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KWAZULU-NATAL
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Advocating for Change in the Community: Education and work for young women in rural South Africa

Lisa Wiebesiek, Nkonzo Mkhize & Relebohile Moletsane

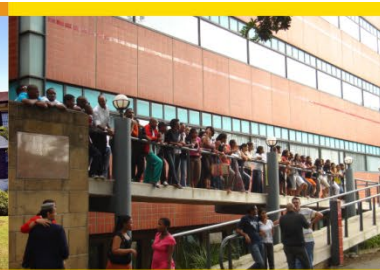
24 May 2023



EDGEWOOD CAMPUS



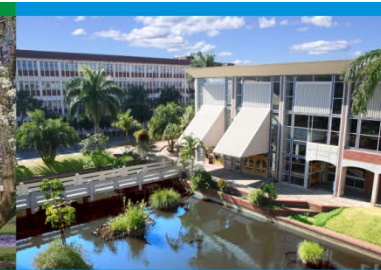
HOWARD COLLEGE CAMPUS



NELSON R MANDELA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



PIETERMARITZBURG CAMPUS



WESTVILLE CAMPUS

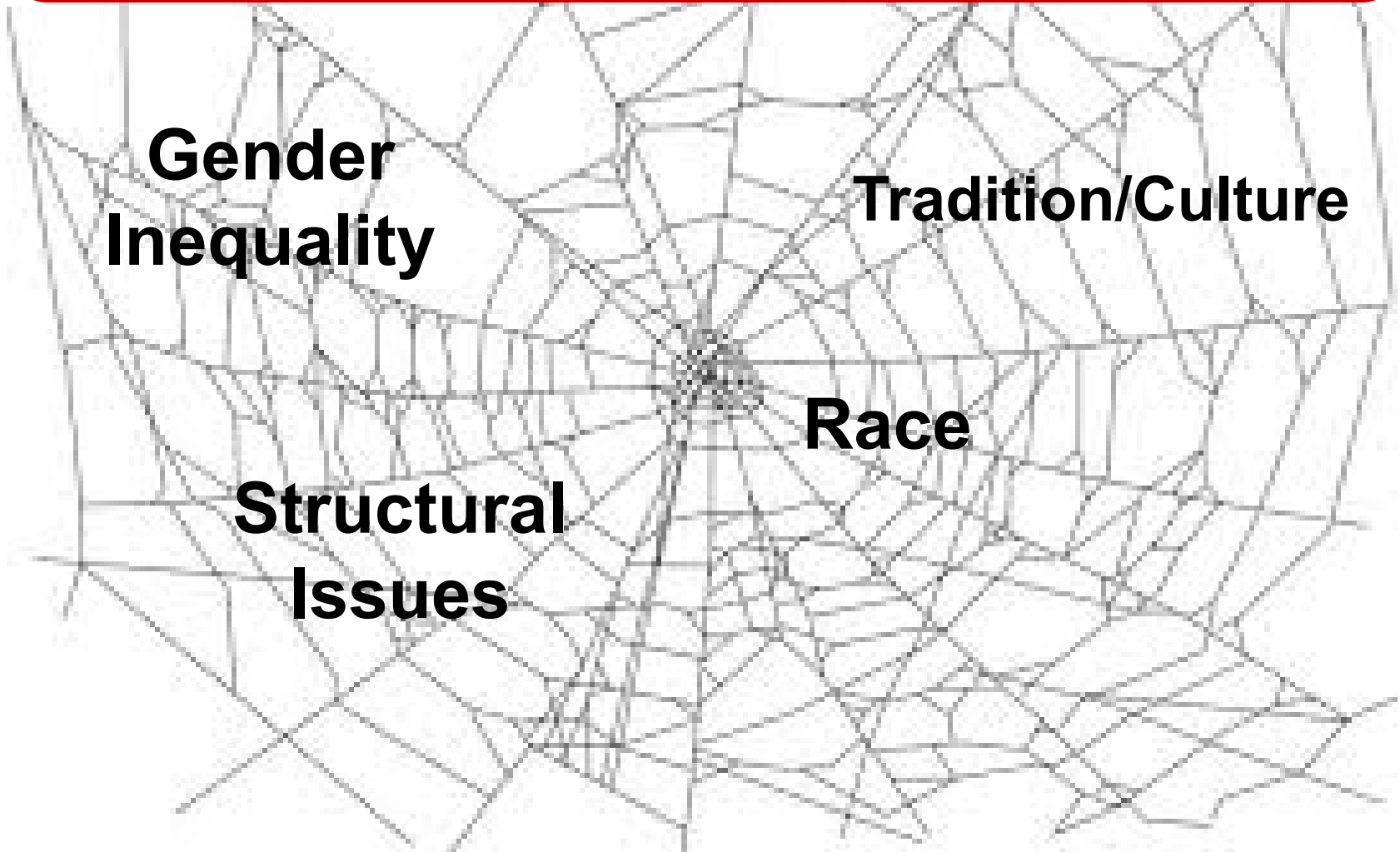
UKZN INSPIRING GREATNESS

OVERVIEW OF THE FINDINGS

Rural Context (Rurality)

Legacies of colonialism & apartheid

Corruption



**Gender
Inequality**

Tradition/Culture

Race

**Structural
Issues**

Gender Inequality



imisebenzi yasekhaya yenziwa ngabantu
 Befizane kuphela

NM: I see an oppressed woman without... Oppressed women, everything she is carrying is a heavy load.

TM: ...we wake up and do one thing every day? You clean, you cook, you wash, you wash the dishes, here are the children too, you weed even plough the farm is for you. There are also problems caused by children that require a parent to come and solve it... Everything wants a woman. We are under pressure, all the time a woman is under pressure.

Influence of Tradition/Culture



Left: A still image from a cellphilm

A young woman with a baby on her back bends down to tie her husband's shoes

Right: A still image from a cellphilm

A father beats her child for being pregnant. The father blames the mother for the pregnancy and beats her.



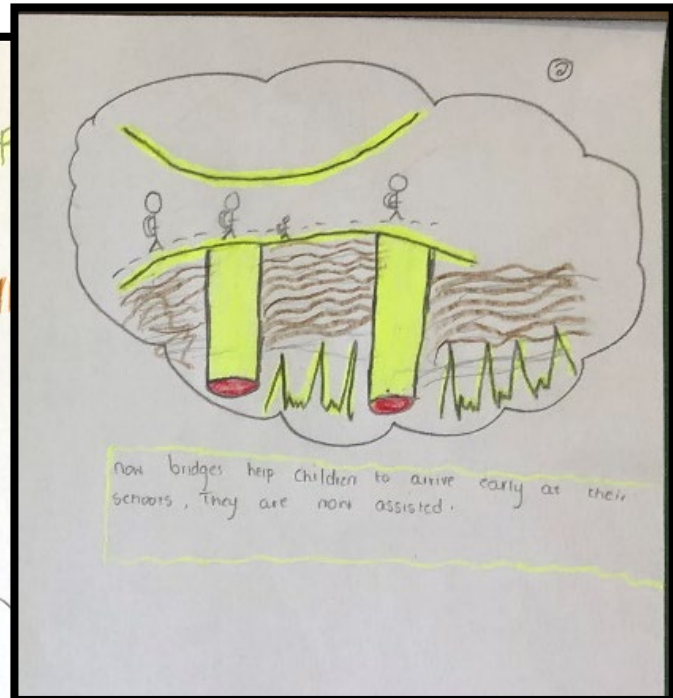
HM: ...[It] is the oppression of women... [the] father is abusing the mother. He is just sitting there watching TV and doing nothing. While she is busy cooking, on one hand, the baby is crying on the other, and the father is asking her to fetch his car keys. The other thing is that the father is the only one who is working and sometimes the children would cry to their mother because they are hungry. The mother cries out that she has no money and the social grant she gets is not enough.

TM: [It] is about a child who was in school and used to come late to her home. She lied to her parents, saying she was studying, but she was dating and fell pregnant. Her father found out, beat her and chased her out of their home. The father also blamed the mother for the pregnancy. Years later, the child returned to her parents. She was successful and promised to build her parents a house and buy them a car.

MAP OF FIGHTING FOR OUR EDUCATION AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY!!!

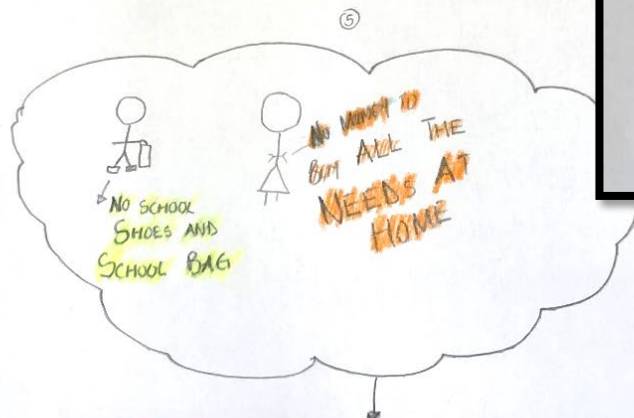


Rivers are full of water and children are no longer passing through to arrive at schools, so this affects their education



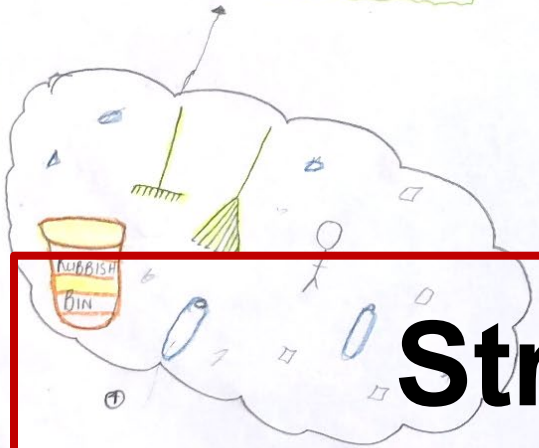
now bridges help children to arrive early at their schools, they are now assisted.

At least councillors provide some women with little jobs to pick some rubbish at towns and to clean halls. The council provide the working material like bins to throw rubbish.

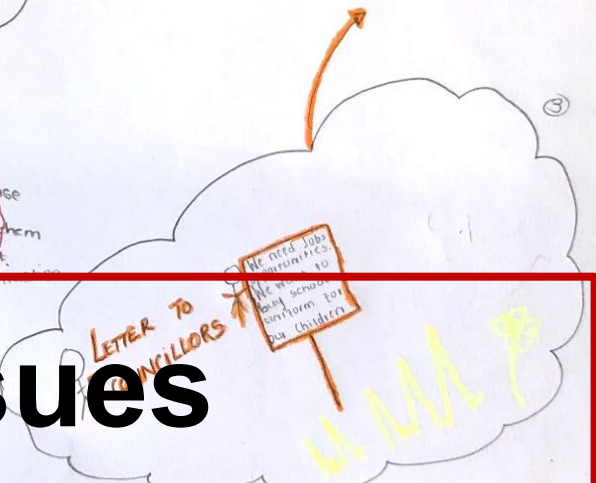


NO SCHOOLS SHOES AND SCHOOL BAG
 NO MONEY TO BUY ALL THE NEEDS AT HOME

they end up giving up on their education because of different issues they are facing at home. Eg Parents do not have money to provide them with uniforms. That why they also want to find some small jobs to change their situation



what do they need in their community-



LETTER TO COUNCILLORS
 We need jobs opportunities to buy school uniforms for children

Structural Issues



ukuchaya uma
 Sugedile ukwenza
 into zakho nokusebenza



lezi nombe zichaza
 ukuthi umuntu wesizazane
 uyakwazi ukuthi 'ente izinto zenza eke
 (ukuthenza / ukuwasha / ukuhuba)



MM: We saw the first problem as being rivers that are full of water and children are no longer able to cross and get to school. So this affects their education. This is what affects their education because it does happen that the river overflows for like a month. So they are not able to go to school, and because of that, their education gets interrupted.

Race

Young Stars Fighters

Working for white people on their fields for money to survive



Fetching wood to sell and earn some money



LM: ... I drew a woman... in a forest... they go and gather wood... place baskets with their children and make money... people in cars would come to buy wood. This is what they do to feed their children... There are women here who are picking up potatoes... Women go to these places to find wage-paying work, to work for white people... This is what they do to get paid... I see this kind of work as hard/harsh work because white people make you work at whatever time, for long hours and pay you very little money.

Photovoice Description

NhIM: ... our photos... have shown us the hardship/harshness that our parents live under here in rural communities. There, it shows us a white person breathing down a black person, showing them what work to do, while the sun is hot, and there is nothing that they can do because they need the money. They are doing it for their children. The solution that I see for us, is that, as the youth, we need to get educated in order to help our parents. We need to reduce our drinking of alcohol and substance abuse and focus on education.

MM: [In] the second photo... we were explaining that here in the rural areas our work looks like this, we fetch wood so that we are able to sell it and earn some money and try to make a living.

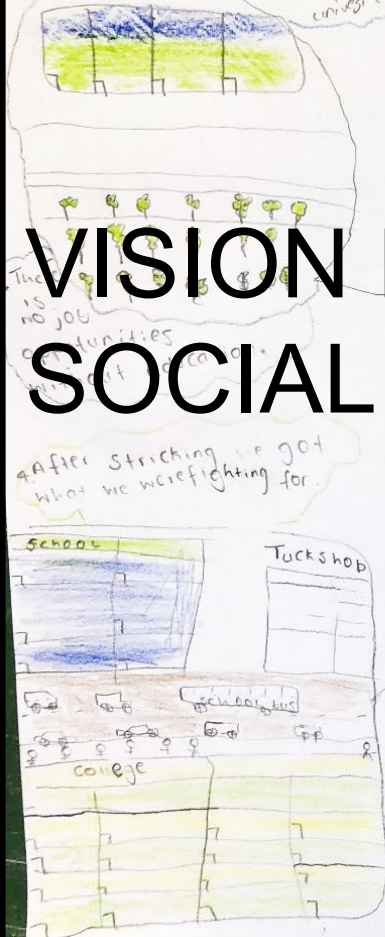
INTERSECTIONS: Work, social & cultural beliefs, gender equality & education



5 Lack of Higher education
eg colleges
& universities

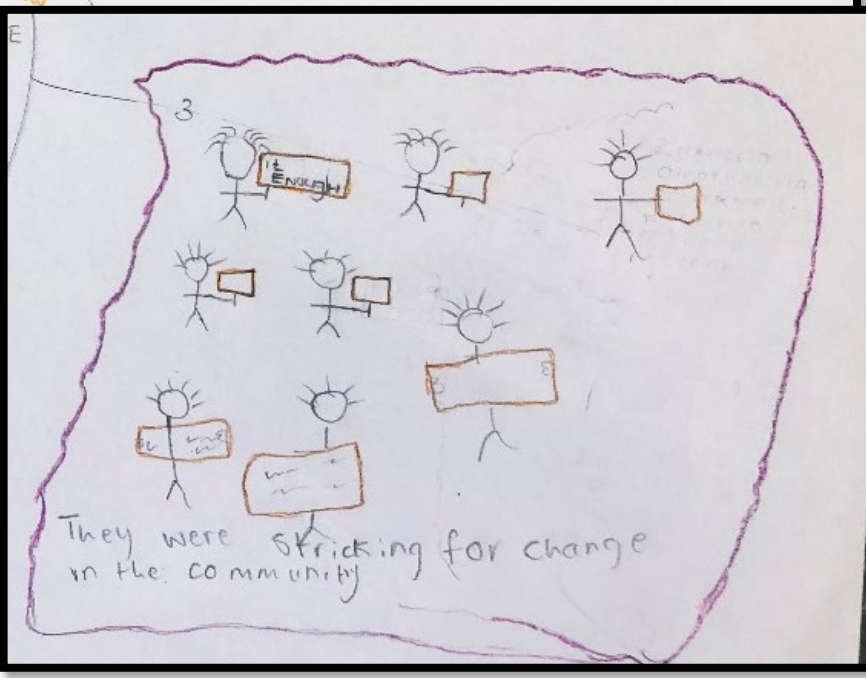
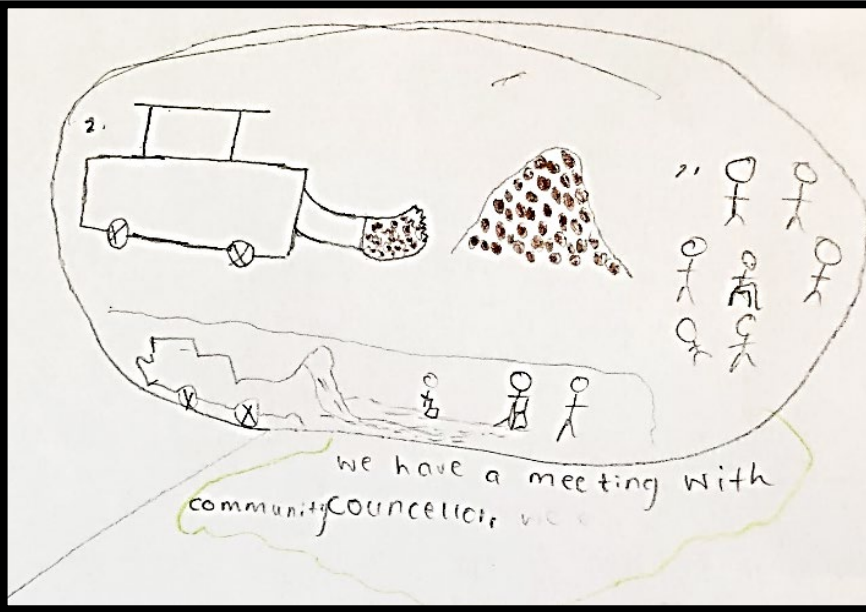
1. uma kunga dlingeka iSifufu; Sika ma tikule tshen: Singatwazi ukufunda sithole imisebenzi esiyidingayo

2. uma singqubeka nokuthwala kanzima sibange anonyezisi singafurda ukuzi



VISION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

EMPHAKATHINI



TM: There is a strike. Women, especially in our community, are not heard... It is like men are always the ones leading. When women want to make a point/opinion, they usually say, 'we will never be led by mothers'. There is the strike, they are fighting, they are fighting for their education. In our community, we do not have any colleges... convenience stores, and even schools are not near the community. Even when you go to school, the transport to go there is far away.

Engaging the Community: Community Dialogues



Left: Young women present their action briefs at a community dialogue

Right: The local ward councillor making a statement of support at a community dialogue



Agency and hope: *“It’s in our hands!”*



UKZN INSPIRING GREATNESS

Our Vision for Change: Youth Summit

- The summit had two purposes:
- for the young women from the two communities to share knowledge and ideas as they each prepare a plan for continuing their work in their communities; and
- for each group to leave the summit with a clear plan for how they are going to achieve their goal

Young Stars Fighters

Our Vision for Change

Education: Meetings with the school community about the importance of education from an early age; Ask those who have 'made it' for strategies and advice; Visit internet café and apply for University/work/bursaries; & advocate for merit-based employment;

Gender Inequality: community meetings about gender inequality and GBV; & Youth groups focusing on healthy relationships and gender inequality



Digital Vision Board

Snemfundo Nokukhanya



Digital Vision Board

Our Vision for Change

Education: Focus on school; & ask for strategies and advice from those who have 'made it'; initiate study groups;

Gender Inequality: Change the communities beliefs on traditional gender roles; fights against poverty through food programmes and forming workshops; support each other; silent march; & teach young people about condom use, contraceptives, STI, prep and healthy relationships.

Special thanks to:
Xoli Msimanga
The Young Stars Fighters
Snemfundo Nokukhanya
Communities of Emangweni and Emampevini