

World Bank Project in Lesotho

This week we will discuss the impact of World Bank projects in African contexts with specific reference to the gendered impact of the Lesotho Highlands water project.

Film: NATURE BE DAMMED

Don Edkins: Great Britain/Lesotho, 2000. DVD

Television Trust for the Environment

Series: Earth report IV

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project has received a lot of adverse publicity because of allegations of bribery and corruption, but amidst the financial scandals the fate of the local inhabitants has been somewhat forgotten. This film, made just before the first resettlements were to take place, visits one small village which will be flooded by the Katse and Mohale dams. It takes a look at the local people's traditional way of life, which incorporates an intimate knowledge of the environment and ways of preserving it. Touching upon such issues as controlled grazing and the sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants, it shows how the inhabitants lived in harmony with nature, surviving in a harsh, mountainous environment. A number of them are interviewed and express doubt about their ability to survive elsewhere. The film would seem to be a shortened version of the director's "Land of our ancestors", made two years previously for the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority

Required Readings

Ferguson, James. 1990., "Conceptual apparatus: the constitution of the object of 'development' – Lesotho as 'less developed country'", *The anti-politics machine "Development," depoliticization, and bureaucratic power in Lesotho*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (IN PACK).

Goebel Allison and March Epprecht (1995), 'Women and Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa: Testing the World Bank and WID Models with a Lesotho Case Study', *African Studies Review*, Vol. 38, No. 1, pp1-22 (ON VULA)

Hemson, D., Drimie, S. & Thabane, K. 2004, *"This Dam is Cruel": Women's Lives and the Lesotho Highlands Water Project*". Research Report by HSRC commissioned by UNIFEM (ON VULA).

Lesotho Highlands Water Project Website (ON VULA)

TUTORIAL RESPONSE PAPER 3: The paper should be between 500 and 750 words in length, and word-processed.

The Gender and Development (GAD) approach uses 'gender' as a main analytical category in understanding development. With reference to Cleaver (2002), critically discuss at least two difficulties in involving men in a gendered approach to development.