

THE IMPACT OF A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE ON LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Because of the structural changes within the economies all over the world and the resulting lack of jobs 'Local Economic Development (LED)' seems to be the way to go. Not only in South Africa LED is promoted by all mayor donor organisations and their hope is to create self-employment opportunities within the communities.

The argument of the paper is that without proper participating methods and processes and full involvement and commitment of the community in form of Community Development Centres and the shaping of all interests towards the micro level, LED is not going to have any impact. This means a completely different approach is needed: on the micro level, the meso as well as on the macro level – is this realistic? And what should the role of Community Development Centres be within the approach?