



CDS RESEARCH REPORT
HOUSING & URBAN SETTLEMENT

**Socio-economic analysis
of the Thompson settlement**



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Socio-economic analysis of the Thompson settlement

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Section 1: Introduction

As part of a larger investigation, this particular report reflects on the socio-economic environment of the residents in Thompson. A thorough understanding of the socio-economic conditions and people's perceptions of their own situations are as important as the technical details of settlement in either the Thompson area or in Jacobsdal. The aim of the report is to provide a socio-economic profile of the community in the area.

Against this background, the report is structured as follows: It starts off with an overview of the methodology followed in the process. Second, the report provides an overview of the demographic profile of the residents in Thompson. Aspects such as the gender composition, age structure and household composition are discussed. Next, the report turns to an assessment of income patterns and this section focuses on the role of different incomes and their proportional share of total income. The section on income is followed by an analysis of household expenditure; more specifically, the localities of expenditure on specific items are investigated in greater detail in order to provide an overview of the economic linkages of the residents. Sixth, an overview of Migration patterns and the reasons for settling in Thompson are analysed in detail. In the seventh place, the current living conditions and levels of access to infrastructure and social amenities are profiled and evaluated. This is then followed by reflections on cultural aspects pertaining to where the ancestors of the residents are buried and where they would like them to be buried. Finally, the main findings of the study are summarised.

Section 2: Methodology

The report is based on a socio-economic survey of the households who have settled in Thompson. The following processes were followed both in conducting the fieldwork and developing the questionnaire:

- A draft questionnaire was developed and shared with the project manager.
- The research team visited Jacobsdal and Thompson to gain an understanding of the area. During this visit, the situation in Thompson and the fieldwork processes were discussed with the community development worker, a councillor and a ward committee member.

- These discussions were followed by a telephonic conversation with the ward councillor to inform him about the social survey.
- The questionnaire was finalised and it was translated into Afrikaans.
- Three fieldworkers from Jacobsdal were trained and the pilot was conducted.
- The formal fieldwork was then conducted over a period of three days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday).
- In the process 54 household interviews were conducted.

Section 3: Household composition and biographic information

This section examines the household composition and biographic information of Jacobsdal. Particular attention is paid to the gender of household members, their age, household size, family composition, highest level of education, and disability.

3.1 Gender of respondents

A distinction is drawn between the gender ratios for the respondents (mostly heads of households) and those of the total population. Table 3.1 presents the female: male ratio of respondents and Table 3.2 the gender ratio of the total population.

Table 3.1: Gender profile of respondents, 2008

| Gender | n | % |
|---------------|----------|----------|
| Male | 26 | 49.1 |
| Female | 27 | 50.9 |
| Total | 53 | 100 |

Missing value: 1

Table 3.2: Gender of household members, 2008

| Gender | n | % |
|---------------|----------|----------|
| Male | 97 | 45.8 |
| Female | 115 | 54.2 |
| Total | 212 | 100.0 |

There is a fairly even spread of male and female respondents, with 49.1% being male and 50.9% being female. With regard to the total population, the survey indicates that there are more females (54.2%) than males (45.8%) in Jacobsdal. The ratio of females is slightly higher than the percentage in the Free State and comes as a

surprise, considering the fact that the majority of the workforce is employed in and around agriculture. The probable reason is that the close proximity of the school has probably played a role in mothers / grandmothers opting for this location.

3.3 Age profile of the community

The profile of the population reflects a fairly young population, but is fairly similar to that of the black population of the Free State. The average age of the population is 23.1 years while the median is only 19. A detailed outline of the various age categories is provided in Table 3.3 below.

Table 3.3: Age profile for the population, 2008

| Age category | n | % |
|--------------|-----|-------|
| 0-4 | 21 | 10.0 |
| 5-9 | 31 | 14.8 |
| 10-14 | 40 | 19.0 |
| 15-19 | 18 | 8.6 |
| 20-24 | 18 | 8.6 |
| 25-29 | 11 | 5.2 |
| 30-34 | 18 | 8.6 |
| 35-39 | 11 | 5.2 |
| 40-44 | 15 | 7.1 |
| 45-49 | 7 | 3.3 |
| 50-54 | 4 | 1.9 |
| 55-59 | 7 | 3.3 |
| 60-64 | 5 | 2.4 |
| 65-69 | 4 | 1.9 |
| 70 or above | 0 | 0.0 |
| Total | 210 | 100.0 |

Table 3.3 confirms the earlier remarks about a fairly young population in that 52.4% of the population is younger than twenty years. In fact 43.9% of the population is younger than fifteen years. This trend might well be attributed to the fact that the Phambili School is located on the same piece of land. It is highly likely that children flock to the area as a result of its proximity to the school. The youth cohort of the population is 31%, which matches the percentage of youths in the Free State. The section of the population that is significantly under-represented in comparison with

the Free State is the cohort of 60 years or older. The Free State has in the vicinity of 8% of its population in this category. In Thompson this percentage is 4.3%.

In conclusion, the above profile suggests that proximity to the school is an important consideration for many residents. In addition, location at this particular venue is also closely related to proximity to work for a significant percentage of people.

3.4 Household size

The average household size was determined at 3.9 people per household. This compares broadly with the household size in the Free State, which is 4¹. Table 3.4 provides a more detailed review of the percentage

Table 3.4: The distribution of household size of the population, 2007

| Household size | n | % |
|----------------|----|-------|
| 1 | 5 | 9.3 |
| 2 | 5 | 9.3 |
| 3 | 11 | 20.4 |
| 4 | 14 | 25.9 |
| 5 | 12 | 22.2 |
| 6 | 4 | 7.4 |
| 7 or more | 3 | 5.6 |
| Total | 54 | 100.0 |

The vast majority of households comprise three to five people (68.5%), while only 18.3% are two or less. Households with six or more people constitute 13% of all households.

3.5 Family composition

An overview of family composition suggests that most of households are nuclear families. In this regard, just more than 90% of the family members are classified as the respondent, their husband, wife or partner or children. Twelve household members (5.7%) were classified as grandchildren, five (2.4%) as other relative and one (0.5%) as other.

¹ Free State Growth and Development Strategy, 2007.

3.6 Highest level of education

Table 3.5 provides an overview of the educational level of respondents.

Table 3.5: Highest level of education of the population, 2008

| School attainment | n | % |
|-------------------|-----|-------|
| None | 63 | 29.7 |
| Some primary | 83 | 39.2 |
| Some Secondary | 64 | 30.2 |
| Grade 12 | 2 | 0.9 |
| Total | 212 | 100.0 |

The above table reveals that the population has a very low educational level, with approximately 68% of the respondents having either no schooling, or only some primary education. Respondents who have some secondary education are about 30%. Only 0.9% of the respondents have attained Grade 12. The educational attainment is much lower than the average of the Free State. Yet, lower educational levels among farm workers, their families or rural populations are common.² The presence of the Phambili Primary School however ensures that at least the current school-going children do actually have access to primary education.

3.7 Disability

Disability is not a problem in the area, with only 0.9 % of the population being disabled.

Section 4: Employment and income

This section provides an overview of the employment and income profile of households in Thompson.

4.1 Employment status

Table 4.1 provides an overview of the employment status of respondents.

² Atkison, D., 2007: Going for broke. The fate of farm workers in Arid South Africa, HSRC Printers.

Table 4.1: Employment status of respondents in Thompson, 2008

| Nature of employment | n | % |
|----------------------------------|----|-------|
| Employed full-time | 34 | 64.2 |
| Unemployed, not looking for work | 6 | 11.3 |
| Unemployed, looking for work | 13 | 24.5 |
| Total | 53 | 100.0 |

Missing value: 1

Overall, 64.2% of respondents in Thompson were employed, while 24.5% indicated that they were unemployed but were looking for work at the time of the survey at the beginning of 2008. The remaining 11.3% said that they were unemployed but not looking for work. However, this profile only sketches the situation for the respondents and not for the total working population (15-60)³ in the area. This meant that the population younger than fifteen years and older than 60 had to be excluded in order to determine the unemployment rate in the area. Against this background, the following approach was followed to determine the unemployment figure:

- The total number of residents who were recorded was taken as a starting point (212).
- Then the non-active economic population was subtracted (48.2% were either younger than fifteen, or 60 and older) for 102 residents. This meant that there were 110 people in the economically active age cohort.
- Section A of the questionnaire required respondents were requested to indicate the number of people who were employed (62). This number was then expressed as a percentage of 110.
- Thus 56.3% of the economically active population were employed, with 43.7% being unemployed.
- Yet, this represents the expanded definition of employment as it does not reflect the percentage of people who are unemployed, but who are not looking for work. The overall response of respondents was then used to calculate the narrow definition. In practice, the 43.7% was multiplied by 0.684 (the percentage of unemployed respondents stating that they are unemployed and looking for work)
- The narrow definition was calculated at 29.7% of the population.

³ Usually the working population would be defined as lying between 15 and 65 years. Yet, as South African females are entitled to old-age pensions at the age of 60, we used the 15-60 definition.

The two sets of unemployment are broadly similar to these found in the Free State.⁴

4.2 Location of employment

In determining the location of employment, three main categories were established, namely on-farm, at Thompson (mainly on a community project), and elsewhere. The respondents had to provide this information both in respect of themselves and in respect of all the members of the household. Figure 4.1 reflects the results of the answers provided by the respondents for themselves and also for the other members of their households.

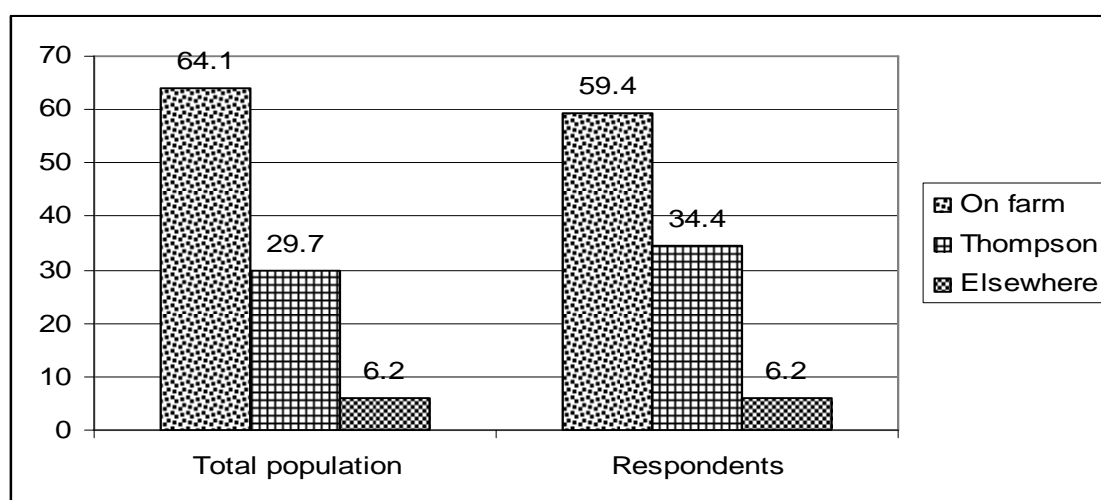


Figure 4.1: Place of employment for the total population and respondents, 2008

Nearly 60% (59.4%) responded that they were employed on a farm in the surrounding area. A further 34.4% mentioned that they were employed at Thompson, and 6.3% said that they were employed elsewhere. The large percentage of people employed on farms attests not only to the vulnerability of farm workers, and the large numbers of farm workers⁵ who have lost their employment in the last fifteen years⁶ but also to the

⁴ See Free State Growth and Development Strategy, 2006.

⁵ Hartwig, R., and Marais, L., 2005: Farm-worker housing in South Africa: An evaluation of an off-farm project, *Housing Studies*, 20(6), 931-948.

⁶ Atkinson, D., 2007: *Going for Broke. The fate of farm workers in arid South Africa*, HSRC Printers, Pretoria.

increasing reluctance of farmers to provide on-farm accommodation to farm workers (see Section 5)⁷.

The above results have three serious implications. First, it suggests that proximity to work is an important consideration for more than 90% of the respondents. The fact that the surrounding farms are all engaged in intensive crop farming suggests that, in this case, a farm village could well be an option. Second, and related to the importance of proximity to work, any possible resettlement to Jacobsdal should acknowledge the fact that people will then be farther away from their place of work. Some form of compensation should thus be considered – one of which could be subsidised transport between Thompson and Jacobsdal. The third implication lies at the policy level, where farm worker housing has not been addressed adequately. The existence of a settlement such as this confirms that neither farmers nor government has been able to provide either adequate operational guidance or policy direction.

4.2 Type of employment

Approximately 40% of the employed respondents mentioned that they were employed in agriculture-related work on the surrounding farms. A further 20% of the respondents said that they were employed as domestic workers. It could well be assumed that most of these would also be on the surrounding farms. The nearby agricultural community project absorbed 15% of the respondents; nearly 9% were drivers; and, 3% were cashiers. These figures were confirmed by the indications of where people said they were working. It should be noted that one respondent said that he/she worked at the Phambili Primary School. It can also be concluded that most of the workers are low-skilled workers.

4.3 Income

4.3.1 Source of income

Overall, 70.4% of households mentioned that they received incomes other than from formal employment. Of these who did receive other incomes, 94.7% said that these incomes came from government grants, while 5.3% (two respondents) suggested that

⁷ Farmers are of the opinion that the Extension of Security of Tenure Act wrongfully provides rights to farm workers. The unintended consequence is that farmers are reluctant to create new accommodation opportunities for farm workers – Atkinson, D., 2007: Going for Broke. The fate of farm workers in arid South Africa, HSRC Printers, Pretoria.

they received money from family members living elsewhere. This means that two-thirds of all households received a grant at the time of the survey. One of these two respondents who mentioned receiving income from family members elsewhere, suggested that the income came from the father of her child. There was no response for the second respondent.

It was further recorded that seven individuals were receiving old-age pensions. Considering the fact that five women are older than 60 and four men older than 65, this means that all the people eligible for old-age pensions are accessing such pensions (total 9). In fact, it also suggests that a basic service is provided for people in order to access the relevant grants.

Regarding child support grant, the survey results reveal that 62 children were accessing such a grant at the time of the survey. This was approximately two-thirds of all the children under the age of fourteen.⁸ Although no detail exists on why there was no access for the other one-third, typical dilemmas are the availability of identification documents for parents and the absence of birth certificates for these children. Figure 4.2 suggests that a large percentage of households were receiving more than one grant at the time of the survey.

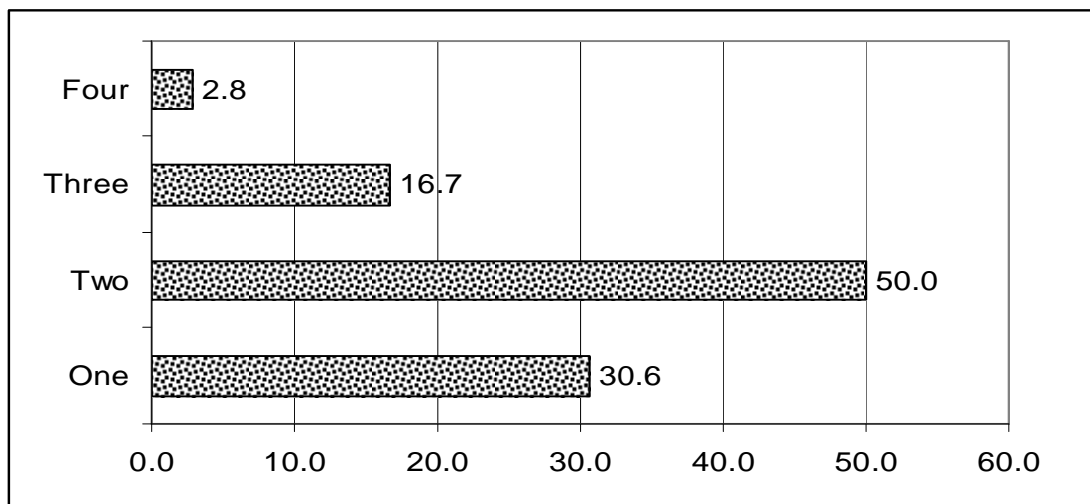


Figure 4.2: Percentage of households receiving one, two, three and four grants, 2007

⁸ Currently, only children fourteen years or younger can access such a grant.

The table suggests that nearly 70% of households with access to a grant, received more than one grant. In real terms this means that approximately 42% of households did have access to at least two grants at the time of the survey.

4.3.2 Income

The above section considered the sources of income. In this section, the income distribution is analysed in more detail (see Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Income distribution of households, 2008

| Income | n | % | Cumulative percentage |
|---------------|----|-------|-----------------------|
| No Income | 2 | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| R1 – R400 | 3 | 5.6 | 9.3 |
| R401 – R800 | 9 | 16.7 | 25.9 |
| R801 – R1000 | 16 | 29.6 | 55.6 |
| R1001 – R1500 | 15 | 27.8 | 83.3 |
| R1501 – R2000 | 4 | 7.4 | 90.7 |
| R2001 – R3000 | 4 | 7.4 | 98.1 |
| R3001 – R3500 | 1 | 1.9 | 100.0 |
| Total | 54 | 100.0 | |

The average income for all of the 54 households was recorded as R1 100 per household. Taking into consideration a household size of 3.9 people per household, the average per capita income was R282.05. This amount is more than the international poverty indicator of \$1 per day⁹. Only two households (3.7%) recorded no income. This low percentage could well be related to the proximity to employment opportunities in the farming communities and to the role of social grants. Overall, one in four households earned less than R800 per month while 57.4% of the households that were earning between R801 – R1500 per month. A further 16.7% of households earned in excess of R1500 per month.

⁹ At the time of the survey the Rand was trading at +R7 to 1US\$, which meant that the comparative figure of 1US\$ per day for a 30 day month would have amounted R210 per month per person.

4.4.3 Household food production

Household food production was very low. Only two respondents mentioned that someone in their household was producing food. Both of these households were selling some of their produce. It could well be an indication of the some internal market being available – yet the questionnaire did not make provision to determine this.

Section 5: Expenditure patterns

This section considers three aspects, namely the profile of expenditure, expenditure priorities, and the location of certain expenditure patterns.

5.1 Profile and priorities of expenditure

The profile and expenditure priorities are outlined below in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Household expenditure in Thompson, 2008

| Item | Average amount for those indicating expenditure | Average amount for all households | Percentage of respondents acquiring this item | Percentage of total expenditure |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Food | 312.80 | 301.20 | 96.3 | 39.5 |
| Paraffin | 86.26 | 75.07 | 87.0 | 9.8 |
| Clothing | 268.40 | 223.70 | 83.3 | 29.3 |
| Transport | 43.02 | 34.25 | 79.6 | 4.5 |
| Smoking | 49.29 | 31.03 | 63.0 | 4.1 |
| Alcohol | 74.16 | 32.96 | 44.4 | 4.3 |
| Telephone | 61.35 | 19.31 | 31.5 | 2.5 |
| Health care | 105.10 | 13.62 | 13.0 | 1.8 |
| Support to family elsewhere | 100.00 | 9.25 | 9.3 | 1.2 |
| Other | 136.00 | 7.25 | 9.3 | 1.0 |
| Entertainment | 80.00 | 2.96 | 3.7 | 0.4 |
| Repaying a loan | 660.00 | 12.22 | 1.9 | 1.6 |
| Total | n.a | 762.82 | n.a | 100.0 |

The average household expenditure (R762) was significantly lower than the average income (R1100 per month). This is probably an indication of the fact that these

households were engaged in a cash economy with a fairly significant percentage of them being on commercial farms (as already indicated). It seems as if there were three main expenditure priorities, namely food, paraffin and clothing. Overall, 96.3% of respondents indicated expenditure in respect of food. At the same time, food as an item accounted for 39.5% of the total expenditure. A ratio of above 50% is usually an indication of severe poverty. This confirms the earlier statement in respect of the per capita income being higher than the internationally accepted poverty level of 1US\$ per day. The second most sought-after item was paraffin to provide energy for the households. Overall, 87% of respondents suggested that they had to spend money on paraffin although the average amount was only 9.8% of total expenditure. Expenditure on clothing was reported by 83.3% of the respondents, while, as a percentage of total expenditure, it constituted 29.3%.

It should be noted that no household expenditure was detected for primary and secondary education, while, obviously, rates and taxes were not applicable at the time of the survey. Transport costs were also within international norms, with only 4.5% of household expenditure going towards this item.

5.2 Location of expenditure

Determining the location of expenditure is vital towards understanding basic transport linkages to and from the area. Table 5.2 provides an overview in this regard.

Table 5.2: An indication of the locational priorities in respect of expenditure items, 2008

| Item | At this location | Rural shop | Jacobsdal | Kimberley | Other |
|-------------|------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Clothing | | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Health care | 2 | | 1 | | |
| Paraffin | 2 | 3 | 1 | | |
| Alcohol | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| Smoking | 1 | 1 | 3 | | 4 |
| Food | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | |
| Transport | | 3 | 1 | 2 | |
| Telephone | 1 | 2 | 2 | | |

The evidence in the table suggests that Jacobsdal is playing the biggest role as a service centre for the inhabitants of Thompson. Yet, there is enough evidence that some products are available either in the settlement itself or at a nearby rural shop.

Section 6: Migration patterns and mobility

This section gives a detailed analysis of the migration patterns in Thompson. Consideration is given to historical migration trends and to the reasons behind such migratory patterns.

6.1 Date of settlement at Thompson

Figure 6.1 reflects the year in which respondents settled at Thompson.

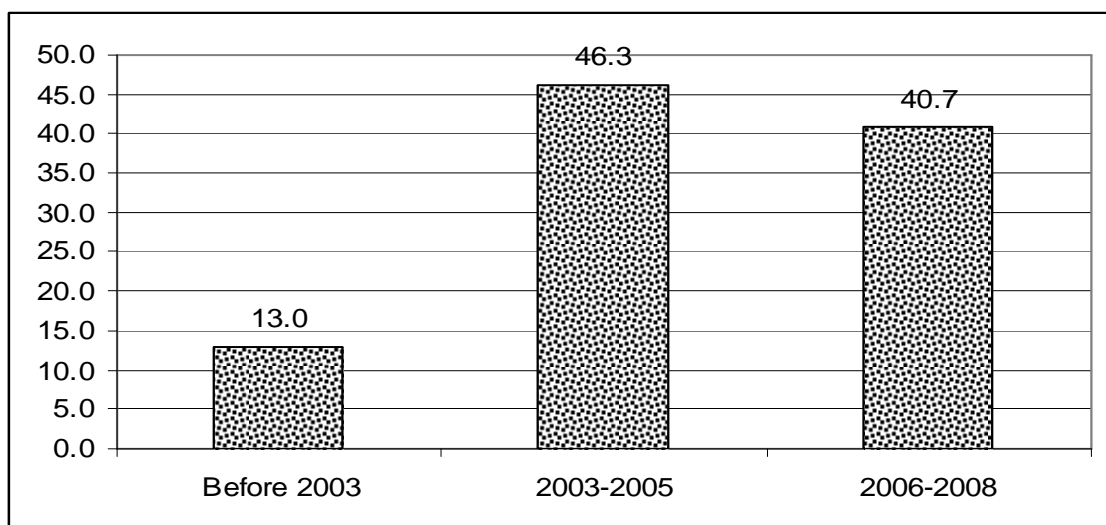


Figure 6.1: Year in which respondent settled at Thompson (percentage)

According to the survey, 100% of the respondents stayed on a farm before settling at Thompson. Figure 6.1 indicates that 13% of the respondents settled in this area prior to 2003. It further indicates that the percentage of people who moved to Thompson increased sharply from 13% since 2003. By the end of 2005 another 46.3% of the current occupants had settled in the area.

6.2 Why did respondents settle at Thompson?

Respondents were asked for the main reason for their settling at Thompson. The results of their responses are detailed in Table 6.1 below.

Table 6.1: Reasons for settling in Thompson

| Reason | n | % |
|--|----------|----------|
| The farm was sold/owner died/owner moved/New owner | 13 | 22.4 |
| Disagreement with farm owner/was fired/was evicted from farm | 25 | 43.1 |
| Family stays here | 6 | 10.3 |
| School | 6 | 10.3 |
| Cheaper to live here | 2 | 3.4 |
| Wanted to settle | 2 | 3.4 |
| Job opportunities | 2 | 3.4 |
| Nowhere else to go | 2 | 3.4 |
| Total | 58 | 100.0 |

The main reason for settling at Thompson is related to employment-related aspects at the farm level (65.5%). Approximately 22% of the respondent said that the farms had changed owner, which did not guarantee either their employment status or their residential status on the land. A further 43% responded that there had been some kind of disagreement with a farm owner. Overall, this confirms the vulnerability of farm workers. At this point it is crucial to understand that nearly two-thirds of the respondents suggested that they had a history of employment in agriculture. This agricultural experience is their biggest asset. The fact that most of the farms in this area are practising intensive crop farming also suggests that their best opportunity to access a job is by being in proximity to these farms.

The other reasons for settling in the area range between the fact that other family members were residing in the area (10.3%), the availability of the school (10.3%), the fact that living there was cheaper (3.4%), the fact that the respondents had wanted to settle there (3.4%), but also related to the insecurity of farm workers, the availability of job opportunities (3.4%), and that a small percentage had had nowhere else to go (3.4%).

6.3 Preference

Respondents were asked whether they would prefer receiving formal stands at Thompson or at Jacobsdal. More than 90% of the residents preferred that

formalisation should take place at Jacobsdal. Table 6.3 provides an overview of the reasons.

Table 6.3: Reasons for preferred location

| Reason why here | n | % |
|---|----|-------|
| School here | 27 | 38.6% |
| Job opportunity is here | 19 | 27.1% |
| Family buried here | 10 | 14.3% |
| Family here | 5 | 7.1% |
| The project | 3 | 4.3% |
| Alternative would be expensive (travel cost etc.) | 3 | 4.3% |
| Service delivery/RDP house easier here | 1 | 1.4% |
| Quality of life/safety and security | 1 | 1.4% |
| Home ownership | 1 | 1.4% |

The respondents stated a number of reasons for choosing Thompson over Jacobsdal. The main reason was “school here” (38.6%). This was followed by availability of job opportunities (27.1%), and “family buried here” (14.3%). Considering the fact that the two main reasons were the school and proximity to work, the existing economic and social linkages to the place of residence at Thompson should not be underestimated.

In view of the preference of 9% of respondents that they would like to be resettled to Jacobsdal, an overview of the reasons should also be given. It seems as if there is a realisation that access to housing and services might be more likely in Jacobsdal in that four respondents indicated that service delivery and access to RDP houses might be easier in this town.

Section 7: Current services and amenities

This section looks at the types of services and amenities available in the study area. It also examines the respondents’ level of satisfaction with the existing services. Of significance to this survey are the following basic services and amenities: types of house, access to sanitation, access to water, refuse collection and sources of energy.

7.1 Housing

In respect of the type of dwelling, 100% of the respondents live in informal houses. Obviously, because of the lack of tenure, the formalisation of housing is not high on the agenda. Yet, there are other indications of longer-term acceptance of this area as their place of residence. One example is that households have gardens.

7.2 Sanitation

Provision of sanitation is a major challenge in this area: as 98% of the households still use basic pit latrines and only one household uses a chemical toilet. It is, therefore, not surprising that 98% of respondents expressed their dissatisfaction with the type of sanitation they have (see Figure 7.1).

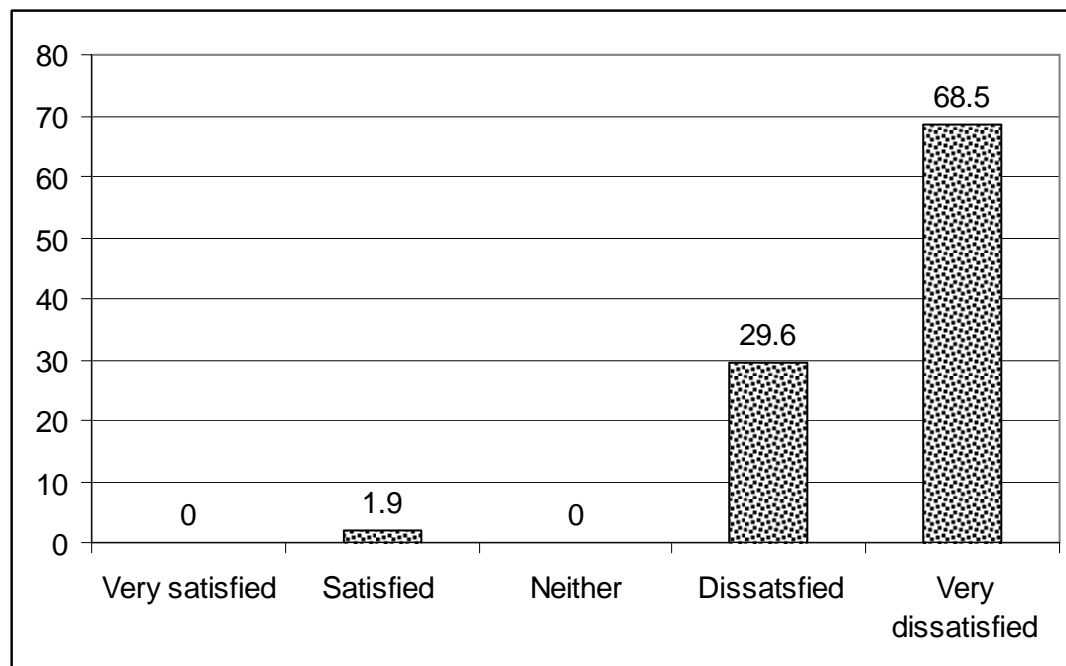


Figure 7.1: Level of satisfaction with sanitation, 2008

7.2 Water supply

All households in this area get their water from water tanks adjacent to the area. The level of satisfaction with the quality of water varies markedly among the respondents, as shown in Figure 7.2. For example, 14.8% of the respondents are satisfied, while 51.9% are dissatisfied, and 31.5% are very dissatisfied with the water quality.

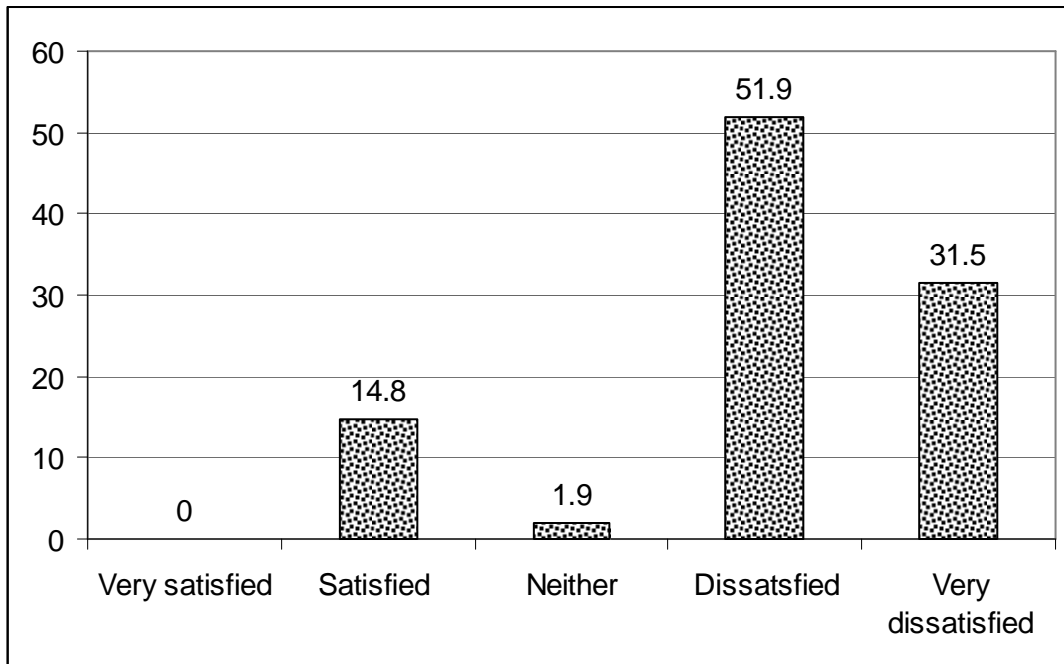


Figure 7.2: Level of satisfaction with water quality

Figure 7.3 indicates most respondents are either dissatisfied (50%), or very dissatisfied (44.4%) with the water supply in their community.

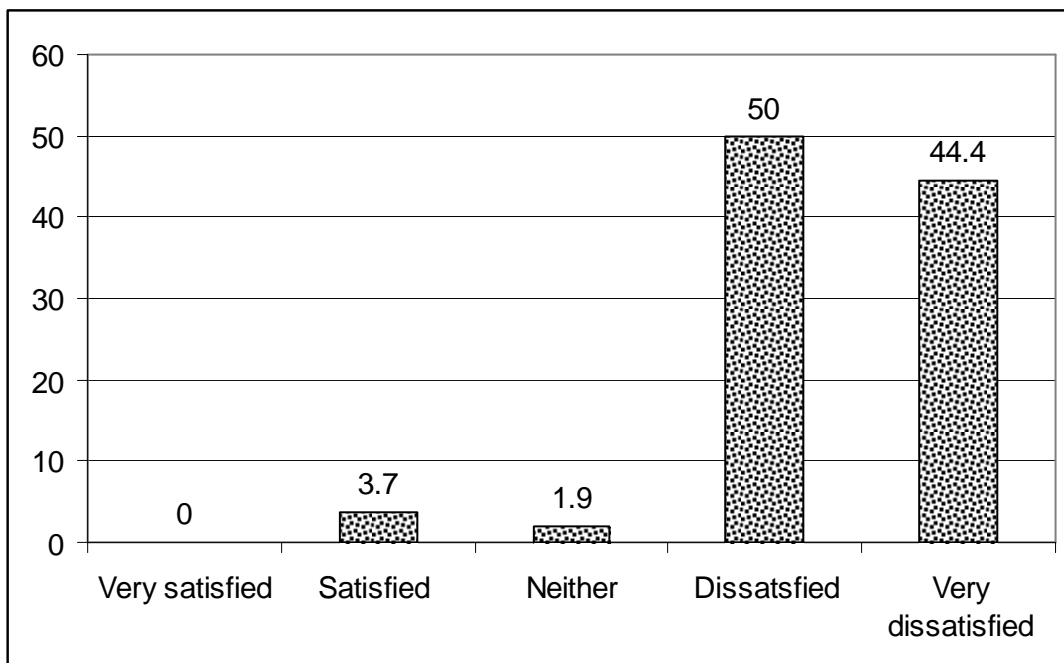


Figure 7.3: Level of satisfaction with water supply, 2008

The access to the levels of satisfaction with the type of supply, and the quality of the water do not come as a surprise. What it does suggest is that these conditions are not appropriate to denser settlements, and that, should more settlement take place in the area, one could expect an increase in disease.

7.3 Refuse removal

Refuse collection and disposal is an area of particular concern in the study area. There are neither refuse collection nor disposal facilities in the community. Households use their own refuse dumps. About 90% of the respondents indicated that they were not satisfied with this situation.

7.4 Access to energy

An overview of access to energy is provided in Table 7.1 below.

Table 7.1: Access to energy in Thompson, 2008

| Source of energy | Cooking | | Lighting | | Heating | |
|------------------|---------|-------|----------|-------|---------|-------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| Paraffin | 34 | 63.0 | 3 | 5.6 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Wood | 20 | 37.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 53 | 98.1 |
| Candles | 0 | 0.0 | 51 | 94.4 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Solar energy | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.9 |
| Total | 54 | 100.0 | 54 | 100.0 | 54 | 100.0 |

Paraffin is the main source of energy for cooking and corresponds to the fact that paraffin was indicated to be an expenditure priority (see Section 5). Just more than 60% of the respondents said that they used paraffin for cooking purposes. In respect of lighting candles were used most – 95% said they used candles for lighting. Regarding heating, 98.1% mentioned that they used wood for heating.

7.5 Access to schools

Just more than 75% of the households do have school-going children. This confirms the importance of having the school on the same premises. Only one household mentioned that the child/children in that specific household did not attend school. Furthermore, 39 of the 40 households indicated that their children were attending the

Phambili Primary School while one respondent mentioned that their child / children were attending school at Jacobsdal. The levels of satisfaction with the school are portrayed in Table 7.2 below.

Table 7.2: Level of satisfaction with educational facilities, 2008

| Level of satisfaction | n | % |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Very satisfied | 17 | 31.5 |
| Satisfied | 31 | 57.4 |
| Dissatisfied | 5 | 9.3 |
| Very dissatisfied | 1 | 1.9 |
| Total | 54 | 100.0 |

Thompson’s educational facilities are generally rated satisfactory with 31.5% and 57.4% respondents being very satisfied and satisfied, respectively. Only 10% of the respondents said they were dissatisfied with the educational facilities in their area. The levels of satisfaction in respect of educational facilities expressed during the survey were in stark contrast to the lack of satisfaction in respect of infrastructural services.

7.6 Access to health care

In terms of access to health care facilities, the percentage of satisfied respondents was somewhat more than that of respondents who were dissatisfied (see Table 7.3). The area is served by a mobile clinic, and 44% of the respondents indicated that they made use of this clinic.

Table 7.3: Level of satisfaction with health care facilities

| Level of satisfaction | n | % |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Very satisfied | 3 | 5.9 |
| Satisfied | 25 | 49.0 |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 1 | 2.0 |
| Dissatisfied | 15 | 29.4 |
| Very dissatisfied | 7 | 13.7 |

Nearly 55% of the respondents reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied, while 43% recorded responses of dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. Once again the levels of satisfaction were considerably higher than those for basic services. Yet, compared with the levels of satisfaction recorded for the school, they were lower.

7.7 Rating of other services

Respondents were also asked to rate other services, such as access to libraries, social grants, identity documents (IDs) and the police. With regard to libraries, 59.3% said that they were dissatisfied with the service, and 35.2% said that they were very dissatisfied. Considering that the nearest library is at Jacobsdal, this response was only to be expected. Yet, the issue of library use should probably also have been investigated to make an informed judgment in this respect.

As for the social grants, approximately 65% of the respondents expressed their dissatisfaction with the service. The “very satisfied” and “satisfied” accounted for 31.5% of the respondents, while the undecided group constituted 1.9%. The report has indicated that, taking into consideration the age of the children, a considerably larger percentage could access child support grants (see Section 3).

Closely related to social grants is access to IDs, where 56% of the respondents pointed out that they were dissatisfied with the kind of service they were getting compared with just more than 40% who indicated being satisfied.

About 70% of the respondents were happy with the service they were receiving from the police, while approximately 24% of the respondents said that they were dissatisfied with the work of the police.

Overall, the stark difference between basic service and other services should be noted. This probably suggests that the government has managed to develop and deliver some services to this village, basic services excepted.

7.8 Cost of commuting

As already noted, the overall link between Thompson and Jacobsdal in terms of access to business and some service have been established in this report. This link

with Jacobsdal was also confirmed in respect of accessing some of the government services (health, etc). Although some indication exist that Kimberley, Koffiefontein and Jagersfontein were also important places for accessing specific services. When asked what the most important mode of transport was, respondents indicated that it was walking. Yet, it seems as if a taxi return-fee to Jacobsdal was in the vicinity of R20, to Kimberley R60 and one to Koffiefontein came to R40.

Section 8: Aspects related to where people are buried

On the issue of burials, most respondents (81%) indicated that they would like to be buried at their present location while 16.7% stated that they would like to be buried in town. What is significant is that more than 50% of the respondents' relatives were already buried at Thompson. This historical fact, and the high percentage of people who want them to be buried at Thompson are indicative of a historic and future commitment to the area.

Section 9: Conclusion

The evidence suggests that proximity to the school and proximity to employment opportunities (historic and current) are the main reasons for settling in the area. Further evidence of respondents' commitment to the area comes from the fact that significant percentages of respondents have household members buried in the area and would like to be buried there themselves.

Having considered the socio-economic evidence, there seem to be two options available. The one option is to formalise the area as a farm worker village¹⁰. The second option is to relocate the people to Jacobsdal.

Options 1: Proceed with township establishment and develop the area as a farm worker village¹¹

Main points of justification:

- The intensive nature of farming (smaller farms) means that distance to the farms from Thompson is not a major problem.

¹⁰ It should be borne in mind that even if this option becomes a reality, just less than 10% of respondents indicated that they would in any case want to settle at Jacobsdal

¹¹ It should be noted that the approach to farm worker villages is a formal policy approach in the highly intensive farming environment in the Western Cape.

- Most people do already have employment on the farms.
- The proximity of the school (meaning that no schooling infrastructure needs to be provided).
- The surrounding farmers might also consider the area to provide some form of ownership. Agri-Free State should be one of the main role players in this regard.
- The farming potential of the area is stable and is expected to remain so in the foreseeable future (in fact, the Jacobsdal magisterial district it is one of the fastest growing areas in the Free State).¹²
- The proximity of rural shops means that basic access to household goods is available.
- A significant percentage of respondents indicated that they have relatives who were buried in the area and that they would like to be buried there themselves.

Concerns:

Access to basic infrastructural services is obviously a major concern. The costs to provide these services would also be high. Although this report does not deal with the cost of infrastructure, consideration should be given to alternative methods of sanitation and energy. Examples, that could be considered are dry sanitation and biogas.

Option 2: Resettlement to Jacobsdal

This option is not advisable from a socio-economic perspective. The main reasons are that people will be taken farther away from their place of employment and from the school. In fact, should there be no other option and should the people have to be relocated, it is advised that a form of subsidised transport should be instituted between Jacobsdal and Thompson.

¹² Free State Growth and Development Strategy, 2007