

**Avoiding Dependency - is  
it Possible?**

**Community Development:  
Dignity through  
Participation and  
Partnership**

 **oasis**  
for people & community

## First Encounters with Dependency

**JPET** (Job Placement, Employment and Training) is a free, flexible and individual programme which helps young people with social and personal difficulties get back on track. If you are dealing with issues that are preventing you from returning to education, training or finding a job then we may be able to help you.

Is JPET really for me?

JPET is for you if you are aged 15–21 and are homeless or might become homeless and/or are facing many personal and social difficulties What can JPET help me with?

JPET can help you by:

- providing support and assistance with finding a place to live
- resolving problems through support and advice
- assisting you to set your own goals and achieve them
- providing assistance with health and legal issues
- assisting you to work out your finances
- communicating with Centrelink about income support issues
- giving you advice on how to deal with difficult issues and how to stay at, or return to school/training
- finding training options to get you ready to look for work
- connecting you with the right services to help you find a job
- advocating on your behalf

How can I get on this program?

Just contact us on 1800 170 899, or your closest Centrelink to get started.

If you can't come to us, we'll come to you.

JPET

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## Case Study

# Nicky's Project

## Case study Questions

**What things did Nicky do right?**

**What things could she have done differently?**

**What does this case study reveal about dependency?**

**What might the advice have been that the Councilman offered?**

## Working with Street Children in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

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## Did right and do again

**Ernesto Sirolli. 1999. *Ripples from the Zambezi: Passion, Entrepreneurship and the Rebirth of Local Economies*. New Society.**

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# Working with Street Children in Mutare, Zimbabwe

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## Matrix of Participation in the Design and Implementation of the Simukai Project

### Community Participation in the Development and Running of Simukai Street Youth Program, Mutare, Zimbabwe

| Type of Involvement                  | By Whom                                                                                                                                                               | How were They Involved                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In the research                      | Street children                                                                                                                                                       | Performed the research alongside the adults.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| In the design of the program         | All stakeholders incl. street children                                                                                                                                | Community meetings were held at which the community responded to the research and came up with recommendations that informed the design of the program.<br>A separate meeting was held with the street children to discuss the recommendations and add to or change them.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| On the Board                         | The two lead organisations in partnership, Scripture Union and FACT, and 3 Church groups. Also the Police, Dept of Housing (City Council) and Dept. of Social Welfare | A board was formed involving SU, FACT and representatives from 3 Church Groups. In order to maintain the Christian integrity of the Board, the Police, Council and Social Welfare were made ex-officio members, attending meetings but unable to vote. The Board appointed the Program Manager, advised the PM, was guardian of the vision and ensured accounts were audited.<br><br>Note: A mistake was made not to include the Dept. of Education as well. |
| On a community action group          | Members of the community asked by the Program manager                                                                                                                 | This group was made up of enthusiastic doers who assisted the program to source needed goods and services through their contacts. They also produced the Simukai newsletter known as Strength to Strength.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| In annual reviews                    | Stakeholders                                                                                                                                                          | A annual 360° review of aspects of the program was held in order to ensure that the program was fulfilling its stated objectives and meeting the needs of the target group.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| In new developments                  | Street children from the slums, their guardians and community leaders.<br>Board                                                                                       | When the second phase of the program was established, the staff, slum children and their guardians, as well as selected community leaders, were involved in where the day centre should be located, the activities that should be conducted there and the name of the program, known boringly as the Sakubva Support Centre (SSP).<br>The Board considered and approved the SSP once a certain level of funding had been sourced.                            |
| In activities at the Day Centre      | Street children and staff.                                                                                                                                            | The street children designed the rules (and consequences) for the Drop in Centre with the staff. They also had input into the location, opening hours and activities that were available there.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| In decisions that affect their lives | Street children, guardians and staff                                                                                                                                  | Regular meetings were held with the street children to talk about where they "were at". Any decision to leave the streets was their initiative.<br>Any reunification was a negotiated discussion between staff, child and guardians.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| In advocacy programs                 | Street children                                                                                                                                                       | The street children participated in street marches (when they were permitted) to conscientise the community about their issues.<br>Youth were trained to participate in relevant adult forums.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## Handing over work with Street Children in Zimbabwe

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## Approaches to Community Development

- **Service provision**
- **Community partner service provision**
- **Community-led development**

**What is the role of the community, development worker and Church in each model?**

**Which model(s) promote dignity and avoid dependency?**

## What is Community Development?

In thinking about Community Development there are a number of important questions:

1. What does a developed community look like?
2. How does it get there?
3. Who is responsible and active in the development?

**My own view is that you can change the physical surroundings of people but they can actually be worse off, if the change does not also incorporate a continuity of positive and supportive relationships, and the enhancement of dignity.**

So what is community development then? Community development is the process by which, a community (with or without assistance) **strengthens its relationships**, forming a culture of mutual support and accountability, and where their **physical living conditions are improved** in the areas of health care, sanitation, access to water, adequate housing, and safety. This cannot be done without **reference to the environment**, as community development will only be long term sustainable where it works in harmony with nature. Additionally, community development involves the ability of **everyone to be productive** in order to meet household needs, and fulfill their individual potential. The more **ownership** a community has of the process, the more the change is likely to last, and also the more their dignity will be affirmed.

## Community Development is...

**The community developing itself with or without outside support**

## Community Development Process

A process that seems able to deliver this would involve:

1. Building of community spirit
2. Broad community consultation about what are the priority needs and the existing community assets
3. Community determination of how these needs will be met, by whom, and by when (although this may be more or less relevant depending on the context)
4. Gathering of resources and protection of them
5. Community action to address these needs
6. Monitoring of the activities and evaluation of the outcomes by the community including outcomes related to community cooperation

This understanding and approach comes from Genesis 1:26-28. The reason that CD is needed is because of systemic injustice, greed and selfishness = sin. Therefore there needs to be recognition of Genesis 3, as well as Ephesians 6 as CD is attempted. Prayer must therefore underpin the process.

## Casestudy: Musoto, Uganda

### > Relationships of Trust

“One of the key things is relationship (see Bryant Myers 1999, Andy Matheson 2007, for more details). Crucially, I had spent 6 months in the community and with the church prior to returning about 8 months later to start the research. People knew me and trusted me so there was a good basis to start looking into the research and in getting open and honest responses.”

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“Development is about what happens inside people, its not about things or the transfer of goods. It’s intangible. It’s about people’s knowledge and character” (Buzz Maxey 2004:352).

## > Partnership with a local Church

I am not talking about a partnership in terms of western funding of so-called indigenous ministries which as Glenn Schwartz points out can “create or perpetrate dependency” (2007:71).

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## > Research

“On the research, it was key for us not to be seen to be promising things and also not to be seen to be making people feel bad about their ‘terrible situation.’ We tried to do it in terms of just finding out how life was for people, and then when we designed the project, it was about seeing how we could help people face the challenges they had identified, and finding ways to work together towards changing things.”

## > Deliberate Design

“People's voices need to be heard and respected and a vision developed which might look very different from the one you come with initially. There needs to be risk taken that God will honor us in treating people with respect above the fear of them leading us down a path that strategically we might find uncomfortable.”


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## > Partnership in Delivery

“One of the big things we did when we started was to make sure we didn't just give things out but that there was a responsibility on the beneficiaries to contribute something too. We designed **contracts** which the girls and carers signed stating what we'd give: education, counseling etc... and what they would contribute: timely attendance, cleanliness of girls, respect, attendance at carers' meetings, etc.. This helped avoid dependency and gave dignity to the beneficiaries, although we struggled initially because many in the community just expected to 'get.' As time went on we'd have carers of the girls come and plant and weed in the Beersheba garden or have folks come for the project work day. People were very happy to contribute and to give something back to 'their project'.”

“ Too often we rob people of dignity by making things too easy for them”  
(Buzz Maxey 2004:350).

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**Dignity through...**  
**Participation and Partnership**

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## References

**Matheson, Andy. 2009. *In His Image: Understanding and Embracing the Poor*. Authentic.**

**Maxey, Buzz. 2004. Lean, Mean, Extreme and Unseen. July. EMQ.**

**Myers, Bryant. 2010. *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development*. Abingdon.**

**Schwartz, Glenn J. 2007. *When Charity Destroys Dignity: Overcoming Unhealthy Dependency in the Christian Movement*. AuthorHouse.**

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