

Home of Heart – Artistic Interpretation to Population Studies

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Abstract

The main aim of our research project was to investigate demographic change and its impact on the resilience of the social and economic systems in North-Central Namibian communities since 1990, when Namibia gained her independency. In our research we used unique combination of historical and recent data; including parish records, remote sensing data, interviews and documentary film-making.

We carried out new models for a dialogue between science and art in the field of demographic research. We used documentary filming to create an artistic interpretation to population studies, including testimonies how people are coping with environmental degradation and scarcities of resources. An artistic part of our research, a documentary film HOME OF HEART aims to visualize social and ecological consequences of demographic change in the everyday life in North-Central Namibia and to convey how the people respond to those changes.

Rapid population growth and limited income opportunities have been push factors of out-migration from the North-Central Namibia. Documentary film HOME OF HEART tells a story of urbanized Namibians who miss their childhood homes in the harsh environment of North-Central Namibia (Ovamboland). Currently the mortality in Northern Namibia has dropped to the level before the HIV epidemic and similarly the fertility is increasing creating increasing population growth. It is estimated that Africa together with Namibia will double its population in 30 years. As conclusion the out-migration from The North-Central Namibia will remain as a way to cope with the scare environmental resources in the area.

Keywords

Demographic change, North-Central Namibia, Population studies, Art-based research, Documentary filming, Resilience of the social and ecological systems, Migration.