	0.6%
Other	845	0.2%	537	0.1%	164	0.4%	144	0.4%
Not Applicable	6	0.0%	3	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.0%
Not Applicable Pip	6	0.0%	3	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.0%
Total	461555	100%	380468	100%	41673	100%	39414	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

- Type of dwelling

Most dwellings, 69.5%, are house or brick structures on a separate stand or yard. At the municipal level Emfuleni has the greatest number of dwellings with 187 042 compared to the 18 401 in Lesedi and the 19 652 in Midvaal. At 70.6%, Emfuleni also has the largest percentage of house or brick structure on a separate stand which amounts to a total of 131 976 dwellings compared to the 12 331 in Midvaal and the 12 215 in Lesedi.

The distribution of the types of dwellings in Midvaal is more diverse than it is in Emfuleni and Lesedi. In Midvaal a relatively high percentage of people, 12.8%, live in a house/flat/room in a back yard while 11.5% live in an informal/squatter settlement. In Lesedi 13.6% of dwellings take the form of informal/squatter settlements. On a numerical basis, however, and due to the greater population size Emfuleni has the greatest number of informal dwellings in an informal settlement at 17 200 compared to the 2 255 in Midvaal and the 2 501 in Lesedi. The distribution of types of dwellings throughout the district is illustrated in Table 2.21.

Table 2.21 Type of dwelling

Type of dwelling	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
House or brick structure on a separate stand or yard	156521	69.5%	131976	70.6%	12331	62.7%	12215	66.4%
Traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials	3611	1.6%	2692	1.4%	379	1.9%	536	2.9%
Flat in block of flats	7479	3.3%	6989	3.7%	195	1.0%	298	1.6%
Town/cluster/semi-detached house (simplex: duplex: triplex)	5145	2.3%	4250	2.3%	373	1.9%	525	2.9%
House/flat/room in back yard	11980	5.3%	8102	4.3%	2506	12.8%	1371	7.5%
Informal dwelling/shack in back yard	15287	6.8%	13576	7.3%	1014	5.2%	697	3.8%
Informal dwelling/shack NOT in back yard e.g. in an informal/squatter settlement	21956	9.8%	17200	9.2%	2255	11.5%	2501	13.6%
Room/flatlet not in back yard but on a shared property	2330	1.0%	1642	0.9%	484	2.5%	200	1.1%
Caravan or tent	418	0.2%	249	0.1%	112	0.6%	58	0.3%
Private ship/boat	374	0.2%	366	0.2%	3	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	225101	100%	187042	100%	19652	100%	18401	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

2.3.5 Mode of transport

The most common mode of transport throughout the Sedibeng district is walking with 23.5% of the population commuting on foot and 10.1% using minibus/taxis. A

relatively high percentage of the Midvaal population, 12.8%, use a car as the driver, while 9.6% use a car as the passenger. Apart from walking the most common mode of transport in Emfuleni is the minibus/taxi at 10.8%. This is also the case in Lesedi with 9.7% of the population of Lesedi using the minibus/taxi. In Midvaal 6.7% of the population use a bus as a regular means of transport. Transport use within the district is illustrated in table 2.17.

Table 2.22 Mode of transport

Mode of Transport	Sedibeng		Emfuleni		Midvaal		Lesedi	
Not applicable	388030	48.7%	326261	49.6%	28452	44.0%	33317	45.2%
On foot	186953	23.5%	154410	23.5%	12723	19.7%	19820	26.9%
Bicycle	7433	0.9%	6040	0.9%	724	1.1%	669	0.9%
Motorcycle	2051	0.3%	1466	0.2%	291	0.5%	294	0.4%
Car as a driver	51798	6.5%	39138	5.9%	8247	12.8%	4413	6.0%
Car passenger	35935	4.5%	25017	3.8%	6225	9.6%	4693	6.4%
Minibus/taxi	80388	10.1%	70999	10.8%	2221	3.4%	7168	9.7%
Bus	29254	3.7%	22197	3.4%	4328	6.7%	2729	3.7%
Train	12797	1.6%	11465	1.7%	1113	1.7%	219	0.3%
Other	2101	0.3%	1423	0.2%	313	0.5%	365	0.5%
Total	796740	100%	658416	100%	64637	100%	73687	100%

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board Statistics SA Census 2001

Having provided a sketch of the overall demographics in the Sedibeng District Municipality, attention will now be turned to a discussion of the socio-economic context of the district.

3 DISCUSSION

In commencing this discussion it is reiterated that the above demographic description is based on Census 2001 data which, although somewhat outdated, is the only officially recognised source of comprehensive data that extends to a district and local municipal, as well as to ward levels, that is currently available. However, where appropriate, use is also made of more up-to-date data sets such as the Mid-Year Population Estimates, South Africa 2006 and the Community Survey, 2007, despite the fact that the Mid-Year Population Estimate is limited to the national and provincial levels and that the accuracy of the Community Survey has been questioned.

The Sedibeng GDS Discussion Document (2007:9-10) and IDP (2007) indicates that Sedibeng's population growth rate, based on 2004 data sourced through Global Insight, "... had a higher growth rate than the National and Gauteng average" and that "... in common with larger (Provincial and National) trends it can be seen how

the rate trend shows decline.” The fact that, between 2001 and 2004, Sedibeng’s growth rate was greater than both the National and Provincial levels is probably due to a continuation of previous migration patterns in the region. Between 1992-1996 and 1996-2001 interesting patterns of migration developed in Sedibeng resulting in a positive nett migration rate of between 3% and 13% being reflected in the west of Emfuleni and across most of Lesedi while a negative nett migration rate of between 3% and -88% was reflected across most of Midvaal (Cross et. al., 2005:10). Turning to the population decline it is probably true that this common pattern of decline in the population growth rate, reflected in both the National and Provincial situations is, as claimed in the Sedibeng GDS Discussion Document, due to an increase in AIDS related deaths. These demographic patterns as described above are intrinsically linked to issues such as poverty, migration, perceived job opportunities, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and crime in the area. Consequently, each of these issues will be dealt with below under separate headings.

3.1 Poverty and Migration

In the introduction to their study “Poverty Pockets in Gauteng: How Migration Impacts Poverty”, Cross et. al. (2005:1) points out that “Poverty in our cities is probably the key planning question of this millennium, and it is clear that much of the poverty being experienced in Gauteng is driven by migration”. This is an important statement that has a direct bearing on the situation within the Sedibeng region. In the Sedibeng region Cross et. al. (2005:153-160) identify 11 sub areas in the Emfuleni and Lesedi municipal areas each having a poverty index of 49% or higher with Bophelong recording the highest level of poverty at 76%. With all areas in Midvaal reflecting poverty levels under 49%, the highest are both at 47% in Meyerton Park and Heidelberg (Gauteng) NU. The areas with the lowest level of poverty are all in Vanderbiljpark with poverty levels of 5% in Flora Gardens and Vanderbiljpark SE 2, 3, 4 and SW 2. Table 3.1 provides a list of the 11 areas in Sedibeng reflecting the highest levels of poverty, it must however be noted that although Roshasia reflects a level of 83%, this is based on inadequate data.

Table 3.1 Poverty index of >49% in Sedibeng

Place name	Sub-place name	Dwelling type: Informal	Female headed household	Household income	Illiteracy	Unemployment	Crowding	Poverty
Emfuleni								
Bophelong	Bophelong	98%	21%	93%	58%	76%	18%	76%
Sebokeng	Sebokeng	98%	41%	73%	50%	50%	5%	55%
	Sebokeng Unit 19	81%	38%	63%	49%	32%	4%	59%
Sharpeville	Sharpeville	99%	27%	77%	47%	43%	4%	69%
Vereeniging	Kwaggafontein	97%	26%	81%	38%	35%	0%	66%
	Roshasia ¹				67%	100%		83%
	Waterdal AH	42%	22%	64%	44%	42%	1%	51%
Lesedi								
Impumelelo	Impumelelo	80%	37%	69%	67%	33%	1%	67%
Lesedi Local Municipality	Blue Valley AH	0%	20%	40%	67%	40%	0%	55%
	Nigel NU	45%	20%	54%	65%	19%	3%	49%
Ratanda	Ratanda Ext 2	98%	28%	77%	62%	22%	1%	60%

Source: Cross et. al., 2005. Poverty Pockets In Gauteng: How Migration Impacts Poverty

Coupling poverty levels with migration Bophelong, with the highest poverty rate in the region of 76%, also has the highest nett migration of 25% and consequently reflects a combined poverty index and migration rate of 9.49%, the highest in the district. The next highest combined poverty and migration index is found in Blue Valley with a poverty rate of 55%, a nett migration of 9% and a combined index of 2.52% followed by Nigel NU with a poverty index of 49%, a net migration of 9% and a combined index of 2.28%. A full indication of the levels of poverty and the effects of migration across Sedibeng is provided in the report, compiled by Cross et. al. on poverty and migration in Gauteng, and is available in appendices of this report. Closely linked to the issue of poverty and migration are perceptions concerning job opportunities which will now be addressed.

In a separate report on provincial indices of multiple deprivation in South Africa Noble et. al., (2006:44) point out that “[t]he most deprived wards in the province are found in Westonaria municipality with some deprivation also evident in Merafong City and Emfuleni municipalities and in southern parts of Ekurhuleni.” In order to make this assessment Noble et. al., developed a Provincial Index of Multiple Deprivation (PIMD) for each of the nine provinces in South Africa. The PIMD is based on information available through the Census and consists of the following indicators: Income and Material Deprivation, Employment Deprivation, Health Deprivation,

¹ Available data for Roshasia is incomplete.

Education Deprivation, and Living Environment Deprivation. Each of these indicators are in turn calculated based on a number of sub-indicators. For instance Employment Deprivation is calculated on the basis of the official definition of the number of people unemployed and the number of people not working due to illness or disability (Nobel, et. el, 2006:15-26).

In table 3.2 those wards, in the Sedibeng District Municipality, identified by Noble et. al., (2006:44-46) as being amongst the 50 most deprived wards in Gauteng are listed in order of appearance and level of deprivation. The PIMD scores range between a low of 319.34 and a high of 407.15 in Sedibeng with a low of 319.34 (Emfuleni, Vereeniging) and a high of 459.19 (Westonaria, Randfontien) in Gauteng and a national low of 211.59 (Northern Cape, Renosterberg, De Aar) and high of 462.4 (Mpumalanga, Mkhondo, Ermelo). Table 3.2 also provides an indication of the population size of each of the wards in Emfuleni.

Table 3.2 List of wards in Sedibeng appearing amongst the 50 most deprived areas in Gauteng

Position in Gauteng	Ward Code	Municipality Name	Region	Population in 2001 to nearest 1000	PIMD Score
7	74201028	Emfuleni	Vereeniging	15 000	407.15
8	74201027	Emfuleni	Vereeniging	22 000	404.74
18	74201029	Emfuleni	Vereeniging	9 000	364.01
24	74201038	Emfuleni	Vereeniging	7 000	341.28
30	74201006	Emfuleni	Vereeniging	21 000	328.40
31	74201043	Emfuleni	Vereeniging	12 000	326.60
35	74201039	Emfuleni	Vereeniging	22 000	324.58
38	74201026	Emfuleni	Vereeniging	30 000	321.84
39	74201033	Emfuleni	Vereeniging	11 000	321.14
43	74201003	Emfuleni	Vereeniging	12 000	319.34
50	74201018	Emfuleni	Vereeniging	14 000	309.76

Source: Noble, et, al.. 2006 The Provincial Indices of Multiple Deprivation for South Africa 2001

The state of poverty in the Sedibeng district is well documented (see for instance Richardson, 2005) with a list of status quo conclusions that indicate that poverty is worsening in the area. In this sense, Richardson (2005:34) indicates that, in 2005, Sedibeng had a poverty rate of 45% with a significant poverty gap and a high

unemployment rate of 48% in 2001 with a high number of women headed households and poverty pockets primarily located in Emfuleni.

In the light of current conditions in Sedibeng and both international and national current economic developments it is most likely that the situation concerning levels of poverty in the Sedibeng district will deteriorate significantly over the next few years. Accordingly, it is most important that this pending economic deterioration is noted and is carefully managed by the Sedibeng District and all three local municipalities as it is the poor that will bear the brunt of any economic slowdown. The issue of poverty alleviation is intrinsically linked to job opportunities which will be addressed below.

The Sedibeng District Municipality Pro Poor Strategy (Richardson, 2005) provides an excellent in-depth description of the state of poverty within the Sedibeng district which would be superfluous to repeat here. This document also contains strategies and poverty alleviation initiatives and would serve as a solid basis on which to tackle poverty in the area.

3.2 Perceived Job Opportunities

National optimism concerning job creation has, over the last few months, declined drastically. Where it was earlier predicted that the country could expect to continue to enjoy a growth rate approaching 6% as the 2010 World Football Cup approached recent developments, at both an international and national level, have resulted in there being a drastic downward readjustment of this prediction. The decline in international markets, the extent of the electricity crisis faced by the country and growing political uncertainty have resulted in prediction of the growth rate dropping to below 3% with some economists even predicting a negative growth rate and a recession. Although, at this early stage, it is difficult to predict with any accuracy what the growth rate of the country will be over the next few years it is certain that the economy will slow down and that the Sedibeng region is likely to bear the brunt of this economic deceleration as the Sedibeng economy relies heavily on manufacturing, particularly in the form of metal products, machinery and household appliances (Sedibeng GDS Discussion Document, 2006:13-15). Engineering News (Creamer, 2008) reports that "ArcelorMittal South Africa revealed on Wednesday (13 February 2008) that it may be forced to "ration" steel supplies to its domestic customers, owing mainly to disruptions to its production arising as a result of South Africa's electricity crisis and plant relines, but also due to the constraints imposed on

it by its new pricing formula.” It is the mining and manufacturing sector of the economy that has been hardest hit by the energy crisis and current prediction are that a continuation of this crisis will undoubtedly result in a large number of job losses. As the Sedibeng economy is so heavily reliant on the manufacturing sector and has shown an increase in unemployment from 37% to 48% between 1996 and 2001 it is most likely that the employment situation will deteriorate in the region.

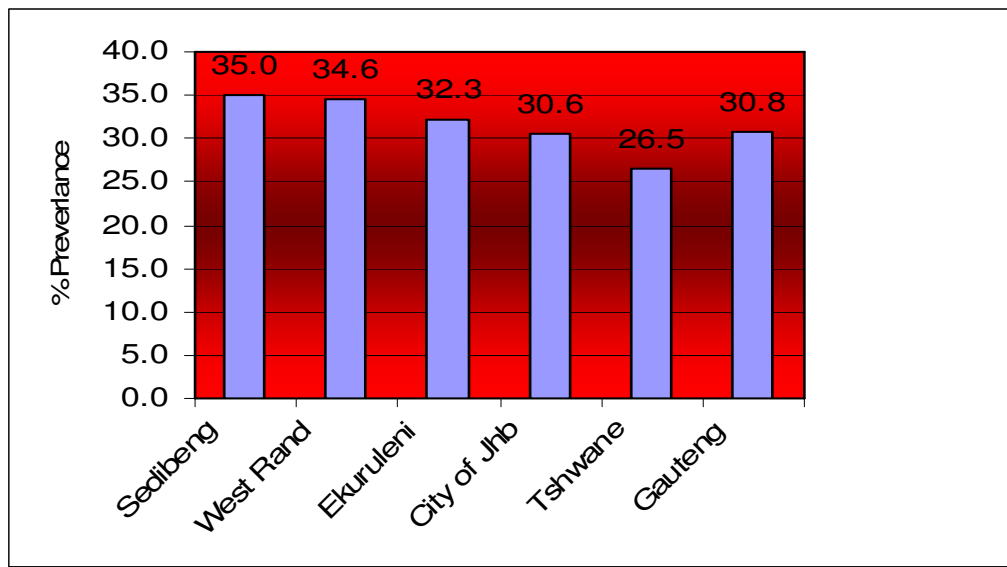
Comparatively, unemployment in the district is both numerically highest and reflects the highest official unemployment rate in Emfuleni with 137, 109 people recorded as being unemployed in 2001 at an official unemployment rate of 29.6%. Midvaal has the lowest number of people registered as officially unemployed at 7, 396 and has the lowest unemployment rate of 15.9%. Corresponding figures for Lesedi are 11,423 unemployed with an unemployment rate of 22.6%. These figures are based on Statistics, South Africa’s (Census, 2001) official definition of unemployment. This differs from the Sedibeng GDS Discussion Document (2006:15) assessment that, between 1996 and 2003, the unemployment rate amongst women in Sedibeng was 58% and amongst men 24%. As Statistics SA’s official definition of unemployment excludes disillusioned work seekers, it is most likely that the Sedibeng document provides a more realistic description of unemployment across the district than the Statistic SA figures indicate.

To add to current levels of unemployment, the threat of increased unemployment is aggravated by the educational levels in Sedibeng with 68.3% of the Sedibeng population having less than a Std 10/Grade 12 level of education and only 31.7% with a level of education equal to or higher than Std 10/Grade 12. On a comparative basis, across the three local municipalities, Lesedi fares the worst in this respect with 74.2% of the population having less than a Std 10/Grade 12 and only 25.9% having an education equal to or higher than Std 10/Grade 12. Although Midvaal has the highest level of education, with 65.5% having less than a Std 10/Grade 12 and 34.7% having a level of education equal to or higher than Std 10/Grade 12, even at these levels the population is not equipped to fill the shift in demand from a more labour intensive economy to a more capital and skills intensive economy which, according to the Sedibeng, GDS Discussion Document (2006:13-14), seems to be emerging in the area. Comparative data for Emfuleni shows 68% of the population with less than a Std 10/Grade 12 level of education and 32% with either a Std 10/Grade 12 or higher level. Attention will now be turned toward the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the area.

3.3 The Prevalence of HIV/AIDS

There is uncertainty regarding the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the country with Statistics SA referring to a national level of 4.5 million in 2005 at the one end of the scale and UN estimates placing it higher at 5.7 million (Dorrington, 2006:17). Notwithstanding this uncertainty research undertaken by the South African Medical Research Council (Dorrington, 2006:54) predicts that in Gauteng HIV/AIDS infections will continue to rise steeply between 1997 and 2006 levelling off between 2007 and 2012 and reverting to a negative growth rate of -0,1% by 2014. What is, however, most concerning is that AIDS related deaths began to rise steeply from 2004 and are predicted to continue with this trend stretching beyond 2015. On a provincial level Gauteng has the second highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS, just under that of KwaZulu-Natal, and accounts for 18% of all AIDS orphans (Dorrington, 2006:iv). The 2006 HIV prevalence antenatal survey undertaken by the Department of Health (2007:24) found that Gauteng had an HIV prevalence of 30.8% and that of all the district municipalities, Sedibeng had the highest prevalence rate of 35% as is illustrated in figure 3.1 below.

Figure 3.1 2006 HIV Antenatal Prevalence Survey by District: Gauteng



Source: National HIV and syphilis antenatal seroprevalence survey in South Africa: 2007. National Department of Health: Pretoria

This places Sedibeng amongst those areas with the highest HIV prevalence in the country, only surpassed by some districts in KwaZulu-Natal, which is of major concern and requires urgent attention. The issue of crime will now be addressed.

3.4 Crime

In July 2007 the latest crime statistics across South Africa were released by the South African Police Services, Crime Information Analysis Centre (2007). These statistics are compiled on a national, provincial, area and station level.

The area that covers the Sedibeng District Municipality is referred to as the Vaal Rand and includes the following police stations:

- Boipatong
- De Deur
- Ennerdale
- Evaton
- Kliprivier
- Lenasia South
- Meyerton
- Orange Farms
- Sebokeng
- Sharpeville
- The Barrage
- Vanderbijlpark and
- Vereeniging

Three of these police stations, namely Ennerdale, Evaton and Lenasia South, fall outside of the Sedibeng district municipal area, however, the precinct of all of these stations overlap with sections of the Sedibeng District Municipality. Consequently, some of these police stations deal with crime across municipal boundaries making it difficult to accurately estimate crime levels within the municipal district.

An analysis of these statistics indicate high levels of serious crime across the Vaal Rand area with 397 murders, 438 attempted murders 1,397 rapes, 173 indecent assaults and 4,418 assaults with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm occurring between April 2006 and March 2007. Although these crime incidences are unacceptably high there seems to be a reduction in all categories of serious crime in Sedibeng between 2001/2002 and 2006/2007 with most of these serious crime categories having reached a peak during the 2002/2003 period.

Those precincts within the Sedibeng district that are placed amongst precincts generating 40% of socially-motivated contact crime across South Africa are listed in table 3.2 below. Table 3.2 lists each precinct in order of the highest to lowest number of reported cases for each of the categories listed.

Table 3.3 Those precincts in Sedibeng generating 40% of socially-motivated contact crime

Murder		Attempted murder		Rape		Assault GBH	
Sebokeng	55	Orange Farms	67	Orange Farms	258	Orange Farms	586
Orange Farms	52	Evaton	66	Evaton	223		
				Sebokeng	176		
				Vanderbiljpark	148		
				De Deur	113		
Totals	107		133		918		586

Source: South African Police Services, Crime Information Analysis Centre, 2007:33-34

Based on this information it can be concluded that the Orange Farms police station deals with the highest level of socially-motivated contact crime in the Sedibeng district followed by the Sebokeng police station. What is also clear is that women's rights and the issue of rape are of serious concern, particularly in the western region of the Sedibeng District Municipality, where 918 cases of rape were reported to the police. The incidents of rape are most likely to be far higher in the region as it is a well documented fact that, due to various reasons, only a fraction of actual incidences of rape are ever reported (see for instance Vetten, 1997; Linden, 1998; Carter, 2007).

4 CONCLUSION

The Sedibeng District Municipality, together with the three local municipalities of Emfuleni, Midvaal and Lesedi are jointly responsible for planning and capacity-building across the Sedibeng district and consequently have a direct impact of the lives of over 796 thousand citizens². The majority of these citizens live in the Emfuleni area which also includes the worst pockets of poverty, unemployment, prevalence of HIV/AIDS and crime within the district. Based on the data presented above it is clear that the Sedibeng district faces a number of challenges, particularly in areas of Emfuleni, in tackling social issues such as poverty, unemployment, skills and education levels, HIV/AIDS and crime. It is also quite clear that these social issues have, over the last number of years declined and that further challenges will be faced as the situation is made even more difficult in the light of the pending

² Based on Census, 2001 data sourced from the Municipal Demarcation Board

economic deterioration facing the country. This will, at least over the short to medium term, have a severe effect on the quality of life and the capacity to improve service delivery within the Sedibeng district.

Notwithstanding the challenges faced by all local government structures in the Sedibeng district there have been some improvements that an analysis of the period between the 1996 and the 2001 Censuses illustrates. These improvements in service delivery are seen in respect of an improvement in the availability and quality of housing, energy, sanitation and water across the district and are reported in the Sedibeng GDS Discussion Document (2007:13) as follows:

“36% more formal houses were built (an increase of 48 428 houses);
35% more households have electricity and lighting (an increase of 50 201);
37% more households have flush toilets (an increase of 50 127);
and
29% more households have access to safe water (an increase of 49 246).”

It is against this background and with a clear understanding of the challenges ahead that the Sedibeng District Municipality and the three local municipalities of Emfuleni, Midvaal and Lesedi will need to plan for the future. Towards this end “The Sedibeng District Municipality Pro Poor Strategy” (Richardson, 2005) provides an excellent basis on which the Municipality can understand and begin to address aspects of poverty, so critical within the district.

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