

Chapter 6

University Education and Rural Community Development in Post-colonial Africa

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Background

Rural community underdevelopment is the greatest challenge for post-colonial Africa. Apparently, the overarching goal of rural community development (RCD) is to eradicate rural poverty in line with the United Nations Millennium Development Goal. In the discourse, poverty is conceptualised as people's inability to meet basic human needs such as education, health, water, food, clothes and proper sanitation (Rowntree, 1901; World Summit on Social Development, 1995). Rural poverty is linked to high infant mortality rates, low life expectancy and a low quality of life. Consequently rural poverty constitutes a violation of a person's right to a full life. In Africa, rural poverty is linked with the injustices of colonial rule; and the post-colonial state has not managed to eradicate absolute poverty in the rural areas. Most post-colonial states on the continent of Africa (Matunhu, 2009) have wandered away from their liberation movement promises of eradicating rural poverty. ...