



Mpala, Ke Botlhokwa

HOUSING LINKAGES WITH WORK ACTIVITY IN BOTSWANA

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Introduction

- Housing is a human right
- Its desirable that every household have access to adequate housing.
- . Adequate housing is not shelter over the head but should provide privacy, dignity, warmth, protection from harsh weather and sufficient space for the users, with basic services and good sanitation.
- inadequate housing is a concern among low and middle income economies
- , many governments included the provision of adequate housing at the top of their agendas.
- Benefits of adequate housing
 - employment creation through construction- related jobs,
 - business space for home-based enterprises
- associated with positive health related outcomes (UN Habitat, nd). What right to adequate housing is not
 - the right to provision of adequate housing does not require governments to build the whole housing stock for the entire population rather have structures, frameworks, policies and strategies in place to facilitate provision of adequate housing (UN Habitat, nd)
- Govt of Botswana has several frameworks, policies, programmes and schemes to implement provision of adequate housing.

Introduction

- **Frameworks and policies**
 - Globally - SDG 11 advocates for cities and human settlements to be made inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Target 11.1 of this goal requires Government of Botswana to provide **adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services to all its citizens and upgrade slums by year 2030** (Government of Botswana, 2015).
 - Regionally, Agenda 2063 - aspiration 1; a prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Its goal is to provide people with high standard of living, quality of life and wellbeing for all citizens. One of the priority areas is **to provide modern, affordable and livable habitats and quality basic services**
 - Nationally, Policy for destitute persons
 - Policy for people with disabilities.
 - National Policy on Housing in Botswana
 - Goal to facilitate provision of **decent and affordable housing for all within a safe and sanitary environment** (Government of Botswana, 2000)
 - Summary of frameworks and policies
 - **Adequate/decent housing for ALL**

Introduction

- 2022 Population and Housing Census variables
- **Housing unit characteristics**
 - type of housing unit,
 - wall material, floor material, roof material, total number of rooms in the housing unit
 - acquisition of housing unit, work activity
- **Basic services**
 - principal source of water
 - principal source of energy for cooking
- **Sanitation**
 - availability of a toilet.
- All the variables were checked against work activity in the past 7 days to establish whether the type of work can affect access to adequate housing.

Introduction

• Objectives

1. Examine Housing unit characteristics and correlate with work activity
2. Analyse distribution of basic services by locality and its association with work activity
3. Analyse the distribution of sanitation availability by locality and its relationship to work activity

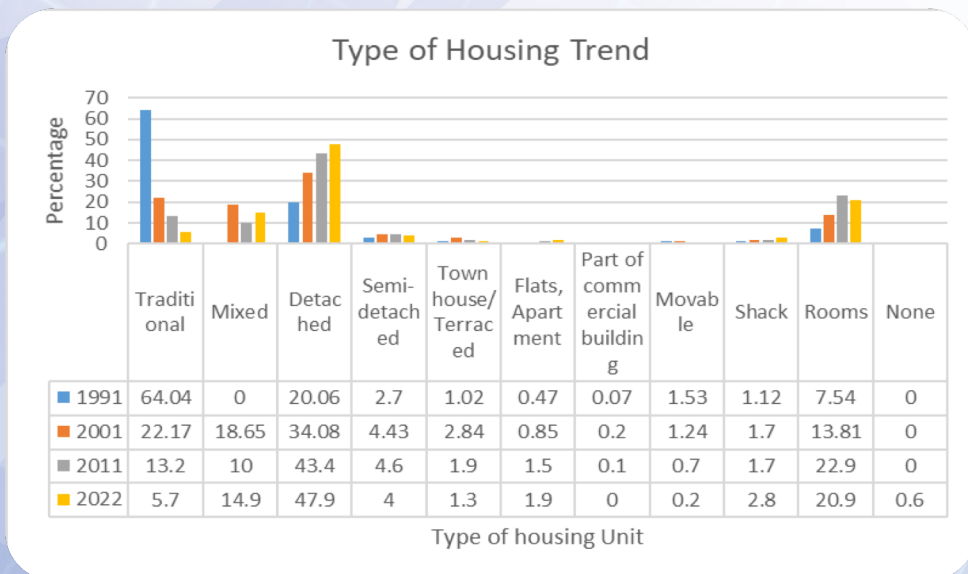
Methodology

A closed ended questionnaire was used for data collection during the 2022 Population and Housing Census (PHC). The questionnaire was administered to respondents 12 years and above. Therefore, secondary data from 2022 Population and Housing Census was used for analysis in the paper. Cross tabulations were done for type of housing unit, wall material, floor material, roof material, total number of rooms in the housing unit, acquisition of housing unit, main source of water, principal source of energy for cooking and availability of a toilet with work activity using SPSS version 25. The data was descriptively presented.

Findings and discussions

Type of Housing Unit

Figure 1: Proportions of type of housing trend



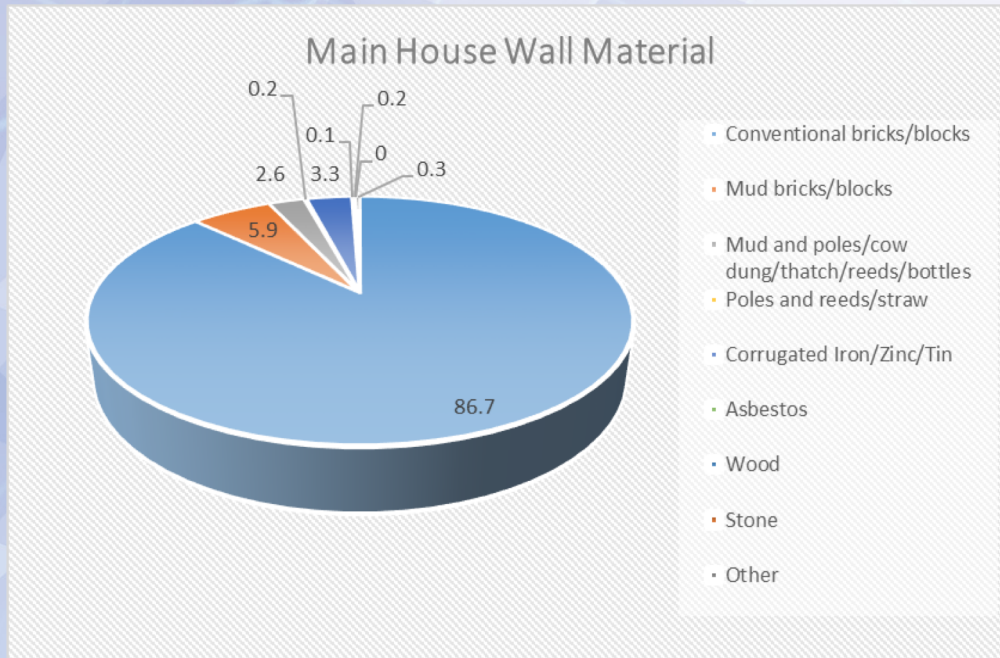
- Majority of households stay in detached type of housing units with an increase each year from 1991 -2022
- decrease on traditional housing units from 1991 (64%) to 5.7 % in 2022 and mostly found in rural areas
- Rooms housing unit have been on a steady increase from 1991 (7.54%), 2001 (13.81%) and 2011(22.9) but slight decline was observed in 2022 (20.9%).
- A steady proportion of shacks of 1.7% in 2001 and 2011 was observed but a slight increase 2.8% to was observed in 2022 mostly found in rural areas.

Findings and Discussions

- **Type of housing unit by work activity**
 - Detached housing unit was mostly preferred irrespective of the type of job except for those working at own agricultural activities (Lands/cattlepost) who preferred mixed housing units.
 - **Rooms type of house unit was the second preferred by the employed, self employed and apprentice.**
 - volunteers/tirelo sechaba/intern and unpaid family helper in business had mixed housing unit as a second preference.

Findings and discussions

- Building Materials
 - Main House wall material
 - Figure 2: Proportion of main house wall materials



- **majority (86.7%)** of main house walls were built from conventional bricks with only **5.9% built** with mud bricks.
- Durable wall and good to health

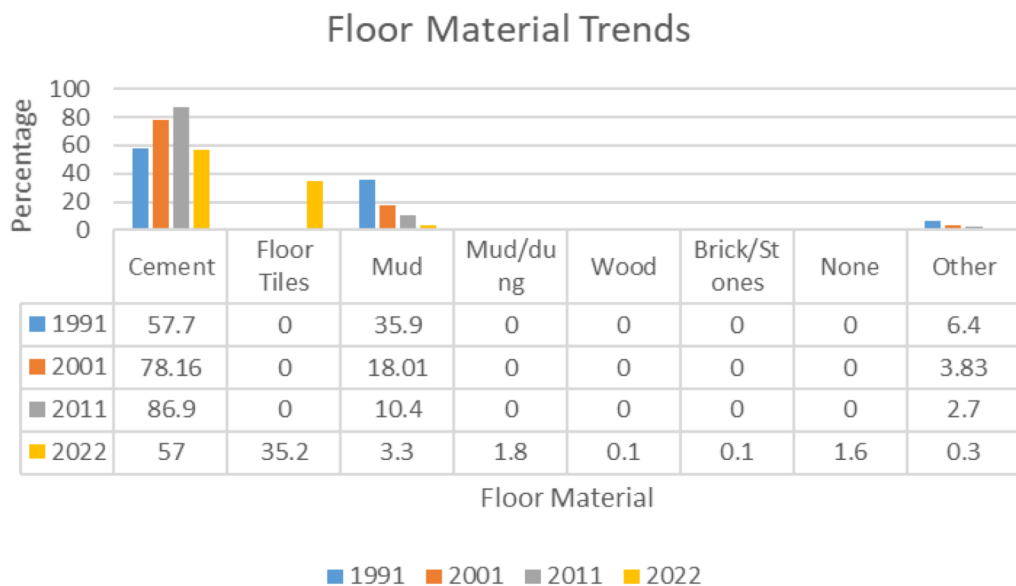
Findings and discussions

- **Main house wall material and work activity**
 - Majority of households built their main house wall using conventional bricks irrespective of the work activity **(Table 5)**
 - the second commonly used main house wall material was mud bricks across all work activities except for members of producer cooperatives who used corrugated iron/zinc.
 - Durable walls despite of type of work and good to attainment of adequate housing.

Findings and discussions

• Floor material trends

Figure 3: proportions of floor materials trends



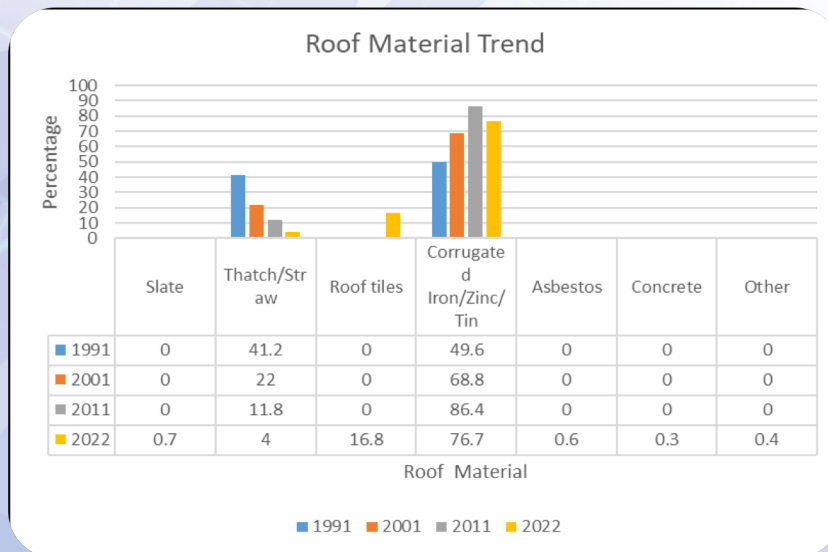
- Cement floor has been the prominent floor material from PHC in 1991 at **57.7%** and increased to **86.9%** in 2011.
- a decrease in the use of cement in the floor was reported in 2022 as floor tile gained popularity.
- Mud flooring lost preference from 1991 with **35.9%** to 2022 with **3.3%**.

Findings and discussions

- **Floor material and work activity** (Table 5)
 - Majority of households used cement on their house floors irrespective of work activity except those who were self- employed (with employees) and those who were member of producer cooperatives who prefer floor tiles (**Table 7**)
 - Durable and quality flooring choices not affected by type of work generally

Findings and discussions

- Roof material
- Figure 4: Proportion of roofing material



- Decrease in the use of thatch /straw for roofing houses from **41.2%** in 1991 to only **4%** in 2022.
- increase in the use of corrugated Iron/zinc/Tin from **1991 (49.6%)** to **2011(86.4%)**
- a decrease (**76.7%**) was experienced in 2022 although it remained the mostly used roofing material.

Findings and discussions

• Roof materials and work activity (Table 9)

- **Table 9** reveals that corrugated iron/zinc/tin was still used by most households as a roofing material irrespective of the job activity one engages in, followed by use of roofing tiles.
- Although corrugated iron /zinc/tin use was in the lead with **51.6%**, a closer contention was observed with roof tiles at **43.6%** for self-employed (with employees).
- Asbestos has been identified as one of the materials that are a health hazard because it is associated with causing some respiratory diseases. In the previous three census it was not recorded but in the 2022 PHC it has been recorded at **0.6%**.

Findings and discussions

- **Size of housing unit (Table 9)**
 - Majority of households stayed in one roomed houses accounting for **33.4%**, followed by 2 rooms with **27.1%**, then 3 rooms with **21.1%**. These three categories of housing units account for **81.6%** of the total housing units types.
 - Therefore, most households stayed in smaller housing units (one to three roomed housing units).

Findings and discussions

- **Size of Housing Unit and Work Activity (Table 10)**
 - most households stayed in 1 room houses irrespective of work activity one engages in except those who were self-employed (with employees) who stayed in 3 roomed houses.
 - Those working in own agricultural activities commonly stayed in both 1 room **(28.9%)** and 2 roomed houses **(28.9%)**.

Findings and discussions

Housing unit tenure by work activity and sex

- All of males were staying in rented housing units across all work activities except members of producer cooperatives and those working at their own agricultural activities.
- **Seconded by self** –built (Owner-occupied)
- Proportion (**77.2%**) of those males working in their own agricultural activities stay in their own houses. This is true because at the cattle posts or lands there are no houses for renting, hence one has to build and stay in their own house.
- Same situation is found with members of producer cooperatives with **40%** staying in their own houses. This may be attributed to the fact that most producer cooperatives are engaged in agricultural activities like crop farming and animal husbandry.
- **All women stayed in self** – built (owner-occupied) housing units across work activities except those employed paid in cash.

Findings and discussions

Main source of drinking water by work activity and locality (Table 12)

- Majority of households had piped indoor drinking water in their homes accounting for **45.4%** followed by piped outdoor with **37.1%** but a few, **3.8%** fetch water from their neighbours.
- Urban areas, majority of households across all work activities have piped water indoors in their housing units.
- urban villages, there is a switch between piped indoor and piped outdoor drinking water across work activities.
- In rural areas, majority of households have piped water outdoor followed by communal taps for across most work activities and those working in their own agricultural activities (**30%**) had no source of water.

Findings and discussions

- **Principal source of energy for cooking by work activity and locality (Table 13)**
 - Generally, most of the households (**39.4%**) use LPG (gas) as a principal source of energy for cooking followed by electricity national grid accounting for **29%**.
 - In urban areas: majority of households (**53.3%**) use LPG for cooking, followed by electricity national grid (**34.8%**).
 - LPG is the most common source of energy for cooking across all the work activities except for those who are self-employed (with employees) representing **49.1%**.

Findings and discussions

- **Urban villages:** principal source of energy for cooking, majority of households (**53.3%**) use gas for cooking, followed by electricity national grid with **34.8 %** while biogas and wood are equal in usage at **9.0%** each.
- In the rural areas the most common principal source of energy for cooking is wood (**58.1%**) followed by LPG (**18.0%**) and electricity national grid (**16.0%**) When it comes to work activities, the principal source of energy for cooking is firewood across all work activities except self- employed (with employees) who used gas instead.
- access to principal source of energy for cooking is influenced by locality than work activity.

Findings and discussion

- Toilet availability with work activity
- **Urban areas:** Flush toilets (connected to sewer line) was the most common in across all work activities with no exception, followed by availability of pit latrines.
- **It was observed that some households had no toilets at all chief among them being working at own agricultural activities (lands/ cattle posts) (3.9%), followed by apprentice (3.6%) and member of producer cooperative with 2.9%.**
- Urban villages the most dominant type of toilet is the pit latrine which is most common amongst most work activities followed by flush toilet connected to sewer line was common among three work activities (employee paid cash, **41.5%**; self-employed with employees, **45.3%**; and member producer cooperative, **44.8%**).
- **Rural areas:** pit latrines followed by flush toilet with septic tank. Worth noting here is the percentage of households with no toilet which stood at **26%**.

Policy implications

1. In terms of housing tenure issues, there is a good progress in empowering women, however, the policies have ignored men such that women have overtaken men when it comes to house ownership. There should be a balance between men and women empowerment policies.
2. The use of biogas and solar power as sources of energy for cooking must be encouraged to take advantage of these at the same time reducing emission of harmful gases to the ozone hence positively contributing reduction of climate change.
3. There is need for provision of sewage infrastructure across all localities to prevent contamination of underground water which is the most common source of drinking in the country.

Conclusions

1. In general, households are built with good quality houses irrespective of the type of work they engaged in for the past seven days which gives assurance to achieving adequate housing through the spirit of self- reliance.
2. Durable building materials are mostly used for building houses in Botswana indicating progress towards attaining adequate housing.
3. Slums or shacks have significantly decreased in urban areas but trends show that they are increasing in rural areas.
4. The most common source of energy for cooking in Botswana, both in urban and urban villages across all work activities is LPG (gas) followed by electricity from the national grid. In rural areas the most common source of energy for cooking is wood followed by gas.
5. The most common toilet in urban areas is flush toilets (sewer line) followed by pit latrines while in urban villages and rural areas pit latrines are dominant followed by flush toilets with septic tanks. However, there are those who do not have toilets across localities

Recommendations

1. Building controls and standards must be implemented in rural areas to ensure that people satisfy certain standards when constructing or building their houses. This can curb the increase of slumps or shacks at rural areas.
2. Authorities responsible for housing matters must monitor closely to reduce increase in slumps.
3. Government must come up with programmes to encourage and support the use of biogas and solar power as sources of energy for cooking.
4. Building or provision of a toilet must be made mandatory for all establishment including at own agricultural establishments (lands/cattle post) for sanitary. In addition all households in urban areas and urban villages must have flush toilets.
5. Sewerage systems services must be provided in all urban areas and urban villages to encourage households to migrate from pit latrine type of toilets to flush toilet to safeguard underground water.