

INSTILLING VALUE-SIGNIFICANCE IN LAND OWNERSHIP IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

King Costa and Gail Denise Parker

Affiliation: Global Centre for Academic Research

ABSTRACT

The concept of value-significance in landownership has been viewed from only one dimension – the economic dimension. This study focused on the intrinsic dimension, sometimes theoretically called “place attachment” to determine how this component could be infused in land reform support and maintenance programmes directed towards beneficiaries of the land redistribution programme in the Northern Cape province of South Africa. The current state of post-land redistribution programme is characterized with a plethora of problems that lead to discouraged beneficiaries, unproductive land use and ultimate land degradation. In view of the above, this study sought to answer the question, “How to instill value-significance in land ownership to beneficiaries of the land redistribution programme in the Northern Cape Province”.

An interpretivist phenomenological approach was selected a method of inquiry, purposively selecting study participants from different cohorts of the land redistribution programme between the period 1994 to 2018. Semi-structured interviews were conducted to obtain in-depth insights, seeking to describe the lived experiences of the land redistribution programme. Aligned with ethical standards, interviews were conducted and recorded on an audio recording device, with the permission of participants. Recorded data was transcribed and analyzed using both thematic analysis benchmarked to the COSTA QDA Technique and the webQDA software.

Findings of the study culminated into four thematic expressions as follows: (1) Land redistribution programme needs to be underpinned by a structured maintenance

programme; (2) Land redistribution programme transformed lives of beneficiaries; (3) Beneficiaries of land redistribution programme aspire full ownership of the land for productive use; and (4) A framework for instilling value-significance in land ownership could enhance the maintenance of the land redistribution programme. Through a rigorous synthesis of these thematic expressions, a final outcome of this study culminated in a development of the INSTIL Framework for instilling value-significance in land ownership.

Key words: identity, instil, land ownership, land reform, place attachment, value-significance

INSTIL HEXAGON ©FRAMEWORK

This framework, entitled INSTIL Hexagon, is made up of six(6) variables derived from thematic expressions and comparative analysis of issues related to their vocation.

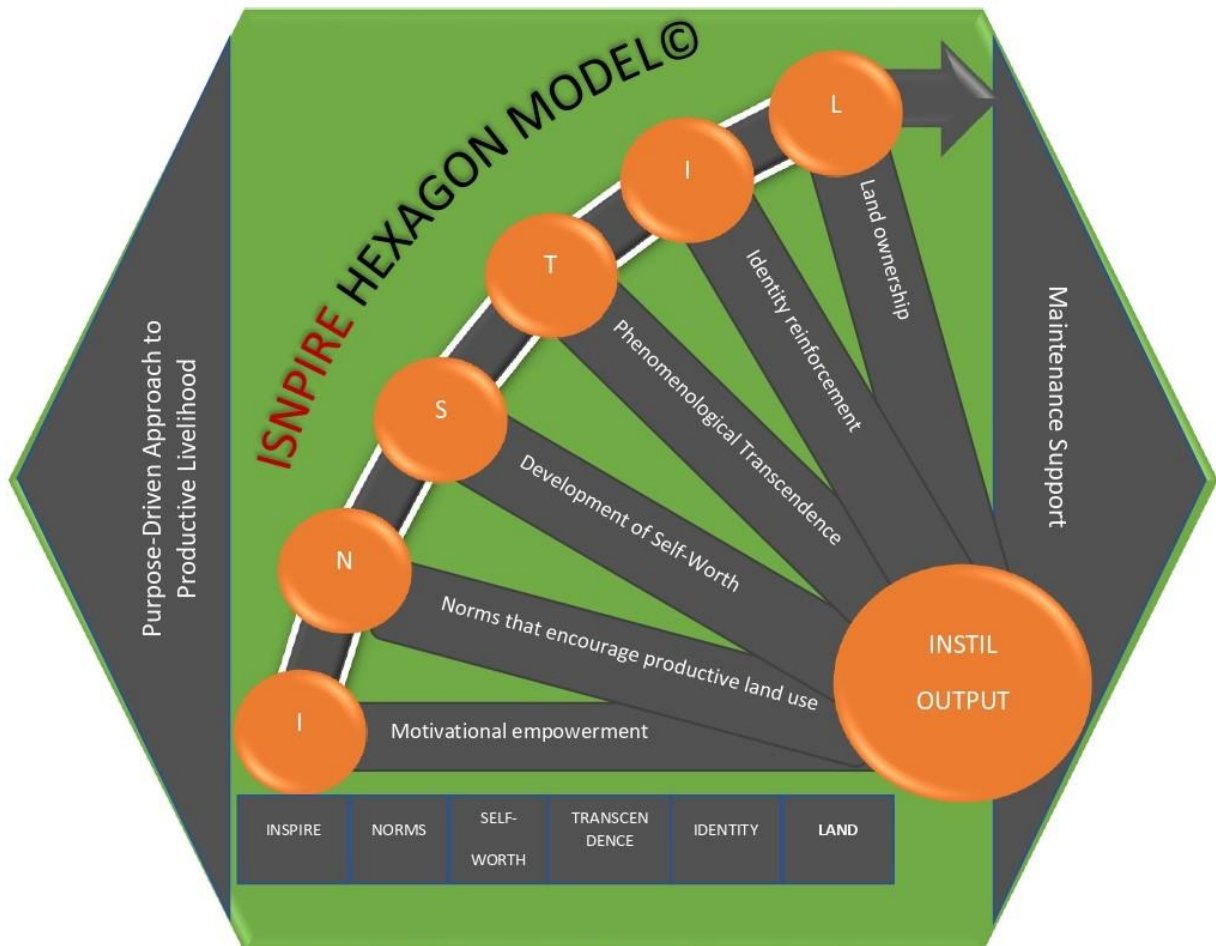


Figure 1: Instil Framework

The framework is structured as a linear approach with each stage determined as a precursor for activities and state of the next stage as demonstrated in the following table below.

#	Framework Element	Stage Descriptor
1	Instill	The dictionary defines <i>instil</i> as a process “to infuse slowly or gradually into the mind or feelings, to insinuate or to inject”. This study has revealed that individuals that made a success

#	Framework Element	Stage Descriptor
		<p>of their farming enterprises were those that were motivated, inspired and resilient.</p> <p>This framework advocates that landowners can be inspired towards success through a process of instilling an appreciation and value significance in the land.</p>
2	Norms and practices	<p>This segment refers to the thoughts, ideas, cultures and way of life of individuals. Through this study it was observed that part of the cultural practices that indicate norms of the participants was that while working on the farms they would even live far from their homes and their families. It was interesting to note that this migrant system of farming was a well acceptable norm and practice that indicated seriousness attached to a vocation held in a high esteem. Some of these participants spend more than weeks away from their families as part of these norms and values.</p> <p>This framework proposes that positive norms and practices should be inculcated in individuals which will inform their behaviour and world view. The instil hexagon is premise on the dictum that “A man is literally what he thinks, his character being the complete sum of all his thoughts.” (James Allen)</p>
3	Self-worth	<p>Once the individual has been inspired and motivated, the next step is to reaffirm the self-worth of the participant.</p> <p>All participants in this study indicated that land ownership or the access to land or lease hold went a long way in building the image they have of themselves and even how extended families and broader community saw them. The status of being a land owner is regarded as an achievement and is imbued with respect. They expressed feelings of pride, dignity and happiness.</p> <p>This positivity should be encouraged and self esteem be cultivated</p>
4	Transcendence	<p>Once the individual's self-worth is built and the confidence in his or her own abilities is reaffirmed the individual may now transcend into this new reality.</p>

#	Framework Element	Stage Descriptor
		<p>This is the process where the individual is led to go beyond the limits that have been set either by themselves in their own minds or by society.</p> <p>In this segment of the framework the individual is taken on a journey to discover and embrace their full potential and shown the possibility of achieving what they otherwise would have thought was impossible. Once the individual has experienced the 'impossible' they are now encouraged to walk in it and practice it. They should develop a habit of doing what was previously thought as impossible.</p>
5	Identity	<p>Once an individual has transcended in their minds and embraced their true identity, the person is completely free from the bondage that they and others have placed on them. In this study the individuals identified themselves with the land and saw themselves as the person (landowner) that they have always aspired to be.</p> <p>While many of the participants in the study were not full owners but rather had long term leases from the state, they still regarded themselves as owners of the land and acted accordingly. Their love for the land extended to the point where their very existence was connected to the land. This shows that they have transcended from seeing themselves as mere workers, lessees or 'emerging' farmers but rather as an equal to their neighbours whose family has been farming for generations.</p>
6	Land	<p>Due to the fact that the individual walks in a new identity, having transcended from an old mindset of limits and inability with a positive self esteem and able to self motivate, they have a new zeal to make a success of their farming activities. They value the land because it is the source of their livelihoods, the image that is portrayed in the community is that of success and earned respect. This becomes new motivators to continue doing well and to regenerate (produce after themselves).</p>

REFERENCES

Herzberg, F., 1966. *Work and the Nature of Man*. Cleveland: World Publication Company.

Mahlali, V., 2019. *FINAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY PANEL ON LAND REFORM AND AGRICULTURE*, Pretoria: Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture.

Maslow, A. H., 1970. *Motivation and Personality*. New York: Harper and Row.

Netshipale, A. J. et al., 2017. Land reform in South Africa: Beneficiary participation and impact on land use in the Waterberg District. *NJAS - Wageningen Journal of Life Sciences*, pp. 57 -66.