

**THE IMPACT OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANTS ON THE COMMUNITY,  
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO FONDWE VILLAGE,  
VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

by

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## **DECLARATION**

I declare that **THE IMPACT OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANTS ON THE COMMUNITY, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO FONDWE VILLAGE, VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE** hereby submitted, has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other university; that it is my own work in design and in execution; and that all material herein has been duly acknowledged.

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Praise be to GOD who advised and watched over all my steps. HIS plan for me always had a sense of mystery, but due to my reliance on HIM, I was guided all the way. I thank YOU, LORD.

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to the following people:

My beloved Father, and mother, whose love has defined parenthood and provided my first encounter with excellence.

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My sons Mbulungeni, Tshilidzi and my only daughter Madidimalo for the love and encouragement they gave during this study.

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## **ABSTRACT**

The South African government should ensure that each and every South African has food to eat, as well as clothes and shelter. The existence of widespread poverty in South Africa led to Child Support Grants being introduced as a means of assisting in poverty alleviation programmes. The South African government has also put poverty alleviation on its priority list, yet there are many reasons that lead to poverty.

The main aim of this study was to examine and describe the perceptions of grant recipients of FONDWE VILLAGE and their parents or guardians, focusing on advantages and disadvantages. The perceptions of the Social Development authorities through their agents, South African Social Security Agents (SASSA), about the impact of the grant were also examined.

Data were gathered by means of structured interviews. Interviews were utilized to collect data in an effort to explore different facets of the study and to get a range of information. These interviews were used as the main method of data collection. Questions in the interview schedule were pre-tested. Some participants in a pilot group were used to test the interview guide. The researcher compiled three different interview schedules, namely:

- for young mothers, (grant recipients)
- for parents or guardians of grant recipient or young mothers, and
- for social and welfare authorities all with interview questions.

The findings show that most young mothers (recipients) know the purpose of the Child Support Grant, but are often just ignorant, careless and selfish in their use of it.

The following recommendations were made:

- Grant recipients should, when their children's age next birthday is 13 years, if they are not themselves at school or in full-time employment, offer their voluntary services at public institutions situated near them until their children are no longer receiving the Child Support Grant. Such voluntary services may be offered for 3 work days in a week. The public institutions concerned can include schools, clinics, hospitals, tribal and government offices. This might also help them to acquire useful skills which might help them be more permanently employable.
- Rather than giving grant recipients money which they can spend on inappropriate things, vouchers should be introduced that enable the recipients to purchase only what is needed for children
- Parents or guardians should be led to see the importance of informing the Social Development authorities of any Child Support Grant abuse. They should be assured that this would not in any way disadvantage the child/children in question, but would be very much to their benefit.
- Young mothers should also be encouraged to inform the Social Development Authorities of any difficulties they encounter due to their receiving the grant, such as pressure to share it with their spouses or boyfriends.

## **KEY WORDS**

Child Support Grant  
Young Mothers  
Parents  
Social Development Officials  
Community Members  
Family  
Poverty alleviation programme  
Limpopo Province  
Poverty  
Constitution of the Republic OF South Africa  
Monitoring Stakeholders.



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# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **ORIENTATION TO THE**

### **STUDY**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

The Child Support Grant has become an important issue of policy consideration in South Africa. The Minister of Finance has not only announced that “the progressive extension of social security is a central element of our anti-poverty strategy”, but also that, in the course of 2008, there would be substantial increases in the support given to children (Manuel 2008:8-9). It is necessary therefore to consider the role and effects of child welfare in South African society.

The following discussion provides for the orientation to the study, meaning that all issues discussed are fundamental to the study. Intermediately discussions take place on the following chapters building on this fundamental one.

#### **1.2 Background**

Social protection and economic development, particularly in a country such as South Africa, are seen as two sides of the same coin:

Social protection and economic development are generally seen to be complementary and mutually reinforcing. On the one hand, economic development, by entailing generalised and sustainable increases in per capita income (in a manner that uplifts the economic status of the poorest groups in society) not only improves social welfare, but also provides the wherewithal for the state, private agencies, households and individuals to support individuals or groups who are

indigent but who may not have direct access to or the ability to exploit economic resources and the market. On the other hand, social protection while directly improving the welfare of individuals, who benefit from the services resulting from it, may also enhance investment in human beings such that they improve their capacity to contribute to economic growth and development in the future. Thus economic development provides the resources with which to finance social policy objectives in the form of social services, social security, social insurance and social assistance. At the same time, these same services have a consumption aspect which directly benefits the beneficiaries, and an investment aspect which may enhance the beneficiaries to contribute more effectively and efficiently to the economy in the future. (Mhone 2004:1)

Public institutions are developed to render services to society. These institutions are administered by appointed agents responsible, for example, for formulating policies, estimating financial needs, establishing structures and examining control.

In the poverty alleviation programme introduced by the current government, a Child Support Grant is included. The Department of Social Development has accordingly been delegated to administer the Child Support Grant in question. This function is assigned to the provinces in Schedule 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. Provinces such as Limpopo are required to ensure effective and efficient services towards the child support grant for example. This implies that the province has to ensure that the Child Support Grant is administered in accordance with government legislation and policies.

It should be noted that simply 'poverty', i.e. lack of income, is not necessarily what should be addressed. 'Social exclusion' , with a

much wider meaning that includes lack of income, is the real target of social security policies (Olivier 2004:28-29). All the same, Limpopo Province may be dealing with particular difficulties:

**Table 1.1: Percentage of population defined as living in poverty, by province (Mhone 2004:8)**

<b>Limpopo</b>	<b>78</b>
Mpumalanga	64 %
Northwest	61 %
Free State	54 %
Western Cape	29 %
Eastern Cape	74 %
KwaZulu-Natal	63 %
Northern Cape	58 %
Gauteng	32 %

Limpopo Province is one of the provinces with less developed populations, with many individuals without any income. According to Cloete (2000:81), such populations usually or normally experience negative or even zero growth and at times this leads to shrinking income-earning potential and growing numbers of potential pensioners, which has significant implications for the capacity of the state to provide appropriate services and facilities at required levels. By contrast, in better developed contexts, it is theorized (Cloete 2000:82) that stable and relatively effective service delivery systems have developed over time, supported by relatively good and effective infrastructures, technology and information systems to determine needs, design policy remedies so as to implement them, monitor impacts and revise inappropriate policies. Therefore the success of a

policy is facilitated and ensured not only by successful design, but also by successful implementation of that policy.

Revenue formula of sharing funds among provinces, takes into consideration the historically disadvantaged provinces (Moonsamy and Jay in Olivier et al, 2008:443).

**Table 1.2 : Target distribution of social security funds between provinces based on equitable share formula for 2002/3**

• Eastern Cape	16.9	Percent
• Free State	6.6	Percent
• Gauteng	16.2	Percent
• KwaZulu-Natal	20.3	Percent
• Mpumalanga	7.6	Percent
• Northern Cape	2.3	Percent
• <b>Limpopo</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>Percent</b>
• Northwest	8.2	Percent
• Western Cape	9.6	Percent

In South Africa, it seems that it is inevitable that the “public service, and therefore public officials as well, function primarily in a political environment” (Van der Waldt & Helmbold 1995:8). The Limpopo government is thus under considerable political pressure to show that, among other things, the Child Support Grant is used to ease financial pressure on the poor child’s parents for the benefit of the child. Children should be assisted to become educated and then be self-reliant and thus to shed their family’s state of poverty. Cloete (2000:84) quotes Dror as saying that:

“lack of reliable ideas and theories to serve as compasses to steer momentous choices, constitutes another overwhelming difficulty—intellectually, emotionally, organisationally and politically”

Therefore Limpopo is additionally challenged in the provision of suitable poverty alleviation strategies, whether through the Child Support Grant or otherwise.

Olivier (2004:18-20) has described the South African social security system as taking both a ‘risk’ approach and a ‘contingency’ approach, and thus not sufficiently addressing the “underlying structural and material basis of social exclusion” (*Ibid*: 19), also arguing that “one of the ultimate aims of social security is to ... uphold the work ethic or effort” and that “there is little evidence of such an approach in South African social security” (*Ibid*: 27). The Child Support Grant is included as a ‘contingency’ factor in the institutional framework outlined by Mpedi (2004:62). The Child Support Grant, in this context, is classified as ‘social assistance’ , and is one of those credited with playing a major role in the alleviation of household poverty (Olivier & Kalula 2004:39,53).

Further than this, there has been a –

Shift which has taken place in modern society – from regarding the nuclear family as the norm, to the concept of ‘family’ being seen a inclusive of extended families and households which are headed by sole parents.

In South Africa, the family is assumed to shoulder the primary responsibility the care of children. The state, however, must provide active support to those families whose ability to care for children is impaired,



as well as to those children without family support structures. Discussions on family benefits thus frequently focus on assisting families to care for their children. Families may be in need of such assistance owing *inter alia* to parents being unemployed or to the fact that many single (divorced or unmarried) mothers struggle to obtain maintenance payments from defaulting fathers. Poverty among children is a common experience and, indeed, has been found that 60% of South African children live in poor households. (Malherbe 2003:378)

A common understanding of questions and goals not only gives a united vision of the future, but also helps to mobilize all available resources in order to make effective provision for change (Van der Waldt & Helmbold 1995:108). It is thus important also to make communities understand the goals aimed at by the Child Support Grant, which aims at bringing about change in lives through empowering children to break the bondage of poverty.

### **1.3 Children's Abuses**

While in other countries, the need for child support often comes about as a result of child abuse in some form (Tower 2000:198), in South Africa this form of abuse, although it undoubtedly exists, is not what the Child Support Grant sets out to remedy. As already specified, it is a contingency offering to bring about the empowerment of children by means of strengthening their families.

A more serious social problem is the abuse of money, often by officials and administrators, so that much attention is paid to the

matter of accountability (Mpedi 2004:65-67). This type of abuse is perhaps better called 'misuse'.

That recipients themselves may be misusing the grants they receive, and so undermining not only the value of the grant to themselves and their families, but its value to society at large, is not often mentioned except in the more sensationalist media. It is, for instance, not mentioned in the list of problems enumerated by Guthrie (2004:361-2). At the same time, if it can be shown to exist, it must form a part of any discussion and policy-making that addresses the support of children through their families. An element of trust is part of the formulation. If a grant recipient meets all the criteria for receiving a grant, does it follow that the grant will be utilized as intended ?

There is debate (Olivier *et al.* 2003:110) as to whether social grants may be regarded as property rather than entitlement, with opinion on the side of entitlement, for which criteria exist. This gives recipients certain rights, but not property rights, over what they receive. Where the Child Support Grant is concerned, there is a clear distinction between the *recipient* of the grant, which is supposedly a care-giver, and the *beneficiary* of the grant, supposedly a child in need, even though the whole family is supposed to benefit. It is merely assumed that the recipient will exercise all the necessary responsibility to ensure that the beneficiary will, in fact, benefit from the grant. This gap between recipient and beneficiary, as it may bring about a failure in the exercise of responsibility, does not seem to be addressed in the legislation. It is not enough to place emphasis on qualifying criteria and the rights of children in terms of the Constitution (RSA n.d., Chapter 2:28), which include:

- The right to family care or parental care or to appropriate alternative care when removed from the family environment.

- The right to basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care services and social services.

This study intends to examine the extent to which this Child Support Grant is being utilized for the purpose intended.

#### **1.4 Problem Statement**

The purpose of the Child Support Grant is clear and specific. It is intended for those who cannot otherwise support their children, to enable them to give their children a decent life. However, there is reason to suppose that not all children who should be the beneficiaries of this grant are in fact benefiting, and also reason to suppose that some of the recipients of the grant – mothers of the children – are not in any kind of financial need, having legitimate alternative means of support. Some young parents use the grant for things other than intended, contrary to the purpose of the Child Support Grant. Although children are not direct recipients of the grant, parents are supposed to be using the grant for their benefit. It is also true that, while some abuse it. – such as by purchasing drugs and alcohol, gambling, purchasing fancy clothes for themselves and other irrelevant items – other parents do use the grant well and for the intended purpose.

Experience has shown that the Child Support Grant is in some households causing unnecessary discomfort. For example, cases of conflict between married and unmarried parents emanating from abuse of this grant are common. In other instances, young mothers continuously become expectant in order to receive a higher Child Support Grant. Given the unemployment situation in South Africa, high birth rate may be exorbitant for the state. Such a situation

could result in a larger poor population and the child grant support may be insufficient to provide for the needs of children.

It has become necessary to establish to what extent recipients of the grant are in need of it and are using it for the purpose intended.

### **1.5 Significance of the Problem and Topic**

The problem and the topic are significant for researching in order to reveal the challenges involved in child support programmes. It is further hoped that this research might sensitize government to the abuse of child support grant. Significant, the study explores challenges associated with child support grant in detail. The significances of the study require to be contextualized within the debates advanced by the Premier of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature (Moloto 2006) in indicating that insofar as the child support grant is concerned, "Our major concern remains the question of the integrity of this system and whether all the people who are receiving these grants do indeed qualify".

Given that the existence of widespread poverty in South Africa led to Child Support Grants being introduced as a means of assisting in poverty alleviation programmes, and given the particular responsibility allocated to provincial governments, the Premier's statement must be given due weight and necessitate the study at the level of its significances. A particular way in which the government has tried to reduce poverty is by offering Child Support Grants. Although these grants may not be large enough, they are assisting recipients in a material way.

There are some known cases that have given rise to the Premier's concern, as expressed above in the problem statement. There are cases of parents who are now all permanently employed, getting a

salary, but who still receive a Child Support Grant. This constitutes fraud and may lead to punitive measures being taken by the courts of law against the culprits. Thus, the study is significant to probe into these challenges

There is a positive side to this grant, which may also be seen everywhere in South Africa, especially in families that are using it well for the purpose intended. In his budget speech of 26 February 2003, the Minister of Finance, Mr. T.A. Manuel, extended the age for beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant up to 14 years, representing an additional burden on funds. The significances of this study can therefore not be under-toned in the context of all these developments

## **1.6 Aim of the Study**

The aim of the study is to examine the impact of Child Support Grant on the community, with special reference to Fondwe Village, Vhembe District, and Limpopo Province. The aim of the study as stated continued to guide the progression of the study at all times.

## **1.7. Objectives of the study**

As Cohen (2000:5) has remarked, the policies applied to child welfare today –

“are basically reactive in nature. The primary emphasis is placed on changing the behaviours, attitudes, coping skills and values of those children, youth and families who come to the attention of child welfare programs”.

The suggestion here is that the whole community also should benefit from the changes effected in beneficiary families. This is certainly what is aimed for in South Africa, if the Child Welfare Grant is considered to be a means of poverty alleviation.

It needs to be asked, therefore, if the reactions found in the study area are the appropriate ones, and whether the right families are coming to the attention of the welfare agency concerned, in this case the Department of Social Welfare.

In this context, the study sets the following objectives:

- To examine the criteria for the selection of those who qualify for Child Support Grants.
- To examine the impact of Child Support Grants on the community.
- To examine the advantages and disadvantages of Child Support Grants.
- To examine how the money is spent by mothers who receive Child Support Grants.
- To examine whether there are mechanisms to check the proper use of the Child Support Grants.

### **1.8. Significance of the Study**

The significance of this study lies in the fact that it aims to sensitize the Limpopo Province Social Development authorities to the ways in which managing Child Support Grants may be improved. The study may also assist them to find ways of encouraging the recipients of such grants to utilize them properly.

The recipients of the grants (mothers) may also benefit, as they may become aware of how the grants should be used.

### **1.9. Research Questions**

The researcher approached the study with the following questions in mind:

- How is the Child Support Grant understood?
- How is the Child Support Grant distributed?
- What are the criteria used when distributing the money?
- Is the Child Support Grant necessary?
- Are there mechanisms available to check the proper use of those grants?
- What are the principles and procedures that govern the distribution of the Child Support Grant?
- Is the Child Support Grant serving its purpose?

### **1.10. Definition of Concepts.**

For the purposes of this study, the main concepts are defined as follows:

1.10.1. **CHILD SUPPORTS GRANT.** The Child Support Grant is money offered to unemployed parents, young parents who are still at school and those who are physically challenged, to assist them in meeting their children's needs thereby alleviating poverty.

1.10.2. **Poverty.** According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (1999), "Poverty is a state of being poor. It can also be described as a state or condition within society, whereby a certain group of people is unable to provide for their families with the basic needs, for example food, clothing, shelter and education." In this context the emphasis being the parents and the children of those who are to be assisted with child support grant

1.10.3. **Poverty Alleviation Programme.** The programme instituted by the South African government to address the

matter of poverty, and all recent amendments to it – in this case to alleviate the situation of children.

### **1.11. Chapter Sequence**

The research study consists of five chapters which eventually constitute the mini-dissertation and the following is their layout:

**Chapter one** is an orientation to the study presenting a discussion on the problem statement, objectives and motivation of the study, significance of the study, research questions, ethical consideration and other matters that serves as the foundation of the study at the level of its orientation.

**Chapter two** focuses on literature and legislative framework review as they relate to the impact child support grant.

**Chapter three** focuses on the research design and methodology which were applied in this research study.

**Chapter four** examined the data collected, data analysis and data presentation from the respondents of the questionnaires and interviews.

**Chapter five** focused on the conclusion and recommendation that unfolded from other chapters as outlined above.

### **1.12. Conclusion**

The chapter deals with aspects that are of an orientational nature providing more of background information to the study. The necessity



of this chapter is that it provides information that is fundamental and essential to the beginning phase of this project. It is more of a planning phase chapter of the project with basic information provided, culminating to other chapters that goes deeper in information provision.

## CHAPTER 2

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### 2.1 Introduction

Social welfare as a concept really refers to economic welfare (Collard 1986:790) and has only come to be seen as the responsibility of governments fairly recently, following the Second World War. Some countries had already taken on the responsibility for the economic welfare of their people, but the idea has been slow to spread (Rose 1986:791-2). Although the economic welfare of human beings may be seen as essential to the fulfillment of all other human rights,

“The exercise, observance and achievement of human rights and freedoms depend in the end on domestic arrangements in each country, though the international processes have influence” (Fawcett 1986:370).

Poverty is also posing a challenge to the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The current energy crisis facing African countries is making the fight against poverty even more challenging. (SABC News 2008). Heads of State and governments of the fourteen (14) SADC member states have resolved to eradicate poverty in all its manifestations and dimensions (Afrol News 2008).

That the economic welfare of a whole society can be provided through a focus on children is perhaps still not something that is fully appreciated. There is only gradual recognition that poverty can have its effect through generations. What is certainly recognized is that poverty can split families and cause abandonment of children. Split families are also less able to deal with risk, and women living alone are “systematically poorer than households in which both husband

and wife are present” (Fafchamps 2003:71). Although poverty has been a background factor, in South Africa other factors contributed. Split families have been a reality since the early days of mine labour, and the recent advent of AIDS in the society has made things worse, so that even democratic transformation has not improved matters (Meintjes, Budlender, Giese & Johnson 2005).

In the case of countries other than South Africa, the dominant focus in child care services since the early 1990s has been on the protection and care of children who are at risk (Dolan *et al.* 2006:13). Using social support theory as a lynchpin possibly leads to a coherent view of family support in a way that allows the ultimate goal of achieving the rights of children and young people through meeting their needs (*Ibid.*:15) It is suggested that this may be modelled within a set of levels of support, namely:

- child/young person,
- wider family/friend,
- school/neighbourhood,
- community/voluntary agencies/services/organizations,
- national policy/legislation.

It is further stated that there has been support to families and children aimed at avoiding the need for further, more serious, interventions later on (*Ibid.*:13).

## **2.2 The notion of welfare for children**

The ultimate aim of preventive support is premised on the concerns regarding children’s welfare being addressed effectively, in a timely and sensitive way, with as little damage to the family as possible (Gardner 2006:103). Dolan, Pinkerton & Canavan (2006:11)

maintain that family support does not only shape policy and practice in different countries, but accords strongly with the unifying global agenda for children and their families – for example, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In particular, Gardner (2006:107) has pointed out that family support in this case provides a good environment for learning about reflective practice in safeguarding children.

In the United States of America, family support programmes have generally been established as voluntary institutions that often form a bridge between professional services and voluntary support (Bruner 2006:237). While families need support in the USA, the focus of most family support programmes is to assist families in creating environments where their members can thrive (Canavan 2006:288).

Bruner (2006:240) maintains that communities in the USA often select indicators and goals of family support that are defined in terms of falling below a maximum acceptable level, namely:

- Reducing teen pregnancy
- Reducing child abuse and neglect
- Reducing school dropouts
- Reducing low birth weight/infant mortality
- Reducing juvenile delinquency and drug abuse.

Each of the above goals relates, in effect, to points on a continuum relating to the following:

- Responsible sexuality
- Responsible parenting
- Learning and education
- Health and well-being

- Responsible social behaviour

The family support programme in the USA also has the above goals for the children, families and communities they serve (Bruner 2006:240). It might therefore seem logical to start with this set of outcomes and indicators when seeking to define the outcomes and indicators against which this support programme should be measured (*Ibid.*: 241)

In South Africa, Chapter 2, Section 18, of the Constitution (RSA n.d.) has listed rights of children. Some of these children's rights have in a way motivated the formulation of the Child Support Grant. This grant is the major role-player in the efforts of the current government to make some of the children's rights a reality.

Every child has the following rights in terms of the Constitution (RSA n.d., Chapter 2:28): and the children at Fondwe village are entitled to enjoy these rights as well.

- The right to family care or parental care or to appropriate alternative care when removed from the family environment.
- The right to basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care services and social services.
- The right to be protected from exploitative labour practices.
- The right not to be required or permitted to perform work or provide services that –
  - are inappropriate for a person of that child's age, or
  - place at risk the child's wellbeing, education, physical or mental health or spiritual, moral or social development.

In striving to bring its own laws in line with international conventions, South Africa opted to sign the Convention on the Rights of the Child

in November 1993 and ratified it on 16 June 1995 (Skelton 1998:26). This Convention includes a preamble and 54 articles which reaffirm the fact that children need special care, including legal and other protection, before birth and throughout childhood. It places special emphasis on the role of the family in caring for children. The provisions of the Convention specify that all actions concerning children should take full account of their best interests, and the state is to provide adequate care when parents or others responsible fail to do so (*Ibid.*:27).

As the Convention is interpreted by the authors in Skelton (1998:27), the state must recognize an inherent right to life, and must ensure the child's survival and development. Children also have a right to benefit from social security (*Ibid.*:28). Citizens in circumstances of extreme hardship must be able to count on the government to provide their basic subsistence and survival needs (Kelly 1988:19). According to Dolan *et al.* (2006:11), family support has become a major strategic orientation in services for children and families.

“It now occupies a significant place in the array of care and welfare interventions. Not only does it shape policy and practice in different countries, but it accords strongly with the unifying global agenda for children and their families” (*Ibid.*:11),

It is maintained (Pauw *et al.* 2002:61) that democratic governments are committed, in terms of their policies, to enhancing the quality of life of all their people. Pauw *et al.* (2002:61) provide some examples of this commitment in South Africa:

- The improvement of primary health care with the focus on women and children.
- Education to ensure that all South Africans have the skills they require for the future.
- Welfare services for the unemployed.

Social assistance in South Africa serves the same purpose as family support programmes in other countries, whereas social assistance in the form of cash from the state is quite unusual in the developing world. Compared to most other middle-income countries, South Africa possesses a substantial system of cash social assistance mainly in the form of old age, disability and child support grants (Woolard 2003:11). The following table shows the social assistance and legal aid adapted from Mpedi and Kuppan in Olievier et,al 2008:229)

**Table 2.1 Social assistance and legal aid.**

<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Types of Grants</b>	<b>Eligibility Conditions</b>
Aged persons	Old Age Grant (R700)	Residents in South Africa at the time of application. South African citizenship. Proof that the applicant is unable to support him/herself. Proof that the applicant is not receiving a social grant Any other prescribed condition(s).

	Grant-in-aid (R150)	Physical or mental condition that requires regular attendance.
Persons with Disabilities	Disability Grants (R799)	Residents in South Africa at the time of application. South African citizenship. Proof that the applicant is unable to support him/herself. Proof that the applicant is not receiving a social grant Any other condition(s) prescribed by regulation (see reg. 2 of Regulation 418 of 31 March 1998 as amended).
	Grant-in-aid (R150)	Physical or mental condition that requires regular attendance.
War Veterans	War Veterans Grants (R718)	60 years of age or older. Unable to sufficiently provide for him/herself due to a physical or mental disability. Once served in the South African Defence Force during certain wars. Any other prescribed condition(s).
	Grant-in-aid (R150)	Physical or mental condition that requires regular attendance.



	Supplementary Grants	Supplementary grants are paid in addition to a social grant.
Children	Child Support Grant (R160)	<p>Primary care-giver who cares for a child or children (up to a maximum of 6 non-biological and unlimited number of own children).</p> <p>Child or children from 0 years and (progressively) up to 14 years.</p> <p>The care-giver must not be in receipt of income in respect of the child or children.</p> <p>Residence in South Africa at the time of application (both the primary care-giver and the child).</p> <p>South African citizenship (both the primary care-giver and the child).</p> <p>Any other prescribed condition(s).</p>
	Care Dependency Grant (R700)	<p>Residence in South Africa at the time of application (both the foster parent and the child).</p> <p>South African citizenship (in the case of parent and his or her child).</p> <p>Any other prescribed condition(s).</p>
	Foster Child Grant	Residence in south Africa at the time of application (both foster parent and the child).

	(R500)	Any other prescribed condition(s).
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In this study, the emphasis is on child support grant and not all other forms of social assistance as indicated. There may not be a scientific justification as to why the child support grant is chosen among others except that the child support grant is topical and that it is of interest to the researcher.

### **2.3 The South African Child Support Grant**

The child support grant is central to the topic in relation with the village of Fondwe. The relatively advanced level of the grant system is one of the legacies of apartheid, as the system was of course designed as part of the white welfare state. Yet, while other countries were scaling down on social spending, South Africa introduced a new grant for children in 1998 and expanded this further in the current fiscal year (*Ibid.*: 11).

This child grant emanated from a new law as described in 'The Welfare Laws Amendment Act of 1997, 106 of 1997' which came into operation on 1 April 1998. The Child Support Grant is one of three child grants provided by the Department of Social Development (Social Development 2005). It is established on the understanding that the state must respect, protect, promote and fulfill the terms of the Bill of Rights. In this case, examples of these are children's rights (RSA n.d.:Chap 2 Sect 7.2, 28.1), as listed above. According to the Constitution (*Ibid.*, Sect 28.2), the child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child. In the context of the study, the child support grant could benefit the children at Fondwe village.

It could be said that the state's objective is to fulfill an important role in empowerment, which is part of development. Development here is seen not as the development of things, but about human beings. It is thus imperative that ordinary people should be empowered to play their full role in their own development (Swanepoel 2000:86). The point is also made that any development initiative that aims at eradicating poverty and famine must have human development as its objective (Kotzé 2000:230). Recipient-oriented aid can take the form of humanitarian assistance aimed at improving the health, education and food-security needs of the poor (Cornwell 2000). Reasons, such as those stated above, are, according to Cornwell (2000:208), usually uncontested and uncontroversial.

Owing to South Africa's history of apartheid, poverty and degradation existed side by side. Income distribution in South Africa was and still is also very unequal, and therefore development in the form of government aid – the Reconstruction and Development Programme – led to grants which are provided to address these issues (Van der Walt & du Toit 1999:309).

### **2.3.1 Eligibility for a Child Support Grant**

According to the South African Department of Social Development (Social Development 2005:121), the eligible children at Fondwe village for example, could access grant through the mother or father of the child, or to the person who is known as the 'primary care giver'. This is the person who looks after the daily needs of the child but who does not have to be related to the child. Accordingly, a parent of a child can also be its primary care giver. The following are needed in order for an applicant to qualify for the grant (*Ibid.*: 121):

- The applicant must be the primary care giver of the child.

- Both the primary care giver and the child must be South African citizens or permanent residents of South Africa.
- Both the primary care giver and the child must live in South Africa at the time of application.
- The personal income of the primary care giver and his or her spouse must be below the amount set out in Regulation 16, depending on where they live.
- The child must be under the age of 14, provided that all the other conditions are met.
- The applicant must be over the age of 18 years.
- All of the required supporting documents must be present.
- In urban areas, the applicant for the grant should be living in a formal dwelling and personal income cannot be more than R9 600 per year, or R800 per month, and for those living in an informal dwelling the personal income may not be more than R13 000 a year or R1 100 per month. In rural areas, those living in formal or informal dwellings may not have an income of more than R13 000 per year (Ibid. 119).

In summary, the criteria that are used to select those that are eligible to get a Child Support Grant are the following:

- A primary care-giver shall be eligible for a Child Support Grant in respect of a child who is under the age of 14 years.
- A person shall be eligible for a Child Support Grant in respect of all his or her own children. Provided that if some or all of the children in respect of whom the application for the grant is made are not his or her biological or legally adopted children, he or she shall be entitled to such grant in respect of a maximum of six children.

- In addition to the requirement, any person at Fondwe Village shall be eligible for a child support grant if :
  - He or she is the primary care-giver of the child concerned provided that if more than one person claims to be the primary care-giver of the child, the Director-General shall, having taken all relevant factors into consideration, determine one of them to be the primary care-giver.
  - He or she satisfies the financial criteria (R9 600 or R13 200 per annum per household depending on area where she lives rural or informal dwelling
  - He or she does not receive remuneration for the care of the child concerned.
  - The child concerned is not in an institution that offers him the necessary support, whether registered under any law or not.
  - He or she or any other person is not already in receipt of a grant in respect of the child/children concerned
  - He or she does not have any income at all to support the child/children concerned.

The authors of 'Children and the Law' consider that a child's right's should not be affected at all by whether it was born in or out of wedlock (Skelton 1998: 48), and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child also prohibits discrimination on such grounds. What is more, the law requires that all persons involved in caring for or educating children should report suspected cases of abuse and ill treatment of children (*Ibid.*:127). The care giver, as the manager of the grant – like a departmental manager – is held responsible for carrying out the defined set of duties or tasks and for confirming with rules and standards applicable (Pauw *et al.* 2002:136).

According to the rules (Social Development 2005:121), prospective applicants within Fondwe village like anywhere in South Africa may however not qualify for the grant under the following circumstances:

- If they do not meet the qualifying conditions (for example, if they are not South Africans or permanent resident, or the child is too old).
- If the primary care giver gets paid for looking after the child (Reg. 2(c)).
- If the primary care giver, or someone else, is already getting a grant for the same child (Reg. 3(2)(e)).
- If the child lives in an institution referred to in the Child Care Act of 1983, or a similar institution (for example, a state-funded orphanage) (Reg.3(2)(d))
- If the primary care giver is not the parent and is already receiving grants for six children – meaning that such a primary care give is entitled to grants for a maximum of only six children.

The primary care giver of any child, contextually within Fondwe village who receives a child support grant must comply with the following conditions (Social Development 2005:122):

- They must continue to be the primary care giver for as long as they are getting the grant and, if not, the grant lapses and the new primary care giver must apply for the grant.
- The child must be properly accommodated, fed and clothed.
- The beneficiary must allow someone authorized by the Director General of the Department of Social Welfare to have reasonable access to the child and the place where the child lives (Reg. 20(c)).

- They must ensure that the child receives vaccinations against diseases and other health services, where these services are available for free (Reg. 20(d)).
- An authorized person is allowed to tell the primary care giver what to do with the grant, and such instructions must be followed (Reg. 20(e)).

Budgets provide a focus for the evaluation of the various aspects of the programme, and direct activities in a controlled manner (Pauw *et al.* 2002:126). The South African residents must have access to information and services offered – in this case concerning children’s needs – and the services must also equal value for money (Public Service & Administration 1997). The South African Social Security Agency may do anything necessary for the realization of the Agency’s objects (RSA 2004b). In fact, the Agency is required to ensure the effective, efficient and economical use of funds designated for payment to beneficiaries of social security (*Ibid.*:6).

### **2.3.3 Lapsing of a Child Support Grant**

When considering the child support grant, it is essential for the stakeholders within Fondwe village to consider that grant may lapse. According to the regulations (Social Development 2004: Chapt 7), a Child Support Grant may lapse–

- On the last day of the month in which the beneficiary dies.
- When a beneficiary is admitted to an institution referred to in Regulation 2(1)(c), but a grant must be paid for a period not exceeding six months when a person is admitted temporarily to a psychiatric hospital for observation or treatment.

- On the last day of the month in which the child in respect of whom the grant is paid attains the age of 14 years – subject to the provisions of Regulation 3(1) (a).
- When the child is no longer in the custody of the primary care giver, this on the last day of the month (Social Development 2005:124).
- When the care giver has not claimed the child support grant for a period of three consecutive months (Ibid: Reg.24 (5)).

According to the regulations (RSA 2004a: Chapt 8:30(1)), the Chief Executive Officer of the Social Security Agency must, without suspending the grant, appoint a person on behalf of a beneficiary in the case of the death of a parent or primary care giver. The person referred to in this sub-regulation must –

- continue to be the primary care giver of the beneficiary concerned until another care giver has been appointed or for the duration of the grant;
- carry out any instructions by the Chief Executive Officer regarding the use of the grant issued by the Agency; and
- comply with any conditions applicable to the relevant social grant.

In addition, the regulations (RSA 2004a: Chapt 7:27(1)), provides that any person who is in receipt of a grant must inform the Chief Executive Officer of the Social Security Agency without delay of any changes in the general, medical or financial circumstances of the beneficiary child, which could affect the continuation or amount of the grant.

A Child Support Grant or grants may be suspended if –



- the primary care giver or parent and his/her spouse's income increases and they then start to earn more than is allowed;
- the grant is being misused;
- the beneficiary leaves the country for more than 6 months ;
- the beneficiary fails to co-operate or supply documentation required on review .

(Social Development 2005:124)

The decision to suspend a grant is an administrative action that is covered by the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (*Ibid.*: 124). It is also required that, before it is decided to withdraw or suspend a grant, a notice must be sent to the beneficiary, saying the following (*Ibid.*: 124):

- That withdrawing or suspending the grant is being considered.
- Why it is intended to take that decision.
- By when the beneficiary must reply to the notice, if they disagree with the decision to be taken.

On informing the beneficiary of the administrative action, the administrator must also inform that person of –

- the right which he/she has in terms of Section 5 of the Act to request reasons for the action;
- any right of review or internal appeal, where applicable (RSA 2002:19).

## **2.4 Democratic values for child support**

As a democratic country, South Africa is expected to champion certain values that promote the values associated with the dispensation. In considering the application to society of the Child

Support Grant, it may be necessary to consider to what extent the society supports the child support grant in particular.

“The accountability chain between the electorate and the elected officials is a vital and indispensable element of any democratic government. As such it must continue to develop ways of increasing citizen involvement in the process.” (Coetzee 1988:63).

In a democratic system the policies of the government as approved by the legislature should represent the political wishes and will of the people, and public administration is an outcome of finding appropriate democratic systems (Coetzee 1991:23, 33-34).

Abraham Lincoln in his famous Gettysburg Address defined democracy as “government of the people, for the people, by the people”. The definition has been much elaborated since, to the point that:

“Democracy is, in essence, supported by a value system. This value system is the way in which a person observes the environment and reacts to it. ... the government of the day holds the will of its citizens in trust because it has been elected by and from the ranks of the people to look after the interests of the individual” (Van der Waldt & Helmbold 1995:9)

Coetzee (1991:66) defines ‘values’ as referring “to the human being’s idea of what is acceptable or unacceptable”. Further, he maintains that the first objective of democracy must be to create conditions whereby individuals will obtain the greatest possible well-being (Coetzee 1991:65).

“No official can ... substitute his personal values for societal or community values, but must rather give first priority to those values which will most benefit the society and/or community at large. ” (Coetzee 1991:66)

South Africa has a democratic government and therefore has the obligation to take care of its society’s needs.

In particular,

“The conduct of public officials ought to be such that the objectives of the representatives of the people are effectively pursued and the rights and freedoms of the public are not violated.” (Van der Waldt & Helmbold 1995:23).

This must also be perceived to be the case where the people represented are also the recipients of poverty-alleviation strategies such as the Child Support Grant. The value system of the community must be observed (*Ibid*:12) for democracy to be fulfilled. If the community values family life, and the focus of child welfare is generally on the preserving of the family and family life (Cohen 2000:9), then South Africa’s Child Support grant fulfils a democratic purpose.

## **2.5 Social responsibility**

The question of the child support grant in South Africa, with reference to Fondwe village should be positioned within the ambit of the social responsibility concept. The state has a social responsibility to take care of its citizens. Midgley (1997:98) cites arguments for the proposition that,

“... because social needs must be met, the state is compelled to step in and assume responsibility, but it does so on behalf of its citizens and still represents their collective concern for the less privileged in society.”

This arises –

“Because ... individual charity cannot solve society’s pressing problems. For this reason, citizens pay their taxes and rely on government to ensure that the needy are helped” (Midgley 1997:98).

Cloete and Mokgoro (1995:37,42) maintain that, to sustain the benefits of development for the broader society, a great deal of improvement is needed at the implementation level of programmes and projects, and they reiterate that social development management is action-oriented, concentrating on the elimination of extreme poverty, helplessness, vulnerability, dependence and powerless at the poorest levels of the population.

Individual responsibility can be seen as one of the cornerstones of democracy. But there are ethical dimensions to responsibility, as clearly set out by Van der Waldt and Helmbold (1995:9,171-4), and this makes further demands on officials in their implementation of government policy in an environment where the recipients of grants such as the Child Support Grant cannot be expected to be literate or aware of government criteria.

Public accountability is a reflection of public service responsibility. But responsibility is often confused by the efforts “of individuals to protect themselves against the risk of being held accountable for faulty decisions” (Coetzee 1991:64, quoting Robbins 1980:232). It follows

that responsibility cannot be taken for granted, but must be pursued through the mechanisms that ensure accountability.

It is seen as a dilemma that public organizations are simultaneously servants of the public interest and independent social settings, and the "chains of responsibility are often long and tangled" (Palumbo & Maynard-Moody 1991:22) and "discretion exercised by unelected government officials is a central characteristic of the modern state" (Palumbo & Maynard-Moody 1991:23 quoting Handler 1986). Responsibility can thus often be individual rather than administrative, and it is necessary to distinguish which sort is under scrutiny in any particular context.

In any case, allocating responsibility is seldom as straightforward as the theory has it:

"The people elect their representatives and chief executives on the basis of their stand on issues. These officials then make policy in accordance with their campaign promises, and administrative agencies carry out these policies to the latter." (Palumbo & Maynard-Moody 1991:253).

This assumes a simple model of democracy that is rare in the world, and does not apply in South Africa with its proportional representation system.

## **2.6 Social Grants and Development**

Cloete and Mokgoro (1995:48, 49) enumerate other important facets which have to be considered in the context of policy strategies to enhance sustainable social development in southern Africa, including:

- Development of particularly disadvantaged rural areas.

- Land tenure and land reform in the context of rural and agricultural development.
- The disadvantaged position of women and children
- Population growth, particularly where it concerns institutional and participatory roles.
- Creation of work and promotion of self-employment in urban and particularly in rural areas.
- Support programmes to address the needs of children.

As background to this, it should not be forgotten that –

“What a government accomplishes for a society depends on what policies it formulates and adopts and on how effectively these are put into practice.”(Coetzee 1991:16).

Development is defined as “a subjective and objective sustainable increase in the quality of life of an individual or a community” (Cloete 2000: 77), and distinctions may be made between states which are less developed and those which are more developed, without implying any lack of development. Cloete (2000:83) characterizes lesser developed states as being places where –

“Large numbers of people still live in primitive conditions in rural areas, where they eke out an existence barely surviving from day to day. They have only rudimentary services and facilities, with large regions of the country frequently being inaccessible owing to a serious lack of transport and other communication routes.”

Such a situation is one which the Limpopo provincial government must deal with, and the work that it does must be seen in this context.

“What a government accomplishes for a society depends on what policies it formulates and adopts and on how effectively these are put into practice.” (Coetzee 1991:16)

What is more, the closer the administration is to the need, the more effectively the need will be identified:

“...officials who are experts in their work, and who are confronted with actual problems each day are undoubtedly in the best position to notice shortcomings in either the official policy itself or in the implementation of the policy.” (Cloete 1992:89).

The fact that rural areas should be highlighted is important. Both poverty and neglect are added risks in rural areas, and neglect is one form of abuse, especially when applied to children (Baker 2000:233; Tower 2000:198).

## **2.7 Costs and benefits**

The Child Support Grant system may be seen as involving costs for ultimate benefits. The benefits should be seen in terms of uplifting children in poor families of Fondwe to enable them to support themselves and their families and thus eventually lessen the burden on the state. The benefit, therefore, is to the community.

Cost-benefit analysis may be seen as “a tool for systematically developing useful information about the desirable and undesirable effects of public sector programmes or projects” (Roux 2000:142), and is divisible into four stages:

- Identifying and listing all the various effects of a proposed budget.

- Classifying the various effects into economic-efficiency benefits and costs.
- Quantifying both the economic-efficiency benefits and the costs and income-distributional impacts of the project.
- Presenting the relevant information reasonably simply, or in a form that clearly spells out the important assumptions underlying the analysis and the implications of those assumptions for the study's conclusion.

The study to be undertaken here thus fits squarely into such a process, as an aid to policy formulation and control.

The matter of child welfare particularly (mostly involving home visits), it has been found, "...can generate significant savings to government that exceed their costs" (Karoly *et al.* 1998:100)

"From the premise that the public institutions and officials should promote the welfare of the community, it can be inferred that public authorities should always be fair and reasonable in their dealings with each citizen – regardless of sex, race, language or religion" (Cloete 1998:107)

Coetzee (1991:23) makes the point that public administration must bear public scrutiny in its financial management in a way that private administrations are not subject to. Financial accountability is thus an important aspect of public administration, whether at a national or a provincial level. A start in the accountability process comes with the presentation of budgets as a reflection of an administration's financial policy (Palumbo & Maynard-Moody 1991:196).

For a democratic country to be able to come up with social grants such as the Child Support Grant, it needs to have a healthy, growing economy. No government activity can be undertaken if the necessary



finance for this is not available (Van der Walddt & Helmbold 1995:73). According to South Africa's Public Finance Management Act (1999: 29(50)), the accounting authority for a public entity must seek within the sphere of influence of that accounting authority to prevent any prejudice to the financial interest of the state. The object of the Public Finance Management Act (RSA 1999: 8(2)) is to secure transparency, accountability and sound management of revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities of the institutions to which it applies. These institutions are named as departments, public entities, constitutional institutions, parliament and provincial legislatures.

Gildenhuys (1997:155) includes among the objectives of cash management the increasing of funds available for investment and obtaining the highest feasible yield on public funds, which are valuable public resources which should work for the community.

What is important from the point of view of Child Support Grants, is that their purpose should be recognized. The interests of the state are only served if the administration and monitoring of the grants relates to the larger society.

## **2.9 Poverty Alleviation**

Poverty is given a definition in section 1.5.1. above, but we are warned against assuming poverty to be a uniform condition. In general, 20<sup>th</sup> century poverty may be defined as "a deficiency in resources that significantly hampers or prevents participation in events and relationships that give life meaning ... [and] the idea of poverty has been closely allied with that of inequality" (Timms 1985:635).

Mpedi and Kuppan in Olivier et al (2008:226) further stated that poverty in South Africa is as a result of apartheid regime, drought, ill health, crime and lack of resources from which income can be generated. Eradicating poverty is important as it helps consolidate the gains of our new South African democracy (Ibid, 226).

The relief programmes introduced by the South African government aimed at alleviating poverty in the following manner:

- Transferring income to selected beneficiaries on a regular basis through a scheme or programme for the destitute and through regular food distribution to primary school learners so as to increase their level of consumption.
- Providing short-term income support to stabilize current consumption (Ibid, 2004).

However, the above has now been qualified (transformed) by the Social Security agency whereby they recommended the basic income grant which is provided as an entitlement without a means test that will more readily reach the poorest population (Ibid, 2004).

But in the case of the Child Support grant, it is means tested and payable to primary care-givers. However in recognition of moral and political value of excluding the rich a simple test which took into consideration, household income was finally recommended (Guthrie in Olivier et al, 2008: 354-356).

A distinction between incomes in urban and rural areas and between those living in informal and formal housing was drawn (Ibid, 356).

O'Connor (1991:7) goes so far as to say that "to think of Africa is to think of poverty". Although he was referring to tropical Africa, poverty is also of concern to South Africans, who should take

stringent measures to prevent equivalent levels of poverty occurring in this part of the continent.

According to Masango (2004), the greatest potential for reducing poverty, report funding, lies with the progressive extension of the Child Support Grant to the 14-year old age group, which would reduce the poverty gap by 57%. According to this, the provision of grants contributes to an increase in the number of children enrolling in schools.

If poverty is to be seen as the unequal distribution of resources in a particular population, then South Africa has a large task ahead of it in the accomplishment of poverty alleviation. The White Paper on Affirmative Action (1998 Chapter 1 :1&2) indicated that one of the post-1994 government's foremost tasks has been to transform the public service into an efficient and effective instrument capable of delivering equitable services to all citizens and of driving the country's economic and social development. The government saw that, for service delivery to take place, the public service needed to be transformed.

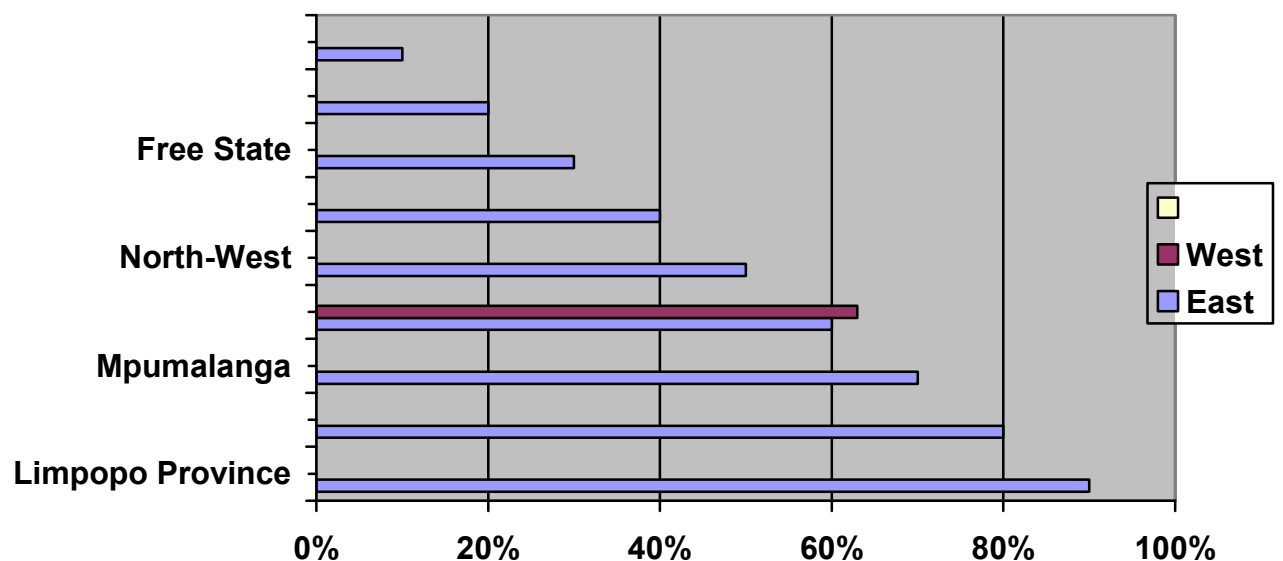
Bendix (1996:617) cites the draft Workers' Charter of the South African Congress of Trade Unions as specifying that unemployed workers shall be the responsibility of the state, meaning that unemployed workers shall be entitled to unemployment benefits which will take into account all the basic needs of the worker and his/her family. The government has therefore extended its help in this regard by introducing the Child Support Grant for unemployed mothers, young and old.

Both affirmative action and the inclusion of the unemployed in labour legislation could be seen as small but significant steps in closing the

income gap, the uneven distribution of resources that keeps South Africans poor.

Limpopo is the most hit by poverty as indicated by the graph below (Oliver et al, 2008:19).

Poverty percentile of the selected provinces

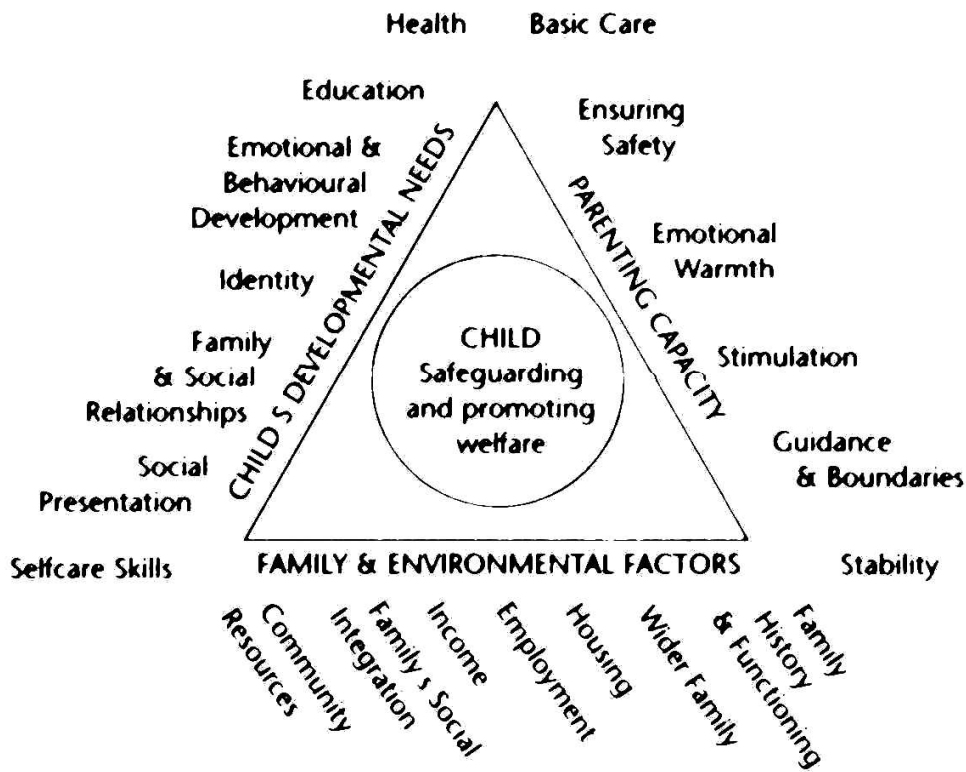


In relation with the provinces cited above, Limpopo Province where Fondwe is situated, has the highest level of poverty. By implication, more children may require child support grant as compared to other provinces.

## 2.10 Grant Administration

The services which administer grants do not have an easy task. Assessment of need has many dimensions. Assessors cannot expect to “discover one set of undisputed, objective ‘facts’ about a situation” (Holland 2004:33). The protection of children in particular “...is not an exact science, ...[and] may involve a delicate balancing act between differing needs” (Kay 2003:167)

Assessment must take a number of things into account, and a framework is provided (Holland 2004:21)



**Figure 2.2: Assessment framework for child care support**

There is also the matter of making decisions, which can be approached in distinct ways:

**Table 2.2: Decision-making in social care**

<b>Decision discourse</b>	<b>Stance</b>	<b>Aims</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Scientific observation	Objectivity. Distance.	Gathering information: facts and evidence. Making decisions.	Decision delayed until the end.	Weighing up.	Check with others
Reflective evaluation	Independence, but expecting a	In-depth knowledge	Ongoing evaluation. Outcomes	Evaluation 'pulled together'	Check with others

	close engagement with the family.	Reaching judgement s. Providing explanation.	emerge.	at the end.	
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(Adapted from Holland 2004:33)

Given the huge need, not only in Limpopo Province, but South Africa as a whole, where it is estimated that 72% of children, or nearly 1.5 million, are in need of social assistance, but only 73% (around 100 000) are receiving it (Leatt et al. 2005:55), the responsibility devolving on grant administrators is formidable.

## **2.11 Conclusion**

In reviewing the literature on the need for and relevance of a Child Support Grant in South Africa, it becomes apparent that child welfare is a worldwide concern. South Africa's particular problems make it particularly urgent and necessary that local solutions should be found. The legacy of broken families and rural poverty, added to the new threat of AIDS, are contributing factors to the crisis in child welfare. The enlightened recognition that society as a whole should benefit from a Child Support Grant arises from democratic principles, but also needs to be accepted by those who administer social and other grants. Without such acceptance, the effectiveness of the Child Support Grant may be jeopardized.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **RESEARCH DESIGN**

#### **3.1. Introduction**

This chapter focuses on the research design that was used to gather and analyse data for this study. The methodology, together with the context of the study, is presented here.

Le Compte and Preissle (1999:32) acknowledge that research design is somewhat confusing from one implementer of the design processes to another, and they point out that a number of social scientists, including a number of other authors, have failed to define and clearly differentiate theoretical frames, research designs and data collection methods.

A research design is, according to Terre Blanche and Durrheim (1999:29) "a strategic framework for action that serves as a bridge between research questions and the execution or implementation of research". Research design is also defined (Mouton 2005:55) as a plan or blueprint of how a researcher intends conducting research. All this suggests that a research design focuses on the plan of the study, and is a tool or procedure to be used in order to achieve the final product, which is the result of the study.

#### **3.2 Research Approach**

The approaches used can vary considerably in any field of scientific inquiry. Before research even begins, a researcher should decide on what approach is the most appropriate to employ relevant to the study being carried out. Two main approaches are recommended:

**Table 3.1: Quantitative and Qualitative approaches compared**

<b>Quantitative Approach</b>	<b>Qualitative Approach</b>
Measure objective facts	Construct social reality, cultural meaning
Focus on variables	Focus on interactive processes, events
Reliability is key	Authenticity is key
Value-free	Values are present and explicit
Independent of context	Situationally constrained
Many cases, subjects	Few cases, subjects
Statistical analysis	Thematic analysis
Researcher is detached	Researcher is involved

The research approach puts in place the procedures for conducting a study. The design should include when, where, from whom and under what conditions data will be gathered and analyzed (Melville and Goddard 1996:30). For the purpose of this study, quantitative approach was used.

### **3.2.1 The Quantitative Approach**

A quantitative approach requires that experimental and quasi-experimental designs and statistical techniques are used to collect numerical data from a representative population sample (Baumgartner & Strong 1998:175).

This study was based on a quantitative non-experimental *ex post facto* research design, in the sense that it is a systematic and empirical enquiry into independent variables that have already occurred (McMillan & Schumacher 1993:285; Wiersma 1982:135).

Data collection included the use of three sets of questionnaires which provided for closed option answers (see Appendix B).



Standardization, in the form of the questionnaire, and frequencies, as could be calculated for the responses to closed option questions, enabled a quantitative approach to be applied.

### **3.3 Population**

The 'population' of a study includes all members of a defined class of people, events or objects who, for research purposes, are designated as being the focus of the investigation (Neuman 2000:120). In this study, there were three distinct populations: grant recipients (mothers), mothers of recipients (grandmothers) and agents of the Department of Social Security. The population of grant recipients at Fondwe village consist of 121 young mothers, parents and guardians of the recipients 'population consist of 103 members.

#### **3.3.1 Sampling Method**

Purposeful sampling has been used to increase the utility of information obtained from small samples. The technique allows a researcher to select particular elements that are well informed about the topic under investigation (MacMillan & Schumacher 1993:378). By this means it is possible to discover, understand and gain insight from participants regarding the topic being investigated (Coleman & Briggs 2003:120). Purposeful sampling was used because it enabled the researcher to select information - rich cases for study in depth.

In this study purposive sampling techniques were used to select participants, because this best met the needs of the study. The researcher selected individuals who seemed most rich in information to support the enquiry. In other words, respondents were chosen because they were likely to be knowledgeable and informative about the phenomena the researcher was investigating. The literature suggests no specific rules about obtaining an adequate sample size,

since each situation presents its own problems (Cohen & Manion, 1995:195; McMillan & Schumacher, 2001:177).

An additional basis for sampling was in fact geographical accessibility. The research site itself is in a high valley of the Soutpansberg mountains of Limpopo Province (see Figure 3.1 (b)), which is not well provided with roads. Deep gullies between households (see Appendix C of photographs) made moving between them difficult, and resulted in loss of time.

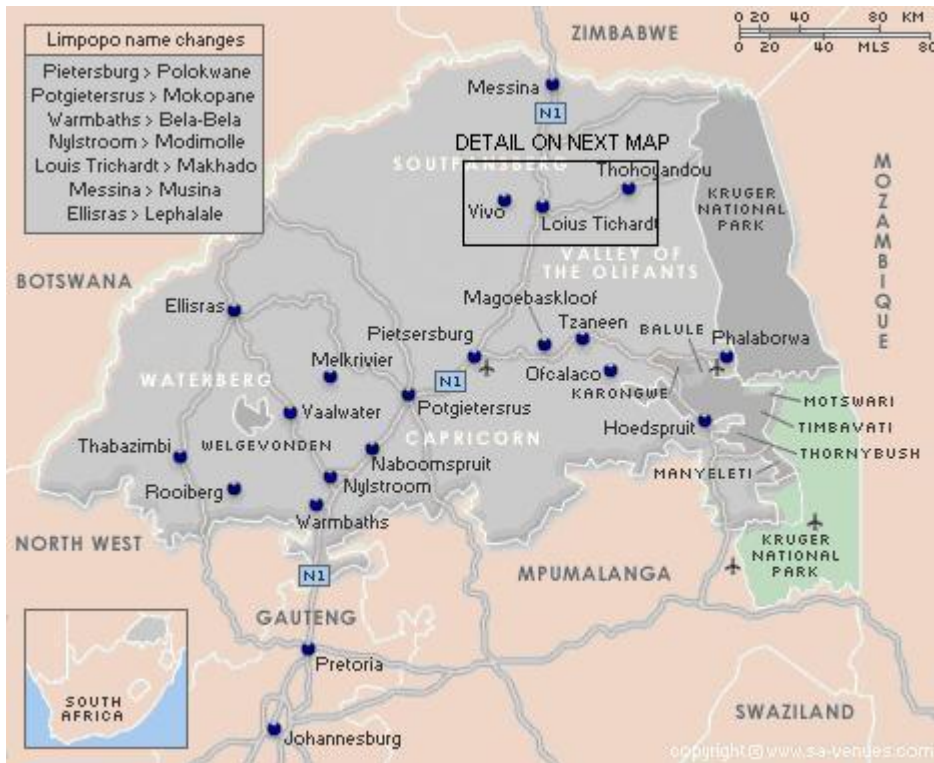
For the purpose of this study the following numbers of respondents were selected for the sample:

**Table 3.2: Sampling of population for purposes of study**

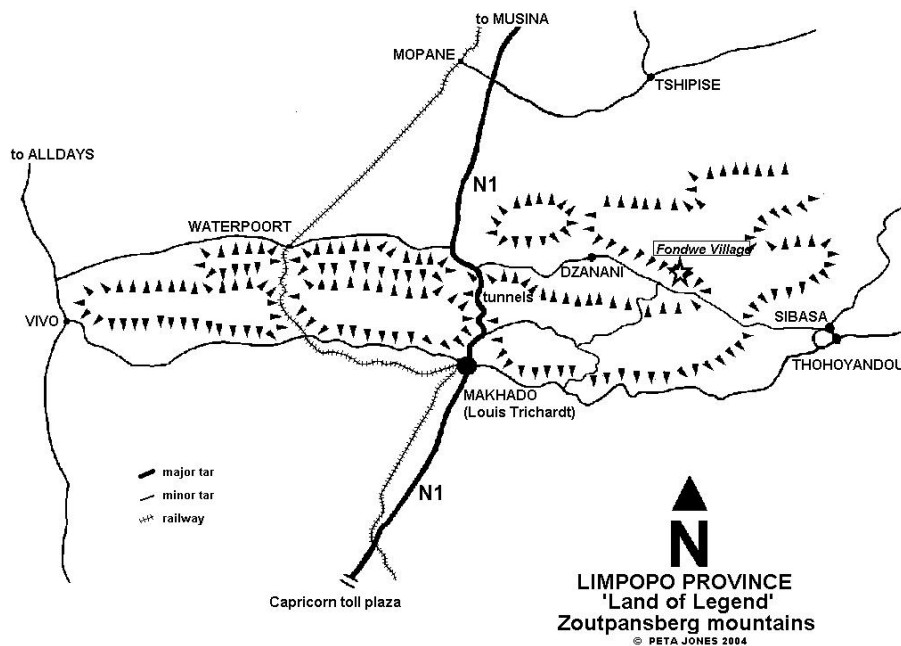
POPULATION	SAMPLE SIZE
1. Young mothers (grant recipients)	50
2. Parents or guardians of grant recipients	50
3. Social and Welfare authorities	2

### **3.4 Research Site**

This study took place in Limpopo Province, Vhembe District, at Fondwe Village, and in the offices of the Department of Social Development in Thohoyandou. The geographical demarcation is herein presented namely; one being the map for the entire Limpopo Province the other being the map depicting Fondwe village.



**Figure 3.1(a): Map of Limpopo Province**



**Figure 3.1(b): Map of area including the research site (starred)**

The map demonstrates the location of Fondwe village, located between Dzanani and Sibasa.

### **3.5 Method of Data Collection**

The researcher obtained permission to conduct the research from the Department of Social Development and Welfare in Limpopo Province. Appointments were made with the grant recipients, parents and Social Development authorities. Questionnaires were distributed to the target groups. Ethical procedures were followed in accordance with the information provided in chapter one.

Data collection was done by the researcher himself, acting alone and needing no interpreter, since he shared a home language with the participants. The type of instrument used was questionnaire.

A separate questionnaire was drawn up for each of the sampled population groups, since slightly different information was required from each. The questions, however, followed the same pattern and were phrased so that the answers could be compared across the population groups in order to facilitate triangulation. For the purpose of this study triangulation has been employed to determine whether multiple sources of data agree and thus make it possible to arrive at better, cross-checked insights (Burgess 1989:306).

#### **3.5.1 Questionnaires**

As indicated above, the questionnaires formed the basis for the collection of data from the following three separate groups of people, namely:

- Young mothers (grant recipients)
- Parents or guardians of grant recipient or young mothers
- Social Development authorities

The questionnaire compiled was appropriate for the population group of the respondent(s) (see Appendix B) and was used to gain answers to the closed-option questions. Each questionnaire sought to obtain a degree of opinion from the respondents on groups of related questions, in terms of a spectrum of agreement and disagreement.

The design of the questionnaire was aided by the pilot study, and went through several changes before being administered in its final form. In its design, care was taken to avoid the following guided by the experiences of Babbie (1992:149-152).

- Lack of clarity
- Double-barreled questions
- Irrelevant questions
- Long items
- Negative items
- Biased items and terms

The questionnaire thus provided clarity on the issues that were probed; double barreled questions were avoided; questions that were considered irrelevant were avoided; questions that could have negative influences were sensitively not included in the set of the questionnaire that was designed and that included personal involvement of the researcher to avoid biasness.

### **3.6 Analysis of Results**

The success of data analysis depends on the thoroughness of the process. Vaughn *et al.* (1996:99-104) give the essential steps associated with data analysis, as follows:

- Drafting of a detailed description of subjects and groups.
- Listing considerations applicable to the study prior to data analysis.

- Determining the methods of analysis.

These steps were followed in the analyses of the involved data. In addition, suggestions made by Lederman (1990) implying that responses should be coded into prescribed categories which coincide with the focus areas of the various data collection techniques was used.

The analysis of data took place during and upon completion of data collection. Triangulation was also considered, as Lather (1986:270) maintains that triangulation is critical in establishing data trustworthiness. Validity and reliability were enhanced by including triangulation in quantitative research (Maxwell 1996:94). The role of triangulation in this study is therefore to support the validity and reliability of data analysis, thus the process involved in analyzing data culminated into is validity and reliability of information.

In the case of the questionnaires, however, there was a slight difficulty in that the respondents did not regard all the questions in the same way, as described further under 'Limitations of the study'.

### **3.7 Ethical Considerations**

Ethics generally are considered to deal with beliefs about what is right or wrong, proper or improper (McMillan & Schumacher 2001:197). The ethical considerations in the study were guided by a set of central essential questions namely; whose rights are more sacred, those of the scientist, those of individuals or institutions that might be past studied by scientists, those of the public who will benefit from the research? While all these rights require to be preserved, the rights of the respondents were considered more central particularly in this study that the children's rights were involved.

This exception was made influenced by the writings of (Barker, 1988:76) who informed that the rights of human subjects are not to be physically or psychologically abused. Respondents have the right of privacy and for this reason; no one was forced to participate against his/her will. Their rights as stipulated in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa were always protected at the progression of the study. Interviewees were not compelled to participate; they were informed that participation is voluntary. The respondents were informed about the purpose and the procedures involved. The interviewees were informed that their responses would be anonymous and such their names were not disclosed in public. The data collected was kept confidential and that they were informed that they can withdraw at any stage if they feel uncomfortable.

The study was therefore conducted with maximum consideration to uphold the principles of honesty and confidentiality as indicate above. With respect to confidentiality, the respondents' information was treated as confidential to the study. Data was collected and analysed honestly without any form of biasness. De Vos (1998:24) defines ethics as a set of moral principles which is suggested by an individual or group, and is subsequently widely accepted, and which offers rules and behavioral expectations about the most correct conduct towards experimental subjects and respondents, employers, sponsors, other researchers, assistants and students.

The principle of honesty was considered throughout the process of conducting the study. The goal in conducting the research was, as stated by Lephalala (2006:25) to generate knowledge through honest conduct, reporting, and publication of a research report. The researcher was also aware of and complied with the fact that data, as

stipulated by Burns & Grove (2003:187) should not be falsified nor manipulated in order to maintain the quality of the research report.

The researcher undertook to focus on the research questions and did not interfere in any manner that may jeopardize the integrity of data and the study as a whole. There were no damaging effects on the individual. The aims and objectives of the study were communicated to the participants, and their informed consent to participation was a prerequisite. (See Appendix B)

The following, as indicated by Du Plooy (1995:45-6, 65), are a summation of ethical issues which the researcher complied with in carrying out the study:

- Protecting the rights of human subjects by not causing emotional harm, by not infringing their right to maintain self-respect and human dignity.
- Providing all the facts without distortion or misrepresentation.
- Avoiding being biased in the interpretation and presentation of data.
- Avoiding generalization and reporting the findings as if they apply to the target population; these types of feedback will be restricted to the accessible population.
- Using measurements that are suited to the research problem.
- Not knowingly ascribing greater confidence than the measurements warrant.
- Reporting conflicting evidence.
- Reporting any flaws or limitations in the research.

No reasons could be cited as necessary for disclosing the identity of participants, therefore the researcher ensured confidentiality by not disclosing the identity of the respondents. Accordingly, respondents



were made aware that they will be contributing into a scientific study that is carried out for study purpose and they were guaranteed of the following:

- Anonymity
- Voluntarily
- With the option to withdraw from the study if they so choose.

### **3.8 Limitations of the Study**

For a study on Social Development Child Support Grants, a large sample of the population would have been desirable, especially to establish reliability of the findings. However, due to financial and time constraints, the sample was limited. The study area, described in section 3.3. above, also gave particular sampling problems (3.3.1).

Sampling may also have been more selective than intended. For proper random sampling, every individual of the population would need to be assigned a number, and random number tables used to make selections. In this case, purposive sampling was employed, in an attempt to get the best range of responses from a small population.

In addition, the topic being researched can be expected to be a sensitive one, in as much as it explores how individuals spend their money. Questions needed to be phrased in such a way that it was difficult to respond to them evasively or dishonestly, but it may be expected that a proportion of the respondents still managed to do that.

An unintended result of exercising this sensitivity was the variation in the way in which respondents approached the questions, especially

those on the questionnaire. Although presented with statements with which they were expected to express a degree of agreement or disagreement, some chose simply to agree or not. Others chose to consider the grouped range of the statements themselves as the options, and chose only one of them from each group with which to agree. This somewhat distorted the results, as presented in the next chapter. It does, however, reveal something of the impact of such questionnaires on a population such as this one, and may guide future approaches to research in this field.

### **3.9 Trustworthiness of the Study**

The need to describe accurately the experience of a phenomenon involves trust. The uses of multiple sources enhance the trustworthiness of a description in terms of the credibility and dependability of data. Trustworthiness of the research can be adduced if a research provides authentic information that shows credibility, reliability and validity (Hitchcock & Hughes, 1995:104).

According to Strauss and Corbin (1990:98), all researchers need to be fully aware of their inherent biases or pre-conceived ideas about participants or respondents during a research process. The researcher sought to distance himself from both bias and preconceptions during the collection of data and its analysis, so as not to colour or misinterpret findings. Information obtained, therefore, was as near as possible authentic and this was reinforced through 'member-checking', whereby the research material was revealed to participants so that they could check its accuracy.

The relevant literature was thoroughly reviewed and care was taken to ensure that the questions asked adequately covered issues raised by the literature. In an attempt to ensure maximum trustworthiness,

the data collected was investigated and analysed by the researcher particularly for credibility, reliability and validity.

### **3.10 Credibility, Reliability and Validity of the Findings**

- Research credibility is the extent to which the data collected and data analysis are believable. According to Bogdan and Biklen (1998:205), credibility serves to establish confidence in the truth of the findings as well as in the context of the study. Research is believable if methods and findings can be controlled in an objective and reliable manner. The findings are true and are without any form of biasness.
- Reliability, according to Denscombe (1998:212/213), depends on whether the research instruments are neutral in their effect and measure, and produce the same results when used in other situations. Questions should be asked about who conducted the research, whether possibly it was done by someone else, and whether the results would have been the same. The research instruments used in the study was neutral and could be able to produce the same results when used to the same situation.
- Validity means the extent to which a particular method of data collection measures exactly what it is supposed to measure (Bell 1999:104) and in the context of this study, such measures were incorporated.

In this study, reliability and credibility as well as validity were achieved at the highest level and the study is reliably scientific.

### **3.11 Conclusion**

This chapter dealt with the aims of research, research approach, instruments, sampling strategy, and ethical considerations.

Because of the specific nature of the research, the approach used was mainly quantitative. The different ways in which respondents approached different questions in the questionnaire was revealing in itself, and may guide future research on this topic.

Reliability and validity were sought through a degree of triangulation represented by the use of the three different types of instruments.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

The purpose of this chapter is to present the primary data obtained from respondents regarding their perceptions on the use and impact of the Child Support Grants. This includes data obtained from parents and guardians of young mothers, young mothers themselves and the agents of the Social Development authority (South African Social Security Agents).

The results are presented herein, and the way in which they are presented forms part of the analysis. No statistical tests of significance were possible on this kind of data. If they had been tried, they would only have been misleading, as it turned out that different questions elicited different kinds of responses, and not enough of them could be compared with one another. The correlation analysis was however affected.

For the purposes of analysis, findings are related to the various objectives of the study with the implications of the results interpreted accordingly.

#### **4.2 Data Presentation**

Although the questionnaires sought to obtain nuanced opinions on statements grouped in categories, this was seldom possible. In most cases the responses could have been arranged as 'yes' or 'no' answers. What is more, there was often unanimity, especially in the case of the Social Security agents. In those instances, the most useful way to arrange results is simply to list those statements upon which respondents were agreed, and ignore the rest.

In cases where there was no unanimity, respondents divided themselves between different statements, so that a frequency of agreement with a particular statement provided a quantitative measure for it.

The variations in responses are reflected in the tables and charts which follow, in which there is no uniformity of approach.

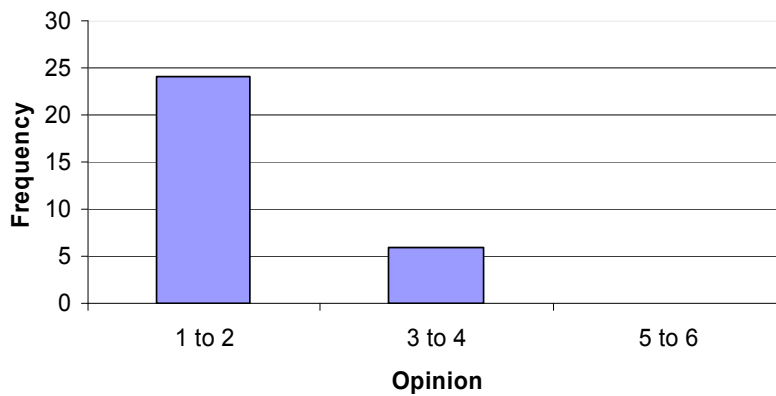
#### **4.2.1. Young mothers (grant recipients)**

##### *4.2.1.1 Base information (questions 1-5 on Questionnaire)*

The respondents were asked to indicate how many children they have who could possibly be assisted by the grant and their frequency distribution is isolated below: Fifty (50) respondents participated in providing responses to this question.

**Table 4.1.1: Number of children (Q.1)**

	<b>Freq</b>	<b>%</b>
1 to 2	40	80.00
3 to 4	10	20.00
5 to 6	0	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Figure 4.1.1: Number of children (Q.1)**

Eighty percent of the respondents have at least one to two children while twenty percent have three to four children. In terms of the frequency distribution indicated above, twenty percent was constituted of a total number of ten respondents while eighty percent was constituted of forty respondents.

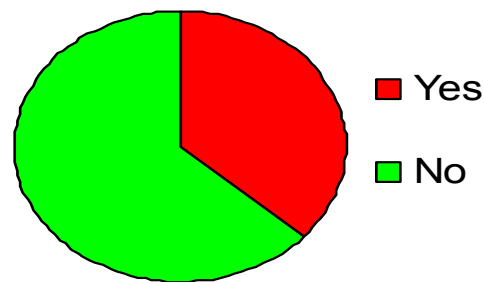
A follow up question was imposed to determine if the respondents intended to have more children and their responses were recorded herein as follows”

**Table 4.1.2: Intention to have more children (Q.2)**

The question was imposed in terms of “Yes” or “No” and the respondents who answered “Yes” were 18 and the ones who answered no were thirty two.

	Freq	%
Yes	18	37.

No	32	63.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%.</b>



**Figure 4.1.2: Intention to have more children (Q.2)**

All respondents considered that the money provided by the grant (Question 4) is inadequate, but when asked what they thought would be adequate, they were not very demanding as the majority demanded at least R1 500.

**Table 4.1.3: Amount of grant money seen as sufficient (Q.5)**

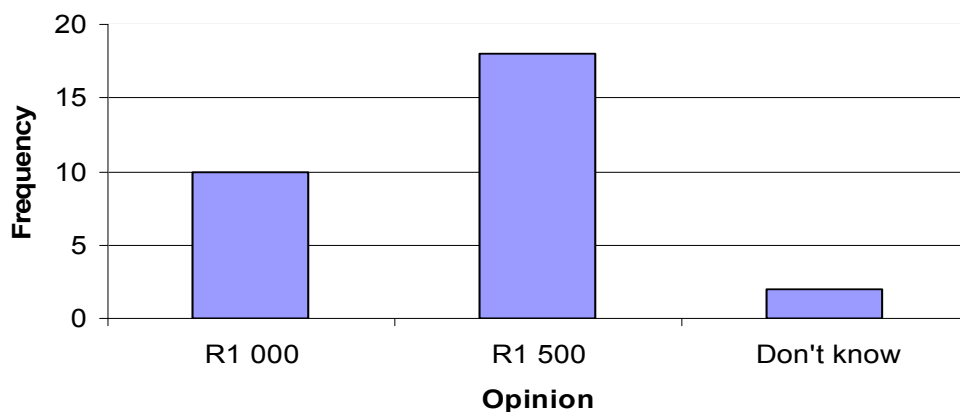
	<b>Freq</b>	<b>%</b>
R1 000	17	33.33
R1 500	30	60.00



Don't know	3	6.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Figure 4.1.3: Amount of grant money seen as sufficient (Q.5)**

*4.2.1.2 The role of the Child Support Grant in the lives of young mothers (Questionnaire A)*

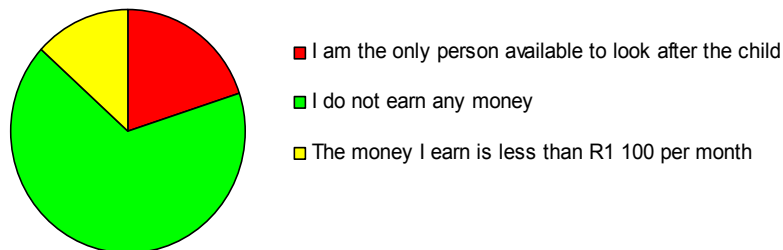


Among the possible reasons for their being in a position to receive the grant (Question A.1), the young mothers chose three:

**Table 4.1.4: Circumstances enabling young mothers to get grant (Q A.1)**

	<b>Freq</b>	<b>%</b>
I am the only person available to look after the child	10	20.00
I do not earn any money	33	66.70
The money I earn is less than R1 100 per month	7	13.30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Figure 4.1.4: Circumstances enabling young mothers to get grant (Q A.1)**



The respondents were asked the remainder of the questions on the questionnaire, and they were unanimous in strongly disagreeing with the statement that their parents took all the money for the grant (Question A.3). When asked how they spent the money from the Child Support Grant (Question A.4), they all replied, again unanimously, that they spent the money on food and clothes for their children. In addition to this, they were unanimous that purpose of the grant (Question A.5) was for three things, as expressed on the questionnaire:

- To buy good clothes for my child
- To make sure that my child does not starve
- To buy my child’s educational needs.

When asked in what ways the grant made their lives easier (Question A.2), the young mothers decided variously, as follows:

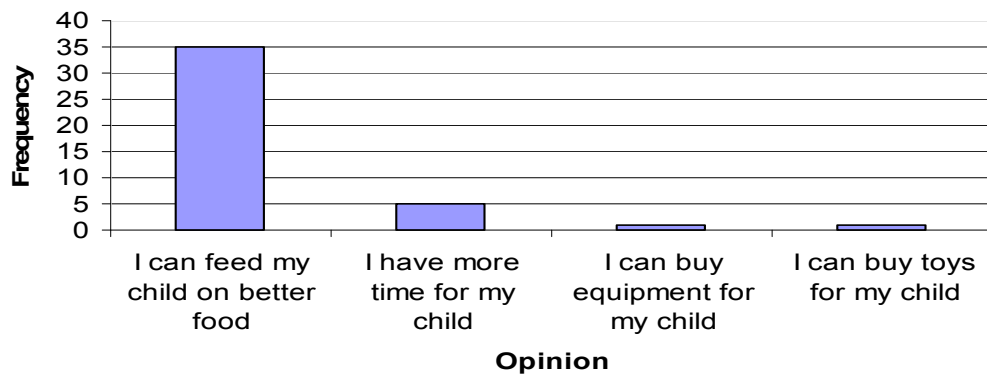
**Table 4.1.5: Ways in which the Child Support Grant improves mothers’ lives (Q A.2)**

	<b>Freq</b>	<b>%</b>
I can feed my child on better food	42	83.33

I have more time for my child	6	11.90
I can buy equipment for my child	1	2.38
I can buy toys for my child	1	2.38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.00</b>

#### 4.2.2. Parents or guardians of recipients of the grant (young mothers)

This part of the study sought to use a form of triangulation or double-



check on the information given in the statements made by the recipients. Questionnaire B was used for the 50 respondents who were parents or guardians of the young women who were receiving the Child Support Grant on behalf of their children, which is to say the grandchildren of this set of respondents.

In general they opted to chose between the different statements grouped under each question, different respondents choosing which ones they agreed with. Where they agreed, they were either unanimous in being in strong agreement or just in being in agreement, so for the purposes of this study, all were taken as agreement. On only one question was there any dissent, and on only

one other did all respondents make more than one choice, all of them unanimously agreeing on three of the statements.

These results are therefore arranged here according to the type of agreement expressed by respondents.

#### 4.2.2.1 *Unanimous agreement of parents and guardians*

Where they agreed was on the purpose of the grant (Question B.7). They agreed that the purpose, as expressed in the questionnaire, was for three things:

- To educate my daughter's child when he/she is old enough
- To buy good clothes for my daughter's child
- To make sure that my daughter's child does not starve

#### 4.2.2.2 *Agreement with individually chosen statements*

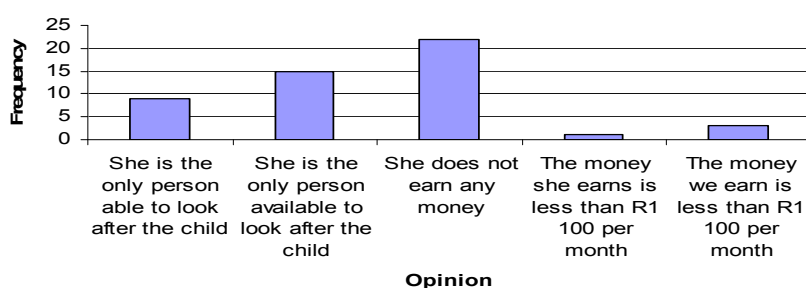
On the question of eligibility for the grant (Question B.1), there was an interesting variety of response.

**Table 4.1.6: Circumstances enabling the granting of child support (Q B.1)**

	<b>Freq</b>	<b>%</b>
She is the only person able to look after the child	9	18.00
She is the only person available to look after the child	15	30.00
She does not earn any money	22	44.00
The money she earns is less than R1 100 per month	1	2.00
The money we earn is less than R1 100 per	3	6.00

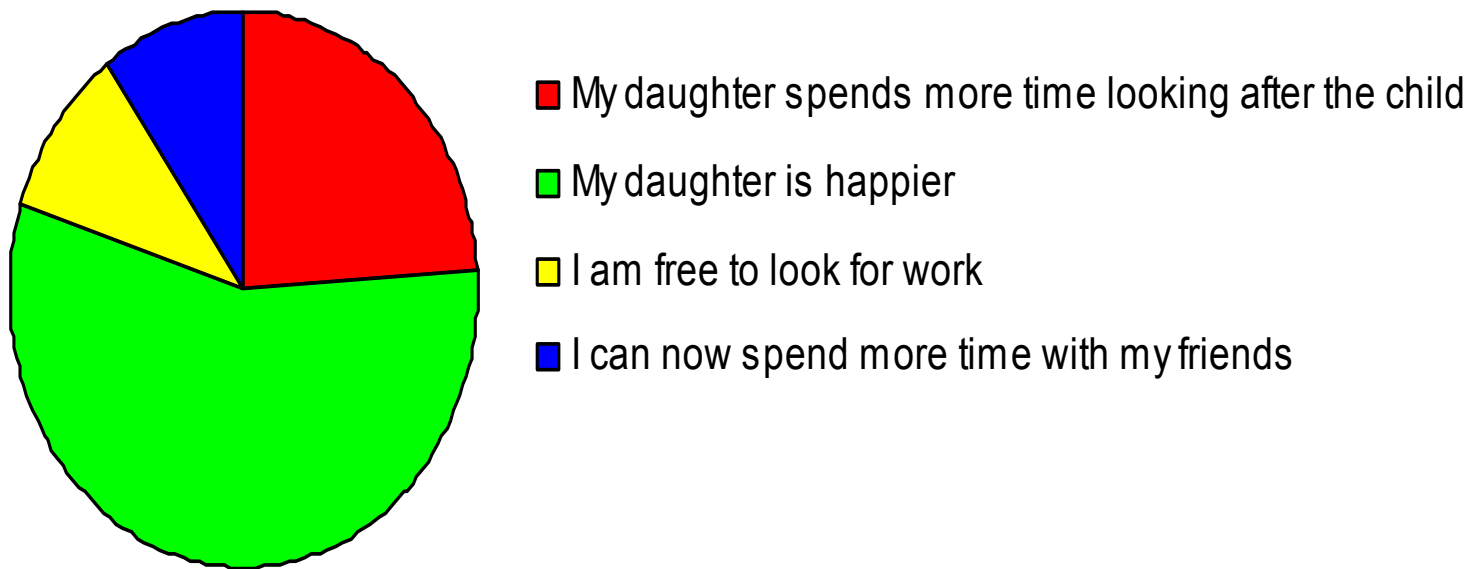
month		
<b>TOTAL</b>	50	100

Majority of the respondents showed that young mothers who are legible for a grant are those who do not earn any money.



**Table 4.1.7: Ways in which parents' and guardians' lives are made easier by the grant (Q B.2)**

	<b>Freq</b>	<b>%</b>
My daughter spends more time looking after the child	12	24.00
My daughter is happier	28	56.00
I am free to look for work	5	10.00
I can now spend more time with my friends	5	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.00</b>

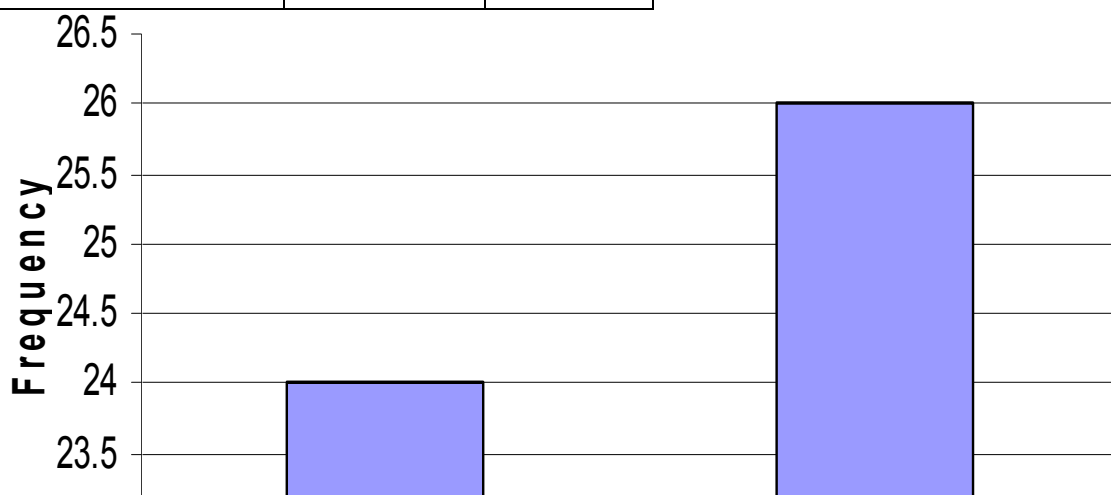


**Figure 4.1.7: Ways in which parents' and guardians' lives are made easier by the grant (Q B.2)**

They also recognized some of the difficulties inherent in the grant.

**Table 4.1.8: Ways in which parents' and guardians lives are made more difficult by the grant (Q B.4)**

	<b>Freq</b>	<b>%</b>
The neighbours think we are dishonest	24	48.00
My sisters and brothers expect us to give them money	26	52.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.00</b>



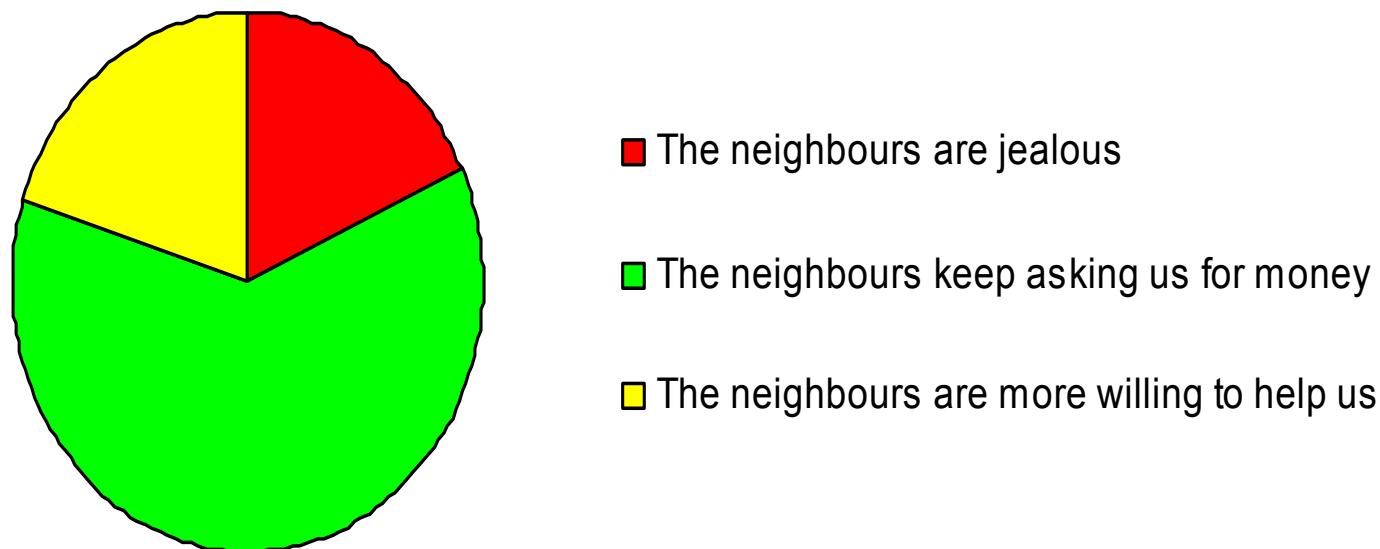
**Figure 4.1.8: Ways in which parents' and guardians lives are made more difficult by the grant (Q B.4)**

The attitude of neighbours (Question B.8) was seen as somewhat ambivalent.

**Table 4.1.9: How parents and guardians see changes in their neighbours (Q B.8)**

	<b>Freq</b>	<b>%</b>
The neighbours are jealous	9	18.00
The neighbours keep asking us for money	31	62.00
The neighbours are more willing to help us	10	20.00

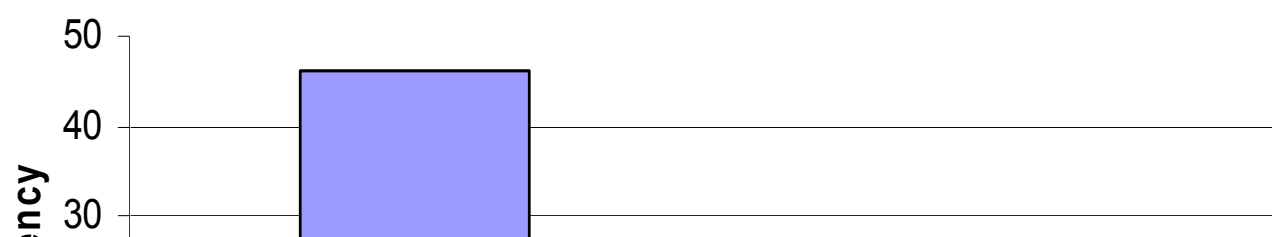
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.00</b>
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**Figure 4.1.9: How parents and guardians see changes in their neighbours (Q B.8)**

**Table 4.1.10: Ways in which parents and guardians saw the grant making their daughters' lives more difficult (Q B.5)**

	<b>Freq</b>	<b>%</b>
She does not get enough money, but has more expenses	46	92.00
Her friends expect her to pay for everything	4	8.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.00</b>





At the same time, parents and guardians acknowledged that the spending pattern of the grant beneficiary did tend to benefit child and family.

**Table 4.1.11: How parents and guardians see the money being spent by the grant beneficiary**

	<b>Freq</b>	<b>%</b>
More food for the family so the child can eat well	29	58.00
Better clothes for the family	4	8.00
Clothes for the child	13	26.00
Toys for the child	4	8.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.00</b>



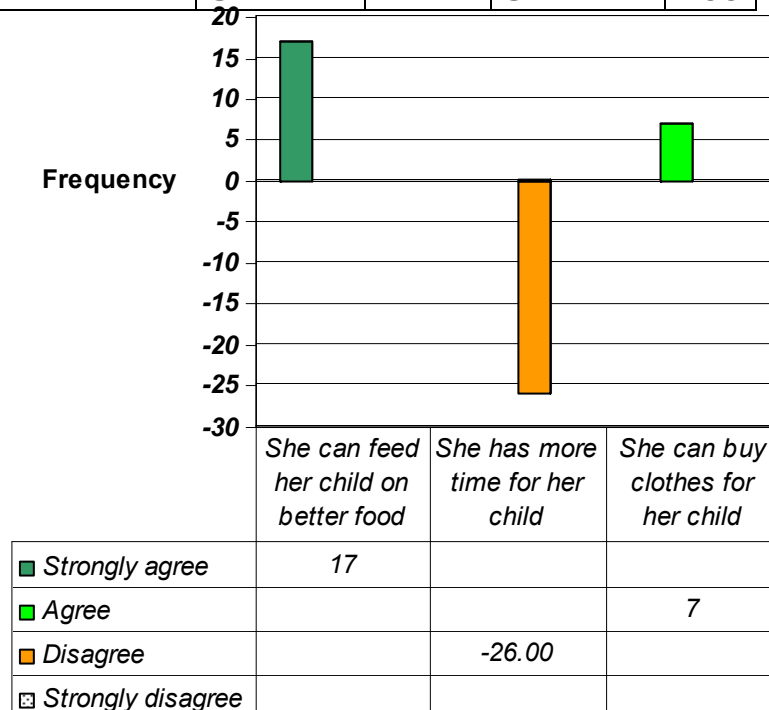
**Figure 4.1.11: How parents and guardians see the money being spent by the grant beneficiary**

4.2.2.3 *Disagreement between parents and guardians over the ways in which the young mothers' lives are made easier.*

In responding to Question B.3, there was a more fundamental division over the ways in which their daughters' lives are made easier.

**Table 4.1.12: Ways in which the grants make a young mother's life easier**

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>%</b>
	<b>Frequencies</b>			
She can feed her child on better food	17			34
She has more time for her child			26	52
She can buy clothes for her child		7		14
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>



**Figure 4.1.12: Ways in which the grants make a young mother's life easier**

For purposes of clarity in the above chart, disagreement is recorded as a negative value. Clearly, parents and guardians did not feel that the grant recipients were spending more time with their children as a result of the Child Support Grant.

**4.2.3. Social Development agents**

Only two Social Development agents, based in Thohoyandou, completed the questionnaire for this study. These were the only two familiar with the beneficiaries and their families in Fondwe Village.

On most of the questions in Questionnaire C, the two of them were unanimous, choosing together to agree strongly or simply to agree with selected statements. These are therefore listed below as simply being statements with which the agents were in agreement:

**Question C.1: CRITERIA USED FOR A YOUNG MOTHER TO GET A CHILD SUPPORT GRANT**

- She is the only person able to look after the child
- She is the only person available to look after the child
- She is a South African citizen
- She does not earn any money
- The money she earns is less than R1 100 per month
- The money the family earns is less than R1 100 per month

**Question C.2: HOW THE GRANT MAKES A YOUNG MOTHER'S LIFE EASIER**

- She can feed her child on better food
- She has more time for her child
- She can buy clothes for her child
- She can buy equipment for her child

Question C.3: HOW THE GRANT MAKES THE GIRLS' FAMILIES' LIVES EASIER

- Their daughter spends more time looking after the child
- Their daughter is happier
- They are free to look for work

Question C.5: HOW THE GRANT MAKES THE YOUNG MOTHERS' FAMILIES LIVES MORE DIFFICULT

- The neighbours think they are dishonest
- Their sisters and brothers expect to be given money

Question C.6: HOW THE RECIPIENTS OF THE GRANT GENERALLY SPEND THE MONEY

- Clothes for the child
- Toys for the child

Question C.7: THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE GRANT

- To educate the child when it is older
- To buy good clothes for the child
- To make sure that the child does not starve

Question C.8 HOW THE GRANT HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE TO THE COMMUNITY

- The whole community is more prosperous

Question C.9: MECHANISMS AVAILABLE TO CHECK THE PROPER USE OF THE GRANTS

- The mother is asked to bring a list of things on which she spends the money every month
- The person visiting the family checks the list which the mother brings every month

Where the agents disagreed, again unanimously, with the statements is significant. This concerned the statements in Question C.4, IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE GRANT MAKE THE YOUNG MOTHERS' LIVES MORE DIFFICULT ? The agents disagreed (but not strongly) that –

- They do not get enough money, but have more expenses
- She spends more time at home with the child.
- In other words the Social Development agents considered that the money was enough and that the recipients were not spending enough time at home with their children.

### **4.3. Main findings of study**

The following are the major findings of the study, categorized by objective. The findings combine the results of what emerged from the questionnaires. Here they are re-arranged to reflect the series of objectives which originally led to the formulation of the questionnaires.

#### **4.3.1 Objective 1: to examine the criteria for the selection of those who qualify for Child Support Grants**

The first objective sought to examine the criteria for the selection of those who qualify for the grant, specifically to find out how these criteria were seen by the recipients, parents or guardians of the recipients, and the Social Development authorities. The following emerged:

- Recipients and parents or guardians have full knowledge and understanding of the conditions leading to access of the Child Support Grant.
- Recipients and parents or guardians know about conditions under which applicants may not be eligible to get this grant.
- Recipients and parents or guardians know of the conditions that may cause a grant to lapse.
- They also know what conditions may lead to a grant being withdrawn from a recipient and how it may be reinstated.

- The Social Development agents carried out their task of educating the community about all the conditions of the grant.
- The agents adhere strictly to the criteria for selection of grant recipients as laid down in the procedure manual.
- The procedure manual mandated them to carry out investigations regularly to find out whether recipients continue to be eligible to receive the Child Support Grant or not.
- The Social Development agents rely on other stakeholders inside and outside their department – namely the police, traditional leaders, civic structures, parents or guardians and whistle-blowers – in monitoring the whole process of the grant.

#### **4.3.2. Objective 2: to examine the impact of Child Support Grants on the community**

The second objective was to examine the impact of the Child Support Grant on the community, focusing on young mothers (recipients), parents or guardians and Social Development authorities.

Here it was important to find out whether or not young mothers (recipients) know the purpose of the grant money and whether they are using it for its intended purpose. Findings revealed that:

- Most stakeholders, but particularly the Social Development agents, feel that the grant is having a positive effect on the community.
- Poorer neighbours and the fathers of the beneficiary children would like to divert the grant for their own purposes and have failed to appreciate the children's needs and the role this has in community welfare.

- The grant is possibly not impacting as positively as it might do on lives of the children and the community at large due to some recipients' behaviour of abusing the grant.
- The grant is impacting positively on those who are using it for the purpose for which it is meant.
- Grant recipients (the young mothers) are not spending enough time with their children.
- Parents and guardians are experiencing the same hardships as before the implementation of the grant, contrary to what may be expected. The community as a whole is therefore not benefiting.
- Social Development Authorities need to exert more effort when it comes to monitoring the impact of grant on the community at large.
- The Help Desk and other stakeholders in the monitoring process are not as effective as they might be.

#### **4.3.3 Objective 3: to examine the advantages and disadvantages of Child Support Grants**

Here the aim was to find out what advantages and disadvantages result from the introduction of the Child Support Grant.

##### **4.3.3.1. Advantages**

The findings revealed that, if the grant is used as expected:

- Young mothers have the opportunity to raise their own children in a healthy manner.
- Young mothers have the opportunity to go back to school when their children are old enough, so that they may rebuild their own future for the benefit of their children.



- The children of the grant recipients receive the basic needs necessary for their development at home and at school
- Young mothers may assist their parents or guardians with household chores, where they are at home with their children.
- The children of the grant recipients receive the necessary nutritional food for their healthy growth
- Parents or guardians are relieved of the financial constraints they were experiencing before the awarding of the grant.
- Parent or guardians are also relieved of the burden of physically raising the child/children of the young mothers, but only where the mothers spend more time at home.
- Social Development authorities feel that they are building a healthy prosperous nation and are helping to reduce poverty.

#### **4.3.3.2. Disadvantages**

The findings revealed that:

- For some parents and guardians, the situation has not changed because they still find themselves to be primary carers of small children, while not being grant recipients
- The young mothers (recipients) are tempted to engage in unacceptable behaviour or activities when grant money is available.
- Misunderstandings arise between grant recipients and their spouses or boyfriends, caused by the desire of one or both to abuse the grant.
- Young mothers become too dependent on the grant and, when they have the opportunity, appear not to try and go back to school or to find work so as to further improve their lives. One

strategy in this is having more children so as to gain more grant money.

- The young mothers (grant recipients) feel so independent that they no longer listen to the advice of their parents or guardians.

#### **4.3.4 Objective 4: to examine how the money is spent by mothers who receive Child Support Grants**

The aim here was to discover how the money is actually being spent by mothers who receive the Child Support Grant. Findings revealed the following:

- The Child Support Grant is sometimes not being spent on the things it is intended for, such as food, clothes and education for the children. Parents and guardians believed this to be the case for more than two-thirds of the recipients.
- The Child Support Grant is too easily used for the benefit of the young mothers (recipients) rather than for their children.
- The recipients know how the grant money should be used.
- Nothing was mentioned as a possible purchase which was not meant to be purchased by this grant, except that parents and guardians mentioned liquor and the giving of money to the fathers of beneficiaries.
- Although the recipients know what the purpose of the grant is, some are not using it for its purpose
- Parents or guardians had one story about how the grant money was being spent, whereas the grant recipients often had a quite different story.
- The recipients were not being honest, obviously for fear of the possible consequences of revealing the truth

- The recipients know when they are – or are not – spending the grant money for its intended purpose; that is why they didn't reveal their true spending habits, as revealed by their parents or guardians.

#### **4.4. Conclusions**

The different views of the various categories of respondent provided an interesting dimension, as they answered the same questions in different ways. Where the same information was sought in different questions, phrased slightly differently, the answers were more or less consistent.

- The grant money is not serving to enable young mothers to spend more time with their children. On the whole it is felt by their parents and guardians that they should be spending more time at home.
- While most of the grant money is being spent for its proper purpose, in too many cases the demands for a freer life, and especially the demands of the fathers of the grant beneficiaries (the children) are reducing what is available for the intended beneficiaries. Parents and guardians believe this to be the case with more than two-thirds of the grant recipients.
- Relationships with neighbours can become strained as a result of receiving the Child Support Grant, especially where the neighbours are also poor.
- There is a suggestion that the grant recipients may be planning to have more children simply in order to get more money.

The grant recipients themselves are obviously not going to indicate any abuse of the money. Accusations of abuse generally came from the parents or guardians or from the Social Development agents,

which, according to the data collected, were probably justified. At the same time, monitoring seems to be in place to ensure that any abuse does not go too far or last too long. All parties seemed to be aware of the proper purpose of the grant, and the general feeling of the recipients seemed to be that the grant was having a good effect on the community as opposed to that of most parents and guardians of the recipients.

# **CHAPTER 5**

## **CONCLUSIONS-FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION**

### **5.1. Introduction**

This chapter serves to provide conclusion and findings as well as recommendations.

Chapter one dealt with the orientation to the study, covering necessary aspects of the aim and purpose of the study, research questions among other aspects of the orientational nature.

Chapter two dealt with the theoretical framework pertaining to the South African system of social support, benchmarking with other systems elsewhere. The South African requirements for eligibility of the grant, costs and benefits as well as poverty alleviation component of the grant do for part of the chapter in question.

Chapter three addressed the question of research methodology where aspects related to population and sampling were discussed. It is in this chapter where the depiction of the research site is made.

Chapter four was on data presentation and analysis where data collected was presented and analysed and coded for interpretation. Different types of charts are used to present information.

Chapter five (this one) provides for overall conclusion, findings and recommendations emanating from the studies through data collection and analysis.

## **5.2 Findings**

It is found that poverty is the main reason necessitating child support grant and other social support systems. Furthermore, it has been discovered that child support grant, if properly managed, could assist in building a healthy society. The uses and limitations accompanying a grant are important and need to be specified for the recipients.

Furthermore, it is found that there are forms of abuses on how the grant is supposed to be used in relation with the maximization of the best interest of the child.

It is furthermore found that the child support grant is positively impacting on the community and that more can be achieved with an element of managing the unintended purpose on the spending of the grant.

## **5.3 Conclusions**

From this research the following conclusions may be drawn.

- Parents or guardians do not have the courage to inform the social Development Authorities about the abuse of the Child Support Grant by the recipients.
- Social Development Authorities have done their best to impart the necessary knowledge to the young mothers (recipients) and parents or guardians regarding the process and the function of the Child Support Grant.
- The monitoring process in place is not as effective as the Social Development Authorities think it is, especially where it concerns the spending of the grant by the recipients. The majority of the recipients are not spending the grant money on what is meant for.

- There is misunderstanding between parents or guardians and the young mothers (recipients) concerning how the grant money should be spent.
- Most of the children of recipients are not benefiting as they should from the Child Support Grant, but still rely on grandparents who are unable to provide them with the basic needs.
- Most parents or guardians of grant recipients are still heavily entangled in the web of responsibility of physically and financially looking after their grandchildren. All the young mothers (recipients) have full knowledge of how the grant money should be used, but do not use as they should.
- Young mothers, grant recipients, are not spending enough time with their children.
- Young mothers as well as parents or guardians know the criteria for who should and should not receive the Child Support Grant.
- Young mothers may be giving birth to more children so as to get additional grant money to spend on their own needs and wants.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

It is recommended that the organs of civil society and other community based stakeholders should be orientated on the fundamentals of child support grant in order to provide support to the department.

It is further recommended that vouchers should be introduced that enable the recipients of child support grant to purchase only what

is needed for children in terms of listed priority to avoid abuses of the system.

### **5.5 Recommendations for further studies**

More research needs to be undertaken regarding the following:

- The impact of the Child Support Grant in other communities within and outside Limpopo Province.
- The amount of abuse in terms of mis-spending of the Child Support Grant.
- Effective means of curbing the abuse by recipients of the Child Support Grant.
- The impact of the Child Support Grant on the long-term future of the recipients (young mothers) and that of their children.

### **5.6 Overcoming the limitations experienced by the present study**

The main limitations of the present study were revealed to lie in the problem of sampling and in the way the questionnaire was administered. Accordingly, the following recommendations are made:

- **SAMPLING.** Larger populations should be chosen so that the sampling can be done on a more reliably random basis, and also a large enough sample chosen so that some statistical tests of reliability can be introduced.
- **QUESTIONS.** The questions posed should aim at achieving some kind of quantitative measurement of variables which might not be willingly admitted by respondents. An example would be aiming for a measure of the amount of mis-spending of the Child Support Grant.



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## APPENDIX A

# CONSENT FORM

Tel. 072 495 4336

P.O.Box 271

0950

Tohoyandou

21 July 2008

Dear Respondent

I am currently conducting research into the impact of child support grants with special reference to Fondwe village, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.

I have been granted permission by the South African Social Security Agency to conduct research.

1. A questionnaire will be completed and it will take approximately 30 Minutes.
2. There is no known risk involved in the research.
3. There are no costs involved.

You are assured that your identity and responses to this questionnaire will be regarded as **extremely confidential at all times and that they will not be made available to any unauthorized user.**

Should you have any queries or comments, you are welcome to contact me.

F.E. MUTSHAENI

## CONSENT

[In terms of the ethical requirements of the University of Limpopo, you are now requested to complete the following section:]

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read this letter and understand the terms involved.

On condition that the information provided by me is treated as confidential at all times, I hereby

give consent to the use of the results for research purposes

do NOT give my consent that that the results may be used for research purposes

(MARK the appropriate box)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**APPENDIX B**

**QUESTIONNAIRES**

**BASE INFORMATION REGARDING GRANT RECIPIENT**

1	How many children do you have?	1-2
		3-4
		5-6

2	DO YOU INTEND TO HAVE MORE ?	Yes	No
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3	How many more children do you intend to have ?	1-2
		3-4
		5-6

4	Is the child support grant sufficient ?	Yes	No
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5	If not, how much is enough ?	R 1500 p/c
		R 1500

	p/c
	Don't know

**QUESTIONNAIRE A – FOR YOUNG MOTHERS (GRANT RECIPIENTS)**

Please answer the following by inserting an X in the appropriate block,	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
<b>1. WHICH OF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES ENABLED YOU TO GET A CHILD SUPPORT GRANT?</b>				
(a) I am the only person able to look after the child				
(b) I am the only person available to look after the child				
(c) I am a South African citizen				
(d) I am over 18 years of age				
(e) I do not earn any money				
(f) The money I earn is less than R1 100 per month				
(g) The money my parents earn is less than R1 100 per month				
<b>2. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE GRANT MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER?</b>				
(a) can go out with my friends more				
(b) I am more popular with my friends				
(c) My family behave better towards me				

Please answer the following by inserting an X in the appropriate block,	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
(d) I can buy new clothes				
(e) I can feed my child on better food				
(f) I have more time for my child				
(g) I can buy clothes for my child				
(h) I can buy equipment for my child				
(i) I can buy toys for my child				
<b>3. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE GRANT MAKE YOUR LIFE MORE DIFFICULT ?</b>				
(a) My parents take all my money and leave me with none				
(b) My sisters and brothers expect me to give them money				
(c) We quarrel about who is supposed to care for the child				
(d) I am not allowed to get a job				
(e) The neighbours think I am dishonest				
(f) The neighbours are jealous				
(g) The child's father demands a share of the money				
<b>4. ON WHAT DO YOU SPEND THE MONEY?</b>				
(a) I give it all to my parents				

Please answer the following by inserting an X in the appropriate block,	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
(b) Rent for a room where I can live with my child				
(c) Food for my child				
(d) Clothes for my child				
(e) Food for me and my child				
(f) Clothes for me and my child				
<b>5. WHAT IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE GRANT ?</b>				
A To compensate my parents for me having a child				
B To enable me to live away from my parents				
C To pay for my education				
D To educate my child when he/she is old enough				
E To buy good clothes for my child				
F To make sure that I do not starve				
G To make sure that my child does not starve				
H To let me pay the people who look after my child				
I To buy my child's educational needs				

**QUESTIONNAIRE B – FOR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF GRANT RECIPIENTS**

Please answer the following by inserting an X in the appropriate block,	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
<b>1. WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES ENABLED YOUR DAUGHTER TO GET A CHILD SUPPORT GRANT ?</b>				
(a) She is the only person able to look after the child				
(b) She is the only person available to look after the child				
(c) She is a South African citizen				
(d) She is over 18 years of age				
(e) She does not earn any money				
(f) The money she earns is less than R1 100 per month				
(g) The money we earn is less than R1 100 per month				
<b>2. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE GRANT MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER ?</b>				
(a) My daughter spends more time looking after the child				
(b) My daughter contributes to household expenses				
(c) My daughter is happier				
(d) I am free to look for work				
(e) I can now spend more time with my friends				
(f) We have been able to buy a television				

Please answer the following by inserting an X in the appropriate block,	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
set				
(g) We can wear smarter clothes				
<b>3. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE GRANT MAKE YOUR DAUGHTER'S LIFE EASIER ?</b>				
(a) She can go out with her friends more				
(b) She is more popular with her friends				
(c) She can buy new clothes				
(d) She can feed her child on better food				
(e) She has more time for her child				
(f) She can buy clothes for her child				
(g) She can buy equipment for her child				
(h) She can buy educational toys for her child				
<b>4. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE GRANT MAKE YOUR LIFE MORE DIFFICULT ?</b>				
(a) The neighbours think we are dishonest				
(b) My sisters and brothers expect us to give them money				
(c) We quarrel about who is supposed to care for the child				
(d) I am not allowed to get a job				
<b>5. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE GRANT MAKE YOUR</b>				

Please answer the following by inserting an X in the appropriate block,	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
<b>DAUGHTER'S LIFE MORE DIFFICULT ?</b>				
(a) She does not get enough money, but has more expenses				
(b) Her friends expect her to pay for everything				
(c) She quarrels about who is supposed to care for the child				
(d) She is not allowed to get a job				
<b>6. ON WHAT DO YOU OR YOUR DAUGHTER SPEND THE MONEY ?</b>				
(a) Having a bigger house, so there is room for the child				
(b) More food for the family so the child can eat well				
(c) Better clothes for the family				
(d) Clothes for the child				
(e) Toys for the child				
(f) Paying an extra person to clean the house				
(g) Paying for a babysitter				
<b>7. WHAT IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE GRANT?</b>				
(a) To compensate me for my daughter having a child				
(b) To enable my daughter to live somewhere else				

Please answer the following by inserting an X in the appropriate block,	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
(c) To pay for my daughter's education				
(d) To educate my daughter's child when he/she is old enough				
(e) To buy good clothes for my daughter's child				
(f) To make sure that the family does not starve				
(g) To make sure that my daughter's child does not starve				
(h) To let us pay the people who look after my daughter's child				
<b>8. HOW HAS THE GRANT MADE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR NEIGHBOURS ?</b>				
(a) The neighbours are jealous				
(b) The neighbours keep asking us for money				
(c) The neighbours think we are cheating				
(d) The neighbours are more willing to help us				



**QUESTIONNAIRE C – FOR SOCIAL AND WELFARE AUTHORITIES**

Please answer the following by inserting an X in the appropriate block,	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
<b>1. WHAT CRITERIA ARE USED FOR A YOUNG MOTHER TO GET A CHILD SUPPORT GRANT ?</b>				
(a) She is the only person able to look after the child				
(b) She is the only person available to look after the child				
(c) She is a South African citizen				
(d) She is over 18 years of age				
(e) She does not earn any money				
(f) The money she earns is less than R1 100 per month				
(g) The money the family earns is less than R1 100 per month				
<b>2. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE GRANT MAKE A YOUNG MOTHER'S LIFE EASIER ?</b>				
(a) She can go out with her friends more				
(b) She is more popular with her friends				
(c) Her family behaves better towards her				
(d) She can buy new clothes				
(e) She can feed her child on better food				
(f) She has more time for her child				
(g) She can buy clothes for her child				
(h) She can buy equipment for her child				

Please answer the following by inserting an X in the appropriate block,	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
(i) She can buy toys for her child				
<b>3. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE GRANT MAKE THE GIRL'S FAMILY'S LIFE EASIER ?</b>				
(a) Their daughter spends more time looking after the child				
(b) Their daughter contributes to household expenses				
(c) Their daughter is happier				
(d) They are free to look for work				
(e) They can now spend more time with their friends				
(f) They have been able to buy a television set				
(g) They can wear smarter clothes				
<b>4. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE GRANT MAKE THE GIRL'S FAMILY'S LIFE EASIER ?</b>				
(a) They do not get enough money, but have more expenses				
(b) Their friends expect them to pay for everything				
(c) There are quarrels about who is supposed to care for the child				
(d) She spends more time at home with the child				
<b>5. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE GRANT MAKE THE GIRL'S FAMILY'S LIFE MORE DIFFICULT ?</b>				
(a) The neighbours think they are dishonest				
(b) Their sisters and brothers expect to be given money				
(c) They quarrel about who is supposed to care for the child				

Please answer the following by inserting an X in the appropriate block,	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
(d) They are not allowed to get jobs				
<b>6. ON WHAT DO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE GRANT GENERALLY SPEND THE MONEY ?</b>				
(a) Having a bigger house, so there is room for the child				
(b) More food for the family so the child can eat well				
(c) Better clothes for the family				
(d) Clothes for the child				
(e) Toys for the child				
(f) Paying an extra person to clean the house				
<b>7. WHAT IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE GRANT ?</b>				
(a) To compensate the family for their daughter having a child				
(b) To enable the mother to live away from her family				
(c) To pay for the mother's education				
(d) To educate the child when it is older				
(e) To buy good clothes for the child				
(f) To make sure that the family does not starve				
(g) To make sure that the child does not starve				
(h) To let the family pay the people who look after the child				
<b>8. HOW HAS THE GRANT MADE A DIFFERENCE TO THE COMMUNITY ?</b>				
(a) The whole community is more prosperous				

Please answer the following by inserting an X in the appropriate block,	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
(b) The community is quarreling more about money				
(c) More girls are having babies				
<b>9. WHAT MECHANISMS ARE AVAILABLE TO CHECK THE PROPER USE OF THE GRANTS ?</b>				
(a) There are no mechanisms available				
(b) There are not enough people in our department to enable us to check				
(c) The family is visited once a month				
(d) The family is visited once a year				
(e) The mother is asked to bring a list of things on which she spends the money every month				
(f) The person visiting the family checks the list which the mother brings every month				
(g) The neighbours of the family are asked what they think: is the grant being used properly or not?				