

**THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF SOCIAL SECURITY GRANT ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION
IN SOUTH AFRICA: A CASE OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT AT MANKWENG IN
POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY AREA**

by

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DISSERTATION

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DECLARATION

I California Mohale declare that **THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF SOCIAL SECURITY GRANT ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN SOUTH AFRICA: A CASE OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT AT MANKWENG IN POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY AREA** is my own work and that all the sources that I have used and quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any other institution.

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Full names

.....

Date

.....

Student number

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my mother Sekedi Margreth and my late grandmother Pilwane Maseisa Mohale.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to give thanks to God Almighty (Jeshua Ha Mashiach) for giving me strength and courage to complete this work.

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Bjatladi Traditional Council, Limpopo South African Social Security Agency Regional office and Magwadiba Higher Primary School for giving me permission to conduct the study;

Lastly, I would like to thank my family for the support that they gave me throughout the completion of the study; with their words of support I was able to work to complete this Dissertation.

ABSTRACT

This study sought to investigate the role and impact of social security grant on poverty alleviation on a case of Child Support Grant at Mankweng. Child Support Grant is a poverty alleviation mechanism implemented with the aim of exploring new alternative policy options targeting children and families in South Africa. The grant has proven to be successful as it was able to put about 8 million orphans and poor children in the safety net in 2008. However, although the grant has proven to be successful, not all the deserving children receive the grant. Children's access to a full measure of security and the basic needs as prescribed in the Bill of Rights remain agitated with problems as the grant's extent of coverage due to the limited amount structure does not provide all the basic needs of the children. The study also revealed that majority of participants due to the grant's extent of coverage experienced hardships in terms of inflation rate. The participants' stressed about the price of goods which is perennially increasing as they are unable to cope with price trends, which led them to adopt the practice of layby. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were utilised which adopted structured questionnaires and in-person interviews to hear the participants' perspective on the impact that Child Support Grant has as a poverty alleviation mechanism on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries as well as the challenges of Child Support Grant's administrative system. The study recommended that the Child Support Grant despite its limited amount structure enables people to participate on economic activities wherein they are able to engage in farming activities in that during harvest time they are able to sell their produce to the market like Pick 'n Pay and Shoprite though its seasonal.

ACRONYMS

ACCESS	Alliance for Children's Entitlement to Social Security
CASE	Community Agency for Social Enquiry
CDG	Care Dependency Grant
CSG	Child Support Grant
DSD	Department of Social Development
DG	Disability Grant
FCG	Foster Care Grant
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIA	Grant-in Aid
ICROP	Integrated Community Registration Outreach Programme
ICSECR	International Convention on Social Economic and Cultural Rights
ILO	International labour Organisation
MINMEC	Minister of Welfare and the Provincial Members of the Executive Council
PAIA	Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000
PCG	Primary Caregiver
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act 1 of 1999
SAA	Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004
SAHRC	South African Human Rights Commission
SASSA	South African Social Security Agency Act 9 of 2004
SMG	Small Maintenance Grant
SOAP	State Old Age Pension grant
SRD	Social Relief of Distress
SSG	Social Security Grant
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nation Institute of Children Emergency Fund
WVG	War Veteran Grant

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CHAPTER 1: GENERAL ORIENTATION OF THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

South Africa is a country characterised by high unemployment, a skewed distribution of income and a large number of the population living in poverty (Budget Review, 2011). South Africa has a well-defined system of social security, which in terms of expenditure can be described as the largest anti-poverty instrument in the post-apartheid years (Lalthapersad-Pillay, 2008). In 1994, the democratic government of South Africa embraced social security grant as a way of alleviating poverty and redistributing income through policy and administrative reforms (Lopez, Thomas and Wang, 2010). The government made advancement to address the legacy of severe poverty, high unemployment and huge socio-economic inequalities through social security grant (Swartz, 2004).

The social security grant system in South Africa targets poverty rooted in apartheid's legacy (Samson, Haarmann, Haarmann, MacQuene, van Niekerk, Khathi, Babson and Stevens, 2003: 19). It is aimed at reducing poverty among the vulnerable groups, namely; older people, those with disabilities and children who are not expected to participate fully in the labour market (Samson, MacQuene and van Niekerk, 2006). Social security grant has a significant impact on poverty alleviation (Goldblatt, 2016: 105). The grant assists in the provision of food, payments of school fees, transport, rent and water as well as the purchase of uniforms, books, electricity and other necessities (Tanga and Gutura, 2013: 627). However, despite these remarkable achievements, other beneficiaries are unable to meet most of their needs due to the limited amount structure of the grant when purchasing necessity goods.

According to Pietila (2015), approximately 45.5 % of the population are living beneath the upper bound poverty line, they are unable to purchase all the necessities, comprising food and non-food item. Thus social security grant has helped to decrease poverty, but it has not decisively reduced inequality (Triegaardt, 2006). With that said, the system is residualist, reacting only to the worst effects of market or family failures and providing assistance to social groups seen as deserving (Hassim, 2006). Thus millions of working-age poorly paid workers, informal sector workers, the under-employed and the unemployed are without any means of social assistance (Goldblatt, 2016: 105).

Social security grant is administered by the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), which has made substantial moves to ensure that only legitimate beneficiaries are on the

system (Bhorat, Poswell and Naidoo, 2004). The SASSA has managed to extend social security grant to the black population, addressed the socio-economic discrepancies and deepened social inclusion of previously marginalised and poor population (Addison, Harper, Prowse and Shepard, 2008). It has intensified mechanisms to reduce fraud and corruption within the system by starting the re-registration process of grant beneficiaries, on a comprehensive biometric identification system (Dubihlela and Dubihlela, 2014: 161). However, contrary to these assertions, there are some misalignments where the beneficiaries fail to get their grants due to corruption and lack of coverage (Reddey and Sokomani, 2008). The coverage remains inadequate calling for the need to further expand social security grant expenditure (Du Toit, 2011).

The coverage gaps within South Africa's social security grant system combined with the structurally low rate of take-up of the Child Support Grant underscore the need for comprehensive reform (Samson *et al.*, 2003: 24). Structural unemployment is extensive in South Africa with government figures indicating that the rate of unemployment is 23.9 %, affecting approximately 4.5 million people (Govindjee and Dupper, 2012; Statistics South Africa, 2013). This can therefore be inferred that the system excludes other people from benefitting from its services, while its scope of coverage is limited to specific people leaving many with no safety net. More than half the world's population is excluded from any type of social security protection (Reynaud, 2007: 10). The major gap in the system is the lack of provision of state support, in line with the constitution's promise on social assistance to working-age people (Goldblatt, 2016: 124). Thus the realisation of the financial limitations of a society reliant upon social security grant has left a glaring gap in South Africa's social security system (Govindjee and Dupper, 2012: 340).

Given this circumstance, the seven types of social security grants currently available to South African citizens are the state old-age pension grant, disability grant, child support grant, care dependency grant, foster child grant, grant in aid and the war veterans' grants. The study will focus on Child Support Grant, the state's primary grant for alleviating child poverty (Martin, 2014: 59).

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Over the past years, the South African government in its efforts to alleviate poverty has implemented several poverty alleviation mechanisms with Child Support Grant as one of them. Child Support Grant was implemented with the aim of exploring new alternative policy

options targeting children and families. The grant was meant to supplement the income received in families so that children do not suffer from hunger and to provide them with adequate sustenance. Child Support Grant has proven to be successful as it was able to put about 8 million orphans and poor children in the safety net in 2008 (Department of Social Development, 2010). However, although the grant has proven to be successful, not all the deserving children receive the grant (Mpambani, 2014: iii). Children's access to a full measure of security and the basic needs as prescribed in the Bill of Rights remain agitated with problems.

The extent of coverage on Child Support Grant does not provide all the basic needs of the children. Despite its extension of income on a yearly basis, in some circumstances it does help to provide assistance in the household while it leaves other situations behind unattended. This is also aggravated by the primary caregivers who abuse the grant. Primary caregivers use the grant on luxuries rather than basic necessities. They are misusing the grant and not utilising it in the best interest of the children (Khosa, 2013: 4). In addition, teenagers who due to their poor backgrounds that are highly stricken by poverty and high unemployment with many children depends on Child Support Grant. They treat this social welfare service as their only primary source of income. However, the situation in Mankweng rural communities remain different, as a lack of access to basic needs aggravates child poverty and condemns the poor to a life without equality, human dignity and freedom (Tshoose, 2010: 423).

1.3. AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The aim and objectives of the study are therefore stated in the ensuing paragraph.

1.3.1 Aim of the study

The aim of the study is to investigate the role and impact of Child Support Grant on poverty alleviation in order to provide insight that can inform public service practitioners and scholarship in general about the challenges emanating from Child Support Grant policy.

1.3.2 Objectives of the study

The following are the objectives of this study:

- To evaluate the basis of the introduction of social security grant;

- To analyse the legislative frameworks and the role of Child Support Grant in poverty alleviation;
- To evaluate the impact that Child Support Grant has as a poverty alleviation mechanism on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries; and
- To investigate the nature of the utilisation of Child Support Grant in South Africa;

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following are research questions which the research study wants to investigate:

- What is the basis of the introduction of social security grant?
- What are the legislative frameworks and the role of Child Support Grant on poverty alleviation?
- What impact does Child Support Grant has as a poverty alleviation mechanism on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries? and
- What is the nature of the utilisation of Child Support Grant in South Africa?

1.5 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

The key concepts in the research study are set out as follows:

1.5.1 Social Security

According to Hall and Midgley (2004), social security refers to all income support and maintenance programmes including old age grant, retirement insurance, social assistance for low income families and universal allowance. In this proposed study, social security will refer to money paid out through a social security program.

1.5.2 Poverty Alleviation

Poverty alleviation refers to efforts aimed at reducing the magnitude of poverty defined in terms of the proportion of the population living below the poverty line (Ekwuruke, 2005). For the purpose of this study, poverty alleviation will refer to strategic efforts such as the provision of social security grants to improve the livelihoods of the poor.

1.5.3 Child Support Grant

Child Support Grant (CSG) is a grant payable to a primary caregiver in respect of a child under the age of 18 years in order to provide for the child's basic needs (Department of Social Development, 2008). In this study, Child Support Grant will refer to a non-contributory grant afforded to the primary caregiver on behalf of the child to provide basic necessities for the child.

1.6. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Research design is a master plan that specifies the methods and procedures for collecting and analysing the needed information (Zikumund and Babin, 2007: 64). It is the blue print for conducting a study that maximises control over factors that could interfere with the validity of the findings (Burns and Grove, 2001: 223). Both quantitative and qualitative research methodology are employed in this study.

For the purpose of this study, quantitative research will be employed to hear the participants' perspective on the impact that Child Support Grant has as a poverty alleviation mechanism on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries. This is done to determine and generalise the facts derived from the participants in relation to the study. In this study quantitative research is employed since it uses methods from the natural sciences that are designed to ensure objectivity, generalisability and reliability (Weinreich, 2009). According to Van der Merwe (1996), quantitative research design is a research approach aimed at testing theories, determining facts, demonstrating relationships between variables, and predicting outcomes.

Qualitative research design in the study will be employed to determine the challenges of Child Support Grant's administrative system. Weinreich (2009) indicates that the purpose of qualitative research is to provide the researcher with the perspective of target audience members through immersion in a culture or situation and direct interaction with the people under study. In this study qualitative research is employed because it uses a naturalistic approach which seeks to understand phenomena in context-specific settings, where the researcher does not attempt to manipulate the phenomena of interest (Patton, 2001: 39).

1.6.1 Study Area

The proposed study will be conducted within the four communities of Mankweng area with specific reference to Mamotintane and Ngaleng villages which is comprised of Motholo, Iraka and Mshongoville. Mankweng is an area which is approximately 30kms away of east Polokwane, the capital city of Limpopo province of South Africa. The area is along the R71 road to Tzaneen tropical garden town not far from the renowned Zion Christian Church (ZCC) headquarters known as Zion City, Moria. Mankweng is well-known as “Turf” named after the Turf-loop farm where the University of Limpopo is built. Mankweng area per language and race group comprises of 33738 people with 99 % of Black Africans, 94 % Northern Sotho, followed by 0, 79 % coloured and 0, 63 % White Africans. The population is predominantly Sepedi speaking with exception to xitshonga and Venda language speakers (Census, 2011).

1.6.2 Target population

The target population of this proposed study consists of two hundred (200) primary caregivers who are categorised as (Biological mothers, Grandmothers of the child, immediate relatives and Guardians) of Mamotintane and Ngaleng villages. Forty (40) Child Support Grant beneficiaries selected from Magwadiba Higher Primary school and SASSA official from Limpopo Regional office. This envisaged study has selected these key areas of interest in that they possess the features that the study requires in order to draw the conclusion of the study.

1.6.3 Sampling size and procedure

According to Rovai, Baker and Ponton (2013: 35), sampling involves the collection, analysis and interpretation of data gathered from a sample of the target population under study. Two hundred and forty (240) structured questionnaires will be distributed; wherein out of this 200 questionnaires will be distributed to the primary caregivers while 40 questionnaires distributed to Child Support Grant beneficiaries. To sample the population of this study effectively, cluster random sampling was utilised. With the purpose of employing the cluster random sampling, primary caregivers from the age of eighteen (18) to fifty (50) years were selected from four communities, be it Mamotintane and Ngaleng villages which included Motholo, Iraka and Mshongoville. Fifty (50) structured questionnaires were distributed to fifty primary caregivers in each community in order to identify the perceptions on the grant's

nature of utilisation and to unearth how the grant impacted the lives of the people. Cluster random sampling will be utilised for the reason that is most appropriate when the population is very large or geographically spread out; and in that it reduces travel costs (Onwuegbuzie, Jiao and Bostick, 2004: 107). This will be done because the population of this study is clustered rather than single-units elements which are easily randomly selected (Johnson and Christensen, 2016).

Child Support Grant beneficiaries from the age of thirteen (13) to eighteen (18) years will be selected from Magwadiba Higher Primary school. Forty (40) learners male and female from grade 7 class who are Child Support Grant beneficiaries will be selected to determine whether the utilisation of Child Support Grant is benefiting the intended beneficiaries. The researcher targeted these beneficiaries at school for the reason that if they will be selected directly from their households, the study will be biased since the parents would be uncomfortable for their children to disclose such sensitive information.

The study will also employ purposive sampling. Purposive sampling is employed in this regard because it will help to select a sample on the basis of the researcher's own knowledge of the population, its elements and the nature of the research aims (Babbie, 2004: 193). One official from SASSA Regional office is selected in this study. The official will be consulted to determine the challenges of Child Support Grant's administrative system in order to recommend solutions as to how these challenges can be surmounted and resolved by the Agency, which oversees the administration of the Child Support Grant in South Africa.

1.7 Data collection instruments

1.7.1 Literature survey

The study will utilise secondary data which will be drawn from the existing literature review on the number of existing documents. The study will consult government gazette, legislative frameworks, published world summit reports and files, books, journals, articles and other related mass-media reports. Brynard and Hanekom (1997: 30) note that in Public Administration not only books on aspects of public administration should be consulted, but also the documents and files of public institutions. The data required for this study drawn from the literature will be the arguments about Child Support Grant policy frameworks for improving the social security services within the rural communities.

1.7.2 Structured questionnaire

In this proposed study two structured questionnaires will be presented. The questionnaires will be presented specifically for the primary caregivers and Child Support Grant beneficiaries. The questionnaires will be translated into Sepedi language. Thus to enable the participants to understand the questions properly since most people in rural areas prefer using Sepedi as their first language. This is done in order to allow the participants the opportunity to express their views in their own terms. The structure of the questionnaire in this study will comprise of both open and closed ended questions. The use of structured questionnaire is employed in this regard since is less expensive and less time consuming. The data collection from these selected primary caregivers will be done through a household daily visit which will be undertaken in a form of focus group and also individually depending on the atmosphere of the environment.

1.7.3 Semi-structured interview

In this present study semi-structured interview will be utilised to collect data. The official from SASSA Limpopo Regional office will be interviewed. The data collection from SASSA Regional office will be done through a single day field work with the use of an in-person interview to minimise non response in order to maximise the quality of the data collected. This will be done because an in-person interview allows the participant to clarify answers or ask for clarification for some of the items on the interview guide. Semi-structured interview is employed in this regard in that they have a certain degree of flexibility, and allow the researcher to incorporate more open-ended questions, to probe, seek clarity and also allow the participants to openly share their views (De Vos, Strydom, Fouche and Delport, 2011). Furthermore, the inclusive of audiotape recording will be utilised to record interview proceedings that will be transcribed into primary data. Thus before the interview proceedings commence, the researcher will explain to the participant about the audio tape recording that will be used to allow the researcher to refer back to the interview and take a fresh look at the interview data. The use of audio tape recording will be used because it gives an accurate summary of the interview as all the answers captured during the interview, as well as the comments by the researcher are saved for reference (Puneet, Arora and Kalpesh, 2013).

1.8 Data analysis

According to Creswell (2009), data analysis encompasses making sense of raw data, establishing meaning out of it and formulating theories. For the purpose of this study content analysis will be used to capture and analyse quantitative data. In analysing data, the researcher will begin by reading and re-reading the written responses from the participants to become familiar with them. The researcher will organise and prepare all the raw data that will be collected and type them. When the data will be organised as cases and variables in a database, the Excel spread sheet will be imported to Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to capture and classify the data for data analysis. Thus Statistical Package for Social Sciences is a data management and statistical analysis tool which has a very versatile data processing capability (Babbie, Halley and Zaino, 2003). The data drawn from the questionnaire will be analysed by using percentages, pie charts, bar graphs, with frequency of theme.

For the purpose of the interviews, qualitative data will be analysed using thematic analysis. During the interview proceedings, the researcher will apart from making use of tape recorder, make notes that will assist her to retrieve and analyse the data collected. In analysing the data, the researcher will begin by listening to the participant's verbal descriptions to obtain a general sense of what the data could mean. The researcher will encode the discussions derived from the views of the participant, categorise data and identifies them into theme. Thereafter the data will be interpreted by establishing meaning out of it and formulating theories aligned with the researcher's understanding. The data will then be adopted by comparing the information from the reviewed literature with the findings of the study.

1.9 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY

Validity is concerned with the meaningfulness of research components (Drost, 2011: 114). According to Brynard and Hanekom (2006: 47), reliability pertains to the accuracy and consistency of measures. In this proposed study, validity and reliability will be ensured. First and foremost, the researcher will ensure validity and reliability through dependability. Dependability involves evaluating the findings and the interpretation and recommendations of the study to make sure that they are all supported by the data received from the informants of the study (Cohen, Manion and Morrison, 2011; Tobin and Begley, 2004). In this study this will be done by structuring the questionnaire and interview questions in such

a manner that those questions and results obtained from them could be applicable in similar investigations in the future.

The validity and reliability will also be ensured through the degree of credibility. Credibility involves the confidence that can be placed in the truth of the research findings (Holloway and Wheeler, 2002; Macnee and McCabe, 2008). In this study this will be done when the researcher will visit the participants' homes to make them more comfortable and allowing them to express themselves freely, in order to help the researcher to make comparisons based on the responses given by the participants when conducting the study. The researcher will also ensure the credibility of the study through peer debriefing which will be done by welcoming the supervisor to scrutinise the research in general. According to Guba (1981), peer debriefing provides inquirers with the opportunity to test their growing insights and to expose themselves to searching questions.

Furthermore, the validity and reliability will also be ensured through the degree of confirmability. Confirmability is concerned with establishing that data and interpretations of the findings are not figments of the inquirer's imagination, but is clearly derived from the data (Tobin and Begley, 2004: 392). For the purpose of the study, this will be confirmed when the researcher will record interview proceedings that will be presented to the supervisor. This will be done by ensuring that the research findings of the study emanate from the data collected from the participants not from the researcher's perspective or her assumptions based on how well she knows the area of the study.

1.10. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ethical considerations is referred to as a system of morals, rules of behaviour and provide researchers with a code of moral guidelines on how to conduct research in a morally acceptable way (Struwig and Stead, 2001). Ethics serves to confirm to the standards of conduct of a given profession or group (Babbie, 2004: 64). In this study, since the approval to conduct the research is essential, a letter of ethical clearance will be obtained from the University of Limpopo Turfloop Research Ethical Committee. Furthermore, a letter from the Department of Public Administration to request permission to conduct the study will be obtained and subsequently given to Bjatladi Traditional Council underheadmanship of Mathosa M.J of Mamotintane and Mamabolo R.J of Ngaleng villages of Segopje, ga-Mamabolo, within the jurisdiction of kgoshigadi Mamabolo M.V as well as Magwadiba Higher Primary School and Limpopo SASSA Regional office. According to Welman, Kruger

and Mitchell (2005: 201), the researcher must take into cognisance ethical issues when conducting research:

- Voluntary Participation

In order to execute this study effectively, the researcher will advise participants that the participation is voluntary, in that no remuneration or incentive will be given to the participants. According to Babbie (2004), participation in a research study should be voluntary. Thus nobody should be coerced into participating in a research project (De Vos, Strydom, Fouche, and Delpont, 2005: 59).

- Informed Consent

Obtaining informed consent is another ethical issue that the researcher should take into consideration. First and foremost, the researcher will explain why the research is undertaken and its purpose thereof to the participants. This involves informing the participants about the nature of the research and obtaining the participants verbal or written consent to participate (Babbie 2004: 71). Thus the researcher will make certain that all participants read and understand the participant consent form before giving their approval.

- Ensuring Confidentiality and Anonymity

For the purpose of this study, participants will be labelled respectively in terms of the number of the interview instead of using their names. Thus the participants' true identity will remain anonymous. Furthermore, the researcher will ensure that the study is conducted with honesty and good stewardship of public resources used to conduct research. In that by virtue of Limpopo SASSA Regional office's participation in this study, the researcher will ensure that sensitive information is kept confidential. The researcher will avoid research misconduct which involves fabrication of data used without the concern of the Agency. Thus all the responses written on the research interview guide will be presented exactly the way the responses were from the participant.

- Avoidance of Harm

According to Walsh and Wiggins (2003: 110), the golden rule of research is that the researcher should never do any harm to research participants. Although Babbie (2004) believes that avoiding harm is easy in theory but difficult in practice. In order to avoid harm in this project, the researcher will ensure that the research is commissioned and conducted

with respect for all groups in society regardless of race, ethnicity, religion and culture, by protecting the participants from indignity or personal embarrassment. During field work, the researcher will avoid to ask the participants whether they are able to fill the questionnaires on their own as this will harm the participants' feelings. The researcher will be able to fill the questionnaires on behalf of the participants.

1.11 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

History has shown that, Child Support Grant have not been utilised to its intended purposes and had been misused by the primary caregivers for quite some time. Hence, the aim of this study seeks to investigate the role and impact of Child Support Grant on poverty alleviation to provide insight that can inform public service practitioners and scholarship in general. This study will make a significant contribution in the public service wherein policy practitioners will be enlightened of the weaknesses emanating from the Child Support Grant policy and implement new ideas that will improve the system to ensure that it achieve its intended purposes. The study will also be significant as it will assist SASSA Limpopo Regional office to determine challenges associated with the administration and the abuse of Child Support Grant in the province as its monitoring and evaluation process proves to be inadequate.

1.12 CHAPTER LAYOUT OF THE STUDY

Chapter 1: General orientation of the study.

This chapter presents the background and the rationale for conducting the study; and articulating the research problem and research questions formulated to test the rationale for conducting the study. The chapter describes the research design and methodology selected to guide the study.

Chapter 2: The origin and issues of social security system.

This chapter outlines the literature review executed to fulfil the research project. The chapter explains in great detail the historical background of social security grant in South Africa; articulates the fundamental elements of social security grant in South Africa focusing specifically on social assistance and social relief of distress.

Chapter 3: The legislative environment and the role of Child Support Grant on poverty alleviation in South Africa.

This chapter analyses the key legislative environment governing the provision of Child Support Grant policy. The chapter describes different roles played by Child Support Grant in South Africa; providing an overview on the nature of the utilisation of Child Support Grant and the criticism around the misuse of Child Support Grant.

Chapter 4: The nature and impact of Child Support Grant on poverty alleviation in South Africa.

This chapter articulates the nature of Child Support Grant on poverty alleviation in South Africa and describe in detail the impact of Child Support Grant on poverty alleviation.

Chapter 5: Research design and methodology of the study.

This chapter outlines the research design and methodology selected for the study; introduce the data collection instruments employed to execute the study; and the data analysis techniques used to analyse the findings of the study. The chapter further give an overview of methods used to ensure the validity and reliability on the findings of the study. The chapter explains the ethical considerations followed by the study.

Chapter 6: Research findings, data analysis and interpretation of results.

This chapter presents and interprets the research findings of the study. In this chapter, the results analysed for the study is displayed through the bar graphs and pie charts

Chapter 7: Conclusion and recommendations of the study.

In this chapter, all chapters are reviewed and recommendations and conclusions related to the findings of the study are made. The chapter provide the limitations of the study as well as recommendations made for further research.

CHAPTER 2: THE ORIGIN AND ISSUES OF SOCIAL SECURITY GRANT

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Influenced by Kant's second definitive article in his *External Peace* 1795, the concept of Social security was founded by Woodrow Wilson on the League of Nations 1919 on the grounds of collective security (Brauch, 2012: 158 in Culshaw, Booth, Osipov and Victorov, 2012). It was first contained in its covenant and was later developed further in the United Nation Charter of 1945. However, during the 1919-1939 inter-war periods, the concept of social security was hardly used, superseded by references of defence, national survival, national interests and sovereignty or power (Carr, 1939).

The concept of social security gradually evolved in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries during the F.D Roosevelt's New Deal in 1934 to address the security of income, the security of the livelihood, and the security of the social insurance as a key goal to advance the security of the citizens (Brauch, 2012: 159 in Culshaw, Booth, Osipov and Victorov, 2012). This goal was contained in the Atlantic Charter of 1941 when securing for all improved labour standards, economic advancement and social security (Brauch, 2008: 34). With that said, in 1948, social security became a key human right in Article 22 of the general Declaration on Human Rights.

However, in South Africa, the concept of social Security is embodied with a wide range 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 ceasing, being interrupted, never developing, or being exercised only at unacceptable social cost and such person being unable to avoid poverty and secondly, in order to maintain children (White Paper for Social Welfare, 1997). The focus of welfare was on moving people out of poverty and only on the construction of social security prevention, social compensation and income distribution. It became a governed piecemeal with various acts, including the Social Assistance Act 59 of 1992, the South African Schools Act 84 of 1996, and the Child Care Act 74 of 1983 and various other acts and is by no means comprehensive. However, since social security system for children in South Africa is inadequate in its capacity to address the socio-economic realities stated above.

This chapter will review the literature on the origin and issues of social security grant in determining the historical background of social security grant, thereafter discusses fundamental elements of social security system in South Africa.

2.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF SOCIAL SECURITY GRANT (SYSTEM) IN SOUTH AFRICA

The democratic South Africa inherited a fragmented social security system which was not based on comprehensive coverage for the population as a whole, but started as a social security net for mainly whites (Haarmann, 2000: 10). South Africa's social security system dates back to the 1920s when the first social pension was introduced as a social safety net for the white population (Trieggaardt, 2005 cited in Mampa 2012: 2). Gradually, pensions were also provided to the Coloured people, but continued to exclude Black Africans and Indians (Trieggaardt, 2005). Black Africans were marginalised and deliberately excluded from the social security system (Van der Berg, 1997). Thus opportunities for Black people to secure social security services were minimal and also distorted (Nkabinde, 1997: 40). In rural areas Black people were denied access to clean water, sanitation, electricity and safe transport, wherein urban areas' services for Black people barely met basic needs.

The exclusion of Black Africans was based on the argument that rural kinship provides security in old age (Sibanda, 2012: 19). The kinship system were reinforced in ensuring area-based development through the exercise of collective responsibility in providing security for the elderly and the sick, housing, farming, food harvesting and food crops, consoling and assisting the system based on mutual-aid assistance and reciprocity (Brooks and Nyirenda, 1987; Chileshe, 1989). Although the removal of political power from the communities inevitably undermined the kinship system's ability to protect socially vulnerable groups such as the elderly and the sick (Stephen, 1995: 6).

In 1943, take-up rates amongst the elderly were 40% for Whites and 56 % for Coloureds, while only 4 % of all social assistance spending was on Black Africans and this consisted of targeted relief and pensions for the blind (Van der Berg, 1997). However, the Smuts government in 1944, extended social old - age pensions to Black Africans, though benefit levels were less than one tenth of those for Whites (Woolard and Leibbrandt, 2010). White people had social insurance-based access to unemployment and sickness benefits, as well as to compensation benefits in case of work related accidents and illness (Haarmann, 2000:

14). Thus White people's social assistance covered old age and disability for the uninsured and maintenance for families with children in case of a nuclear family break up. While the pension levels for Black Africans were much lower, with means-tests being more stringent and welfare administration was separated according to race groups (Hassim, 2006: 111). However, by 1958, a decade into the apartheid era, Black Africans made up 60 % of the 347 000 social old - age pensioners, although they received only 19 % of all state old - age pensions spending (Van der Berg, 1997).

In 1970s and 1980s, the apartheid government worked hard to give the independent homelands political legitimacy (Woolard and Leibbrandt, 2010: 6). The deracialisation of social assistance came from attempts to maintain the homeland system of racial separation (Kruger, 1992). The coverage of the Black Africans elderly population increased steadily and by 1993 there were almost twice as many Black African pensioners inside the homelands as outside (Van der Berg, 1997). And this led to a rapid increase in the funds flowing to the homelands for old age pensions. Spending on social old - age pensions rose from 0.6 % of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1970 to 1.8 % of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 1993 (Van der Berg, 1997). The equality in benefits levels between race groups had been achieved with 81 % of social age pensioners being Black Africans (Van der Berg, 1997).

With this respect, the 1992 Social Assistance Act finally did away with all discriminatory provisions. Thus the social pensions and grants which were set up to protect the white population gradually expanded their eligibility rules to include all South Africans (Woolard and Leibbrandt, 2010: 9). The Social Assistance Act of 1992 extended all social security measures to all South African citizens in an equal basis (Santana, 2008: 7). Such process led to a significant expansion of social assistance from 3 million beneficiaries in 1995 to 16 million in 2013 (South African Social Security Agency, 2013). This made social security an unusually comprehensive system compared with that found in other developing countries (Lund, 1993). However, though social security system had been extended to other groups, the coverage remained inadequate (Haarmann, 2000: 10).

In 1994 when democracy was finally achieved in South Africa, the new government was faced with the challenge of deracialising the welfare system and reforming it to meet the policy objectives of what is termed developmental social welfare (Hassim, 2006: 114). The

White Paper for Social Welfare adopted by the new government committed itself to an integrated and national comprehensive social security system (White Paper for Social Welfare, 1997: 51) and states that every South African should have a minimum income sufficient to meet basic subsistence needs and should not live below minimum acceptable standards (White Paper for Social Welfare, 1997: 49).

The Constitution further supported this goal by entrenching the rights to social security and appropriate social assistance. Section 27 (1) (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 provides that everyone has the right to have access to social security, including appropriate social assistance for all those who are unable to support themselves and their dependants. Furthermore, Section 27 (2) in turn requires that the state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources to achieve the progressive realisation of this right. Section 28 (1) (c) further grants every child the right to basic social services. These commitments were made in a situation where the majority of the population faced severe poverty (Haarmann, 2000: 10). The White Paper for Social Welfare also stipulates that the social security system in South Africa is based within the selected fundamental and inter-related elements, namely; social assistance and social relief.

2.2.1 FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM IN SOUTH AFRICA

According to Tshoose (2010), within the South African context, the concept of social security is viewed as an umbrella concept, which encompasses the following elements of social assistance and social relief.

2.2.1.1 Social Assistance

Social assistance is a state-funded system (Triegaardt, 2005: 3). It forms part of a wider social protection strategy (Patel, 2011: 110). Social assistance commonly known as social grants is a non-contributory, means-tested form of social security and is delivered as grants (South African Human Rights Commission, 2001). The means test is the process of assessing the value of the beneficiaries' assets and income (Kelly and GoundUp Staff, 2017). Thus the eligible for a grant is determined by the beneficiaries' income and assets which fall below a certain threshold.

Section 2 and 4 of Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004 stipulates that the current social assistance programme in South Africa involves the following contingencies, the State Old

Age Pension; the Disability Grant; the Child Support Grant, Foster Care Grant and the Care Dependency Grant, Grant-in-aid and War Veteran Grant. These social assistance schemes are schemes in which individuals receive need-based assistance from public funds without themselves ever having contributed directly to the scheme (Schneinin, 1995).

2.2.1.1.1 State Old Age Pension Grant (SOAP)

State Old Age Pension Grant is a non-contributory and becomes available at the age of 60 for women and 65 for men (Lombard and Kruger 2009). However, the age for men has been reduced gradually from 2009 in order to achieve gender equality (Kaseke 2010). Currently, all elderly persons at the age of 60 despite their gender are eligible for State Old Age Pension Grant (Khosa, 2013: 11). The SOAP is the largest social assistance programme with 3, 295, 710 beneficiaries with the cash value of R1 600 per month (Budget Speech, 2017). To be eligible for this grant the applicant must be a citizen of South Africa or permanent resident and not cared for by state institution. The grant is intended to provide assistance to people whose financial income is below a certain level, while its means-test is used to determine the financial level of the applicants (Department of Social development, 2008). Thus, the income and assets of the applicant and their spouse is assessed to verify if they qualify to receive the grant.

This grant claims to reduce the scale of older people's poverty, while reducing a household's probability of living in poverty (Potts, 2012: 85). Research by the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) and the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town (2017) indicates that the size of the Grant for Older Persons is sufficient to lift many households out of the poorest quintile. Samson *et al.*, (2002) concurs with Patel (2005) as they are both of the view that SOAP has a major impact in reducing poverty among poor households, especially those in rural areas. They both agree that households with pensioners are less poor than those without a pensioner. However, in the study conducted by (Bertrand, Mullainathan and Miller, 2003) found that working-age household members are less likely to work if they reside with a pensioner. Given this circumstance, Klasen and Woolard (2009) suggest that this is not because the income from a pension actually reduces the quest for work, but rather because unemployed people tend to join households where they can share in the pension. Consequently, many of those households are mostly located in rural areas.

2.2.1.1.2 Disability Grant (DG)

According to Patel (2006: 129), Disability Grant is the second largest programme in rand terms. It is a non-contributory; means-tested and is available to people disabled in circumstances other than road and work-related accidents between the ages 18 to 59 years (Potts, 2012: 82); with the cash value of R1600 with 1,067,402 beneficiaries (Budget Speech, 2017). This grant is later replaced by SOAP grant once a person turns 60 years of age. The primary purpose of this grant is to compensate individuals for loss of income.

According to Potts (2012: 83), Disability Grant benefits are also provided on both a temporary and permanent basis. The permanent assistance is intended to carry recipients into eligibility age for the SOAP program, while temporary assistance is designed for individuals that have a disability that prevents them from working from six months to a year. Eligibility for the grant is based on a submission of a medical report that confirms the disability and the applicant's inability to enter a labour market due to the disability (Tseeke, 2015: 16). However, in the context of South Africa's high rates of HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis, a potential moral hazard is created by individuals in that by gaining their health, individuals may lose eligibility to the Disability Grant (Khosa, 2013: 12). In that some people opt to maintain a state of sickness as there are no other means by which they or their family can be provided for if they cannot find work (Whitworth and Noble 2008).

2.2.1.1.3 Care Dependency Grant (CDG)

Care Dependency Grant supports parents taking care of a child living with disabilities at home (Khosa, 2013: 14). The grant is a non-contributory monthly cash transfer to caregivers of children with severe disabilities who requires permanent care (Hall, 2010: 1). According to Van der Berg, Siebrits and Lekezwa (2010: 9), Care Dependency Grant is paid to a parent or a primary caregiver of a child between the ages 1 and 18 years who suffers from severe physical and mental disability and he/she is in a permanent home care. The original purpose of Care Dependency Grant is to assist the parent, foster parent or guardian with grant for children with disabilities in their family home (Malherbe, 2011: 187). In addition, Care Dependency Grant excludes those children who are cared for in state institutions, because the purpose of the grant is to replace lost earnings of the caregivers looking after the child (Hall, 2010: 1).

However, the value of the grant as from 1 April 2017 is R1600 per month per child living with disability. The seriousness of the disability of the child is confirmed through a medical assessment (Leatt, 2006: 4). According to section 7 (b) of the Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004, a medical report attesting to the extent of the child's disabilities is required from a medical officer or a disability panel. The Act further stipulates that a limit is placed on the period that the dependent child is in institutional care, in that the care will lapse if the grant dependent child receives 24 hour care in a state funded institution for longer than six months. According to Delany and Jehoma (2016: 65), the intention of this grant is to assist with additional expenses related to the child's disability, and to enable the caregiver to provide appropriate care for their disabled child in order to promote the child's full participation in society.

2.2.1.1.4 Foster Child Grant (FCG)

As Child Support Grant was introduced in 1998 as a poverty alleviation grant, the Foster Child Grant was introduced much earlier as part of the child protection system (Hall and Proudlock, 2011: 1). The Foster Child Grant existed prior to 1994 to provide custody of foster parents in terms of the Child Care Act (McEwen and Woolard, 2015). It is the oldest child grant in South Africa, and for decades it assisted the small numbers of children who had been placed in foster care by the courts, wherein its numbers remained below 40 000 for many years (Hall and Proudlock, 2011; Skelton, 2011). Foster Child Grant has a substantially higher cash value than the Child Support Grant with the value of R1000 (National Treasury, 2019). The dichotomy between the Child Support Grant and Foster Child Grant displays the social security grant system as being unfair to poor children whose primary caregivers do not qualify to be carers (Hall and Proudlock, 2011; Kanyane, 2015: 31).

Comparatively, Child Support Grant and Foster Child Grant provide income assistance to caregivers caring for children, yet they operate differently (Mogotsi and Senona, 2016: 88). Mogotsi and Senona argue that Foster Child Grant is only terminated in December of the year the child turns 18, and if the child is still in education or training, then the foster parent can apply to continue receiving the grant until their child turns 21, while the Child Support Grant is terminated abruptly in the month that the child turns 18, with no consideration of the child's educational status. According to Statistics South Africa (2016), these results in a

sudden loss of financial assistance as there are no grants for young people after they turn 18 unless they are eligible for a Disability Grant.

2.2.1.1.5 Grant-in-Aid (GIA)

Grant-in-Aid is a monthly income support for adults who are in need of regular attendance by another person due to their disability (Black Sash, 2008). A person can apply for grant-in-aid if he or she has a physical or mental condition that requires regular attendance by another person (Social Assistance Act 2004). The Grant-in-Aid is intended to provide for the basic needs of adults who are unable to care for themselves. The Grant in Aid is not paid out on its own. It is an extra grant for people receiving disability, older persons or war veteran's grants whom by virtues of their mental or physical disabilities are unable to take care of themselves and need to pay a full-time caregiver (Kelly and GoundUp Staff, 2017).

The amount of Grant in Aid changes every year, wherein as from 1 April 2017 the amount of Grant-in-Aid stands at R380 per month, with 161,989 beneficiaries (Ferreira, 2015; Budget Speech, 2017). The Grant in Aid is certified by a medical officer confirming the need for full-time care from someone else. Though, there is no means test for the Grant-in-Aid, as the applicants would have been already subjected to assessments when they became eligible for one of the other adult grants (Black Sash, 2008). To be eligible for a Grant-in-Aid, the applicants must require regular attendance by another person due to their disability, and must be the South African citizens, permanent residents or refugees who are over the age of 18 and living in South Africa; and have applied for or be receiving either a Disability Grant, an Older Person's Grant or a War Veterans' Grant (Social Assistance Act, 2004). Despite these circumstances, a person will not get a Grant-in-Aid if they are being cared for by an institution wholly funded by the state, e.g. a home for older persons, a psychiatric hospital or prison, a treatment centre (Black Sash, 2008). Given these circumstances, Grant in Aid can also be provided academically. It is provided to initiate new faculty research and act as seed money for developing projects to the point of attracting more complete external funding.

2.2.1.1.6 War Veterans Grant (WVG)

War Veterans Grant is a monthly income support for people or rather former soldier who fought in the First World War (1904-1918), Second World War (1939-1945), the Zulu uprising (1906) or the Korean War (1950-1953) (Department of Social Development, 2008;

Black sash, 2014). It is intended to provide remuneration to beneficiaries who cannot look after themselves and need full-time care from the government (Department of Social Development, 2008). According to Social Assistance Act (2004), a person is eligible for a War Veteran Grant if he or she has reached 60 years and unable to provide for his or her maintenance due to physical or mental disability. The amount of the grant changes every year. From first of April 2017, the maximum grant amount stands at R1 620 per month (Budget Speech, 2017). This is calculated on a sliding scale, that is, the more someone earns, the less they will get from the grant (Black Sash, 2014). It is the least social security grant with 180 beneficiaries.

The person is eligible for War Veterans Grant if he or she is a South African citizen or permanently living in South Africa and have assets and income that meet the means test assessment. However, if your grant is approved, you can still apply for temporary assistance in the form of Social Relief of Distress (SRD) while you wait for your first payment (Black Sash, 2014), to such a degree, if the applicant needs regular care at home, the applicant may also apply for a Grant-in-Aid (Department of Social Development, 2008); wherein if the applicant's household is in need, the applicant can apply for indigency status at their Municipal Offices. Thus this may help the applicant with the cost of water, electricity and property rates. Given these circumstances, other foreign nationals are excluded from benefitting from this social assistance. Patel (2006) is of the view that due to a decline in War Veteran Grants; they will be phased out gradually.

Therefore, these social assistance programmes play a significant role in alleviating poverty and improving access to food and education. Over the years these social assistance programmes assisted families and children including those who are orphaned due to HIV and AIDS (Department of Social Development, 2016). To date, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) pays social security grants to more than 17 million South Africans with a monthly investment of R11 billion (Department of Social Development, 2016). These special needs-based social assistance grants are intended to benefit only vulnerable groups in society (Rensburg and Lamarche (2005: 211). Though social assistance is not aimed at meeting the total needs of the beneficiaries, it is a means to enable the most basic needs to be met (South African human Rights Commission, 2001; Khosa, 2013: 11).

2.2.1.2 Social Relief of Distress

Social relief of distress is defined as a temporary provision of assistance intended for persons in such dire material need that they are unable to meet their families' most dire needs (Department of Social Development, 2010: 2). It is an emergency contributions during crisis situations and it is non-contributory and means-tested (White Paper on Social Welfare, South Africa, 1997; South African Human Rights Commission, 2001). Patel (2006) concurs with Kaseke (2010) in that social relief forms part of the social assistance that is short-term and assists people in cases of transient poverty or crisis situations such as flood.

Social relief of distress is referred to as a grant that is provided for a very short period in circumstances where a person finds themselves in distressed circumstances and compromises of food vouchers, food parcels and cash-in-kind which were introduced in 2002 (Frye, 2008: 31; Sehlabane, 2014: 26; Wright, Noble, Ntshongwana, Neves and Barnes, 2014; Delany, Jehoma and Lori, 2016). It is provided on a monthly basis for a period of three months to individuals who are unable to meet the most basic needs for their families and themselves (International Labour Organizations, 2011: 7). However, although this assistance is supposed to be for a period of three months, in most cases due to monetary constraints it is not always sustainable, in that some communities are receiving such services once or twice a year, or even none at all (Khosa, 2013: 15).

There are numerous requirements that one should meet to qualify for the social relief of distress (Sehlabane, 2014: 27). The people who are eligible for the social relief of distress as outlined in the Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004, should be South Africans or permanent citizens, those who are awaiting the outcome of their grant application, those who are certified medically unfit to work by a medical doctor, people who have been affected by a disaster, those who are deemed to be having insufficient means to sustain themselves and they should not be receiving any grant nor maintenance. From the aforementioned it can therefore be inferred that social relief of distress's coverage can be sustained because it will only depend on the case of disasters occurrence. While on the other hand, it will be problematic in nature in that people who still do not have stable employment or a source of securing income after the time frame of the social relief of distress has lapsed are left vulnerable to food insecurity again (Sehlabane, 2014: 28). With that said, South Africa's social security system is inadequate in addressing food security and ensuring that every

citizen is able to meet their minimum dietary requirement to avoid malnutrition (Bonti-Ankomah, 2001: 11; Nkrumah, 2017).

2.3 CONCLUSION

This chapter discussed the origin and issues of social security grant. The historical background of social security grant (system) as to how the concept of social security came into existence within the South African system was outlined. The fundamental systems of social security were addressed together with the different grants.

CHAPTER 3: THE LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ROLE OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The South African government has an obligation to assist those that are in need and to provide resources necessary for people to meet their basic needs. These obligations are specified in the Constitution as well as pieces of legislations and in the number of international agreements which compel it to give attention to social security issues (Renuka, 2004: 21).

Therefore, this chapter will address the legislative environments and role of Child Support Grant on poverty alleviation. The grant's nature of utilisation together with the criticisms around the misuse on Child Support grant will also be addressed in detail.

3.2 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS WITHIN WHICH CHILD SUPPORT GRANT APPLY IN SOUTH AFRICA

At the domestic level, there are a number of instruments which speak to social security and a few of these shall be expressly enumerated; the Constitution, the Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004, the South African Social Security Agency Act 9 of 2004, Children's Act 38 of 2005 and the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000.

3.2.1 The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996

According to Kaseke (2010), the uniqueness of the South African social security is that it is derived from its constitution. In chapter 2, section 27 (1) (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996: 13), containing the Bill of Rights, states that everyone has the right to have access to social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependents, appropriate social assistance. In that the state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights (Section 27 (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, 1996).

3.2.2 The Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004

The Social Assistance Act of 2004 makes provision for the rendering of social assistance to persons, to provide for the mechanism for the rendering of such assistance; to provide for the establishment of an inspectorate for social assistance; and to provide for matters connected therewith (Government Gazette, 2004). Social Assistance Act addresses social security by regulating access to social grants namely: the Child Support Grant (CSG), Foster Child Grant (FCG), and Care Dependency Grant (CDG), State Old Age Pension (SOAP), Disability Grant (DG), Grant-in-Aid and War Veteran Grant (Khosa, 2013: 11). The Act determines the qualification requirements in respect of grants applications and ensures that minimum norms and standards are prescribed for the delivery of social assistance. According to the Government Gazette (2004: 8), the Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004 has the following objectives:

- Providing for the administration of South Africa and the payment of social grants and this includes the Child Support Grant and other grants;
- Making provision for social assistance and determining the qualification requirement in respect thereof;
- Ensuring that minimum norms and standards are prescribed for the delivery of social assistance for instance, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) is to appoint an investigator where abuse of the grant is suspected and lastly, and
- To provide for the establishment of an inspectorate for social assistance.

Given the provisions enshrined in the Social Assistance Act Section 3 (c), which stipulates that a person is entitled to the appropriate social assistance if he or she is a South African citizen was challenged in the cases of Khosa and Mahlaule, which were both brought by applicants who were permanent residents in South Africa. In that Social Assistance Act reserved older person's grants for South African citizens only, but excluded permanent residents (Khosa and Others v Minister of Social Development and Others, 2004; Mahlaule and Another v Minister of Social Development and Others, 2004). However, Kanyane (2015: 20) argues that these cases both emphasises that applicants would have qualified for social assistance but could not because they did not meet citizenship requirement. The applicants referred the matter to section 27 (1) (c) of the Constitution, which explicitly states that everyone has the right to access social security and social assistance, but not every citizen. In addition, the applicants further argued that their children's rights under section

28 had been infringed. As on 1 April 2012 the Social Assistance Act was amended to allow primary caregivers who are permanent residents to access the Child Support Grant for their children.

3.2.3 The South African Social Security Agency Act 9 of 2004

The Act makes provision for the establishment of South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) as a schedule 3A public entity in terms of the Public Finance Management Act 1 of 1999. SASSA was established in terms of the South African Social Security Agency Act (Act No. 9 of 2004) with the purpose of managing Child Support Grant in South Africa. It is an extension of a government delivery arm which serves to administer the delivery of social grants to the poorest of the poor in South Africa. Since its inception in 2004, SASSA's main business has been the management, administration and payment of social assistance grants only, as it deals with the establishment of SASSA, its design and the implementation of a payment system for Child Support Grant. In its nature, the Agency is commissioned by the Cabinet to tackle complex issues of ensuring effective and efficient delivery of services with regard to management and administration of social security grants.

Given the Agency's phenomenal nature in South Africa, there are common interpretative inconsistencies and uncertainties of the system. The misunderstanding of school enrolment as an eligibility requirement is one of the uncertainties on the system. This misunderstanding was questioned by the study of Martin conducted in 2014. There is evidence of misunderstanding amongst older children and caregivers about the school enrolment soft conditionality which was introduced into Social Assistance Act in 2009 (Martin, 2014: 69). The erroneous belief is that it constitutes an eligibility requirement and that non-enrolment disqualifies the child from receiving the Child Support Grant (SASSA and UNICEF, 2013). The extension of the Child Support Grant to children between the ages of 15 to 18 years was accompanied by a soft conditionality that children between the ages of 7 to 18 years in receipt of a Child Support Grant should be enrolled at and attend school (Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004).

Though, school enrolment is not listed among the Child Support Grant eligibility requirements in the Act, the Act do not require the termination of the Child Support Grant if a child in receipt of the Child Support Grant is not enrolled at school. Section 6 (6) and (7) of the Act require that the Head of the Department of Basic Education advise the Director-

General (DG) of the Department of Social Development (DSD) of any Child Support Grant recipient children who are not enrolled at school. In its furtherance, where the Director General is so notified, the act stipulate that he or she must order a social worker to investigate the causes of the child's failure to enrol and must, upon receipt of the report, take appropriate steps to ensure that the child is enrolled at school. According to SASSA (2013), the intention of this amendment to the Act was not to make school enrolment an eligibility requirement, but rather an arm to initiate a supportive intervention for the child to facilitate a return to school.

In addition, SASSA's official information booklet, *You and Your Grants*, published on its website and distributed through its offices, explicitly set out school attendance as an eligibility requirement (SASSA and UNICEF, 2013). Moreover, the national SASSA training manual stipulates that if the child is between the ages 7 to 18 years of age applicants must submit proof that he or she is enrolled at school; if such proof is available, it must be submitted within 30 days. The manual do not mention on any consequences that will arise if a child is not enrolled at school. Given these uncertainties, the SASSA application forms, information material and training material contradict the Social assistance Act, and that they are therefore ultra vires the act (Martin, 2014: 70). Martin recommends SASSA to review and revise its documents and training in order to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act.

3.2.4 Children's Act 38 of 2005

Children's rights to social security are guaranteed in a number of international human rights instruments (Martin, 2014: 59) which include the United nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) (UNCRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990) (ACRWC), and the International Convention on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (1966) (ICSECR).

However, at a domestic level, the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 together with the Children's Act 38 of 2005, guarantees children's right to social security which involves inter alia; to set out principles relating to the care and protection of children; to define parental responsibilities and rights; to make further provision regarding children's courts; to provide for partial care of children; to provide for early childhood development; to provide for the issuing of contribution orders; to provide for prevention early intervention; to

provide for children in alternative care; to provide for foster care; to provide for child and youth care centres and drop-in centres; to make new provision for the adoption of children; to provide for inter-country adoption; to give effect to the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption; to prohibit child abduction and to give effect to the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction; to provide for surrogate motherhood; and to create certain new offences relating to children; and to provide for matter connected therewith.

3.2.5 The Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000

The Act gives effect to the constitutional right of access to any information held by the State and any information that is held by another person and that is required for the exercise or protection of any rights; and to provide for matters connected therewith. The objective of this Act is to promote access to information. Any person who has applied for a Child Support Grant has the right, in terms of the provision of this Act, to know what the outcome of his or her grant application is. This Act therefore places an obligation on SASSA to provide information regarding the progress or outcome of a grant application and whether a specific grant application was successful or not.

However, According to Wright, Noble, Ntshongwana, Neves and Barnes (2014), the application process was described by many as detrimental to their dignity, with the main issues being the burdensome nature of the process and the manner in which they were often treated. With that said, the National Income Dynamics Survey (NIDS) (2010) data also revealed that, in 2010, 5 % of caregivers who were not accessing the Child Support Grant incorrectly believed that only the mother of the child can apply (SASSA and UNICEF, 2013). Though, the Social Assistance Act allows all primary caregivers, not only biological parents, to apply for the Child Support Grant for children in their care. Efforts should be made to raise public awareness about the eligibility criteria (especially supporting documentation required) for Child Support Grant applications (Wright *et al.*, 2014). More awareness-raising campaigns need to be launched on local radio stations and via road-shows at different villages, townships, informal settlements etc. (Goldblatt, Rosa and Hall, 2006: 5). These campaigns should clearly state the eligibility requirements for the Child Support Grant and the administrative requirements for application (Goldblatt, *et al.*, 2006: 5). In addition, Goldblatt, Rosa and Hall argue that in regard of the appeal, applicants should be made aware that they have a right to appeal, as chapter 3 Section 18 (1) and (2) of Social Assistance Act outlines. Thus more awareness of the appeal process should be

raised and monitoring mechanisms put in place to track what appeals are received and what their outcomes are.

3.3 DIFFERENT ROLES OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT IN SOUTH AFRICA

When the present South African government assumed power in 1994, it was faced with huge responsibility of poverty and inequitable share of resources (Mpambani, 2014: 14). This together with the rapid unemployment rate, child poverty became rife as well. However Child Support Grant, since its promulgation, has played a significant role as a poverty alleviation mechanism (Cassiem and Streak, 2001: 24; Borat and Cassiem, 2014). Introduced by the government to target the poverty stricken children of South Africa (Mase, 2008: ix), the program forms a core element of the country's social development approach and its pioneering role in promoting developmental welfare has been recognized since the government adopted the White Paper for Social Welfare (Patel, Knijn, and van Wel, 2015). The program is said to be a rare example in Africa of a comprehensive social security grant program for poor children (Khosa, 2013: 1). Its uniqueness design features set it apart from many other poverty alleviation programs in low and middle income countries (Patel, 2017: 107 in Midgley, Dahl and Wright, 2017). Hence, empirical evaluations indicate that Child Support Grant has different roles it plays in alleviating poverty (Bhorat and Cassiem, 2014).

3.3.1 Poverty alleviation

The alleviation of poverty is an area of priority for a new democratic country such as South Africa. However, recognising that poverty relief programmes would not be sufficient, the South African government introduced a comprehensive grant system to cater for those most needy children of our country (Renuka, 2004: 27). With the considerable degree of poverty, the social security grant became a major commitment to help a large fraction of the population over a sustained period of time (Aliber, 2001: 4). The South African Child Support Grant non-contributory system is widely acknowledged as a significant poverty alleviation mechanism (Renuka, 2004: 27). Thus from 10 % of poor children covered when it was introduced in 1998, Child Support Grant reached 85 % of children in 2016 (International Labour Organisation, 2016). Child Support Grant portrayed a substantial developmental impact on children and their families living in poverty (News 24 dated May 2016), and contribute to social cohesion (Mashala, 2016: 17).

The recent statistical data with regard to social security grants from Budget Review, National Treasury, indicates that at the end of 2012/2013 fiscal year 12.1 million South Africans benefited from Child Support Grant distributed by the South African Security Agency (Government of South Africa, 2012/2013). According to 2011 census where 10% of the sample was used to measure the children eligible to Child Support Grant, in the Polokwane Municipality where Mankweng community is located, 91% of the people benefiting from child grant (South African Social Security Agency, 2014: 19), with Child Support Grant having reduced the incidence of poverty by 8% (Handina, 2017: 33). Thus majority of the beneficiaries stayed in multi-generational households had pooled their grant income with other sources of household income (Mashala, 2016: 19). The comprehensive variety of cash transfers available to vulnerable South African communities also has impressive reductions in poverty.

According to Masango (2010: 4), Child Support Grant plays a significant role on the economic activities of the households. In that more than one-third of South Africans households depend directly on grant payments. According to Roussow (2017), also notes that the economies of small towns and villages dependent heavily on grant payments being used to buy goods and services in local shops, since the grant help to stimulate local markets, promote trade and production to wider community-level economic benefits (Handina, 2010: 32). This is said to be strengthened that any disruption of grant payments will affect poor households and lead to massively detrimental impact in local shops. It is for this reason that social security net is the government's biggest poverty alleviation and redistribution intervention. In that grant payments redistribute income to poor households and have contributed to a reduction in poverty in most South African households.

However, Barrientos and Ferreira (2003: 5) conducted a study on the impact of pensions in Brazil and South Africa; they concluded that non-contributory grant programmes reduce household vulnerability. In that household with a non-contributory grant recipient show greater financial stability and lower probability of experiencing a decline on the standard of living. Moreover, Neves, Samson, van Niekerk and Du Toit (2009), also point that Child Support Grant assists in alleviating poverty and reducing vulnerability not only by redistributing income, but also by providing a social insurance function, thus helping to smooth consumption and avoiding plunges into ultra-destitution following livelihood shocks.

However, based on the aforementioned discussions, although the social security net in South Africa has proven to be very successful there remain large gaps in it. In 1999, 11% of households with children less than 7 years of age went hungry due to lack of money to buy food (Brandon, 2007: 17). Currently in the study conducted by Pretorius (2016) found that about 3969 000 (63%) young South African children live in poverty, with the Eastern Cape, Kwazulu-Natal and Limpopo having the highest. The Limpopo Province has the largest number of poor children according to the head count ratio and poverty depth measure (Bhorat, 1995: 585). This implies that despite the fact that Child support Grant has been very successful, not all poor children are managing to access the grant. Thus the way in which the grant is implemented is not always consistent across provinces or even within provinces. Certain implementation problems mean added burdens for poor primary caregivers in their interaction with the Department of Social Development, and some of the other government departments (Mashala, 2016: 19).

3.3.2 Improving household income

According to Statistics South Africa (2012), social security grants contribute 42% of household income in poor families, making grants the most important source of income, since wages contribute only 32%. In the study conducted by Delany, Ismail, Lauren and Ramkissoo, (2008: 34) found that Child Support Grant formed an important source of income for the broader family. In households containing a Child Support Grant recipient, the grant contributed approximately 40% of total income. For personal income this proportion was even higher, with approximately 67% of the individual income coming from the Child Support Grant. This large contribution of the Child Support Grant to household and personal income supports the argument that this money is often used to support the household at large rather the child beneficiary alone (Delany *et al.*, 2008).

With that said, number of studies conducted (Community Agency for Social Enquiry, 2000; Guthrie, 2002: 7) reported that Child Support Grant accounted for an average of 51% of household income in Limpopo. The studies further report that majority of Child Support Grant recipients agree that Child Support Grant had improved their ability to care for the children and buy necessities for them, while others said the grant has not been sufficient enough because of the small size of the grant since it was used to support the whole household. In this respect, Mase (2008: 24) highlight that given the high cost of life where prices for necessity goods are high with the high rate of unemployment, Child Support

Grant in some instances ends up being a means of livelihood for the whole household. In that it is a norm for African people to live together with the unemployed extended family members in one household. Although this reliance on this grant makes these households vulnerable to a significant reduction in income once the child beneficiary reaches 18 years of age (Delany *et al.*, 2008: 31).

However, this can therefore be inferred that Child Support Grant has a significant role in alleviating poverty but limited in itself which calls for other means to supplement the grant to meet all the needs of the beneficiaries. According to Patel (2017: 119), Child Support Grant is limited in meeting the complex social care needs of families and needs to work together with other public services, family support and community level social interventions. That being said, Goldblatt (2006) ascertain that there is a need for research conducted on the social consequences and the grant's nature of utilisation. Thus Child Support grant's nature of utilisation on how to manage the grant despite how small the grant, is neglected in the legislature and a need to focus on this is appropriate (Mutshaeni, 2009). In that Child Support Grant acts as a lifeline for many households in the face of high levels of unemployment and limited opportunities for economic development

3.3.3 Improving food security

Several empirical studies have found robust evidence that receiving social security grant especially the Child Support Grant has a significant role on improving food security in South African household (Tanga and Gutura, 2013: 128; Devereaux and Waidler, 2017: 7) with a large proportion of grant payment spent on food (Handina, 2010: 32). In developing countries such as Malawi, the evaluation of Malawi's Food and Cash Transfers (FACT) showed that 75.5% of the child grant payment was typically spent on groceries (Devereux, Mvula and Solomon, 2006). In Lesotho with approximately 48% of the grant recipients reporting that they never went hungry after the grant had been introduced (Croome and Nyanguru, 2007). The grant therefore appears to be improving food security in most households in developing countries as it is most primarily used to buy essential food given the modest cash value. In South Africa Limpopo, many primary caregivers indicate that they use the grant money to buy groceries for the household and pay for expenses such as electricity because of the lack of other income (Delany, *et al.*, 2008: 34). Households eligible for the Child Support Grant spent a higher proportion of their household budget on

food, thus food expenditure took up a far larger proportion of the household budget than any other single cost.

According to Handina (2010: 32), social security including Child support Grant does not only increase the volume of food available, they also improve on variety of foods consumed within the household. A qualitative evaluation on Child Support Grant confirmed that the Child Support Grant cash is used for a diverse range of food and non-food needs by primary caregivers. Thus food-related expenses covered general groceries such as eggs, rice, braaipack, mealie-meal, sugar, cooking oil, vegetables, toiletries, polony, yogurt, as well as child-specific food, such as formula milk, baby food, Lactogen, yogurt for kids, food for lunch boxes (Devereux and Waidler, 2017: 20). This implies that Child Support Grant in the household enables primary caregivers to access food of sufficient nutritional quality and variety to meet the children's needs (Delany *et al.*, 2008: 34).

Furthermore, Child Support Grant provides households with the means to pay school fees and purchasing power for school peripheral requirements such as uniforms, books and stationery (Handina, 2010: 33). Education is generally accepted as a critical means of reducing inter-generational poverty and promoting development, but access to it is often impeded by cost (Vincent and Cull, 2009: 9). In South Africa receipt of the Child Support Grant is positively correlated with the beneficiary attending school, thus grant receipt appears to decrease the probability that a school-age child is not attending school by over half (Williams, 2007). The national household survey data in 2000 in South Africa indicate that household receipt of a Child Support Grant is associated with a 25% reduction in the non-attendance gap (Samson, Lee, Ndlebe, MacQuene, van Niekerk, Gandhi, Harigaya, and Abrahams, 2004). Thus once fees for the school are paid there is an automatic incentive to let children attend, which subsequently reduces child labour and other absenteeism (Miller, 2008). According to (DSD, SASSA and UNICEF, 2012: 40), education-related expenses included crèche fees, pre-school fees, Grade R fees, pens, bags, calculators, transport, soccer trips and clothing, also covers for books, school uniforms, calculators and transport to school.

However, according to Delany *et al.*, (2008: 35), note that primary caregivers also indicate that the grant allowed them to participate in stokvels or informal savings groups, which in turn allowed them to save for items that require larger payments, as indicated in the following quote "It helps a lot in the home, not just for buying food". You can join a stokvel

and save the money. Maybe if they don't have beds when you get that lump sum then you can use it to buy children the beds (Delany *et al.*, 2008: 35). However, despite the ability to save a portion of the Child Support Grant in local savings schemes, there were many mothers who talked about the difficulties of saving any money from the Child Support Grant each month (Delany *et al.*, 2008: 35; Zembe-Mkabile, Surrender, Sanders, Jackson and Doherty, 2015: 844). Thus it is impossible to save after you have used other money to purchase other basic necessities, in that you won't have enough money left over from the child grant because it's too little.

In addition, according to Handina (2010: 34), Child Support Grant allows impoverished households a guarantee to be able to secure their basic needs throughout the year, regardless of seasonality without selling their productive assets. Thus the grant provides a small amount of capital for investment in productive activities, such as agricultural implements and tools, giving recipients the opportunity to not only protect but also improve their economic wellbeing (Vincent and Cull, 2009). Evidence of investment in assets is ingenerated from social security schemes; in a study conducted in Mdantsane South Africa, a recipient of the Child Support Grant explains "I sell sweets and biscuits so that I don't run out of paraffin". I buy them from the Child Support Grant money. I do this so that when the Child Support Grant runs out, we are not in darkness (Surrender, Ntshongwana, Noble and Wright, 2007). In Swaziland the prospect of a guaranteed income through the Social Security Grants provides access to farm inputs on easy (concessionary) terms, and particularly through agricultural cooperatives and credit unions (Dlamini, 2007).

Therefore, although social security grants in South Africa are relatively generous compared to cash transfer programmes in other countries, they are not sufficient to ensure food security (Devereux and Waidler, 2017: 14-16). Moreover, Social Security Grants are adjusted every year they are not index-linked and the annual increment of the Child Support Grant is typically R10 or R20, irrespective of inflation rates. Thus Child Support Grant can only improve food security in the households but not guarantee the availability of stable food security.

3.3.4 Empowering women in financial decision making

According to Delany *et al.*, (2008: 35), the Child Support Grant is a program designed with the intention of targeting women as recipients in the expectation that women would be more

likely to spend the grant on essential items that will benefit the child. In 2008 approximately half of the Child Support Grant recipients 56% made the important financial decisions in the household themselves. Currently majority of beneficiaries are women estimated to be 98% (Department of Social development, 2014); and this is an increase of 5% since 2008 (Vorster and De Waal, 2008). Child Support Grant benefits mothers and other caregivers in reducing poverty gaps by empowering women to manage cash and household budget, (Khosa, 2013: 3). Thus many programs are designed specifically to place resources in the hands of women based on the assumption that cash will not only empower women but also result in the accrual of human capital and child specific benefits to households in ways that would not occur if men received the cash (Bonilla, Zarzur, Handa, Nowlin, Peterman, Ring and Seidenfield, 2017: 55).

However, despite the promise and potential of Child Support Grant having to empower women, the evidence supporting this outcome is mixed. A study conducted employing a mixed-methods evaluation of the Government of Zambia's Child Grant Program (CGP), involving women and their partners stratified on marital status which examined impacts on women's household decision making and explored through qualitative work. The study found that women in beneficiary households were making more sole or joint decisions within which the impacts translated into relatively modest increases in the number of decision domains a woman is involved in, on average by 0.34%. Qualitatively, the study found that changes in intra household relationships were limited by entrenched gender norms, which indicate men as heads of household and primary decision makers. Although the Child Support Grant increased the proportion of women making primary decisions regarding household budgets and increased their role in household income generation (Bonilla *et al.*, 2017: 57), there were also qualitative reports of increased tension between spouses.

A multi-year household study titled the Gender Dynamics and Impact of the Child Support Grant by (Patel, Hochfeld and Mutwali 2012) explored the gendered outcomes of the grant in relation to women's empowerment specifically, decision-making, care responsibilities, participation, and access to services. The findings suggested that the Child Support Grant supported women's ability to control and allocate resources, thus playing an essential role in improving overall household food security. The study concluded that the Child Support Grant contributes to women's empowerment and has some positive socially transformative

features. In that the grant enhances women's power and control over household decision making in financial matters, general household spending and in relation to child's well-being (Patel *et al.*, 2012). And also indicate that those women who receive Child Support Grant appear to spend more time than those not getting a grant on the social care of children, such as helping with homework, playing with their children, and watching TV with children. Furthermore a study conducted by (Patel, Knijn, and van Wel, 2015) confirmed the importance of the additional income support women received and its linkages to improved financial decision-making power, as well as in other domains related to children, albeit to a lesser extent. However, from the aforementioned arguments, it can therefore be inferred that women are entrusted with the increased financial responsibilities as they were able to retain control over transfers for household investment and savings for emergencies. According to Bonilla *et al.*, (2017: 57), although Child Support Grant have been shown to impact on some quantitative measures of decision making, studies overall highlight important limitations of cash-only interventions in making transformational change.

3.3.5. Access to reciprocal exchange networks

According to Zembe-Mkabile *et al.*, (2015: 843), also notes that grant allows access to reciprocal exchange networks such as informal credit to alleviate poverty. The research reveals that many mothers reported that the existence of the grant allowed them greater capacity and credit-worthiness in their communities as there was a guarantee that they would pay back their loans. In the sense that if there is an illness in the household mothers know that they can go and borrow money because they will get the grant at the end of the month, like even loan sharks. However, given these circumstances, other mothers stressed negatively on the consequences of borrowing money from the loan sharks. In that loan sharks wait for Child Support Grant caregivers (recipients) who owe them money at the hall where the grant is paid out, and due to exorbitant interest rates included, they take the entire amount before caregivers could purchase anything. This implies that Child Support Grant caregivers should avoid borrowing money from loan sharks, since the exorbitant of interests bearing will add to other massive problems that will erode the recipients to sink greatly into poverty and debts. According to De Waal (2012), notes that caregivers due to on-going lending from these informal loan sharks have eroded their grant to literally nothing. The study further highlights that these unscrupulous lenders sink the people who borrow money from them so deeply in debts that for the most part, the borrowers never fully

recover (De Waal, 2012). Thus this is a common habit practiced, although it is not lawful and therefore leaves the recipients indebted and as a result, children are likely to suffer (Khosa, 2013: 47).

3.4 THE NATURE OF THE UTILISATION OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Introduced in April 1998, Child Support Grant has been lauded as one of the government's most successful anti-poverty interventions (UNICEF, 2009 cited in Coeztee, 2011: 1). Child Support Grant was intended to support primary caregivers of children to supplement their resources to ensure adequate growth and development of children (Nkosi, 2009). This grant is intended to support impoverished children (Khosa, 2013: 37). Thus Child Support Grant's proper utilisation on its rightful beneficiaries is of great importance in alleviating childhood poverty. Thus therefore it is of paramount importance that its nature of utilisation should be formally carried out to discover and examine the facts so as to establish the truth about its nature of utilisation.

However, in the study conducted by (Lombard, 2008; Mutshaeni, 2009; Khosa, 2013: 37) found that majority of people utilise the grant on food, clothes for children and contribute for children's school needs. According to Samson, Heinrich, Williams, Kaniki, Muzondo and MacQuene (2008), some families relied solely on the grant as their source of income and that the grant improved their ability to care for their children, particularly in terms of purchasing food. Zembe-Mkabile (2017) argues that mothers and caregivers utilise the grant to buy food for the whole household.

According to Khosa (2013: 38), the kind of food that the caregivers are able to buy includes items such as soap, toothpaste, washing powder as well as maize meal and canned fish. The Department of Social Development (2011) also highlighted some of the food expenses items purchased with the grant which included eggs, biscuits, maize-meal, polony, yoghurt, as well as child-specific food, such as formula milk, baby food, pampers and food for lunch boxes. On these impact, participants also expressed a burden of struggle with their purchasing of clothing as well as their school needs such as warm tracksuits in winter as a result of grant's insufficiency (Khosa, 2013: 39). Thus food formed the largest category of expenditure across all groups in the households (Guthrie, 2002), and this reveals that Child Support Grant is mostly utilised for essential items such as food and basic services

(Delany, Ismail, Graham and Ramkisson, 2008). Thus Child Support Grant contributes extensively in the household though surrounded by vicious circle of undersupply as a result of grant's monetary size.

However, Kanyane (2015: 25) indicates that grant alone is not sufficient enough to alleviate poverty, but must be accompanied by other poverty alleviation programmes and developmental initiatives. And that includes free health care, free school fee and primary school feeding programmes. This can therefore be inferred that formal and informal social security should be integrated in order to help people to meet their needs. According to Verpoorten and Verschraegen (2008: 8), the extension of formal social security schemes cannot be the only answer to alleviate the level of social insecurity and vulnerability of the large group of informal sector workers. But broader approaches to social security are to play a significant role in the South African context, if both existing informal social security mechanisms and formal social security arrangements are integrated (Verpoorten and Verschraegen, 2008: 8).

In addition, spending on expenditure item such as electricity is rarely purchased with the grant (Khosa, 2013: 39). Thus the study found that participants relied on other alternatives for energy such as firewood and candles due to shortage of electricity power supply connected to their household (Khosa and Kaseke, 2017: 360). This implies that Child Support Grant is mostly utilised on perishable items while rarely being utilised on tangible items.

Furthermore, the school fees policy which came into effect in 2007 aimed at making at least 20 % of the poorest schools fee free reduces financial burden and enable primary caregivers to direct the money to other needs of their children (Khosa, 2013: 43). Thus the Child Support Grant money is directed to other school needs such as a school uniform, lunch box and schools trips. According to Department of Social Development (2011), some of the primary caregivers mentioned school-related expenses to include pens, bags, calculators, transport fare, school trips and uniforms. Thus utilising the grant most importantly on school related items has been one of the major uses of the grant (Khosa, 2013: 42).

In addition, Williams (2007) points that Child Support Grant is utilised to pay for Early Childhood Development (ECD) services to Child Support Grant beneficiaries to enable

them to acquire social skills. Thus Child Support Grant helps to provide assistance to children to attend crèche, pre-school, day care centres and provide payment for transportation and money for lunch box. This implies that crèches and day-care centres provide a secure environment for children and provide child-care during the day, which is helpful for working mothers (Department of Social Development 2011). That being said, Early Childhood Development services are vital in promoting the welfare of children and are also beneficial to children (Department of Social Development, 2011).

According to DSD, SASSA and UNICEF (2011), notes that Child Support Grant is frequently utilised to pay contributions to burial societies to cover funeral expenses. Thus Child Support Grant helps to pay for burial societies (Khosa, 2013: 40). In Limpopo Province grant is frequently utilised for payments to burial societies (Department of Social Development, 2011). The prohibitive costs of funerals, particularly transporting the body to rural areas as per African tradition or custom, forced people to form burial societies (Matuku and Kaseke, 2014: 506). This enhances the people's quality of life as it makes them policy holders to cover for the funerals in times of sorrow. In this sense, it is therefore not surprising that some of the people utilised a large amount of the grant to contribute to these burial societies (Khosa and Kaseke, 2017: 362).

However, despite the grant's contribution to payments of burial societies, it becomes difficult to afford other basic needs such as soap and sugar which are household basic necessities (Khosa and Kaseke, 2017: 361). This form of informal social security developed as those excluded from formal social security protection created other mechanisms to provide protection against certain social security risks (Dekker, 2006: 306). Thus those who join these mutual aid schemes do so either because they are covered but the level of protection is not adequate (Kaseke and Olivier, 2008). Burial societies are classified as the self-organised informal social security system (Tshoose, 2010), which provide material and non-material support to members and their families in the event of death (Matuku and Kaseke, 2014: 506). Thus this type of informal social security represents a way of life within traditional black African communities (Tshoose, 2010).

In addition, other forms of self-organised informal social security include stokvels (*Mohodisano*) and rotation money schemes (*Lebele*) (Khosa, 2013: 40). Thus Child Support Grant helps through the contributions and participation of stokvels to promote income security and savings in the household (Matuku and Kaseke, 2014: 506). However,

though during the time of savings there will be struggle in the household to meet the household needs, in the study conducted by (Matuku and Kaseke, 2014: 509) found that when it is your round in the stokvels, the money will be utilised to purchase tangible items such as building materials which include windows and frames, furniture and also help to provide assistance to other children that are at the college. Thus Child Support Grant through the engaging of stokvels help to provide assistance to everyone in the household (Zembe-mkabile, 2017), and enable caregivers to achieve what they would not be able to achieve on their own (Chikadzi and Lusenga, 2013).

Furthermore, Child Support Grant is utilised to impact human capital by facilitating access to health care services. Thus Child Support Grant enables people to access and pay for health care. According to DSD, SASSA and UNICEF (2011), the grant helps the people in time of sickness, in that they take part of the grant to pay the doctor. And when the caregivers are faced with an unexpected medical expense, they utilise the Child Support Grant to borrow against, paying back the loan when they receive the next Child Support Grant payment (DSD, SASSA and UNICEF, 2011). Thus when the child is sick and is the Child Support Grant beneficiary, mothers are able to borrow money from their neighbours and pay it back when they have got the Child Support Grant money. For this reason Child Support Grant performs an informal health insurance role.

According to Zembe-Mkabile (2017), Child Support grant is often used for payment of medication and transport to and from clinics or hospital. Thus much of the expenditure associated with health care is the cost of transport to and from the clinic or hospital which often requires several return trips involving the sick person, as well as their primary caregiver and other concerned family members (DSD, SASSA and UNICEF, 2011). Moreover, caregivers visit private doctors utilising the grant's money. Thus despite the government facilities being heavily subsidised they have their problems, including long waiting times, shortage of medication and occasional complaints about rude staff (DSD, SASSA and UNICEF, 2011). In these sense caregivers' visits private doctors utilising part of the grant to pay for private doctor fee, though private doctors are more expensive than government health services. According to Khosa (2013: 40), Child Support Grant recipients prefer to utilise private health care services. Thus better quality services are provided in private facilities and the queues are not long. Moreover, Department of Social Development (2011) notes that the Child Support Grant is not sufficient to pay for medical

aid, which wealthier South Africans purchase in order to access private health care. Therefore despite the Child Support grant's pioneering role that it play, it is also affected by criticism of misuse or abuse by those who utilise it for their own benefits rather than on its intended purposes.

3.5 THE CRITICISMS AROUND THE MISUSE OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT

Child Support Grant in South Africa is seen as a strategy to alleviate part of the financial burden of parenthood, but it is also rumoured to be misused in most cases by primary caregivers and some young mothers as an income generating scheme (Mokoma, 2008: 9). The Grant predominantly paid to primary caregivers has given rise to accompanying negative criticisms about the grant abuse (Goldblatt, 2016: 115). Primary caregivers (recipients) have been accused of misusing the grant for their own benefit rather than in support of their children (Goldblatt, 2003). In the study conducted by Khosa (2013: 45), majority of the participants highlight that caregivers misuse the grant and do not utilise it in the best interest of the children. The study further reports that caregivers utilise the grant for their own benefit, thus buying clothes for themselves instead of buying food for children while young mothers misuse the grant by giving it to their boyfriends (Khosa, 2013: 45). This implies that caregivers are selfish in sacrificing the needs of the children who are the rightful beneficiaries than that of theirs. With that said, the study conducted by Mutshaeni (2009) on the Impact of Child Support Grant on the Community, with special reference to Fondwe Village, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province, found that most caregivers know the purpose of the Child Support Grant, but are often just ignorant, careless and selfish in their use of the child grant. Thus there is inappropriate use of the state's child grant (Potts, 2012).

However, Department of Social Development (2011) indicate that the existence of poverty in many communities and households means that households use the grant for general household budgets, rather than for child-specific needs. According to Kanyane (2015: 25), where income is limited and per capita income is low, any grant money received in the household, such as Child Support Grant is likely utilised to cover all the household expenses rather than being utilised solely to maintain the targeted child. Thus Child Support Grant acts as a lifeline for many households at the coalface of high levels of unemployment (Kanyane, 2015: 25). In that, it is for this reason that there are instances wherein the grant is not spent specifically on children, but shared among other family

members. This as a result does not always represent misuse of the grant (Department of Social Development, 2011).

Furthermore, it is also believed by the public that mothers abuse the grant by spending it on alcohol, gambling (*betting muchina*) and personal luxuries such as KFC, lipsticks and cell phones (Goldblatt, 2005; DSD, SASSA and UNICEF, 2011). In the study conducted by Khosa (2013: 47), found that majority of the participants argued that some of the Child Support Grant caregivers utilise the grant for buying alcohol and gambling meanwhile children are without food. This portrays how poor people in developing countries sometimes misuse the state's monetary scarce resources. However, in the study conducted by Niehaus and Shapiro (2010) it was found that in developing countries such as Lesotho, Colombia and Mexico, conditional cash transfers were not spent on alcohol or cigarettes.

While in Western Zambia, it was found that less than 0.5 % of the grants were abused on alcohol and tobacco, with 1.8 % of a cash transfer to Mexican households being spent on alcohol (Niehaus and Shapiro, 2010). In South Africa, the Department of Social Development (2011) reported that the grant is sometimes utilised to purchase alcohol, visits to hairdressers by caregivers, spending on boyfriends, gambling, cell phones, clothes for caregivers and luxury foods (such as Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), Chicken Licken and Nandos). Thus although majority of people are of the view that a small amount of Child Support Grant should be saved on a monthly basis to help the children in future, most importantly when they go to tertiary level to pay for university education (Department of Social Development, 2011; Khosa, 2013: 49), the grant gets misused (Khosa, 2013: 49). Most primary caregivers utilise the Child Support Grant on items that the grant was not intended for. However given the above circumstance, the misuse of grant was identified both in relation to the items purchased, and also to the visible child specific situations. For instances on the visible child situations, it was found that certain children in the communities were found not at school, or not wearing uniforms, or without shoes as an indicative of improper use of the grant (DSD, SASSA and UNICEF, 2011). Thus Child Support Grant appeared to be mostly utilised for consumptive expenditure and to a lesser extent to fund children's schooling (Delany, Ismail, Graham and Ramkisson, 2008).

Mothers are also accused of leaving children with grandmothers and not giving them the grant money, leaving the burden of support to the grandmothers. Nomsa Ntlabati, a

counsellor at Ilitha Labantu, an NGO focusing on violence against women and children, said there had been a dramatic increase in young mothers misusing the Child Support Grant, sometimes known as womb fee. Ntlabati said this phenomenon is driven by poverty and the reason that young mothers want to live a good life. In addition, Khethile Kubheka, a coordinator at Pretoria Heartbeat Centre, an organisation assisting abused children, said although the mothers had collected grants, the children suffered from malnutrition with their parents had taken the grants and left them with their grandparents. Fraser and Gordon (1994) argued that this critique is common to many countries where welfare mothers have been labelled as undeserving. The negative attitudes to the women recipients of the Child Support Grant reflect a lack of understanding of the costs and responsibilities involved in the care of babies and children (Goldblatt, 2016: 115). Thus such attitudes highlight the need to deepen and disseminate the understanding of social security as a right rather than a benefit.

Furthermore, government-commissioned research has exposed many claims about the abuse of the Child Support Grant (Steele, 2006 cited in Goldblatt, 2016: 115). The grant provided to carers of children with severe disabilities has also been the subject of recent discussion with the allegation that mothers deliberately abuse alcohol while pregnant in order to bear children with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (Davis, 2013). Thus this grant is provided at a higher amount than the Child Support Grant while also providing the perceived incentives. In addition, a recent study conducted by Patel, Hochfeld and Mutwali (2012) of Child Support Grant in Soweto, found that many saw the grant as positive in alleviating poverty, but also believed that it led to perverse incentive and abuse. According to Kubheka (2013: 23), teenage mothers deliberately fall pregnant to receive the grant available to them to gain financial remuneration and then spend the money irresponsibly instead of feeding their children. Approximately 15.5 % of teenage mothers deliberately fell pregnant with the prospect of being better off financially, with the changed behaviour of making Child Support Grant a perverse incentive (Mokoma, 2008). Such behaviour led teenage mothers to engage in relationships where contraceptives are largely ignored (Makiwane, Desmond, Ritcher and Udjo, 2006).

In addition, Makiwane in his study, a quantitative study on fertility trends in South Africa and their relationship with the introduction of Child Support Grant (2006), argues that Child Support Grant is one of the factors that are responsible for teenage pregnancy, but he

further points out that there are other factors that need to be clearly identified. Previous studies conducted in South Africa, have shown that women who are not married and those with low educational attainment are likely to have unwanted pregnancies (Mokoma, 2008: 9). The findings of the study conducted by Kutu (2009) also indicate that 53 % of the participants believed that the Child support Grant is one of the contributory factors in the high rate of pregnancy. The study revealed that teenage pregnancy emerged not only from the benefit of Child Support Grant, but it has been attributed by other factors. Participants from semi-urban schools believe that television and pornographic movies play a major role in the high rate of pregnancy whereas 53% of the participants from semi-rural schools believed that Child Support Grant is the major contributory factor (Kutu, 2009). Given the above arguments, it can be inferred that, some mothers become desperate and treat the grant as their only weapon of dependent, as some of them need money for school fees and for buying school uniforms and other clothing for themselves. However, Goldblatt is of the opinion that this type of unfounded speculation reinforces stereotypes about young mothers as being irresponsible and criminal.

Therefore, conclusively Mutshaeni (2009) argues that a gap between the caregivers (recipients) and Child Support Grant beneficiaries exist which brings about failure in the exercise of responsibility on the grant's nature of utilisation. Thus recipients are given the grant with the assumption that they will exercise all the necessary responsibility to ensure that beneficiaries do benefit from the grant. But caregivers recklessly utilise the grant despite full responsibility entrusted to them. However, Mutshaeni indicates that placing emphasis on qualifying criteria is not enough, rather policy makers should also take cognisance of the fact that the grant is not always utilised in the best interest of children. And see to it that such major failures are fully addressed in the legislation.

3.6 CONCLUSION

The South African social security system plays a significant role in alleviating poverty, though affected by challenges of undersupply. The reviewed literature reveals that through the use of Child Support Grant majority of people were able to buy basic necessities as the grant served as a source of income for the whole household in most poverty stricken families. Additionally, the grant's nature of utilisation has been applauded extensively as it contributes to income and food security, burial societies and access to health care services, despite the abuse from those who see the grant as benefit rather than a right.

CHAPTER 4: THE NATURE AND IMPACT OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT IN SOUTH AFRICA

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The Child Support Grant in South Africa is one of the most substantial programmes of social assistance in the world (Byukusenge, 2016: 19). The grant has for most of its life been an unconditional cash transfer programme. Since 2000 the coverage of the Child Support Grant grown massively even at different rates across provinces.

In its nature, the grant has played a significant role in addressing primary financial and social challenges in the households that can be identified as preventing children from the attainment of the education as their right to come out of poverty (Sanfilipo, De Neubourg and Martorano, 2012). Although it is a small benefit, the Child Support Grant effectively buffered poor households against shocks, including the worst effects of the global recession of 2009/10, (Hall and Woolard, 2012: 37). According to Neves *et al.*, (2009) social security grant inclusive of the Child Support Grant creates potential economic benefits for instance, wherein it increases beneficiaries' abilities to cope with potential risks and insecurities, and therefore the Child Support Grant lessens recipients' exposure to shocks.

Given these circumstances, the nature of Child Support Grant in determining the historical background of Child Support Grant in South Africa will be addressed. The chapter will discuss the impact of Child Support Grant as it is one of the most successful child poverty alleviation strategies in South Africa.

4.2 NATURE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHILD SUPPORT GRANT

The nature of Child Support Grant in South Africa is characterised by its origins in the apartheid legislation. Social security legislation in South Africa aimed at assisting children has always been racially defined (CASE, 2000: 7). The Children Protection Act of 1913 was one of the first significant laws passed after the creation of the South African State in 1910. The Act was racially discriminatory in that it provided for maintenance grants for white children, and excluded children of other population groups (CASE, 2000: 7). However, in 1947 the Children Protection Act of 1913 provided the basis for the introduction of the State Maintenance Grant.

The State Maintenance Grant (SMG) was introduced in the 1930s to protect white, coloured, and Indian children (CASE, 2000: 7). The grant was provided in two parts, that is, the parental allowance of R430 per month and the child allowance of R135 per month for a maximum of two children (Haarmann, 1998; Lund, 2008). The exclusion of Black African children was due to the discriminatory apartheid policy (Haarmann, 1998). The programme originally and purposefully excluded African and later when it was opened to Africans children living in some parts of the country, it continued largely, to exclude mostly those living outside urban areas (CASE, 2000). This together with the problem of inequality, the government introduced various social assistance measures to accommodate the diverse needs of Black South African children irrespective of race (Mashala, 2016: 1). However, though the inequalities related to the State Maintenance Grant were of a different nature. Since 1992 there had been no statutory racial discrimination in the allocation of the grant, but access was still highly racially biased and manifested a poor correlation with poverty (The Lund Committee Report for Child and Family Support, 1996). However, in 1995 the new government moved to reconfigure this form of support, replacing State Maintenance Grant with Child Support Grant.

In 1995, a need to extend the grant to all race groups arises and that raised a serious concern about the financial implications of such extension on the grant (Kanyane, 2015: 17). The necessity of extending social security to all those in need and particularly children was underlined by Article 37 of the National Plan of Action for Children (Department of Welfare, 1995). That concern prompted the committee of the Minister of Welfare and the Provincial Members of the Executive Council (Welfare MINMEC) to establish the Lund Committee on Child and Family support (Kanyane, 2015: 18).

In the year 1996, the Lund Committee was established to investigate issues around the extension of child grants, and explore policy options regarding social security for children and families (Haarman, 1998). The report of the Committee recommended a new strategy to replace the existing State Maintenance Grant. This strategy included a child-linked grant with a lower monetary value than that of the State Maintenance Grant, but targeted at a wider group of deserving beneficiaries, particularly those living in the most disadvantaged areas, that is, rural areas and informal settlements (Lund Committee Report for Child and Family Support, 1996). As such, the Lund Committee's recommendation was to move

away from a family-based benefit to a child-focused one, following the child rather than the household (Lund, 2008 cited in Kanyane, 2015: 18).

The Child Support Grant was created in 1998 by the first democratic government in order to reach poor children who were largely uncovered by social assistance measures at the time (Drolet, 2016: 199), with the central purpose of helping children to acquire basic sustenance (United Nations Institute Children's Emergency Fund and Department of Social Development, 2008). Historically, the grant forms a constitutive part of the social development agenda embraced in the South African welfare (Midgley, 1995; Department of Welfare, 1997; Triegaardt, 2005).

It is distributed through primary caregivers who are predominantly biological mother, guardian, women or grandmother of the child (Drolet, 2016: 199). The grant, which is paid to the primary caregiver, is currently the most important form of assistance for children in poor families and offers a potential source of protection against poverty (Tiberti, Maisonnave, Chitiga, mabugu, Robichaud and Ngandu, 2013: 1). The Child Support Grant amount disbursed per grant is small which amount to 380 per month (Drolet, 2016: 199). The Child Support Grant has expanded markedly in recent years, until 2008, it was only available to children aged 0-13 years, in 2009, this was extended to include children aged 14 and from 2010 the age of eligibility was increased to include children up to the age of 18 years (SASSA, 2010). The Social Assistance Act and its regulations were couched in terms that allowed for the age of eligibility to be extended by the Minister of Social Development through notice in the Government Gazette (Voster, Rossouw and Muller, 2000: 27). It is a cash transfer program that reaches 11.7 million poor children every month (SASSA, 2015: 1), which is over 60 % of the total population of children in South Africa (Statistics South Africa, 2014: 9).

However, according to Social Assistance Act (2004), requirements to qualify for or to be eligible for Child Support Grant involve that the grant is applied to children from birth to the age of eighteen years (18), to a maximum of six biological and non-biological children. It is paid to the person who meets all the requirements of the Child Support Grant (Government of South Africa, 2012/2013). Thus it should be a primary caregiver who receives the grant on behalf of the child. The beneficiary must meet the following requirements:

- Be South African citizen or permanent resident.
- The applicant and the child must reside in South Africa.
- The applicant must be primary caregiver of the child/children concerned.
- The child must be borne after 31 December 1997.
- The applicant and spouse must meet the requirements of the means test.
- The applicant cannot apply for more than six non-biological children.
- The child cannot be cared for in a state institution.

According to Martin (2014: 75), Child Support Grant is not sufficient for South Africa to meet its international and constitutional obligations in relation to social assistance. The state's Child Support Grant cash transfer is too small to make a strong impact on poverty levels (CASE and Children's Institute, 2012), and inadequate to meet the basic needs of a child (Frye and Bockerhoff, 2011; Kanyane, 2015: 19). The Child Support Grant has the lowest value of all children's grants, as in 2012 it was 2.7 times smaller than the Foster Care Grant (CASE and Children's institute, 2012). Thus the grant cannot adequately discharge its obligation, as it is not sufficient. Given this circumstance, the low value of the Child Support Grant, exacerbated with the disparity between it and other grant, is problematic in several respects. Kanyane argues that this is demonstrated in a practical way by the primary caregivers gravitating from the Child Support Grant to the Foster Care Grant as the latter is higher than the former in monetary value. According to CASE and Children's Institute (2012), Child Support Grant is inequitable in that some orphans benefits from the much higher-value Foster Care Grant, and others from the lower-value Child Support Grant, particularly given that there is no apparent rational basis for the distinction.

However, despite its small monetary value, Child Support Grant has a significant impact on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries (Lund, 2011). The grant has been shown to have an impact on the reduction of poverty; by addressing the problem of malnutrition, promoting labour market participation and increasing school attendance (Department of Social Development, 2004).

4.3 THE IMPACT OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

According to Voster *et al.*, (2000: 40) cited in Mashala (2016: 19), notes that an immediate problem in South Africa is that there is no regular national indicators on child poverty and well-being collected to provide a base-line data set of the Child Support Grant.

Furthermore due to short life of span of grant, a full assessment of its impact cannot yet be undertaken. Thus only measures of effective administration can be collected which involves amongst other up-take rates, problems with the means-test and administrative systems (Voster *et al.*, 2000: 65). Although Lombard (2008) argues that the impact of social security grants including Child Support Grant in addressing poverty should not be ignored. However, in this study the impact of Child Support Grant will be done by evaluating the impact of Child Support Grant in addressing the problems of malnutrition, promoting job search and increasing school attendance.

4.3.1 Reduction of malnutrition/hunger

Africa is home to 23 million children who are persistently hungry as they live in food insecure households (World Food Programme, 2009). For millions of children today, hunger is one of the most pervasive and damaging phenomena (Government Gazette, 2014). However, cash grants targeted on children directly alleviate poverty and vulnerability of children living in poor households (Khosa, 2013: 20). Child Support Grant provides a valuable safety net to poor households, with significant benefits for both women and children (Patel, 2011). Since the majority of beneficiaries spend the grant on food, it contributes to household food security, and provides some financial security to women independent of their partners. This is however because of the number of studies conducted on the Child Support Grant which indicate that the grant is spent mainly on food (Lombard 2008); which help to reduce the level of hunger. The Child Support Grant is the sole source of income for many poor families, and thus essential for their survival (Khosa, 2013: 21). Child Support Grant is good for children's well-being and strengthens the resilience of their households (Devereux, Webb and Handa, 2011: 12).

The impact of Child Support Grant in alleviating poverty is much larger, with the percentage of children in poverty falling from 42.7 % to 34.3 % and those children in ultra-poverty from 13.1 % to 4.2 % (Pauw and Mncube, 2007). Thus, cash grants address the underlying causes of poverty, by enabling poor households to invest in physical, social, and human capital assets.

4.3.2 Labour market participation

The child support grant has a positive impact on labour-market participation although the channels are different from those predicted by conventional theory (Van der Berg and

Siebrits, 2010). A survey carried out by the Human Sciences Research Council under the South African Social Attitudes Survey reported that the poor prefer labour-market income to that from grants (Noble, Ntshongwana and Surrender, 2008). Most Child Support Grant recipients tend to participate in the labour force, following receipt of the grant (Williams, 2007). Participatory research conducted shows that Child Support Grant recipients prefer to work than depending on Child Support Grant (Lund, 2011). The grant has positive impact by increasing job search and employment (Khosa, 2013: 23). Thus Child Support Grant may give the recipients some income stability to meet subsistence needs, enabling them to hold a job (Williams, 2007). Though searching for a job can be expensive, both in terms of expenditure such as transportation or telephone calls and the opportunity cost of not performing other remunerative or non-remunerative labour (Tanga and Gutura, 2013: 133).

According to Surrender, Ntshongwana, Noble and Wright (2007), many people, senior government officials included, believe that social security grants, particularly Child Support Grant, create welfare dependency syndrome and encourage people to leave work, or not to work at all. Thus, Child Support Grant has been condemned for fostering dependency syndrome and regarded as a contributing factor in teenage pregnancy (Tseeke, 2015: 18). However, Mashala (2016: 1) argues that despite the grant's demonstrated role played in poverty reduction, Sampson (2004) views the social security, which includes Child Support Grant, with a degree of scepticism. In its strongest form, the welfare dependency argument holds that Child Support Grant discourages employment, supports lazy and immoral behaviour and provides only a short term solution at best (Sampson, 2004). SASSA indicated a marked increase in teenage pregnancies, which is believed to be attributed by Child Support Grant afforded to teenage mothers (Faku, 2015). SASSA's 2014 statistics report that the number of Child Support Grant beneficiaries was 11 574 493 and in the year 2015 increased to 11 907 798 (Faku, 2015).

4.3.3 School attendance

Schooling is a widely crucial part of the development process and poverty alleviation strategies of many developing countries (Santana, 2008: 1). Developing countries have come to realise that targeting resources towards programs that enhance children's level of human capital highly contributes to break the inter-generational cycle of poverty (Rawlings and Rubio, 2003). However, in countries such as Mexico, Ecuador and Nicaragua as well

found that Child Support Grant have a positive impact in school attendance and a reduction of the participation of boys and girls in work activities (Skoufias and Parker, 2001; Maluccio and Flores, 2004; Araujo and Schady, 2001). However, In South Africa, little research has been done on evaluating the impact of the Child Support Grant on school attendance. Samson, Lee, Ndlebe, Mac Quene, van Niekerk, Gandhi, Harigaya, and Abrahams (2004) found that the Child Support Grant positively affected children's school attendance in three ways. Thus the grant helps by lowering the high costs of attending school e.g. more disposable income to purchase school supplies, uniforms, tuition; and increasing the resources available to schools. According to Khosa (2013: 23), many poor children cannot attend school due to the costs associated with education. Poor communities which lack resources provide lower quality educational services. As a result, this affects school enrolment rates in many communities.

However, in the study conducted by Department of Social Development (2004) found that children in households that receive social security grants, particularly Child Support Grant are more likely to attend school. Case, Hosegood and Lund (2005) argue that children who received the Child Support Grant are significantly more likely to be enrolled in school in the years following receipt of the grant than equally poor children of the same age. Thus the number of primary school enrolments has been reported to have increased to 90 % in South Africa (Lund, 2011), while decreasing non-attendance by 54 % (Williams 2007). However, though the grant helped to overcome the impact of poverty on school enrolment, some of the factors were found to be negatively affecting school attendance, which is poverty, lack of support from families and inability to access transport to and from school (Alliance for Children's Entitlement to Social Security, 2006).

However, Lund (2011) highlights that an attempt by the government to impose conditionality in the field of education is a policy issue which needs further attention. Though Child Support Grant play an important role in encouraging school attendance, given the history of the South African primary and secondary school systems, many poor children, especially Child Support Grant beneficiaries attend schools in which both personnel and material resources are sorely lacking. Thus the quality of education provided in poorer schools is very low despite the school policy projects initiated. To begin with, the school fees policy initiative, this was set up to reduce the tendencies of absenteeism (Sayed and Motala, 2009 cited in Khosa, 2013: 43). In terms of this policy, resource allocation differs from province

to province based on rates of income, unemployment and illiteracy within the school area (Sayed and Motala 2009). Thus poor provinces such as the Eastern Cape and Limpopo have 56 % of learners in poorer schools which are now being declared no-fee schools (Sayed and Motala, 2009); although the quality of education in many schools mostly in rural areas has not yet changed definitely.

4.4 CONCLUSION

In summary, Child Support Grant as a poverty alleviation mechanism portrays a significant impact in the lives of the children and that of the caregivers. The literature reviewed reveals that Child Support Grant provides assistance in terms of school attendance whereby majority of children are able to enrol at school and day care through the help of the grant. Furthermore, the grant has been able to help in reducing the level of malnutrition not only in regard to the children but for the whole household as it is utilised as a household income in most of the poor families. In addition, the literature consulted display that Child Support Grant encourages labour market participation, as the grant help the recipients seeking for jobs as well as job application and paying money for transport to work.

CHAPTER 5: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

5.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter research design and methodology which encompass quantitative and qualitative research design methods, data collection instruments and analysis, target population and sampling size and procedure to ensure quality criteria were discussed. Ethical consideration, validity and reliability of the study were also discussed.

5.2 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Research design is a master plan that specifies the methods and procedures for collecting and analysing the needed information (Zikumund and Babin, 2007: 64). It is the blue print for conducting a study that maximises control over factors that could interfere with the validity of the findings (Burns and Grove, 2001: 223). Quantitative and qualitative research methodology was employed in this study.

For the purpose of this study, quantitative research was employed to capture and analyse record of the biographical profile of the participants. This was done to determine and generalise the facts derived from the participants in relation to the study. In this study quantitative research was employed since it uses methods from the natural sciences that are designed to ensure objectivity, generalisability and reliability (Weinreich, 2009). During the data collection, the random selection of research participants from the study population was done in an unbiased manner. This helped to classify and categorise the kinds of primary caregivers who were receiving the grant on behalf of the children. According to Van der Merwe (1996), quantitative research design is a research approach aimed at testing theories, determining facts, demonstrating relationships between variables, and predicting outcomes.

Qualitative research design in the study was employed to determine the administrative challenges of Child Support Grant policy has as a poverty alleviation mechanism on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries. This was done to understand the manner in which these challenges affect the people. Weinreich (2009) indicates that the purpose of qualitative research is to provide the researcher with the perspective of target audience members through immersion in a culture or situation and direct interaction with the people under study. Patton (2001: 39) defines qualitative research as an approach that uses a

naturalistic approach which seeks to understand phenomena in context-specific settings, such as real world settings, where the researcher does not attempt to manipulate the phenomena of interest. This implies that in the qualitative paradigm the researcher becomes an instrument of data collection, and results may differ greatly depending on who conducts the research.

5.3 Study Area

The study was conducted within the four communities of Mankweng area with specific reference to Mamotintane and Ngaleng villages which comprises of Motholo, Iraka and Mshongoville. Mankweng is an area which is approximately 30kms away of east Polokwane, the capital city of Limpopo province of South Africa. The area is along the R71 road to Tzaneen tropical garden town not far from the renowned Zion Christian Church (ZCC) headquarters known as Zion City, Moria. Mankweng is well-known as “Turf” named after the Turf-loop farm where the University of Limpopo is built. Mankweng area per language and race group comprises of 33738 people with 99 % of Black Africans, 94 % Northern Sotho, followed by 0, 79 % coloured and 0, 63 % White Africans. The population is predominantly Sepedi speaking with exception to xitshonga and Venda language speakers (Census, 2011).

5.4 Target population

Target population is the total number of elements of a specific population relevant to the research project (Neelankavil, 2007: 234). It is the collection of objects, events or individuals having some common characteristics that the researcher is interested in studying (Mouton, 1996: 134). The target population of this study comprised of two hundred (200) primary caregivers who are categorised as biological mothers, grandmothers of the children, immediate relatives and guardians selected from Mamotintane and Ngaleng villages. And forty (40) Child Support Grant beneficiaries who were selected from Magwadiba Higher Primary School to hear their views as to whether Child Support Grant is utilised on the best interest of their needs. The study further included one (1) official from Limpopo SASSA Region office to unearth whether Child Support Grant was administered accordingly as is intended by the government.

5.5 Sampling size and procedure

Sampling, according to Vockell (1983: 103), defined it as strategies which enable the researcher to pick a subgroup from a larger group and then use the subgroup on a larger basis for making judgement about the larger group. In sampling there are four important procedures that can be followed, namely random sampling, stratified random sampling, cluster random sampling and purposive sampling. Out of the four sampling procedures, purposive and cluster random sampling were chosen in this study because of their good characteristics and representativeness. Two hundred and forty (240) structured questionnaires were distributed; wherein out of this 200 questionnaires were distributed to the primary caregivers while 40 questionnaires were distributed to Child Support Grant beneficiaries. Four communities have been purposively selected to conduct this study. Fifty (50) primary caregivers from the age of eighteen (18) to fifty (50) years were selected from Mamotintane, Motholo, Iraka and Mshongoville communities of the study area. A total of fifty (50) structured questionnaires were distributed to each (50) primary caregivers in each of the communities selected for the study in order to identify the perceptions on the grant's nature of utilisation and to unearth how the grant impacted the lives of the people. Primary caregivers in this study included the biological mothers, grandmothers of the children, immediate relatives and guardians. Cluster random sampling was utilised in this regard because is most appropriate when the population is very large or geographically spread out; and in that it reduces travel costs (Onwuegbuzie, Jiao and Bostick, 2004: 107). This was done because the population of this study was clustered rather than single-units elements which are easily randomly selected (Johnson and Christensen, 2016).

Child Support Grant beneficiaries from the age of thirteen (13) to eighteen (18) years were purposively selected from Magwadiba Higher Primary school. A total of forty (40) structured questionnaires were distributed to forty learners, males and females from grade 7 class who are the grant beneficiaries. This was undertaken to determine whether the Child Support Grant is utilised in the best interest of the beneficiaries. The researcher targeted these beneficiaries at school, for the reason that if they were to be selected directly from their households, the study would have been biased since the parents would be uncomfortable for allowing their children to disclose such sensitive information. Purposive random sampling in this study helped the researcher to select a sample on the basis of the

researcher's own knowledge of the population, its elements and the nature of the research aims (Babbie, 2004: 193).

SASSA official from the office of Limpopo Region was selected in this study. The government official was consulted to determine the administrative challenges of Child Support Grant system in order to recommend as to how these challenges can be surmounted and resolved by the Agency, which oversees the administration of the Child Support Grant in South Africa.

5.6 Data collection instruments

Burns and Grove (2001: 49), define data collection as the precise systematic gathering of information relevant to specific research objectives or questions. According to Burns and Grove (2001: 50), data can be collected in several ways depending on the study and can include a variety of methods; however, the research objectives must be accomplished with the instrument used. The main instruments of data collection in the study were literature survey, structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews

5.6.1 Literature survey

The study utilised secondary data which was drawn from the existing reviewed literature on the number of existing documents. The study consulted government gazette, legislative frameworks, published world summit reports and files, books, journal articles and other related mass-media reports. Thus in Public Administration discipline not only books on aspects of public administration should be consulted, but also the documents and files of public institutions (Brynard and Hanekom, 1997: 30). The data required for the study drawn from the literature were the arguments about the historical background of social security system and the Child Support Grant policy frameworks for improving the social security services of beneficiaries within society.

5.6.2 Structured questionnaire

In this study detailed structured questionnaire was used to extract raw data that was presented as primary data. Sharma (2008: 20) referred to structured questionnaire as a formal list of questions framed so as to get the facts, with a pre-arranged order. The study employed two structured research questionnaires for data collection. The questionnaires

used had mixed questions which are open-ended and closed ended questions. Operationally, the questionnaires were translated into Sepedi language to help the participants to understand the questions better since most people in rural areas prefer using Sepedi language. The researcher restructured the questionnaire in this format to allow the participants the opportunity to express their views in their own terms. The use of structured questionnaire was employed in the study since is less expensive and less time consuming. The data collected from the selected primary caregivers was done through a household daily visit which was undertaken in a form of focus group and also individually depending on the atmosphere of the environment.

5.6.3 Semi-structured interviews

In this study, semi-structured interviews were utilised to collect data. Semi-structured interviews comprised of a list of questions that guide the researcher when conducting the interviews (Legard, Keegan and Ward, 2003). The government official from the office of SASSA Limpopo Region was interviewed. The data collection from SASSA Limpopo Region was done through a single day field work with the use of an in-person interview to minimise non response in order to maximise the quality of the data collected. This was undertaken because in-person interviews make it easier for the participant to clarify answers or ask for clarification wherever necessary for some of the items on the interview guide.

Furthermore, an audiotape recorder was utilised to record the interview proceedings that were transcribed into primary data. Before the interview proceedings could start, the researcher explained to the participant about the audio tape recording that is going to be used to allow the researcher to refer back to the interview and take a fresh look at the interview data. The use of audio tape recording was undertaken for the reason that it gives an accurate summary of the interview whereby all the answers captured during the interview as well as the comments made by the researcher are saved for reference (Puneet, Arora and Kalpesh, 2013).

5.7 DATA ANALYSIS

According to Creswell (2009), data analysis encompasses making sense of raw data, establishing meaning out of it and formulating theories. For the purpose of this study, quantitative data was captured and analysed using content analysis. Content analysis is a

technique for systematically describing written, spoken or visual communication (Stambor, 2005). The study chose to employ content analysis because it enables a more objective evaluation than comparing content based on the impressions of a listener. In analysing data, the researcher began by reading and re-reading the written responses from the participants to become familiar with them. The researcher organised and prepared all the raw data that was collected and type them. When the data was organised as cases and variables in a database, the Excel spread sheet was imported to Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to be captured and classified for data analysis. Thus Statistical Package for Social Sciences is a data management and statistical analysis tool which has a very versatile data processing capability (Babbie, Halley and Zaino, 2003). The data drawn from the questionnaire was analysed by using percentages, pie charts, bar graphs, with frequency of theme.

For the purpose of the interviews, qualitative data was analysed using thematic analysis. The study employed thematic analysis because is used to analyse classifications and present themes (patterns) that relate to the data (Alhojailan, 2012: 10); to illustrates the data in great detail and deals with diverse subjects via interpretations (Boyatzis, 1998). During the interview proceedings, the researcher was apart from making use of tape recorder, made notes that assisted her to retrieve and analyse the data collected. In analysing the data, the researcher began by listening to the participant's verbal descriptions to obtain a general sense of what the data could mean. The researcher encoded the discussions derived from the views of the participant, categorise data and identifies them into theme. Thereafter the data was interpreted by establishing meaning out of it and formulating theories aligned with the researcher's understanding. The data was then adopted by comparing the information from the reviewed literature with the findings of the study.

5.8 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY

Validity is concerned with the meaningfulness of research components (Drost, 2011: 114). According to Brynard and Hanekom (2006: 47), reliability pertains to the accuracy and consistency of measures. In this study, validity and reliability has been ensured. First and foremost, the researcher ensured validity and reliability through dependability. Dependability involves evaluating the findings and the interpretation and recommendations of the study to make sure that they are all supported by the data received from the

informants of the study (Cohen, Manion and Morrison, 2011; Tobin and Begley, 2004). In this study, this was done by structuring the questionnaire and interview questions in such a manner that those questions and results obtained from them could be applicable in similar investigations in the future.

Validity and reliability was also ensured through the degree of credibility. Credibility involves the confidence that can be placed in the truth of the research findings (Holloway and Wheeler, 2002; Macnee and McCabe, 2008). In this study, this was done when the researcher visited the participants' homes to make them more comfortable and allowing them to express themselves freely, in order to help the researcher to make comparisons based on the responses given by the participants when the researcher conducted the study. The researcher also ensured the credibility of the study through peer debriefing. According to Guba (1981), peer debriefing provides inquirers with the opportunity to test their growing insights and to expose themselves to searching questions. In this study, peer debriefing was done by welcoming the supervisor to scrutinize the research study in general to provide inputs.

Furthermore, the validity and reliability was also ensured through the degree of confirmability. Confirmability is concerned with establishing that data and interpretations of the findings are not figments of the inquirer's imagination, but is clearly derived from the data (Tobin and Begley, 2004: 392). In this study, this was confirmed when the researcher recorded interview proceedings that was presented to the supervisor. This was undertaken by ensuring that the research findings of the study emanate from the data collected from the participants not from the researcher's own perspective or her assumptions based on how well the researcher knows the area of the study.

5.9 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ethical considerations is referred to as a system of morals, rules of behaviour and provide researchers with a code of moral guidelines on how to conduct research in a morally acceptable way (Struwig and Stead, 2001). Ethics serves to confirm to the standards of conduct of a given profession or group (Babbie, 2004: 64). Since approval to conduct the research is essential, a letter of ethical clearance was obtained from the University of Limpopo Turfloop Research Ethical Committee. Furthermore, a letter from the Department of Public Administration to request permission to conduct the study was obtained and

subsequently given to Bjatladi Traditional Council, Magwadiba Higher primary school and Limpopo SASSA Region. Permission to conduct the study was obtained from underheadmanship of Mathosa M.J of Mamotintane and Mamabolo R.J of Ngaleng villages of Segopje, ga-Mamabolo, within the jurisdiction of kgoshigadi Mamabolo M.V as well as Magwadiba Higher Primary School and SASSA Limpopo Region office. According to Welman, Kruger and Mitchell (2005: 201), the researcher must take into cognisance ethical issues when conducting research:

- Voluntary Participation

In order to execute this study effectively, the researcher advised the participants that their participation is voluntary, in that no remuneration or incentive will be given to the participants. According to Babbie (2004), participation in a research study should be voluntary. Thus nobody should be coerced into participating in a research project (De Vos, Strydom, Fouche, and Delport, 2005: 59).

- Informed Consent

Obtaining informed consent is another ethical issue that the researcher should take into consideration. First and foremost when conducting the study, the researcher explained why the research was undertaken and its purpose to the participants. This involves informing the participants about the nature of the research and obtaining the participants' verbal or written consent to participate (Babbie 2004: 71). The researcher allowed the participants to read and understand the participant consent form before giving their approval.

- Ensuring Confidentiality and Anonymity

To ensure confidentiality and anonymity, the participants were labelled respectively in terms of the number of the questionnaire instead of using their names. The researcher avoided to write the participants' names on the study questionnaire. Thus the participants' true identity remained anonymous. Furthermore, the researcher ensured that the study is conducted with honesty and good stewardship of public resources used to conduct research. By virtue of Limpopo SASSA Region office's participation in this study, the researcher ensured that sensitive information was kept confidential. The researcher avoided research misconduct which involves fabrication of data used without the concern of the Agency. Thus all the

responses written during research interviews were presented exactly the responses were from the participant.

- Avoidance of Harm

According to Walsh and Wiggins (2003: 110), the golden rule of research is that the researcher should never do any harm to research participants. Although Babbie (2004) believes that avoiding harm is easy in theory but difficult in practice. In order to avoid harm in this study, the researcher was able to ensure that the research is commissioned and conducted with respect for all groups in society regardless of race, ethnicity, religion and culture, by protecting the participants from indignity or personal embarrassment. During field work, the researcher avoided to ask the participants whether they are able to fill the questionnaires on their own as this would harm the participants' feelings. The researcher was able to fill the questionnaires on behalf of the participants.

5.10 CONCLUSION

This chapter presented different research design and methodology used in this study. In this chapter responses derived from the research findings were reported back to research design and methodology. This was done to test the hypothesis that guided the study to see whether the intended results are achieved while the chapter to follow discusses research findings, data analysis and the interpretation of the research results.

CHAPTER 6: RESEARCH FINDINGS, DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

The chapter presents the research findings, data analysis and the interpretation of results obtained from the researched study area. The study was conducted at Mankweng area in Polokwane Municipality Limpopo province. The purpose to conduct the study was to investigate the role and impact of social security grant on poverty alleviation using a case study of Child Support Grant in order to evaluate the basis of the introduction of social security grants; analysing the legislative frameworks and the role of Child Support Grant in poverty alleviation; evaluating the impact that Child Support Grant has a poverty alleviation mechanism on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries and investigating the nature of the utilisation of Child Support Grant in South Africa.

The study was conducted in the four selected communities of Mankweng area: Mamotintane, Ga-Motholo, Iraka and Mshongville. The study chose these communities because they are less-developed and portray the features required to draw the conclusion of this study. The researcher excluded other sections of Mankweng area which include the affluent Unit A, Unit B, Unit C, Unit D and Toronto because these sections are well-developed and many households' standard of living are acceptably proper and decent. The study employed two approaches for data collection. Firstly, the study employed structured questionnaire to gather the biographical information of participants. Secondly, the use of in-person interview approach was employed to determine the administrative challenges of Child Support Grant policy. Therefore, the chapter presented and analysed the results of the research findings collected in the four communities investigated.

6.2 RESEARCH FINDINGS

This study investigated the role and impact of social security grant on poverty alleviation on a case of Child Support Grant using Mamotintane, Ga-Motholo, Iraka and Mshongville as a study area. The data collected from these communities was done through the use of structured questionnaires and in-person interview. The researcher employed these data collection instruments tools because they complement each other since structured questionnaires restrict participants to a single phrase while interviews help to combat the disadvantages of the questionnaire (Sedibe, 2006: 92). These research instruments tools

employed for data collection were used to address variety of themes relevant to the research objectives. The data collected through the use of structured questionnaire involved primary caregivers which included biological mothers, grandmothers of the children, immediate relatives and guardians as well as Child Support Grant beneficiaries. Furthermore, in-person interview was conducted with the government official from SASSA Limpopo Region. The analysis and presentation of results for this study was therefore done in two ways. Firstly the study presented the data collected through structured questionnaires and secondly the study provided the data collected through in-person interviews.

6.3 DATA COLLECTED THROUGH QUESTIONNAIRES

The aim of data collection methods is to define the method followed for collecting data of the study. The data required for the study was collected by means of a questionnaire survey. According to Gay and Airasian (2000: 280), a questionnaire is an instrument that attempts to obtain comparable data from all members of a sample because the same questions were asked to all research participants. Thus the information provided by the participants is converted into data and that information makes it possible to measure what participants think (Sedibe, 2006: 92).

A structured questionnaire was chosen and constructed to obtain data from the targeted population of the study area with the help of primary caregivers and as well as Child Support Grant beneficiaries. Questions included in the research questionnaire were valid and relevant to the objectives and aligned with the theoretical assumptions of the literature of the study. As Ary, Jacobs and Razavieh (1985: 357) points that in order to ensure validity of questionnaires, the theoretical assumptions contained in the literature have to be contained in the questionnaires. However, though statistical methods are very important when conducting a quantitative study as they allow the researcher to infer from the data's information in order to apply or generalise to the larger population, the type of questionnaire used involved a likert scale. The Likert scale was used in this study as it assesses what it is supposed to assess by asking the participants to show whether they strongly disagree, disagree, strongly agree or agree with formulated statement of the topic (Sedibe, 2006).

Two sets of structured questionnaires were constructed as a means of answering the research questions formulated in chapter one of the study. These questionnaires were slightly the same but differed greatly as they addressed different participants. The

researcher administered the questionnaires accordingly striving towards the 100% response rate. The first questionnaire that was directed to primary caregivers addressed the biographical information, the nature of Child Support Grant and the impact of child Support Grant. Therefore the data that was captured in the Statistical Package for Social Science through structured questionnaire provided the following results.

6.3.1 Biographical information of participants

The biographical information, according to Thomas (1998: 162) is based on the assumptions that its categories may be associated with the study's target variables. This is also supported by Houser (1998: 99) when reporting that demographic characteristics influence the outcome or dependent variables. In this study, the biographical information of participants involved gender profile, age group, marital status, educational status, employment status, the name of the communities where the participants comes from and the medium instruction as being done with the questionnaire for the demographic characteristics of the participants.

6.3.1.1 *Gender profile*

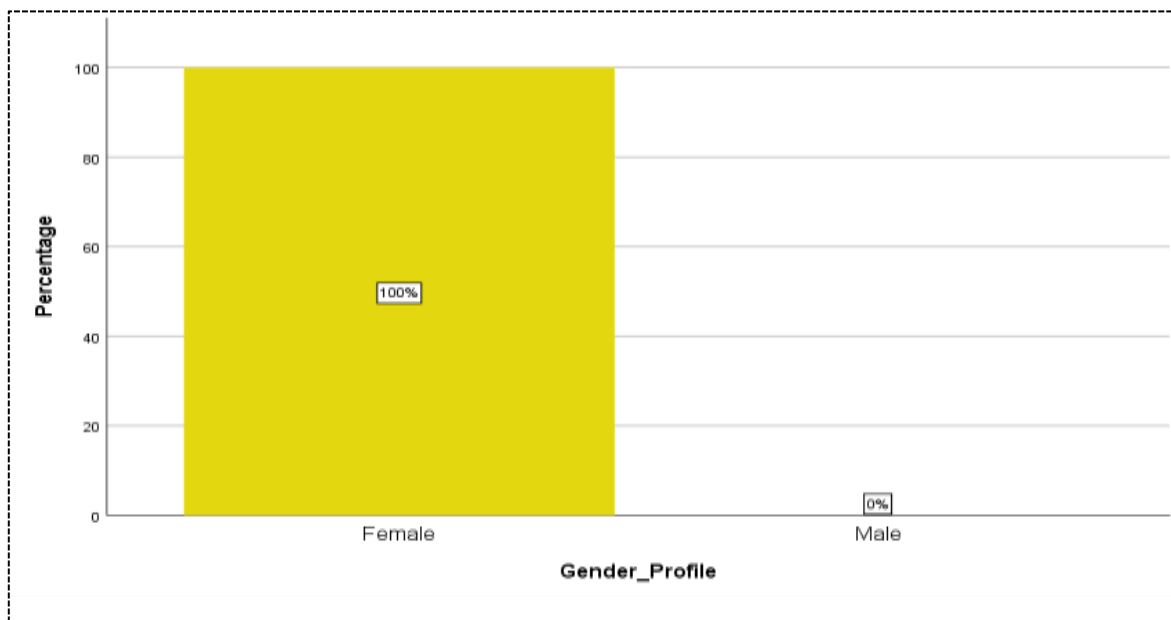
According to Hughes, Camden, Yangchen (2016: 140), gender denotes to a person's deeply-felt, inherent sense of being a boy, a man, or male, a girl, a woman, or female, or an alternative gender. Gender facilitates the distinct knowledge and skills possessed by male and female. In this study the gender profile is undertaken to determine how many of male and female primary caregivers took part in the study.

In establishing the primary caregivers' gender profile of the study, the literature records that less than 1.5% of children who are registered for a Child Support Grant have male as primary caregivers (Hunter and Adato, 2007; Leatt, 2004: 21). That being the case, in the study conducted by Patel, Knijn, Gorman-Smith, Hochfeld, Isserow, Garthe, Chiba, Moodley and Kgaphola (2017: 2) found that female primary caregivers mainly contributed 97% with very few male primary caregivers receiving the Child Support Grant.

However, in other provinces there is little difference with regard to the issue. Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, Gauteng, and the Western Cape all have more than 99% of female recipients (Leatt, 2004: 21). The gender profile of participants sampled from Mamotintane, Motholo, Iraka and Mshongoville was probed in this study to determine

gender inequality to identify which gender group dominated the other as the primary caregivers.

Figure 1: Gender profile

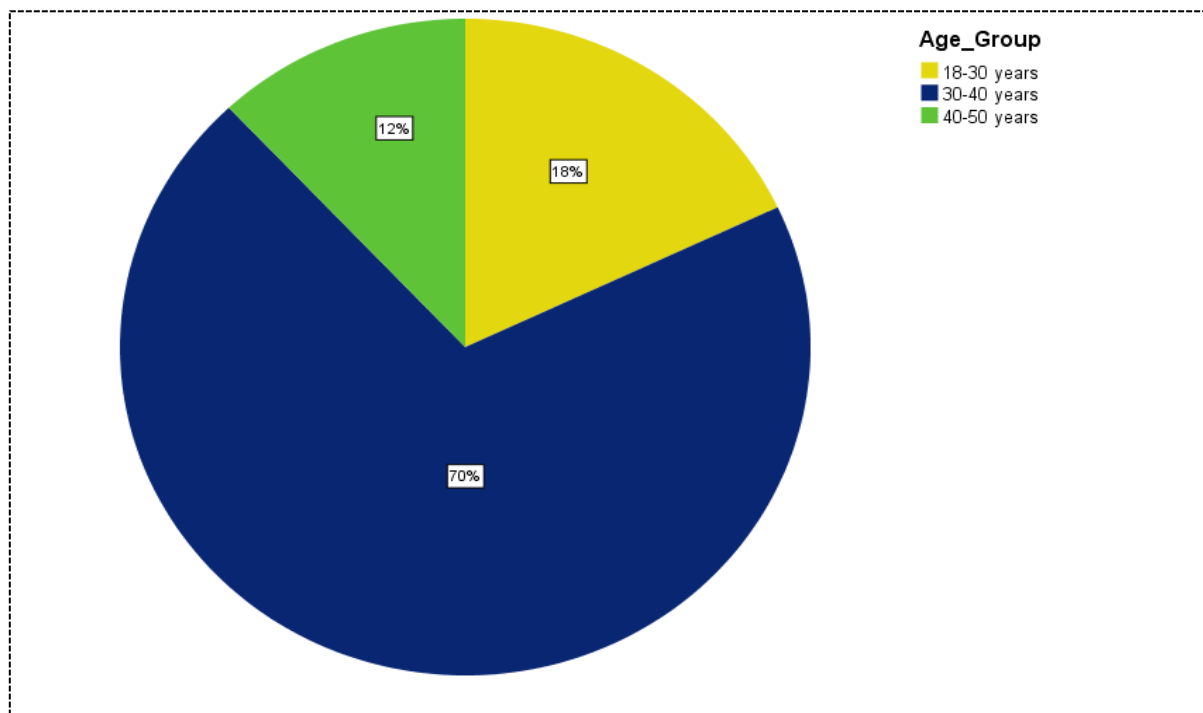


In establishing the gender profile of participants out of 200 participants that were sampled from Mamotintane and Ngaleng villages of Segopje, ga-Mamabolo, the results of the study indicate that majority of participants (100%) were all females. It is quite clear from the given sample that many households were all female headed households. According to Department of Social Development (2015), females headed 37, 5% of all households which indicates that poverty has a significant gender dimension that cannot be ignored. In general, the results indicate that women continue to bear the brunt of poverty and thus call for a coherent approach to investigate the challenges of gender inequality.

6.3.1.2 Age group

Age group composition of participants indicates the number of people that belong to different age groups. It denotes persons of approximately the same age and often of the same sex, nationality, educational or social background. Age is an important factor to determine the level of maturity of participants which becomes more important to examine their responses. The age group of participants was probed to determine the age group composition of primary caregivers from the selected four communities.

Figure 2: Age group of participants

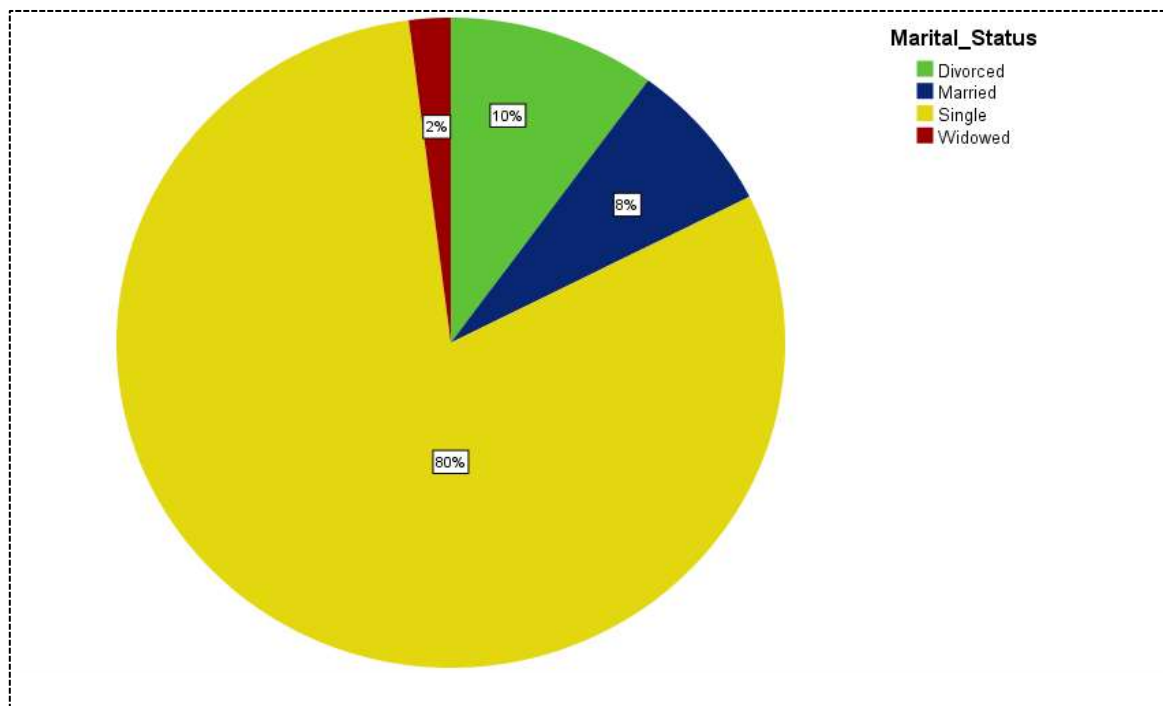


In establishing the age group of participants, 70% of the participants were aged between 30 - 40 years, with 18 % ranging from 18 - 30 years. To be more precise, the results of the study indicate that majority of participants ranged from 30 years of age. This indicates that participants at the age group of 30 - 40 are shouldering the responsibility of poverty. The age group of 18 - 30 and the age group 40 - 50 show that they are also shouldering too much responsibility of poor children.

6.3.1.3 Marital status

Marital status is the distinct option that describes a person's relationship with a significant other. It is an acquired characteristics and not a biological one. Thus the perceptions and attitudes of the participants can differ based on their marital status. The marital status of participants was probed because marriage can make people more responsible, matured in understanding and giving the response to the question asked. Therefore the marital status of participants is presented as follows:

Figure 3: Marital status



In establishing the marital status of participants figure 3 shows that the overwhelming numbers of participants 80% were single parents, with 7.5% being married. Out of this segment 10% of the participants were found to be divorcee with 2.5% being widowed. All Media Products Survey (2008), notes that almost 28% of women are single parents in South Africa. According to this Survey, 53% of these women have never been married and are not living with their partners. The results may also suggest that the more unmarried the women are, the more vulnerable women are to poverty.

6.3.1.4 Employment status

Strong positive employment and real wage responses to economic growth are the major poverty alleviation forces. Employment denotes the work or occupation in which an individual is employed. Thus the quality of life is determined by the people's employment status and the income that they derive from it. The employment status of participants was probed. This was done to determine who of the participants are employed and who are not. The employment status of participants will be outlined briefly in the ensuing paragraph.

Figure 4: Employment status of participants

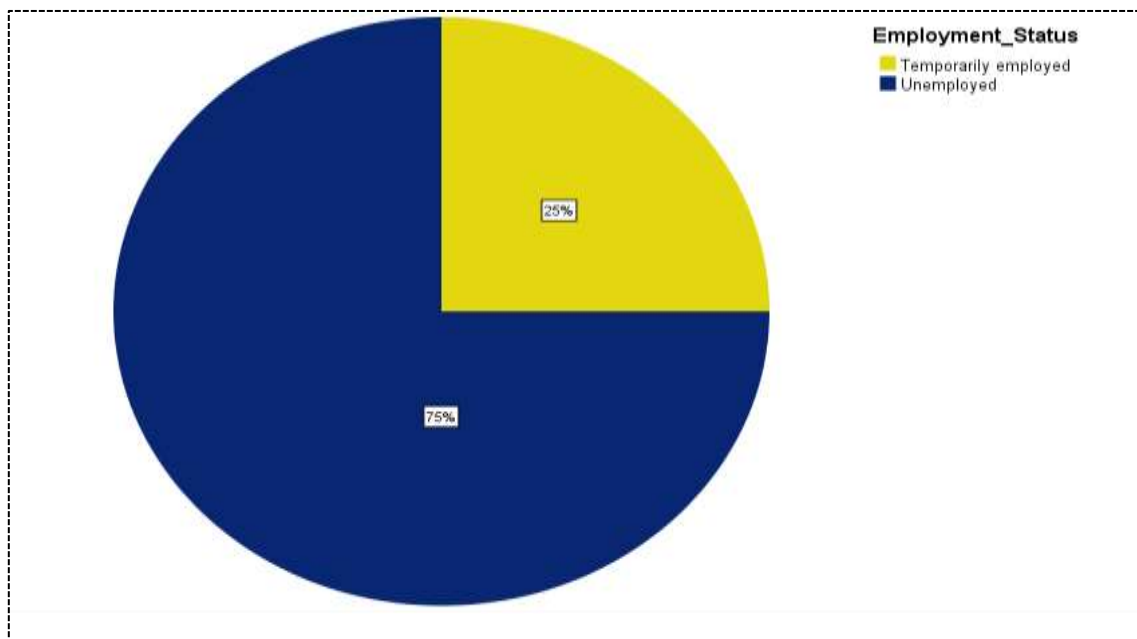
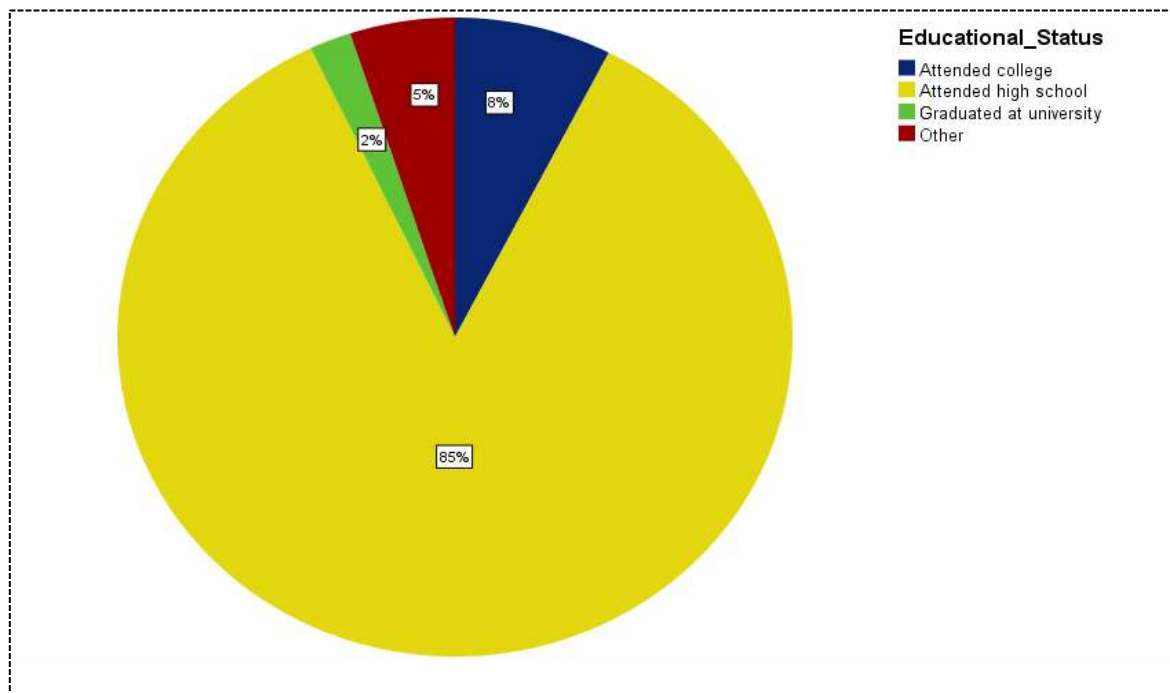


Figure 4 illustrate that 75% of participants were unemployed and relied on grant for a living. This has been found by Hunter and Adato (2007: 6) that mothers who are not employed are more likely to depend on grant than mothers who are reported to be working full-time. However, twenty five per cent (25%) of participants were temporary employed, with some as domestic workers and self-employed workers. Though, among the 25% of participants, 11% were landless agricultural labourers. This indicates that agriculture plays an important role in the employment sector for the unskilled labourers predominantly in rural areas which in most cases help to supplement the grant money since is the kind of work that many poor people can afford.

6.3.1.5 Educational status

Socio-economic status encompasses not just income but also educational status or attainment. Educational status denotes the highest level of education that an individual has completed. In this section, the educational status of participants was probed. Thus the responses of the participants are likely to be determined by their educational status; therefore it is imperative to know the educational status of participants.

Figure 5: Educational status of participants



In establishing the educational status of participants, the study indicates that majority of participants with the total of 85% attended high school. Among the 85% of participants, only 10% reached grade 12 but could not pursue their studies up to tertiary level due to lack of financial sustenance. The number of participants who had attended college was very low by 8%, with only 2% of participants having obtained the university degree. The results of the study indicate that the majority of participants were only having high school qualification and 5% of them were illiterates with no qualification or any grade acquired. This is the reason why many of the mothers are relying on Child Support grant as the weapon to change their lives.

This has been found by (Case, Hosegood and Lund, 2005; Hunter and Adato, 2007: 6; Department of Social Development, SASSA and UNICEF, 2012) that mothers who have less education are more likely to receive Child Support Grant than mothers who had completed at least grade 12. This can therefore be concluded that majority of participants were improving educationally but still far away from higher education which is dominant in today's society to create a knowledge based environment.

6.3.1.6 Communities where the study was conducted

This study was conducted within the four communities selected namely, Mamotintane, Iraka, Ga-Motholo and Mshongovile. Fifty (50) structured questionnaires were distributed to each community selected to conduct the study. The study probed this variable to determine whether the 100% response rate is achieved. This was done since in most research studies conducted, the problem of reaching 100% response rate has always been the case due to the participants' inability to complete or return the questionnaire and the unavailability of candidates relevant for the study.

Figure 6: Response rates of participants per community

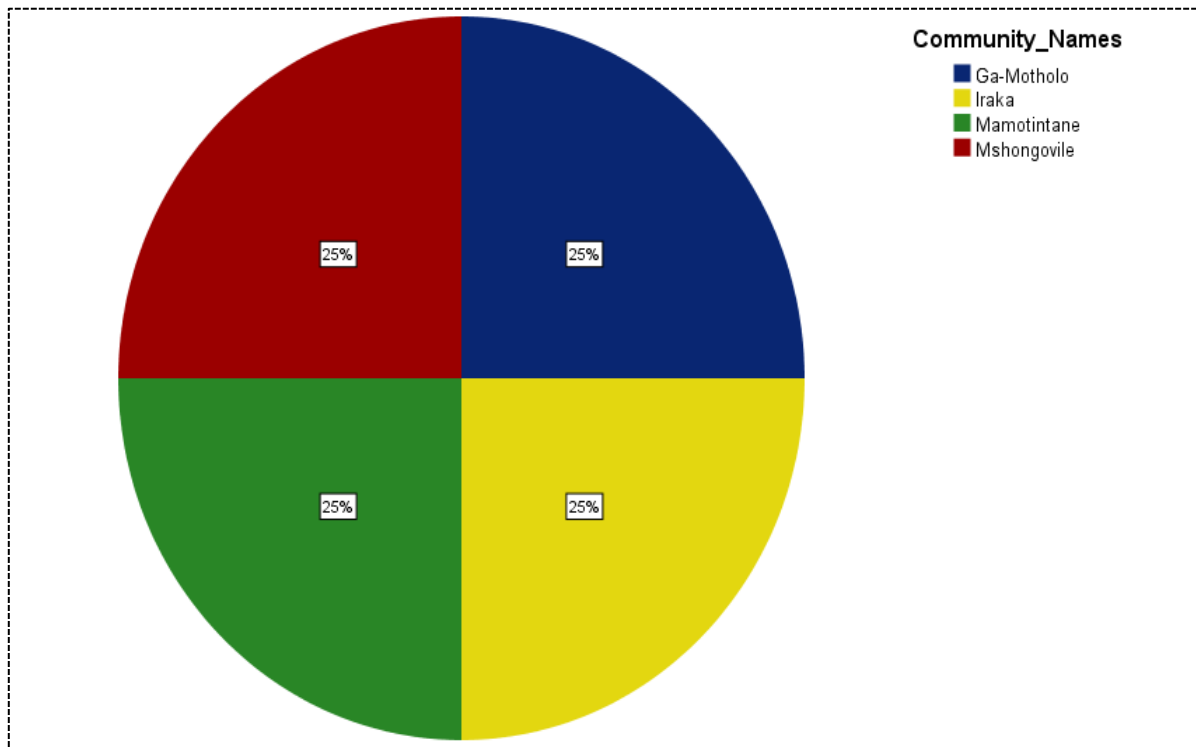


Figure 6 above illustrates that the response rate of 100% was obtained from all the four communities selected for the study. The response rate obtained was achieved purely through voluntary participation, thus no participant was coerced to participate. Looking at the high response rates obtained, the results may suggest that the majority of participants were willing to be of assistance. This indicates that if people in rural areas can be consulted to voice out their concern in terms of the implementation of public policies then many solutions provided may be helpful to improve the state of many government policies.

6.4 THE NATURE OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT SYSTEM

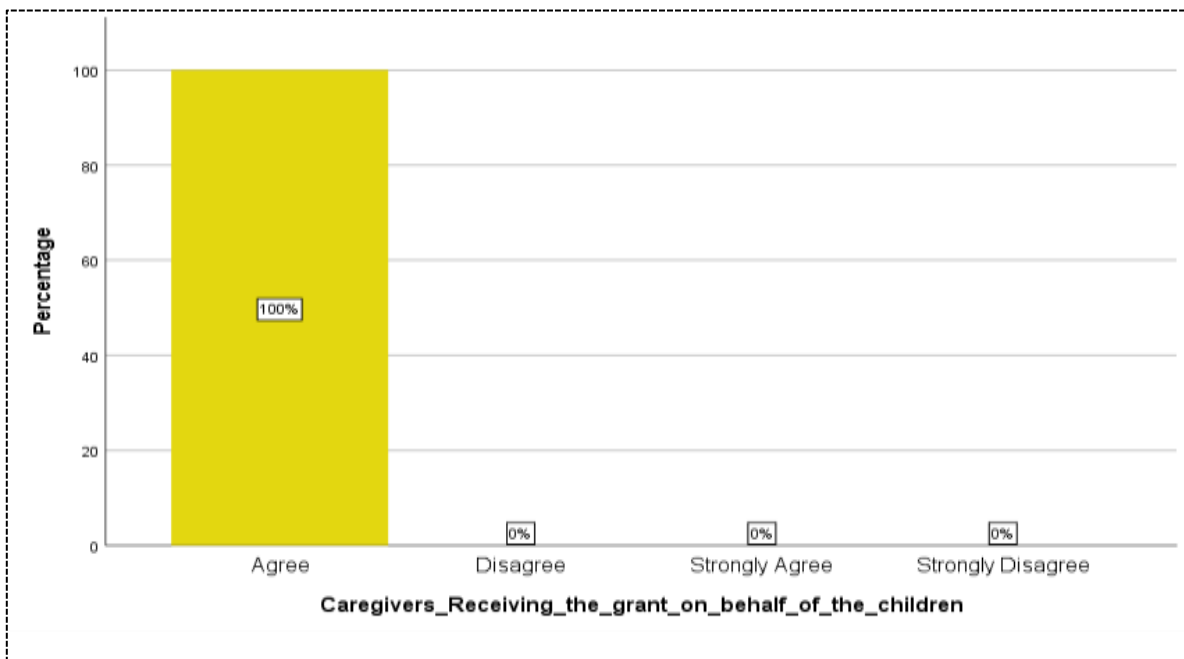
Child Support Grant system having replaced the maintenance grant is seen to have many advantages. It is seen to be the first general support structure for poor families with young children in South Africa. The grant's nature is said to have a significant impact on the incomes of the impoverished people, particularly in the rural areas to establish (Haarmann, 1998: 321), a basic social safety net. However, it is therefore important in this study to investigate how effective Child Support Grant is in developing the people's standard of living. In order to understand whether Child Support Grant contribute, satisfy and improve the incomes of poor families, the researcher probed the following; the declaration of primary caregivers to ensure that they receive the grant on behalf of the children, determining the views of the primary caregivers about the child Support Grant's effectiveness, the progress made by Child Support Grant in developing the households standard of living, the responses of primary caregivers about the grant's nature utilisation, the grant's contribution on households' income security and identifying the perplexity or the challenge of the grant's extent of coverage.

6.4.1 Primary caregivers who receive Child Support Grant on behalf of their children.

According to Goldblatt (2016), targeting the primary caregivers was an important innovative idea within the context of family dislocation and diversity, for allowing people other than biological parents to collect the payment of grant on the principle that the benefit should follow the child. A primary caregiver denotes any person who takes primary responsibility for the daily needs of the child and who may or may not be related to the child (National Department of Social Development, 2003).

In this study, the purpose of probing this variable was to ensure that relevant caregivers who receive the grant on behalf of their children are consulted, since many caregivers do not relinquish their rights as caregivers even though the children are no longer under their care. As Mashala's (2016: 9) notes that problems have been encountered in the system as some primary caregivers receive the grant money while not staying with their children or using the money to buy alcohol, drugs and gambling and seem not to care about the basic needs of the children.

Figure 7: The declaration of primary caregivers who receive Child Support Grant on behalf of their children

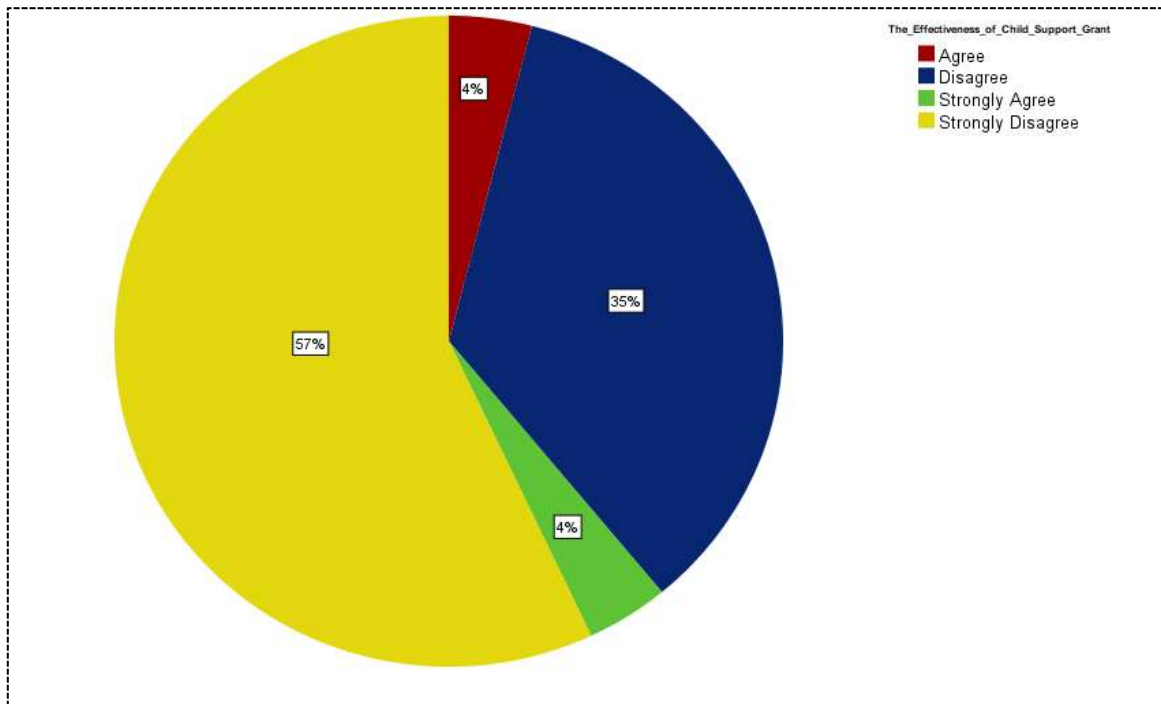


The overall number of participants (100%) investigated in all four communities brought together declared that they receive the grant on behalf of their children. One hundred and seventy three of the primary caregivers were mothers of the children on whose behalf they were receiving the grant, while twenty seven of the primary caregivers were grandmothers and guardians of the beneficiaries and were all South Africans. Therefore is it important to hear the views of the primary caregivers about the Child Support Grant' effectivenesss to determine whether the grant benefited the children since they are the grant recipients who receive the grant on behalf of the children and that will be discussed in the diagram below.

6.4.2 Views of primary caregivers' about the grant's effectiveness

The literature has shown that Child support grant policy has been effective since its inception. Thus a significant proportion of households are wholly dependent upon the Child Support grant. Therefore the researcher probed this variable to hear the views of the participants about how effective the grant is in providing the children's basic needs and that of the whole family in the four selected communities since many households experience different hardships.

Figure 8: Views of primary caregivers' about the grant's effectiveness to provide child's basic needs

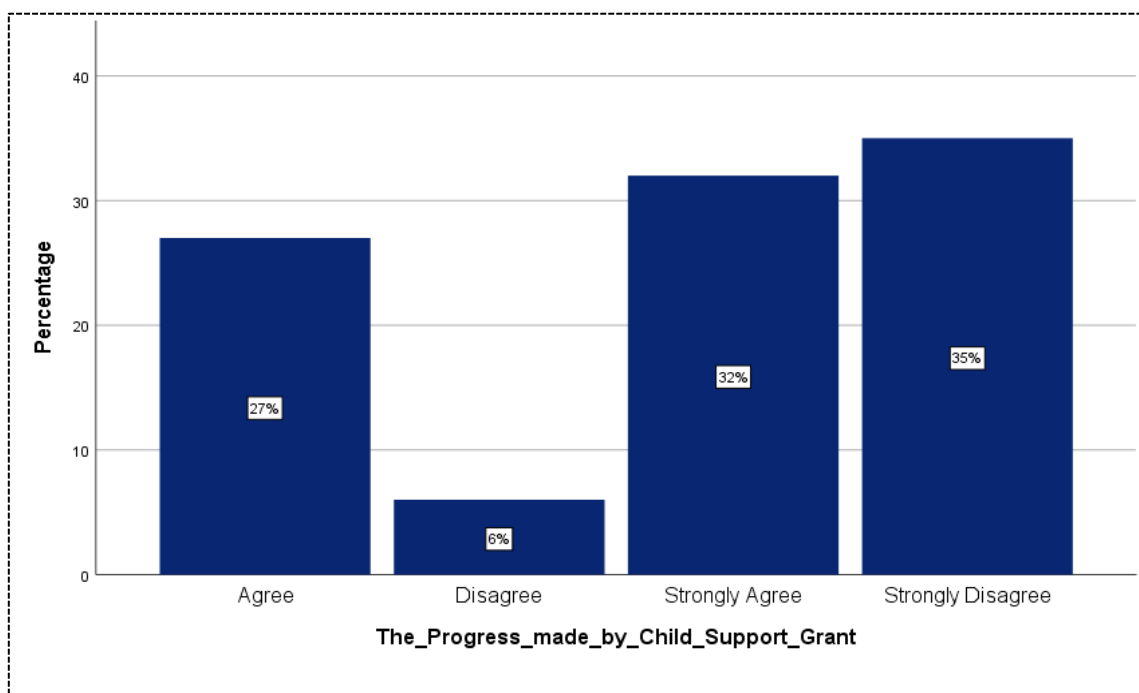


In terms of the effectiveness of the grant to provide the child's basic needs and that of the whole family, in all four communities brought together, the results of the study indicate that 92% of participants were in both disagree and strongly disagree with the statement and 8% of participants were in agreement with the statement. Thus majority of participants strongly disagreed that Child Support Grant is effective enough to cater all the children's basic needs. This is because the grant itself as a result of the limited amount structure does not last long and it is basically spent on limited items and nothing will be left. However, according to Vukile Dlwati on City Press dated May (2018), despite the Child Support Grant's limited amount structure as it is insufficient to address the multifaceted needs that children have to ensure their well-being; the grant have managed to lessen the hardships encountered in the households. Therefore, it is for this reason to find out the progress made by Child Support Grant in developing the households' standard of living which will be discussed in the ensuing diagram.

6.4.3 The progress made by Child Support Grant in developing the household standard of living

Probing the progress that Child Support Grant has brought in developing the households' standard of living is important for this study. This variable was investigated to understand how progressive Child Support Grant was in improving other people standard of living and this is dicussed briefly in the graph below:

Figure 9: The progress made by Child Support Grant in developing the household standard of living



To determine whether there are differences brought by Child Support grant in developing the households' standard of living, different views were sought from participants. In all four communities investigated, 59% of participants were in agreement with the statement while 41% of participants disagreed with the statement. The results of the study indicate that majority of participants agreed grant that Child Support grant made a different in improving many household's poor background. Other participants were able to comment on the statement where they indicated that Child Support Grant is able to make progress in many households in that if the mother of the child is receiving the grant for many children, the money becomes more helpful, as in some circumstances the money allows the mother of

the child an opportunity to join stokvel (*Mohodisano*) so that the mother can save enough money to buy building materials and other things that are needed in the household.

Given this circumstance, despite the grant's limited amount structure, the grant is essentially bearing the burden and closing the gap created by high rate of unemployment by supporting many household as it is mostly used as a source of income. This finding has been found by Jacobs (2008: 72) that the grant does make a progress but the budget will always be more than that. As the grant is too little and doesn't last at all because the money is not exclusively for the child but incorporated into the household income and utilised for the entire household, so that even those who do not qualify for the grant can benefit from it and lead a normal life. This is why it is very important for this study to understand the grant's nature of utilisation to determine how primary caregivers utilise the grant in purchasing the basic necessities of the family and that will be discussed in the graph below.

6.4.4 The Child Support Grant's nature of utilisation

The Child Support Grant's nature of utilisation was probed. The researcher investigated this variable to identify the manner in which primary caregivers utilise the grant in performing other households' basic necessities. The figure below presents the results on the Child Support Grant's nature of utilisation in the selected four communities.

Figure 10: The Child Support Grant's nature of utilisation in purchasing basic necessities for the whole household

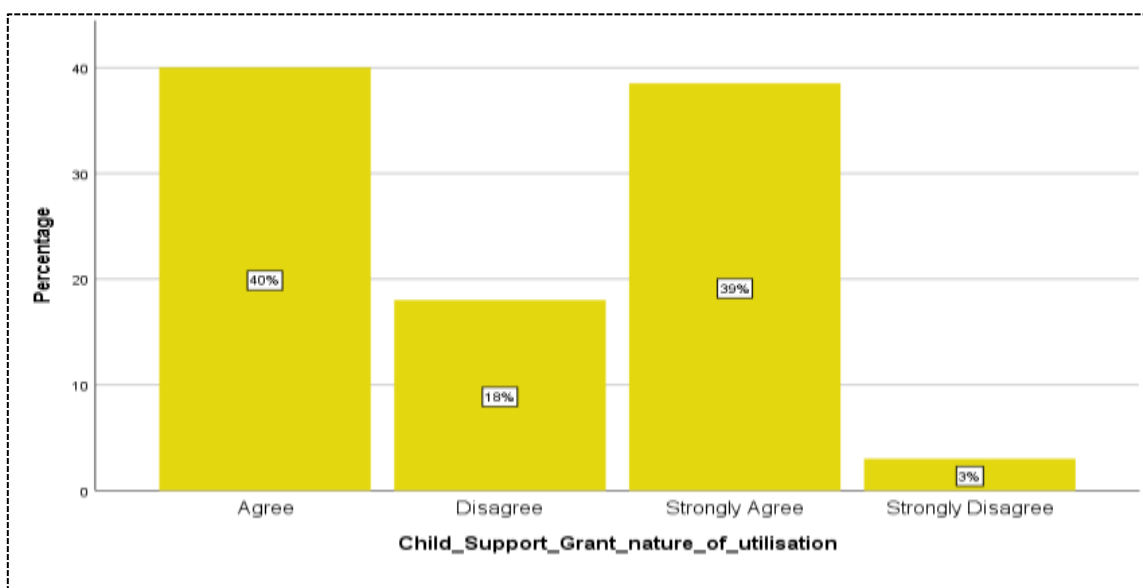


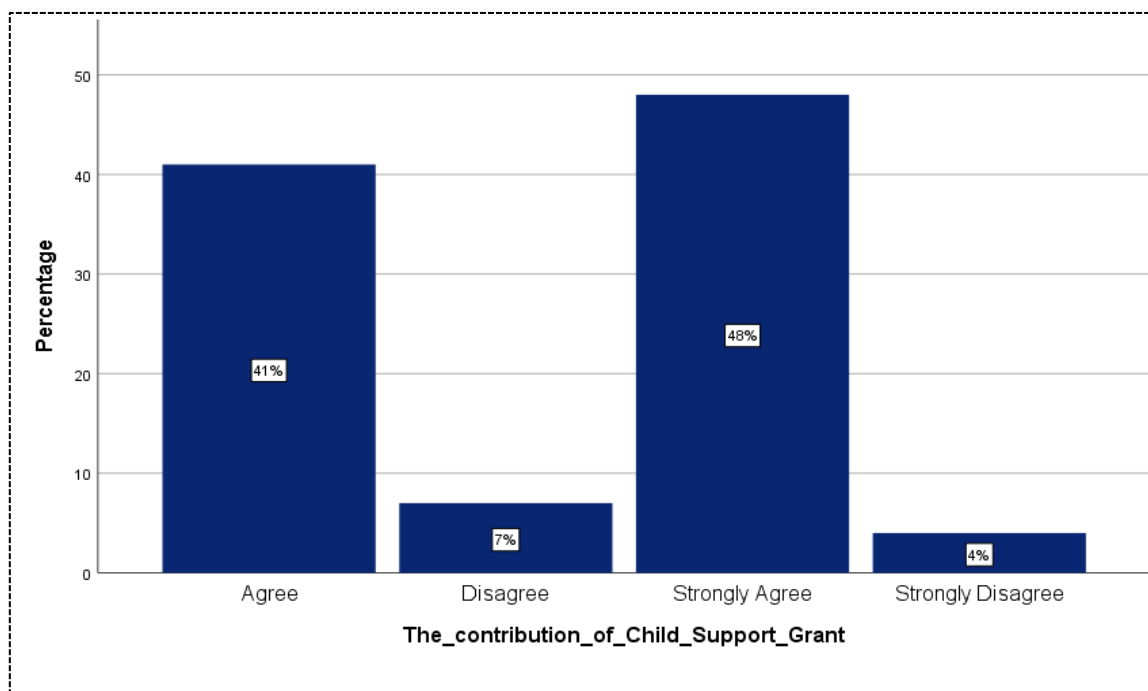
Figure 10 above, indicate that majority of participants (79%) agree that the grant is naturally utilised for purchasing basic necessities with only 21% disagreeing. The participants' responses confirm that it is true that the grant is utilised on basic necessities. Moreover, several participants opened up as they mentioned the kind of food and non-food items that they are able to afford with the grant which include the following: maize-meal, washing powder, cooking-oil, beans, rice, eggs and non-food items such as clothes, buying electricity and paying for burial societies. This finding has been confirmed by Lombard (2008); Mutshaeni (2009); Matuku (2015) and Zembe-Mkabile's (2015) who found that the Child Support Grant is utilised on basic food items, clothing and school necessities for children.

Based on the above statement, this can therefore be inferred that food and clothing are the most important basic necessities that Child Support Grant managed to secure; though none was mentioned about health care service, since many people prefer to use public clinics because their services are provided freely. In addition, paying for electricity is a priority but in most cases is timely used since in rural areas people prefer to use fire woods to cook in order to save electricity; thus electricity is mostly used to switch the lights on and ironing of clothes. While paying for burial society is a need; but most people in rural areas prefers to join burial societies at home were they gather monthly to administer their money because they cannot afford to join for funeral cover policies because they are more expensive for Child Support Grant to cover and also support the whole household at once. Thus although Child Support Grant managed to purchase basic necessities, it is also important to identify how the grant contributes in securing many households' income which is then discussed in the following diagram.

6.4.5 The contribution of Child Support Grant on household income security

Income security is important for both society and the economy, if people have secure incomes which prevent them from falling or remaining in poverty. The researcher probed how Child Support Grant contributes to household income security in the four selected communities of the study to find out how and the manner in which the grant secured many households' income.

Figure 11: The contribution of the grant on household income security



To determine whether Child Support Grant contribute to household income security within the households, in all four communities investigated, the results of the study indicate that 89% of participants were in agreement with statement whilst only 11% disagreed in this regard. According to the results of the study, it is quite clear that the Child Support Grant contribute to household income security in that many households depended on the grant though it is little.

During the data collection one participant mentioned that because of unemployment and the widespread of poverty, Child Support Grant grew to be a depended source of income in her family so that she can be able to buy food and pay for other related expenses for her family. According to CASE (2000), notes that previously in Limpopo Child Support Grant accounted for an average of 51% of household income, with 71 % of recipients reportedly saying that they relied mainly on the grant to support the entire household.

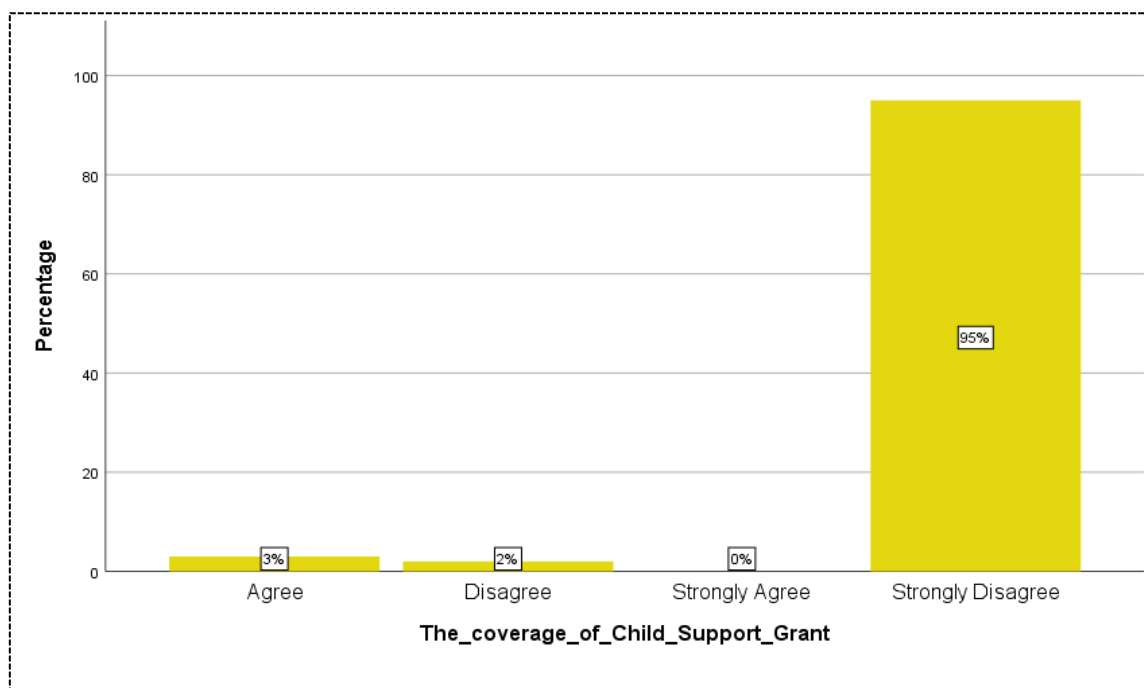
Currently, Woolard *et al.*, (2010) also disaggregated household income sources by income quintile. They found that two-thirds of the income to the bottom quintile comes from social assistance grants, with most of this income coming from Child Support Grant. In that more than half of the country's households benefits from some form of social assistance, with 22% relying on Child Support Grant as a main source of income. Furthermore, Samson *et*

al., (2008) found that many households solely relied on grant as their source of income which allows them the ability to care for their children particularly in providing food for their families. This implies that Child Support Grant is an important component of South Africa's overall social security architecture. However, although Child Support Grant managed to secure many household incomes; it is therefore imperative to understand the perplexity of the grant's extent of coverage which will be discussed further in figure 12 below.

6.4.6 The perplexity on the Child Support Grant's extent of coverage

Given that Child Support Grant is an important instrument of social security in South Africa covering over 12 million South African children each month, the grant amount structure is too little to survive on it alone. Thus lack of comprehensive social security coverage has become a topical issue warranting global concern (Mthethwa, 2017: 169). In this regard, the perplexity on the grant's extent of coverage in providing the basic necessities of the children was probed to hear the participants' perceptions about the grant's inadequacy.

Figure 12: The perplexity of Child Support Grant's extent of coverage in providing the basic necessities of the children



In all four communities investigated, overwhelming majority of participants (97%) disagreed that Child Support Grant is adequate enough to cover all the basic necessities of the

children with (3%) of participants indicated that although the grant contribute a small portion of money which people needs for basic subsistence, it is better than living without any income. This has been supported by one participant who said that: *“the grant money is not adequate enough to cover all the children’s basic needs and I have two children who are twins and I have to buy pampers, clothes and milk for them and the money does not cover all those needs, so I have my mother who is helping out, though the money is not enough but is better than nothing”*.

With that said, other participants supported the statement that Child Support Grant is inadequate as they stressed about the price of goods which is perennially increasing. The concerns were brought mainly on clothing price trends where participants mentioned that when they have to buy clothes for their children they target a period where shops sell clothes at a reduced price, while others analysed price trends and preferred to buy winter clothes during summer seasons as they are normally cheaper. According to Vaaltein (2016: 57), majority of participants expressed the difficulty of buying clothes for their children, as they were able to meet the clothing necessity using Child Support Grant money were they relied on the practice of layby. Thus people relied on layby because it allows them time to pay for the instalments with no interest charges on the price of goods.

Even though the government can increase the grant we will never be able to keep up with the pace of price of goods, as they will always increase unless we work to generate extra income to supplement the grant. This is in line with the argument made by Zembe-Mkabile (2015: 53) that although it is of vital importance to recognise the financial hindrances which limit the coverage and benefit levels of South African social security system, the amount of the Child Support Grant is very low. She further argued that people have to pool other sources of income as the Child Support Grant alone can’t manage to cover all the expenses. In that since the government is engaging other means wherever possible to help the impoverished, people must also use their efforts to generate other income.

6.5 THE IMPACT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHILD SUPPORT GRANT

The Child Support Grant has a positive impact on many families. It is stated that both local and international evidence reveal that increasing family income through cash transfers reduces poverty levels in households and enhances the children’s development, educational achievement and health status (May, 2000: 29). The grant provides effective, immediate relief for the needs of poor children. In order to understand how the Child

Support Grant impacted on the lives of the people, the study probed the following: the household's largest monthly expenses, the impact of Child Support Grant in improving the household's source of livelihood, the impact of Child Support grant in improving household's food security, the impact of Child Support Grant in promoting school attendance among beneficiary children, the impact of Child Support Grant in enhancing labour market participation and Child Support Grant as a source of welfare dependency syndrome.

6.5.1 The household's largest monthly expenses

The probing of the household's largest monthly expenses is imperative in this study. The aim of probing this variable was to find out the kind of expenses that Child Support Grant is mostly utilised on to perform the household duties. This was done to confirm the results of this research.

Figure 13: The household's largest monthly expenses

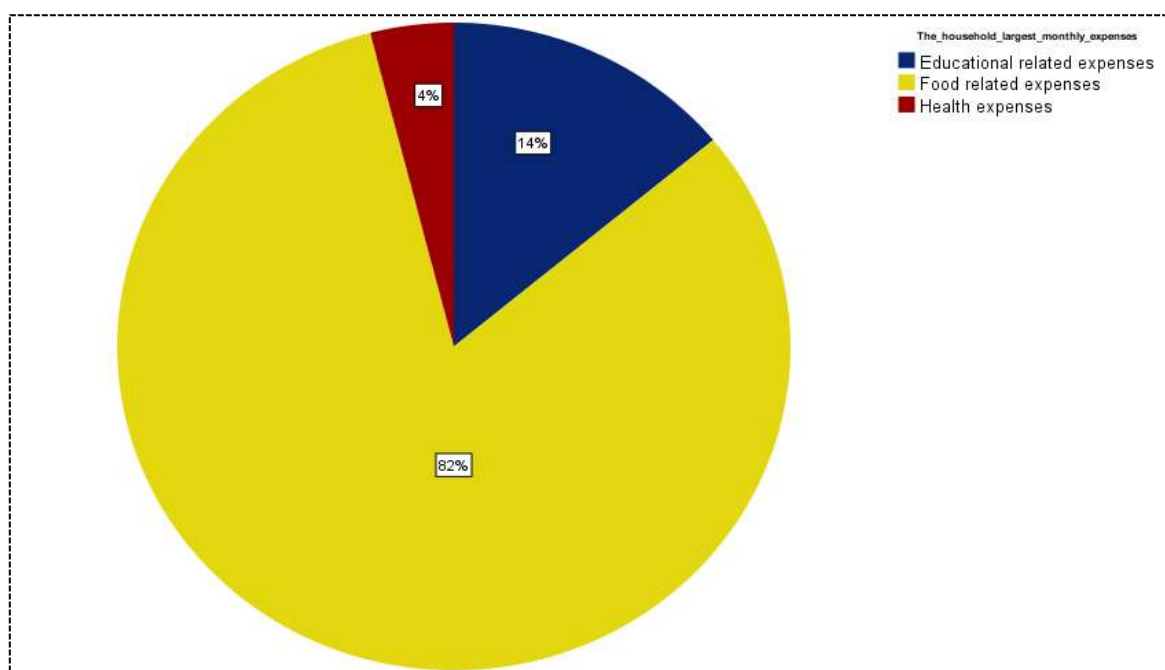


Figure 13 above, indicates that (82%) of participants agree that food related expenses were the household's largest monthly expenses, with (14%) being educational related expenses and health care expenses by (4%). This shows that food related expenses remain the most dominant expense in many households for human survival. Few participants said that "due to the scarcity of job opportunities they relied on Child Support Grant to buy food in their households. This can therefore be inferred that because of the nature in which the grant is

utilised on food items, it can be concluded that grant is meant to cater food requirement. This has been found by (Delany, Ismail, Graham and Ramkisson, 2008; Richter, 2008; Nkosi, 2011) which found that the Child Support Grant was meant to cater mainly for the food requirements in the households.

6.5.2 The impact of Child Support Grant in improving the household's source of livelihood

Livelihood involves a set of activities which include securing water, food, shelter, clothing and the capability to acquire basic necessities to meet the requirements of the household on a sustainable manner with dignity. The researcher probed this variable to determine the household services that the grant managed to secure.

Figure 14: The impact of Child Support Grant in improving the household's source of livelihood

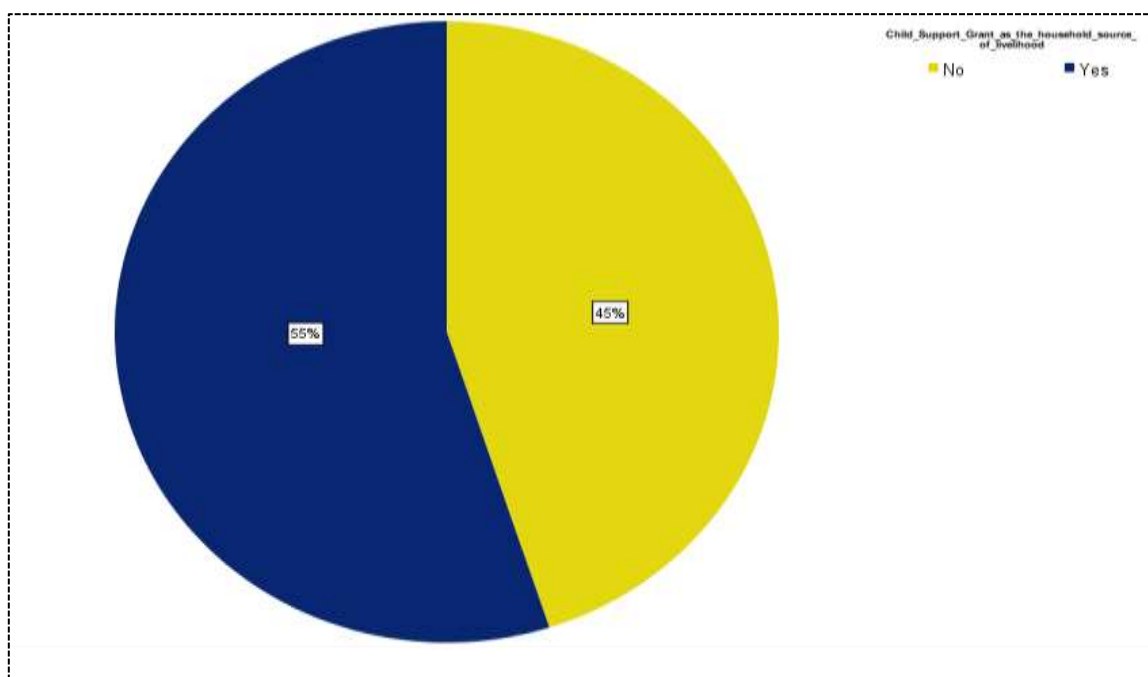


Figure 14 above, illustrate that (45%) of participants indicate that due to the grant's limited amount structure it is very rare for the household's livelihood to be met, with (55%) of participants agreed that the grant helps to improve the household's livelihood. Thus the grant helps the participants to lift up their household's standard of living by enabling them to participate in economic activities.

One participant mentioned that: *“the grant enabled her to engage in farming activities wherein she was able to start a small farm at her backyard to plant crops such as cabbages, spinach and vegetables whereby during harvest time she was able to sell her produce to the market like Pick n Pay, Shoprite as well as street vendors to lift up her harsh standard of living, though this activities are undertaken seasonally”*.

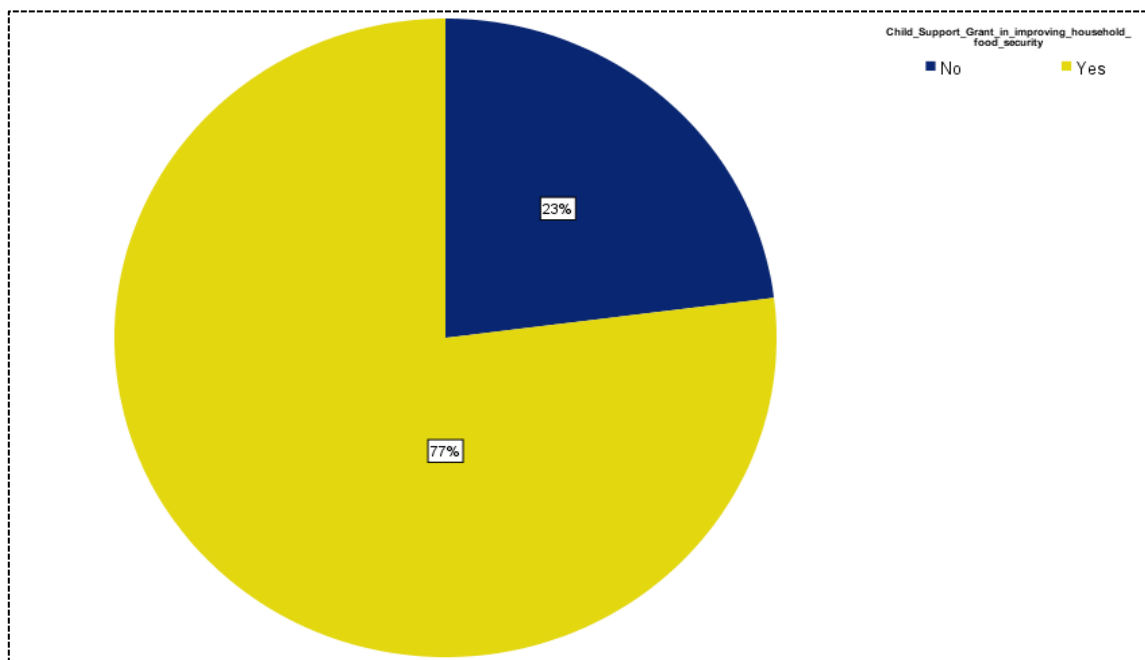
According to Muhammad, Asif and Shakeel (2017), farm livelihood sources (crops and vegetables) contribute to 40.68% of agriculture. Thus agricultural farm activities contributes to over half of the labour force and is the main source of livelihood for more than two-thirds of the population. Thus despite the grant’s limited amount for not fulfilling the poverty gap, it is partially assisting many households out of the plight of poverty to engage in productive economic activities. This has been found by Seabi (2015: 37) which states that to participate in economic activities, Child Support grant is the only means in which the recipients can participate in the economy.

Furthermore, one participant mentioned that: *“the grant as a source of livelihood enabled her to participate on non-farm economic activities by investing in physical, social and human capital”*. In that the grant enabled her to venture into build up savings such as stokvels which enables her to save some of the money to invest for future plans for her children. This empirical evidence is in line with the findings of Hunter and Adato (2007) which found that some women would use some of the money to put it away for the children’s studies in the future with stokvels as a means to try and better the lives of their children who are the main benefactors of the grant. This can therefore be concluded that although Child Support Grant deals with the underlying causes of poverty, by its very nature not only provide a safety net, but generate positive dynamics by enabling risks to be mitigated and reduced overtime.

6.5.3 The impact of Child Support Grant in improving household’s food security

In this study, the impact of Child Support Grant in improving the household’s food security is probed. Food security is the condition in which all people; at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets the dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

Figure 15: The impact of Child Support grant in improving household's food security



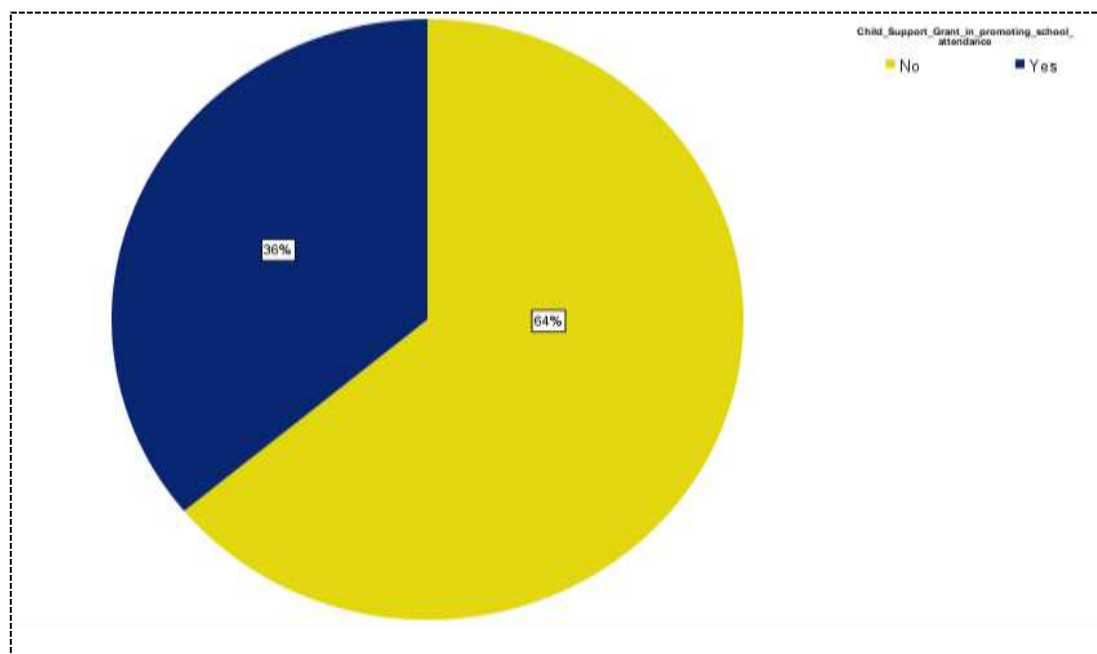
From figure 15 above, it is clear that majority of participants (77%) attest that the Child Support Grant enables them to acquire enough food available in the households most importantly when the recipients collect grant for several beneficiaries. However, merely 23% of the participants indicate that the grant rarely enables them to acquire food of good quality. The most striking feature of this data is that those who are able to buy food using grant money, many of them do not have freedom of accessing enough nutritious and culturally appropriate food of their preferences, their food preferences are always aligned with the budget they have. However, since majority of recipients mostly spent the grant on food, it can therefore be concluded that the grant contribute to household food security and decrease the probability of severe malnutrition in the household. This empirical evidence is in line with the findings by Richter (2009) that in household that receive Child Support Grant, there is a likely decrease in the probability of child suffering from malnutrition.

6.5.4 The impact of Child Support Grant in promoting school attendance among beneficiary children

School attendance is the common factor of developmental state. Thus socio-economically disadvantaged children are less likely to have regular school attendance (Ready, 2010). Probing the impact that Child Support Grant has in promoting school attendance is

important in order to understand how and the manner in which the grant influences school attendance on the children.

Figure 16: The impact of Child Support Grant in promoting school attendance among beneficiary children



In all four communities investigated, merely (36%) of participants agreed that grant promote school attendance. They postulate that the grant contributes towards the improvement of school attendance which enhances the beneficiaries' educational status which is vital in fighting the calamity of poverty. Several participants said that: *"the grant enabled them the purchasing power to provide school requirements for their children such as school uniforms and transportation, stationery, as well as school shoes, so that they do not go to school barefooted, though it is done once in a while"*.

Moreover, Tanga and Gutura (2013: 133) notes that grant allow primary caregivers to place children in a crèche, or day-care centre to help develop the lives of the children in order to alleviate poverty. Thus Child Support Grant enhances positive developmental effects with ripple effects on the alleviation of poverty (DSD, SASSA and UNICEF cited in Matuku, 2015: 49). Given the above statement, sixty four (64%) of participants disagree that the grant creates incentive for school attendance. They believe that the grant does not necessarily create automatic incentive for school attendance but relieve severe malnutrition towards children.

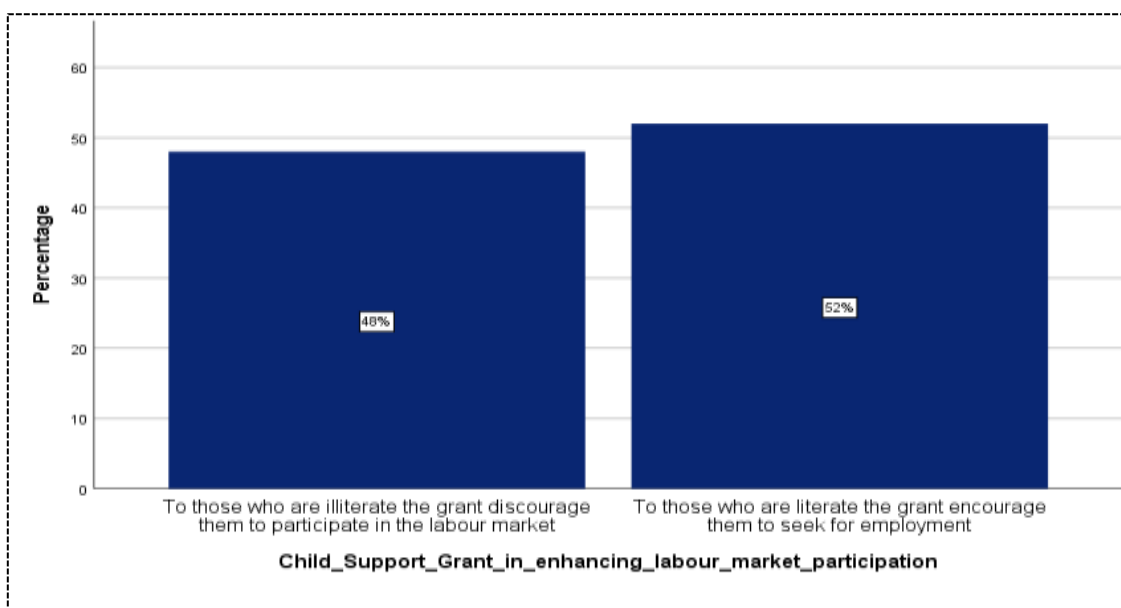
A recent report by the DSD, SASSA and UNICEF (2011) indicate that children receiving Child Support Grant miss school or even dropout due to socio-economic issues which include money for school activities, uniforms, shoes and transformation. Some affected children gain nothing out of the grant money, they lack school uniforms while some go to bed hungry (Government of South Africa, 2012/2013). Again despite the beneficiaries' entitlement on child grant to provide for school needs, in many households Child Support Grant is always diverted as household income top up to buy basic food and consumption needs as a result of socio-economic problems.

This can therefore be concluded that the grant beneficiaries' needs are always put in jeopardy because they are shouldering the responsibility of breadwinner in the family. As the grant is regularly carried out to render the entire households needs irrespective of the child.

6.5.5 The impact of Child Support Grant in enhancing labour market participation

South Africa is a constitutional state that explicitly requires people to be developed and participatory in nature within the labour market. The probing of this variable is important for the study as this will help to indicate whether the grant encourages or discourages mothers to seek for employment.

Figure 17: The impact of Child Support Grant in terms of labour market participation



In all four communities surveyed, majority of participants (52%) indicate that to those mothers who are educated Child Support Grant encourage them to seek for employment to better their standard of living. However, there are several channels through which social security grant, particularly the Child Support Grant, lead to improved labour market outcomes. In South Africa the unconditional Child Support Grant also contributes towards the increase of the labour market participation of mothers. The grant helps mothers by easing the time burdens placed on women by offering mothers more opportunity to seek and continue looking for employment (Social Research Centre, 2008); and also financing job trips for the mothers who are working.

Labour market resonated with mothers who had children receiving a Child Support Grant, with the most positive impact among mothers and household heads who did not complete their matric and mothers who lived in informal residences (Williams, 2007). The Human Science Research Council's South African Social Attitudes Survey revealed that the learned and employed people prefer labour market income than that from grants (Noble *et al.*, 2008). With that said, on an international level, the capability of Child Support Grant has also been recognised by different scholars (Ravallion, 2003; Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler, 2004; Samson, Una, Ndlebe, Quene, Van Niekerk, Gandhi, Harigaya and Abrahams, 2004). The notion of these scholars' stands on the belief that being in a household that has a steady income in the form of a grant may make it possible for poor individuals to make high-return investments that liquidity constraints would otherwise prohibit. Thus women's labour market participation is a coping mechanism in response to economic shocks that hit the households (Verick, 2014).

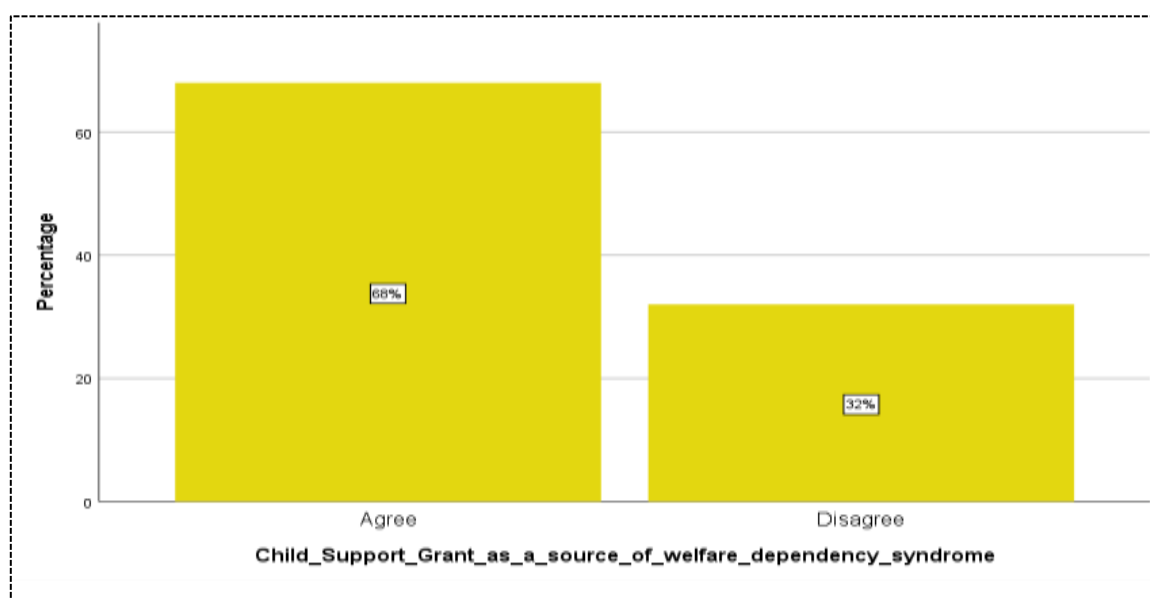
Furthermore, (48%) of participants believe that to those who are illiterate Child Support Grant discourage people to participate in the labour market due to their limited skills which dictate their choice of work. In that due to their limited skills the kind of work that they settle for are also the work of lesser salary which becomes critical for them to participate in the labour market. The failure of primary caregivers' labour market participation is largely due to their limited job prospects (Sayre and Hendy, 2013). One participant mentioned that: *"in view of my family environment and unfavourable condition, for a living I generate income through informal entrepreneurial means such as rendering laundry services for people, ploughing as well as selling tomatoes, so that I can supplement the grant money to make a day to day living."*

This means that illiteracy poses a burden on support system of many individual as illiterate primary caregivers are highly dependent on grant to survive (Makunga, 2015: 24). Primary caregivers' ability to provide a healthy, nurturing and stimulating environment is critical. In South Africa caregivers especially those in rural communities, face many challenges which include poverty, lack of education and skills (Mathambo and Gibbs, 2008). This can be concluded that the caregivers' illiteracy to participate on labour market participation affect their ability to care for their children in a manner which endures the children's developmental outcomes.

6.5.6 Child Support Grant as a source of welfare dependency syndrome

Child Support Grant is a poverty alleviation mechanism implemented to supplement households' income to improve the households' standard of living and that of the child. However many assumptions have been emerging that Child Support Grant create dependency syndrome as most of the grant recipients are becoming permanently dependent on hand-outs and losing any inclination to improve their circumstances as a result of the grant. The aim of investigating Child Support Grant as a source of dependency syndrome in the four selected communities was to unearth whether Child Support Grant automatically create dependency or whether there are factors that compel people to solely rely on the grant.

Figure 18: Child Support Grant as a source of welfare dependency syndrome



In all four communities investigated, it is observed from figure 18 that majority of participants (68%) agree that the grant breeds dependency among the people. One participant mentioned that: *“due to the absent of any form of income that I receive I have come to completely rely on the money and I consider it as an income instead of the grant. And since I am not working I am entitled to get this kind of income in order to survive on a daily basis”*.

Thus Child Support Grant creates laziness and led people to undermine their self-sufficiency and demotivated to get out of poverty on their own efforts. In the study conducted by (Tanga and Gatura, 2013: 134) on the impact of the child support grant on participation in the labour market in rural Eastern Cape found that forty nine per cent of unemployed beneficiaries were not seeking for jobs at all. This postulates that due to socio-economic problems affecting the society today such as unemployment and poverty, people take advantages of the grant blaming unemployment in order to depend on the grant. This is in line with economic theory which argues that people who receive regular free transfer will be discouraged from seeking work, particularly if the grant value is close to the income that the recipients could expect to earn from paid employment (Devereux and Solomon, 2006).

To support this, differing arguments emerged from economists, politicians and academics which entails that beneficiaries will lose the incentive to save, accumulate assets, invest in diversification and business development and to participate in the labour-force. With that said the then former President Thabo Mbeki in the 2007 State of the Nation emphasised the importance for government to be continuously focused on the task to ensure that as many of our people as possible graduate out of dependency of social security grant. He urged that interventions must be sought to develop exit programmes that capacitate households and communities to empower themselves.

However, merely 32% of participants disagreed that grant encourages the culture of dependency. They emphasised that Child Support Grant is a time limited rather than permanent. In that providing aid to the people with the little amount structure of money does not make them lazy or reluctant to work. But eases the intense pressure on households and provides people with a foundation on which to change their lives (Hanlon, Barrientos and Hulme, 2010). In that many poor people work hard to try to get out of

poverty traps in which they are locked into. Furthermore, according to Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme (2010), states that participants prefer to put the income that they receive from grant into good use by looking for work, investing in family farm to generate income by enhancing livelihoods and reducing dependent on external support.

This can therefore be concluded that people who are affected by poverty tend to work harder when they are provided with the grant because it helps them to see a way out of poverty. In that people who are prone to poverty if they become irrational will have more to lose from misusing the grant money, hence tend to spend the grant wisely and effectively (Hanlon, *et al.*, 2010).

6.6 DATA COLLECTION THROUGH STRUCTURED QUESTIONNAIRE SCHEDULED FOR CHILD SUPPORT GRANT BENEFICIARIES

Since the above mentioned information indicated that there are two sets of structured questionnaire involved. When administering the second structured questionnaires, the researcher visited Magwadiba Higher Primary School in the Mankweng area to request permission for administering the questionnaire to learners selected purposively based on their grades. The letter to request for permission was written and submitted to Magwadiba Higher Primary School (See Appendices I). On the first day of the visitation, the researcher managed to meet the Head of Department (HoD) who instructed the researcher to make an appointment to meet with the principal since the principal was absent. The appointment was made with the principal and she gave the researcher consent to conduct the study and subsequently the letter for permission was obtained. Grade seven (7) learners were assembled in their classroom and questionnaires were distributed after they were carefully checked to ensure that suitable participants are selected to avoid confusion.

Since the ethical consideration is essential for every research study, before administering the questionnaire, the researcher read and explained to the participants what the study is all about and its purpose to obtain their consent. The researcher did not give the participants any inputs with the aim of reducing a degree of biasness that will compromise the research findings, but only intervened to provide clarity since the questionnaire was translated to sepedi language to enable the learners to understand and answer the questions easily.

The data collected on the second questionnaire that was provided by Child Support beneficiaries addressed the biographical information, the perceptions of grant beneficiaries to provide feedback about the grant's nature of utilisation to determine whether the grant met the needs of the rightful beneficiaries and the suggested recommendations on how Child Support grant policy can be improved.

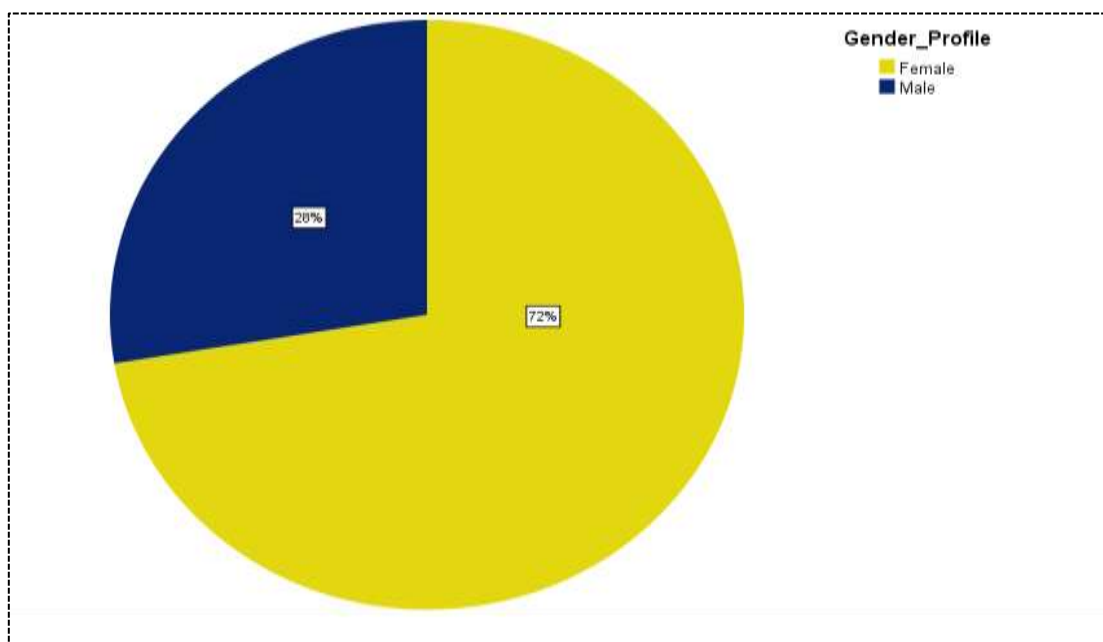
6.6.1 Biographical Information

The second questionnaire provided the following biographical information: gender profile, age group, the grade studied per participant and the medium of instruction as done with the questionnaire for the demographic characteristics of the participants. The data that was captured and analysed using Statistical Package for Social Science through structured questionnaire included the following:

6.6.1.1 Gender profile

Gender profile of participants sampled from Magwadiba Higher Primary School was probed. This was investigated to help the researcher to determine the overall number of male and female participated in the study.

Figure 19: Gender profile

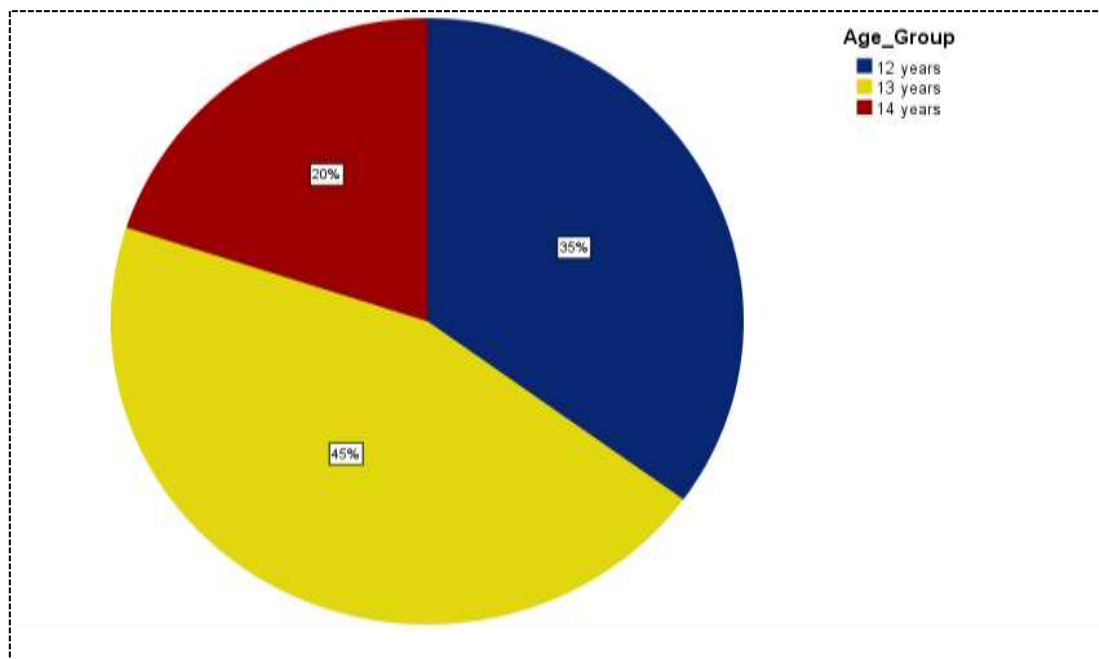


To be precise, (28%) of participants were male, with (72%) of participants being female of Child Support Grant beneficiaries from Magwadiba Higher Primary School. The results of the study indicate that females were the most dominant group participated in this study.

6.6.1.2 Age group

Age group of participants from Magwadiba Higher Primary School was probed. Children (grant beneficiaries) are believed to form the largest demographic age profile. Despite the comprehensive data children are estimated to make almost half of the world's forcible displaced population. This variable was investigated to determine the age group of participants in the study.

Figure 20: Age group of participants



Different age group of participants from grade seven (7) class at Magwadiba Higher Primary school participated in this study was obtained with (35%) of participants being 12 years of age, while (45%) of participants were 13 years as well as (20%) of participants being 14 years of age. The results of this study indicate that the age group of participants participated in the study ranged from 12 years of age which is very important to identify the grade studied by the participants and that will be discussed in the ensuing graph below.

6.6.1.3 The Grade of participants

Probing the grade that the participants studied is important in this study. This was done to understand the outcomes of the participants selected in Magwadiba Higher Primary school based on their responses about the child Support grant's effectiveness to ensure that participants' basic needs are met. The grade the participants studied were as follows:

Figure 21: The grade studied per participants

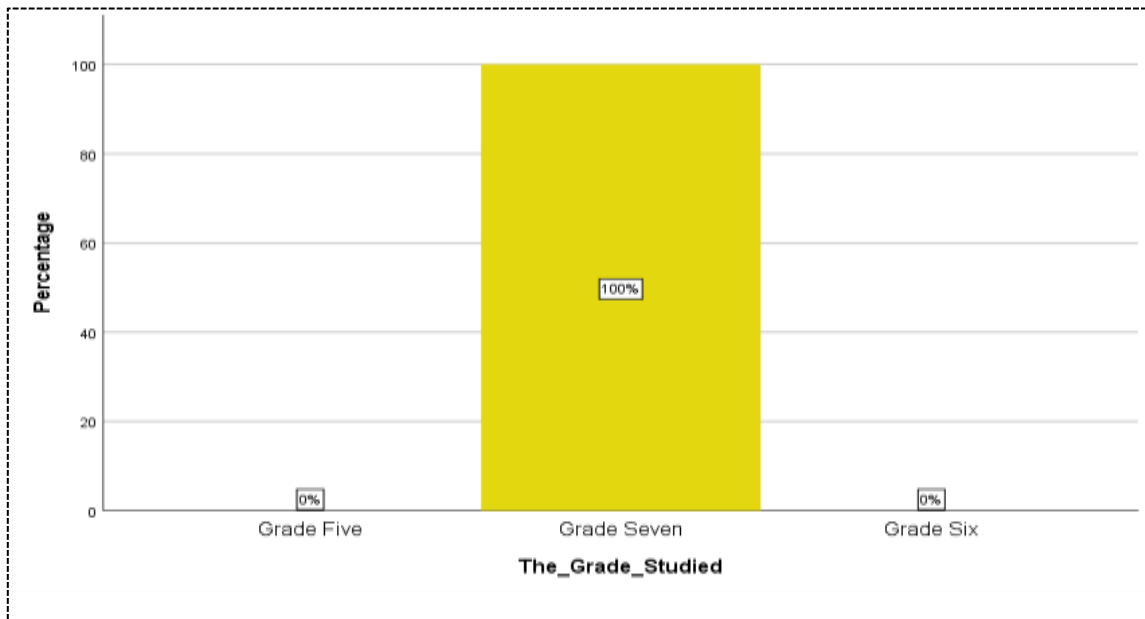


Figure 21 above, indicate that all participants (100%) sampled from Magwadiba Higher Primary School were all in grade seven class. The study selected the learners from grade seven because they were the suitable participants to provide their views in order to identify whether Child Support Grant is utilised on their best interest to meet their basic needs as this Child Support Grant is purposed to.

6.7 CHILD SUPPORT GRANT BENEFICIARIES

Child Support Grant is the major role-player in the effort of the current government to make some of the children's rights a reality. Section 9 of the children's Act No. 38 of 2005 stipulates that in all matters concerning the care, protection and well-being of a child, the child's best interest is of great importance. In addition, since all children have the right to have their basic needs met not only for survival and protection but also to be able to develop to their full potential, to participate as members of society. It is therefore important for this study to investigate the perceptions of grant beneficiaries in order to find out

whether the grant is utilised accordingly as it was purposed to or the manner in which the grant is utilised are the grant beneficiaries satisfied that the grant met their needs.

For this reason, in order to identify the perceptions of grant beneficiaries, the researcher probed the following; the type of primary caregivers who receive the grant on behalf of their children, the beneficiaries who receive lunch box or depend on the lunch provided at school only, the grant beneficiaries who use transport when they go to school, the basic needs that grant beneficiaries receive on a monthly basis, identifying whether the grant is utilised for other household purposes and whether the grant is utilised on the best interest of the children.

6.7.1 The type of primary caregivers who receive the grant on behalf of the children

Primary caregivers are entitled to receive the grant on behalf of the children and responsible for using the money for the children’s needs. Probing the demography of primary caregivers who are receiving the grant on behalf of grant beneficiaries is important in this study. This was done to identify different groups of primary caregivers who were receiving the grant on behalf of the children.

Figure 22: The type of primary caregivers who are receiving the grant on behalf of their children

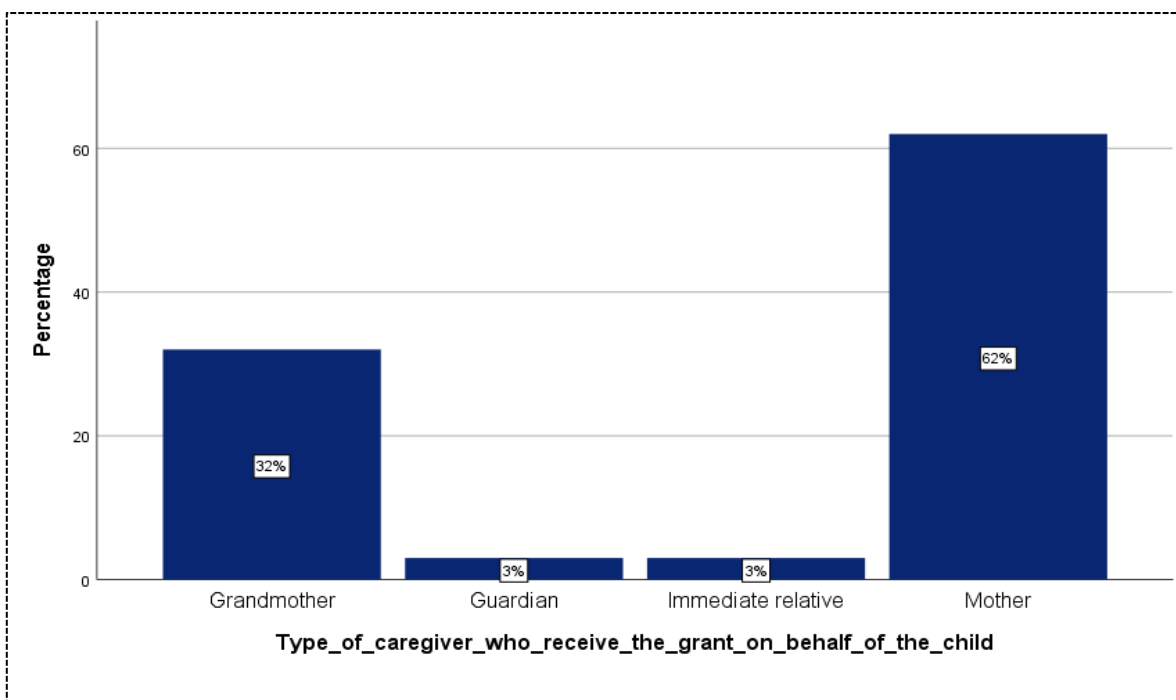
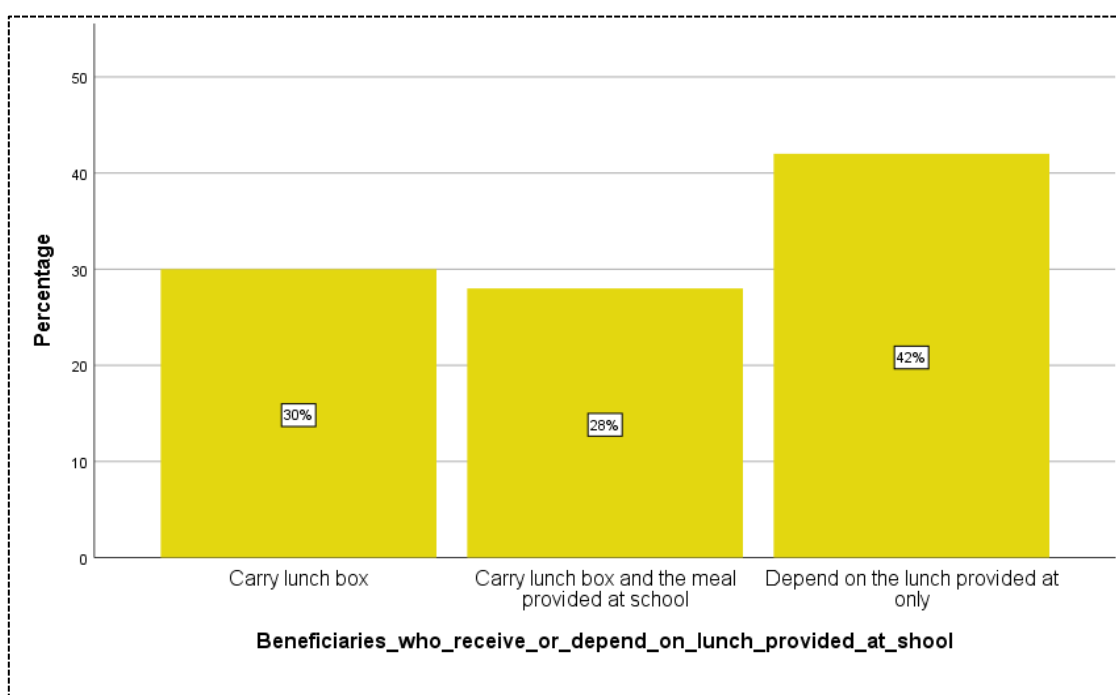


Figure 22 above; indicate that majority of participants (62%) who participated in this study were the biological mothers of the children followed by grandmothers with (32%) as well as immediate relatives and guardians by (6%). This may suggest that majority of the children (Grant beneficiaries) were co-resident with their mothers. In the study conducted by Hunter and Adato (2007: 5) found that majority of primary of caregivers were mothers, grandmothers and immediate relatives with zero per cent of cases of fathers being designated as primary caregivers. This can therefore be concluded that biological mothers were the dominant category of primary caregivers receiving the grant on behalf of the children.

6.7.2 Child Support Grant beneficiaries who received lunch box or depended on the lunch provided at school only

The researcher probed on the Child Support Grant beneficiaries who received lunch box or who depended on the lunch provided at school only. The aim was to find out the number of children who received lunch box as well as those who depended on the lunch provided at school only to understand whether the grant money is too small to be able to provide lunch box or is used to manage other household purposes.

Figure 23: Child Support Grant beneficiaries who receive lunch box or depend on the lunch provided at school only



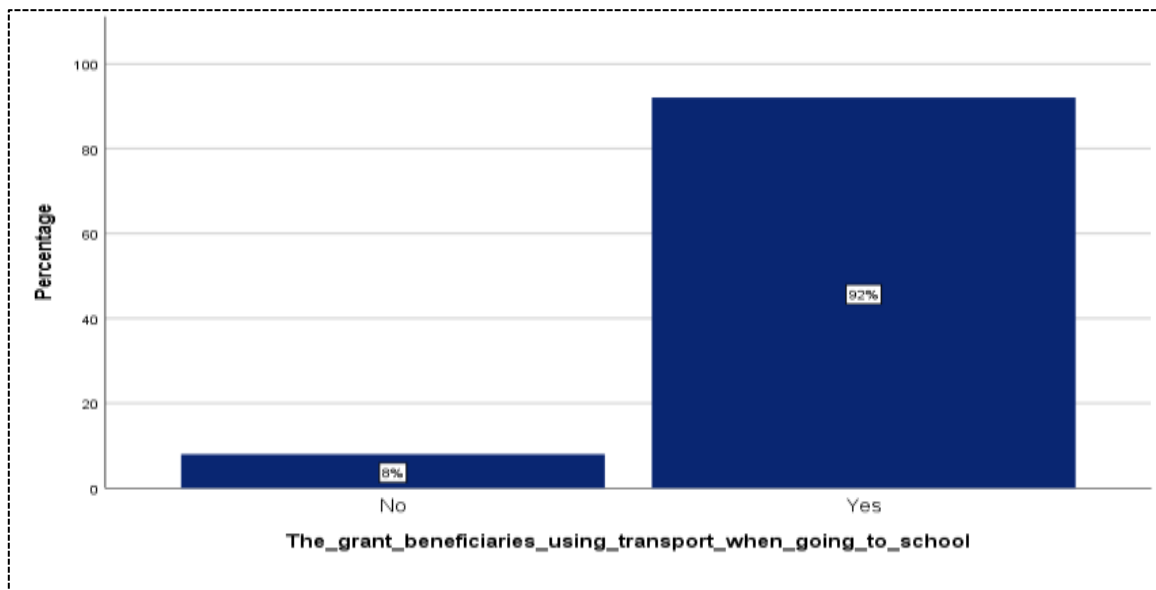
Out of forty Child Support Grant beneficiaries selected from Magwadiba Higher Primary School, (30%) of participants reported that they receive lunch box when they go to school while (28%) of participants indicated that they receive both lunch box and the meal that is provided at school. Majority of participants mentioned that because of Child Support Grant they are able to carry food and some snacks when they go to school. However, (42%) of participants revealed that they depended on the lunch meal provided at school only. Since Child Support Grant is unable to provide enough food to children before, during and after the contact hours is the clear evidence about what makes children hungry (Rosso, 1999).

Moreover, few participants said that they walk long distance to their schooling area without something to eat at school and that led them to depend on food from the feeding schemes all the time. Given this circumstance, this implies that feeding scheme programmes play an important role by relieving children from malnutrition at school. In addition, as many public school learners in our communities are coming from low income families; are unable to afford lunch box and they go to school empty handed; through the feeding scheme programme, punctuality, regular school attendance, concentration and general well-being participation of learners can be assured.

6.7.3 Child Support Grant beneficiaries who use transport when they go to school

The scholars' transportation system is a necessary and integral part of the right to children's basic needs. According to Byukusenge (2016: 76), transport is a pre-requisite for the primary caregivers to send their children to school as many of the children stay far from their schooling areas. With that said, transportation of scholars to their respective schools has always been a key challenge confronting the mothers of many Child Support Grant beneficiaries. Since in many poor families Child Support Grant is not only used on the children's schooling necessities and transport to travel to school but also used to buy food and to provide for the entirety of the family. Thus as a result of the grant's limited amount structure, many beneficiaries will walk to their schooling areas as the grant will not be able to cover their transportation costs. For the purpose of this study, this variable was probed to determine the number of Child Support Grant beneficiaries who use transport when they go to school.

Figure 24: Determining the number of Child Support Grant beneficiaries who use transport when they go to school



In all forty participants investigated, (8%) of participants indicated that they use transportation system when are travelling to school while the overwhelming majority of participants (92%) reported that they walk to their schooling areas. Different responses were provided as the participants mentioned that they do not use any mode of transport because they reside nearer to their schooling area. While others said they walk long distances to school because the grant money cannot manage to pay for transportation fee and take care of the households needs at the same time since is too little. To support this statement, according to the National Travel Survey Provincial Profile for Limpopo (2015: 15), 82.5% of learners in Limpopo attending school walk all the way to get to their school; with about 22% of learners walking for between 30 minutes and an hour to get to their educational institutions (Mail & Guardian, 2018). Therefore it is for this reason to determine whether the transport fare paid by learners when travelling to school is paid by the grant money and that will be discussed in the ensuing diagram.

6.7.4 The transport fare

Transport fare is the sum charged or paid for conveyance in a bus, taxi as well as private transport (Collins English Dictionary, 2018). This variable was probed in this study to find out if the transport fare paid by learners when travelling to school is paid by Child Support Grant money.

Figure 25: Determining whether the transport fare paid by learners who use transport to travel to school is paid by Child Support Grant money

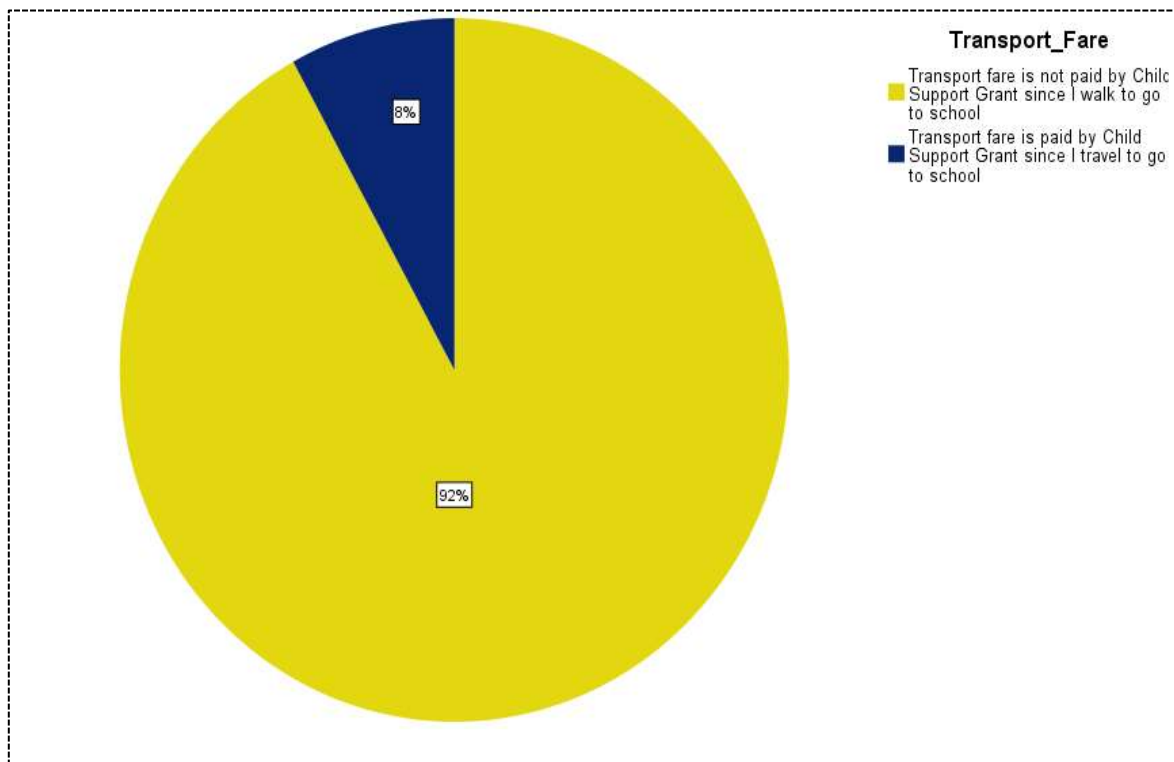


Figure 25 above illustrate that only 8% of participants' transport fare was paid by Child Support Grant money. The results may suggest that this group of participants were staying far away from their schooling area and are able to afford paying money for transport fare. Thus children in the highest income group travel to school by car (Mail & Gaurdian, 2018). Ninety two per cent (92%) of participants were not paying transport fare to travel to school. The findings of the study may suggest that the parents are unable to pay for transport fare for their children since the cost for transportation is too expensive for them. One participant said during the fieldwork: *“that the transport fare has been a big problem for my mother to settle for me even though I am attending school far away from home”*. This implies that children in the lowest income groups are also more likely to walk to school than those in the highest income group. According to National Travel Survey Provincial Profile for Limpopo (2015: 15), notes that the instances were learners used alternative modes of transport were in urban areas where learners arrived at school as passengers of a car or truck.

6.7.5 Basic needs that Child Support Grant beneficiaries receive on a monthly basis

Basic needs involve adequate food, shelter and clothing. The researcher probed the basic needs that Child Support Grant beneficiaries receive on a monthly basis in order to find out the kinds of basic needs that they receive every month and to understand whether the children's basic needs are met or compromised. As Khosa's (2013: 4) point out that some caregivers fail in ensuring that the basic needs of the children are met as some of the caregivers who receive the grant on behalf of the children are reported to be misusing the grant and not utilising it in the best interest of the children. The basic needs that children receive on a monthly basis are outlined in the graph below:

Figure 26: Basic needs received by Child Support Grant beneficiaries

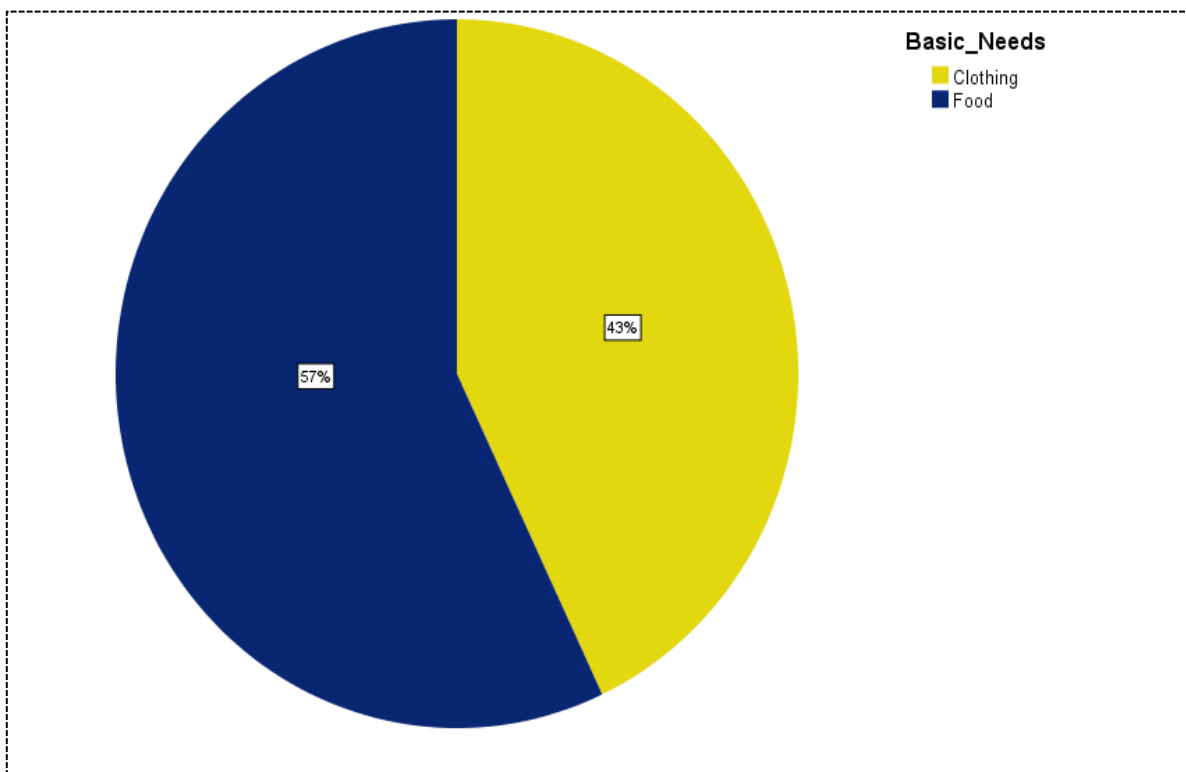


Figure 26 above, indicates that (43%) of participants agree that they receive clothes on a monthly basis, with some indicating that they are able to receive school uniforms, casual clothes as well as winter clothes and footwear. One participant added *that “yes my mother do buy clothes for me, though I do not get them on a monthly basis I sometimes get shoes and on some other time maybe shirt and so on”*.

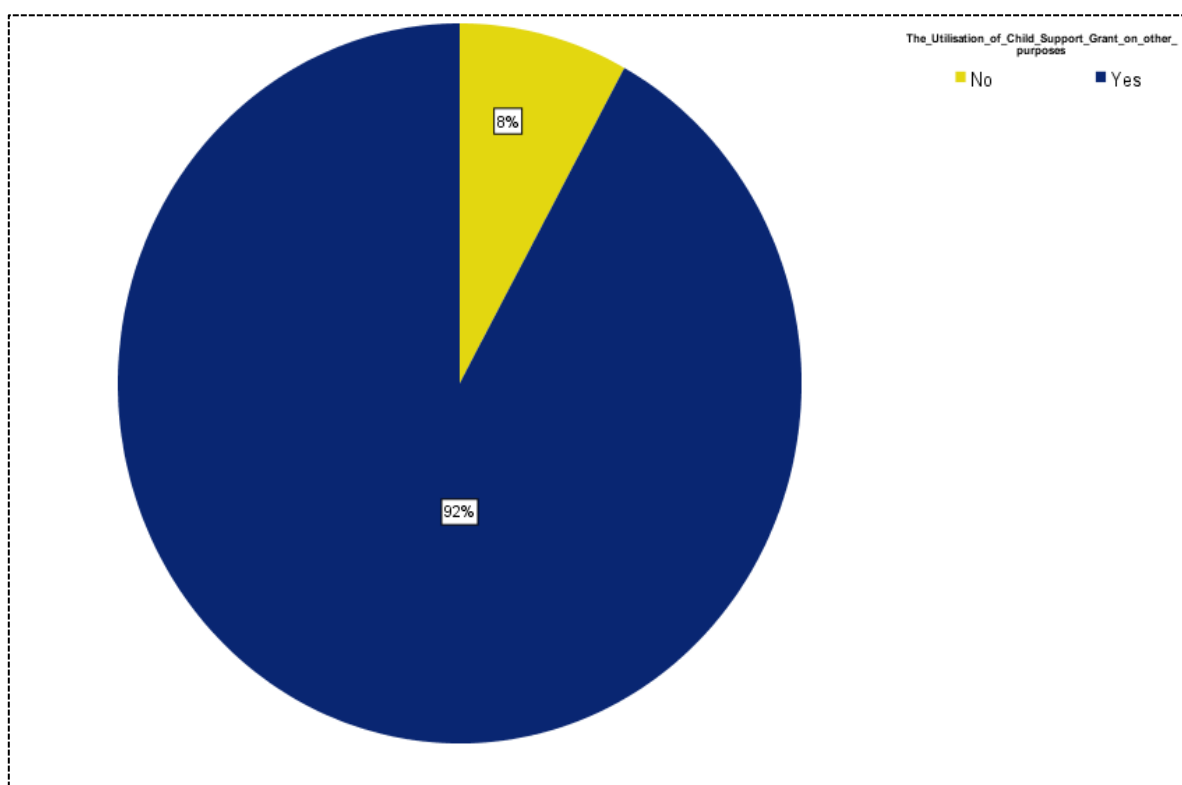
Given this circumstance, (57%) of participants indicated that the grant help their mothers financially to buy food in the families, though it does not contribute a lot, it is better than

nothing. Other participants supported the statement as they mentioned that the grant is helpful in buying grocery on a monthly basis which is able cater for the whole household. This is in line with the findings of Byukusenge (2016: 77) that Child Support Grant is helpful in sustaining some of the basic needs in the household.

6.7.6 The utilisation of Child Support Grant on other household purposes

The nature of the utilisation of Child Support Grant in performing other household purposes was probed. The probing on the nature of the utilisation of Child support Grant is imperative for this study since this will help to determine how and what are the other household purposes that the grant is utilised for.

Figure 27: Child Support Grant is utilised for other household purposes



It is quite clear from figure 27 above that the overwhelming majority of participants (92%) agreed that Child Support Grant is utilised for other purposes. Many participants agreed that the grant is mostly utilised to buy food, paying for health care services as well as buying electricity while contributing to burial societies. Although, one participant mentioned that: *“when others receive clothes because their parents are in a better financial state, on my side is different because the money is saved through stokvel (Mogodisano) to support*

my sister who is studying at the university”. This implies that grant beneficiaries are shouldering the responsibility for support as their grant money is stretched out to care for other siblings in the household.

6.7.7 Determining whether Child Support Grant is utilised on the best interest of the child.

According to Khosa’s (2013: 5), there are many cases of child neglect whereby a large number of children were reported to be neglected. Some were sleeping without food while their caregivers were benefiting from the grant. As a result, the grant did not benefit the children’s best interests as it was purposed to. It is therefore important for this study to probe the perception of participants in determining whether the grant is utilised accordingly as it was intended to on them.

Figure 28: Determining whether Child Support Grant is utilised on the best interest of the child

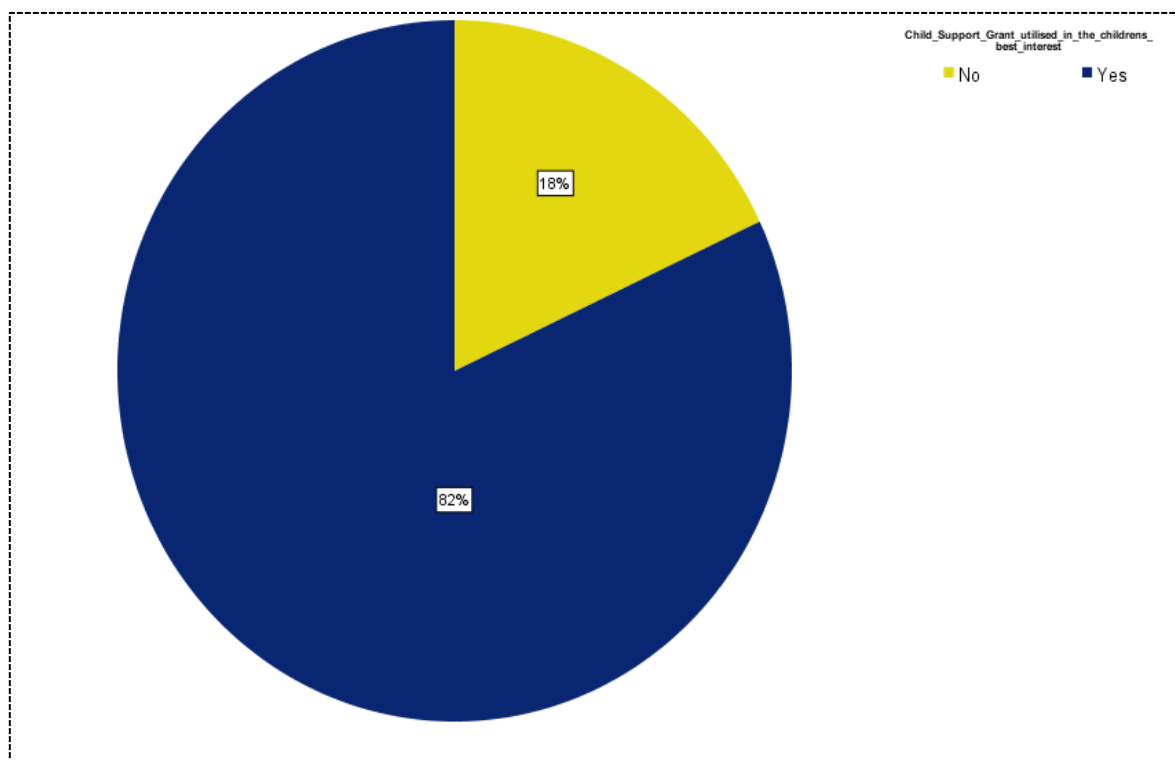


Figure 28 above illustrate that majority of participants (82%) indicated that the grant is utilised in the best interest of their needs, while (18%) of participants disagreed that the grant has been utilised for its intended purpose. The results indicated that majority of participants agree that the grant contributed a lot to provide their needs in that when the

money comes they manage to get nice clothes, eat proper food and live in a healthy environment. Other participants revealed how this pocket-sized grant is pulled out to include adults who are not part of the grant support, as they mentioned that adults misuse the grant by visiting beauty salon, buying cell phones and fancy clothes and make-up for themselves. Three participants added that: *“the grant has not benefited them at all, as their mothers use the grant to play cards”*. This has also been confirmed by Khosa’s (2013) that some of the caregivers of the grant utilise the grant for their own gain not according to its intended purposes.

6.8 SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE THE LEVEL OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT POLICY

Over the years, Child Support Grant has been afforded to people with the small amount of scale and complains have been brought forward about the grant’s inability to cover all the children and households’ activities. During the data collection survey, the researcher with the use of questionnaires required the children who are the rightful beneficiaries to propose recommendations that will help to bring solutions to the challenges raised. This was done to get the participants’ standpoint of view to help in refining the provision of Child support Grant policy to its rightful beneficiaries. Therefore the participants’ suggested recommendations are as follows:

6.8.1 The Child Support Grant should be increased to be on the same scale with State Old Age Pension Grant

In terms of seeking recommendations on the level of Child Support Grant policy, the study discovered that the participants are not satisfied about the stipend that they receive as it is not enough. The participants indicated that if the grant is increased it will be adequate enough to manage all of the household’s expenses without jeopardy. The participants recommends that the grant should be increased to be on the same scale with the State Old Age Pension Grant wherein the manner in which they are utilised is the same in most households, though it will be a disadvantage to those who were receiving grant for multiple children. In that each primary caregiver will only be eligible for one stipend which will be on the same as pension grant for older people. This is recommended since it will be able to cater all children’s basic needs and manage to operate other households’ services.

6.8.2 The Child Support Grant should be provided until grade 12

The participants reported that the grant should be provided until grade 12, so that it can give birth to opportunities that will be helpful in the near future and better their educational status. In that if it is utilised efficiently and effectively in conducting small investments, the grant will assist the beneficiaries' in terms of registration processes at the tertiary level as it will help to break educational barriers. As young people mostly in rural areas are always stuck at home without any means of how they can better their level of education. As Byukusenge (2016: 74), states that Child Support Grant seem to be making meaningful contributions to improving school enrolment amongst school-going children. Moreover, in an international level, this concurs with the findings of the research conducted by Schwartzman in 2004 at Brazil which found that the stipend given by Bolsa Escola to the poor families with children has encouraged caregivers to send their children to school and children are proud of studying because they are aware of where the money and school materials are coming from.

6.9 DATA COLLECTION THROUGH INTERVIEWS

According to McMillan and Schumacher (2001: 267), interviews is defined as flexible, adaptable and involves direct interaction between individuals. The use of interviews was chosen in this study. Before the researcher administered the interviews, the researcher obtained permission from the SASSA Limpopo Region to conduct the study since its imperative to take into consideration research ethics. The researcher conducted interviews with the government official to identify the challenges of Child Support Grant's administrative system in the South African Social Security Agency.

The questions constructed were valid and reliable and measured what they were intending to measure. As Ary, Jacobs and Razavieh (1985: 357) argued that the most obvious type of ensuring validity of questions is that the theoretical assumptions contained in the literature have to be contained in the interviews as this would yield content validity. In this study, to support the above mentioned statement, the kinds of questions items constructed addressed the theory under investigation and the objectives as they included themes and questions under the following categories: the challenges encountered when administering the grant, measures taken to resolve these challenges and the monitoring and evaluations processes taken to enforce the proper usage of Child Support Grant (See Appendices H).

The primary data acquired from data collection was encoded into themes and categories to address the literature of the study. As Maykut and Marehouse's (1994: 127) stated that themes and categories are not predetermined but emerge from data itself. The primary data that was encoded into themes and categories was thereafter reviewed to make sure they fit the data and the write-up was made by creating a coherent narrative that includes quotes from the interviewee. The results from the interview analysed through thematic analysis are as follows:

6.9.1 The years spent and the title acquired at the Agency

The government official was consulted specifically to provide information about the administration of Child Support Grant policy. In order to obtain the data required, the researcher asked the participant to identify the years spent working at the Agency and the title acquired hoping that it will be helpful for the study based on the participant's experience. The participant mentioned that: *"I have served in the Agency for twenty years working as a grant manager responsible for analysing all processes, providing enhancement to all grant programs if required and manage all grant management processes according to policies and procedures"*.

6.9.2 Number of eligible beneficiaries receiving Child Support Grant

In order to identify the number of beneficiaries receiving the grant, the participant who is working as a grant manager who served in the Agency for twenty years, indicated that: *"more than 2.5 million beneficiaries receive the grant, wherein 1.8 million beneficiaries are receiving Child Support Grant in the Limpopo province"*.

6.9.3 Identifying whether all eligible beneficiaries are receiving the grant

The participant was further asked if all the eligible beneficiaries are receiving the grant, the participant said that: *"no"*. A recent study on progress made in removing barriers to accessing the Child Support Grant estimated that almost 18% of eligible children are not receiving the grant (DSD, SASSA and UNICEF, 2016).

6.9.4 Identifying the reason why children who are eligible for the grant are not receiving the grant

The participant was asked to identify the reason why children who are eligible for the grant are not receiving the grant, the participant replied that: *“the information has not been read especially to those in the farms”*. However, the Analysis of the National Income Dynamics Survey (NIDS, Wave 3) found that the two most common reasons that income-eligible caregivers did not apply for the Child Support Grant for these children were that they believed their income was too high. However, Case, Hosegood and Lund (2005) indicated that not enough is known about why some of those who are eligible do not apply for the grant. Since social security system is fragmented and non-comprehensive with many children not being able to access the grants for which they are eligible and many more not qualifying for social security despite clearly needing it. Given these circumstances, Brandon (2007) suggested that some of the reasons are born by illegal immigrants who married South Africans, but do not have the necessary documentation.

6.9.5 Documentation required applying for the grant

In order to avoid misconceptions and inconsistencies, the participant was asked about the documents required to apply for the grant, however, the participant mentioned that: *“birth certificate, bank statement, affidavit, copies of Identity document as well as the letter from school if the child is attending school and proof of residence”*. However, despite the extensive reaches of South Africa’s social assistance system, a number of barriers exist which prevent many of the poor from accessing social grants (Jehoma and Guarnieri, 2016: 80). DSD, SASSA and UNICEF (2010) explained that they heard lots of stories of South African citizens who attempted to apply for the Child Support Grant, but failed due to the problems of their documents. As Byukusenge’s (2016: 84) notes that the documentation issue is not only a problem for the refugees but to local South Africans as well.

6.9.6 Mechanisms set in place for assisting people to register for the grant

Again the participant was asked if there are mechanisms set in place for assisting people to register for the grant, the participant said that: *“yes, there are mobile units that go to the villages where there are no offices”*. This is done to take services closer to the potential beneficiaries, especially those in the rural areas through Integrated Community Registration Outreach Programme (SASSA, 2010).

6.9.7 Awareness campaign conducted for increasing the grant's accessibility

Furthermore, the participant was asked about the awareness campaign conducted that were successful for increasing the grant's accessibility, the participant said that: *"Integrated Community Registration Outreach Programme (ICROP) events was successful wherein information was disseminated through media (radio, newspapers, information through pamphlets), church structures, ministerial visits and community offices"*. The participant emphasised that the programme stands to improve access to service delivery mostly in the deep rural areas and geared at bringing all government services under one roof and closer to rural communities utilising mobile office Trucks.

6.9.8 Remarkable changes on Child Support Grant policy in terms of outreach, application and administrative processes in helping to register for the grant

The participant was asked about the most remarkable changes on Child Support Grant policy in terms of outreach, application and administrative processes in helping to register for the grant, the participant said that: *"there has been remarkable changes on Child Support Grant programme in terms of outreach wherein there was re-registration process to help all people to register for the grant and the media was assisting in ensuring that the information is disseminated and accessible as well as the home visit conducted for the bedridden and frail beneficiaries for the changing of old cards"*.

6.9.9 Support structures set in place for assisting people with application

When the participant was asked if there were any support structures set in place for assisting people with the application, the participant said: *"yes, tribal authorities, church structures and social workers are the important support structures set in place in assisting for the grant application in terms of disseminating information in rural areas"*.

6.9.10 The Agency working hand in hand with the social workers to identify children in need of the grant, but who do not access the grant

The participant was asked if the Agency work hand in hand with the social workers, the participant said that: *"the Agency work hand in hand with the social workers stationed at their offices, hospitals and clinics to identify children who are in need of the grant and those who are fostered; provide advice and support to teenage beneficiaries mostly in terms of who is eligible for the grant, how can the grant be accessed and how to use the grant."*

Social workers also intervene in cases of child neglect and when Child Support Grant is allegedly misused by caregivers”.

6.9.11 Determining whether there is sufficient staff to administer the grant

Furthermore, the participant was asked whether the grant has sufficient staff available to administer the grant, the participant said: *“there are enough employees available in all SASSA offices to register all types of the grant not only Child Support Grant”*. However, this may appear far-fetched as many people are complaining about long queues during grant registrations as this will be as a result of lack of sufficient staff available to administer the grant. Social grants recipients expressed frustrations regarding long queues at SASSA offices (Masango, 2018). They indicated that they had to wait for over two hours before they could be served (Mthethwa, 2017: 198). Moreover, Mthethwa states that this shows that beneficiaries are only served after a long time which indicates that SASSA is inefficient. In the study conducted by Byukusenge (2016: 81) notes that refugees also shared their frustrations as they complained that they are left in the queue for the whole day even though they came first. With that said, in the study conducted by DSD, SASSA and UNICEF (2012) acknowledged that the complex and time-consuming administration process alongside the lack of hospitality and long queues at the SASSA service points acted as key barriers to accessing the Child Support Grant.

6.9.12 The challenges faced by staff in administering the grant

In responding to the challenges faced by staff in administering the grant, the participant states that: *“one of the challenges encountered by the staff is the case of children without birth certificate and identity document for caregivers”*. Despite the improvements in the processing of documentation, the difficulty of acquiring documents for the caregivers and birth certificates for the child remains a serious problem. Although, according to the current rules, caregivers are allowed to apply for the Child Support Grant even if they do not have all the proper documents at the time of application. As they are expected to apply for documentation with the Department of Home Affairs soon after applying for grant in order to keep receiving the grant (DSD, SASSA and UNICEF, 2016: 31). Delany and Jehoma (2016) argue that although the application process has been simplified, a challenge in institutional capacity in accessing documentation is still a problem. As lack of coordination across government institutions and with social workers leave applicants with differing

information about grant eligibility criteria and application procedures. Given the uneven education standards across the country and the lack of access to information for grant applicants, the complex array of documents required to apply for a grant is an important driver of exclusion (Statistics South Africa, 2014).

According to the data from NIDS Survey (2010), more than 680 000 eligible children did not get their Child Support Grant because caregivers did not apply for grant due to lack of proper documentation. Although, in 2010 the number dropped by more than 50%, the number remained steady at 248 000 over the next two years. As it is difficult to attribute the drop between 2008 and 2010 which it is not clear if more caregivers managed to get correct documents or were simply more aware that they could apply for and start receiving the Child Support Grant while waiting for their official documentation from the Department of Home Affairs.

6.9.13 Solutions to the challenges faced in administering the grant

In dealing with the challenges on the administration of the Child Support Grant, the participant states that: *“the Department of Home Affairs and SASSA offices are situated to each other, as this will assist in ensuring that all necessary documents are obtained”*. Thus the interdepartmental coordination efforts to ensure harmonised, synergised and streamlining grant administration are the part of the responsible and mandate the departments require (Mthethwa, 2017: 183).

6.9.14 Cases reported on the misuse or abuse of Child Support Grant

In terms of the cases reported on the misuse of the grant, the participant responded *“that: different cases were furnished to SASSA offices wherein grant recipients are misusing the grant by paying hairdresser appointments and buying beauty products”*. Furthermore the participant mentioned that: *“cases of caregivers who no longer have children in their care but still accessing their grants were reported”*. Thus the caregivers continue to receive the grant not even bother to relinquish the right to receive the grant.

6.9 15 Measures taken to solve cases reported about the grant abuse

In terms of the measures taken to solve the cases of grant abuse, the participant said that: *“when the case is reported, social workers will visit families who complain of grant abuse was lodged against them”*.

6.9.16 Workshops or awareness campaigns undertaken to educate caregivers on how to utilise the grant in the household

When the participant was asked about the awareness campaign undertaken to educate caregivers on how to utilise the grant in the household, the participant mentioned that: *“caregivers are always visited by social workers through the Integrated Community Registration Outreach Programme which is facilitated through the use of mobile units that are fully staffed and equipped with all necessary administration”*.

6.9.17 Processes undertaken to monitor the progress of the grant’s the nature of utilisation

When the participant was asked if there are processes undertaken to monitor the progress of Child Support Grant’s nature of utilisation, the participant said that: *“yes, there are processes to monitor the progress of the grant which is only done with the help of social leader and social workers are then requested to intervene to resolve such cases”*.

6.9.18 Measures undertaken to monitor the progress of Child Support Grant’s nature of utilisation

The participant was asked to describe the measures undertaken to monitor the progress of Child Support Grant’s nature of utilisation, the participant responded that: *“this is done through civil society organisations who report such cases and social workers who are deployed to intervene on the cases reported as well as through toll free numbers given to report the misuse of Child Support grant”*.

6.10 CONCLUSION

The purpose of this chapter was to present research findings. The chapter involves the primary data extracted from different data collection instruments which was analysed and interpreted through the use of Statistical Package of Social Sciences in order to draw the conclusion of the study. Content and thematic analyses were used in this chapter to analyse data for the study.

CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to draw the conclusion of this study emanating from the reviewed literature and the research findings on the Role and Impact of Social Security Grant on Poverty Alleviation in South Africa on a case of Child Support Grant at Mankweng in Polokwane municipality area. The study will present research conclusion and recommendation that will be done by outlining the role and impact that Child Support Grant has on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries as well as the grant's nature of utilisation in South Africa.

7.2 CONCLUSION OF THE RESEARCH STUDY

Chapter One: The purpose of this chapter was to present the background of the study, statement of the research problem that stands as the hypothesis for conducting this research, research aim and objectives which serves as the statement of intent for this study as well as the research questions. Furthermore, the chapter presented the definition of concepts together with the significance of this study.

Chapter Two: This chapter was presented to discuss the origin and issues of social security grant. The chapter embarked on discussing the historical background of social security grant (system) as to how the concept of social security came into existence within the South African system. The chapter further presented the fundamental elements of social security system wherein in this study only two elements were furnished as social assistance and social relief of distress to describe the purpose in which the concept of social security has been initiated for.

Chapter Three: The purpose of this chapter was to describe the legislative environment and the role of Child Support Grant on poverty alleviation. The chapter firstly outlined the legislative environment within which Child Support Grant apply which included, the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the Social Assistance Act 2004, the South African Social Security Agency, Children's Act 2005 and the Promotion of Access to Information 2000. These legislative environments were evaluated to identify the anomalies that affect the grant beneficiaries today to help them realise their rights. The chapter further discussed the different roles of Child Support Grant by outlining the roles in which the grant

played for improving the peoples' quality of life. Furthermore, the chapter outlined the nature of the utilisation of Child Support Grant in order to identify the perceptions in which Child Support Grant is utilised by many primary caregivers in their households. The criticisms around the misuse of Child Support Grant were also brought forward in this chapter. This was done to present the different arguments that will help to discover the main concern led by misusing the grant.

Chapter Four: The purpose of this chapter was to describe the nature and impact of Child Support Grant as to how the grant impacted the lives of the people. This has been done in an attempt to identify the backlogs in order to see as to how this backlogs can dealt with by improving the level of Child Support Grant policy.

Chapter Five: The purpose of this chapter was to discuss the research design and methodology that was employed for executing this study, in relation to research problem, aim and objectives of the study. Different research methodologies were presented to guide the study. The study was done through the use of both quantitative and qualitative research design which employed semi-structured questionnaires and structured interviews that were done to guide the study. The responses on how this study was conducted were reported back in this chapter on order to test the hypothesis that led to the execution of this study.

Chapter Six: This chapter was undertaken to present, analyse and interpret the research findings of the study in order to determine whether the research aim and objectives have achieved the intended results.

Chapter Seven: This chapter outlined the summary of the study, recommendations together with the recommendations for further study and drawn the conclusion on the basis of the literature reviewed and the research findings.

7.3 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study was to investigate the role and impact of Child Support Grant on poverty alleviation in order to provide insight that can inform public service practitioners and scholarship in general about the challenges emanating from the Child Support Grant policy. In view of the above chapter, the study made the following recommendations:

7.3.1 Strengthening the Child Support Grant's administrative system

During data collection, on the cases were beneficiaries who are eligible for the grant but unable to access it, the study discovered that solutions on helping those beneficiaries who are not receiving the grant are slim as the findings of the study indicate not even a record is kept to identify how many are not receiving the grant and the reasons why they are not receiving it so that actions can be taken to help in assisting those beneficiaries.

Furthermore, on the matters regarding cases that are reported on the misuse of the grant, the study discovered that only social workers are the one that are deployed to visits families who the complains are lodged against on the misuse of the grant. The findings of the study do not provide what actions are taken against those who are found misusing the grant. In view of the findings, the study recommends that thorough monitoring and evaluation system should be practiced to help to identify the strength and the failure of the Child Support Grant policy so as to see how this weakness can be addressed in order to find new solutions that will be helpful to improve the level of the Child Support Grant policy.

7.3.2 Addressing the problem of the grant's inadequacy

In addressing the problem of the grant's inadequacy, the study discovered that due to the grant's limited amount structure, majority of participants complained about the difficult of acquiring food of good quality as many of the participants do not have freedom of accessing enough nutritious and culturally appropriate food as their budget is hindering them. The study further revealed that due to the grant's extent of coverage majority of participants experienced hardships in terms of inflation rate, wherein the participants' complained about the price of goods which is perennially increasing whereby many participants were unable to cope with price trends, which led them to adopt the practice of layby.

Therefore, the study recommends that to address the grant's inadequacy, the participants should be encouraged to use their own skills which will helpful to create employment on the other hand. Furthermore, to supplement the grant money people should engage into agriculture as in this study, it was discovered that through the engagement of agriculture people are able to participate in economic activities. As the grant enabled them to engage in farming activities wherein they are able to start small farms to plant crops such as cabbages, spinach and vegetables like carrots, beetroots, butternuts as well as sweet-potatoes whereby during harvest time they are able to sell their produce to the market like

Pick n Pay, Shoprite as well as to street vendors to lift up their harsh standard of living, though this activities are undertaken seasonally which also becomes problem if there is a shortage of water supply to maintain the healthy standard of the crops until harvest time.

7.3.3 Identifying the impact that Child Support Grant has on the lives of the people

In identifying the impact that Child Support Grant has in developing the lives of the people, in the study the impact of Child Support Grant was documented in different aspects: *Firstly*, in identifying the impact of Child Support Grant in improving the households' food security, the study discovered that Child Support Grant enables them to acquire enough food available in the households most importantly when the recipients collect grant for several beneficiaries. The findings of this study further reveal that other participants report that the grant rarely enables them to acquire food of good quality. The most striking feature of this data is that those who are able to buy food using grant money, many of them do not have freedom of accessing enough nutritious and culturally appropriate food of their preferences, as their food preferences are always aligned with the budget they have.

Secondly, in identifying the impact of Child Support Grant in promoting school attendance among beneficiaries, the study discovered that the grant contributes towards the improvement of school attendance which enhances the children's educational status which vital in fighting the calamity of poverty. The study revealed that Child Support Grant enabled the participants the purchasing power to provide school requirements for their children such as school uniforms and transportation, stationery, as well as school shoes, so that they do not go to school barefooted, though it is done once in a while.

The study further revealed that Child Support Grant do not necessarily creates incentive for school attendance but relieve severe malnutrition towards children. Thus despite the beneficiaries' entitlement on Child Support Grant to provide for school needs, in many households the grant is always diverted as household income top up to buy basic food and consumption needs as a result of socio-economic problems.

Thirdly, in regard to the labour market participation, the study discovered that participants believe that to those who are illiterate Child Support Grant discourage people to participate in the labour market due to their limited skills which dictate their choice of work. In that due to their limited skills the kind of work that they settle for are also the work of lesser salary which becomes critical for them to participate in the labour market. As Sayre and Hendy

(2013) state that the failure of primary caregivers' labour market participation is largely due to their limited job prospects. The study further revealed that in view of the family environment and unfavourable condition, for a living people generate their income through informal entrepreneurial means such as rendering laundry services for other people, ploughing as well as selling tomatoes, so that they can supplement the grant money to make a day to day living.

7.3.4 Addressing the problem of dependency syndrome on the state resources

In addressing the problem of dependency syndrome on the state resources, the study discovered that to those who are impoverished; they see Child Support Grant as the only source of income they are entitle to receive. With that said the participants emphasised that Child Support Grant is a time limited rather than permanent which will be ironic to depend on it alone. The study discovered that providing grant to the people with little money does not make them lazy or reluctant to work, but eases intense pressure on households and provides people with a foundation on which to change their lives. Thus poverty and unemployment phenomenon are the factors to be blamed. In that many poor people work hard to try to get out of poverty traps in which they are locked into. In addition, the study revealed that the participants prefer to put the income that they receive from grant into good use by looking for work, investing in family farm to generate income by enhancing livelihoods and reducing dependent on external support.

Therefore, the study recommends that the government should encourage small entrepreneurial jobs to encourage job creation in order to cater for the unskilled labourers and the unemployed for improving people's economic well-being in reducing dependency on the government resources. Since other people depend on Child Support Grant because of unemployment.

7.3.5 Identifying whether Child Support Grant is utilised in the best interest of the children

In identifying whether Child Support Grant is utilised in the best interest of the children, the study discovered that the Child Support Grant is utilised in the best interest of the childrens' needs. The results indicated that majority of participants agree that the grant contributed a lot to provide their needs in that when the money comes they manage to get nice clothes, eat proper food and live in a healthy environment. The study further revealed how this pocket-sized grant is pulled out to include adults who are not part of the grant support, as

the study discovered that adults misuse the grant by visiting beauty salon, buying cell phones and fancy clothes and make-up for themselves. Three participants added that: *“the grant has not benefited them at all, as their mothers use the grant to play cards”*. This has also been confirmed by Khosa’s (2013) that some of the caregivers of the grant utilise the grant for their own gain not according to its intended purposes.

The study also discovered that Child Support Grant is used to perform other household purposes as is mostly utilised to buy food, paying for health care services as well as buying electricity while contributing to burial societies. The study discovered other concerns brought forward by the grant beneficiaries, as one participant mentioned that: “when others receive clothes because their parents are in a better financial state, on my side is different because the money is saved through stokvel (*Mohodisano*) to support my sister who is studying at the university”. This implies that grant beneficiaries are shouldering the responsibility for support as their grant money is stretched out to care for other siblings in the household.

7.4 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study was to investigate the role and impact of Child Support Grant on poverty alleviation in order to provide insight that can inform public service practitioners and scholarship in general about the challenges emanating from Child Support Grant policy. In order to identify the factors that led to the limitations of this study, the study discovered that the findings of the study were limited by the participants’ discreet or mixed responses, as most of the participants were too much careful to avoid embarrassment about their family background. Child Support Grant beneficiaries’ responses were limited based on their fear of disclosing the challenges or the struggle that their parents are faced with in their households. Furthermore, the results from Limpopo SASSA Region indicate that solutions that are currently used by the Agency were the ones that were only provided while the administrative challenges that the Agency encountered were rarely mentioned. Many participants withheld the information that will be useful for the results of this study, although little was provided to prove what the study sought to investigate.

7.5 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

As the aim of the study was to investigate the role and impact of Child Support Grant on poverty alleviation in order to provide insight that can inform public service practitioners and

scholarship in general. For further research, the study recommends that studies on how to use the grant money should be undertaken as most of the needs of the children are always compromised as the grant is used for other purposes in the household.

7.6 CONCLUSION

This chapter addressed the conclusion and recommendations of the study. The limitations of the study as well as the recommendations for further research were presented in detail. Different recommendations were made as a result of the findings that were brought forward. That Child Support Grant impacted enormously on the lives of the people by developing their standard of living. The Grant has been applauded to be a source of livelihood and mostly used as household income security in many families, despite the grant's limited amount structure. As it is able to provide food in many families and grant the primary caregivers the purchasing power to provide school necessities for the children.

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APPENDICE A: TURFLOOP RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE



University of Limpopo
Department of Research Administration and Development
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TURFLOOP RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

MEETING: 05 September 2018

PROJECT NUMBER: TREC/144/2018: PG

PROJECT:

Title: The Role and Impact of Social Security Grant On Poverty Alleviation in South Africa: A Case of Child Support Grant at Mankweng in Polokwane Municipality Area.

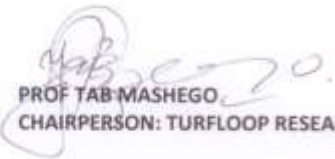
Researcher: C Mohale

Supervisor: Prof MP Sebola

Co-Supervisor/s: N/A

School: Economics and Management

Degree: Master of Administration (Public Administration)


PROF TAB MASHEGO
CHAIRPERSON: TURFLOOP RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Turfloop Research Ethics Committee (TREC) is registered with the National Health Research Ethics Council, Registration Number: REC-0310111-031

Note:

- i) Should any departure be contemplated from the research procedure as approved, the researcher(s) must re-submit the protocol to the committee.
- ii) The budget for the research will be considered separately from the protocol.
PLEASE QUOTE THE PROTOCOL NUMBER IN ALL ENQUIRIES.

APPENDICE B: CONSENT LETTER OF PARTICIPANTS

University of Limpopo
Faculty of Management and law
Private bag x 1106
Sovenga
0727
Date

Dear Participants

I would be thankful if you could be of assistance for participating in the study aimed at investigating the Role and Impact of Social Security Grant on Poverty Alleviation in South Africa: A case of Child Support Grant at Mankweng in Polokwane Municipality area.

The participation in this study is solely for academic purposes on the above mentioned topic. Kindly note that all information collected will be dealt with strictly confidential and the participant's identity will be treated anonymously.

Researcher:

Date:

Supervisor:

Date:

APPENDICE B: LENGWALO LA TUMELELANO LA BATŠEAKAROLO

University of Limpopo
Faculty of Management and law
Private bag x 1106
Sovenga
0727
Date

Batšeakarolo ba ba rategago

Nna nka thaba kudu ge le ka tšea karolo mo nyakišišong ye e beakantswego go nyakišiša diphetogo le tema yeo e kgathilwego ke tša tšhireletšo ya leago e lego go fokotša bodiidi kapa tlala mo Afrika Borwa: thabeng ya tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana tikologong ya Mankweng Masepaleng wa Polokwane.

Go tšeeng karolo mo nyakišišong ye ke fela go phethagatša morero wa thuto. Ka boikokobetšo elang hloko gore tshedimošo ye e tlo kgoboketšwago e tlo dirišwa bjalo ka khupamarama le gore maina a ba tšeakarolo a ka seke a bolelwa.

Monyakišiši:

Letšatšikgwedi:

Molebeledi:

Letšatšikgwedi:

APPENDICE C: CONSENT FORM OF PRIMARY CAREGIVER (MOTHER).

I.....consent to participate in the study on The Role and Impact of Social security Grant on Poverty Alleviation in South Africa: A Case of Child Support Grant at Mankweng in Polokwane Municipality Area.

I understand that participation in the study is completely voluntary, in that no remuneration will be given to me. I therefore understand that I will be asked to answer questions about the role played by Child Support grant policy and its perception on how the grant impacted on the lives of the people as a poverty alleviation mechanism.

By signing this consent form, I therefore agree that I have read and understood the information above and I freely give my consent to participate in the study.

Signatures:

Participant:

Date:

Witness:

Date:

Researcher:

Date:

APPENDICE C: LENGWALO LA TUMELELANO LA MOHLOKOMEDI WA NGWANA (MMAGO NGWANA).

Nna ke a dumela go tšea karolo mo nyakišišong ye, sehlogong thaba se se rego diphetogo le tema yeo e kgathilwego ke tša tšhireletšo ya leago e lego go fokotša bodiidi kapa tlala mo Afrika Borwa: thabeng ya tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana tikologong ya Mankweng Masepaleng wa Polokwane.

Ke a kwešiša gore go kgatha thema mo nyakišišong ye ke boithaopo fela le gore ga go maputso wok e tlogo go fiwa wona. Ka gona ke a kwešiša gore ke tlo kgopelwa go araba dipotšišo mabapi le diphetogo le tema ye e khathilwego ke polisi ya tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana le go fan aka maitemogelo a ka mo polising ye ya tšhelete ya mogolo e le gona go leka go bontšhiša gore polisi yeo e fetotše bjang maphelo a batho bjalo k age e le sedirišwa sa go fokotša maemo a tlala.

Ka go saena pampiri ye ya tumelellano, ka go rialo ke a dumela gore ke badile le gore ke a kwešiša ka tšhedimoso ye e ngwadilwego, ka bolokologi ke neelana ka tumelelo go tšeeng karolo mo nyakišišong ye

Mesaeno:

Motšeakarolo:

Letšatšikgwedi:

Hlatse:

Letšatšikgwedi:

Monyakišiši:

Letšatšikgwedi:

APPENDICE D: CONSENT FORM OF PRIMARY CAREGIVERS GIVING CONSENT ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD.

I.....give my consent to allow my child to participate in the study on The Role and Impact of Social Security Grant on Poverty Alleviation in South Africa: A Case of Child Support Grant at Mankweng in Polokwane Municipality Area.

I understand that participation in this study is completely voluntary and I fully understand that my child will be asked to answer questions about Child Support Grant policy and its perception in determining whether the Child Support Grant is utilised in the best interest of the child.

By signing this consent form I therefore agree that as a mother of the child I have read and understood the information above and I freely give my consent to permit my child to participate in the study.

Signatures:

Participant:

Date:

Witness:

Date:

Researcher:

Date:

APPENDICE D: LENGWALO LA TUMELELANO LA GO TŠWA GO MOTSWADI WA NGWANA.

Nna ke a dumela go tšea karolo mo nyakišišong ye, sehlogong thaba se se rego diphetogo le tema yeo e kgathilwego ke tša tšhireletšo ya leago e lego go fokotša bodiidi kapa tlala mo Afrika Borwa: thabeng ya tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana tikologong ya Mankweng Masepaleng wa Polokwane.

Ke a kwešiša gore go kgatha tema mo nyakišišong ye ke boithaopo fela le gore a go setseka kapa moputso o ngwana waka a tlogo go fiwa wona. Ka gona ke a kwešiša gore ngwana waka o tlo kgopelwa go araba dipotšišo mabapi le polisi ya tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo e le gona go leka go bontšhiša gore nna tšhelete ye ya mogolo e šomišwa ka mokgwa wa maleba o kgahlišago bakeng sa dinyakwa tša ngwana.

Ka go saena pampiri ye ya tumelano bjale ka motswadi wa ngwana, ka go rialo ke a dumela gore ke badile le gore ke a kwešiša ka tšhedimoso ye e ngwadilwego, ka bolokologi ke neelana ka tumelelo go tšeeng karolo mo nyakišišong ye.

Mesaeno:

Motšeakarolo:

Letšatšikgwedi:

Hlatse:

Letšatšikgwedi:

Monyakišiši:

Letšatšikgwedi:

APPENDICE E: CONSENT FORM OF GRANT BENEFICIARY (CHILD).

I Consent to participate in the study on The Role and Impact of Social Security Grant on Poverty Alleviation in South Africa: A Case of Child Support Grant at Mankweng in Polokwane Municipality Area.

I understand that participation in the study is completely voluntary and for academic purposes. And I fully understand that I will be asked to answer questions about the role played by Child Support Grant policy and provide inputs or feedback to determine whether the grant is utilised in the best interest of needs.

By signing this consent form I therefore agree that as a grant beneficiary I have read and understood the information above and I freely give my consent to participate in the study.

Signatures:

Participant:

Date:

Witness:

Date:

Researcher:

Date:

APPENDICE E: LENGWALO LA TUMELELANO LA MOGOLWAGO.

Nna ke a dumela go tšea karolo mo nyakišišong ye, sehlogong thaba se se rego diphetogo le tema yeo e kgathilwego ke tša tšhireletšo ya leago e lego go fokotša bodiidi kapa tlala mo Afrika Borwa: thabeng ya tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana tikologong ya Mankweng Masepaleng wa Polokwane.

Ke a kwešiša gore go kgatha tema mo nyakišišong ye ke boithaopo fela le go phethagatša fela morero wa nyakišišo ya thuto. ke a kwešiša gabotse gore ke ile go kgopelwa go araba dipotšišo mabapi le tema ye ikgathilwego ke polisi ya tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo e le go leka go bontšhiša gore na tšhelete ye ya mogolo e šomišwa ka mokgwa wa maleba bakeng sa bana gotee le go akanya dikeletšo tšeo di ka kaonafatšago maemo a polisi ya tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo.

Ka go saena pampiri ye ya tumelano bjalo ka mogolwago, ka go rialo ke a dumela gore ke badile le gore ke a kwešiša ka tšhedimoso ye e ngwadilwego, ka bolokologi ke neelana ka tumelano go tšeeng karolo mo nyakišišong ye.

Mesaeno:

Motšeakarolo:

Letšatšikgwedi:

Hlatse:

Letšatšikgwedi:

Monyakišiši:

Letšatšikgwedi:

APPENDICE F: CONSENT FORM OF SASSA OFFICIAL.

I Consent to participate in the study on The Role and Impact of Social Security Grant on Poverty Alleviation South Africa: A Case of Child Support Grant at Mankweng in Polokwane Municipality Area.

I understand that participation in the study is completely voluntary and strictly for academic purposes. And I fully understand that I will be asked to answer questions about the administrative challenges of Child Support Grant policy and recommend solutions on how these challenges can be surmounted and resolved by the South African Social Security Agency.

By signing this consent form I therefore agree that as an official I have read and understood the information above and I freely give my consent to participate in the study.

Signatures:

Participant:

Date:

Witness:

Date:

Researcher:

Date:

APPENDICE F: LENGWALO LA TUMELELANO LA MOHLANKEDI WA SASSA.

Nna ke a dumela go tšea karolo mo nyakišišong ye, sehlogong thaba se se rego dipheto go le tema yeo e kgathilwego ke tša tšhireletšo ya leago e lego go fokotša bodiidi kapa tlala mo Afrika Borwa: thabeng ya tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana tikologong ya Mankweng Masepaleng wa Polokwane.

Ke a kwešiša gore go kgatha tema mo nyakišišong ye ke boithaopo fela le go phethagatša fela morero wa nyakišišo ya thuto. ke a kwešiša gabotse gore ke ile go kgopelwa go araba dipotšišo mabapi le di tlhohlo tša bolaodi gotee le go akanya di tharollo e le go leka go bona gore naa ditlhohlo tšeo di ka rarollwa bjang.

Ka go saena pampiri ye ya tumelelano, ka go rialo ke a dumela bjalo ka mohlankedi wa SASSA gore ke badile le gore ke a kwešiša ka tšhedimoso ye e ngwadilwego, ka bolokologi ke neelana ka tumelelo go tšeeng karolo mo nyakišišong ye.

Mesaeno:

Motšeakarolo:

Letšatšikgwedi:

Hlatse:

Letšatšikgwedi:

Monyakišiši:

Letšatšikgwedi:

**APPENDICE G: STRUCTURED RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE SCHEDULED FOR
PRIMARY CAREGIVERS/ LENANEOPOTŠILOŠIŠO LE LERULAGANTŠWEGO LA
NYAKIŠIŠO LA BAHLOKOMEDI BA BANA**

To answer please tick and write in the appropriate space/Go araba ka kopo swaya, goba o ngwale segobeng se se swanetšego.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS/ BODULO LE SEBOPEGO

1. Age/ Ngwaga:
2. Gender/ Bong:
3. Name of the community/ Leina la motse wa geno:
4. What is your occupation/ Mošomo wa gago ke o fe?
5. What is your marital status/ Maemo a gago a lenyalo ke a fe?
 - Married/ Nyetše go ba Nyetšwe
 - Divorced/ hladile
 - Single/ Gase ke nyale
 - Widow/ Mohlologadi
6. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Please tick only one)/ O badile go fihlela kae? (Ka kopo swaya ye tee).
 - Attended high school/ ke badile sekolong se se phagamego.
 - Attended college/ Ke badile Kholetšheng.
 - Graduated at University/ ke alogile Yunibesithi.
 - Other/ Tše dingwe.

**SECTION B: THE NATURE OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT SYSTEM/ KAROLO B:
TLHAGO YA TŠHELETE YA TLHOKOMELO YA BANA YA MOGOLO.**

1.1 As a primary caregiver I receive Child Support Grant on behalf of my child/ Bjalo ka mohlokomedi ke amogela tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo bakeng sa ngwana?

Strongly Agree/ Ke tloga ke dumela	Agree/ Ke dumela	a	Disagree/ Ga ke dumele	Strongly Disagree/ Ke tloga ke sa dumele
------------------------------------	------------------	---	------------------------	--

1.2 As a primary caregiver the grant that you receive is sufficient enough to cater all the child's basic needs and that of the whole family?/ A na tšhelete yeo ya tlhokomelo ya bana e gona o phetagatša dinyakwa tša ngwana le tša ka lapeng?

Strongly Agree/ Ke tloga ke dumela	Agree/ Ke a dumela	Disagree/ Ga ke dumele	Strongly Disagree/ Ke tloga ke sa dumele
------------------------------------	--------------------	------------------------	--

1.3 After you received the grant do you see the difference in the household?/ Bjalo ka mohlakomedi ka morago o amogetši tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana o bona diphetogo ka lapeng?

Strongly Agree/ Ke tloga ke dumela	Agree/ Ke a dumela	Disagree/ Ga ke dumele	Strongly Disagree/ Ke tloga ke sa dumele
------------------------------------	--------------------	------------------------	--

1.4 The Child Support grant is utilised for purchasing basic necessities for the whole household/ Tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana e šomišwa o reka dinyakwa tša lapa ka moka?

Strongly Agree/ Ke tloga ke dumela	Agree/ Ke a dumela	Disagree/ Ke tloga ke sa dumele	Strongly Disagree/ Ke tloga ke sa dumele
------------------------------------	--------------------	---------------------------------	--

1.5 Within the household, the grant contributes to household income security/ Tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana e tlaleletša mogolo ka lapeng?

Strongly Agree/ Ke tloga ke dumela	Agree/ Ke a dumela	Disagree/ Ga ke dumele	Strongly Disagree/ Ke tloga ke sa dumele
------------------------------------	--------------------	------------------------	--

1.6 Due to small monetary size of the grant, it is difficult for the grant to provide all assistance in the household to enhance the people's quality of life/ Ka baka la bonyenyane bja tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana, go boima go hlokomela ka lapeng e lego go kaonafatša maphelo a batho?

Strongly Agree/ Ke tloga ke dumela	Agree/ Ke a dumela	Disagree/ Ga ke dumele	Strongly Disagree/ Ke tloga ke sa dumele
------------------------------------	--------------------	------------------------	--

1.7 The grant's extent of coverage does not provide all the basic necessities of the children/ Tekanyo ya kakaretšo ya tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana ga e gone go fihlelela dinyakwa tšeo di nyakegago tša bana.

Strongly Agree/ Ke tloga ke dumela	Agree/ Ke dumela	a	Disagree/ Ga ke dumele	Strongly Disagree/ Ke tloga ke sa dumele
------------------------------------	------------------	---	------------------------	--

2. THE IMPACT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHILD SUPPORT GRANT/ DITLAMORAGO TŠA TŠHELETE YA TLHOKOMELO YA BANA YA AFRIKA BORWA.

2.1 Does Child Support Grant become part of the family’s general budget?/ Na tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo e fetogile karolo ya thulaganyo ya tirišo ya tšhelete ya lapa?

.....

2.2 What is your household’s largest expense during the past 30 days? Please tick the correct answer/ Ke ditshenyagalelo dife tša ka lapeng tše digolo ka morago a matšatši a masome tharo afitilego? Ka kopo swaya karabo enepagetšego

- Food related expenses/ Ditshenyagalelo tša dijo
- Educational related expenses/ Ditshenyagalelo tša thuto
- Health expenses/ Ditshenyagalelo tša maphelo

2.3 What impact do you think Child Support Grant has in improving the household’s sources of livelihood?/ Ke diphetogo dife tšeo tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana e di tšweleditšego bjalo ka ge e le mothopo wa go iphediša ka lapeng?

.....

2.4 Do you think Child Support Grant program play an important role in improving household food security?/ A na tšhelete yeo ya tlhokomelo ya bana e bile le seabe e lego gona o kaonafatša maemo a dijo ka lapeng?

.....

2.5 Do you think Child Support Grant promotes school attendance among beneficiary children?/ A na tšhelete yeo ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo e kaonafatša maemo a barutwana di tirelong tša sekolo go ithuta?

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.....

2.6 What impact do you think Child Support Grant make with respect to labour market participation?/ Ke diphetogo dife tšeo tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo e di dirago mabapi le go tšea karolo mmarakeng wa Mošomo?

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2.7 Does the grant create welfare dependency syndrome?/ Na tšhelete ye ya tlhokomelo ya bana e dira gore batho ba ithekge ka yona?

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APPENDICE H: STRUCTURED RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE SCHEDULED FOR GRANT BENEFICIARIES/ LENANEOPOTŠILOŠIŠO LE LERULAGANTŠWEGO LA NYAKIŠIŠO LA BAGOLWAGO

To answer please tick and write in the appropriate space/Go araba ka kopo swaya, goba o ngwale segobeng se se swanetšego.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS/ BODULO LE SEBOPEGO

- 1.1 Gender/ Bong:
- 1.2 What is your age?/ O na le mengwaga e mekae?
- 1.3 Which grade are you in?/ O bala mphato o fe?
- 1.4 Which community are you from?/ O tswa motseng o fe?

SECTION B: CHILD SUPPORT GRANT BENEFICIARIES/BAGOLWAGO

1.5 Do you receive Child Support Grant? (Yes or No)/ O amogela tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo? (Ee goba Aowa)

1.6 If yes, who collects the grant on your behalf?/ Ga eba ee, ke mang eo a amogelago tšhelete yeo ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo sebakeng sa gago

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.....
.....

1.7 When you go to school, do you receive lunch box or you depend on the lunch provided at school only? Please specify/ Ge o eya sekolong, o rwala mphago goba o ifepa ka dijo tše di abelwago bana sekolong fela? Ka kgopelo hlaloša

.....
.....
.....

1.8 Do you use transport when you go to school? (Yes or No)/ O šomiša senamelwa ge o eya sekolong? (Ee goba Aowa).....

1.9 If yes, is this transport paid by the grant?/ Ga e ba ee, a na senamelwa se lefelwa ka tšhelete yeo ya tlhokomelo ya bana mogolo?

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.....

1.10 With this grant do you receive any basic needs such as school uniforms, new clothes on a monthly basis? Please specify/ Ka tšhelete ye ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo o hwetša dinyakwa tše bohlokwa tsa motheo tše swanago le diyunifomo tša sekolo, diaparo tše mpšha kgwedi ka kgwedi? Ka kgopelo hlaloša

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.....

1.11 Beside your needs, is Child Support Grant utilised for other purposes in the household? Please specify/ Ka ntle le dinyakwa tša gago, tšhelete yeo ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo e šomišwa mererong ye mengwe ya ka lapeng? Ka kgopelo hlaloša

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.....

1.12 Do you think the grant is utilised in the best interest of your needs as a grant beneficiary? (If yes kindly explain) / O nagana gore tšhelete ye ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo e šomišwa ka mokgwa wa maleba o okgahlišago bakeng sa dinyakwa tša gago? (Ge e ba ee ka boikokobetšo hlaloša)

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.....

1.13 If no, what are the items that the parents buy using Child Support Grant? (Please specify)/ Ge e ba aowa, ke dilo dife tšeo di rekwago ka tšhelete yeo ya mogolo? (ka kgopelo hlaloša)

.....
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.....

1.14 As a grant beneficiary, what do you recommend should be done to enhance the level of Child Support Grant policy?/ Bjale ka ge o le moholwago, o nagana gore o ka dirwa eng go leka go kaonafatša maemo a pholisi ye ya tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya ya bana ya mogolo?

.....
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.....

APPENDICE I: INTERVIEW RESEARCH QUESTIONS SCHEDULED FOR SASSA OFFICIAL/ DIPOTŠIŠO TŠA NYAKIŠIŠO TŠE DI BEAKANTŠEDITŠWEGO MOHLANKEDI WA SASSA

1. What is your job at SASSA?/ A na mošomo wa gago ke ofe mo lefapheng la SASSA?

.....
.....
.....

2. How long have you been in this role?/ Ke nako ye kakang o le mo mošomong o?

.....
.....
.....

3. How many eligible beneficiaries are receiving the grant?/ ke ba bakae bagolwago bao ba amogelago tšhelete ya mogolo wa bana?

.....
.....
.....

4. Are all eligible children receiving the grant? Yes or No/ A na bana bao banago le maswanedi a gore ba hwetše tšhelete ye ya ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo ba e hwetša naa? Ee goba aowa

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.....

5. If no, what do you think is the reason that children who are eligible for the grant are not receiving the grant?/ Ge e ba aowa, o nagana gore ke lebaka le fe leo le dirago gore bana bao banago le maswanedi a gore ba hwetša tšhelete ye ya mogolo ba se e hwetše?

.....
.....
.....

6. What documents do you currently require people to carry to apply for the grant to avoid misconceptions and inconsistencies?/Ke mangwalo a fe ao a nyakegago go ngwadiša mogolo wa bana e le go leka go efoga diphetogo tše di fošagetšego?

.....
.....
.....

7. What are the mechanisms set in place for assisting people to register for the grant?/ Ke mekgwa e fe ye e beakantšwego go thuša batho gore ba ngwadiše mogolo wa bana?

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.....

8. What do you think have been the most successful awareness campaign conducted for increasing the grant's accessibility?/ Ke lesolo le fe leo le ilego la swariwa la magethe go lemoša batho gore ba ngwadiše mogolo wa bana?

.....
.....
.....

9. What have been the most remarkable changes to the Child Support Grant in terms of outreach, application and administrative processes in helping people to register for the grant?/ Ke diphetogo dife tša magethe mo porogremong ya mogolo wa bana bakeng sago tšea lesolo la go ngwadiša mogolo gotee le ditshepidišišo tša bolaodi?

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10. Are there any support structures in place for assisting people with application?/ O na le makala a mangwe a arulagantšwego go thuša batho gore ba ngwadiše mogolo wa bana?

.....
.....
.....

11. Do you work hand in hand with the social workers in helping the Agency to identify children in need of the grant, but who do not access it?/ A na lefapa la SASSA le berekišana le ba direla leago go thuša go utolla bana bao ba tlhokago thušo ya tšhelete ya mogolo eupša bas a e hwetše?

.....
.....
.....

12. Do you have sufficient staff to administer the grant?/ O na le bašomi ba balekanego go sepedišiša tša mogolo wa bana?

.....
.....
.....

13. What are the challenges that your staff face in administering the grant?/ Ke ditlhohlo kapa mathata a fe ao bašomi bao ba sepedišanago le tša mogolo wa bana ba kopanang le o na?

.....
.....
.....

14. How do you deal with those challenges? Please describe/ A na le berekana bjang le ditlhohlo kapa mathata ao le kopanang le o na? ka kopo hlaloša.

.....
.....
.....

15. Since this program has been introduced in 1998, were there any cases reported on the misuse or abuse of Child Support Grant? Yes or No?/ A na go tlogela ngwageng wa 1998 o bile le dithaba kapa melato yeo e begilwego mabapi le go se šomišwe gabotse ga tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo? Ee goba aowa

.....
.....
.....

16. If yes, what were the measures taken to solve the case?/ Ge e ba ee, ke matsapa kapa sepeto se fe seo se tšerwego go rarolla thaba yeo?

.....
.....
.....

17. Are there any workshops or awareness campaign undertaken to educate caregivers on how to utilise the grant in the household? If yes please describe?/ A na o bile le lesolo leo le ilego la swariwa go ruta batswadi ba bana mabapi le gore ba šomiše bjang tšhelete ya tlhokomelo ya bana ya mogolo?

.....
.....
.....

18. Are there any processes undertaken to monitor the progress of Child support Grant most importantly on the nature of the utilisation of Child Support Grant? Yes or No/ O na le ditshepidišo tše di swerwego go lekodišiša tšwelopele ya tšhelete ya mogolo wa bana mabapi le mokgwa wo mogolo wa bana o swanetšego go šomišwa ka gona? Ee goba aowa

.....
.....
.....

19. If yes, please describe those measures undertaken to monitor the progress of Child Support Grant's nature of utilisation/ Ge e ba ee, ka kopo hlaloša matsapa ao a tšerwego go lekodišiša tšwelopele ya tšhelete ya mogolo wa bana.

.....
.....
.....

APPENDICE J: LETTER TO REQUEST PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH




University of Limpopo
School of Economics & Management
Department of Public Administration
Tel: +27 (15) 268 3157/3655; Fax: 015 268 3522 E-mail: malemela.mamabolo@ul.ac.za

To: Whom it may concern
From: Ms MA Mamabolo
Acting HoD: Public Administration
Date: 26 October 2017
Subject: REQUEST LETTER TO CONDUCT RESEARCH: Ms C Mohale (201001316)

1. This serves to confirm that the above-mentioned candidate is a registered Masters student in our Department of Public Administration Masters Degree Programme in the University of Limpopo.
2. The student is conducting a study on *"The Role and Impact of Social Security Grant on Poverty Alleviation in South Africa: A Case of Child Support Grant at Mankweng in Polokwane Municipality Area"*.
3. The study is solely meant for academic research purpose only and to obtain her Masters Degree in Public Administration.
4. I therefore as a study leader of this project, request your office to approve her request to conduct research in your area of demarcation.

Yours Sincerely

Signed: 
Ms MA Mamabolo
Acting HoD: Public Administration

Date: 26/10/2017



Finding solutions for Africa

**APPENDICE K: LETTER FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH FROM
BJATLADI TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

BJATLADI TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

Eng: Makgato ES.
Email: bjaladitraditionalcouncil@webmail.co.za
Tell: 071 6599 770
Cell: 072 9138 258

**P.O SEGOPJE
0744**



Ms. C. Mohale.
University of Limpopo
SOVENGA
0727



PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH

The above matter refers.

Kindly be informed that Bjaladi Traditional Council, has agreed in principle in their meeting held on the 17 December 2017, to give Ms. Mohale California, (201001316) permission to conduct research at our Area Mamotintane and Ngaleng villages, of Segopje, ga-Mamabolo, Underheadman -ship of Mathosa MJ of Mamotintane and Mamabolo RJ of Ngaleng Section, Within the jurisdiction of Kgoshigadi Mamabolo MV.

Banking on your cooperation in this regard.

*Yours truly
Makgato ES*

SECRETARY

KGOSHIGADI

MU: Mamabolo



**APPENDICE L: LETTER FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH FROM
MAGWADIBA HIGHER PRIMARY SCHOOL**

ENQ: MATHENJANE MR

CELL: 084 418 7981

OFFICE: 071 657 9588

mogashoamb@gmail.com



EMIS NO.: 0923240471

P.O. BOX 632

SOVENGA

0727

02 February 2018

To: Ms C Mohale

Student No.: 201001316

University of Limpopo

Sovenga

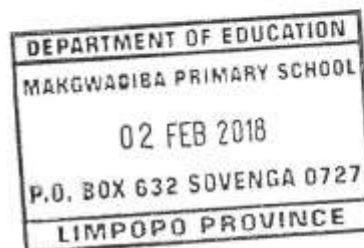
0727

RE: PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH: Ms C Mohale (201001316)

1. This serves to confirm that we have received your request letter.
2. Permission to conduct research on “**The Role and Impact of Social Security Grant on Poverty Alleviation in South Africa: A Case of Child Support Grant at Mankweng in Polokwane Municipality Area**” is hereby granted.
3. You can come and conduct a research from the date of receipt of this letter.

Thank you in advance.

Yours faithfully



Mathenjane MR *K.C.C. Northbenjane*

(Principial)

02.02.2018

Date

APPENDICE M: LETTER FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH FROM LIMPOPO SASSA REGIONAL OFFICE



SASSA Limpopo Region
43 Landros Mare Street
Polokwane
0700
15 December 2017

Ms Mohale C
University of Limpopo
Student No. 201001316

Dear Ms Mohale

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT AN ACADEMIC RESEARCH STUDY AT MANKWENG IN POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY.

Your letter requesting permission to conduct research at Mankweng on "*The role and impact of social security grant on poverty alleviation in South Africa: a case of Child Support Grant at Mankweng in Polokwane Municipality area*" is acknowledged.

Please be informed that permission is granted for you and your team to undertake this study at Mankweng area Polokwane Municipality.

SASSA is a progressive Agency which promotes research that enhances knowledge and development. Take note that as you embark on this project SASSA cannot decree to its officials, customers, beneficiaries and stakeholders whether or not to participate in your research study. However the information obtained from SASSA officials and beneficiaries should be treated as confidential in terms of storage of data, analysis or during publication process. It is advisable to remove identifiers such as names, vernacular terms and geographical hints when writing your dissertation.

Furthermore, SASSA cannot guarantee your safety as you go around its premises and does not promise you funding of your research study at any given stage. Please present this letter when accessing SASSA premises or engaging with staff.

SASSA wishes to thank you for choosing the Agency to collect data for your study and will gladly appreciate to be furnished with a copy of your completed dissertation.

For more information please contact Ms Ndou MH at 015 2917451

**Acting Regional Executive Manager: SASSA Limpopo
Mamabolo MM**

Date 20/12/2017



*paying the right social grant, to the right person,
at the right time and place. N.J.A.J.O.*

South African Social Security Agency
Limpopo Region
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