

**Assessing the effectiveness of the Western Cape Provincial Youth
Development Strategy: A case study of IAP Mitchell's Plain Youth Café
programmes (2014-2019).**



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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation has been prepared by me, and that it has not been previously submitted to any university or institution of higher learning. All the sources of information specified in this work have been duly acknowledged both in the text and the bibliography.



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KEY WORDS

Youth

Leadership

Entrepreneurship

Youth Development

Youth cafes

Youth spaces

Youth Strategy

Western Cape Youth Development Strategy (WYDS)

Western Cape Department of Social Development (WCSD)

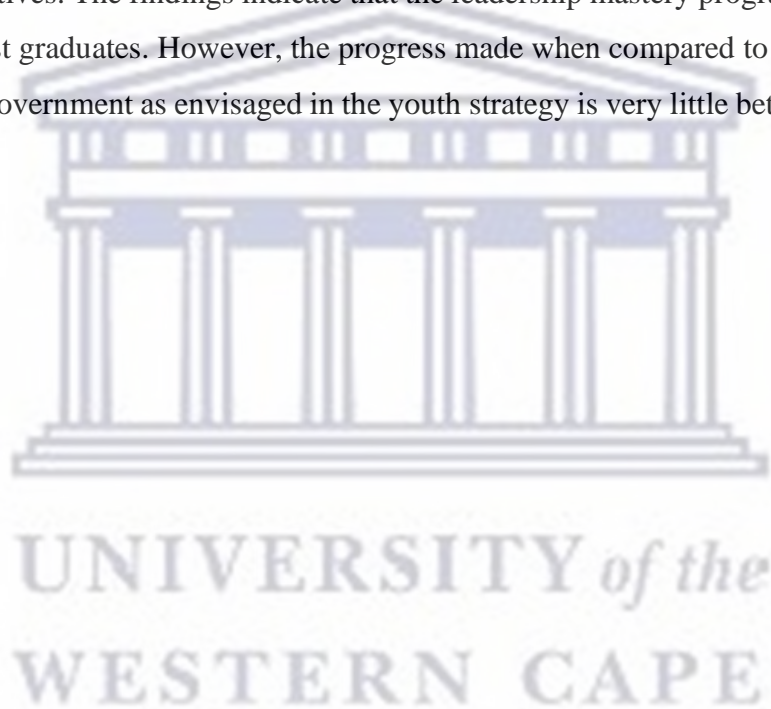
I Am Passion (IAP)

Mitchell's Plain



ABSTRACT

It has been more than 8 years since the Western Cape Government established the Provincial Youth Development Strategy in 2013. However, there has not been evaluative studies that assess the effectiveness of the programmes of the I Am Passion (IAP) Mitchell's Plain Youth Café. Drawing on both secondary qualitative and quantitative research data from 17 graduates who graduated from the Leadership Mastery Programme from IAP Youth café-Mitchell's Plain. This study presents findings in relation to two themes: Life before the leadership mastery course, and Life at the Youth Café and the anticipated life after the program (s) in connection with study objectives. The findings indicate that the leadership mastery programme effectively impacted the past graduates. However, the progress made when compared to the targets of the Western Cape Government as envisaged in the youth strategy is very little between the periods of 2014 to 2019.



CHAPTER 1

1. Introduction

Internationally, an increasing number of youths are not in education, employment or training. According to the International Labour Organisation (2020:38) the international youth NEET (youth not in education, employment or training) rate diminished by fewer than 3% points within the period of 2005 and 2019 for young women. By contrast, it was merely 0.5% point for young men. According to Bingöl (2020:176) South Africa, in particular, was listed among the five fragile countries (FFC) when analysed in terms of its economic growth and its impact on NEETs. These countries are namely South Africa, Brazil, India, Indonesia and Turkey (Bingöl, 2020).

India and Indonesia have some steady economic growth as opposed to the other three countries. Comparatively, while Indonesia has a steady decline in NEETs with sustainable growth. It is not so in the Indian context. Cross-continently, Russia from 2005 to 2018 experienced an unstable and negative growth rates while the NEETs rates stabilised. According to Bringöl (2020:178) South Africa has the highest NEET rate. However, the country experienced a balanced NEET rate and growth rate until 2009. The year of the global financial crisis. The OECD (2018:2) noted that South Africa scored very low when assessed on the levels of job quantity, quality and labour market inclusiveness compared with other OECD countries.

This complements the arguments of Bringöl above, in fact, the OECD's main arguments points to deep structural problems and a prolonged period of low growth facing South Africa (OECD, 2018:2). The International Labour Organisation (2020:38) noted that the rate of young people 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' has unfortunately not decreased in any sub-region except for a 10 % drop for young women in central and Western Asia. In the European context, according to Zuccotti and O'Reilly (2019: 352) it is noted that youth unemployment and NEET rates have started to decrease since the United Kingdom economy started to stabilise.

However, the figures remain very high in the European context with UK having 12% of NEETs (see also Hadjivassiliou et al., 2015). Nevertheless, in all the global countries across all continents this is not to say that all youth are equally vulnerable in terms of educational and employment opportunities. The global NEET status when observed through the lens of gender. It is more prevalent among young women than in the case of young men. In a world population,

according to International Labour Organisation (2021) 34% of young women are NEETs, 10% are young men.

Continentially, in Southern Asia young women NEETs 53% are young women, 6% young men. In Central & Western Asia 32% are young women and 15% are young men. In Arab States 27% are young women and 10% are young men. In Sub-Saharan Africa 19% are young women and 11% young men. In Eastern Europe 17 % NEETs are young women and 14% young men and in Eastern Asia young female NEETs are 5% and males are sitting at 3%.

1.1 Background of the study

In the Western Cape Provincial Youth Strategy according to Western Cape government (2013) youth unemployment is an inevitable challenge in the Western Cape Province. This is also a challenge faced by the entire country. The Province has one of the best education system in the country. However, the province still continues to face educational backlogs. The Western Cape Government (2013:23) also argued that the challenge of youth not in education, employment or training (NEETs) in the Western Cape Province in particular is very much close to the national profile. 32% in the province are NEETs compared to 33 per cent in South Africa as a whole. In Cape Town youths NEETs are not distributed equally in the province. Instead, they live in certain communities. The most prominent and highest concentration areas in the province are the Cape Metro and some of the areas in the Southern Cape. These are George, Outshoom, Bitou, Knysna, Overstrand and Saldhana.

The Western Cape Government (2013:23) asserted that the employment for those without education has contracted by 7.1% per year between 2008 and 2012. However, in the very same period there has been a rise in employment for those with tertiary qualifications by 5.3 per cent per year. Sauls (2014:22) asserted that a huge number of young people in the Western Cape grapple with successful changeover from the stage of adolescence to young adulthood. As a result, many youths drop out of school, are not enrolled in education and do not possess employment.

This research aimed to assess the effectiveness of Mitchell's Plain Youth Café programmes between the periods of 2014 and 2019. The youth Cafés are a product of the Western Cape youth development strategy. A strategy that was unveiled in 2013. The Western Cape Government established the youth cafes through the partnership of the Western Cape Departments of the Premier and Social Development. The strategy is based on five pillars. These are family (1) foundation ;(2) education and training; (3) economic opportunities; (4)

identity & belonging and (5) reconnection opportunities. The focus of the strategy is on pre-youth between ages of 10-14 years and the youth between 15-24 years.

The main purpose of the strategy is to offer more support, opportunities and services for all the youth in order for them to better engage with their environment. To effectively transition into responsible, independent and stable adults by the age of 25 (Western Cape Government, 2013:2). The Youth Cafes are, therefore, among the proposed programmes in the fourth pillar of the provincial youth development strategy. They are in the form of youth spaces & networks.

1.2 Rationale and Significance

The significance of this research lied in understanding the effectiveness of the Provincial Youth Strategy with specific reference to the I Am Passion (IAP) Mitchell's Plain Youth Café programmes (2014-2019). In the context of I Am Passion (IAP) programmes, no research exist that showcase what happened to participants after they completed the programmes. This study is vital therefore as it will allow the stakeholders check the impact of Mitchell's Plain's youth café programmes in the lives of the young people (aged 10-24) not in education, employment or training (NEETs).

The intended outcome of the skills development through the cafes' programmes is, essentially, employment for the NEETs youth and that by the age of 25 years they are independent citizens. Hence the importance of monitoring and evaluation (M &E) function which is an outcome of this study to complement the skills development program.

1.3 The research problem

It has been nearly 8 years since the Western Cape Government established the Western Cape Provincial Youth Development Strategy (2013-2020). This strategy amalgamates and builds on many excellent existing government and non-government initiatives. Since the inception of the youth strategy, there has not been a study done specifically in the context of the 'I Am Passion (IAP) Youth Café-Mitchell's plain. Especially the effectiveness of the programmes offered at the Youth Café to youth in the surrounding areas of Mitchell's Plain.

The existing studies are mostly focused on the programmes of the Chrysalis Academy. The argument is that there is an existing knowledge gap within the body of knowledge in the research space. This is true when one considers the studies that have been completed particularly the monitoring and evaluation aspect of the Western Cape Youth Development Strategy particularly regarding the fourth pillar of the strategy which is 'identity and

belonging'. Western Cape Social Development MEC launched the Mitchell's Plain Youth Café in 2014. The youth residents of Mitchell's Plain welcomed the Youth Café programme with so much optimism and expectation (Eyewitness News, 2014).

In the context of the research problem, the Western Cape Government (2013: 60-61) declared the strategy as the whole-of-government approach where seven (7) stakeholders are recognised along with their roles and responsibilities. These stakeholders are the provincial government, local government, universities, School governing bodies, faith-based communities, non-profit organisation and private sector. The researcher fits within the role of universities whose responsibility according to the strategy is research and M&E. Monitoring & Evaluation is equally important at the programme level for it purport to track implementation and outputs systematically and measures the effectiveness of programmes (Masuku and Ijeoma, 2015:7).

1.4 Main Research Questions

How effective are the IAP(I am Passion) -Mitchell's Plain Youth Café programmes in effecting change in the lives of the past and present participants in the Mitchell's Plain area where the youth Café is located?

Sub-questions:

- How has the IAP Youth Café- Mitchell's Plain entrepreneurship programme influenced the employment prospects of participants who completed the programme?
- Are the life skills and leadership training skills programme learned at IAP Youth Café- Mitchell's Plain sustainable for recipients once they go back to their communities?
- Are there growth opportunities in the entrepreneurial pursuits and employment prospects for participants who have completed the programme?
- How can the programme be improved?

1.5 Research objectives

The generic research objectives of this research project aimed to assess the effectiveness of Mitchell's Plain's Youth Café personal development, entrepreneurship and leadership skills programmes. The objectives of this proposed study were:

- To assess how the IAP Youth Café- Mitchell's Plain entrepreneurship programme has influenced the employment prospects for participants who completed the programme.
- To evaluate whether the life skills and leadership training skills programme learned at IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain are sustainable for participants once they go back to their communities.
- To determine if there are growth opportunities in the entrepreneurial pursuits and employment prospects for participants who have completed the entrepreneurship programme.
- To explore different strategies and ways that can be used to improve the programmes.

1.6 Ethical issues for proposed research

There were limited ethical issues in this study since it was based on secondary data. The data sources were accessible to all people. However, complete anonymity and confidentiality was maintained where personal information appeared from the data collection sources. Given the nature of the study, fabrication and falsification of data which might have led to under-reporting of negative findings of ineffectiveness of IAP Youth Café programmes were avoided. All sources and methods used to obtain data were disclosed.

1.7 Research Methodology

1.7.1 Research design

The research is intended to assess the effectiveness of the programmes of IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain. The interest of the researcher is in how well the department was achieving the objectives and targets associated with the objective of the programmes of youth cafes. The IAP Youth-Mitchell's Plain in particular. Given the nature of the research questions and the subsequent objectives of the study, the researcher employed a mixed method design approach which is characterised by the combination of at least one element of qualitative and one quantitative research component.

According to Johnson (2007:123) cited in Schoonenboom and Johnson (2017:108) "mixed methods research is the type of research approach in which a researcher or team of researchers combines elements of qualitative and quantitative research approaches." For instance, the use

of qualitative and quantitative viewpoints, data collection, analysis or inference techniques. The mixed method approach is applicable as it allows the researcher to understand the qualitative viewpoints of the intended research participants and the statistical objectives and questions of the study.

1.7.2 Data Collection

The research is based and reliant on secondary data. Given the COVID-19 challenges, data was collected by means of I Am Passion Youth Café social media platforms, document review, online archives from R-Labs NGO and IAP Mitchell's Plain Youth Café, the youth café's participant's experiences records. Moreover, websites and annual reports of the implementing partners (non-profit organisation including I Am Passion Agency and R-Labs), the Western Cape Department of Social Development and other partners of the Western Department of Social Development that implement the Western Cape Youth Development Strategy. The data was collected and grouped per quarter of each year from 2014 to 2019.

1.7.3 Data analysis

The analysis of this study was done through the lens of triangulation method. Triangulation encompasses the examination of changes or lessons learned from various points of view, or in various ways (INTRAC, 2017:1). The reason for the use of triangulation was to allow for the research questions and objectives of this study to be answerable given the nature of the main research question of this study. Triangulation is beneficial in that the data that is generated in various ways (mentioned in the section on data collection above). In other words, data that is produced by different people has the potential in helping to explain different aspects of research question from various viewpoints (INTRAC, 2017:1).

The researcher does recognise the fact that in social development studies, triangulation may not be a smooth process because the more data is collected (quantitative and qualitative data) the higher the contradictions. The qualitative data was prepared, coded and analysed by means of thematic content analysis. On one hand, given the anticipated small data set of the quantitative elements of the study, quantitative and statistical data was computed by means of basic computer spreadsheets (Excel) programs to analyse data thereof. Both the quantitative and statistical analysis were presented through graphs and charts. Findings from the statistical analysis were presented through graphs, charts and frequency distributions.

1.8 Conceptual clarification

1.8.1 Western Cape Provincial Youth Development Strategy

‘The Strategy articulates how the Western Cape Government can, using a whole-of society approach, in partnerships with nongovernmental and private sector role-players, faith-based organisations and the youth of the province, create an enabling environment for all young people to thrive in the Western Cape. The Strategy focuses on young people in the ‘youth’ phase defined as 15 – 24 years of age and the pre-youth phase namely the 10 to 14 age cohort. It is the product of the Western Cape Department of Social Development’ (The Western Cape Government (2013:9).

1.8.2 Youth Development

‘Youth development is a process which starts with conception and involves young people successfully making a series of transitions into adulthood’ (Western Cape Government, 2013:13).

1.8.3 Youth café

The youth cafes are an initiative emanating out of the provincial Youth Development Strategy, and the Western Cape Government’s new Provincial Strategic Goals. These call for improving education outcomes and opportunities for youth development. Youth cafés therefore seek to create platforms for youth where they can access skills and personal development training; economic and social development opportunities where they can voice their views at the local and global levels (Western Cape Government, 2021).

1.8.4 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

According to Masuku and Ijeoma (2015:6-7) M&E are two different elements. However, they complement each other. M&E is a managing tool that provides clarification to all stakeholders as to why a certain project or activities are undertaken. The main aim is to determine relevance and fulfilment of objectives, development efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability.

1.9 Chapter Outline

Chapter 1 of this research project provided a general background to the study and served as an introductory chapter to the research theme and explained the problem statement, goal and objectives of the study and as well as the research methodology used in the study. Chapter 2 of this research dealt with the literature review and the legislation applicable to youth development. Chapter 3 of the study explained in detail the IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain and their programmes. Chapter 4 focused on presentation of data and data analysis. Finally the last chapter, which is chapter 5 presented conclusion and recommendations.

1.10 Conclusion

This chapter introduced the research study. It gave the background of the study and problem statement. Furthermore, it stated the research questions and objectives of the study. This was followed by a section on the clarification of concepts, which included Western Cape Youth Development Strategy (WYDS), youth development, youth café and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E). The researcher also discussed the chapter outline of the research project and detailed the ethical considerations and how the research process was covered in relation to the ethical considerations. The next chapter is dedicated to the literature review. The chapter focused on the policy and legislation related to the research study as well as the theoretical frameworks, and research themes that the researcher linked to the study.

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CHAPTER 2

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter discussed the literature on social issues hampering South African youth's full smooth development into useful productive and effective citizens. It has a particular focus on the youth residing in the Western Cape. The chapter specifically looked at the law and legislation with regard to youth unemployment in relation to the topic, the theoretical frameworks that underline this phenomenon, as well as a general discussion around the challenges facing young people in South Africa.

The first section of the literature review focused on the background of the area under study, the concept of youth development and gives effect to the concept through discussions on socio-economic factors affecting the youth in the Western Cape Province. The second part looked into the legislation relevant to this research, looking specifically at the National Youth Policy, the National Development Plan, the Skills Development Act and the South African Constitution of 1996. Finally, it also unpacks the theories relevant to this study which are Positive Youth Development Theory and Ericson's Psychosocial Developmental Theory.

2.2 A brief background on the area under study and context of Mitchell's Plain

The I Am Passion (IAP)-Mitchell's Plain Youth Café is situated in Mitchell's Plain public transport interchange, building D, corner 1st & 7th Avenues, Estridge, 7785, Cape Town, South Africa. The youth café is known for being a vigorous space for youth who are between the ages of 17 and 35 years. The cafe provides free internet, access to opportunities and skills programmes. In South Africa, generally the youth experience recurring socio-economic ills. This exacerbate the disconnectedness and, lack of smooth and effective transitional youth development.

In the context of this study, Mitchells Plain is the area under study where the first Youth Café was first established in 2014. According to Anon (2011) cited in Haefele (2011: 75) Mitchells Plain township was established in the 1970s, it is about 20km away from the Central Business District (CBD) of the Cape Town City. It is situated in the Cape Flats about the False Bay Coast between Strandfontein and Khayelitsha. The place is known for rampant gangsterism, crime and drugs.

These challenges affect mostly black African and coloured youths in the township. Brown-Luthango (2018:4) argues that the effects of these challenges on the youth have certain repercussions for social identity and belonging. The ways they understand and experience their connection in their communities, the city and the country as a whole. It was for this reason that the Western Cape Government officially established the Provincial Youth Strategy in 2013 to curb socio-economic challenges that are facing the youth in the province. Especially those that not in education, employment or training (NEETs).

2.3 Understanding youth and the concept of youth development

In reality there is no universally accepted definition of youth. However, each country has its own definition of youth based on their various youth categories. For instance, the United Nations define people from the ages of 15 to 24 years as youth (Bernhardt et al. 2014:281). However, in the context of South Africa the government stretches the United Nations category to at least 35 years of age.

Youth development is first and foremost a process that takes place within a socially constructed setting. De Lannoy et al. (2019:2) assert that youth in general do not grow up in a vacuum but rather their development and the life choices they make are wrought by their environments they live in. Therefore, the understanding these young people is crucial. This is more important especially in the implementation of the provincial youth strategy which takes the form of whole-of-society approach. Hence the many stakeholders that strive in implementing the strategy.

To understand youth development in the South African context, one needs to look into the historical events that have made the current existing South Africa and also the goals of the country's democracy. According to UNESCO (2014) cited in Bernhardt et al. (2014: 280) "designing policies and programmes on literacy and life skills education and investing in them provides a basis for increased participation in society of these vulnerable youth." The Western Cape government has a pure provincial youth strategy that is currently being implemented. However, as the youth transition from childhood to adulthood, there are basic complex interaction of both personal and socio-economic changes. These take place in order to successfully manoeuvre the transition from being dependent to being independent. This is the goal of the provincial youth strategy.

Bernhardt et al. (2014:281) argue that "because maturity and age are not necessarily interrelated and young people are not a homogenous demographic group, their life situations

differ greatly.” For instance, a young person who stays in a rich area in Rondebosch might have a slightly different transitional youth experience from the young person who comes from Mitchells Plain, a township where rampant crime and drugs smugglings are the order of the day. The experiences and perceptions about life might not be the same for these youths.

Consequently, it is clear from the above literature that, the understanding of how youths manage the complex interplay of physical, socio-economic, socio-psychological and cultural transitions in the young people’s lives play an important role in their development.

2.4 Demographics of the youth in the Western Cape Province

There is a growing number of young people in the Western Province. Some of the youths in the province are those that came from other provinces. It is stated in the Western Cape Government’s (2013: 19) youth development strategy policy document that the province, based on the 2011 national statistics had a population of 5 288 734. The portion of the population of people, 18% (1 063 673) was between the ages of 15 and 24. The 26% (1 502 516) are between the ages of the 10 and 24. The focus age cohort of the Youth Development Strategy (YDS). If the 25-35 age cohort is included in the national definition then this pushes the population size to over 2 500 000 (2.million) which would represent 44% of the entire population. The rising number of young people in the Western Cape Province can be attributed to what Cummings and Ortiz (2012:6) refer to as ‘youth bulge’. This means the highest share of people who are between the ages of 15 and 24 in the population of a given region. The Western Cape Province in this context.

The youth bulge differs from one country to another. In the context of the Western Cape it is attributed to declining fertility and as well as in-migration into province. Cummings and Ortiz (2012) also attributes this increase to large child-bearing in the population. Futures (2013) cited in Western Cape Government (2013:19) argued that this growing number of young people has made a significant burden on the education system, labour markets, housing markets and health systems. The educational, labour and health aspects in the next section of the literature review.

The youth statistics profile of the province can prove to be correct. According to Statistics South Africa (2011) based on the census 2011, 58% of young people who are living in the Western Cape were born in the province. 20% in the Eastern Cape, 7% in the rest of the country, 5% outside the country and the remaining segment is unstipulated. The Western Cape and Gauteng are two largest provinces that experience in-migration of which the Western province has the second highest in-migration after Gauteng (Western Cape Government, 2013:19). It is

with no doubt that the youth bulge in the Western Cape can be credited to the strength of the economy of the province.

2.5 Context and data: Poverty, Education, Employment, Families, and Exposure to Violence.

2.5.1 Poverty, Employment and Education

There is a link between the above mentioned socio-economic factors. A youth person who comes from a poor family with lack of support both financially and educationally has higher chances of being demotivated. Cummings and Ortiz (2012:16) argue that the global economic financial crisis of 2007/08 has squeezed the earnings of workers in the entire world. This happens by means of job losses, pay cuts and wage arrears. Moreover, it has limited the number of decent job opportunities. Rena and Msoni (2017) also shared the same sentiment citing that nearly a million jobs were lost in South Africa in 2009 alone. This was due to the 2008/09 recession that hit the country for the first time in 19 years.

Rena and Msoni (2017) further highlighted that the country's economic growth picked up a bit in the recent years, the recovery is so flimsy and another recession may be possible. As a result, poverty and unemployment have heavily placed so much pressure on the resources of the state. In the wake of the youth bulge explained above, Cummings and Ortiz (2012:6) maintain that the rising number of young people who are not in employment "should be a primary concern for many governments. Every year, approximately 121 million adolescents turn 16 years old- 89 percent of which are located in the developing regions and can enter the world's labour market." Given the alarming youth data, the Western Cape government heeded to the call of Cummings and Ortiz by coming up with the Provincial Youth Strategy to intervene in the development of the youth in the province particularly focussing on the age group mentioned above.

Learners who are between ages 12 and 15 years old nearly just under 48% of these kids do not make it to matric. The Western Cape is noted to be the leading province in terms of high levels of dropouts especially between this age group compared to the rest of South Africa (Western Cape Government, 2013:21). This is notably highest especially among the coloured community. This happens just before they reach the age of 17. The learners who drop out at school are a combination of learners who perform satisfactorily but they struggle with socio-economic issues and the ones who fail grades recurrently.

On the other hand, while the throughput seems to be disappointingly underperforming in the province. According to the Cape Higher Education Consortium (2010:4) the Western Cape Province continues to achieve the second highest number of people with higher education, of which 14.1 percent of the people over 20 in the Western Cape possess a tertiary qualification compared to 11.8% figure which is scattered across the country. Western Cape produces 19% of South Africa's graduates and the highest number of postgraduate degrees in the country (Cape Higher Education Consortium, 2013).

Nevertheless, considerable unemployment and unequal earnings characterise the labour market in South Africa. The Western Cape Government (2013:22, Statistics South Africa, 2013) assert that, although the Western Cape Province has the lowest (at the time of writing) level of unemployment it is still worryingly huge at 25.4% by international standards. Despite the great number of graduates produced in the province, there are notably challenges in entering the job market straight from university. 8% of graduates are unemployed after 3 years (Cape Higher Education Consortium, 2013).

The study by CHEC established that graduate unemployment is distinguished by race, institution of study, location of schooling and matric results. As a result, unemployment rates for Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and University of the Western Cape (UWC) were higher than in the case of University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University (SU). Based on the reality of literature revealed above. It can be established that there is a link between poverty, education and employment. It also showed that regardless of whether or not you are educated unemployment and poverty can overtake happen to anyone.

2.5.2 Families and Exposure to violence

The Western Cape, Cape Town in particular is a home to most of Coloured inhabitants. Mitchell's Plain is part of the Cape Flats on the False Bay Coast. Mitchell's Plain is among the townships where crime, violence and gangsterism are rife. According to the Western Cape Government (2013:25) "young people in the Western Cape are exposed to very high levels of violence and criminality. In particular, youth experience high levels of family criminality with over a quarter having a parent and/or sibling who has been in jail and just under a quarter having family members using drugs." Burton & Leoschut, (2013:92) also noted that "violence exposure has also been linked to an increased susceptibility to later anti-social and delinquent behaviours (including violence)." It is clear from the literature cited above that violence and

crime are linked to family relationships in the Western Cape. There seems to be a very strong connection in the Western Cape between drugs, violence and gangs.

According to Burton & Leoschut (2013) there is clear evidence that can be used to suggest that both children and youth are victims of violence are likely to experience depression, social isolation and loneliness, anxiety and apprehension. The consequences especially relating to educational development outcomes include an obvious deterioration in academic performance, lack of interest in school and activities the activities of the school. This is by no means in line with the goals and vision of the Provincial Youth Development Strategy.

Moreover, the consequences of violence on young people can also include loss of hope and sometimes embarrassment. Families and schools are supposed to be the safe places for children and young people for their development. However, the impact of violence is counteract to the very goal, purpose and vision of the Western Youth Development Strategy (WYDS). The impact of violence hinders the normal development of healthy adult-child and peer development. The effects of violence on development is evident in the World Health Organization's (WHO) (2002) report on violence and health cited in Burton & Leoschut (2013:2) wherein the report defines violence as :

“The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, (against oneself), another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation.”

It is clear that there is a link between poverty, education, employment, family and exposure to violence. This is evident from the literature particularly how each of these aspects collide in action within the context of the Western Cape Province, Cape Town City. The lack and /or exposure to the aforementioned aspects of life has a huge negative impact on the smooth normal development from childhood to healthy adulthood.

2.6 Current situation of youth in Mitchells Plain Township, Cape Town.

The case of Mitchells Plain youth is worth exploring given the multifaceted challenges that impede their development. In fact, the township of Mitchells Plain is not a special case. However, for the purposes of this research it was the focal point. Brown-Luthango (2018: 4) argued that “much of the literature on the youth grapples with the issue of pathways to transition from youth to adulthood.” Certainly, such pathways are generally exacerbated by the prevailing

socio-economic challenges that tend to obstruct the smooth transitioning from childhood to adulthood. The youth themselves are not to be blamed for the situation they find themselves. However some of the socio-economic ills the youth face today can, to a greater extent, be attributed to the country's history-apartheid.

Haefele (2011) revealed in a study that Mitchells Plain Township among all other police stations in the Western Cape had the highest scores of high crime rate exponentially from March/April of 2001/02 to 2009/10. Mitchell's Plain is no exception when it comes to high crime rate in the Western Cape Province. The township is marked by a low economic status, a diversity of ethnic groups, disrupted families and broken households. These are all components that are prevailing in the societies of Mitchells Plain that lead to 'social disorganisation' according to Grasmick et al. 1989 cited in Haefele (2011) who endeavoured to explain community variations in crime rates.

Nearly 62% of the people in Mitchells Plain are younger than 29 years of age of which Afrikaans speakers account for 40%, with Xhosa and English speakers accounting for 30% (Department of Provincial and Local Government Western Cape: Mitchells Plain Nodal Economic Development Profile, 2005: 4, Haefele, 2011). Brown-Luthango (2018) revealed that the youth are stuck in Tafelsig, Mitchell's Plain and that there are different scopes or levels of stuckness. Brown-Luthango (2018) argued that short-term interventions might facilitate a slight shift in Castel's continuum from disaffiliation to integration at least for some of the youth. This is in line with the goal of the provincial youth strategy.

De Lannoy et al. (2018:22) sought to unpack the lived realities of youth living in five of the deprived areas of the Western Cape Province, among which are Khayelitsha, Stellenbosch, Bishop Lavis, Mitchells Plain and Breede Valley). The challenges that are revealed by the literature above are also prevalent in the Mitchell's Plain area which is the focus of this study. According to De Lannoy et al. (2018) the youth participants between ages of 11 and 24 from all these areas expressed similar concerns. The participants alluded to the fact that they are not happy in their communities because of high levels of crime, gangsterism and including rape. This was voiced out mostly by female participants. Some youths mentioned that the problems in the community are at home where vast majority of parents are physically and emotionally absent for their children. However, these youths, despite the prevailing socio-economic challenges facing them they have high aspirations for their lives and future.

2.7 The I Am Passion Youth Café changing lives: The experiences of youth who have completed the leadership mastery training program

The life skills/personal development and leadership training skills programme made positive results in the fourth quarter of the year 2018. This practically proved that the mantra of ‘changing one young person at a time’ is what the IAP Youth Café lives by. According to Leitch (2018) seventeen (17) young people graduated on the 2nd November 2018 at the Town Centre Library from the I AM Passion (IAM) Leadership Mastery course. The leadership mastery programme is part of the initiative of the IAP youth Café.

Another graduate who graduated from the programme alluded by adding that “every class had an impact. I started this programme in August, and I can feel I am growing. I don’t want to do what my parents did, I want to achieve all I can. My business is successful; I am in the fourth month of my business. I look forward to being the boss lady one day. I want to make a change in this community.”

Fokazi (2019) reported of a 22 year old young star, hailing from Khayelitsha who started her own business. She gave credit for her new entrepreneurial passion to the life skills and leadership mastery programme of the youth café. The above accounts from Fokazi (2019) and Leitch (2018) are an indication that the programmes of IAP Youth Café are making an impact and changing the lives of the youth in the greater part of the Mitchell’s Plain and Khayelitsha. The youth graduates who gave their accounts about the program came from Khayelitsha and Mitchell’s Plain.

In the performance information by programme, program 3 of Western Cape Department of Social Development which deals with *development and research* in particular attested to this performance by attributing to the opening of the youth café in Mitchell’s Plain. According to the Western Cape Government (2013:73) the access to appropriate social development services for young people in school and youth out of school (NEETs) increased by more than 5 086. The Department estimated an amount of 11 200 youth. However, the actual turned out to be 16 286 for the 2013/14 financial year. The main reason for the increased demand for youth skills development and the linkages with job opportunities through youth holiday programmes and the opening of the Mitchell’s Youth Café resulted in over performance.

The over performance of the department can also be attributed to the structure and nature of the youth cafés in general. “A youth café is a relaxed, drug-free and alcohol-free space for young people” (Brady, Forkan and Moran, 2018:390-392). The model of youth café is not a

new concept as it can be found in other countries. For instance, in the context of Ireland, the model of youth café has become the significant form of policy provision for young people for over a period of 10 years. Ireland has over 160 youth cafés operating in the country.

South Africa has just over 10 youth cafés. One may argue that the policy provision of the Western Cape Government in the form of the Western Cape Youth Development Strategy came at time when youth needed it the most given the alarming youth unemployment (Hes, 2019). The case of Ireland and South Africa, are to some extent, similar in terms of the availability of research on youth cafés. According to Brady, Forkan and Moran (2018:392) although the model of youth café is not new in Ireland, there has been slight published research internationally on the perspectives of young people about the role of youth cafés in their lives.

Comparatively, in South Africa, the Mitchell's Plain youth café in particular. There is little research that has been done on the assessment of the effectiveness of the personal development, entrepreneurship and leadership skills programmes ran by the youth café from both qualitative and quantitative perspectives. The personal perspectives of the 17 graduates who graduated from the leadership skills mastery programme in November 2018 gave qualitative answers to the second sub research question (s) of this research project and the subsequent second research objective. The leadership mastery programme has significantly changed the lives of the youth, as such some of them have begun to start going back to their communities and implement all that they have learned from the programme. Some have even started their businesses and through this programme they are able to sustain their businesses by constantly drawing on the knowledge and skills learned from the program.

2.8 The Monitoring and Evaluation concept in the context of Mitchell's Plain Youth Café

2.8.1 Understanding Monitoring and Evaluation concepts

In general monitoring and evaluation is utilised to assess the performance of a project, institutions and programmes that are either set up by government, community based organisations, global institutions and non-profit organisations (NGOs). According to Ile et al. (2012) the need to deliver the results in both the public and private sector has immensely increased. As such, the stakeholders put pressure on the institutions to show good performance

in a scarce operational resource environment. On the other hand, Wotela (2017:1) argued that “African politicians, bureaucrats and technocrats have thrown their weights in support of monitoring and evaluation (M&E). This weight has compelled training institutions to add M&E to their offerings.” Furthermore, Ile et al. (2012) argued that if appropriate tools and techniques of monitoring and evaluation are utilised then the organisations can be prepared to ensure that what they have planned becomes what they achieve.

Monitoring and evaluation are distinct processes yet interlinked. As such, some emerging scholars and scholars tend to understand it as one and same thing, whereas it is not. According to Hunter (2009:6) monitoring is a systematic gathering and analysis of information as a project or programme continues. While on the one hand, evaluation takes place at the end of the project, although at times also at mid-term. When what was envisioned in the planning stage is compared with what has been accomplished and the actual project impacts are measured against the objectives of the project agreed upon at the project/ programmes’ outset. Masuku and Ijeoma (2015:6) define monitoring as “a continuous function that uses systematic collection of data on specified indicators to provide management and main stakeholders of an on-going development intervention.” Evaluation, on the other hand is the systematic and objective valuation of a continuous or completed project, programme or policy relative to its design, execution and results.

These processes are useful in programmes, policies and projects to ascertain certain problems and their causes. They are useful because an evaluator can be able to reflect on where the program is going, how best to accomplish the programmes’ aims and objectives. Evaluation, in particular aims to determine the relevance and fulfilment of objectives, development efficiency and effectiveness; impact and sustainability (Public Service Commission, 2008) cited in Masuku and Ijeoma (2015:7). The very importance of youth development in South Africa needs to be monitored to ensure effectiveness of programmes and policies that impact the youth are tracked. It is clear from the above literature that efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability are at the heart of monitoring and evaluation. Pain

It is also easy to assume that a program is actually achieving its intended purpose not unless a demonstrable progress made is evaluated against its intended objectives, outcomes and indicators. According to Stem et al. (2005:297) “evaluation for measuring effectiveness are necessarily linked to discrete interventions used by specific actors.” The common key indicator as envisaged in the Western Cape Youth Development Strategy are the number of youth

connected to a work, skills training, volunteer or peer group opportunity (Western Cape Government, 2013:53).

This is very important as it gives an indication regarding the number of youth who are actually benefiting from the programmes. The most important thing is that the programmes reach as many youth as possible in order for them to impact their lives and the communities. The effectiveness of the programmes of the Mitchell's Plain Youth Café are dependent on the implementing partners' commitment and dedication as well as the recipients themselves and the wider community of associated stakeholders.

2.8.2 The importance of youth participation in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).

According to Purdue, Peterson and Deng (2018:206) youth participation in monitoring and evaluation has been considered a vital means for positively engaging youths in development processes. In the global context, there are approximately 1.8 billion youths. This is the largest cohort in history which is referred to as a youth-bulge. The strength-based views young people as a group that signifies an opportunity for sustainable development and economic growth provided that they are appropriately invested in and in a timely way. Pereznito and Harding (2013) cited in Peterson and Deng (2018:207) argued that in order for this investment to be receptive and accountable to the needs of the young people, their lived experiences, perspectives and values must be informing decision-making in a meaningful way." The more young people increase in participation in monitoring and evaluation practices, the greater the relevance and responsiveness. Youth participation in monitoring and evaluation could also challenge conventional views about youths, who, at times are seen as victims, or threats and instead give new conceptualisations of youth as being resources, assets and builders of communities.

Monitoring and Evaluation has given birth to other approaches such as the Result Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBM&E). Another relevant approach which is relevant to this discussion and to this study is the participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) approach. This approach according to Masuku and Ijeoma (2015:11) has been overlooked in that it has not been given much attention which is also necessary to complement Result Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBM&E). A distinct public management tool that governments can utilise to measure and evaluate outcomes. According to Masuku and Ijeoma (2015:11) "PM&E is a process through which stakeholders at various levels engage in monitoring or evaluating a particular project, program or policy; share control over the content, the process and the results

of the M&E activity and engage in taking or identifying corrective actions.” The voices of the youth are of paramount importance when it comes to assessing the effectiveness of the programs that affect them.

The youth development strategy offers a platform and instrument for development policies and programmes tailored distinctly for young people in the Western Cape Province. Therefore, if the evaluators of the programs do not take into consideration of the youth as the recipients and the important stakeholders of the program. The M&E reports run the risk of analysing their own perceptions. Hunter (2009:16) argued that there is an emergent interest within the international aid community in participatory approaches to M&E. It has been discovered that the participation of stakeholders advances the quality of projects and increases the sense of national and local ownership. As a result, where this is the case there is a greater possibility that the project activities and their impacts will be sustainable.

Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child enshrines the right for young people to have a say in decisions that affect them and to inform and offer feedback on programmes targeted at them through evaluation practices (United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, 1990, Purdue, Peterson and Deng (2018:208). One among other benefits of youth participation in M&E evaluation is the strengthening of the validity and relevance of the evaluation, leveraging young people’s capacity and skills (Purdue, Peterson and Deng (2018:208). The young people’s experience of the programmes can be entirely different from that of the individual from another generation. Failure to consult the youths whom the program is targeted at will fail to capture this benefit. It is therefore important for the youth to be highly considered when programs are assessed or evaluated.

2.9 Legislative/regulatory Framework

The Western Cape Youth Development Strategy (WCYDS) is informed by various legislative policies that are relevant particularly with the youth in the context of South Africa.

2.9.1 National Youth Policy 2020 and National Development Plan 2030

The National Youth Policy 2020 (2015:3-5) which builds on the previous policies expresses the National Development Plan’s (vision 2030) youth specific proposals. This is because the National Development Plan sees South Africa’s social and economic growth, in particular,

through the lens of youth development at the centre of the country's development of the economy.

In a similar vein, the National Development Plan (2012) complements the vision of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996. It lays the basis for youth economic empowerment and in the Bill of Rights it enshrines the human rights including those of the youth. It affirms the values of human dignity, equality and freedom. The Western Cape Youth Development Strategy (WYDS) of 2013 is in line with the objectives of the National Youth Policy, objective number one in particular. According to the National Youth Policy 2020 (2015: 3-5) the first objective states that to “consolidate and integrate youth development into the mainstream of government policies, programmes and the national budget.”

The National Youth Policy 2020 forms part of the bigger legislative framework including the National Youth Policy Framework, as such, it remains consistent with it. The National Youth Development Policy Framework (2002: 8) advocates for an integrated, holistic and sustainable youth development. Although, mindful of the historical injustices, current imbalances and current realities to build a non-sexist democratic South Africa where young people can contribute fully to their potential in the social, economic and political spheres of life.

2.9.2 The Skills Development Act

The Skills Development Act was enacted in 1998. The policy realises the short supply of skilled personnel which has proven to be a threat and an obstacle to the competitiveness of the various industries in the country (Skills Development Act, 1998). The Skills Development Act's aim is to grow the knowledge and competencies of the working force with the intention of improving the productivity and employment.

The main objectives of the Act are:

- To improve the quality of life of labour force, their prospects of work and labour agility
- To improve productivity in the workplace and the competitiveness of employers
- To increase the levels of investment in education and training in the labour market and to improve the return on such an investment
- To promote self-employment
- To improve the delivery of services (Skills Development Act, 1998).

This policy is relevant to the study as the Mitchell's Plain Youth Café programmes focus on improving employment prospects, quality of life and entrepreneurial advancement of the youth in the Mitchell's Plain area and the greater parts of the Western Cape Province.

The Western Cape youth Development Strategy takes the form of 'whole-of-society' approach. This is in line with the vision of the youth strategy where there is an open, opportunity society for all irrespective of their background where young people can improve their lives and realize their dreams. The policy encourages the employers to use the workplace as an active learning environment where young people obtain new skills and are able to use the opportunities by getting employment and gaining experience within the workplace as a means to obtain fulltime employment (Skills Development Act, 1998).

This is what Mitchell's Plain youth Café promotes through its personal development, entrepreneurial and leadership skills programmes. This is in line with the purpose of the Western Cape Youth Development Strategy (WYDS) which views the most effective time in a person's life in equipping them with tools they need to flourish as being between birth and the age of 25. The Mitchell's Plain Youth Café encourages the youth that participate in their programmes to make use of the placements that they are granted as a stepping-stone toward their development and as means of finding their way in the labour market.

2.9.3 City of Cape-Youth Development Policy number 12398C

The local government as part of the role player in the implementation and monitoring/evaluation of the of the Western youth development strategy has a policy though which the City of Cape developed regarding the development of youth in the City of Cape Town. According to the City of Cape Town (2013:7) as stated in the policy document that this policy is concerned with youth development in the City of Cape Town. The main aim of the policy is to inform decisions around youth development as well the types of initiatives that are designed to facilitate youth development in the Social Development and Early Childhood Development Department (SDECD).

The policy is relevant in the study in that it recognises the Western Cape Provincial Department of Social Development as the role player in the policy as this provincial department is consulted on matters relating to youth. The Western Cape Provincial Social Development Department is one of the main developers and implementers of the Western Cape Youth Development Strategy. As such, there is a coordinated partnership between the City of Cape Town and the Provincial Social Development Department in terms of achieving the provincial youth strategy

is achieved. However, the City of Cape Town's youth development policy is at the local government level.

Moreover, the relevance of this policy to the study can be further viewed from the agreement between the City of Cape Town and the provincial government. According to the City of Cape Town 2013:9) the City signed a multi-year 'implementation Protocol Agreement' with the Western Cape Provincial Department of Social Development. The main aim of the agreement was to create coordination and partnership in the implementation of projects and initiatives. As such, this created an opportunity to address various challenges such as those related to youth development.

The City of Cape Town and the Western Cape Provincial Department of Social Development heeded to the call of a developmental role of local government entrenched in Municipal Systems Act of 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000), the Municipal Structures Act of 1998 (Act no. 117 of 1998) and the Municipal Finance Management Act of 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003). These Acts provide for a crucial connection for youth development initiatives which the City of Cape Town and Western Cape Province made agreement on as far as implementation of such initiatives are concerned.

2.9.4 The National Youth Development Agency, Act 54 of 2008

The National Youth Development Agency Act (2008) provides for establishment of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). Their primary mandate is tackling the challenges faced by the youth in the nation of South Africa. This Act is relevant to the study as it provides for the establishment of the National Youth Development agency, a unitary structure that addresses youth development issues at National, Provincial and Local Government levels. The agency is mandated by this NYDA Act, the National youth Policy and the draft integrated Youth Development Strategy of the youth Convention of 2006 (National Youth Development Act, 2008).

The personal development, entrepreneurial and leadership skills provide by the Mitchell's Plain Youth Café are in line with the key performance areas of the NYDA. These are:

1. Economic Participation
2. Education and Skills Development.

One of the principles of youth development in the Act in section 4. (c) is "creation of an environment that supports the continued development of and learning of youth" (National

youth Development Agency Act, 2008:6). This is also echoed in the Provincial Youth Development Strategy, the strategy whose product is the Mitchell's Youth Café that this study evaluated. The Western Cape Provincial Government has a role, in terms of the Act to consider the national youth priorities into account.

2.10 Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

The theories relevant to this study are Positive Youth Development Theory and Ericson's Psychosocial Developmental Theory.

2.10.1 The Positive Youth Development Theory (PYD)

According to Sesma Jr. et al. (2006:894) the concept of Positive Youth Development is both a field of research and an area of practice. It includes an increasing number of programs, agencies, foundations, policy initiatives, researchers and youth serving professionals dedicated to stimulating competent, healthy, and successful youth. This theory is very much relevant to this study because the programs of the Mitchell's Plain Youth Café by virtue of being the products of the Western Cape Government policy initiatives meant that they are within the concept of Positive Youth Development (PYD).

Positive youth development is actually an umbrella term that encompasses many streams of work and the idea of positive youth development touches including child and adolescent developmental psychology (Sesma Jr. et. al, 2006). In other words the term positive youth development is not a one sided concept in that it is relevant and cuts across other fields of study such as that of education, public policy, education, health and many other fields. This shows the comprehensiveness of the concept of positive youth development. The Positive Youth Development (PYD) theory is anchored on three multiple theoretical orientations which are human development, community organization and development, and social and community change. For the purposes of this study, the researcher saw it fitting to incorporate the human development, among other theoretical orientations.

According to Sesma Jr. et al. (2006:902) essential to positive youth development are a number of questions entrenched directly in the discipline of development psychology. The main goals of this theory are to explain the capacity of youth to be transformed and to change in a direction that fosters both individual well-being and the social good. In other words how and under what

circumstances contextually and ecologically as well as the factors that contribute this change. This also includes how the very factors are informed or influenced by the person who is developing, who in this case are the young people. It is for this reason that the Western Cape Government (2013:3) argued that “the most effective time in a person’s life to equip them with the tools they need to flourish is between birth and the age of 25.” Central to this statement is the developmental psychology aspect where a young person grows in a supporting environment and where everyone has a role to play. The parents through their embed responsibilities and guidance they give; all communities through the norms they institute; churches and schools through the leadership they offer and of course the government through the services it offers. This, according to the Western Cape Government (2013) is what they describe as a ‘whole-of-society’ approach.

The second relevant theory to this study is the Ericson’s Psychosocial Developmental Theory. Eric Ericson proposed a distinctive theoretical framework for establishing linkages between the various stages of human development, the growth of maturity in a grown-up person, the relationship between the individual and society (Batra, 2013).

The theory is premised on eight human development stages which are infancy, early childhood, play age, school age, adolescence, young adulthood, adulthood and old age (Batra, 2013:258). The Western Cape Government’s Youth Development Strategy (WYDS) focuses on the ages 10-24 years. The above age categories fit within the fifth and sixth stages of human development.

2.10.2 Identity versus confusion: Adolescence, Age Range: 10-24/26 years

This is the bridging psychosocial stage gap between childhood and young adulthood where a pre-young person learns to make new meaning of the morality gained from childhood. This is when they begin to embrace new ethics that he or she will develop and accept as an emerging adult. The opportunity for undergoing a sense of purpose and industry bring the child to a stage where he or she must choose from amongst his friends and their interests (Batra, 2013:266). In this stage the young person’s own emerging likes and dislikes become prevalent.

The young person makes choices in terms of clothing and fashion. The topics of conversation and debate, evolving ethics and values. He must do this while at the same time is dealing with the tension caused by hormones in the body.

The yearning to locate oneself in a social context (touched on the previous theory of Positive Youth Development, whole-of-society approach) becomes paramount for the young person at this stage. As a result, a sense of belonging (Pillar number 4: 'Identity and Belonging' of Western Cape Youth Development Strategy) becomes equally essential. Moreover, due to the ever changing likes and dislikes at this stage, any social influences that do not equal the emerging sense of self are either terminated or perceived as intimidations (Batra, 2013:266). The influence from social settings more so influences the direction of career choice they aspire to pursue at a later stage in life.

1.10.3 Intimacy versus Isolation: Young Adulthood, Age Range: 18/22-40 years

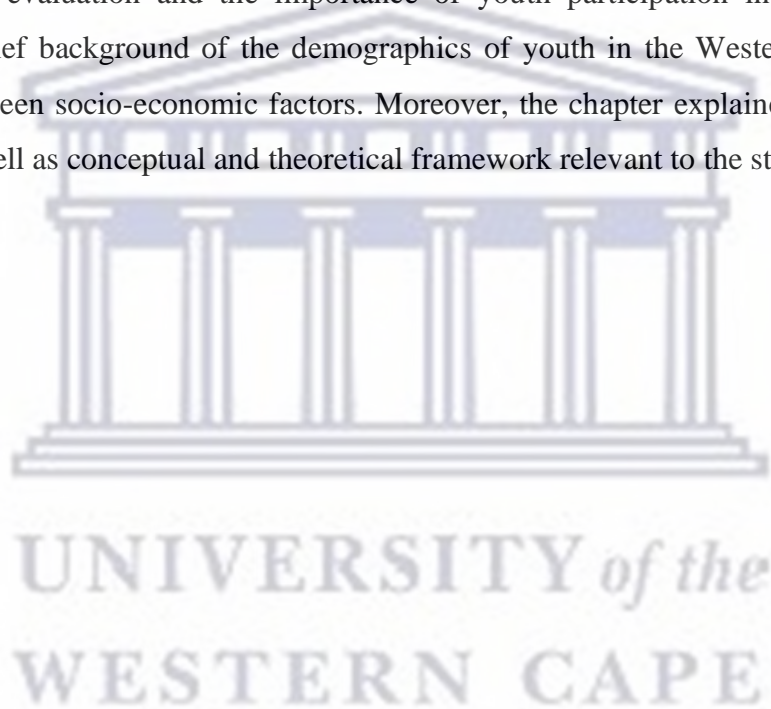
Given the growing social world, the young adult with strengths and weaknesses from the earlier years now comes across new opportunities for verification of self in the context of peer groups and developing sexual needs (Batra, 2013:268). This is considered the most important stage of human development where the ability of the adult to share mind, body and soul evolves from the ego-based strengths which were developed in the previous years. This leads to the mutual development of work, procreation and recreation. This is in line with the identity and belonging pillar, a pillar of the youth development strategy. The objective of the pillar is characterised by peer and networks, youth spaces and networks (in the form of youth cafes), positive images of youth and leadership development (Western Cape Government, 2013).

The young adults use these as tools and platforms for development. If their voices are deprived they tend to resort to social behaviours that are destructive and usually not good for their psychological developmental wellbeing. In other words, if the primary institutions (schools, colleges and/or higher learning institutions) that are supposed to address the needs of the young people appear to have compromised on the requirements of the young people's search for identity. They tend to resort to joining gangs. This is because gangs and cliques offer a form of social capital that schools and communities should be providing (Sergiovanni, 2001:78 cited in Babra, 2013:267). Finally, both the Positive Youth Development Theory and Ericson's Psychosocial Developmental Theory are relevant to the study given their contribution to the

understanding of the concept of youth development within the context of Mitchell's Plain Youth Café programmes, as envisaged in the Western Cape Youth Development.

2.10 Conclusion

The first section of the literature review focused on the background of the area under study, the concept of youth development and explored the concept through discussions on various socio-economic factors affecting the youth in the Western Cape Province. Chapter two briefly explained the background of the context of the area of Mitchell's Plain, an area where the study is conducted, it unpacked the background of the concept of youth and youth development, monitoring and evaluation and the importance of youth participation in monitoring and evaluation, a brief background of the demographics of youth in the Western Cape and the connection between socio-economic factors. Moreover, the chapter explained the legislative framework as well as conceptual and theoretical framework relevant to the study.



CHAPTER THREE

3. Background to the I Am Passion (IAP) Youth Café- Mitchell's Plain

3.1 Introduction

This chapter gives an origin of the Western Cape youth Development Strategy (WYDS) and with specific reference to the programme information. It gives the origin of the strategy and in line with the contextual socio-economic issues facing young people in the Western Cape Province. The chapter also provides information on the programme design in terms of the key stakeholders involved in the development of the programme, the programme goals and the five key pillars on which the strategy is based. Furthermore, the chapter deals with the aspect of monitoring and evaluation plan as set out in the strategic document of the Western Cape Government. It explains how the M&E plan was envisioned for the strategy specifically the programme indicators as they are the most vital in giving a direction and a sense of whether a programme is making progress or not.

3.1 Origins and Contextual Social and Economic Issues Facing Youth in the Western Cape Province

3.1.1 Origins of the youth Strategy

In the year 2013, the Western Cape Government introduced the Western Cape Youth Development Strategy. According to the Western Cape government (2013) the main purpose for the introduction of the strategy was to provide more Support, Opportunities and Services for all the young people in the Western Cape Province. This was done for them to engage in better way with their unique environments and for them to become responsible, independent and stable adults. The focus of the strategy is on youths who are between the ages of 10 and 24 years.

The focus on the pre-youth stage is believed to be needed for an earlier intervention. Moreover, the strategy focuses on the youth of between the ages of 15 and 24 years. The goal behind the strategy is for the youth in the Western Cape Province to really be inspired, educated, responsible, independent, and healthy individuals that have productive personnel, family, and social relations at least by the age of 25.

The youth in every country are believed to be the heart and future of their nations. This is the attitude and the lifelong wish of the Western Cape Government towards the youth in the Western Cape Province. However, the Western Cape Government (2013) in its youth strategic policy document, argued that the youths of the Western Cape Province are the heart and future of the economy of the province. Although, the chances in the areas of life progression (development) and greater life opportunities of many of these young people is ruined. There is a reason for the youth strategy to specifically focus on the pre-youths (ages 10) and youth (aged

24 years). These are critical ages and a period where young people pursue ways to meet their physical, material, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs. Over and above, this is also a period where young people build the competencies and connections that they view as necessary for their growth and development. The Western Cape Government (2013) views this process as the most important and critical to be left out to chance.

There are some critiques targeted to some of the youth policies and programmes whether at the national, provincial, and local levels. According De Lannoy et al. (2018:5) many of the policies that are in existence draw on official statistics that point at the shortfalls in young people's lives. It is against this backdrop that De Lannoy et al. (2018:5) point out that although these policies are intentional in nature, the tendency of only drawing on official statistics may lead to the depersonalisation of the young people, the issues, and topics they face.

The Western Cape Government (2013:5) argued strongly that “there is little systematic, coherent and reliable support for youth who are not part of a network of families, friends and community.” This is because young people often find it easy and safe to share their feelings, dreams and aspirations in their families, their friends, and the community they live in. In other words, the official statistics focus more on the objective areas of these young people's well-being and often overlooks the more subjective (direct qualitative youths' viewpoints) areas of their well-being in terms of how these young people feel in general. The safety or unsafety of how they experience life to be, their sense of level of life satisfaction and other life experiences.

When young people do not adequately receive the necessary services, support, and opportunities to guide their development in a positive manner. They tend to engage in bad activities. The absence of a more comprehensive understanding of challenges young people face at times lead youth to engage in risky and unhealthy coping strategies to specifically meet these needs. For example, they engage in addiction(s), crime or become gang memberships. This is particularly prevalent in most of the areas often referred to as Cape Flats. These include Mitchell's Plain area under study. The below discussions look at the key specific issues encompassing the youths in the province.

3.1.2 Specific Social and Economic issues facing youth in the province

Western Cape Government (2013) revealed in its youth strategy document that the opportunities of employment for youths in the province have deteriorated. As a result, more and more young people are adopting unhealthy coping strategies. Families are primary contexts impacting on the young person's life. It is unfortunate that some family composition(s) in the

province are a risky environment altogether for a better development of a child. For example, in the Western Cape 40% of young people live in two parent households as compared to 26.8% learners in South Africa.

32% of learners in the province live with a single parent compared to 35.2% in the country and 24% with another family member. A very high percentage of 4% live with their non-family members as compared to just 0.5% at the county level. The Western Cape Government (2013) in its strategic document found out that in these families the youths in the province are exposed to high levels of criminality and violence. Some school learners, for example, live in households where a caregiver has been in jail and some live in households where family are members of a gang. The youth development strategy came into being with intentions of creating a more support, opportunities, and services for all young people in the province. This was for them to engage better both internally and externally in their environments within which they find themselves. This then gives them the opportunity to successfully transition into responsible, independent, and productive adults.

The youth in the province are disproportionately affected by various forms of social and economic challenges. De Lannoy et al. (2018:12) argue that some of the deprivations the youth experience ranges from low levels of education, poor health and limited access to housing, basic services, and economic opportunities. These deprivations are in fact often interrelated. For example, income poverty can compromise children's health. As a result, this impacts on education and employment prospects. It is also noted that, according to De Lannoy et al. (2018:12) as per the youth multidimensional poverty index (MPI) it demonstrated that educational achievement (46.3%) and youth not in education, employment, and training (NEETs) (20.1%) are the two biggest contributors to multidimensional youth poverty in the Western Cape Province.

Given the above socio-economic realities faced by youth in the province. The Western Cape Government through the strategic direction of the Departments of the Premier and Social Development, international personnel, and members of local society (including NGOs) jointly established the youth strategy. The intentions were to curb the impaired smooth transition of childhood development of young people to adulthood.

3.2 Programme Design-Youth Spaces and Networks (Youth Cafés)

The Western Government is not the only organisation implementing the youth strategy. The project was a joint initiative from various stakeholders. In its very nature the strategy took the

whole-of-society-approach in making sure that it becomes a success. According to the Western Cape Government (2013:6) the youth strategy creates a platform and tool for the development of policies and programmes for the youth in the Western Cape Province.

In other words, the youth development strategy is more of a blueprint and springboard on which youth policy interventions and intentional programmes are taken to create more support, opportunities, and services for all the young people in the province. The programme is in three-fold. Firstly, the strategy is centred on five pillars, these are discussed in more detail below. The fourth pillar is Identity and Belonging and. It has a broad objective:

“To ensure youth are able to identify with positive influences in their lives which promotes a sense of belonging and agency” (Western Cape Government, 2013:7).

Under this broad objective there are suggested programmes. These are:

- Peer support and networks,
- Sport, music, art, and culture opportunities as a tool,
- Youth spaces & networks,
- Positive images of youth and
- Leadership development.

The youth spaces and networks are the embodiment of youth café as a programme. Youth Cafés are born out of the provincial youth development strategy and together with the Western Cape Government’s new provincial strategic goals. This is objective number 8 of the provincial strategic goal (Promoting Social Inclusion and Reducing Poverty) (Western Cape Government, 2013:1).

3.2.1 The stakeholders in the programme development

The provincial youth development strategy programme was a joint initiative from various stakeholders. At the provincial level the strategy was jointly produced by the Western Cape Departments of the Premier and Social Development. This was under the strategic direction of the directors of the Policy Unit in the Department of the Premier and the Department of Social Development. Other international stakeholders were the University of Denver, Colorado, United States through its Pardee Centre also participated in the strategy project by giving projections.

The Western Cape Government is not the only organisation responsible for the provincial youth strategy. There are other stakeholders that are involved.

According to the Western Cape government (2013:61) the following stakeholders were consulted and are the major drivers and implementers of the youth strategy.

<i>Stakeholder</i>	<i>Role</i>
Provincial Government	The provincial government is responsible overall coordination of the youth strategy and programmes, funding, and rollout of flagships (in terms of number of youths targeted)
Local Government	Local level coordination, funding, and support for flagships (youth targets)
Universities	Education & training, volunteers, research, and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) role
School governing bodies	Oversight of educational interventions (programmes)
Faith-based communities	Strengthening families and peer affirmation
NGOs	Service providers across programmes. Current implementing NGO partners include R-Labs
Private sector	Jobs and skills training functions

(Western Cape Government, 2013).

Over and above the highlighted stakeholders, the very important stakeholders are the recipients (youth) of the programme who receive the services. The success, impact or outcomes are highly dependent on how the young people are positively impacted and transformed by the programmes. The City of Cape Town MAYCO members and ward councillors are also among stakeholders that were involved in the programme (Government of South Africa, 2017).

3.2 The 5 pillars of the Western Cape Youth Development Strategy 2013

In line with the Western Cape Youth Development Strategy (WYDS), the strategy is firmly built on the following pillars:

Family Foundations

The family is the first institution for a child. The main objective is focused on the critical mass of parents with operative parenting skills and support networks to support a positive youth development. The programmes associated with this pillar include community role models ambassador programme and the family and parenting support.

Education and training

The main aim is to ensure that the young people are literate, numerate, and prepared for life and work. The proposed programmes among others are quality education, school retention programmes and skills development and intermediation.

Economic opportunity

The objective of this pillar is the provision of opportunities for young people to have expanded work and labour market. The programmes proposed are the improved connections between youth and jobs and links to work experiences.

Reconnection opportunities

The objective of this fifth pillar is to facilitate the reconnection of youth by making provision of effective services and support with the aim to reconnect, strengthen resilience and creating an enabling environment for positive development. The proposed programme used for the successful implementation of this programme is skills and intermediation among others (Western Cape Government, 2013).

3.3 Provincial Youth Development Strategy Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan

According to Hunter (2009:5) the most important execution of M&E should be for the implementers (NGOs) to establish if whether the projects are really making a difference for the beneficiaries and if there is a discovery that they are not working. The implementers then have to learn to improve the performance and make appropriate changes. The Western Cape Youth Development Strategy (WYDS) is broad in its very nature and has a lot of stakeholders involved hence the 'whole-of-society' approach was used. The strategy has, according to Western Cape Government (2013) put in place a long-term vision for young people, while medium- and short-term performance indicators are to be measured to determine the progress made towards the achievement of the bigger vision.

The medium-term goals were set to be reported on over the 5-year increments. The performance was established through the annual monitoring of high level economic and social

indicators. On the other hand, the short-term progress was set to be determined through the monitoring of indicators in each of the 5 pillars of the strategy. Hunter (2009:24) asserts that indicators are important as they offer evidence of the progress made regarding the achievement a programme or project objectives. Western Cape Government (2013) further explained that these indicators, as part of M&E purposes are to be measured on a quarterly basis by the Western Cape Department of Social Development and be reported on annually, where possible, for the purposes of the provincial youth strategy.

The important indicator for youth spaces and networks programme (in the form of youth cafés) are the number of youths that are connected to a work, skills training, volunteer, or peer group opportunity. These indicators provide valuable evidence as to whether the programme is making progress or not. Chapter 4 will provide more evidence-based data on the progress made in terms of the commitments (objectives) and goals of youth spaces and networks (Mitchell's Plain Youth Café).

The I Am Passion Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain is in town Centre in Mitchell's Plain, Mitchell's Plain Public Transport Interchange, Building D, Cnr 1st & 7th Avenue, Eastridge. According to the South African Government (2017) in accordance to the Strategy, the Youth Cafés are specifically designed to offer opportunities for the young people who are broadly referred to as 'NEETs' that is to say young people that are not in employment, education or training. In 2017 there were already 6 operational youth cafés in the Western Cape Province.

3.4 A comprehensive understanding of the youth Café Case Study

The youth spaces and networks are an umbrella programme (under the 4th pillar), and these are an embodiment of youth cafés. In other words, the youth spaces and networks are essentially youth cafes. According to the Western Cape Government (2013) these youth cafes are creative physical spaces coupled with virtual (online mobi) portal that house a consolidated information on youth services, support, and opportunities. These youth cafes offer a multiplicity of network points, engagement opportunities and networks for youths who want to increase their life chances. The youth cafés are strategically designed to help the young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs) to be productive and healthy citizens by the age of 25 years.

The Western Cape Government (2013) acknowledges that at the international level, a vast majority of young people are not in education, employment or training (NEETs). The very challenge of youths in this cohort is prevalent in the Western Cape and is similar to the national

level in South Africa as a whole. The Western Cape at 32% while 33% nationally. According to Mascherini (2019) the term NEETs was first coined in March 1996 by a senior civil servant. Elder (2015) cited in Mascherini (2019) argued that the term has been adopted in varied ways by governments and global organisations. NEETs are especially associated with the problems of joblessness, discouragement, or marginalisation of youth. The Western Cape Government (2013) argued that many of unemployed youth in the province are those under 25 years of age yet are unemployed.

This is continuing to be the challenge especially with the backdrop of covid-19 that has crippled so many economies in the world. The effects of this pandemic are felt today. According to Smith et al. (2021) African nations are experiencing an unparalleled level of unemployment among the youth and this number is expected to boom given the increasing young population in Africa. It is not only that young people are jobless but most of them are employed in the informal economy. Smith et al. (2021) therefore argues that this is especially rife in South Africa as the World Bank statistics show that in 2019 the youth unemployment rate stood at 58%, which is the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa. The percentage is expected to grow, just at the start of 2020, over 60% of the unemployed were at the ages of 15-34 years. This shows the seriousness to invest in programmes and projects like youth cafés that will assist the youth to find employment, get education and engage in different entrepreneurial programmes that will better their lives in the communities they live in.

According to Hes (2019) the youth cafes are innovative and vibrant spaces for the young people to prosper. The youth cafés offer so much than just a good cup of coffee. These innovative cafes offer a free space where the young people can gain access to skills and personal development training, mentoring, computers and the internet, wellness programmes and supportive considerate atmosphere. Through these programmes, the youth in the province are exposed to opportunities that are accessible at TVET institutions and other networks, explained the Western Cape Government Media Liaison Officer.

3.4.1 The first youth café in Cape Town

The Western Cape Government together with the other stakeholders in the province planned, strategized, and invested in the youth cafés. The 20th of January 2014 the first youth café was officially launched in Mitchell's Plain by the Department of Social Department (Eyewitness News, 2014). The goal of the youth development initiative, through the Western Cape

Government's youth strategy is to prepare the youth to become self-sufficient, independent, and good citizens who live a risk and gangster free life. The idea was well received by the residents of Mitchell's Plain. One of the residents, aged 22, who graduated in 2010, although he was jobless, he felt that he was in the right state of mind to pursue a career in the tourism industry as a tour operator after getting involved in a pilot project for the youth café. The young resident's wish and hopes were to use his new skills to stay on the right path and stay out of crime as many of his peers were (Eyewitness News, 2014). This was a good sign and proved that the youth café has a bright future for the lives of the youth in Mitchell's Plain and the greater part of Khayelitsha.

The Department of Social Development (DSD) planned in the same year to open other new youth cafés in the Western Cape. Hes (2019) argued that in 2018, just over 15 000 young people benefited from the services of the youth cafés. These youth cafés provided an enormous invaluable service to a lot of communities throughout the province as they empower the youth with the sense of personal responsibility and upskill themselves.

In total the youth cafés were 9 in 2019 in the Western Cape. They are not just youth cafés. However, each of them is designed to meet the needs of the surrounding communities within which they operate. For instance, the youth café in Nyanga, its primary focus is on joining soccer sport with personal development (Hes, 2019). Because of the whole-of-society approach that has been adopted by the Western Cape Government in the youth strategy. The programmes in the each of the youth cafés are operated, implemented and supported by expert partners. These expert partners are in the form of non-profit organisations that have partnered with the Western Cape Government to facilitate the programmes in the youth cafés on behalf of the provincial government.

NGOs such as R-Labs, Amandla EduFootball, the Soze Foundation and Stuff Film Academy make sure that the programmes provided are of high quality. Moreover, the youth cafés are not just supported by the NGOs, the NGOs hire youths from institutions of higher learning to assist in making sure that the programmes become a success. Some start as volunteers, then move to intern and then later become fully fledged trainers and facilitators.

3.4.2 How does one become a youth of a youth Café?

The Western Cape Government uses various forms of marketing strategies in ensuring that the youth cafés reach the intended recipients. The youth cafés have been effectively using their social media platforms to invite the youths into theses cafés. There is a criteria that one must

meet to become a recipient on any of the youth cafes in Western Cape Province. Hes (2019, Western Cape Government, 2013) alluded that one must be between the ages of 16 and 25 and be in a possession of an ID or birth certificate. It is then that you can unlock the potential within you brought by the youth café programmes if these requirements are met.

3.4.3 The I Am Passion Mitchell's Plain Youth Café programmes

For the purposes of this social study, here the 9 programmes are discussed in detail with specific reference to their importance, roles, and existence within the context of the Mitchell's Youth Café. However, for the purposes of this evaluative study the researcher only evaluated the effectiveness of 3 programmes out of the 9 that are discussed below: The Western Cape Youth Strategy is the blueprint upon which the youth cafes in Western Cape design programmes.

Digital Training

A lot of young people arrive at adulthood unprepared. The increasing pressure of globalisation, swift moving rate of social and technological change. These all place an enormous accruing stress on youths (Western Cape Government, 2013:11). It is for this reason that, the I Am Passion Mitchell's Plain Youth Café decided to implement a digital training as part of their training for the youth to be digitally savvy. The dawn of the fourth industrial revolution (IR) has, in fact, exacerbated the need for the young people to be ready to traverse through the digital world especially in the 21st century. Interns and volunteers from universities are hands on in training youths to traverse in the digital world through internet.

Business Entrepreneurship

A positive youth development is shaped by a bigger picture of where the young people originate from and what really influences their world. The Western Cape Government (2013:13) argued that the socio-economic and environmental frameworks often give an indicator of what is possible in terms of jobs, income, and opportunities. The youth café offers training to its recipients ranging from the resources, lessons, and the knowledge they need to become successful entrepreneurs. A lot of young people have attested to the fact that the business entrepreneurship programme has helped their journey of venturing into entrepreneurship, and some started a career in the field. Thousands and thousands of youths from all walks of life have entered the youth café and partook in the business training (RLabs, 2015).

Creative Design

Creative design is among the programmes offered by I Am Passion Youth Café in Mitchell's Plain. It uses digital and physical image-making tools to make create renders and representations used for various purposes. The purpose and the role that this programme plays in the young people is remarkable.

Event Management

This programme equips the young people on how to plan events well in different contexts. It is a valuable skill among many skills programme at IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain. It combines the digital training and youth data programmes in making it a success. The goal is for young people to be good event planners.

Project Management

Project management skills training programme is designed for youths who want to make changes in their communities through strategic goals that will realise their intended goals. As part of IAP Youth Café programme, the programme equips the youth to develop in-depth analysis of socio-economic and political situations in their communities to effect change through a set of varied activities.

Work Ethics

The Western Cape Government (2013) views young people as the heart of South Africa's future and work ethics must be instilled while they are still young. This is part of the development outcome of young people. It is believed youth that are trained in this area can transition into productive citizens who are able to relate to others both in the professional workplace environment and personal informal relationships. (RLabs, 2015).

Life Skills Training

The life skills or personal development training programme is part of programs of IAP Mitchell's Plain Youth Café. The Western Government (2013:16) through its whole-of-society approach has allowed various organisations to be the implementers of this programme because they believe that the young people are part of a network of relationships, activities, and institutions. All of these are vital in their development. As such, the life skills training programme is facilitated by the volunteers, R-Labs (an NGO) and various organisations.

Leadership Training

The Western Cape Government (2013) strongly believes that the youth are the lifeblood and the future of the Western Cape Province. This was echoed strongly by the then Premier of the Western Cape, Helen Zille while presenting the Provincial Youth Development Strategy (YDS). The youth strategy is a blueprint upon which the youth programmes of various youth Cafés are based. In other words, it is more of a founding document for all the proposed programmes than just a provincial strategy. It is in this background that the I Am Passion (IAP) Youth Café Mitchell's Plain initiated a Leadership Mastery course at the youth café. Many young people have benefited and are still benefiting from this leadership mastery programme. Many young people who have graduated from the programme felt like they grew their confidence, passion, and drive for the future through this leadership programme (Leitch, 2018).

3.4.4 Youth Café benefits: A comparative evidence from South Africa and Ireland

It is notable, as it was echoed in the previous chapters, that the NEETs is not just a national, provincial issue but an international socio-economic issue. The research shows that the transition to adulthood has been made more complex in recent years by the consequences presented by social processes such as individualisation (Moran et al. 2018:1). The concept of individualisation is premised on the idea that one can exist without other identities through one's true self, strength, and abilities. The issue of individuality is that it slowly weakens the community and familial ties. This concern then means that young people no longer rely on the same level on traditional social institutions as a result, giving rise to concerns at policy level throughout Europe and other parts of the world about what is professed to be an increased disconnection of young people from the society (European union 20009 cited in Moran et al. 2018:2).

These developments have posed a concern for social policy in the Western Cape, but thanks to the Departments of the Premier and Social Development for the strategic direction, the members of the Western Cape Government's Youth Working Group under Provincial Strategic Objective 8 (Promoting Social Inclusion and Reducing Poverty) and other stakeholders. As such, the Provincial Youth Strategy provides benefits through the youth spaces and networks (youth cafés) programmes. The Western Cape Government (2013:53) presented the benefits of the youth cafés as ones that:

- *“Reduce barriers to accessing information and opens up opportunities to all youth,*
- *Provide a mechanism for coordinating all youth activities under one umbrella*
- *Increases the life chances of youth by expanding opportunities services and support”.*

More young people have been accessing the information and services provided by the youth café (R-Labs 2015, Hes 2019, Leitch 2018). Milestones have been achieved, with young people graduating from the leadership mastery course in 2018. The 15 000 plus number of young people visiting the youth cafes. The model of participation in the form of youth café is not only embraced in South Africa, Western Cape Province but at the international level. According to Moran et al. (2018:2, Brady, Moran and Forkan 2015) the model of youth cafés has noteworthy shown prominence in policy in Ireland. In 2015 there were over 161 functional youth cafés in Ireland.

Research has revealed that the model of youth café has appealed to young people, who recognised benefits emanating from their engagement with youth cafés including the social support, mental health, personal safety, reduced risk behaviour and skills development. It is illuminating to note that both youths in Ireland echoed the same sentiments as those of the youths in South Africa. The Youth Cafés are open to the youth in general, the IAP Youth Café Mitchell's Plain is open to the young people in Mitchell's Plain and the greater parts of the Cape Flats. Forkan et al. (2015) cited in Moran et al. (2018:4) found that 26% of the youth café volunteers were former recipient users of the youth café, which highlights the role of youth café in promoting civic engagement among young people. The youth café volunteers at IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain some were former recipients of the course/programmes of the youth café, and some are now students at various higher learning institutions such as University of Cape Town (UCT), University of the Western Cape (UWC) and other institutions

3.4.5 Critiques of formal channels for youth participation

The children and young people's participation has become the concern of social policy makers and focus for academic research. It was for this reason that the researcher embarked on the evaluative studies of the IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain. The aim was to know the effectiveness of the programmes implemented by IAP Youth Café and how the positive impact they make in the lives of youths in the Western Cape Province. An emphasis has always been placed on the establishment of formal representative structures such as youth parliaments and schools' councils which cater for young's participation where they can voice out their opinions and influence decision making (Moran et al. 2018).

These formal structures often limit and fail to capture the everyday interactions, issues and realities faced by young people. Moss and Petrie (2002), Nolas (2015) all called for organic spaces win communities where young people can be themselves while they can connect with

others. On the other hand, Nolas (2015:27) argue that youth policy has tended to favour more structured programmes over these more ‘messy’ informal youth work approaches which are in the form of youth cafes. Youth Cafés share the same features in their nature regardless of where they are located. Youth spaces are more dedicated, informal physical meeting spaces for young people in their communities. Here they freely open about their personal lives and the things that affect them socially, economically, environmentally to their peers who understand them.

O’Donoghue, Kirshner and McLaughlin (2002:20) also critiqued the idea of a more formal structure for youth participation while also acknowledging that it only marks a potential vital first step in opening doors to youth to voice their opinions and participate. However, it may limit their involvement. In a nutshell, an authentic process of youth participation should not only be pre-determined within confined structures as deemed right in the sight of adults. It should rather be consultative in nature through multiple spaces where young people are given a platform for their voices to be heard. “In this way, youth participation efforts can tap into the interests, passions, and skills of young people (O’Donoghue, Kirshner and McLaughlin 2002:20).

3.5 Conclusion

This chapter gave an origin of the Western Cape youth Development Strategy (WYDS) and with specific reference to the programme information. It explained the origin of the strategy and in line with the contextual socio-economic issues facing young people in the Western Cape Province. The chapter also provided information on the programme design in terms of the key stakeholders that were involved in the development of the programme, the programme goals and the five key pillars on which the strategy is based. Furthermore, the chapter dealt with the aspect of monitoring and evaluation plan as set out in the strategic document of the Western Cape Government. It explained how the M&E plan was envisioned by the Departments of Social Development and the Premier for the strategy specifically the programme indicators as they are the most vital aspects of M&E in giving a direction and a sense of whether a programme is making progress or not. The next chapter will track progress in terms of the commitments (objectives) and goals discussed in chapter 3.



CHAPTER 4

4. DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter highlights the findings of the research study based on the Department of Social Development's annual reports, IAP Mitchell's Plain Facebook page, R-Labs Blogger, the

Western Cape Youth Development Strategy (WYDS) and newspaper articles from recognised media publishing houses that captured the direct voices of the 17 participants who graduated from the IAP Mitchell's Plain Youth Café's in the past 6 years on the 2nd of November 2018. The 17 past graduates who were interviewed by Leitch of Plainsman, a weekly community newspaper in Mitchell's Plain were identified purposefully as the suitable sample who attended the programmes under review as participants for the evaluative study research. The study aimed to uncover and assess the effectiveness of the programmes under review on how they impacted the lives of the youth who attended the programme at the Mitchell's Plain Youth Café.

The data was purely extracted from secondary data. The research aimed to assess the effectiveness of the Western Cape Provincial Youth Development strategy with specific reference to the IAP Mitchell's Plain Youth Café.

After careful consideration and analysis, a set of related themes, sub-themes and categories were identified and connected to the overall objectives of the study. This chapter outlines the leading findings of the research in reverence of the secondary data collected. The researcher presents the findings per research objective (s) followed by an analysis of the data and conclusive statement on the findings.

4.2 Findings

The Western Cape government launched the province's first youth café in Mitchell's Plain referred to as the I Am Passion (IAP)-Mitchell's Plain, Cape Town. A township on the peripheries of Cape Town ruined by gangsterism and drugs. As per the research proposal, the data was collected from secondary sources ranging from newspaper articles, Departments of Social Development and the Premier annual reports, and other government resources. The data was specifically used here to uncover the impact of the life skills, entrepreneurship, and leadership mastery training programme(s) on the lives of the participants once they go back to their communities. In November 2018, four years after the launch of the IAP-Mitchell's Plain Youth Café 17 young people graduated from the Town Centre Library from the leadership mastery course ran by I Am Passion (IAP) Youth Café. The composition of the graduates was demographically fair in that it had both the males and females represented coming from various places in and around Mitchell's Plain.

The data below was presented in relation to the four research objectives. These are:

4.3 Unpacking objective 1 - To assess how the IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain entrepreneurship programme has influenced the employment prospects for participants who completed the programme.

The entrepreneurship programme is one of the three main programmes of the I Am Passion (IAP) implemented by the R-Labs (Reconstructed Living Lab). A non-profit organisation appointed by the Department of Social Development as a partner to implement the youth provincial strategy in youth cafes through the programmes relevant to the young people. The data aimed to uncover the influence the entrepreneurship programme had on the past participants. The data is taken from the Facebook page of I Am Passion (IAP) showing the success stories of the Leadership Mastery graduate programme. The participants who partook in the entrepreneurship programme initially did not have a comprehensive sense of direction in their lives. When they came to the youth café it changed their lives and opened their minds to entrepreneurial skills they otherwise never imagined to exist. Their situation appeared to be completely hopeless until they joined the programme as evidenced from the responses below:

According to IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain (2019) one leadership mastery graduate the organization interviewed about his journey since he started the program had this to say

“well from day one since I stepped into this environment basically my mind shifted. I...uhm, I got into a positive environment and from that day I was taught basically how my mind needs to change, my mind set changed...uhm...how I need to have a vision, move forward into life, how I need to plan. I think 5 years from now I would see myself having many companies basically situated in South Africa first. 10 years from now probably be, I would see myself on a platform where I would be a motivational speaker, into impacting the youth to basically ...impacting and inspiring them to basically go for their goals.”

Another leadership mastery graduate who attended the programme and eventually started her business voiced out how the programme has assisted her to start her business. According to Fokazi (2019) of Times Live interviewed the graduate and she had this to say:

“Before I started, I didn't even know what I want to study post matric. Being an entrepreneur is not even something that I imagined. I always looked for basic jobs such as working as a shop assistant because I thought that's the best I could do. To be honest I never saw myself getting out of lokshin management [a colloquial term for unemployment]. I now know exactly what I want. I want to be a businesswoman, and I

want to open my business here so that people from Khayelitsha don't have to go outside to look beautiful.”

It is evident from the above data that the entrepreneurship programme had an impact on the lives of past participants who had taken the programme. The programme was relevant in that it located the young people where they needed it the most. The two graduates before they joined the programme sounded as if they did not have a sense of direction. It was after they joined the programme that they were illuminated by the information they received from IAP Mitchell's Youth Café. The efficiency of the programme is also evident. For example, the Western Cape Department of Social Development's annual budget allocation to youth development programme, the time invested by the Youth Café staff, the equipment and other inputs led to the production of graduates who received skills and knowledge.

The 22-year-old Leadership Mastery Graduate who graduated 3 years ago (2016) at the time of writing of the article completely had no idea what to do after matric. She gave credit for her entrepreneurial spirit to the IAP Mitchell's Plain Youth Café. According to Fokazi (2019) the 22-year-old Leadership Mastery Graduate started her own business selling beauty products to her clients. In the same manner, the other Leadership Mastery Graduate was taught to change his mind set and to set a vision for his life. Through the involvement in the leadership sessions, he was able to identify what he wanted to do with his life which he initially did not know before joining the program. To strengthen the researcher's arguments and analysis Bux (2016:61) alluded to the fact that from as early as March 1995 the government of South Africa established its first White Paper on National Strategy for the Development and Promotion of Small Business in South Africa. This then showed that the government was cognizant of the intentional role of small businesses and start-ups to its development and growth. The 22-year graduate was given exposure to pursue her entrepreneurial goals by setting her own business in Khayelitsha.

The Department of Trade and Industry (2005:3) cited in Bux (2016: 61) highlighted some of the most critical elements for successful implementation of such policy. These include the importance of education and training to allow the essential mind-set, skills, and management practices:

- a). Facilitation of access to information and advise
- b). Provision of training in entrepreneurship, skills, and management.

The Mitchell's Plain Youth Café through its Leadership Mastery course and Entrepreneurship programme was able to impart entrepreneurship knowledge to the young people as evident above for them to start their own businesses. The young entrepreneurs in this study were often motivated by push factors that emanated from constant unemployment and discontent with previous jobs. For instance, the young entrepreneur always thought that the only best thing she could do was to be a Shop Assistant and never thought that the entrepreneurial spirit could be kindled in her. Anderson, Harbi and Brahem (2013) argued that push factors are things that often push individuals to become entrepreneurs such as persistent unemployment, dissatisfaction with past jobs, dependency, lack of gainful employment or family hardships. This was true in the context of the 22-year-old entrepreneur who started her own business. Youth unemployment forces young people to look for jobs that are not even within their areas of study. They search for any kind of job for as long as they can put food on the table and pay their bills. The bills such as rent, food, transportation money and money contribution to parents to sustain other family members.

The entrepreneurship programme appeared to be infused into the Leadership Mastery Programme given the responses of the past participants. The data according to Leitch (2018) of Plainsman community newspaper publication made us to understand that 17 young people graduated on Friday the 2nd of November 2018 at the Town Centre Library from the Leadership mastery course. It is early and difficult to reach a conclusive statement on the above data given the scarcity of the data as far as results are concerned.

4.3.1 Discussion on Entrepreneurship Employment Prospects of Leadership Mastery graduates

In a general form, employment prospect is a person's potential ability to acquire a job or a probability of success in a particular future career. The data above revealed a past graduate who used to be a Shop Assistant. In her mind she was made to believe that this was the best she can do, that it was her career path. This was due to a lack of career guidance right from the time she completed matric. What emerged from the data is that most graduates lacked guidance in their various aspects of life in one way or the other. A career that the 22-year-old female graduate believed that was only based on finding basic employment. The entrepreneurship training the graduate received was an avenue through which her employment prospect journey started. She had to choose whether to be an employee or start her own business.

While limited evidence is provided about the status of other graduates. Youth unemployment in South Africa has, from year on year been reported to be very high. According to Stats SA (2019) cited in Webb (2021:1) in 2019 the youth unemployment rate for the youth cohort that the youth strategy focuses on between the ages of 15 and 24 was 55%. The politicians in South Africa recurrently declare youth unemployment a national crisis. Webb (2021) further argued that the interventions have been heavily focused on the supply aspect such as boosting education and skills development and the provision of hiring incentives to those who offer employment opportunities. The latter might not be applicable here. However, the first two might be applicable in the sense that the other graduates' endeavours are not reported in the data. Training was provided but no employment opportunities are reported in their case except of course the two graduates whose narratives of how the program has impacted their lives is reported on in the data.

It is important to note that the data as evidence is not sufficient to reach generalization regarding the employment prospects of the 17 graduates. Essentially, the specific employment prospect the researcher desired to find out was the extent to which the entrepreneurship programme which is embedded in the Leadership Mastery Programme has presented or opened employment opportunities for the graduates. The evidence did not give the researcher the confidence to conclude that the programme has influenced positively the employment prospects for the graduates. In alignment with the research problem, the IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain has been in operation since the 20th of January 2014. However, the evidence from the data shows no evidence of progress in this program. On the other hand, the data collection method may have influenced the generalization of the findings. The research only relied on the secondary data which may have limited the access to the information. Nonetheless, there has not been an evaluative study done on the IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain programmes. The study was the first of its kind conducted on the Mitchell 'Plain's Youth Café programmes.

The monitoring and evaluation strategy of the provincial youth strategy is anchored on measuring of medium and short-term performance. The Western Department of Social Development (WDSD) as the custodian of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) only reported annually (2014-2019) at the provincial level in respect of the youth strategy. It was for this reason that the researcher needed to uncover progress in the case of IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain. A first Youth Café to be launched in the Western Cape Province, Cape Town. The implementing non-profit organization (Reconstructed Living Labs) monitored and reported

each progress regarding the Mitchel' Plain youth Café through its blog website. The researcher, based on the evidence of data reached a conclusive statement. The researcher concluded that the entrepreneurship programme, which is embedded in the leadership mastery programme, did not sufficiently influence employment prospects for the graduates.

4.3.1 Indicators of Inputs, Activities, Outputs, Outcomes, and Impacts of the IAP Youth Cafe Entrepreneurship programme (2014-2019)

Level of Indicator	Leadership Mastery course	Data sources
Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMPLEMENTING PARTNER-RECONSTRUCTED LIVING LAB (R-LABS) NGO • WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL BUDGET ALLOCATION TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT • YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN 14-25 YEARS LIVING IN THE PROVINCE • VOLUNTEERS, INTERNS • R-LABS STAFF • COMMUNITIES 	Western Cape Government (2014). Potential and Passion on the Menu and Youth Cafes.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEADERSHIP MASTERY COURSE SESSIONS • EIGHT-WEEK LEADERSHIP 	Cafés serve youngsters in the Cape a main course that tastes of hope (timeslive.co.za)
Output(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2ND NOVEMBER 2018: 17 YOUNG PEOPLE GRADUATED 	Youth Café changing lives - Plainsman

	FROM THE LEADERSHIP MASTERY COURSE	
Outcome(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEADERSHIP MASTERY GRADUATE OPENED A BUSINESS IN KHAYELITSHA 	Cafés serve youngsters in the Cape a main course that tastes of hope (timeslive.co.za)
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegates from the Northern Cape Province Department of Social Development exposed to youth cafés and mentoring programmes 	Western Cape Department of Social Development, annual report 2017/18

The above graduate's business is successful. What is common about both of these two graduates is that through the programme they have been taught to be futuristic, to think ahead about their business in terms of expanding in their various communities. Family composition is one aspect affecting the young people in the Western Cape. According to the Western Cape Government (2013) the family is the most important institution for a young person's developmental life. Most of young people in the province live both with single parents (32%), 24% live with another family member and others, notably, 4% compared to 0.5% at a national level live with a non-family member. In all these family settings the young people are exposed to an intense level of criminality and violence.

The fact that the graduate from the data above does not want to do what her parents did it could be the experience she had encountered at home that was toxic and hindered her smooth development as a child. The Provincial Youth Strategy came into effect to address such issues that the young people in the Western Cape Province face. The data above emanates directly from the voices of the past participants (graduates) and it captures the manner in which they relate to the program and how it has improved their lives. The data suggests that the program (entrepreneurship) paved a way for employment prospects for those young people who are the direct recipients of the program.

However, based on the existing data it is early to say that the program is successful because it does not capture the progress made in the lives of the other graduates who also partook of the program. The outcome in the researcher's view is more important as it gives the indication that the program is achieving its intended objectives.

Impact indicators in relation to entrepreneurship programme

Impact indicators reveals whether or not the program has had an influence on the problem situation that is being addressed. It assesses if the strategy was useful and whether it would be valuable to implement it elsewhere. According to the Western Cape Department of Social Development (2017/18:91-92) "a delegation from the Northern Cape Department of Social Development was hosted and was exposed to Youth Cafés, the Western Cape Youth Development Strategy and mentoring program provision." The Western Cape Government realised the impact the program(s) had on the lives of the young people in the Western Cape. They saw it fitting for them to educate and share the idea to the Department of Social Development from another province, the Northern Cape Province in this case.

"Impact indicators describe progress made towards higher level goals" (Thornton et al. 2013:17). The delegates from Northern Cape wanted to replicate the strategy in their own province. In 2017 trained interns were appointed at the youth cafés. Their role was to act as connectors for the NEETs (youth not in education, employment or training) and the youth innovators to make sure that the communities are aware of all of what the government was doing and other social services accessible to them. To present skills transfer programmes to young people interested in entrepreneurship (Western Cape Government 2017/18). 17 young people were trained, graduated and some as per data above revealed that they started their own businesses and were looking to expand. However, there is no data that tracks whether they were able to employ other young people to curb the issue of high unemployment in through their established businesses. On the other hand, the data suggests that the output indicators complement impact indicators and are linked to results.

4.4 Unpacking objective 2 - To evaluate whether the life skills and leadership training skills programme learned at IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain are sustainable for participants once they go back to their communities

The life skills and the leadership mastery programme of the I Am Passion Mitchell's Plain is in line with the Youth Café Draft Concept document and the youth strategy of the Western Cape Government which both serve as a blueprint on how the youth cafes need to draft and implement their programmes (Western Cape, 2013). The programme produced its first graduates (output) who graduated from the leadership mastery programme in November 2018 (Leitch, 2018). The data presented is based on the article written by Marsha Leitch of Plainsman who captured the direct voices of the seventeen (17) graduates who graduated from the leadership mastery programme.

4.4.1 Profile of Participants (Graduates) of Leadership Mastery Course, IAP Mitchell's Plain

The participants came from Mitchell's Plain, Khayelitsha and the surrounding areas that are accessible to the youth café. The young people are between the ages of 14 and 25 years. They are from mixed racial groups of the Western Cape Province.

Table 1.

Participant	Gender	Race	Age	Current employment status
1.	Female	Black South African	22	Studying: Beauty Therapy Studies, businesswoman
2.	Male	Coloured	N/A	N/A
3.	Female	Coloured	N/A	Businesswoman

Source: <https://www.plainsman.co.za/news/youth-cafe-changing-lives>

Sustainability of the programme

The researcher understands sustainability as the ability of any action, course, intervention, project, or programme to stand the test of times from external and internal forces without deviating from the objective. Savaya and Spiro (2011:1) argues that sustainability is an

important aspect for social programs for both moral and financial reasons. However, there is not an agreed upon standard definition for sustainability.

For the purposes of this study objective, the researcher has proposed the following criteria(s) and standard for sustainability:

- Continuation and commitment of the DSD and partners towards the program
- Involvement of participants in their community
- Duration of the programme

Continuation and commitment of the DSD and partners towards the program

The department of Social Development and the implementing partner, reconstructed living Lab (R-Labs) have been and continue to show commitment in implementing the programmes. The Western Cape Government made a promise. According to Bizcommunity (2014) on the 20th January, the day of the launch of the Mitchell's Plain Youth café that it will continue to push the provincial youth strategy. The main goal is to see that young people in the province become economically self-sufficient by the age of 25 years. The data above, given the expressions from the beneficiaries suggests that the two main implementers have been committed in ensuring that the main reason for the existence of the strategy comes to fruition. There are two aspects that have been the backbone for the continuation and the commitment of the Department and the implementing partner NGO.

These are financial and nonfinancial resources. According to Bizcommunity (2014) the Western Cape Government increased the annual province's youth development budget exponentially from a basic of only R2 million two years ago before the year 2014 to more than R30 million in the year 2014. This significant increase shows the commitment of the Provincial Department of Social Development to the youth strategy especially its enduring outcome of seeing young people becoming economically self-sufficient and independent, healthy, with positive family, personal and social relationships and being active in their communities. The researcher is of the view that this standard of sustainability is being met. The Mitchell's Plain Youth Café was in fact among those of a pilot project youth cafes but it stood the test of times (Bizcommunity, 2014).

Involvement of participants in their community

The second standard for sustainability of the project is the involvement of the beneficiaries (youth participants) in the project. The data above suggests that the youth are involved in the project and have reaped the fruits of being part of the project. For example, some participants'

purposes have been reaffirmed through the attendance of the program and some have started their businesses. Moreover, some participants have gained confidence and started to believe in themselves again. The department of Social Development prioritises the young people's voices on how they the youth in the province view development. The researcher is of the view that this standard of sustainability is being met. O'Donoghue (2002:16) argues that the participation of youth has been associated with to a larger organisational sustainability and effectiveness and on different levels such as social and economic development.

The idea of youth voices (participation) reaped extensive support across varied disciplines and practices. This is particularly true in the context of this study where the Department wanted to hear directly from the youth through the unconference event as to how they view and define youth development in their own terms. The only disadvantage is that the data shows fewer beneficiaries' success stories and the greater part of the young people who completed the programme and their life endeavours are not shared.

Duration of the programme

The duration of the programme is an important standard of sustainability of the programme. The programme has been into existence since 2014 and it is still continuing till today supporting young people. According to the R-Labs Blogger (2018) in just 2014 alone 15 000 visits were made and about 40 000 community hours completed by the young people in their communities by giving back through various community activities. In 2018 the R-Labs hosted a Youth Celebration which the R-Labs Labs (2018) described to be a day that was filled with youthfulness celebrating 4 years of impacting young people and the transformation of the lives of many. This shows that the programme was not a once off intervention but something that is sustainable. The researcher attributes the sustenance of this standard to the whole-of-society approach the youth strategy proposed. The relevant stakeholders followed and implemented accordingly.

The analysis of the data led to the careful formation of themes and categories. According to Morse (2008:727) a theme "is a meaningful essence that runs through the data. It is a basic topic that the narrative is about, overall." A category on the other hand is what is in the data. It is a collection of similar data sorted together.

4.4.2 Themes, subthemes and Categories of the research focus related to the second objective of the study

Table 2

Themes	Subthemes	Categories
Life before the leadership mastery course	Attitudes and belief	Lack of confidence and self-doubt , transformative program
		External environmental forces on participants' lives
Life at the Youth Café and the anticipated life after the program (s)	Confidence, bright future, and business establishment(s)	Growth and impact of the programme on participants

Source adapted: <https://www.plainsman.co.za/news/youth-cafe-changing-lives>

Overview of life before joining the leadership mastery programme

The most common aspect voiced out by the graduates is that the programme was very much transformative in their lives. The sessions of the program had so much impact in the participants' lives. The participants felt as though they did not have a potential and sense of direction. However, when they attended the youth café they gained a sense of diction and confidence about their lives. Their hope got revived.

According to Leitch (2018) recorded one graduate who said:

“When I started the programme, I felt as though I didn't reach my full potential of confidence. As I continued with the programme, I later realised that I had all the confidence. I see myself being successful in the future. I took the time out to be here. Do not forget your dreams, your goals and potential” (Leitch, 2018).

“Every class had an impact. I started this programme in August, and I can feel I am growing. I don't want to do what my parents did, I want to achieve all I can. My business is successful; I am in the fourth month of my business. I look forward to being the boss lady one day. I want to make a change in this community” (Leitch, 2018).

Based on the above responses from the graduates, they are explicit about how they felt and viewed life. The responses suggest that the graduates saw the program as an opportunity to improve their lives and find purpose. The graduate who cited the fact she does not want to be like her parents could be that she analysed her parents' situation and realised that it was not conducive for development. After all the ages from 10-24 years are the most important ages for development. The Western Cape Government (2013) argues that this is a period when youths seek avenues through which to meet their physical, material, emotional, mental and spiritual needs and building the competencies and networks they view as necessary for their growth and development. This is true in the case of the latter graduate's response who alluded that she felt that she was growing through her attendance of the program. From the lack of confidence the attitudes and beliefs about life in general changed after they attended the program.

According to Fokazi (2019) the 22 year young businesswoman who started her own business through the leadership mastery programme grew up in a poverty-stricken community in Khayelitsha that really damaged her self-esteem. As a result, she felt that since there were lack of role models in her community this made her to feel as though she was less of anything good. Before she joined the program she never worked for more than two months in any job.

The leadership mastery course graduate alluded according to Fokazi (2019) that,

“The longest contract that I ever got was a two-month admin job. The few odd jobs that I did only lasted for a month, and occasionally I would do people's hair just to keep myself occupied.”

This was before her entrepreneurial spirit was reignited by attending the program.

“Before I started, I didn't even know what I want to study post matric. Being an entrepreneur is not even something that I imagined. I always looked for basic jobs such as working as a shop assistant because I thought that's the best I could do. To be honest I never saw myself getting out of lokshin management [a colloquial term for unemployment]” (Fokazi, 2019).

The graduate who is now a businesswoman, had no idea of what career to venture into after matric. It could be that the participant had no career guidance prior matric to show her the different career options she can take. Given this backdrop, it is true that “education impacts on employment prospects. Substantial unemployment and unequal earnings characterize the South African labour market, with youth disproportionately affected” (Western Cape Government, 2013:6). If it were not of IAP's Youth Café's leadership programme the graduate would have

not had the audacity to start her own business. The job of doing hair occasionally and being a shop assistant was not something optional for the graduate but something to keep her busy because she could have been impaired mentally and emotionally especially in her young age for not doing nothing.

Life at the Youth Café and the anticipated life after the program

The young people who attended the program exhibited certain attitudes and were shaped by certain beliefs after they attended the programme. They began to gain more confidence and became very futuristic about their lives with using entrepreneurship as an avenue through which they can improve their lives and the lives of those around them in their communities. The program became an illumination in most of the young graduates' lives. This is evident from the response(s) from one of the graduates who attended the programme who said:

“I now know exactly what I want. I want to be a businesswoman, and I want to open my business here so that people from Khayelitsha don't have to outside to look beautiful” (Fokazi, 2019).

The Department of Social Development and R-Labs (a non-profit organisation) that the department has partnered up with have created an environment where youth in the Western Cape (Mitchell's Plain and nearby surroundings) can access opportunities and skills, and also contributing to the communities where they live.

The youth café became popular to the young people and through their interactions with the staff and their peers everything about life started to make more sense. The one young person had to this to say after the interactions with the programme(s) and the staff from the R-Labs (NGO) who implement the programmes at the Mitchell's Plain Youth Café.

Confidence

“When I first walked into the Youth Café, I was scared with mixed emotions. The environment was so different to what I expected. They were so friendly and different as if I was in a time zone. I felt like crying but had to hold my tears back. I told myself that this is my chance in life God gave me because I've cried for help for months, being depressed and all. I've learned to be confident and believe in myself. I also learnt how to open up and just be myself and one thing I must say is the Youth Café's coffee is the best, ever! I was shy at the beginning to speak to the staff because I'm not used to people being nice to me. I enjoy all sessions and classes” (Rlabs Blogger, 2015).

The youth cafés in general are designed in such a way that they are more welcoming, conducive for inclusiveness for the young people from all walks of life (Moran et al. 2018:391). The data

above suggests that the young person felt welcomed at the youth café hence she described the environment as being different to what she imagined it to be. Everyone was welcoming and nice...exceeding her expectations. Anxiousness is the most common thing among people but more so in young people especially in their young age. Moran et al. (2018:390) argued that “the youth phase is a time of transition and growth, one that is marked by significant biological, psychological and social changes.” This was true in the case of the participant who felt so depressed and found herself wanting (for help) for so many months. The youth café in her own words came to rescue when she needed it the most. The participant began to develop confidence and started to believe in herself.

The confidence and futuristic mind-set is something that the researcher found to be common among the young people who attended the programme. This suggests that the programme had a positive impact in their lives. However, this does not mean it's a one-size-fits for all. There could have been those that the programme did not impact. To lay the foundation and maintain the objectivity of the research, the researcher observed that the data provided only revealed the good things about the programme. Again, this also does not mean that the young people when they were interviewed to voice out their opinion on how the programmes impacted their lives were influenced by the interviewers. After all, everyone has the right to freedom of expression and opinion. This freedom of expression/opinion is enshrined in chapter two of the Bill of Rights section 15(1) in the South African Constitution (The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996).

The perspectives of the youth are not representative of all the youth in their communities. The study focused on those who attended the programmes and how it impacted their lives. For instance, the young people's responses above makes the researcher understand that not all young people face adversity at home. The one young person who attributed to the fact she faced depression this does not mean that this is applicable to all the youths in their communities where they come from. Moreover, the one participant (graduate) above alluded that she does not want to be like her parents. She wanted to achieve all she can and not to do what her parents did. One can only imagine what her parents did.

For instance, it could be that her parents did not study further and fell into the poverty trap as result of that decision. On the other hand, it could be that there were socio-economic factors

that were beyond her parents' control that led her into thinking that her parents were not achieving it.

All the graduates voiced a huge appreciation about their experiences about the Leadership Mastery course/programme they attended. Overall, the agreement was that it remains an unforgettable and an amazing experience. It was one that many of the graduates will never forget. One graduate shared his experience of the programme and how the programme changed and impacted his life. He had this to say according to IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain (2019)

“Well from day one since I stepped into this environment basically my mind shifted. I...uhm, I got into a positive environment and from that day I was taught basically how my mind needs to change, my mind set changed...uhm...how I need to have a vision, move forward into life, how I need to plan. I think 5 years from now I would see myself having many companies basically situated in South Africa first. 10 years from now probably be, I would see myself on a platform where I would be a motivational speaker, into impacting the youth to basically ...impacting and inspiring them to basically go for their goals.”

The data suggests that the program was a confidence booster and nurtured futuristic young people. The young man's life, his mind-set or how he views things in life got changed by the programme through the encounter with the Youth Café's staff, the environment and the programme itself. One thing that is unique about youth café is the involvement of youths in activities and programmes which differentiate itself from any other traditional youth model of engagement. Moran et al. (2018: 398) argued that “the popularity of the youth café approach illustrates that it is a model of its time, meeting specific needs of young people in a more creative, perhaps sophisticated way than traditional youth work provision heretofore.”

This proved to be true in the lives of the young people who attended the program at the Mitchell's Plain Youth Café. The informality of the youth café provided a safe and relaxed environment where they can be themselves. This is shown with the evidence above where the young man started to shift his mind by thinking big about establishing businesses locally and internationally over more medium term and long term goal oriented timeframes. The findings of this research suggested that the social relationships and sense of belonging experienced in the youth café are a strong attraction for the young people. The Western Cape Government was

innovative and assertive enough by allowing the youth cafés to be designed according to the expectations of young people and what they (youth) want from a youth café.

According to the Rlabs Blogger (2018) the implementing partner, hosted Youth Celebration on the 30th June 2018 celebrating 4 years of impacting youth and changing lives of many young people. The Department of Social Development together with the R-Labs NGO jointly hosted an unconference. The main purpose of the event was to ask the youth what they wanted, and how they envisioned the new way for youth development within South Africa. As a result, the youth café was born. This move was a true reflection of participatory approaches to development. The reality is that for youth development to take place successfully the young people must be involved.

The youth themselves need to be heard, otherwise a program initiated without their involvement runs the risk of being unsuccessful. The enactment of the unconference yielded fruitful results as it formed the basis upon which the direction of youth programmes would be. The unconference took place on the 16th June 2013. The unconference event paved a way for growth, impact and change in young people's lives. It underpinned the socio-economic development trajectory of youth in the Western Cape. The findings of this research showed a shift in youth development. The Department of Social Development through the whole-of-society approach shifted from preventative programs to programs that actually involve the youth.

O'Donoghue et al. (2002:16-17) alluded that the programs that were designed to treat and prevent young people's problems who are regarded as 'youth at risk' shifted to preparation-the building of skills and supporting the larger development for all the youth. This proved to be true with what the Department of Social Development has together with all its partners have done through the establishment of youth café which had made a great impact in the lives of the young people as they have rightly narrated above.

4.4.3 Mitchell’s Plain Youth Café Leadership Mastery Programme Indicators (2014-2019): Indicators relating to the number of youth connected to wok, Temporary/permanent job, number of youth trained and the number of graduates

Table 3:

			The duration of the programme evaluated in years						
	Indicator	Definition	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Category
1.	Number of youth connected to wok	Youth aged 15-25 years	534		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Outcome
2.	Temp/Permanent job (s)	The type of contract	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Outcome
3.	Number of youth trained on various programmes	Youth registered for training	6,521	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Output
4.	Number of graduates	Youth graduated from the programmes	408	N/A	N/A	N/A	17	N/A	Output

Source: <https://blog.rlabs.org/category/youth-cafe/>

The indicators are used for various purposes and they simply indicate progress made on a particular project or programme seeking to make a change in a particular setting. In the context of this study, the programme the researcher is assessing is the Leadership Mastery Training Programme of the Mitchell’s Plain Youth Café. An indicator can be defined according to Abbot and Gujit (1998: 40) as “bits of information that highlight what is happening in a large system. They are small windows that provide a glimpse of the big picture” as cited in Andersen and Sano (2006:10). On the other hand, the UNDP (2006:21) defines indicators as “a device for providing specific information on the state or condition of something” cited in Andersen and Sano (2006:10). Both definitions allude to the fact that an indicator, essentially, provides information about the progress of an intervention seeking to make a change.

The year 2014 was the year of the launch of the Mitchell's Plain Youth Café. According to the Rlabs Blogger (2014) in that year there were more than 15 000 visits from the youths. The youth cohort that the strategy focuses on are the youth between the ages of 10 and 14 which is called a pre-youth and the youth phase between the ages of 15 and 24 years. More than 14 000 seats were filled for training in two youth cafes of which IAP Mitchell's Plain Youth Café received 6 521 total number of young people who got the training for various programmes. The greatest highlight, in light of the sustainability of the participants once they went back to their communities. The young people were motivated and they implemented all that they learned from the programme in their communities.

The evidence according to the R-Labs Blogger (2014) shows that the young people did more than 40 000 community hours in their communities in 2014. The youth café introduced an innovative digital currency called the Zlato which allowed the youth to buy goods using the mobile wallets when they have performed community services. The introduction of the Zlato encouraged the Zafes (youth) as they are called by the R-Labs, to perform more and more community service. They knew that they would buy goods and services once they perform a community service and earn a Zlato. The Zlato platform uses block-chain technology to increase engagement among the young people. It tracks positive behaviour via a live dashboard. Through this system the Mitchell's Plain Youth Café was able to track all the activities that the youth have done in their communities.

The R-Labs Blogger (2014) highlighted that the certificates that were issued to graduates who participated in the programmes. However, the data does not mention the number that were issued to the graduates who participated in their leadership programme which the Mitchell's Plain Youth Café call the 'Leadership Mastery Course/Programme'. It is only in 2018 that 17 graduates were recorded to have graduated from the Leadership Mastery Course ran by the I Am Passion (IAP) Mitchell's Plain Youth Café on the 2nd of November 2018 at the Town Centre library in Mitchell's Plain (Letch, 2018). The data records 6 521 number of young people who were trained in the year 2014 for various programmes, not necessarily the leadership programme at the café. The evidence according to the R-Labs Blogger (2014) records 534 number of young people who were connected to jobs. It is not explicit about the type of jobs the young people received. For example, a contract, internship or permanent job. It is dangerous to assume that the young people got permanent or contract type jobs after their training as evidence does not show the case.

4.5 The Western Government (2013:59) has some targeting flagships for the strategy as follows:

Table 4:

Programmes	10-14 year olds 438 843 (in thousands)	15-25 year olds 1 063 673 (in millions)	25-35 year olds 1 074 485(in millions)
Future potential	250 000 youth, 100 000 families		
Expanding horizons educations support	150 000 primary learners 100 0000 grades 8-12		
First job		100 000 job seekers	
Employment works		400 000 work seekers	
Youth Spaces and Networks (youth cafes)	300 000 youth		
Reconnection bridges	100 000 youth		

Source: Western Cape Government, 2013. Western Cape Youth Development Strategy-2013.

The youth strategy is clear about the cohorts and the number of youth in the cohort it is targeting. According to the Western Cape Government (2013:60) both the medium term and short term performance indicators will be measured to determine the progress made in realizing the success of the strategy vision. The medium term is conveyed on over five year increments and performance determined through the annual monitoring of high level economic and social indicators. The annual reports of the Department of Social Development reported on the progress at the sector and the provincial level for the entire group of youth cafes in the Western Cape Province from 2014 to 2019. The Department's reports do not necessarily track the progress per youth café. The only evidence that the researcher was able to source was the quarterly progress that highlighted some of economic and social indicators from the Reconstructed Living Lab's (R-Labs) Blogger presented in the table above.

The number of youth that were connected to work as reported by R-Labs Blogger (2014) in the years 2014 and 2015 in table 3 is far less than what the Western Cape Government (2013)

targeted for job seekers of 100 000. However, the projected targets were set for various programmes under youth development programmes that are performed by various institutions such as Chrysalis Academy and I Am Passion (IAP) Mitchell's Plain Youth Café. On the other hand, even if that was the case the number produced by the Mitchell's Piffain Youth Café is far less than the projections set out in the strategy. The researcher cannot, therefore, conclude that the youth café is making progress in producing independent young people who are participating in the country's economy.

The fewer young people who were reported to have gotten employment opportunities, the evidence did not disclose the type of employment the young people got. The employment type in the form of internships, contract or permanent employment. It is also important to understand that the researcher is assessing the program that is at its stable/mature stage. In 2019 it was 5 years down since the launch of the youth café on the 20th January 2014. The Western Cape Government proposed the monitoring and evaluation framework for the strategy. The monitoring and evaluation statement was that "the indicators will be measured on a quarterly basis by the respective custodian department but will be reported on, on an annual basis, where possible, for the purposes of the Youth Development Strategy" (Western Cape Government, 2013:60).

In the context of the Mitchell's Plain Youth Café, the first in the Western Cape Province. The evidence presented regarding the progress made is not convincing. On the other hand, the Bizcommunity (2014) made the researcher to understand that the Mitchell's Plain Youth Café was a pilot project. However, for the sake of the objectivity of the study, the evidence suggests that the leadership training skills programme (termed Leadership Mastery Course at IAP Mitchell's Plain Youth Café) did make an impact in the lives of the young people. They voiced out their feelings and how the youth café changed their lives. The sustainability standards were met but the economic and social indicators disclosed little progress made within those 5 years (from 2014-2019) in the context of the I Am Passion Mitchell's Plain Youth Café.

4.6 Conclusion

The study showed that the issue of youth unemployment was and still is a battle for the young people not only in the Western Cape Province but in the entire country as a whole. The entrepreneurial route is offered as the catalyst for most of the socio-economic woes facing the youth in the Western Cape Province and the nation at large. The majority of South African youths have grown up with limited home experience of business innovation or entrepreneurship and hence some of the participants did not view themselves as potential entrepreneurs.

However, it is clear that the IAP Mitchell's Plain Youth Café made an impact in the lives of the graduates (participants) through the entrepreneurship programme embedded in the leadership programme and the leadership mastery program. The Youth Café offered much needed sense of hope and purpose which the participants diligently internalized, leaving them motivated and inspired. This was evident in the experiences they shared as shown in the data above. The data showed little information about the successful entrepreneurs who started their business after attending the program (s).

The actual socio-economic indicators within the 5 year period from 2014-2019 are not convincing leaving the researcher with scepticism about the effective progress of the Mitchell's Plain Youth Café programmes. However, the data does suggest that little progress has been made. In light of the above, the following chapter 5 provides suggestions on how the programmes can be improved to achieve greater effectiveness of the programmes and concludes the research.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

5.2 Overview of the study

The study was a mixed method research study focusing on a case study. The study focused on the programme evaluation between the years 2014 to 2019. The researcher adopted and used qualitative and quantitative data to achieve the objectives of the study. The researcher relied on the secondary data based on the archives, the Department of Social Development's annual reports and online newspaper articles. The researcher relied on the 17 graduates from the second data who graduated from the Leadership Mastery Programme of I Am Passion (IAP) Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain, Cape Town. The themes and categories that developed from the data were supplemented with literature. Trustworthiness of the data was assured, and ethical research considerations adhered to. The research findings and recommendations described below are centred on the experiences of the graduates, research questions, the objectives and the themes emanating from the data analysis. The main research question to be answered was:

HOW EFFECTIVE ARE THE IAP (I AM PASSION)-MITCHELL'S PLAIN YOUTH CAFÉ PROGRAMMES IN EFFECTING CHANGE IN THE LIVES OF THE PAST AND PRESENT PARTICIPANTS IN THE MITCHELL'S PLAIN AREA WHERE THE YOUTH CAFÉ IS LOCATED?

By answering this question, the study achieved the following objectives:

- To assess how the IAP Youth Café- Mitchell's Plain entrepreneurship programme has influenced the employment prospects for participants who completed the programme.
- To evaluate whether the life skills and leadership training skills programme learned at IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain are sustainable for participants once they go back to their communities.
- To determine if there are growth opportunities in the entrepreneurial pursuits and employment prospects for participants who have completed the entrepreneurship programme.

- To explore different strategies and ways that can be used to improve the programmes.

5.3 The summary of the data

Two themes, consisting of 4 sub-themes and 4 categories emerged from the data that are were linked to the second objective of the study which was:

To evaluate whether the life skills and leadership training skills programme learned at IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain are sustainable for participants once they go back to their communities.

THEME 1 Life before the leadership mastery course

THEME 2 Life at the Youth Café and the anticipated life after the program (s)

5.4 The themes, study objectives and their implications

THEME 1 Life before the leadership mastery course was not as pleasant as the graduates imagined life would be. The former graduates' attitudes and beliefs were completely different in that they lacked confidence about what they were capable of doing and life in general. When linked with the literature review, the young people felt as though there was some element of missing identity and belonging. A pillar upon which the Provincial Youth Development strategy is founded. The employment opportunities for young people have declined drastically. As a result, pressures on them have increased and more young people adopted unhealthy coping strategies which might have led them to feel the way they felt about themselves and life. Family is one aspect dealt with in the literature review as one of the fundamental institutions that form part as a foundation for youth development.

As such, one of the graduates felt as though her parents did not achieve all they could in their time. This graduate then, presupposed that there is something that the parents did that was not conducive for development in her own eyes. This implies that what the graduate experienced is what was echoed by the literature before the findings of the study were presented.

THEME 2 Life at the Youth Café and the anticipated life after the program (s). The findings revealed that after the youth attended the program they changed their perspectives. The lack of confidence that they had before the programme started to dissipate gradually and gained confidence. The graduates through the program anticipated a bright future and saw themselves establishing businesses in their communities and the global community at large. The feeling

was mutual among most graduates. Again, something that the young people felt was in line with the literature used in the study. This was the environment which was full of friendly and welcoming staff. The feeling was consistent with the description of youth cafés. Youth cafés offer a safe and simply accessible space for young people, to access new skills, training, and economic opportunities.

This was how the graduates felt. The environment was welcoming to them, they saw it as a safe place to open up and share their emotions and what they want in life. In a nutshell, most of the graduates who shared how the programme has impacted their lives, they sounded to have learnt invaluable skills and knowledge that they otherwise wouldn't have thought they'd get.

Objective 2: The sustainability of the life skills and leadership training skills programme learned at IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain for the graduates once they go back to their communities

The life skills and leadership training facilitated at the Youth Café, proved to be sustainable based on the sustainability standards set by the researcher. The Department of Social Development together the implementing partner NGO (R-Labs) continue to impart young people with the necessary skills related to life, leadership, and entrepreneurship. It goes without saying that much would depend on the students (graduates) themselves to keep what they learnt alive by application in their lives and in their communities. However, the evidence has proven that the programme has a support value in the participants' lives especially after completion.

The leadership mastery course programme was designed to teach the young people life skills and how to be true leaders in their communities. The programme was two-fold, it had the entrepreneurial side of it which also proved to have added so much value in some of the graduates' lives. It proved to be a catalyst for change, growth, purposefulness and transformation in the young people's lives.

5.5 Limitations

The study was purely based on the secondary data due to Covid-19 restrictions at the time of the start of the research. As such, the data was limited. One of the contributing factors that led to this was that the study was entirely new and based on a pilot study programme. The IAP Youth Café was the first youth café the Department of Social Development established and there are no existing studies that actually looked at the effectiveness of the programmes implemented at the youth café. The researcher therefore could not get the opportunity to get

more of the direct voices of the past participants and especially the participants' views relating to the first objective of the study.

5.6 Implications for practice

This study will inform the Western Cape Department of Social Development, the implementing partner(s) of the IAP Youth Café-Mitchell's Plain programmes of the progress made in the past years since the start of the programmes. It will give the Department the areas for consideration in terms of monitoring and evaluation that the annual reports do not necessarily look into. It not only will assist the Western Cape Province. Furthermore, other provinces that have replicated the programmes of the Western Cape Province youth cafes will benefit from the study, notably the Northern Cape Department of Social Development. It is important to monitor and evaluate progress of these programmes. Fortunately, the universities have been given the role of research and M&E by the Department as enshrined in the youth strategy policy document. A synergy is vital between all the stakeholders to safeguard and realise a good monitoring and evaluation function.

5.7 Recommendations for future research

In light of the limitations identified and the findings, the following are recommended for future research subjects:

- The future research should utilize primary data by means of conducting interviews with the past graduates to gain more data on the experiences of young people.
- Deeper examination of indicators relating to the number of NEETs (youth not in employment, education or training) connected to permanent and/or temporary jobs.

5.8 RECOMMENDATIONS

From the above conclusions, the researcher makes the following recommendations as strategies and ways that can be used to improve the programmes. The recommendations answer the last study objective.

5.8.1 Solid realistic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework relevant to youth café programmes

The Western Cape Department of Social Development through its youth directorate need to find a solid monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework. Such a framework must be specially designed for youth cafés. The current short-term performance indicator M&E framework of

the Western Cape Department of Social Development is not favourable for the progress of the youth cafés. The performance indicators only look at the progress made at the provincial level and not the youth cafés and their programmes.

The youth directorate was said to be responsible for the transversal management of the provincial youth strategy and of the stakeholder relations and partnerships. It was declared to be a strategic and coordination unit. Part of the stakeholders proposed in the strategy are universities whose responsibilities are research and M&E role. The researcher fits within this role. The directorate, therefore, need to work hand in hand with the universities to strengthen the M&E function to reflect the progress made for each youth café in the Western Cape. This will help to see what is working and not working.

5.8.2 Building Young Entrepreneurs through Entrepreneurship programme

The entrepreneurship programme has proven to be a catalyst for some graduates as they leveraged on the skills learned and started their businesses. The question of whether or not the businesses of these graduates are sustainable remains unanswered. The data reports no evidence of whether the start-up businesses grew and thereafter creation of employment from such business establishments. The annual reports of the Western Cape Department of Social Development need to be explicit about the progress made. The youth cafe programmes implemented in particular.

The whole-of-society approach should be used as a vehicle through which the building of young entrepreneurs is discharged. Young people should be assisted to cover capital costs of their businesses. For many years start-up costs have proven to be a challenge in entrepreneurial development. The Department of Social Development should strengthen this whole-of-society approach by involving mentors from private sector, the present and retired experienced business leaders to assist these young start-ups.

5.8.3 A rigorous push for the vision of the Provincial Youth Strategy to a greater segment of young people

Some young people cited reasons of not wanting to be like their parents, that they wanted to achieve more in their lives. Against this background, the Department of Social Development should fast-track the establishment of youth cafes in the province in order for them to meet their target of reaching 300 000 youths through the youth cafés.

In order to realize the vision of the youth strategy which is to ensure that by the age of 25, youth in the province have all the tools they need to exploit their opportunities and are fully equipped to lead the life they value. The Department should push for professional careers for the NEETs. This will yield stable, high incomes for individual betterment which will also bring about substantial change for their families and their societies to alleviate the sorrow and deprivation the graduates felt.

5.8.4 Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) for youth development in the Province

The Department of Social Development, as previously discussed in the previous chapters, took an unconference approach to youth cafes. In other words, the Department intended to build youth development by means of participant-driven meeting. Against this background, the Department needs to incorporate participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) in its monitoring and evaluation strategy. Development, especially the one that involves young people should be built upon participatory approaches.

The beauty of this participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) is that it starts with a participatory approach. Over and above, it instils the principle of involvement and empowerment and citizen methodology. The youth are the most important stakeholders for the programmes depends on whether or not they like them. Moreover, they also depend on whether or not the programmes impact them productively and effectively. Therefore, it will be worthwhile for the Department to incorporate participatory M&E such that the recipients are the active participants.

Participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) as seen from the participants' direct voices in the previous chapter, it nurtures new ways of assessing and learning from changes that are intensely inclusive. It boasts itself with the ability of reflecting the perspectives of and aspirations of those that are directly affected. Meaning the youth in this context of youth café.

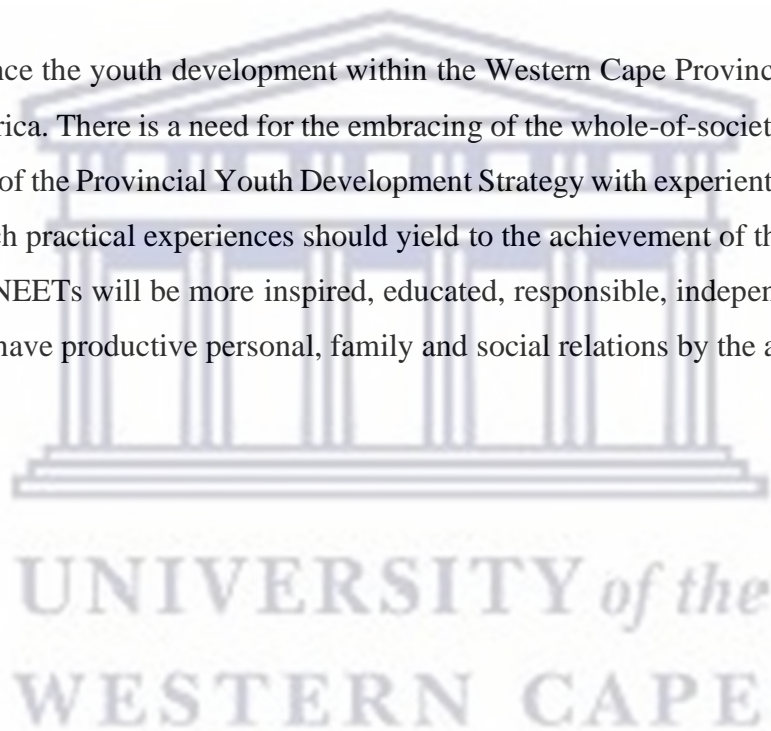
5.9 Conclusion

The study on the assessment of effectiveness of the IAP Youth Café programmes found that the programs did impact the lives of the past graduates. However, little progress in terms of outcomes has been made in some of the programmes. The themes and categories explored revealed how the young people felt before joining the programmes and the perspectives they had about their future after attending the programmes.

In light of this, the literature revealed that internationally, more and more young are NEETs (youth not in employment, education or training). This is a concern for South Africa in particular as the country is faced with the second pandemic of high youth unemployment in the entire nation in the different provinces.

It is hoped that this research contributed to an understanding of how the programmes of the first ever established youth café in the Western Cape Province has been performing between the periods 2014 and 2019. Moreover, that the findings and recommendations can serve as a basis for future research projects and for continuation of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the programmes for other pillars underpinning the Provincial Youth Development Strategy (WCYDS).

Finally, to advance the youth development within the Western Cape Province and the greater part of South Africa. There is a need for the embracing of the whole-of-society approach by all the stakeholders of the Provincial Youth Development Strategy with experiential and evidential experiences. Such practical experiences should yield to the achievement of the youth strategy. As a result, the NEETs will be more inspired, educated, responsible, independent and healthy individuals that have productive personal, family and social relations by the age of 25 years.



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