

„...you see now, we are still continuing.“

Traces of intervention in an agrarian community in Zambia.

Kastner Teresa

Research topic and question:

Investigating the legacy of a specific case of intervention in development cooperation -The Village Oriented Development Program, VODP- run in between 1984-1999 in the Magodi area in Zambia, from a long-term perspective.

“Are there still persistent elements or a legacy of the former project’s approach that continue to hold significance for the lives of the former participants?”

Methodic approach:

- **fieldwork investigation methods:** Individual and group interviews; visits to the cultivated land area; participatory observation; field diary;
- **data analysis:** - descriptive quantification analysis
 - documentary method of interpretation (Bohnsack 2008)

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Key findings:

Material (buildings, items) and immaterial VODP legacy (skills, abilities)

- Individual competencies gained in *sustainable agriculture* (40.4 % exhibit strong persistency) as well as in *skills and crafts, e.g. carpentry and blacksmithing* (75.8 % exhibit strong persistency)
- VODP legacy concerning *organization*:
 - Leadership and cooperation
 - VODP ownership
 - Activities of the women's club *Penjani*
- “Combination of skills”/ competencies from *sustainable agriculture, skills and crafts* and from *organization*
- Reflexivity: the VODP from the participant's perspective
 - > Benefits from the comprehensive, participatory, long-term program approach
 - > Points of critique concerning the VODP

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Target audience:

- Participants of programs in sustainable development cooperation
- Development cooperation initiatives
- Researchers in the field of sustainable development studies