

The Experiences and Perceptions of Informal Workers towards Social Protection. The Case of the Informal Sector in the Western Cape Province, South Africa

7th Regulating for Decent Work Conference

Covid-19 and the World of Work: Towards a human centred recovery

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Young Scholars Session-Presentation by Shaka Keny Bob

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Format of Presentation

- *Introduction into my PhD study on the Informal Sector in Cape Town, South Africa.*
- *Introduction about NIDS-CRAM Survey Data and computer assisted telephone interview surveys (CATI).*
- *Wave 3 and Wave 4 Findings.*
- *A discussion on the implementation gaps surrounding Covid-19 social relief measures in South Africa.*
- *Conclusion.*

South Africa Covid-19 Relief Measures

- *Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme*
- *Increases in Social Grants*
- *Introduction of the Special Covid-19 Grant.*
- *SMME Support*

NIDS-CRAM SURVEY DATA FINDINGS

- *NIDS CRAM is a representative panel survey which investigates the socioeconomic impacts of the national lockdown which are related with the state of Disaster declared in South Africa on March 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic.*
- *Wave 3 data collection: 2 November 2020 to 13 December 2020, Wave 4 from 2 February 2021 to 10 March 2021.*
- *Weights= (iweight=w4_nc_pweights_s)*
- *Rogan & Skinner (2020) reveal that women informal workers employed during February and April 2020 experienced a 49% decrease in the number of hours worked. While men experienced a 25% decrease.*

NIDS-CRAM WAVE 3 and WAVE 4 FINDINGS

WAVE 3 FINDINGS (Nov-Dec 2020)	WAVE 4 FINDINGS (Feb-March 2021)
10% received TERS relief support	3% received TERS relief support.
11% had already closed business, 21% very likely, 10% somewhat likely	4% had already closed, 24% very likely, 14% somewhat likely.
40% had received any government grant support.	35% had received any government grant support.
Main income source-46% from employment, 11% from a business, 30% from government grants, 6% from family and friends, 3% had no income.	Main income source-45% from employment, 13% from a business, 19% from government grants, 4% from family and friends, 3% had no income.

Challenges surrounding Covid-19 Relief in South Africa

- *A blanket approach to social protection delivery in South Africa, neglecting the diversity of the informal sector. For example, Food Vendors, Waste Pickers and Clothing Traders.*
- *Waste Pickers being non contact informal workers yet they were not termed as “essential service workers”.*
- *The incorporation of heterogeneity into social protection design.*
- *An arduous registration system which made poor use of technology and digitalisation.*

- *Registration being a pre requisite to be considered as a recipient of social assistance.*
- *The exclusion of non-South Africans from social-relief measures.*
- *Exclusion of women from the Covid-19 Special Grant yet empirical evidence shows that they are greatly losing out on hours at work.*
- *Increased care burden due to closure of schools and a health crisis.*
- *Challenges on targeted social relief measures vs universal social assistance.*

CONCLUSION

Thank You for your time.

