

## **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study was to investigate why the Ga-Moeka and Ga-Motle villages in the Moretele Local Municipality were victims of floods after heavy rains. Another aim was to determine how the communities in those villages were affected socially, economically and psychologically by floods.

The methodology section was divided into three major subsections, namely the research instruments, data and analysis. Questionnaires were used and they were completed by random sampling from Ga-Moeka and Ga-Motle communities. Fifty questionnaires were sent out to community members of the two villages, which were divided into four parts to elicit personal information, social, economic and psychological impact information of the respondents.

The results of the questionnaire revealed a high level of concern within the two communities. According to the social impact, most people felt badly affected as most of them did not receive assistance. A small percentage managed to get help from their municipality. In terms of the economic impact, it was large in terms of replacing property that had been destroyed by floods; medical expenses as many of them received little income; most of those who were working, earned between R500 and R2000. Regarding the psychological impact, a large percentage suffered shock and experienced trauma for less than a week although a very small percentage suffered trauma for a year at least.

It is recommended that there must be upgrading of the infrastructure in the area in terms of building of a new dam or recapacitation of the existing dam, roads and the drainage system; that there must be a relocation plan, compulsory insurance, early warning systems, and that there must be good communication in the communities during floods.