

**EXAMINING THE CONTRIBUTION OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT  
TOWARDS THE ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY: A CASE OF SOUTH  
AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY, MASODI VILLAGE,  
LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**

By

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## DECLARATION

I, Tebogo Elsie Kgawane-Swathe, do hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my investigation and that it has not been submitted in part or full for any degree and that it is my own work and all the sources that I have used and quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

.....

**SIGNATURE**

**KGAWANE-SWATHE, T E (MS)**

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**DATE**

## **ABSTRACT**

The study was undertaken to examine the contribution of child support grant (CSG) towards alleviation of poverty in South Africa. This is necessary because CSG is meant to support children from poor background in order to improve their general wellbeing.

The literature review undertaken in this study shows that CSG is contributing towards alleviation of poverty in Masodi village. The literature review further highlights that there are various challenges that disturbs the strategies of the government in delivering world class social assistance to the citizens of South Africa. Another finding are that there are barriers in the utilization of system that are used to pay CSG as it is outdated, and need to be updated. This challenge justifies why there are several corruption cases in the social pension system (SOCPEN).

One of the findings of the study is that CSG plays a direct role in the life of beneficiaries in improving socio-economic conditions in their lives; children are able to attend school, improve on nutrition and access health services. The main recommendation of the study is that government should increase the amount of CSG; it should be extended to the age of 21 to enable the children to attend higher learning institutions. In order to assist children to overcome the challenges of poverty, accessing higher education would reduce dependency on the government in the long run, as they will acquire skills that will make them employable.

**KEY WORDS:** Care Dependency Grant; Child Support Grant; Department of Social Development; Foster Care Grant; Primary Care Giver; Poverty Alleviation; South African Social Security Agency; State Maintenance Grant; Social Grant Payment System.

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## ACRONYMS

CDG	–	Care Dependency Grant
CSG	–	Child Support Grant
DSD	–	Department Of Social Development
FCG	–	Foster Child Grant
GEAR	-	Growth, Employment and Redistribution
ICROP	–	Integrated Community Registration Outreached Programme
SASSA	–	South African Social Security Agency
SMG	–	State Maintenance Grant
SOCPEN	–	Social Grant Payment System
SPSS	_	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
PCG	–	Primary Care Giver
WinNET	-	Windows Network System

## **ANNEXURES**

Annexure A: Permission to Conduct the Study

Annexure B: Consent Form

## **CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

### **1. AN OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY**

#### **1.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Prior to 1998, children of selected racial groups, mainly whites, benefited from State Maintenance Grants, which excluded black children (Patel, 2011: 106; Triegaardt, 2005: 14: 249). It was not designed to cover the majority of South African families since it was based on a nuclear family model but, only white and coloured in South Africa enjoyed the benefit. This was the decision of the apartheid government whose policies did not recognize diversified family forms among blacks such as extended families, family headed by women and/or child households. This continued to exclude the majority of black families out of the system and contributed to endemic and widespread poverty in South Africa (Lund, 1996:16-36)

Mbeki (2004:2) asserts that it will always be impossible to say that the dignity of South Africans have been restored, if poverty still persists. Poverty excludes the poor from decision and policy making and from the reality of the complex society. The struggle to eradicate poverty has been, and will continue to be a central part of the national effort to build the new South Africa. It is the view of the African National Congress that democracy cannot survive and flourish if the majority of its people remain in poverty, therefore attacking poverty and deprivation should be the first priority of the democratic government, which cannot be resolved outside the context of job creation, alleviation and eradication of poverty (Mbeki, 2004:3)

South Africa is regarded an upper-middle-income country and better developed than its neighbours. However, most South African households are experiencing outright poverty or continuing vulnerability to be poor (Devereux, 2010:3; SA Info Reporter, 2013; Olivier, Smith and Kalula, 2005:8). As a result of the disparity among the populace that benefit from the social grants, the State Maintenance Grant was replaced by Child Support Grant (CSG) in April 1998 (Olivier, Smith and Kalula, 2005:8 and Triegaardt, 2005: 14: 249).

The CSG was meant to cater for the maintenance of children between the ages 0 and 14 years. The former Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, during his budget speech in 2009 affirmed the government's position of extending CSG to 15-year-old children and its effectiveness of reducing poverty in South Africa. Since January 2010 it was extended to children up to the age of 16 years, 17 years in 2011 and 18 years in 2012. (Mirugi - Mukundi 2010: 7; Black Sash, 2010: 2). Now the Agency it caters for children up to the age of 18 years (SASSA SOCPEN system). The Child Support Grant is the most important form of assistance to poor families, and the budget for social grants during that year was added with R13.2 billion. (Budget Speech, 2009: 7). The CSG was established as one of the government's program under social assistance to assist mothers and primary care givers, especially those from poor families in order to meet the needs of poor children (Van Der Berg and Siebrits, 2012: 4). The CSG is a mechanism which was introduced as a relief for poverty alleviation to support household income to enable parent/primary care giver to care for the child or children and to provide for the children's basic needs.

According to Hardgrove, Enejajor and Lee (2011:2 & 22), poverty manifests itself in diverse practices and that has different repercussions for children in different perspectives or for the risk they may be exposed to such as health, development and emotional well-being. Section 27 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 affirms that everyone has a right to Social Security, including those who are unable to support their dependents.

In its opening statement, the Constitution expresses that it heals the injustice of the past and embraces the society that is based on social justice, fundamental human rights and improves the life of all citizens. This statement guarantees everyone in the country a minimum standard of living and a clear indication that the state endorses the right to social security, even though there is no right which is absolute, in terms of Section 36 of the Constitution. That is, each and every right is limited in terms the general limitation clause that interest and values must be balanced in a society (Horsten, 2013:18). He further notes that human dignity, equality and freedom can only be upheld when basic necessities of life are met.

Hall, Leatt and Rosa (2005:10) assert that the Child Support Grant delivers financial security and supports spending on children's food, school fees and clothing. The Department of Welfare published in a White Paper (1997) that social security covers wide varieties of public and private measures that provide cash or in-kind benefits or both. First, in the event of an individual's earning power permanently ceased, being interrupted, never developing, or being exercised only at an exceptional social cost and such person being able to avoid poverty and secondly to maintain children. The White paper (Department of Welfare, 1997) further indicates that the domains of social security are poverty alleviation, social compensation and income distribution.

Strydom *et al.* (2005:23) define social security as the protection which the society provides for its members, through a series of public measures against economic and social distress that would be caused by the stoppage or substantial reduction of earnings resulting from sickness, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, invalidity, old age, and death, and the provision of subsidies for families with children. The major objective of social security is poverty prevention and alleviation, social compensation and income distribution. Social security is financed through taxes and afforded by government to those inhabitants who have met the contingency recognized by law.

### **1.1.1 Social Assistance in South Africa**

According to Luruli (2011: 2), the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) was created from the National Department of Social Development (NDSD) in April 2006. SASSA main purpose is to implement the norms and standards set by of the NDSD for improving the delivery of social assistance to eligible South Africans. The purpose is to prevent and alleviate poverty for social compensation and income distribution (Luruli, 2011:2). In South Africa there are eight types of social grants, namely Old Age Grant, Child Support Grant, Disability Grant, Foster Care Grant, Care Dependency Grant, War Veteran Grant in aid and social relief of distress (Luruli 2011:3). As from 01 of April 2006 the responsibility for the management, administration and payment of social assistance grants was transferred to SASSA.

SASSA has been established to be the sole agent that will ensure that:

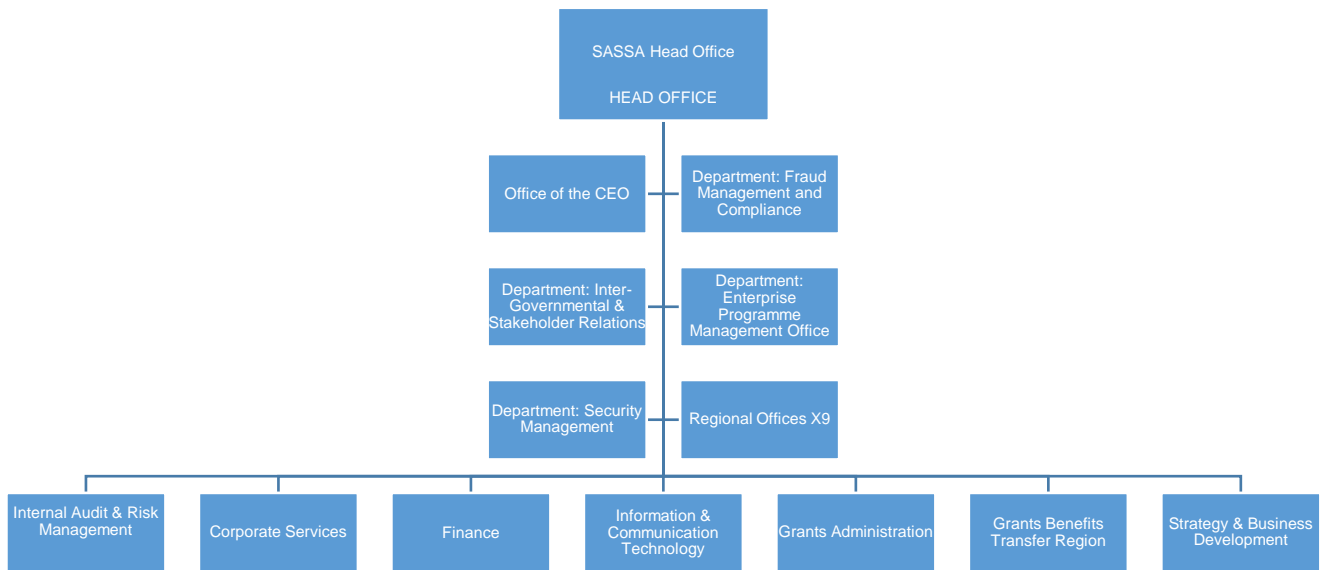
- The administration and payment of social assistance is effective and efficient;
- It is the juristic person and is subject to Public Finance Management Act, No 1 of 1999 herein referred to as the Act;
- Serves as the sole Agent that ensures the prospective payment and administration of social security; and
- Rendering services relating to such payments.

The main function of SASSA is to:

- Administer social assistance in terms of Chapter 3 of the Social Assistance Act No 13; of 2004, herein referred to as the Act;
- Collate, maintain and administer such information as is necessary for the payment of social security and;
- Be responsible for the central reconciliation management of payment and transfers of funds in a national database for all applications and beneficiaries of social assistance, and
- Establish a compliance and fraud mechanism to ensure the integrity of the social security system; and
- To ensure effective payments to beneficiaries.

SASSA is headed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who reports to the Minister of the National Department of Social Development (South African Social Security Agency Act, No 9 of 2004 herein referred as the Act).

**Figure 1: Organisational Structure of SASSA**



The above structure, Figure 1, illustrates the central view of SASSA as approved by the Honourable, Ms B. Dlamini, Minister of Social Development. The Chief Executive Officer manages the institution and is accountable to the Minister. The Minister can override decisions taken by the CEO. Upon establishment of SASSA as an Agency in Department of Social Development, the Board of Directors or any advisory structure has not been formally established since the inception of SASSA. The social assistance administration functions were initially under the Department of Social Development, both at provincial and national levels. According to the Minister, Ms Bathabile Dlamini MP, the launch of SASSA in 2006, signalled a new beginning aimed at ensuring that the payment of social grants is not purely executed as an administrative process, but as a way of upholding the right to access social security as enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa. She further alluded that as an entity of government, one of SASSA’s primary accountabilities is to make the right to social assistance, the right to dignity and respect (SASSA Annual Report, 2014/15).



## THE FUNCTION OF SASSA

SASSA has one national office and nine regional offices across the country. Decisions are taken at the Head Office level by the Executive Committee and cascaded to regional offices for implementation.

**Figure 2: Regional Organisational Structure**

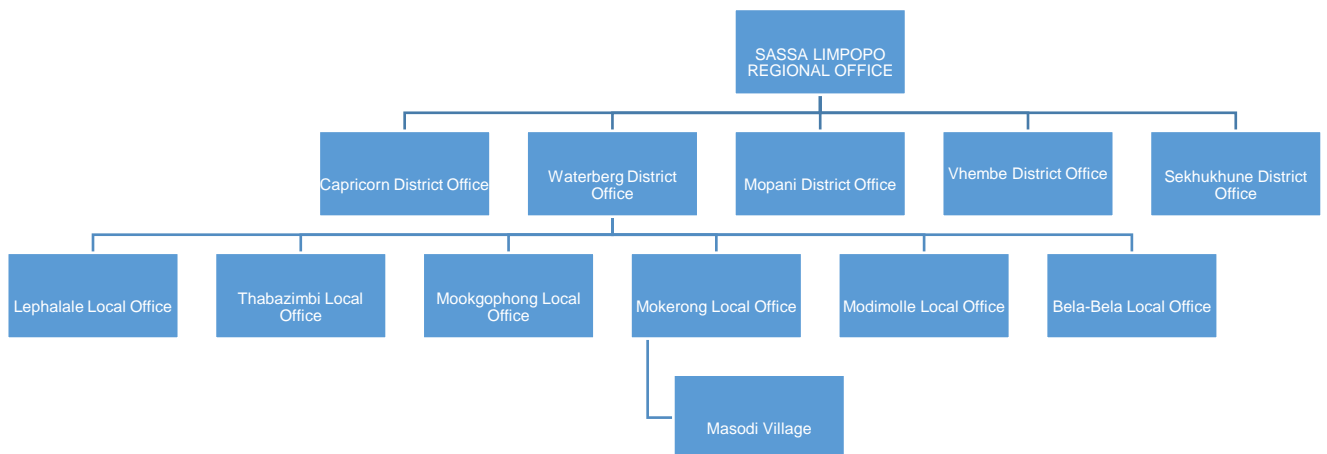


Figure 2 indicates that Head Office is the main office, situated in Tshwane (Gauteng).

The Acting Regional Executive Manager, Ms M.M. Mamabolo, is in charge of the Regional Office, Limpopo. It also shows that SASSA has five district offices across the province and three General Managers (Level 14), for Corporate Services, Grants Administration and Finance. Each district office has its own District Manager at Level 13 (Senior Manager) and they provide strategic leadership, overall management and administration of payment of grants at the district level. All local offices have Local Office Managers at Level 11 or Level 12.

### **1.1.2 Services rendered by SASSA**

SASSA was established in terms of the South African Social Security Agency Act 2004, (herein referred to as the Act) with the primary purpose of being the sole entity responsible for the payment of social grants to the beneficiaries in the country. The following are the different types of grants given out by SASSA, namely:

1. Old Age Grant (OAG);
2. Child Support Grant (CSG);
3. Care Dependency Grant (CDG);
4. Disability Grant (DG);
5. Foster Child Grant (FCG); and
6. Grant in Aid (GIA).

In addition to the above mentioned grants, the Agency administers Social Relief of Distress Programme (SRD), an intervention aimed at providing temporary relief to a family which experiences temporary distress (SASSA Annual Report, 2014/15).

### **1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Since the inception of democracy, social protection in South Africa has been adopted on the assumption that it will contribute towards poverty alleviation (Patel, 2011: 106). As a result, most developing countries adopted welfare intervention strategies such as the child support grant, disability grant and old age grant. However, poverty is persistent in most countries that adopted state welfare policies, especially the policy which has to do with social assistance to children. Large amount of resources have been expended to these interventions where in South Africa the amount spent on CSG was 15 million in 2013/2014 (SASSA SOCPEN System). The total amount spent as at March 2015 was R16 642 643 for CSG, and as at December 2015 the amount was R 1 740 356. The total number for beneficiaries is 935892 and the amount paid per child is R 330.00 per month. The CSG was introduced to alleviate poverty by extending social welfare to children to cater for the needs of the children through parents/caregivers, but it is noted that poverty is still predominant as many

children are still not well fed. The CSG money is not being applied for the purpose it is intended; that is, the Child Support Grant is not really focused on the children per se but on their families (Lim, 2011). The CSG focuses more on the parents than the children. The CSG is the main social assistance which caters for children and therefore it is a concern. The present study uses Masodi Village in Limpopo Province as a point of reference.

The researcher is of the view that the issue of dependency in South Africa cannot be clearly separated from certain aspect of South Africa's welfare system. For example, the CSG serves a vital purpose and whose benefits outweighs any dependency it may foster. As such, may yield the nutritional, child early development and educational potentials of the beneficiary which they are able to sustain themselves in the future.

This study undertook to examine the contribution of Child Support Grant (CSG) towards the alleviation of poverty in South Africa.

### **1.3 SIGNIFICANCE**

It is anticipated that the study would add value to SASSA and other policy makers in developing or improving new ways of awarding the CSG to eligible beneficiaries/children. The study would be beneficial to parents/caregivers by exposing and addressing abuses and would recommend ways to curb them and would encourage SASSA to create awareness to the parents and caregivers to use the grant award for the needs of the children to improve their quality of life. It may assist SASSA to ascertain its contributions to the beneficiaries /children who are receiving the grant. It may also assist SASSA in policy decision making and in determining how CSG would contribute towards poverty alleviation in Masodi village in Limpopo.

### **1.4 AIM OF THE STUDY**

This study was undertaken with the aim of examining the contribution of the CSG in improving the quality of life of families and children in Masodi Village.

## 1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY ARE:

- i. To investigate how CSG is able to improve the socio-economic condition of recipients
- ii. To assess the beneficiaries' experiences on the contribution of CSG towards the alleviation of poverty in Masodi Village

## 1.6 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study seeks to examine the contribution of the Child Support Grant towards poverty alleviation in Masodi village, located in Mogalakwena Municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa. The study intends to answer the following pertinent questions:

- Does Child Support Grant serve as an effective tool for poverty reduction in Masodi Village?
- What are the recipients' experiences with regard to Child Support Grant?

## 1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS

There are a number of important concepts that will be used in the study. It is important to define them so that when they are used in the text, their meanings and relevance are clear. These concepts are explained below.

**Beneficiary / Beneficiaries** are those people receiving grant or benefit (Social Development Procedure Manual, 2005).

**Child Support Grants (CSG)** is a programme introduced in 1998 by the country's post-apartheid and first democratic government in South Africa. This was put in place by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of children and the African

Charter on the welfare of children as well as the South African Constitution, in ensuring the rights of children to social welfare assistance. The Child Support Grant (CSG) is one of the three child grants provided by SASSA (Social Development Procedure Manual, 2005).

**Means test**, entails that the responsible administration of Social Assistance Funds (SASSA) must evaluate the income and assets of the person applying for assistance in order to decide whether the person means are below stipulated minimum and if that is the case the person will qualify for the assistance. South Africa Welfare Systems is an example of this model. State assistance in respect of Health Care, Old Age Pensions, Disability Grant and Child Support Grant are all subject to a means test. According to Leatt, Rosa, and Hall (2005), a means test is an exploratory procedure undertaken to make a decision whether or not an individual or family should be given any kinds of benefits from the government. The “test” entails eligibility criteria for access to the benefits.

**SASSA** refers to the South African Social Security Agency (Social Assistance Act No 13; of 2004).

**State Maintenance Grant** refers to the main grant in the field of child and family care prior to 1994 (Lund, 1996:32).

**Social Assistance** was the first of the various strands of present-day social security to develop, often in the form of so called poor laws. It is better explained by its synonym “social welfare”. It is difficult to define the term in internationally acceptable terms as countries have given different interpretations to the concept. Usually, social assistance is regulated through legislation and in the exclusive responsibility of the state. It is financed through taxes and afforded by the government (Strydom *et al.*, 2005: 7).

**Primary Caregiver** is anyone who takes the main responsibility for looking after the daily needs of the child. It can be:

- A relative of the child; or

- Anyone who is primarily responsible for the child.

However, the term 'primary caregiver' does not include:

- People who are paid to look after children (such as a teacher);
- Institutions that receive an award for taking care of the child (such as a crèche); or
- Someone who has not been given consent to look after the child by the child's parent, guardian or custodian (Social Development Procedure Manual, 2005).

**Poverty** is described as a social status, that cannot be quantified in terms of amount of goods and cannot be measured and described in monetary terms; it can be experienced as a deterioration of living conditions or the inability to meet basic needs or as a lack of resources (Government of RSA v Grootboom 2000 11 BCLR 1169 (CC)).

## 1.8 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

According to Neuman (2000:92), ethical consideration requires balancing the value of advancing knowledge against the value of non-interference in the lives of others. Barbour (2014:100) asserts that consent must be managed as a process rather than an agreement when dealing with ethical consideration by the researcher. The proposed study will be conducted accordance with the code of ethics and the following procedures were adhered to.

- Authority to conduct the study: Before the study can be conducted, the researcher obtained ethical clearance to conduct the research at the University of Limpopo (UL). Permission was also be requested from SASSA to conduct the research (**See Annexure "A"**).
- Informed consent from the above-mentioned respective sectors was obtained to access all the participants.
- Receiving permission to conduct the research: every participant included in the study was offered the right to refuse to participate and to know what the study was all about, who was sponsoring the study, and for what purpose the

results would be used. It was stressed to them that they were under no obligation to participate as they had a right to withdraw at any stage from participating in the study if they so wished. **(See Annexure “B”).**

- Confidentiality was maintained throughout the study and information, including when collecting data, no personal information would be required that could be traced back to the participants of the study. The only personal information required was the age and gender of the participants.

Disseminating research results: Three issues were of particular importance when disseminating the results of the study: (1) protecting the privacy of the participants, (2) ensuring the anonymity of participants, and (3) respecting the confidentiality of the study. Protecting participant’s privacy is a fundamental moral standard and a legal requirement affecting all researchers. Only the supervisor and the researcher will have access to the material used. (Transcript notes or tapes if any)

## **1.9 OUTLINE OF THE FORTHCOMING CHAPTERS**

### **Chapter One:** Introduction

Chapter One outlines the general introduction of the study. It provides a brief background of the Child Support Grant in South Africa. The position of the study is briefly discussed, the problem statement, the objectives of the study and the research question of the study are explained.

### **Chapter Two:** Literature Review

Chapter two discusses a broad literature review on Child Support Grant in South Africa and, its acumen of its contribution towards poverty alleviation to the eligible caregivers and children.

### **Chapter Three:** Research Methodology

Chapter three gives the summary of the research population and the sample used in the study. Research methodology, Research design and research method are outlined in this chapter.

**Chapter Four: Presentation and analysis of data**

Chapter four analyses the results from interviews conducted with the beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant. It starts with the profile of the 40 participants who were used in the study. The results of the participants are presented in this chapter.

**Chapter Five: Conclusion and recommendation.**

The chapter will present the general findings of the study and a short conclusion.

**Summary**

This chapter sought to introduce the study in the investigation of CSG in South Africa. An examination of the contribution of CSG was conceptualised to determine the manner in which CSG contributes to the wellbeing of poor children in Masodi Village. This chapter sought to provide an overview on the study. The next chapter presents a detailed discussion of the literature review.



## **CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter examines the contribution of Child Support Grant in alleviating poverty in South Africa. It does so by reviewing the literature in this area, analysing studies that have been conducted in relation to child support grant. A literature review is embarked upon to provide an acquaintance of what areas of CSG have been investigated. Prior to undertaking the discussion of literature review on the CSG, a literature review was considered as a concept in the study. Definitions of CSG by scholars elaborated below to acquaint a wide understanding of the contribution of CSG towards alleviating poverty in Masodi Village.

### **2.2 LITERATURE REVIEW AS A CONCEPT**

The literature review is defined as a compendious description of essential scholarly writings which are applicable to the research topic (Hofstee, 2006: 91). According to Mouton (2012:179), literature review is a vital exercise where the researcher introduces or evaluates his/her work in order to come to a proper understanding of other scholars. This validates the researcher's quality sources of his/her literature review. A literature review cannot validate existing or produce new empirical insights; it is undertaken to test the researcher's new insight so that a solution can be found.

Welman *et al.* (2005: 38) asserts that literature review deals with a chosen topic, as this will clear the formulation of a research question and it will depend on the type of the research report like dissertations, theses in which the researcher acquired all-embracing review than journal articles, or if a survey literature survey on a topic is published in a reviewed article it is sufficient to reflect its utmost relevant points. The review of research findings on a study that has been published, made the researcher aware of inconsistencies and gaps that may justify further research, assist the researcher to find out precisely where his/her study fits in, or prompts other researchers to further research on the topic. According to Burns and Grove (2005:93), literature review is a written presentation published by scholars on a researched topic; its main aim is to relate to the reader what other researchers have

explored or written in their topic of interest. Literature review assists researchers to familiarise themselves with the current base of knowledge. It includes both theoretical and empirical literature that addresses the current knowledge of phenomenon under investigation (Brink *et al.*, 2013: 70 & 72).

### **2.3 THE HISTORY OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT**

Child Support Grant is a result of the country's imbalances and violation of human rights prior to 1994. As a result of apartheid, the anarchy regarding measures of poverty eradication/ alleviation started in the nineteenth century, and the department of welfare was established in 1937. The discrimination was along racial lines. For example, White South Africans received a large pension amount than coloured people (Triegaardt 2004 14; 249). According to Kanyane (2015:17), the CSG was known as State Maintenance Grant (SMG) and was divided into two sections namely, parental allowance of R430 per month and a child allowance of R135 per month for a maximum of two children.

The SMG was accessed by mothers or guardians under the following conditions: that the parent or guardian must be living with a child under the age of 18 years, only if that parent or guardian was unmarried, separated, widowed, abandoned by the spouse for more than six months, had a spouse who received a social grant, or declared unfit to work for more than six months. The SMG was still in existence during 1995 and it was the biggest security system of the former regime in its place and inaccessible by the majority of South Africans. It was complex and not reliable as its main aim was to protect the minority citizens of South Africa (Whites, Indians and Coloureds).

Haarmann (1998:9) asserts that SMG was perceived as the sole main source of income in South Africa. A White Paper on Social Development was developed, creating a system of welfare which is just, equitable and allows participation in social assistance in meeting the needs of all people in South Africa (Sibanda, 2012:10). The Department of Welfare changed its name to the Department of Social Development in the year 2000. However, the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) changed to conventional policy known as Growth, Employment

and Redistribution (GEAR) in 1996 with the aim of improving economic growth, increasing trade and industry across national boundaries and promoting employment (Trigaardt, 2005:251).

Midgley cited in Triegaardt (2005:251) criticises the African National Congress (ANC) by stating that it has placed a higher priority on attracting international investments, attaining economic growth than alleviating poverty. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa No 108 of 1996 provides a welfare that is in alignment with responsibilities entrusted to National and Provincial governments. The National government is responsible for the development of policies, and norms and standards, while provincial governments have administrative responsibilities relating to the delivery of welfare services including pensions and grants. The main aim of the South African Constitution is to protect the human rights of all people who have been previously disadvantaged and provides mechanisms to alleviate poverty. Haarmann further notes that during the transition period (November 1995), it was sensitive as change was inevitable; a new democratic government was to be in place and created fears to those receiving SMG about what was going to happen to them.

Sagner and Van Der Berg cited in Trigaardt (2005:25) point out that in South Africa Social grants or assistance was intended for white South Africans, Indian and Coloured families. Today the CSG is viewed as the South African government's largest social assistance project in terms of beneficiaries. It reaches more than 10 million South African children each month. Kanyane (2015:16) further asserts that South Africa has a legal framework that is guiding the implementation of social assistance policies that addresses the challenges of poverty, as compared to African countries. The framework is compendious and sturdy (Kanyane, 2015:28).

According to Sibanda (2012:9) and Triegaardt (2005:2050), the South African inequality was addressed by the emerging of the multi-racial democracy that provided the initiatives to address poverty, inequality and violation of human rights as a result of apartheid.

According to Olivier et al. (2004:9), CSG is an important part of or unit of social protection in SA and the CSG needs other measures to assist parents and care givers of destitute Children. Mampa (2012:10) defines CSG as a cash grant provided by the democratic government of South Africa to primary caregivers to enable them to care adequately for the children and to provide for their basic needs

The CSG is the primary social grant targeting children and is a means tested grant that was introduced in 1998, and the means test determines whether the applicant qualifies to receive the grant. Lalthapersad Pillay (2007:16), Mikundi (2010: 7) and Williams (2007:5) point out that CSG is the only grant means tested on many destitute families. Case *et al.* (2008: 1) is of the view that CSG is the state's largest social assistance programme according to the number of beneficiaries reached. CSG's primary objective is to ensure that caregivers and young children living in extreme poverty are able to access financial assistance in the form of cash transfers to supplement their household income. Mokoma (2008: 1) reports that CSG is the grant introduced by the South African government on April 1998 with the aim of targeting destitute children.

Golblatt *et al.* (2006) undertook a study of four provinces and recommendations for improved service delivery was made at the Centre for Legal Applied Studies, University of Witwatersrand and Children's Institute, University of Cape Town. The Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALs) at the University of Witwatersrand has embarked on a field work study in Gauteng and North West to examine the implementation of the CSG and the gender issues of the Grant. Furthermore, the Children's Institute (CI) at the University of Cape Town, a policy and law reform research advocacy organisation, aimed at the children's right. Mutually the authors established that CSG has been rolled out, reached more than seven (07) million in 2006. CSG contributed a significant impact on the alleviation of poverty for children to access food, education and health care (Goldbaltt, 2006:8; Children's Institute 2006:8). These authors, however, contend that despite this remarkable achievement not all destitute children are receiving the grant due to inconsistent implementation of a means test by SASSA provincial offices staff. The study conducted by the Department of Social Development (DSD), SASSA and United Nations Children's

Fund (2016) titled 'Removing Barriers to Accessing Childs Grants' examines trends in intake –up and exclusion of eligible caregivers and children from grant receipt and investigates which children are excluded from the grant, what drives the exclusion of age and income-eligible beneficiaries. The study centres on the CSG, like other studies, cemented the fact that the CSG is SA poverty alleviation grant for children across the country.

Seabi (2015) notes that different studies that have been conducted on the CSG available data evaluating the grant since its inception in 1998, which is part of government policy evaluation to determine its success as a poverty alleviation plan. It is established that the grant has been reaching more beneficiaries. The purpose of the study was to examine the experiences of the CSG to add to the knowledge economy on how they make sense of their experience as recipients. In her study Seabi emphasises that the principle of the plan of government is linked to the feeding of a child. The CSG is acknowledged by numerous scholars in South Africa as the only social security assistance programme that drives poverty eradication. CSG enables their constitutional right of access to social security and social assistance as guaranteed in Section 27 of the Constitution of South Africa 108 of 1996, whereas Section 28(1) guarantees every child the right to social facilities like shelter nutrition healthcare, education, social security welfare, family care and alternative (Kanyane 2015: 16; Khubeka 2013:9; Triegaardt 2005:251; Sibanda 2012: 15). The CSG is a social grant that is provided to children in South Africa (Sibanda, 2012: 15).

According to Khubeka (2013: 9), CSG was introduced as a strategy intended to reduce poverty amongst children younger than 7 years old. CSG main purpose is to explore policy options regarding social grant for poor families (DSD, SASSA & UNICEF, and 2016:1). The study findings ruled out that the exclusion in eligible caregivers / children / beneficiaries or the barriers being created by the means test as indicated in the study of Children's Institute (2006). However, the study (Children's Institute 2008) brought recommendations for improved service delivery linked with the Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004, its regulations and the launch of SASSA as an agency (Government institution that administers social grants in SA).

## 2.4 THE CHILD SUPPORT GRANT

Research in a number of studies has shown that CSG has contributed to poverty alleviation in rural areas. CSG contributes to nutrition and school enrolment in primary school in South Africa. Case *et al.* (2005) conducted a study in which they : evaluate the reach and impact of the CSG in poorer households of the demographic surveillance area in the UMkhanyakude District in Kwa-Zulu Natal and whether CSG plays a role in assisting children attending school. It was found that the grant is reaching those children living in such households and that their educational levels improved compared to those who are not receiving the grant.

Since the focus of the programme was to alleviate poverty, CSG is not about money, it is to insure that South Africa's children / youth grow up in an environment that they get nutrition to be able to deal with physical and developmental challenges of life. If a child eats a balanced diet, they will soundly develop mentally and physically, and be able to participate in all physical activities at school. CSG is a supplement to what the family have and a poverty reduction system to the vulnerable families.

The white paper for social welfare (Republic of South Africa 1997) pointed out the discrimination of the past in family and care allowances in South Africa prior democracy. According to Triegaardt 2005:252 poverty alleviation could be only be addressed by extending or spreading resources to the marginalised population / people in the country. There was a different between the white paper's position on poverty alleviation and the South African constitutional human rights framework (Triegaardt 2005: 252)

Lloyd (2000:50) cited in Triegaardt highlights that CSG has the following main objectives:

- To ensure greater access for poor children to an integrated and sustainable security systems in the country;

- To prevent children from unnecessarily entering or remaining in a statutory substitute care; and
- CSG keeps children out of the streets and juvenile detention centres.

However, for some reasons the CSG does not reach poverty stricken children (Tierberti *et al.*, 2013:2)

During March 2003 the government extended the CSG to children below the age of 11 years and in 2004 below the age of 14 years. This was seen as part of the build-up of the national Election in 2005, where there were signatories to the 1995 summit including South Africa at their report on their progress in eradicating poverty. Holmes *et al.* (2012:5 and Triegaardt (2005:252) concur that social assistance or protection becomes an important system to alleviate poverty as social grants are awarded as cash benefit or cash transfers in kind transfers, fee waivers to access basic and social services. The CSG is paid to the caregivers and is subjected to a means test. This is a tool of measuring who qualifies to receive the grant (Triegaardt, 2005:252).

Sibanda (2012) emphasises in his study that in order for beneficiaries to qualify for the CSG or any grant, they must be South African citizens, reside in South Africa at the time of application and they should be in possession of an identification document. The child who is receiving the grant must meet the age requirement in South Africa; he/she should be 0 and 18 years old (SASSA Act No 9 of 2004)

## **2.5 THE CONTRIBUTION OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT IN SOUTH AFRICA**

According to the literature, social grants are having positive and negative impacts (contributions) on the lives of children living in poor households (families) in rural and urban communities in South Africa. The CSG's aim or purpose is to alleviate poverty, to support the income of poor households, to care and to provide for children's basic needs (Guthrie, 2005:5). Reddy and Sokomani (2008:6) assert that the provision of social assistance in South Africa is a transformative experience as there has been a significant and consequential increase in the provision of social assistance for the poor, in terms of the development and as a safety net. The Department of Social Development is mandated to deliver social assistance; its role is that of macro

policies for the support of citizens to realise their security rights enshrined in Section 27 (1) of the Constitution which states that everyone has the right to access social security and social assistance.

CSG was introduced without randomised control trials on children outcomes of interest and that makes a change for evaluating the programme (Case *et al.*, 2005:477). According to Case association of children who were receiving CSG during 2002, 2003 and 2004 for school children who were enrolled in primary school, the rate was higher in South Africa as 85% of 6-year-olds and 95% of 7-year-olds were enrolled in schools and that showed improvement in school enrolment at a young age (This information was collected during 2003/2004 surveys). According to Case *et al.* 2005:479 and Mcube and Pauw: 33 confirm that CSG supports household without any type of grant income in order to reduce poverty. Case *et al.* (2005:480) maintain that the fact that children who have lost their fathers are significantly more likely to receive a grant than those who lost their mothers is unfounded. He further contends that it can be linked to the AIDS epidemic/crisis in South Africa, as a growing number of children are at risk of their mothers dying.

Ardington and Lund (1995:571) and Vorster, Roussouw and Muller (2000:234) as quoted in Triegaardt (2005:252) note that even though old age pensions are intended for pensioners, they reach a larger number of poor children who live in the same household. Case *et al.* (2005:251) further asserts that there is a positive and important association between the grant recipient and school attendance among children attending school. South Africa is unique among developing countries for establishing large scale transfer programme and it is not conditional on behavioural change as it has requirements that should be met by prospective recipients. These are birth certificate for the child, identity document for the mother, hospital card and a parental income of R2800.00 per month for a single parent and R5600.00 for married couples. Zembe-Mkabile *et al.* (2012:2) asserts that recently, enrolment and attendance between the ages of 7 and 18 years have been added as a requirement to access CSG. This is to assist the children who are struggling to remain in school. CSG was introduced 14 years ago as a response to childhood poverty and it constitutes the largest amount of money on the continent/South Africa in terms of



coverage. Over ten million children are benefiting from it. The state budget allocated to CSG is US 695 million per annum (Zembe-Mkabile 2012:2)

The Department of Social Development reaches 100% of all eligible children in the country. Delay and colleagues as cited in Zembe-Mkabile *et al.* (2012) show that CSG is reaching 80% of its beneficiaries from children 0-14 years old and it constitutes 40% of the household income in poor families, 80% of it is utilised for clothing, food and school related costs. The intake rate of CSG are highest between the ages of 7 and 10 years old, lower for infants and adolescents and early receipt of grant is associated with parental education and more numbers of attendance at school. Parents who are illiterate reduce risky behaviours in adolescent children. Even if development is made, poverty is still high in South Africa. Generally around one fourth of the people in South Africa survive with less than 1.25 USD per day (Woolard *et al.*, 2010:3)

The UNDP reported that the Human Development Index (HDI) VALUE OF 0.68 OR South Africa which ranks the country (South Africa) as number 129 of which the HDI was published and highlighted that education and health indicators are poor in South Africa (Woolard *et al.*, 2010:3). Patel (2012:106) asserts that the social protection in South Africa reduced poverty, since the inception of democracy in 1994 and then there is an increase rolling up of disability grants (DG) and CSG to the caregivers/beneficiaries of CSG are receiving it (Woolard *et al.*, 2010:3). The National expenditure that SASSA has spent on CSG as at August 2016 amounted to R5 984 326 600.00.

## **2.6 CONCLUSION**

This chapter looked at the literature review, as a concept it was defined in order to get clarity and understanding before the actual discussion. CSG has been defined by various scholars and legislative framework governing CSG has been highlighted and viewed as the largest grant contributing to the development, nutrition, health and education of children between 0 and 18 years. Studies conducted by various researchers concur that CSG contributes in alleviating poverty to caregivers

receiving it for eligible children. Research methodology is presented in the next chapter.

## **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

The previous chapter discussed literature review. Research methodology is defined as the rationale behind research methods and systems. It is a wider scope than research methods and has a wider scope than research techniques (Welman *et.al* 2005:2). According to Mouton (2012:57), research designs are made to address various kinds of questions, when classifying different kinds of studies and according to kinds of questions the respondents are able to answer. The reason for undertaking scientific studies is to explain unforeseen relationships. The purpose of this study is to investigate the effective contribution of Child Support Grant towards alleviation of poverty in Masodi Village, South Africa.

### **3.2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY VS RESEARCH DESIGN**

A research methodology is referred to as the researcher's way of considering his/her thesis statement or the general technique that the researcher employs to examine his/her thesis statement i.e. case studies, interviews, content analysis, etc. The research design has two meanings, the plan of how the researcher chooses to design his/her study and the techniques the researcher adopts/chooses. It can be interviews, case study, and content analysis or experiment (Hofstee 2013:108).

### **3.3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES**

There are two basic types of research designs: qualitative and quantitative research techniques (Nishishiba *et al.*, 2013:49 & 352).

### **3.3.1 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH**

Qualitative research is also known as antipositivists that share a resistance to upholding the natural scientific method in human behavioural research (Welman *et al.*, 2005:6). According to Welman *et al.* (2005:174), antipositivists' research adopt a research plan that is open, and unstructured interviews are scheduled as a research tool and the researcher uses minimal guidance to interviewees and allows the respondents to give their own answers the way they feel appropriate. The qualitative method provides detailed data whilst participants provide a content of understanding. The qualitative research method has several varieties of interpretive social science (ISS): hermeneutics, construction, ethnomethodology, cognitive, idealist, phenomenological, subjectivist and qualitative sociology. Interpretive social science is associated with interactionism. The researcher in this type of research uses participants, observations, field research and spends many hours directly with those being studied (Neuman, 2000:70).

### **3.3.2 QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH**

Positivist researcher (quantitative) measures details about thousands of people use statistics whereas qualitative researcher use careful methods to gather quantities of detailed quantitative data. Mixing with dozens of people or living with, to acquire an in-depth understanding of how they create meaning in everyday life. (Neuman 2000:70). Positivist researchers assume that everyone shares the same meaning system and that we will experience the world the same, whereas the qualitative approach says that people may or may not experience social or physical reality the same way. Kgaphole (2013:50) asserts that in qualitative paradigm the researcher is the instrument of data collection and the advantage of using it is that it generates rich detailed data, leaves the participants' perspective intact and the content of understanding the behaviour is provided.

According to Denzin and Lincoln (cited by Welman & Kruger & Mitchel 2005: 8), quantitative research method does not involve the investigation of processes, but it highlights the measurement, analysis and casual relationships between variables within the same context. The advantages of quantitative research is that the

researcher uses structural methods to evaluate objective data, whereas in qualitative research methods, the researcher use unstructured interviewing and detailed observation process to gain better knowledge about the views of the subject. Quantitative research aims at larger numbers of samples and analysis based on statistics (Miles & Huberman, 1994 cited by Welman, *et al.*, 2005:9). This study employed the quantitative research method.

### **3.4 RESEARCH DESIGN**

Research design is the plan of how to approach answering research questions. It highlights objectives of the research question(s) and specifies sources from which data will be collected, how the data will be collected and the analysis of the data collected. It is also concerned with ethical matters and issues together with constraints encountered during the study and also associated research question to data collection and analysis (Nishishiba *et al.*, 2013:49: 352). It is also the primary strategy that integrates together the various components of research.

#### **3.4.1 Exploratory Research**

According to Robson (2002:59), an exploratory study is a valuable means of finding out, “what is happening; to seek new insights, to ask questions and to assess phenomena in a new light”. The purpose of this type of research is to progressively narrow the scope of the research topic and, consequently, paraphrase the opportunity or problem clearly (Cant, Gerber-Nel, Nel and Kotze, 2003:28).

#### **3.4.2 Explanatory Research**

According to Creswell (2003:32), explanatory research focuses on the why question. Its primary intent is to understand the main reasons why things happens the way they do rather than to solemnly focus on the existence of a subject matter. It attempts to clarify why and how there is a relationship between two or more aspects of a situation or phenomenon. This study used both exploratory and explanatory research methods.

### 3.5 RESEARCH STRATEGY

A case study design was chosen as the most appropriate research design in this study. Newman (2000:148) asserts that cases are unit of analysis on which variables are measured and that qualitative researchers are used to case orientated approach. The researcher looked at how things unfolded, paid attention of what happened first, second, third and so forth. In a case study the researcher can see processes and casual relations. Welman (et al. 2005) highlight that through case study the researcher directs at understanding the uniqueness and distinctiveness of a particular case in all its complexity; the objective being to investigate the dynamics of a single-bounded system of a social nature such as a family, group, community, and participants in a project, institution or practice. Through the case study, the researcher seeks to find out whether CSG has been an initiative rolled out by the democratic government of South Africa to alleviate poverty and how it impacts on the lives of the poor.

### 3.6 TARGET POPULATION

A population is chosen for a particular purpose (Leedy and Omrod, 2012: 221). Bryman (2008:697) defines population as the universe of units from which a sample is to be selected. Katzenellenbogen, Joubert and Karim (2001:74) describe the study population as the source population from which cases and controls are selected.

#### BENEFICIARIES IN MASODI

GRANT TYPE	NO. OF BENEFICIARIES	AMOUNT
FOSTER CARE	20	R17 800
CARE DEPENDENCY	12	R18 120
CHILD SUPPORT	1014	R365 040
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1046</b>	

### **3.7 SAMPLING**

One hundred (100) CSG beneficiaries living Masodi Village participated in the present study: 33 mothers, 33 Teenage Mothers and 34 caregivers. Purposive sampling survey was used. Questionnaires were distributed at Masodi Village in the SASSA Office mobile truck when the SASSA team went out to pay the beneficiaries.

According to Blanche et al. (2006:49), sampling is defined as part of the targeted population, carefully selected to represent that population. It involves decisions about which people, events, settings, behaviours and/or social processes to observe in a study or survey to draw a conclusion (Leedy and Omrod, 2010:154). Sampling is the process through which a representative subset or part of the total population is selected and studied so that researchers will be able to draw conclusions regarding the entire population (Altinay and Paraskevas, 2008:89). Secondary data collected in the study came from the CSG beneficiary register that was kept in the mobile office wherein beneficiaries who applied and who received the CSG were recorded by the SASSA officials for statistics purposes related to service delivery. The beneficiaries were selected during the first day of the month until the last day of the month as these were the days that beneficiaries of different grant types receive their grants from ATMs, retail shops like Shoprite, Boxer, Pick 'n Pay, Spar and from CPS at SASSA mobile truck.

### **3.8 DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT**

Saunders et al. (2007:145) define a research instrument as a measurement tool for a research which has to be reliable and valid. Therefore, for the purposes of reliability and validity, the research will use more than one tool of data collection.

### **3.8.1 QUESTIONNAIRES**

According to Saunders et al. (2007:145), questionnaires collect precise and unbiased information. A questionnaire is the most preferred method when the target population cannot express themselves well during the interviews; they can do so whilst responding to questionnaires. The questionnaire affords the respondent ample time to respond, thus giving an opportunity to gather as many facts as possible before responding to the question. The questionnaire offers the respondents a greater sense of anonymity and, at the same time, the opportunity to collect their thoughts and facts and to give greater consideration to their replies (Pramlal, 2004:102-103).

Babbie (2008:308) identifies the following advantages for questionnaires:

- Easy and quick to answer;
- Answers across respondents are easy to compare;
- Answers easier to analyse on computer;
- Response choices make question clearer; and
- A questionnaire ensures standardisation and comparability of the data across.

### **3.8.2 QUESTIONNAIRE CONSTRUCTION**

Structured questionnaire was utilised by the researcher to obtain information from the beneficiaries and in order for respondents to get the same questions, in the same order and manner.

There were 20 questions asked in the study which were divided into three sections. Section A dealt with the demographics from which the researcher intended to discover the level of education of most beneficiaries. This is to test if low level of education or the rate of unemployment is a factor that contributes to the reliance on CSG. Section B dealt with the biographical data; the researcher tested the level of

diversity of CSG recipients. The last sections dealt with the main factors contributing towards poverty alleviation through Child Support Grant.

### **3.9 PILOT STUDY**

No matter how meticulous a questionnaire is crafted or interviews are conducted, there will always be a certain degree of errors that occur during the research process. In order to minimise such errors, a pilot study needs to be performed. Babbie (2008:283) indicates that the surest protection against such errors is to pre-test the questionnaire. Walliman (2005:282) advises that a questionnaire should be pre-tested on a small number of people in what is called a pilot study. A pilot study can refer to so-called feasibility studies which are small scale version(s), or trial run(s), done in preparation for the major study according to Polit, Beck and Hungle (2001:467). Saunders et al. (2007:386) state that pre-testing enables the researcher to obtain some of the questions' validity and the likely reliability of the data that will be collected.

The pilot study was therefore conducted at one Pay Point in Masodi Village. Even though there was a delay in the submission of the questionnaire by the respondents, eventually an analysis was made.

### **3.10 ADMINISTRATION OF QUESTIONNAIRES**

The questionnaires were given to the respondents at various pay points. The intention was to get responses from as many beneficiaries as possible on the pay day. The advantage of this is that one gets the real beneficiaries instead of primary care givers. The respondents completed the questionnaires on the spot.



### **3.11 DATA ANALYSIS**

Data was analysed through the quantitative research method. Brassington and Pettit (2003:46) indicate that data analysis can be referred to the conversion of raw data into useful information that will provide the most value to the organisation. According to Connaway and Powell (2010:262), the basic steps of data analysis include: categorising data; coding data, and calculating appropriate statistics. In this study, frequencies from a Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) were used. From this exercise an informed inference could be drawn from the collected samples.

### **3.12 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY**

Gravetter and Forzano (2009:157) state that the validity of a research study is the degree to which the study accurately answers the question it was intended to answer. The reliability of a research instrument, on the other hand, is the degree of consistency with which the instrument measures the attributes it is supposed to be measuring.

#### **3.12.1 VALIDITY**

Patton (2009:9) defines validity as the determining factor of whether the research truly measures that which it was intended to measure or how truthful the research results are. Cooper and Schindler (2011:230) define it as the extent to which differences found within a measuring tool reflect the true differences among respondents being tested.

#### **3.12.2 RELIABILITY**

According to Sekaran and Bougie (2009:203), reliability is the extent to which results are consistent over time and an accurate representation of the total population under study. In other instances it is the extent to which there is consistency or repeatability

of the measurement of some phenomena. The reliability of data collection is the extent to which data collection techniques yield consistent findings.

### **3.13 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

Limitations of the study demonstrate that the researcher understands that no research project is perfectly designed; consequently, the researcher will make no overweening claims about generalizability or conclusiveness about what has been learned (Marshall and Rossman, 2011:76). This study was conducted in Masodi Village on only one grant type of Child Support Grant; however, the findings and recommendations from this study can be applied at any province.

### **3.14 ELIMINATION OF BIAS**

According to Tshuma (2010:49), bias is unknown or unacknowledged error created during the design, measurement, sampling, procedure or choice of problem studied. Sica (2011:1) defines bias as a form of systematic error that can affect the scientific investigations and distort the measurement process. Saunders et al. (2007:267-271) state that measurement bias can come either intentionally, distorting data or changing the way data is collected. Cooper and Schindler (2003:378) mention that the forms of bias in a research study are gender, racial or ethnicity references, language use, stereotyping and any form of assumptions.

The researcher endeavoured to uphold objectivity throughout the research and avoid any form of bias whatsoever. Respondents were deliberately made to remain anonymous in order to prevent bias in analysing the research findings.

### **3.15 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

According to (Newman 2000:92), ethical considerations require balancing the value of advancing knowledge against the value of non-interference in the lives of others. Barbour (2014:100) asserts that consent must be managed as a process rather than an agreement when dealing with ethical considerations.

The study was conducted in accordance with the code of ethics and outlined procedure was adhered to: permission to conduct the study, authority to conduct the study before the study was conducted. Approval was obtained from the ethics committee of the University of Limpopo, CEO of SASSA and the local authorities of Masodi Village.

### **3.15.1 Informed consent**

The participants gave their full consent to the researcher before the research was conducted. Any respondent who wished to withdraw from the process could do so without any prejudice.

### **3.15.2 Voluntary Participation**

Participation by respondents happened voluntarily without any coercion. Respondents were not be lured or enticed to participate in the study.

### **3.15.3 Avoidance of harm or non-maleficance**

Answers provided by the respondents will not be used against the respondents for any other purpose than for this research. Respondents were not be subjected to any harm during or after the study.

### **3.15.4 Violation of privacy/Confidentiality**

Respondents' information including their responses will be kept private and confidential and will not be shared with a third party unless if the respondent gives a consent.

## **3.16 CONCLUSION**

This chapter presented the research design and methodology adopted in the study. The sample size, study area, population and data collection were outlined. A structured questionnaire for the beneficiaries/recipients and interview schedule were prepared by the researcher. The research design assisted the researcher on how the research should be conducted to achieve the main aim of the study. Lastly, a summary of the collected data was developed. The next chapter provides a discussion on data analysis and interpretation.

## **CHAPTER 4: RESEARCH DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

The previous chapter considered a detailed discussion on the applicable research methods for this study. It also analysed the results from questionnaires that was distributed to the CSG beneficiaries. The purpose of this chapter is to present the evidence about the contribution of the CGG in Masodi Village. The component analysis was the beneficiaries of the CSG for this study and was restricted to beneficiaries in Masodi Village. The data was interpreted and analysed by developing pie charts, graphs; the data is presented in the same classification as in the questionnaire. Quantitative data is obtained through measurements and the first stage of data analysis is a preparatory stage, where the raw data is transformed into electronic format using computer spreadsheet. (Blanche et.al, 2006:189).

### **4.2 RESPONSE FREQUENCY FROM THE RESPONDENTS**

Questionnaires were hand delivered to a pay point in Masodi. An appointment was made with the grant administrators to request collaboration from them before the questionnaire was brought for distribution. One hundred questionnaires (100) were circulated to the respondents to be filled in, at their expedient time and return to the Grant Administrator at the pay point the same day. (A copy of the approval letter from SASSA is attached). The response rate was 100%, which contributed to the credibility of to the study.

## 4.3 PRINCIPAL PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH QUESTIONS RESULTS

### 4.3.1 Biographical data

Figure: 4.1. Age Range

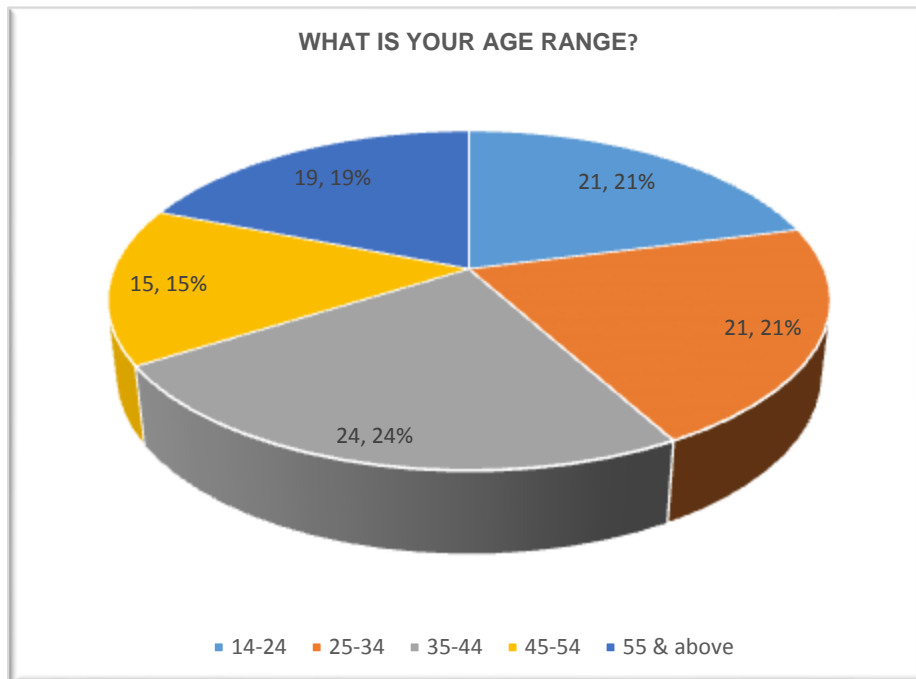
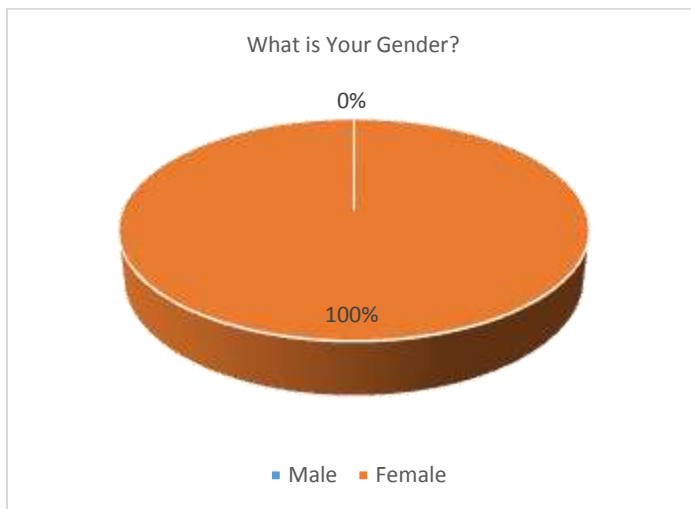


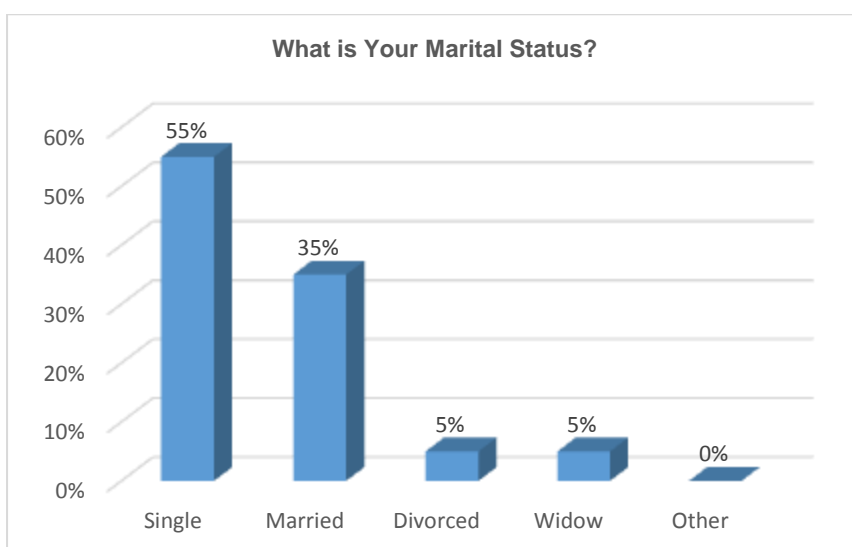
Figure 4.1 indicates that most of the respondents were middle aged, and represent the majority of the sampled population who were between the age group of 35 and 44 years at 24, 24%, followed by the respondents between the age group 14 and 24 and 25 and 34 at (21,21%) per group. Age group of 55 and above was 19, 19% of the respondents, representing senior citizens receiving the CSG, and trailing are the age group 45 - 55 with a percentage of 15, 15%. The majority of the recipients belonged to the adult's age group.

**Figure: 4.2. Gender**



The pie chart above represents the gender of the respondents in the household, indicating who is the recipient / beneficiary of the CSG grant in each household. Out of the sampled population, 100% illustrated that females were the beneficiaries of the CSG grants, with 0% representing males.

**Figure: 4.3. Marital Status**



This bar chart indicates that 55% of the respondents receiving their CSG are single mothers. This category represents the majority of the recipients of CSG. It is also indicative that there is a high number of women who are single parents and are belligerent in taking care of their children and state intervention is the ultimate source of assistance for them. Thirty-five percent of the participants were married, very few were divorced at 5% as well as widows sharing the same margin. This illustrates that married parents too need social assistance in as much as widows and those who are divorced.

**Figure: 4.4. Education Level**

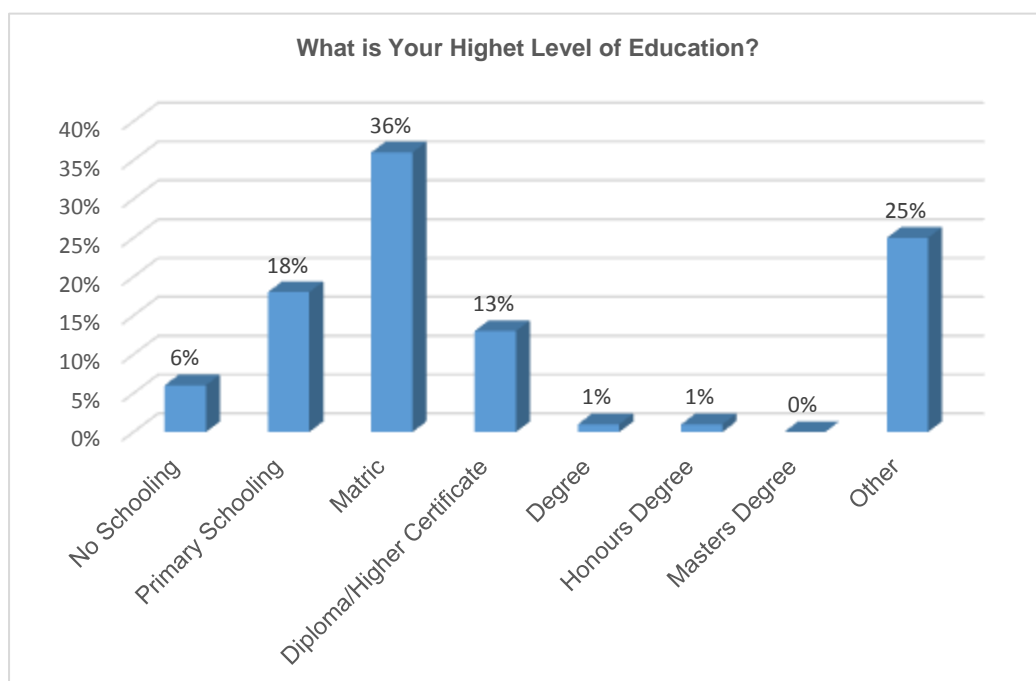
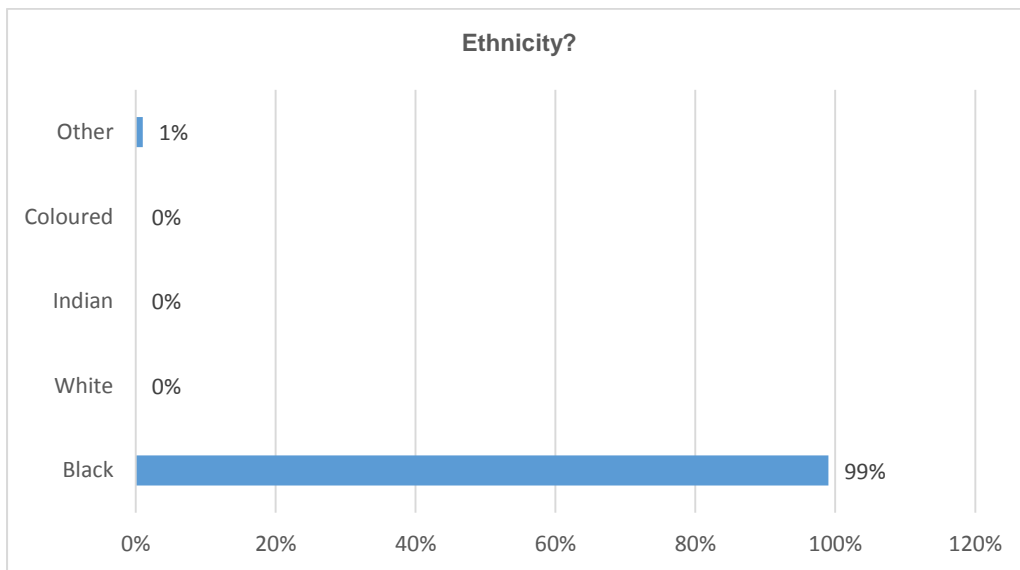


Figure 4.4 indicates that many respondents who are the recipients /beneficiaries of the CSG attended school, with 36% having matriculated. This is followed by category “other” at 25%. This category is mainly for people with secondary grades, however they did not complete high school. For primary schooling the percentage is 18%, and 13% is for those who attained diplomas and higher certificates. Some respondents indicated that they had never attended school at all, and the percentage for this



group is 6%; Degree and Honours level stand at 1% per category and 0% percentage indicates that no respondents receiving CSG had attained a Master's degree. The chart gives confidence to the degree of literacy that most of the CSG recipients are literate, since the majority fall in the category primary schooling to honours degrees.

**Figure: 4.5. Ethnicity**



The chart above indicates that the majority of the CSG recipients are Black people at 99%, whilst other race groups are represented by only 1% of the respondents who are receiving the CSG. This is evident that the majority of Black people live in abject poverty. Mbeki (2004:2) asserts that it will always be impossible to say that the dignity of South Africans have been restored if poverty still exists. Poverty excludes the poor from decision and policy making and from the reality of the complex society. The struggle to eradicate poverty has been, and will continue to be a central part of the national effort to build the new South Africa. It is the view of the South African National Congress that democracy cannot survive and flourish if the majority of its people remain in poverty therefore attacking poverty and deprivation should be the first priority of the democratic Government (Mbeki, 2004:3) which cannot be resolved outside the context of job creation and the alleviation and eradication of poverty.

**Figure: 4.6. Place of residence**

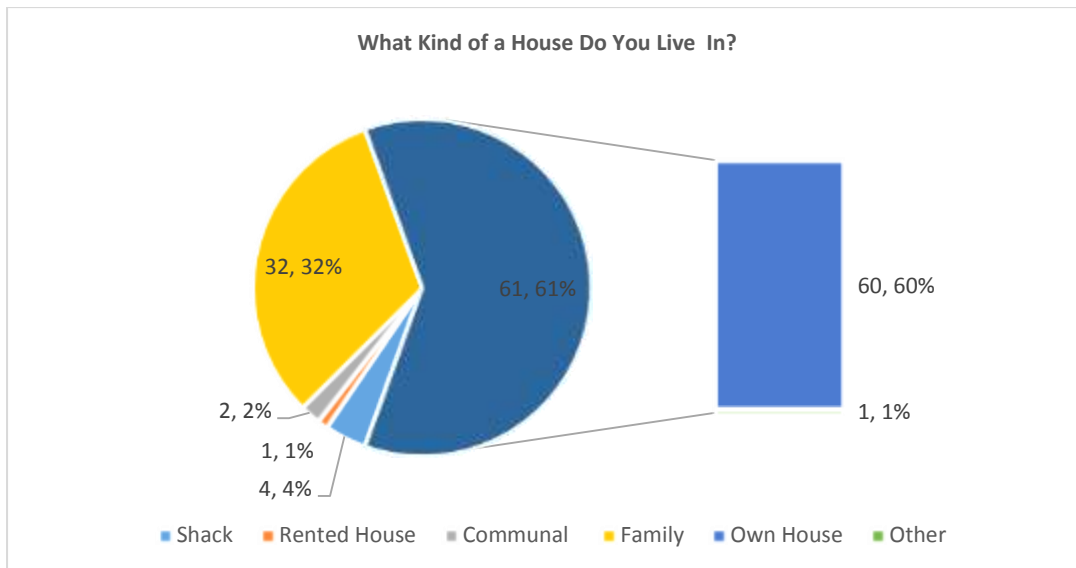
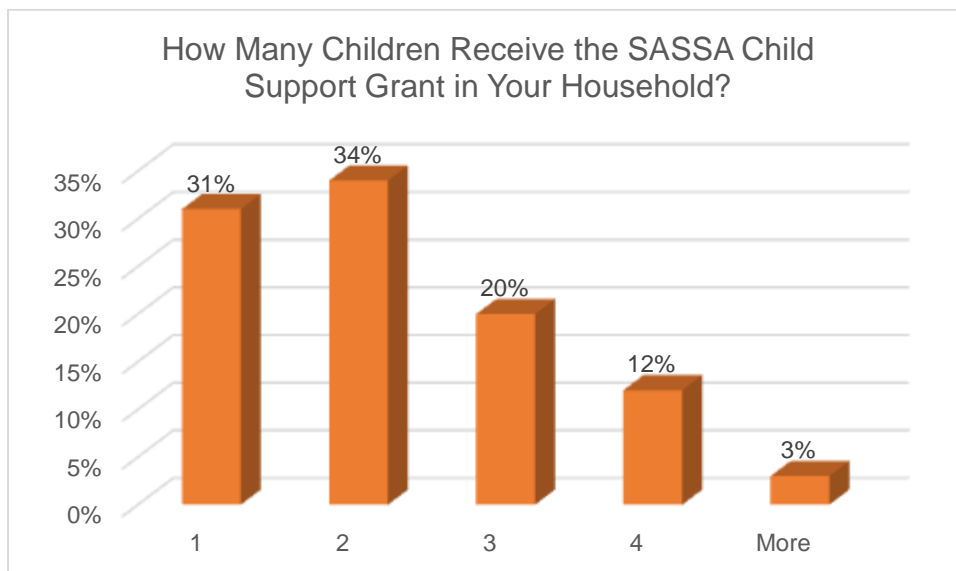


Figure: 4.6 Indicates the percentage of the kind of dwelling where the respondents live. The majority of the respondents live in their own houses at 61,61%, whilst 32, 32% of the respondents live with their family (parents' houses); people who live in shacks are 4,4% whilst 2, 2% of the respondents live in communal houses and 1.1% live in rented accommodation. The majority of the respondents who receive the CSG own their property at 61, 61%, whereas 39 % depend either on their families', communal or rented house.

### 4.3.2 Structured Questions

**Figure: 4.7. Number of children receiving CSG**



The chart above indicates how many children of the respondents are receiving the CSG per household. Most of the respondents at 34% indicated that 2 children were receiving the CSG in the family. This is followed by 31% of the children of the respondents who are receiving the CSG for one (1) child per household, whilst 20% is for the respondents who are receiving the CSG for three (03) children per household. Twelve percent of the respondents who receive the CSG for 04 (four) children per one household. The “more” category represents five or more children in one household receiving the grant and the percentage is 3%.

**Figure: 4.8. Number of children receiving CSG attending school**

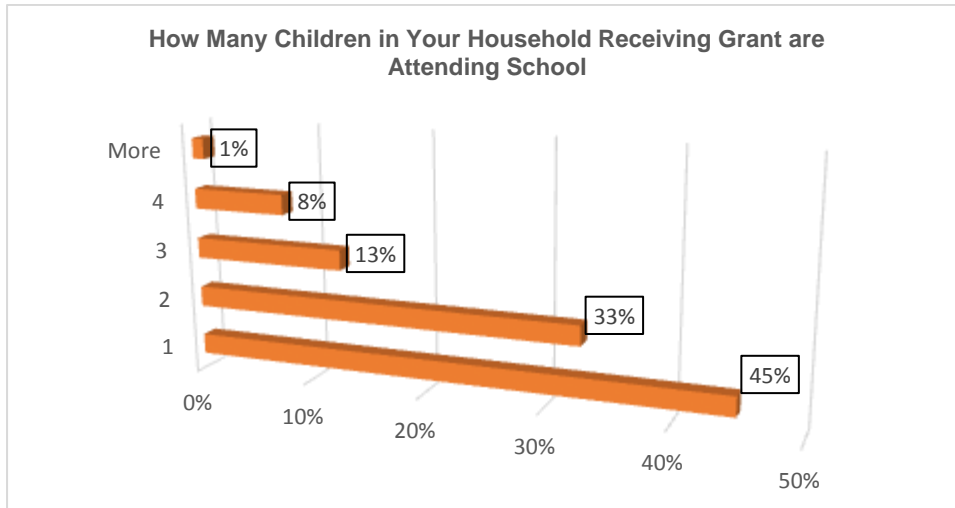


Figure 4.8 indicates how many children of the respondents who receive the CSG are attending school. The majority at 45% are of respondents' children who have one child per household and receive the CSG and their children attend school, whilst 33% of the respondents have 02 (two) children per household. Thirteen 13% of the respondents have 03 (three) children per household, followed by 8% of the respondents who have 04 (four) children per household and the least being 1% (one), representing respondents who are in the category of "other", with five children or more.

**Figure: 4.9. Usage of the CSG money**

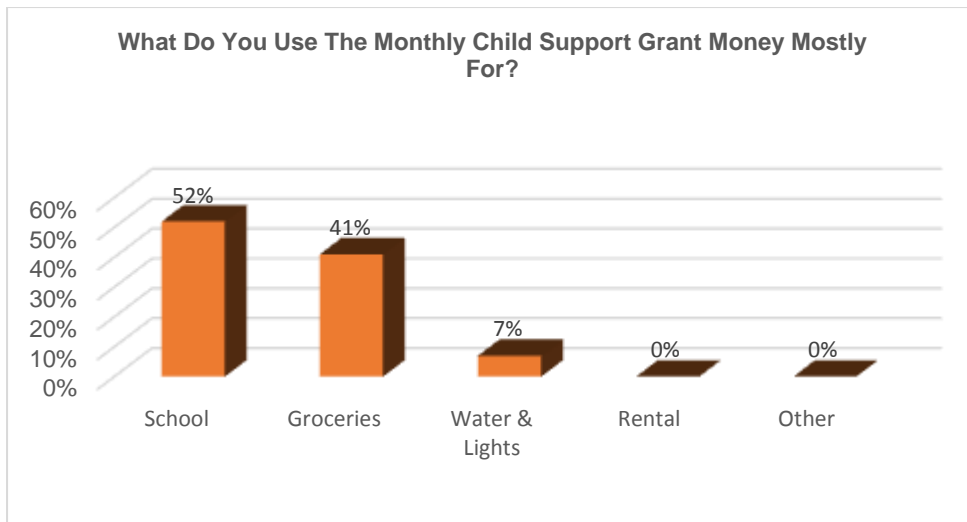
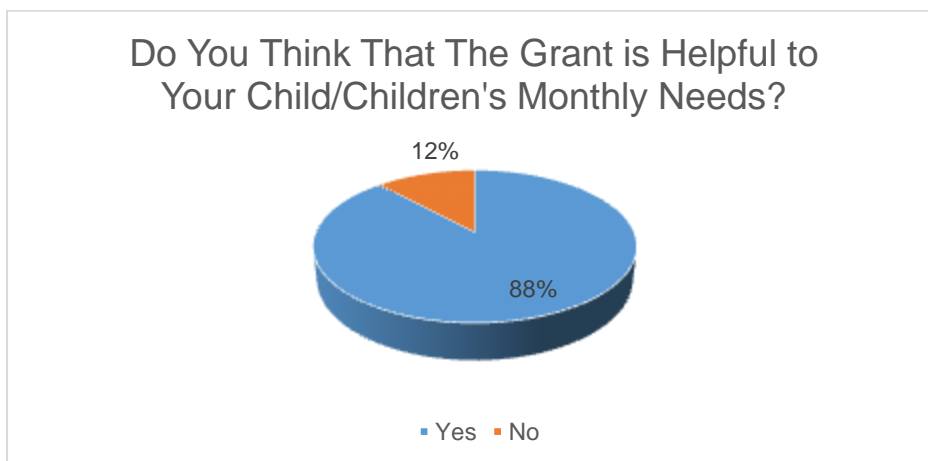


Figure 4.9 indicates how the respondents utilised the CSG money. Most of the respondents at 52% indicated that they used their money for school, whilst 41% indicated that they used it to buy groceries and 7% said that they used it to pay and buy water and electricity. According to the data collected, no respondent appeared to have been utilising the SASSA CSG grant for rental or any other purpose except for the above mentioned items. This illustration may well give confidence by gauging whether the grants money is eventually utilised for the intended purpose or not.

**Figure: 4.10. Significance of CSG on child’s monthly needs**



The pie chart indicates that 88% of the respondents showed that the CGS has a pivotal impact on the general socio-economic activities of the respondents. It is so apparent that the majority of household/families are so dependent on the CSG, whereas a fewer margin of the respondents at 12% indicated that the CSG grant was

insufficient, considering the economic price index and therefore did not materially impact on their socio-economic conditions.

**Figure: 4.11. Duration of being a CSG recipient**

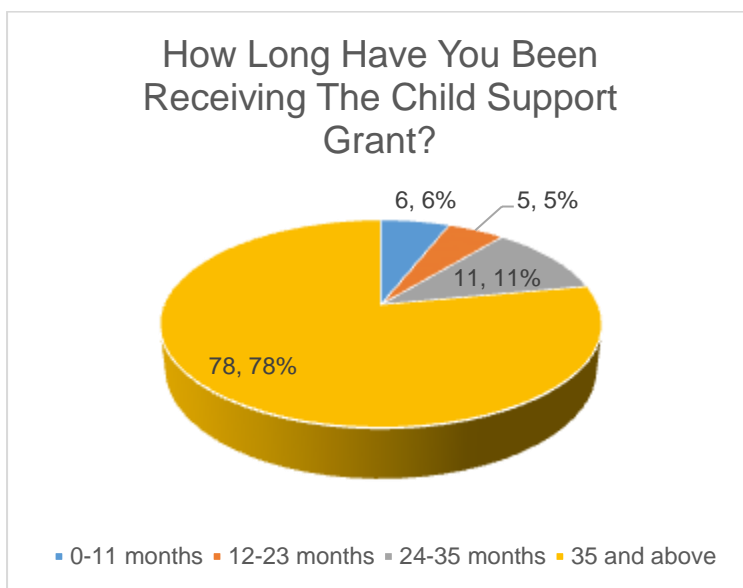


Figure: 4.11 indicates that the majority of the respondents had been receiving the CSG for 35 months or more at 78%, followed by 11, 11% of the respondents who had been receiving the grant for 24-35 months; 6, 6% is those respondents who had been receiving the grant for 0-11 months (which is less than a year) and 5, 5% are the respondents who had been receiving the CSG for 12- 23 months. The illustration gives a picture that most recipients have been dependent on the CSG for a period exceeding three (3) years.

**Figure: 4.12. Methods of receiving CSG**

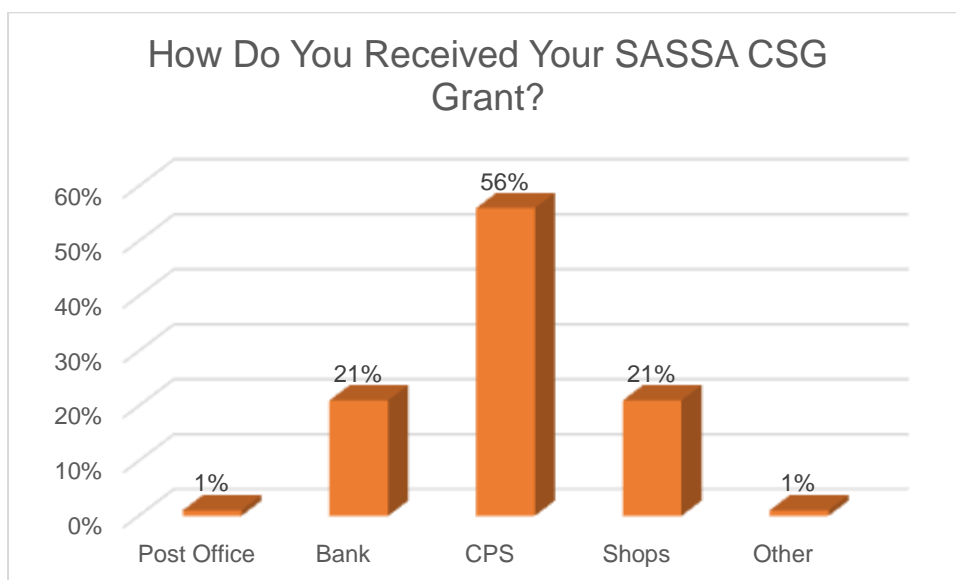


Figure 4.12 indicates that most of the respondents at 56% prefer to receive their CSG at pay points using the CPS facilities. This is followed by 21% of the respondents preferring banks and shops respectively. Only 1% receive their CSG from the Post Office and other merchants. Most beneficiaries prefer the orthodox method as their favoured modus operandi.

**Figure: 4.13. Illegal deductions**

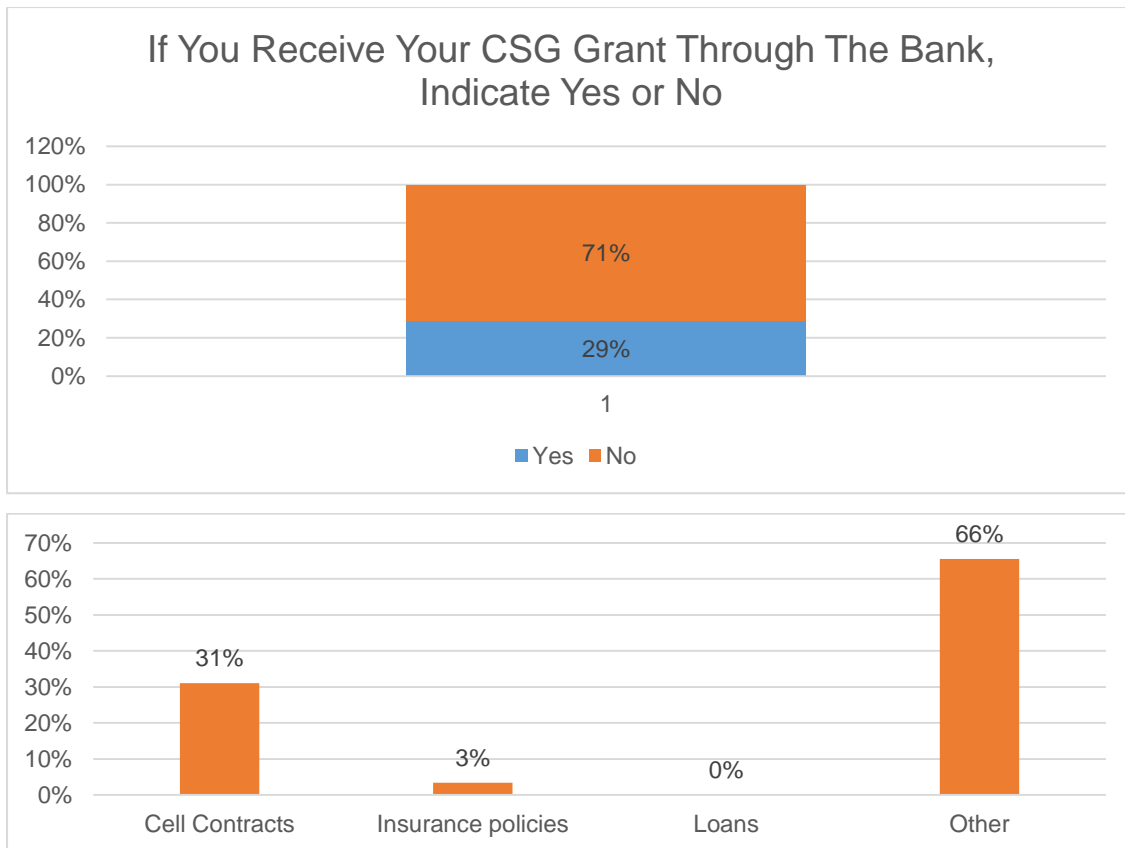


Figure 4.13 indicates that 29% of the respondents indicated that there were illicit deductions running against the CSG and this have an enormous adverse impact onto the beneficiaries as they are not earning a living, nevertheless 71% of the respondents receive their CSG in full. Of the 29% who experienced illegal deductions, only 3% was for the Insurance policies and 31% were for cell phone contracts, and “other” category represents the most deductions at 66%. The figure confirms that illegal deduction do still persist against the beneficiaries’ will.

**Figure: 4.14. Other people living in your household**



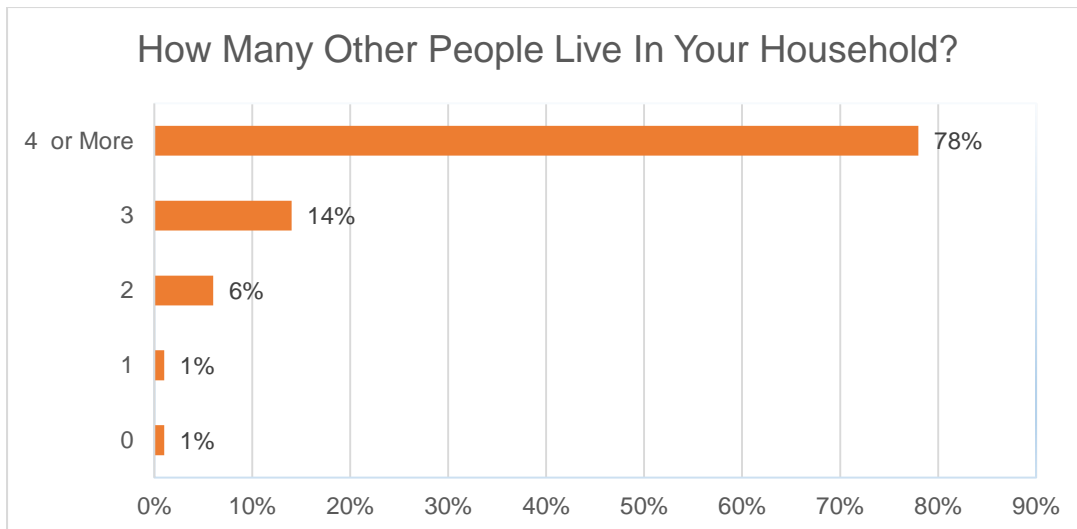


Figure 4.14 indicates that most of the respondents receiving the CSG live in a household of 4 or more at 78%, whilst 14% are in a household of three (3) people and six (6) percent represent the household of two (2) people. The last two categories share one (1) percent each of people living in one household.

**Figure: 4.14.1 Number of Females in the household**

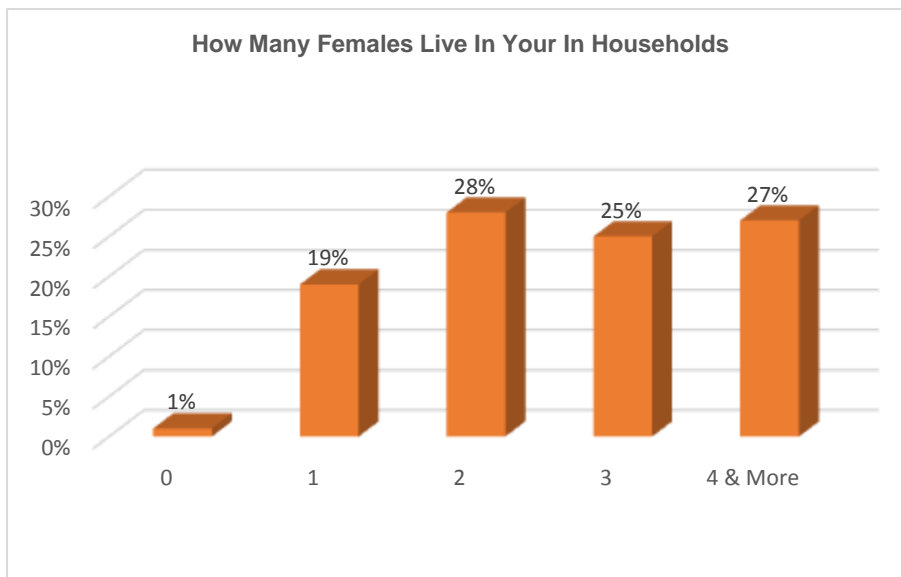


Figure 4.14.1 illustrates that most beneficiary households have 28% of two (2) females living in it and 27% with four (4) or more females. Other households have

three (3) females at 25% and 19% of only one (1) female. Only one (1) percent of the respondents' households does not have a female member in the family.

**Figure: 4.14.2 Number of Males in the household**

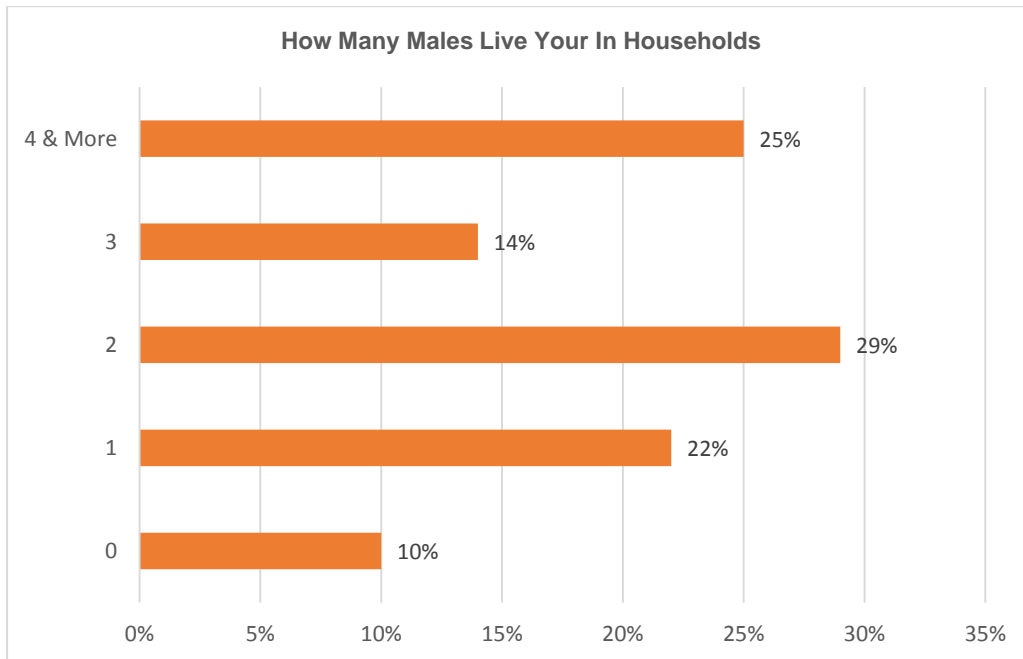


Figure 4.14.2. Indicates that most beneficiary households have 29% of two (2) males living in it and 25% with four (4) or more males. Other households have one (1) male at 22% and 14% of three (3) males. Only ten (10) percent of the respondents' households do not have a male member in their family.

**Figure: 4.15. Number of people employed**

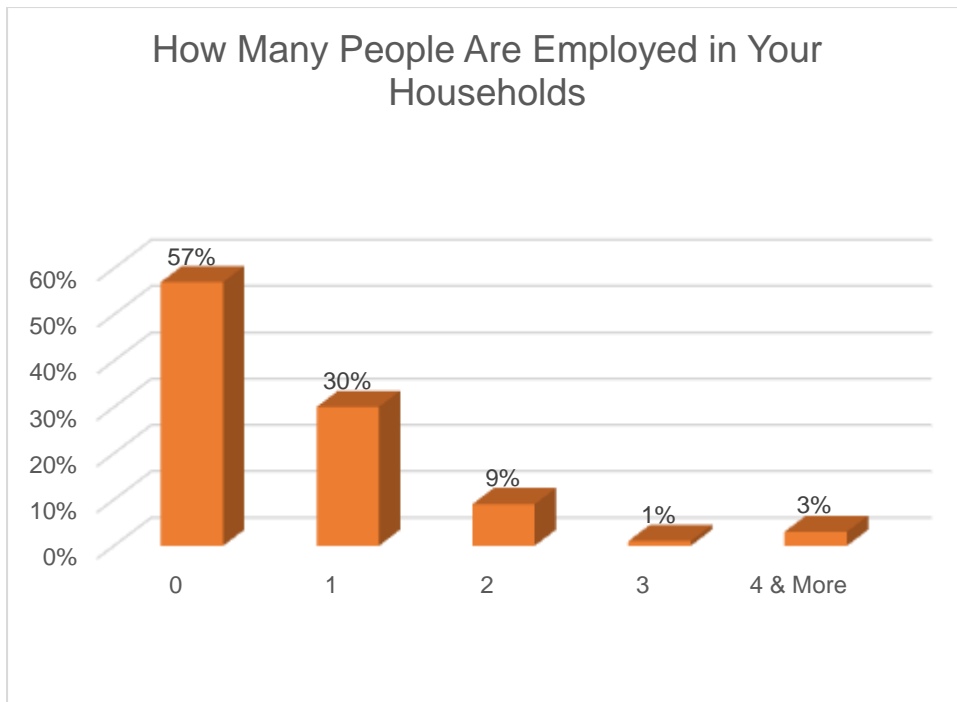


Figure 4.15 Indicates that 57% of the family members who live with the respondents are unemployed, 30% of the family members of the respondents are employed, 01% of family members of the respondents in the household are employed, and 9% of family members and 1% in the household of the respondents respectively are employed. About 3% of 4 and above of the family members of the respondents in the household have jobs.

**Figure: 4.16. Any other income**

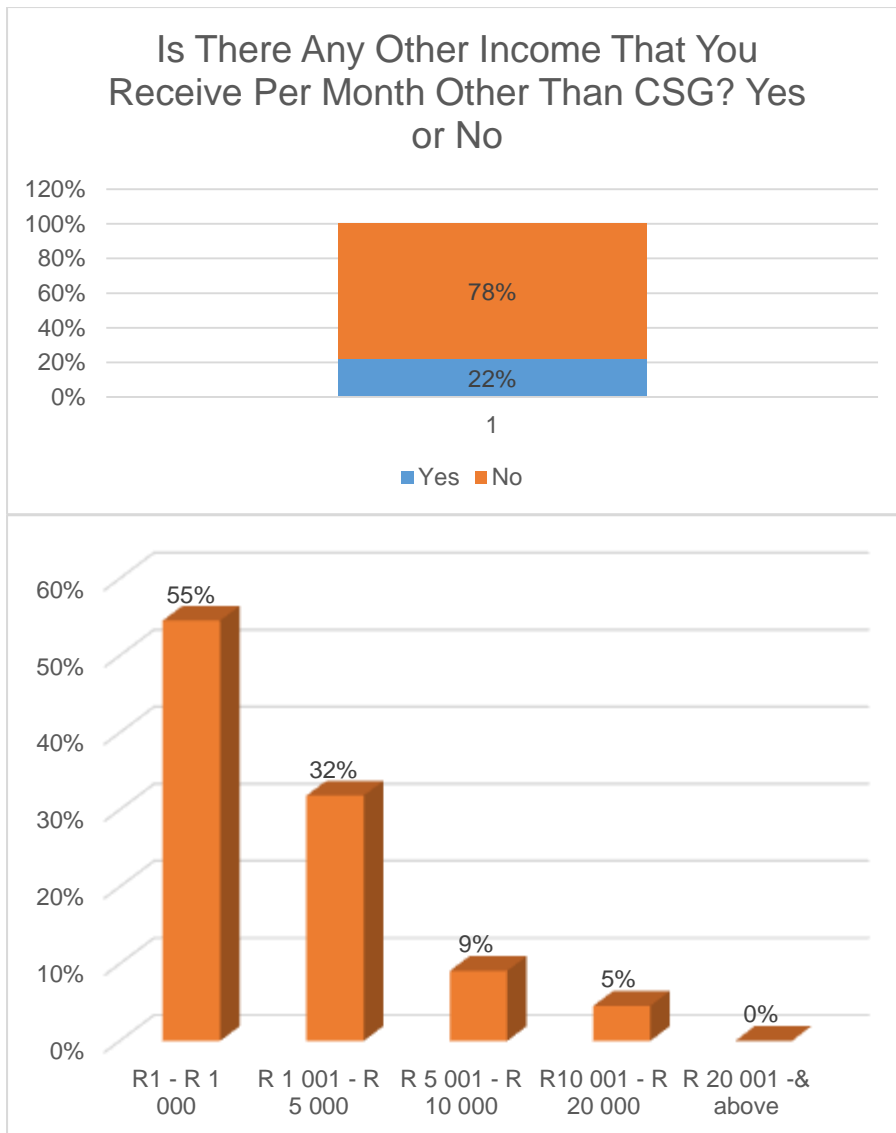


Figure 4.16 illustrates that, 78 % of the respondents have no form of any other income than the CSG, whereas 22% indicated that they have other forms of income albeit below the threshold of the means test, hence they receive the CSG. The figure further illustrates that out of the 22% that receives the CSG, 55% have additional income of between R1 and R1 000 followed by the second category at 32%. The lowest category is the one of R10 001 – R20 000 at 5% after R5 001 – R10 000 at 9%. None of the respondents has additional income exceeding R20 001.

**Figure 4.17 Monthly Budget for Your Household Needs?**

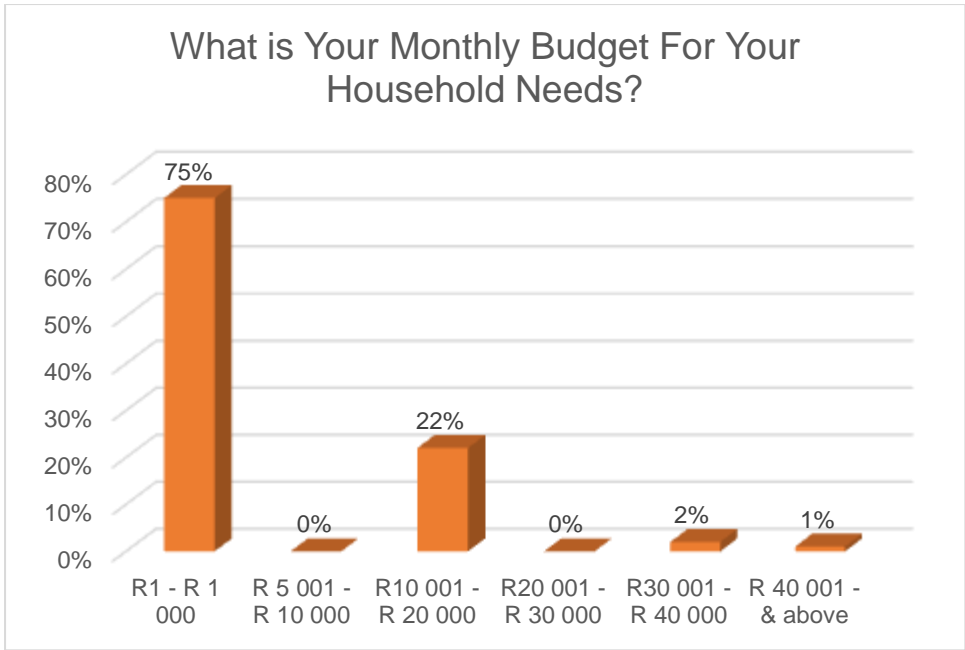


Figure 4.17 indicates that 75% of the respondents required less than R1 000 (one thousand) for a living, followed by 22% who need R10 001 – R20 000 and then the category of R30 001 – R40 000 at 2% and R40 001 and above. Two categories of R5 001 – R10 000 and R20 001 – R30 000 have 0%.

**Figure 4.18 Travelling Costs from Home to nearest SASSA Office or Pay Point where you receive your Child Support Grant**

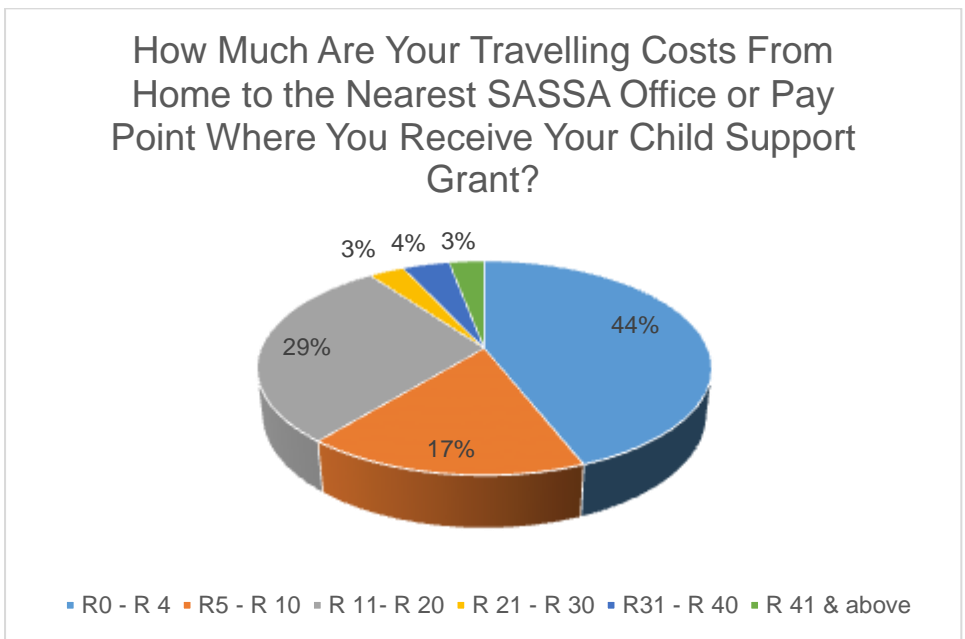


Figure 4.18 indicates that the majority of the respondents which comprises 44% spend at least R4. They are followed by 29% of the respondents who spend R11 – R20 (eleven to twenty rand) to receive their grant money and 17 % of the respondents of CSG spend an amount ranging from R5 – R10 (five rand to ten rand) to collect their grant money), whilst 3% of the respondents spend twenty-one rand to thirty rand (R21–R30) as well as R41 and above. Thirty-one to forty rand (R31 –R40) are at 4%.

#### **4.4 CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the interpretation and analysis of the sampled outcome displayed the details of the respondents and their socio-economic specifics. Further they showed the contribution of the CSG alleviating poverty in their lives. The detailed discussion of these results together with the reviewed literature in chapter 2 is followed in chapter 05.

## **CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

Chapter four discussed the findings and analysis of the data obtained through a questionnaire, SASSA documents, acts and policies. The purpose of this chapter is to make concluding remarks on the research problem as presented in section 1.2 of the study. Beneficial recommendations based on the data analysed in chapter four will be provided to assist SASSA in the management of CSG contributing in alleviating poverty in Masodi Village. A summary of previous chapters is outlined.

### **5.2 SUMMARY OF CHAPTERS**

Chapter one outlined an introduction and the background of the study about the CSG and included the research problem. The research problem undertook to examine the contribution of the CSG towards alleviating poverty in Masodi Village. Research objectives were developed by the researcher to assist in answering the research questions. The key objective of chapter one was to explain the significance and relevance of the study. The background of the study contributed an essential part in introducing the study.

Chapter two of the study weighed the literature review that was reckoned relevant to the study. Mouton (2012:87) asserts that it is paramount that researchers review literature of existing scholarship to ensure that there is no duplication of previous studies and a good literature review saves the researcher's time to avoid errors and to provide clues and what avenues to follow.

Chapter three discussed the methodology applied in the study to collect data and how the data is analysed. The collected data assisted in providing a solution to the research problem. The research methodology and design of the study were also discussed. Chapter three deliberated the research strategy within which substantiation is analysed and collected. The study is qualitative in nature. The method used for data collection and the approach to analyse data was indicated. Chapter three also pointed out the significance of methodology for any study. The

objectives of the research design and methodology of the study were also discussed.

Chapter four presented the research analysis and the findings of the data acquired. The analysis is based on data collected as discussed in chapter three, which is a questionnaire (See attached Annexure One), SASSA Policies, Acts, and reports. A questionnaire containing 18 questions was delivered, distributed to the respondents at Masodi pay point and responses to the questions was analysed in chapter four. Respondents' answers to the questionnaire, perusal of SASSA prescripts. i.e. Acts, reports and policies aided the study to combine the findings. The main purpose of chapter four is to afford a solution to the problem statement in chapter one, which enquires whether the CSG contributes towards alleviation of poverty in Masodi Village.

### **5.3 CONCLUSION**

SASSA has been mandated by the democratic government to administer social grants in the country and the growth in social grants signifies a noteworthy achievement by the government. The social assistance programme has extensively grown over the years, however poverty still exists. Currently more than 16 Million grants are paid monthly. CSG is the largest grant that is paid by SASSA to the eligible care givers / parents and plays a vital role, as the World Bank in a its report entitled 'The State of Social Safety Nets 2014', CSG is amongst the top five programmes across the world and the largest grant on the African continent.

The data was collected with the goal of answering the research questions: whether the CSG contributes towards alleviation of poverty in Masodi Village. After collecting the data the following conclusions were drawn:

- It is concluded that the majority of primary care givers / parents who receive CSG in Masodi Village are women, and half of the respondents are single parents, and both divorced and widows contribute an equal margin of 5% of the respondents. It has a positive impact on their lives.



- High percentage of children receiving CSG attend school. This money helps to feed, clothe them and assists in buying uniform and paying school transport.
- CSG plays an important role in nutrition, education and health of the children, as the high majority of children receiving CSG attend school from Grade 0 to Grade 12. The grant is not benefiting children only, but also family members who are unemployed.
- The level of population amongst those who have other forms of income, the margin is still low and such income as well is in fact not sustainable. Generally the overall poverty condition in Masodi village is high.
- Despite the available technological system implemented by SASSA, i.e. SASSA Debit Cards, the respondents still travel to/from in order to receive/collect their CSG which is disadvantageous as it is not cost effective.
- Residents in the area of the study are Black people only.
- There is a high percentage of deductions against the CSG recipients which are not beneficial to the improvement of the socio-economic conditions. Furthermore, there are elicited and fraudulent deductions which create more vulnerability toward the recipients and impact negatively on the government's strategy on poverty eradication.

The challenges facing CSG in SASSA are the following:

- Unauthorised deductions from the grants which are insurances, cell phone or the amount of the grant.
- Dependency from social security.
- There is no monitoring and evaluation of the grant, after application, approval and payment of the grant. SASSA ends its business there, how the grant is being utilised SASSA does not have any knowledge.
- SASSA SOCPEN system is not linked to PERSAL system (Personnel Salary Administration). It is also not linked to private sector companies systems, SARS (South African Revenue Services), municipalities or SOEs (State Owned Enterprises). People working in these sectors can apply and qualify for grants.

- CSG meant for children in some cases the mothers or primary caregivers utilise it for their own things.
- Determining qualifying requirements officials working for government as they leave their children with their grandmothers, and their grandmothers are qualifying for CSG when they apply for those children.
- There is an inequality in age limitation between CDG, FCG and CSG, as a foster child is receiving the grant after reaching 21 years, whilst the CSG when the child attains 18 years it lapses. This is one of the contributing factors as most of those children after completing matric they are frustrated because they do not know what to do, they either resort to drugs or add a number to teenage pregnancies.
- Children who are receiving CSG, CDG and FCG when gave birth to their own children they don't register them for CSG as the amount is little. Also the children who are receiving the CSG and gave birth to their first child some does not register them to receive the grant (CSG) as it is the same amount they receive unless they have two or more children they register them, the reason been that is double or triple amount and it makes a difference.
- SOCPEN system can easily be accessed by fraudsters as Windows Network System (WinNET) is outdated.
- When primary care givers / parents of the children find employment in government or the private sector they do not cancel the grants.
- The grants are not well marketed. It's only SASSA which administers the grants, but other departments must assist SASSA. For example, the Department of Education being responsible for running educational campaign related to grants.

The objectives of the study were to investigate if the CSG is able to improve the socio-economic conditions of the recipients, to determine if the CSG is sustainable and to assess the beneficiaries' perception on the contribution of the CSG towards alleviating poverty in Masodi Village as projected, and to analyse challenges facing the CSG in SASSA. The study brought a better understanding of the CSG in South Africa; the kind of contribution of CSG towards alleviating poverty in Masodi Village

and the challenges it faces on its administration by SASSA. The recommendations of the study are discussed below.

#### **5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings, analysis, and conclusion of the study, the following recommendations are made:

- ICROP (Integrated Community Registration Outreach Programme), that SASSA in all the nine provinces is embarking on to the under service areas where departments like Home Affairs, Social Development, Department of Health and municipalities are joined together to provide service delivery, awareness regarding unauthorised deductions. They must invite many /if not all departments to assist in terms of educating the beneficiaries regarding the grant/s. A number of departments must be involved as social assistance is in demand due to poverty in the country.
- Awareness must not only reached underserviced areas, even the serviced ones need information when collecting data in chapter 100% CSG recipients are woman man are not aware that they qualify to receive CSG for their children.
- After the payment of the grant, SASSA must monitor and evaluate the usage of the grant, as SASSA appoints social workers on a contract basis to assist in tracing and tracking foster families. SASSA must appoint social workers on a permanent basis to monitor and evaluate all grants as they are open to fraud and abuse.
- The SOCPEN system must be linked to all sectors in order to show that SASSA pays world class grants to the right people and at the right time njalo. (This is SASSA's slogan )
- The requirements for receiving CSG must be tightened, grant mothers when applying for CSG must produce proof of the of the whereabouts of the mothers of the children, especially when the mother of the child is alive, as many times the caregivers just say they do not know where the mother of the

child or children is. In this case, a case of a missing person must have been registered with the police.

- The Age limit of all three types of grant as mentioned in chapter two must be the same.
- The SOCPEN system must be upgraded to keep fraudsters at bay.
- SASSA must install Biometric system, like the one that they are using in the banks for all officials who are grants administrators to open their systems also this will cap fraud as some of SASSA officials are disciplined and dismissed for fraudulent activities involving grants.
- SASSA must be able to trace PCGs and parents who were receiving the CSG and are in employment by upgrading its systems and link with private and government sectors, especially SARS.
- The grants must be made aware to people through education. SASSA officials must train the communities, not through ICROP or Mikondzo. Outreach programmes must be extensive and the Transformation and Development Unit must expand, meaning that more staff should be employed to train community members so that awareness programmes are complete
- District and local offices must also embark on training the communities in their areas about grants administration, operations and management every month, after the closing of payments as it takes two weeks every month.
- SASSA must evaluate the grant's administrators' posts and upgrade their levels and salaries to eliminate corruption.

The debate about the contribution of the CSG towards alleviation of poverty in Masodi Village and challenges facing CSG IN SASSA addressed the objectives and the research problem of the present study. The objectives guided and assisted the study in developing a conversant conclusion and recommendations. The recommendations recorded above may contribute to SASSA in addressing the challenges facing the CSG and other types of grants.

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## **Consent Form**

### **Instruction to respondents**

Dear respondent, my name is Tebogo Elsie Kgawane - Swathe. I am a Master's student at Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership, University of Limpopo. I am conducting a study/ research on the Examining contribution of the Child Support Grant towards Alleviation of Poverty in South Africa: A Case of SASSA in Masodi Village Given your knowledge and involvement in this strategy I would like to ask you a few questions.

I kindly request you to participate in this research project and would like to explain this consent form to you and let you decide if you would like to participate in this study.

**The formal title of the study is: Examining contribution of the child support grant towards alleviation of poverty in South Africa: A case of SASSA in Masodi Village**

### **Study Purpose**

The main aim of this research project is to examine contribution of the child support grant in improving the quality of life of families and children in Masodi.

### **Study Procedure**

I will be distributing questionnaires to you one on one to get responses from you as beneficiaries of the grant (CSG). You will be completing the questionnaires your own and on the spot. The questionnaires will be kept safe by the researcher for the use only, for the purpose of analysing the data collected for the study.

### **Possible Risks**

Kindly note that there will be no risks as a result of your participation in this study. Your identity will be kept strictly confidential. Your names will not be attributed to any of the comments made in the final report.

**Possible Benefits**

It is critically to note that there will be no direct benefits to you from this research. But I hope that the research findings will assist SASSA in enhancing the support they provide to participants/ beneficiaries.

**Alternative and Voluntary Participation**

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you may choose to withdraw your participation at any time. If you choose not to participate in this study your decision will be respected.

I understand that my participation is voluntary and will remain confidential. I hereby agree to the digital recording of my participation in the study and to keeping of a permanent record of this interview with the understanding that my name and other identifying information will be removed to ensure confidentiality.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Thank you for participating in this study.

**APPENDIX B: Structured Questionnaire**

Please fill in the appropriate information in the relevant box according to your best knowledge and understanding. Mark with X where your chosen response applies

**Section A: Biographical data**

1. What is your age range? Tick X in a box

14 – 24	
25 – 34	
35 – 44	
45 – 54	
55 and above	

2. What is your gender? Tick X in a box

Male	
Female	
Other (specify)	

3. What is your marital status? Tick X in a box

Single	
Married	
Divorced	
Widow	
Other (specify)	

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\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of participant

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Thank you for participating in this study.



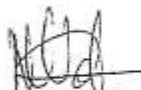
Ms Kgawane TE

University of Limpopo

Dear Ms Kgawane TE

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT A RESEARCH**

1. The above matter refers.
2. The Agency (SASSA) has received your letter requesting an approval to conduct a research at the South African Social Security Agency Limpopo Region.
3. You are kindly informed that your request to conduct within SASSA Limpopo Region has been approved by Chief Executive Officer.
4. You are also requested that during your collection SASSA services should not be disrupted.
5. Your cooperation and understanding will be highly appreciated.



**NDOU NH**

**ACTING SENIOR MANAGER:**

**HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT**

**DATE: 18/02/2015**



*[ paying the right social grant, to the right person,  
at the right time and place, NJALO! ]*

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Limpopo Region

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