

## **ABSTRACT FOR OTARG**

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**3. Title of paper**

Foundations for entrepreneurship in poor communities in South Africa

**Abstract**

This paper highlights projects in South Africa where the natural talents of the people have been harnessed to enable them to earn a decent living. This paper will focus on the Saries for Good Karma Initiative in Chatsworth, Durban as well as some craft projects in Cape Town. For the Saries for Good Karma project, saries are donated by the community and the women use them to recycle into high fashion apparel, together with a resident dress designer who teaches the women how to bead, sew etc. In the Western Cape, Janet Pillai, CEO of the African Art Factory managed to secure funding from WESGRO (Trade and Investment Promotion Agency for Western Cape Province), as well as get their products showcased at the Tendence Lifestyle in Frankfurt Germany.

It would appear that in addition to community involvement at stakeholder level, savings and credit are both critical to success with savings preceding credit. What appears to be needed most to empower poor households is a bridge between communities and the formal banking sector. This organization needs to be flexible enough to cater for a variety of needs. OT's can be involved in advocacy and skills development, as well as secure funding for poor communities as a way out of poverty.

**Theme:** MDG1: Eradicate Hunger and Poverty

**Format:** Paper for 15 minutes