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Parliament

Research Department



[Gutu South Constituency Profile]

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1.0 Introduction

Gutu South is one of the constituencies that were created as a result of the 2008 delimitation exercise resulting in the creation of the Gutu East Constituency. It now comprises Nerupiri, Makore, Chikwanda, Chiwara, Dewende and Domborembavha. There are good road networks in the constituency but communication network is poor. Housing is fairly decent, but the rural electrification programme has not benefited many parts of the constituency. The constituency has witnessed the rural-to-urban migration of young people in search of jobs. From 2000-2005, the area experienced severe droughts. However, in terms of education, there are adequate education facilities in the constituency, although health delivery remains poor, as most clinics are understaffed and face severe shortage of drugs which has now become a common problem throughout Zimbabwe's rural communities. Patients are now routinely referred to Gutu Mission Hospital. Most people rely on subsistence and small scale farming while others are formally employed. The Makore people from this constituency participated in farm invasions at the start of the country's agrarian reforms in 2000 but not much has really been produced due to other challenges (ZESN Report).

2.0 Population Distribution

Population in Masvingo Province is mainly composed of the 5-9 and 10-14 age group and this follows for Gutu South Constituency. The constituency constitutes 20% of the total population in Gutu District. It has a total population of 41 601 of which 18 763 are males and 22 838 are females (census report: 2002). The proportion of male and female is 45% and 55% respectively and sex ratio is 88. A large proportion (62%) of the population in the province was in the never married category while 30% were in the married group during the 2002 census. Similar patterns were observed in all the other districts. The pie chart below shows the sex composition of the constituency.

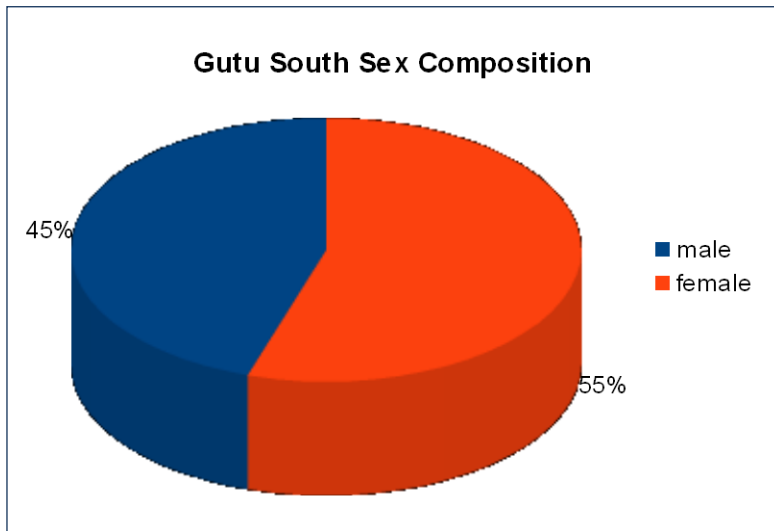


Figure 1: Gutu South Sex Composition

As shown in the chart above, females are more than males and the sex ratio is 88. The chart below shows the population distribution by wards.

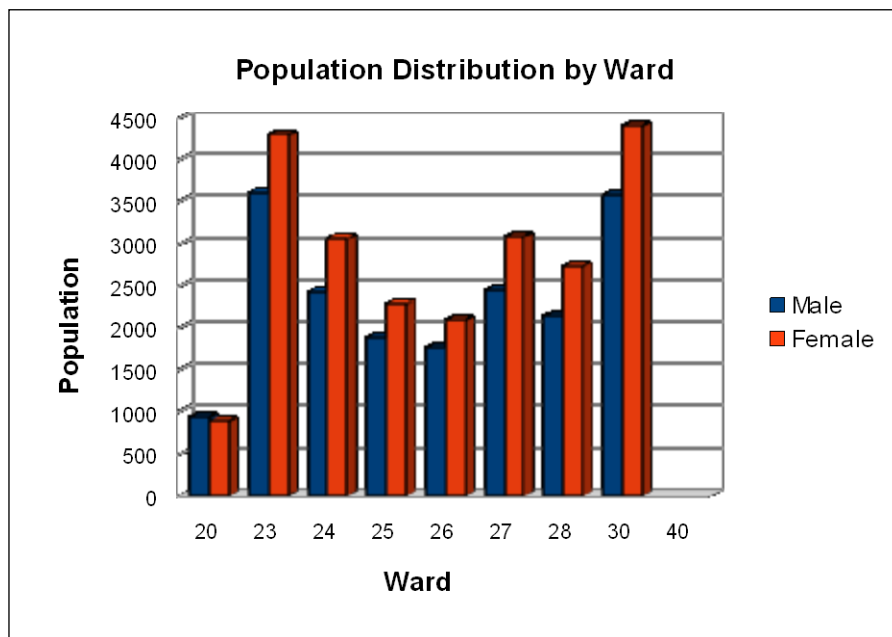


Figure 2: Population Distribution by Sex and Ward

As shown in the graph above, there are more females than males in all the wards and the greatest difference is noticed in wards 23 and 30. Ward 30 has the highest population and ward 20 has the least.

2.1 Registered Voters

There are 25 941 registered voters in the constituency and on average 2 882 voters per ward. The chart below shows the number of registered voters per ward.

Registered Voters per Ward

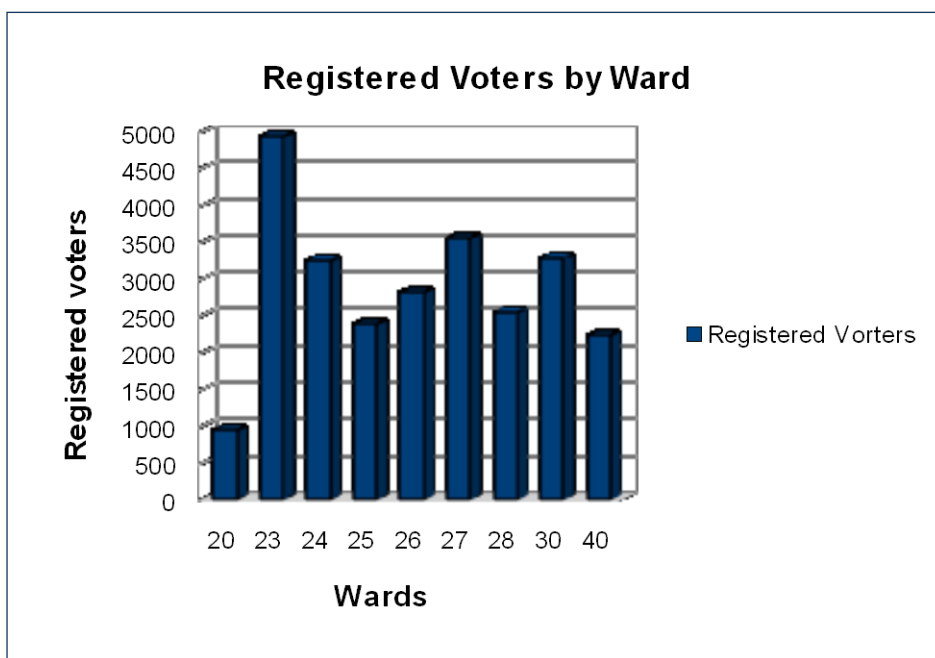


Figure 3: Registered Voters by Ward

The graph above depicts that ward 23 has the highest number of registered voters although it is not the one with the highest number of people. This implies that the ward is composed of adults who are eligible voters. Ward 20 has the least number of voters owing to the fact that it has the least number of people.

3.0 Education

3.1 Primary Education

There are 30 primary schools in the constituency with an average of 4 schools per ward. Ward 20 has 3 schools, ward 23, 24 and 25 have 5 schools, ward 26 has 3 and finally ward 30 has 7 primary schools. Below is a graph which shows the number of schools per ward.

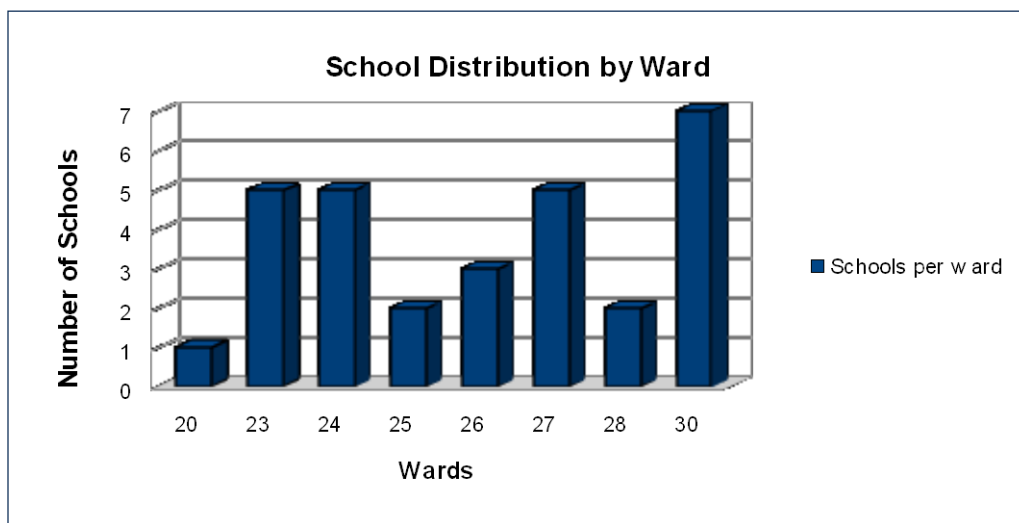


Figure 4: Primary School Distribution by Ward

Ward 30 has the highest number of schools and this shows that there are many young people in the ward. Ward 20 has the least number of schools. Total enrollment of girls is 5711 and that of boys is 5669 in all the 30 primary schools. The chart below shows the number of boys and girls by ward.

Enrollment at Primary Schools

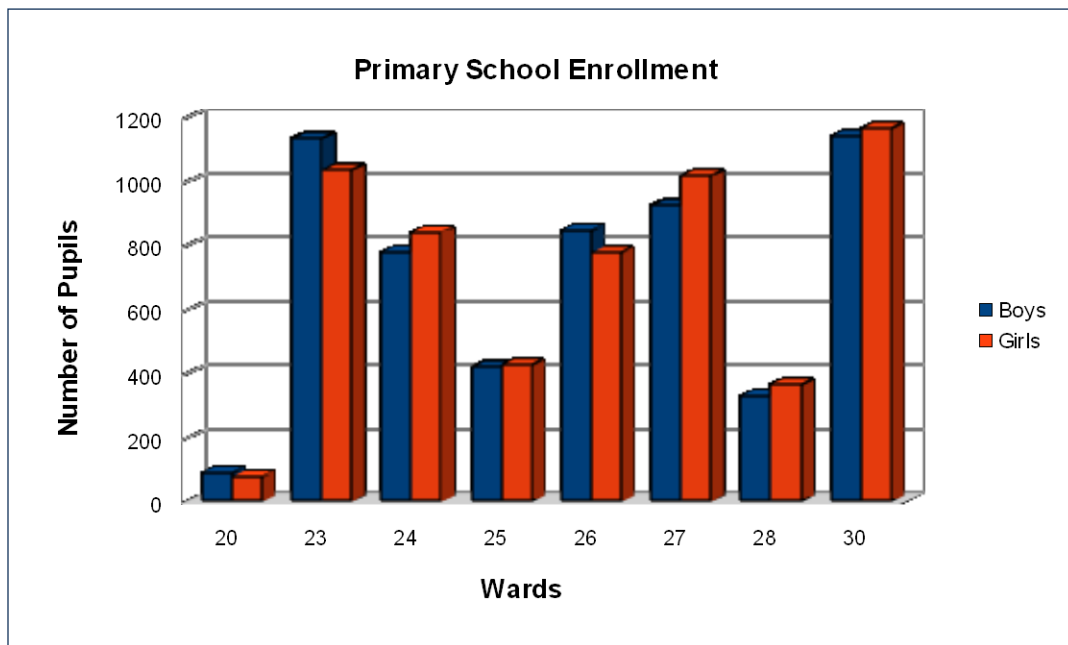


Figure 5: Primary School Enrolment by Ward

The graph above shows that ward 30 has the highest number of pupils and it is also the one with the highest population. This implies that the ward mainly consists of young people. Ward 20 has the least number of pupils and it is also the ward with the least population.

Almost all the primary schools are owned by the Rural District Council except for Mukaro CPS which is owned by the church and according to the PASS Report (2003); this shows that the households are generally poor.

The table below shows the primary school characteristics by wards

Table 1: Primary School Statistics by Ward

| Ward | Number of schools | pupils | Trained teachers | Pupil to teacher ratio |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 20 | 1 | 171 | 6 | 29 |
| 23 | 5 | 2168 | 57 | 38 |
| 24 | 5 | 1622 | 45 | 36 |
| 25 | 2 | 846 | 29 | 29 |
| 26 | 3 | 1627 | 42 | 39 |
| 27 | 5 | 1941 | 51 | 38 |
| 28 | 2 | 698 | 8 | 87 |
| 30 | 7 | 2307 | 65 | 35 |

All the wards except for ward 28 have a pupil to teacher ratio which is below the national average of 43:1. The presence of many qualified teachers in all the schools in the constituency improves the quality of education in all the wards and at the same time testifies of the government's commitment to improve education in rural communities.

Almost all pupils attend schools owned by the council .Analysis by poverty category showed that a greater proportion of these are from the poor households.

3.2 Secondary Education

Gutu South Constituency consists of 11 Secondary Schools of which all of them offer education up to 'O' Level. Almost all the secondary schools are owned by the rural district council except for 2 which are owned by the mission. The presence of many schools owned by the council is reflective of the social characteristics of the inhabitants. According to the PASS report (2003) about 59% of pupils who enroll at council schools come from a very poor background.

The chart below shows the enrollments at the different schools in the constituency.

Enrollment in Secondary

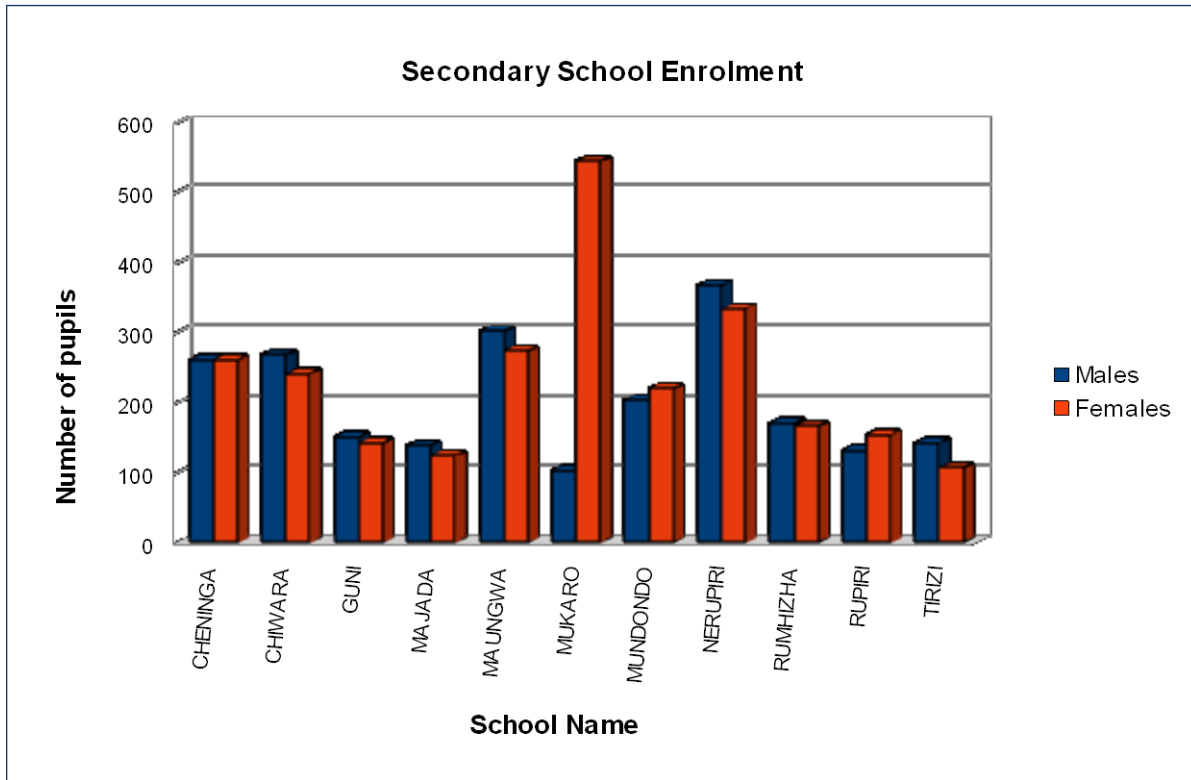


Figure 6: Secondary School Enrolment by Ward

As shown in the graph above, there are more boys than girls in almost all the schools except for Mukaro, Mundondo and Rupiri. The school with the highest difference is Mukaro which is a girls' high school. Below is a table showing the summary of the secondary school enrollment and the pupil to teacher ratio.

Table 2: Secondary School Statistics by Ward

| School Name | Boys | Girls | Trained Teachers | Pupil to Teacher ratio |
|-------------|------|-------|------------------|------------------------|
| Cheninga | 261 | 261 | 22 | 24 |
| Chiwara | 268 | 241 | 18 | 28 |

| School Name | Boys | Girls | Trained Teachers | Pupil to Teacher ratio |
|-------------|------|-------|------------------|------------------------|
| Guni | 157 | 143 | 9 | 33 |
| Majada | 138 | 125 | 11 | 24 |
| Maungwa | 303 | 274 | 29 | 20 |
| Mukaro | 103 | 544 | 30 | 22 |
| Mundondo | 204 | 221 | 19 | 22 |
| Nerupiri | 367 | 334 | 37 | 19 |
| Rumhizha | 171 | 166 | 13 | 26 |
| Rupiri | 132 | 154 | 14 | 20 |
| Tirizi | 143 | 107 | 12 | 21 |

All the schools have a good pupil to teacher ratio which is below the national average i.e. 43:1. (PASS report: 2003). This improves the quality of education at the schools.

4.0 Health

Gutu South Constituency comprises of 6 health centers of which only 1 has a status of a clinic and the other five are rural health centers. The health centers are fairly distributed given the population in the constituency. According to the PASS Report 2003, Masvingo had the highest proportion of filled positions of nurses (80%) and Gutu South is not an exception.

All the health centers are fairly serviced in terms of staff. There are at least 2 nurses at all health facilities. However, there are no doctors at any of the health centres. There is therefore need to increase the number of qualified health personnel, so as to ensure efficient health service delivery and this can be done through offering more attractive conditions of service for health personnel so as to prevent brain drain.

5.0 Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

There are 5 NGOs in Gutu South which operates in various fields, namely; poverty alleviation, gender, sanitation and small dam rehabilitation to mention but just a few.

Below is a table which shows the NGOs and their field of operation.

Table 3: Gutu South NGOs and Field of Operation

| NGO | FIELD OF OPERATION |
|----------------------------------|--|
| ARZTEC | Poverty Alleviation, and Agro Business |
| Good Business Development | Poverty Alleviation and factory shell building |
| Care International | Poverty alleviation, water, sanitation, gender awareness and child welfare |
| SIDA | Social Infrastructure and Child Welfare |
| RUDO | Poverty Alleviation |

As shown in the table above, 4 of the NGOs are in the field of Poverty Alleviation. This implies that there is inadequate food security as this is a high poverty incidence constituency. The poor rainfall patterns and the soils are not good for crop farming leading to poor harvest hence the participation of many NGOs to reduce the effects of hunger and poverty. One of the NGO is in the field of Social Infrastructure and factory shell building.

6.0 Business Centers

Gutu South Constituency consists of 13 business centres of which each of them have a number of retail outlets. The following chart shows the distribution of business centers by wards.

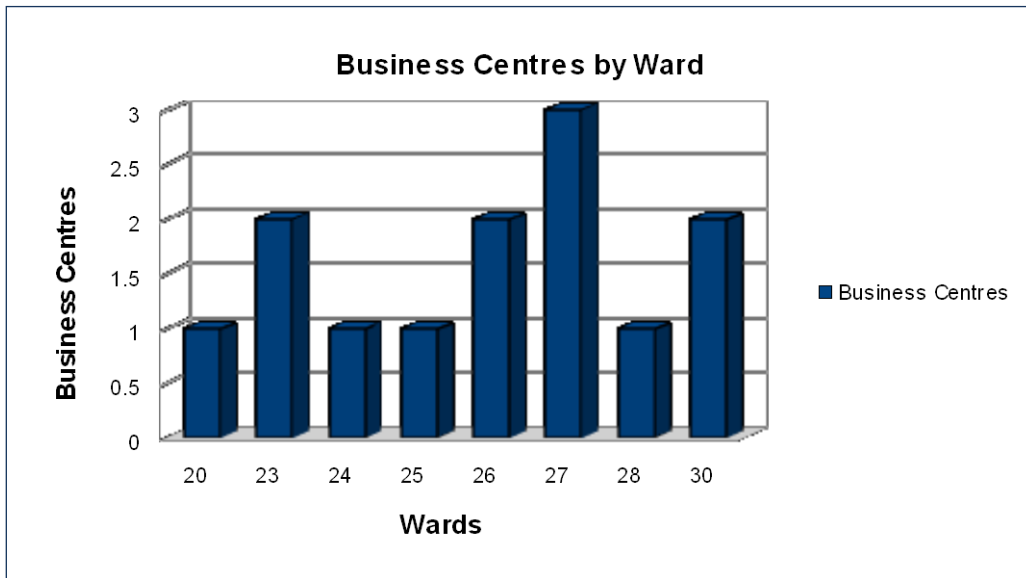


Figure 7: Gutu South Business Centres by Ward

Of the 8 wards, 7 wards have business centres. These are generally fair to cater for the inhabitants. The business centres are poorly serviced in terms of banks, police posts and GMB depots and also electricity is a major problem. There is need for rural electrification at these places so as to improve development and self-reliance to inhabitants.

7.0 Animal Health

The constituency has a census of 33 846 cattle with Ward 28 having the highest census and ward 20 have the least. There is at least 1 dip tank in all the wards and 4 animal health management centers. These health centers are few compared with the large numbers of livestock. The constituency has a high volume of livestock since it is in an arid area suitable for cattle ranching. Below is a diagram which shows the cattle census per ward.

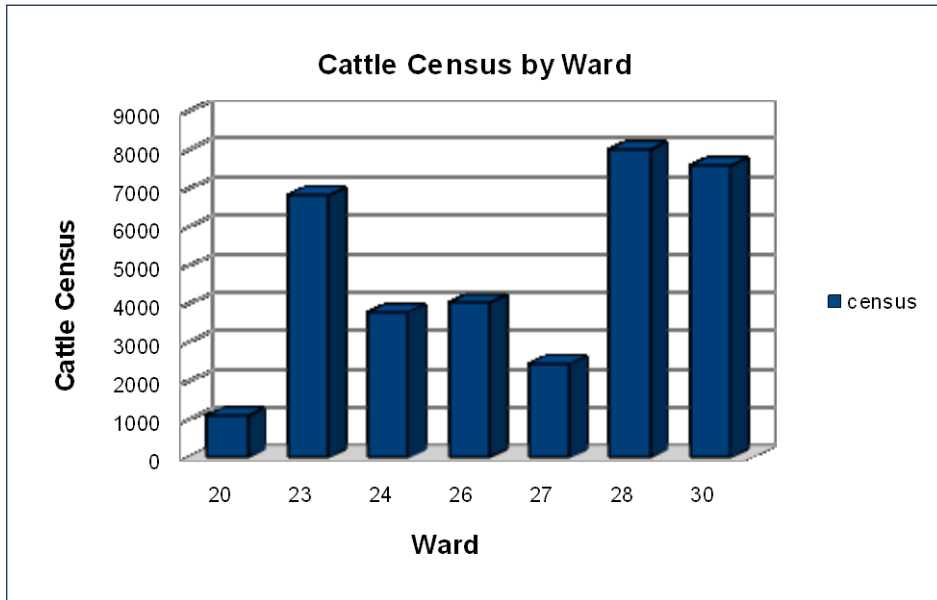


Figure 8: Cattle Census by Ward

8.0 Water points

There are 139 boreholes in the constituency of which 75 are functional. The presence of so many boreholes in the constituency is a reflection of the arid nature of the constituency hence the high levels of hunger and poverty. Below is a table which shows the number of water points per ward

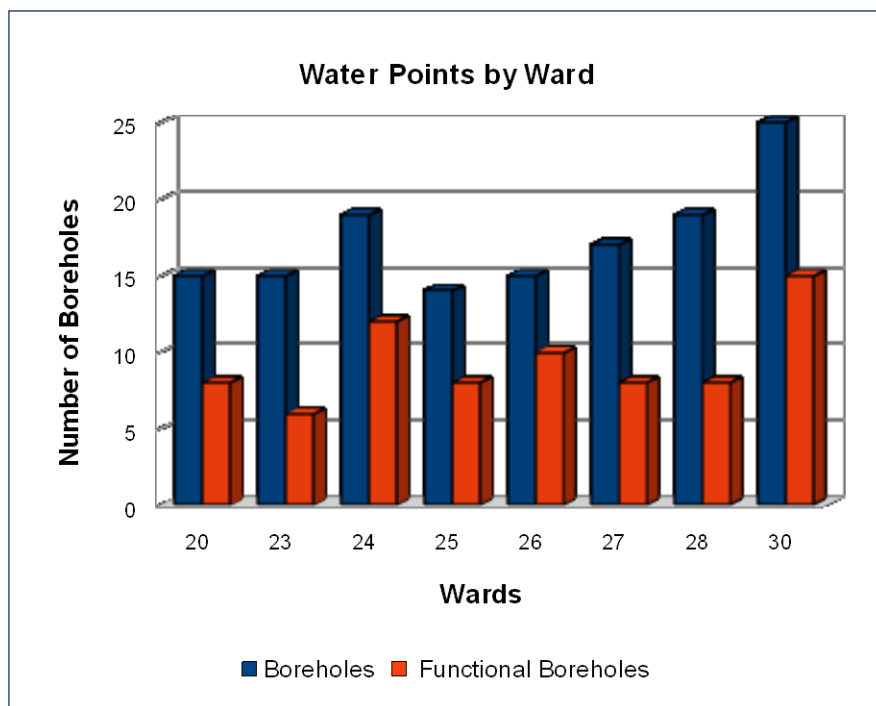


Figure 9: Borehole Distribution by Ward

Ward 30 has the highest number of water points as can be seen in the chart above. There is need however to construct more boreholes since those which are functional are few. However all the wards have boreholes. This reduces the walking distance of people in search of water.

9.0 Local Government

There are 8 councilors in the constituency of which only 2 are female. This implies that there is gender bias in terms of election of councilors. One of the female councilors is now deceased. Women should be empowered so that they can take part in local government structures.

10.0 Conclusion

Gutu South Constituency is characterised by low rainfalls, poor soils and low economic activity. Resultantly , the constituency is left with mainly the young and the old, mostly women due to the low economic activity. The constituency has experienced a great exodus of youth seeking employment in Botswana and South Africa.

11.0 Recommendations

From the discussion above, the following is recommended:

- There is need to engage youth in income generating projects so that they can develop their own community and hence creating employment.
- There is need to lure more qualified health personnel so as to ensure an efficient health service delivery and this can be achieved through improving the conditions of service of the workers , e.g. offering accommodation.
- It is important that infrastructure such as banks are put up at the business center to cater for the needs of the community. Banks such as Agri-bank can serve the needs of the rural community.
- There is also need for rural electrification especially at the business centres.

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