

DESIS
NETWORK
Design for
Social Innovation
and Sustainability

Burial Societies

Informal Life Policy



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Context.

It is very expensive to give the beloved ones a decent burial ceremony in Botswana. For the poor and unemployed families who live in rural areas and have limited sources of income, it becomes a challenge to bury their beloved ones. In an effort to mitigate this challenge, families in rural areas form Burial Societies and contribute a small token every month.





The project.

The objective of the case seeks to mitigate the high cost family members undergo during hard times such as death in the family. The contributions made assist the bereaved family to cover all the funeral expenses.



The design process.

Co-create a system to enhance the operations of burial societies. It might be in terms of record keeping, subscription collection and payment. Co-creating communication tools to disseminate the value of burial societies to urban dwellers or other users.



Governance and Policy Making



**Governance – self
elected
committees**

The project assist people in semi-urban and rural areas be have an informal life insurance. The project is a grassroots initiative as formal life insurance policies are very expensive for them. The societies are run by self elected committees.

Activism and Civic Participation



Participatory decision making

All active members participate freely and the committee then implement the agreed resolutions to foster change in the society. Decision making in this initiative is through the participatory approach by all members (consensus

Social Interactions and Relations



**Bonding the
community**

Families at grassroots level have collaborated to solve the challenge they encounter when burying their beloved ones. They can't afford an insurance policy but burial societies are rural areas flexible, effective and affordable 'life' insurance. They are not only a solution to the problem of burial but also a source of social security for the community.

Job Creation



Service creation

In raising funds, some burial societies engage in such initiatives as purchasing, selling, and leasing movable property e.g. tents, chairs, big pots used in big occasions and making grave stands. This brings services closer to

Storytelling and Visualisation



envisioning in co-design sessions

ideas sharing

Each member monthly subscription is written in a booklet. There is possibility of co-creating better service provision within the burial societies so that they are administered effectively and efficiently.

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