

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE USAGE OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANT IN THE
MAFIKENG AREA OF NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

BY

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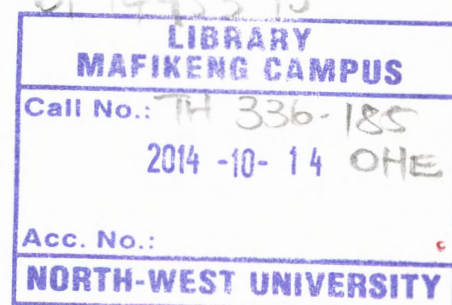
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DECLARATION

I, BRIDGET OHENE-MARFO, do hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own investigation and research through the professional guidance of the recognized supervisor whose name appears on the front page and that it has not been submitted in part or full for any other degree or to any other University.

Signature

Date

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ABSTRACT

This project was carried out in Mafikeng. The aim of this study was to analyse the usage of Child Support Grant (CSG) and there after come up with solutions to the possible misuse of the grant in Mafikeng. The objectives were (i) to determine what child caretakers actually buy or do with the CSG money in Mafikeng. In other words, to find out how child caretakers spend the CSG money in Mafikeng (ii) to determine whether vulnerable children benefit from the CSG in Mafikeng. (iii) to find out whether or not the CSG money is enough to sustain the recipients in Mafikeng. (iv) to try to find the cause of the possible misuse of the CSG in Mafikeng. (v) to recommend possible strategies and solutions to the misuse of the CSG in Mafikeng.

Survey methodology was employed and stratified and cluster sampling method was used to obtain a Sample of child caregiver for face – to – face interviews. An interview schedule was used to collect the data, which were analyzed to give the social economic profile of the children.

According to the results obtained in this study, there must be a long term solution to the problem which includes government creating jobs to reduce unemployment for caretakers. People can be mobilized into community development organisations such as social clubs especially for women and youth organisations. Community development projects such as vegetable gardening, knitting and sewing can also be initiated for them.

Also government should build a care centre for orphans where their needs would be adequately catered for in their community. Taking into consideration the high cost of living it will be appropriate if the money caregivers are receiving will be increased.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study was to explore and analyse the usage of child grant and thereafter come up with possible solutions to the problems faced by grant holders in Mafikeng. Mafikeng is the capital city of the North West Province, situated about 20 km from the Botswana boarder. The province is predominantly rural with a black majority population. A bigger part of the province is a former independent home land of South Africa - Bophuthatswana. Though the homeland was governed by blacks, it was adversely affected by apartheid, partly because its budget partly came from the then South African government. This financial assistance caused the laws of Bophuthatswana to be formulated in such a way that they were in line with those of apartheid South Africa (World Book Encyclopedia, 2005).

The majority of households in the North West Province are poor. The cause of poverty in South Africa lies mainly in the long history of segregation and discrimination that left a legacy of inequality and poverty in the country (Everatt and Maphai, 2003) because of the unfair political and economic system that discriminated against certain sections of the population for decades. During the apartheid era, black males used to go and work in the mines and spent a long time away from home. They were not allowed to live with their families in the hostels that belonged to their employment establishment. This in some instances, caused marriage breakdowns because the husband would marry other women in the place of work forgetting all about their wives and children back home. It also made some men irresponsible (Serumaga-Zake, 2006)

The former South African government introduced social security measures for the support of the poor people. Social security measures were introduced for white people but

were gradually extended to include all South Africans. During the apartheid era, racial discrimination existed in the scope and levels of benefits.

There are four categories of state support: for elderly people, for people with disabilities, for child and family care, and social relief. For the purposes of this study the emphasis will be on child grant.

A notable international phenomenon is that family forms are changing. In developed and developing countries, there are more single parents, more households headed by women, and more people living outside the conventional model of a nuclear family. Yet, the nuclear family is the model on which the State Maintenance Grant is based. The Apartheid governments preached family preservation as a social policy, while their economic and political policies systematically disrupted family life for people who were not white. Thus some of the fragmentation of families in all population groups is a part of a broader phenomenon, but the specific effects of apartheid policies affected the African population particularly severely. Those same policies locked the majority of people into poverty.

The primary responsibility for the support of children should lie with parents, and this responsibility should continue whether or not the relationship between the parents survives. South African's legal vehicle for such support if the parental relationship breaks down is the judicial maintenance system. The central problems with this system are administrative, rather than there being defects in the law. It works so poorly that the government is sending the wrong signals about parental responsibility, and in particular about the financial responsibility of father.

When mothers are unable to provide for themselves, and cannot get support from the fathers of their children, the state security comes into play. A growing body of research demonstrates the vital role that the social security benefits for families play in poverty alleviation. They are relatively well targeted for households in poverty, and rural areas, and women. The grant has enabled children to be cared for by their own mothers or other

kin. A child is more at risk the further he or she is from a nurturing environment.
(www.welfare.gov.za)

This study investigated the social and economic issues surrounding the child support grant (CSG) in Mafikeng. Hopefully, the findings will be beneficial to the policy makers of the North West Provincial Government.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

As a result of increasing poverty and unemployment rates (for example, see Lockwood, 1997 and UNICEF, 2006), the number of children receiving grants is increasing. According to literature (Serumaga-Zake, 2006), the child grant is being misused in Mafikeng. Some child caregivers (i.e., parents, uncles, aunties, foster parents, grand parents, etc) tend to buy liquor, do their hair and buy clothes instead of spending the money only on the children as intended. They fail to take good care of the children's needs. The extent to which this spoils the child's chances of escaping poverty is not known.

The focus of this study was on the usage of the child grant money in Mafikeng. There is no up to date in-depth information and statistical data to inform policy and strategies regarding the grant – hence the need for this kind of study.

1.3 AIM AND OBJECTIVES

1.3.2 Aim

The aim of this study was to analyse the usage of CSG and there after come up with solutions to the possible misuse of the grant in Mafikeng.

1.3.2 Objectives

The specific objectives that drove the study are:

- ✚ To determine what child caretakers actually buy or do with the CSG money in Mafikeng. In other words, to find out how child caretakers spend the CSG money in Mafikeng.
- ✚ To determine whether vulnerable children benefit from the CSG in Mafikeng.
- ✚ To find out whether or not the CSG money is enough to sustain the recipients in Mafikeng.
- ✚ To try to find the cause of the possible misuse of the CSG in Mafikeng.
- ✚ To recommend possible strategies and solutions to the misuse of the CSG in Mafikeng.

1.4 RATIONALE

This study aimed to find ways of dealing with the possible misuse of CSG by child caretakers in Mafikeng, which is gradually becoming a big problem in South Africa. An understanding of the causes of misuse of child grant is imperative for policy making.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study is important because it informs the right social policy for solving the problem of CSG misuse in Mafikeng. As a result, solutions to some associated problems like government's use of a lot of money on child grant and laziness on the part of parents, foster parents and other child caretakers are given.

The study also contributes to the body of the theory of social science regarding the misuse of the child grant. It adds a small variation to theoretical schemes that explain the problem of child grant.

1.6 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The target population was all children getting the CSG in Mafikeng, so the unit of analysis was a child getting a grant. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches were applied in the study. A random sample of households with children who were getting the CSG was selected from Mafikeng using stratified and cluster sampling. The sample size was 100.

Then, a face – to – face (or personal) interview method with an interview schedule (or questionnaire) was used to collect the necessary data, which enabled the researcher to achieve the objectives of the study. The child caretakers are the ones who were actually interviewed; it was not easy to gain access to the children themselves. It was proper to interview the child caretakers since they are the ones who collect the grant money from government and spend it supposedly on the children’s basic needs (which include food, clothes and schooling). The interview schedule contained closed and open – ended questions. Closed questions catered for statistical data while open – ended questions catered for in depth information about the grant and let the voice of the respondents.

A computer aided descriptive analysis was done to describe the usage of the child grant money in Mafikeng. The statistical package for Social Scientists (SPSS) was adopted.

1.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The spending of the CGS money is a sensitive issue. So, obtaining accurate information with regards to it from the child caretakers was a bit difficult. However, the researcher tried to make sure that accurate and reliable data were collected and before data analysis care was taken to see to it that the data were consistent and as clean as possible.

1.8 SCOPE

The study was done in Mafikeng therefore the results apply only to Mafikeng and cannot be generalized to other parts of the North West Province and South Africa. There may however be some aspects for which the findings can be relevant to other areas of the country.

1.9 CONCLUSION

This chapter introduced the topic and presented the problem statement, aim and objectives, the rationale, methodology, scope and limitations of the research study. Chapter two discusses the relevant theories and literature review.

CHAPTER TWO

THEORY AND LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, theories and literature that are related to child support are discussed. It focuses on poverty, HIV and unemployment since these are part of the reasons why the child support grant was introduced from the first place.

2.2 BACKGROUND

According to the constitution of South Africa section 27, every child has the right to the following:

- a) Family care or parental care, or to appropriate alternative care when removed from the family environment;
- b) Basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care services and social services;
- c) To be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation and;
- d) To be protected from exploitative labour practices

The child support grant is a poverty alleviating mechanism and aims to help care givers to provide for the basic needs of a child, since most people in Mafikeng are poor and are unable to provide the basic needs of their children. They need this grant as a measure for redistribution of resources as an attempt to reach more children.

The end of apartheid in South Africa brought with it the need to reform one component of the system of social assistance for the poor people that deal with support to women and children. Under the old regime, a state maintenance grant had been awarded by government to help mothers without partners support themselves and their children. The program originally and purposefully excluded African women and later when it was

opened to Africans living in some parts of the country; it continued largely to exclude those living outside of urban areas.

In 1996 the new government moved to reconfigure this form of support, and in April 1998 started phasing out the state maintenance grant, replacing it with a means-tested child support grant. This was to be awarded to the primary care givers of poor children under the age of seven. A detailed description of these reforms is presented in the Lund 2002. In early 2002, if a child's parents' or primary care givers total income did not exceed R1100 per month in rural areas (R800 in urban areas), the primary care giver could receive a monthly amount of R110 per eligible child.

This was the first major change after apartheid in the field of social policy. Its performance is of interest for many reasons. First, it was aimed at reversing the urban bias that had been present in most health, education and welfare programs. In addition, it introduced for the first time the notion that an adult primary care giver, as opposed to a biological parent, could be a beneficiary of a grant aimed at children. Furthermore, while the new government was initially lauded for producing visionary policies to address the legacies of apartheid, it is increasingly being criticized for failures of implementation.

In family law and government policy, child support or child maintenance is the ongoing obligation for a periodic payment made directly or indirectly by a non-custodial parent to a custodial parent, caregiver or guardian, or the government, for the care and support of children of a relationship or marriage that has been terminated. In family law, child support is often arranged as part of a divorce, marital separation, dissolution, annulment determination of parentage or dissolution of a civil union and may supplement alimony (spousal support) arrangements. (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. htm)

The right to child support and the responsibilities of parents to provide such support have been internationally recognized. The 1992, United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child, a binding convention signed by every member nation of the United Nations

and formally ratified by all but two, declared that the upbringing and development of children and a standard of living adequate for the children's development is a common responsibility of both parents and a fundamental human right for children. It also asserted that the primary responsibility to provide such for the children rests with their parents. Other United Nations documents and decisions related to child support enforcement include the 1956 United Nations Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance, which was ratified by the vast majority of UN member nations.

In addition, the right to child support, as well as specific implementation and enforcement measures, has been recognized by various other international entities, including the Council of Europe, the European Union and the Hague Conference.

Within individual countries, examples of legislation pertaining to, and establishing guidelines for, the implementation and collection of child maintenance include the 1975 Family Law Act (Australia), the Child Support Act (United Kingdom) and the Maintenance and Affiliation Act (Fiji). Child support laws and obligations are known to be recognized in a vast majority of world nations, including the majority of countries in Europe, North America and Australasia, as well as many in Africa, Asia and South America. (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. htm)

2.3 THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

According to literature, one of the major reasons why children receive child support grant is poverty. Hence, most of the theories discussed in this chapter focus on poverty – due to the fact that there are no theories that deal specifically with child support grant.

2.3.1 Poverty Theory

Simmel (1971) argues that there is a set of rights and obligations that defines the relationship between the needy and the givers, such that, the needy have the right to receive aid. This right makes receiving less painful. Conversely, the giver has the

obligation to give to the needy. He further argues that the aid to the poor by society helps to create harmony because there will not be any tendency of the poor to become dangerous enemies of the society. This can also make the poor more productive instead of being useless. Therefore, helping benefits the whole society not only the poor themselves.

There are two types of poverty according to Simmel (1971), they are absolute poverty and relative poverty. Absolute poverty is a situation where a people cannot afford the basic needs of life including food, clothes, shelter and education, whereas relative poverty means relative deprivation. This is a situation where people are not necessarily absolutely poor but are not as rich as or less rich than others. This theory is relevant to this study since poverty is one of the reasons why the child support grant was introduced.

According to Hemming, (1984: 42) one defines poverty in an absolute sense, with no reference to general living standards, and the other defines it in a relative sense, and does take account of general living standards. In his study of poverty in York at the end of the nineteenth century, Rowntree (1901) associated absolute poverty with failure to maintain physical efficiency. Although modified in the interim, the poverty standard established by Rowntree eventually formed the basis of the social security benefits paid under the Beveridge system. It is clear that poverty has an irreducible core, and that there is a life style which in any society would be regarded as poverty. This is really the only interpretation, which can reasonably be placed upon the term absolute poverty. To be influenced in this way is widely acceptable, and allows us to say that there are poor families in both India and Britain, despite the fact that the poor in Britain would not be regarded as poor in India. Although Rowntree initially defined his poverty standard in absolute terms, he ultimately measured relative poverty.

Measuring poverty

There are various ways in which poverty can be measured and there are various arguments for and against all of these different approaches. The most popular way of measuring poverty is by measuring income. This approach is, however, criticized since what we can do, does not just depend on our incomes but on a variety of physical and social characteristics. As an alternative, expenditure can be used to measure poverty but it is also not a perfect solution since there is a difference between the level of consumption and the level of expenditure. One cannot, necessarily, draw an inference on the level of consumption (which reflects the need in a society) from the level of expenditure.

The United Nations advocates that an international measure be used to measure poverty, such as \$1 per day. This will help in giving more comparable global trends. The more popular and modern view is that poverty has a multi-dimensional nature and should not be measured in monetary terms alone (Olivier, Smit, Kalula, and Mhone, 2005)

2.3.2 Stratification Theory

Social stratification theory is associated with Karl Marx (Brym & Lie, 2005). It states that a social stratum is made up of families or individuals at the same level of income, wealth, power and prestige among others (Gibney, 1987; Broom, 1990). Social stratification influences an individual's life chances for education, health and happiness and it also contributes to social conflict or harmony. In society, everyone wants to maximize his / her income, which in turn would maximize his/her happiness. But in reality, the majority of people like in South Africa are poor. This inequality breeds misery and may even force some people into crime. Inequality can be defined as the extent to which some groups or individuals in society receive different amounts of income, wealth, prestige or power.

Resources or income is determined by sex, age, ethnicity, skill party membership, religion, inheritance or other criteria that are culturally valued (Lenski, 1978). For example, according to literature, men are normally richer than women. Inequality causes poverty among people, which in turn causes misery and conflicts within societies or families. Children in poor families tend to suffer and this may contribute to them driven from their homes to the streets. In South Africa the majority of households are poor as a

result of the legacy of apartheid and hence, the predominance of black children on the street of South Africa cities including Mafikeng.

Structural theories of poverty (such as social stratification Theory) state that poverty is caused by the structure of the larger socio-economic order. It is the macro structure of society that produces inequality and consequently poverty. A key phrase that has become very popular in recent years is social exclusion' (Friedman, 1996). Social exclusion means that some sections of the society are marginalized and as a result are denied easy access to educational and job opportunities. They are not included in the mainstream of the society. Gore (1995) argues that the process of exclusion that occurs through the institutions of market, state and civil society can be understood in terms of the following phenomena:

- ❖ Rapid globalization of the economy, modernization of society and the decreasing role of the nation.
- ❖ The change in the supply and distribution of economic, political and cultural assets in the context of unpredictable economic change.
- ❖ The social and political structures through which power is exercised and relationships among groups and individuals are defined.
- ❖ The nature of the state and it's role in the process of allocation and accumulation.

The advantages of the social exclusion approach of explaining the impoverishing of certain sections of the population are obvious. Haan (1998) argues that the social exclusion approach has many advantages over other related terms. It gives us a broader view of deprivation focusing upon societal mechanisms, institutions and strategic actors causing it. Thus the term can be used to link up macro and micro processes. Rodgers (1996) states that the term social exclusion offers a multi dimensional and multi disciplinary view of poverty. It allows us to view poverty as a process.

2.4 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.4.1 Overpopulation

As with any society largely dependent on agriculture, African families are often very large. Most of the elderly rely on their children for support, and as much as agriculture in Africa is labor-intensive, large numbers of children provide much needed labor for plowing, planting and harvesting. However, overpopulation is a serious problem in the region whose population has grown enormously since the beginning of African independence in the 1960s. For example, in 1960, 14.5% of Nigeria's population lived in urban areas; that number had grown to 43% by 2000, and is growing at an estimated 5.5% per year, compared to a 2.9% national population growth rate. This is a trend that can be seen throughout the continent. During times of famine, the high demand for food in relatively affluent cities often draws supplies away from needy rural areas.

2.4.2 Unemployment

According to Hemming (1984), at the beginning of 1983 there were over three million registered unemployed in Britain, and perhaps another half a million who were not registered and therefore not included in the official unemployment count – but were none the less unemployed and seeking work. Unemployment can never be made to disappear; but much can be done to reduce its level to a point where it no longer constitute the most pressing social and economic problem facing Britain. It is the proper role of social security to guarantee that the unemployed are protected from the worst consequences of their misfortune. Yet it has been suggested that the social security system does more than this: indeed, it has been argued that benefits are so generous that not only are some of the unemployed not keen to return to work, but also some of the employed choose to be unemployed. Thus the high level of unemployment is in part attributed to over-generous benefits paid to the unemployed.

Unemployment in South Africa

According to literature (Selogelo, 2001), in South Africa at least there are two definitions used for unemployment namely the strict definition and the expanded definition. Both definitions include people who are aged between fifteen and sixty-five years, who are not employed but available for work. A requirement of the strict definition is that a given individual has taken specific steps or actions to seek employment in the weeks prior to a given point in time. The expanded definition focuses on the desire to work irrespective of whether or not the person has taken active steps to find work.

More than 40 percent of the South African workforce is without a job and nearly 60 percent of those who are jobless have *never* worked. The New York Times is correct that South Africa faces many problems including poorly educated workers, AIDS, and crime. But it is not true that South Africa is doing poorly "despite its sound economic policies."

In other developing countries, legions of unskilled workers have kept down labor costs. But South Africa's leaders, vowing not to let their nation become the West's sweatshop, heeded the demands of politically powerful labor unions for new protections and benefits. According to a study conducted in 2000 for the government's finance department, South Africa's wages are five times higher than Indonesia's, even though its workers are only twice as productive.

2.4.3 HIV AND AIDS

Almost two decades have passed since the discovery of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) as the cause of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Although there are new therapeutic agents available that slow the replication of the virus, and other drugs that effectively treat and prevent some opportunistic infections associated with AIDS, there is still neither a cure for AIDS nor a vaccine to prevent HIV infection.

Nevertheless, as it is now clearly known that specific behaviours, such as those involving sexual contact or exchange of blood, spread the HIV, a pivotal aspect of the education campaign to reduce the spread of the virus is changing attitudes and behaviours associated with these high risks behaviours (Anderson, Landry & Kerby, 1991).

The Acquired immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) first became known to the medical world with one of the five causes in the publication of the United States centre for disease control, Morbidity and Mortality weekly report (MMWR) in June 1981 (Gottlieb, Jeffries, Ildawn, Pinching, Quinn and Weiss: 1987:1). Gallo, Shaw and Markham (1988) in Cohen and Dunham (1987:10) are of the opinion that AIDS has been defined as the occurrence of a clinical illness consisting of opportunist infections (such as pneumocystis carinii, pneumonia and neoplasia such as Kaposi's sarcoma) associated with unexplained immunodeficiency.

AIDS is affecting mainly those who are sexually active, which means the demographics of the country are slowly changing. Many deaths are of people who are their family's primary wage earners. This is resulting in many 'AIDS orphans' who in many cases depend on the state for care and financial support. It is estimated that there are 1,100,000 orphans in South Africa. Elderly people, traditionally supported by younger members of the family, are also becoming more and more dependent on the state for financial support. A recent study found that South African families who had lost members to AIDS were more likely to need to forage for firewood for fuel, and wild herbs and insects for food.

The HIV/AIDS epidemics spreading through the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa are highly varied. Although it is not correct to speak of a single African epidemic, Africa is without doubt the region most affected by the virus. Inhabited by just over 12% of the world's population, Africa is estimated to have more than 60% of the AIDS-infected population. Much of the deadliness of the epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa has to do with a deadly synergy between HIV and Tuberculosis. In fact, Tuberculosis is the world's greatest infectious killer of women of reproductive age and the leading cause of death among people with HIV/AIDS.

Table 2.1

World Region	Adult HIV prevalence (ages 15-49)	Total HIV cases	AIDS deaths in 2005
Sub-Saharan Africa	6.1%	24.5m	2.0m
Worldwide	1.0%	38.6m	2.8m
North America	0.11%	1.3m	27,000
Western Europe	0.3%		12,000

Regional comparisons of HIV in 2005 (Source: UNAIDS, 2006, Report on the global AIDS epidemic)

Impacts of the AIDS Epidemic

Africa's HIV/AIDS epidemic has had important effects on society, economics and politics in the continent. (Tony Barnett and Alan Whiteside, "AIDS in the 21st Century: Disease and Globalization," (MacMillan Palgrave 2003). The economic impact of AIDS is noticed in slower economic growth, a distortion in spending, increased inflows of international assistance, and changing demographic structure of the population. There are also fears that a major long-term drop in adult life-expectancy will change the rationale for economic decision-making, contributing to lower savings and investment rates. However, most of these impacts remain theoretically possible rather than empirically observed. Economists in South Africa have developed the most sophisticated models for the impacts of the epidemic, and Nicoli Nattrass in "The Moral Economy of AIDS in South Africa" estimates that it is possible for the South African government to provide universal access to anti-retroviral therapy without overstressing the national budget. AIDS has intersected with drought, unemployment and other sources of stress to create what Alan Whiteside and Alex de Waal have called "new variant famine," characterized

by the inability of poor, AIDS-affected households to cope with the demands of securing sufficient food during a time of food crisis.

The social impact of HIV/AIDS is most evident in the continent's orphans crisis. Approximately 12 million children in sub-Saharan Africa are estimated to be orphaned by AIDS. These children are overwhelmingly cared for by relatives including especially grandmothers, but the capacity of the extended family to cope with this burden is stretched very thin and is, in places, collapsing. UNICEF and other international agencies consider a scaled-up response to Africa's orphan crisis a humanitarian priority. Practitioners and welfare specialists are sensitive to the need not to identify and isolate children orphaned by AIDS from other needy and vulnerable children, in part because of fear of stigmatizing them. Therefore, there is a search for effective social policies and programs that will provide necessary assistance and protection for all orphans and vulnerable children.

The political impact of the epidemic has been little studied. There has been much concern that high levels of HIV among soldiers and political leaders could lead to a "hollowing out" or even collapse of essential state structures, and an escalation of conflict. Laurie Garrett of the Council on Foreign Affairs is most publicly associated with this position. However, it is also clear that the epidemic has coincided with the entrenchment of democracy in much of Africa, and that governments and armies have learned to cope with the effects of the epidemic.

HIV and AIDS in South Africa

HIV and AIDS in South Africa are a major health concern. Around 5.5 million people are thought to be living with the virus in South Africa. HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is the retrovirus that causes the disease known as AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome). South Africa has more people with HIV/AIDS than any other country.

Although progress has been made in South Africa - a country that has the resources to provide antiretroviral therapy for all of those with advanced disease - the majority of patients who require antiretroviral therapy in South Africa are still not receiving it. As a result, in most hospitals in South Africa it is still common to see patients without access to antiretroviral therapy dying of opportunistic infections including tuberculosis (Hiv aids in south Africa, Wikipedia).

The South African National HIV Survey estimated that 10.8% of all South Africans over 2 years old were living with HIV in 2005. The ASSA 2003 model estimates that 345,640 South Africans died of AIDS in 2006. The government has recently, after much delay, devoted substantial resources to fighting the epidemic. In 2000, President Mbeki publicly questioned the importance of HIV in causing AIDS, controversially suggesting that the main cause was "poverty". In 2001 the government appointed a panel of scientists, including a number of AIDS dissidents (who question the mainstream view on HIV), to report back on the issue. Following their report, the government stated that it continues to base its policy on the premise that the cause of AIDS is indeed HIV. The controversy has not abated, and organisations such as the Treatment Action Campaign continue to mount political and legal challenges to what they claim is the government's slow response to the epidemic.

Recently, drafts of a new five-year National Strategic AIDS Plan have come closer to being finalized. The new plan allocates about R45-billion (about 6 billion US Dollars) towards infection prevention, and says nothing of the previous governmental claims that malnutrition played a role in the spread of AIDS. The council, headed by Deputy President Phmzile Mlambo Ngcuka is expected to announce the finalized plan by the end of March 2007 (Hiv Aids in South Africa, Wikipedia).

2.4.4 Child Support Grant

i. Child support grant in other parts of the world

All international and national child support regulations recognise that every parent has an obligation to support his or her child. Ergo, the custodial and non-custodial parents are

required to share the responsibility for their children's expenses. Support monies collected are expected to be used for the child's expenses, including food, shelter, clothing and educational needs. They are meant to function as spending money for the child.

Child support orders may earmark funds for specific items for the child, such as school fees, day care or medical expenses. In some cases, non-custodial parents may pay for these items directly. For example, they may pay tuition fees directly to their child's school, rather than remitting money for the tuition to the custodial parent.

Orders may also require each parent to assume a percentage of expenses for various needs. For instance, in the U.S state of Massachusetts, custodial parents are required to pay for the first \$100 of annual uninsured medical costs incurred by each child. Only then will the courts consider authorizing child-support money from a non-custodial parent to be used for said costs. Many American universities also consider non-custodial parents to be partially responsible for paying college costs, and will consider their income in their financial aid determinations. In certain states, non-custodial parents may be ordered by the court to assist with these expenses. In the United States, non-custodial parents may receive a medical order that requires them to add their children to their health insurance plans. In some states both parents are responsible for providing medical insurance for the children. If both parents possess health coverage, the child may be added to the more beneficial plan, or use one to supplement the other. Children of active or retired members of the U.S armed forces are also eligible for health coverage as military dependents, and may be enrolled in the DEERS program at no cost to the non-custodial parent.

Accountability regulations for child support money vary by country and state. In some jurisdictions such as Australia, and custodial parents are trusted to use support payments in the best interest of the child, and thus are not required to provide details on specific purchases. In other jurisdictions, a custodial parent might legally be required to give specific details on how child support money is spent at the request of the court or the

non-custodial parent. In the United States, 10 states allow courts to demand an accounting on expenses and spending from custodial parents.

ii. Child support grant in South Africa

In South Africa, like in other parts of the world, the Child support grant is viewed as one of Government's poverty reduction programme. The Department of welfare on its own cannot take responsibility to reduce poverty. Poverty eradication as a key output for Social Development is a national collective responsibility. Comprehensive and integrated poverty eradication strategies need to be developed between Government departments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community based organisations (CBOs) business, private and religious sectors, community structures and informal networks.

The first major change after apartheid in the field of social policy, its performance is of interest for many reasons. First, it was aimed at reversing the urban bias that had been present in most health, education and welfare programs. In addition, it introduced, for the first time the notion that an adult primary care giver, as opposed to a biological parent, could be a beneficial of a grant aimed at children. Furthermore, while the new government was initially lauded for producing visionary policies to address the legacies of apartheid, it is increasingly being criticized for failures of implementation (May, 2000, summarizes findings from 13 assessment of sectoral and state institutional performance since 1994).

Data was collected at a demographic surveillance site in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) to address these themes. The site is in the Umkhanyakude District in the northern part of the province. This area is predominately rural and has high rates of migration. In addition, the area is bearing a heavy disease and death burden, associated with the HIV/AIDS crisis. It is very poor, 8% of the households had piped water inside their dwellings in contrast to 30% for KZN, and 32% for the country as a whole (Statistics South Africa, census 2001). 31% of households had no toilet facilities on site. Only 50% of households were connected to an electricity grid. 24% of households reported that their main source

of energy for cooking was from electricity, compared to 48% for households in KZN, and 51% for the country as a whole.

Umkhanyakude is thus precisely the kind of area that the Child Support Grant is intended to reach. In 2002, it added a module to its census, in which it asked a battery of questions about grants for each child in the approximately 11000 African households in the DSA. These data enabled the researchers to address questions such as; Who applies for child support grant? Are the awards difficult to obtain? Are boys more likely than girls to receive grants? Are grants effective in reaching poor children? Are there poor children not receiving grant? In the context of the AIDS epidemic, our data can identify whether child support grants appear to be shoring up households that have suffered from member's illness and death. There is a rich set of information about all children in the demographic surveillance area, their parents, and the households in which they reside, with which to evaluate the reach of the grant.

Information on children under age 7 in the DSA is reported in Table 2, where sample means are presented separately for children for whom a child support grant is not reported (column 1), and for whom a grant is reported (column 2). For each variable, an asterisk (*) indicates when the difference in sample means is statistically significant. (Research of the South African child support grant evidence from Kwa-Zulu Natal.htm)

Table 2.2 Mean characteristics of children less than age 7 in the DSA

	Children for whom a child Support grant is not reported	Children for whom child support grant is Reported
Age	3.08	3.18
Proportion female	0.50	0.50

Mother's age	29.3 [n=6856]	31.0* [n=4356]
Mother is less than 20 years old	.087	.037*
Mother was less than age 20 years At the child's birth	0.17	0.12*
Father's age	38.3 [n=3058]	41.4* [n=1942]
Mother and child are both residents Members of the same bounded Structure	0.67	0.82*
Mother is a non-resident member Of child's bounded structure	0.14	0.10

(Research of the South African child support grant evidence from Kwa-Zulu Natal.htm)

The challenge facing the Department of Welfare is making sure that the CSG reaches the targeted group, which is the poorest of the poor, and diverting women who will be affected by the phasing out of the SMG to developmental programmes. This is in line with the white paper on social welfare, which considers the need to build capacity and facilitate access to resources through developmental social welfare programmes as critical role of the department (Department of Welfare, CSG, programme description, march, 1998).

A child support grant is money paid to the primary care giver of a child to provide for the child's basic needs. The child support grant in April 2007 was R200.

Who may apply?

The following persons may apply

- The primary care giver of the child or children concerned. The child and caregiver must be South African Citizens or permanent residents.
- The child and the caregiver should be resident in South Africa at the time of application.
- A child or children under the age of 14.

The applicant and spouse must meet the requirements of the means test. A means test is the test used to measure the financial status of the applicant. In order to receive a grant, your financial income should be below a certain level. You can pass the means test if you live:

- in a rural area and you earn less than R1 100 per month or R13 200 per year
- an urban area in an informal settlement and you earn less than R1 100 per month or R13 200 per year
- an urban area in a house or flat and you earn less than R800 a month or R9 600 a year.

Note: You may not apply for support for more than six children of whom you are not the biological parent.

A grant is payable by the following methods:

- Cash at a specific pay point on a particular day
- Electronic deposit into your bank account (the bank may charge you for the service)
- Post bank account
- Institution (e.g. children's home)

The following steps are to be followed when applying for a grant

- Apply at the social security office (SASSA) nearest to where you live.

- If you are too old or sick to travel to the office, ask someone to request a home visit on your behalf. The person must bring a letter from you or a doctor's note explaining why you cannot visit the office. A home visit may also be arranged.
- If you are working, show proof of your recent income (e.g. pay slip) or make a sworn statement.
- If you are married, show proof of your wife or husband's income (e.g. pay slip if they are working) or make a sworn statement.
- Show a copy of your discharge certificate if you were retrenched or fired from your previous work.
- If you are unemployed, make an affidavit at the police station to prove that you do not have an income.
- If you are not the parent of the child, and you are taking care of him or her, make an affidavit at the police station to prove that you have permission from the parents to take care of the child.
- Complete your application form in the presence of an officer from the department.
- Submit the form together with your ID and the child's or children's birth certificate.
- After submitting the application you will be given a receipt, keep it as proof of your application.
- If your application is not approved, the social security office will inform you in writing stating the reasons why your application was unsuccessful.
- If you disagree with the decision, lodge an appeal to the Minister of Social Development or MEC (Member of Executive Council) at the national or provincial office of the Department of Social Development.
- Appeal within 90 days of receiving notification about the outcome of your application.

It should be noted that only the beneficiary or a SASSA official can complete the application form. The beneficiary's fingerprints will be needed to complete the application form. You can, however, appoint a procurator to receive the grant on your behalf (South African government services).

iii. Major Factors that bring about Child Support Grant

a. Chronic Poverty

According to Lockwood (1997), a large number of children live on the streets due to chronic poverty. Chronic poverty is caused by economic pressures and greater conflicts of interest accompanied by social marginalization. The households of the poor are likely to be more unstable than those of the rich and it is clear that poverty severely constrains the family's ability to provide for their children and places great pressure on adult – child relationships within the family. This may result in some young people leaving home for the street to try to support the extended family. It also illustrates children's urgency in constructing their social lives. The World Book Encyclopedia (Vol. 15: 727) states that the poor suffer from lack of many things they need in life. For example adequate medical care or the food they need to stay healthy. Unlike others, they suffer from diseases, become more seriously ill and die at a younger age than others. Many low – income families live in crowded settlements or squatter camps. The literature shows that large number of children born into low-income families remains poor all their lives. Many of these children tend to acquire the same feelings of helplessness and hopelessness that their parents have developed as well as malnutrition. This is particularly during the first three years of life, which may stunt a child's growth or cause permanent damage to the brain. Many underprivileged children do not receive good education and as a result have few opportunities to get a good job.

According UNICEF (2006), social forces, unemployment, divorce, widowed mothers, low standard of education, gender inequalities and changes in labour requirements and inflation are the major factors that contribute to poverty – which also have a major effect on the well being of children. A UNICEF sponsored report found that in the 1990s, over one billion children suffered severe effects of poverty in the world (UNICEF.2006: 27).

The meaning of poverty to children and the relative lack of income influences children's day-to-day lives. According to Belany (in UNICEF, 2005), it is through inadequate nutrition, fewer learning experiences, instability of residence, lower quality of schools, exposure to environmental toxins, family violence, homelessness, dangerous streets or less access to friends and service to name but a few that children find themselves in trouble. Belany argues that addressing poverty means ensuring that children have access to safe water, adequate sanitation and environments that are healthy and free of diseases. All girls and boys must be able to attend and achieve in school, and be protected from injury – with time and space to play, to explore and learn. Too often, poverty deprives children the necessary foundations for their future. Belany warns that no effort to reduce global poverty can succeed without first tackling its impact on children. UNICEF (2005) believes that nurturing children is the cornerstone of human progress.

b. Death of parents

The impact of HIV and AIDS in South Africa is becoming an alarming issue; many young people especially young mothers have died due to this disease and have left their children orphans. These children will be at the mercy of the government to take care of this increases the grant for child support.

c. Other Causes

Homeless children in African cities are increasingly becoming a serious problem (UNICEF and Save the Children Fund, 2005). The number of these children is about one million (Wax, 2005: 16). Though Africa boasts of its traditional system of extended family which helps orphaned and needy children, over the past 25 years a variety of problems including drought, war, and economic collapse have broken families apart and left thousands of children to survive on their own. Urbanization across Africa aggravates the problem. Nassin Dafallea el Yousf (in Wax, 2005: 16), a program officer of save the children-Sweden Khartoum said that 'when children leave home, they intend to make an

honest living by working, but they end up in trouble, addicted to glue, and sometimes sexually abused or exploited by adults”.

2.4.5 The Place of Children in Civil Society

Children have a claim on their parents. They have a right to receive support from their families and communities, regardless of their economic value. Normally, families want to provide this support and will do so if at all possible. When parents cannot provide for their children (that is, when they are poor), society must acknowledge the responsibility of helping them. According to Kent (1995), at the earliest age, the child is highly dependent on his/her parents. As time goes on, he/she becomes more and more independent and more and more active participant citizen in society. The obligation of the family is to promote its children's development, this is to empower or increase self reliance in them. The task is to help and increase the children's capacity to define, analyse and be able to solve their own problems until they can become independent, full participants in the civil society (Kent, 1995: 3). Most parents devote enormous resources to serving the interests of their children. In many cases however, that bond is broken or is never created. This is, for example, when fathers or mothers disappear.

2.4 SUMMARY

In this chapter, the relevant literature and theories on the topic have been discussed. It has been highlighted that poverty and HIV and AIDS are the major causes of the problem. The following chapter presents the research methodology.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter 2 provided the theoretical framework and literature review. It highlighted some of the factors that made the government to think of giving child support grant to parents and foster parents in South Africa including Mafikeng. The chapter discussed the research context or environment in which this research was undertaken.

In this chapter, the research design including the sampling technique, data collection method and data analysis technique used in the study are presented.

3.2 METHODOLOGICAL PARADIGM

A paradigm is seen as a basic orientation to theory and research Newman (2001). Creswell (in Saunders et. al., 2000) identifies three approaches to research, namely: inductive approach, deductive approach, and a combination of inductive and deductive approaches.

Inductive approach

An inductive approach focuses on developing premises that are true. One must begin with true premises in order to arrive at true conclusions (Ary et. al., 1996). According to the authors, the task of a researcher is to interpret and analyse gathered data with the aim of formulating a theory. In this approach, theory follows data rather than vice versa as in the deductive approach.

Deductive approach

This approach is one where the researcher proceeds from general rules of logic. It enables the researcher to organize grounds into patterns that provide conclusive evidence for the validity of a conclusion (Ary et. Al.1996). Further it can organize what is already known, and can point out new relationships as one proceeds from the general to the specific, but it is not sufficient as a source that entails truth. The deductive approach entails the development of a conceptual and theoretical structure prior to its testing through empirical observation. It begins with an abstract conceptualization and then moves to testing through application of theory so as to create new experience or observation.

3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN

3.3.1 Introduction

The type of research design that was used in this study is a survey, which involved in-depth interview schedule. The study used both qualitative and quantitative research technique. The advantage of using a survey is to provide a speedy and economical means for determining facts about our knowledge, attitude, expectations and behaviours. A survey provides an important source of basic scientific knowledge. The survey's intent is

not to describe particular individuals who by chance are part of the sample but to obtain a composite profile of the whole population – in this case all parents and foster parents, among others who receive CSG in Mafikeng.

3.3.3 Survey Research

i. Introduction

A survey can be conducted in many ways – including over the telephone, by mail or in person (that is, face-to-face). However, all surveys do have certain characteristics in common. Using the face-to-face survey has advantages in that, the presence of an interviewer can increase cooperation rates and make it possible for respondents to get immediate clarifications. Mail survey can be relatively low in cost. It however has a problem in insufficient attention given to getting high levels of cooperation. Telephone interview is an efficient method of collecting some types of data and is recommended where timeliness is a factor and length of the survey is limited. Normally, person interviews are more expensive than mail or telephone surveys. They are sometimes necessary however, especially when complex information is to be collected. Some researchers combine various methods, for example, a survey worker may use the telephone to screen or locate eligible respondents and then make appointments for an in-person interview. The advantages and disadvantages of the personal interviewing method will be discussed in detail later.

How large is the sample size partly depends on the scientific quality needed for survey finding – which in turn relates to how the results will be used. Much depends on the professional and financial resources available. The size of sample also depends on the purpose of the study. In bona fide survey, the sample is not selected haphazardly or only from persons who volunteer to participate. If it is scientifically chosen so that each person has a measurable chance of selection, the results can be reliably projected to the larger

population. Information must be collected by means of a standardized procedure so that every individual is asked the same question in more or less the same way.

All researchers should address ethic and confidentiality concerns. For example, by using only number codes to link the respondent to a questionnaire and string the names-to-code linkage information separately from the questionnaire, and refusing to give the names of respondents to anyone outside the research project. Individual respondents should never be identified in reporting survey findings; completely anonymous summaries, for example, in terms of tables and charts should be given. Respondents must be asked for their consent to participate in the survey. Their privacy and rights must be observed.

ii. Sampling method

The sampling method that was used in this research involved both stratified and cluster sampling methods. For stratified sampling, the population is divided into various clearly recognizable non-overlapping sub-populations according to particular independent variables that are associated with the variable being studied (that is, the dependent variable). The researcher should identify the various strata according to one or more independent variables and should draw a random sample from each separate stratum. In cluster sampling, sampling units are grouped to form clusters, then, a few clusters are randomly selected for the study. The final sample (of sampling units) is chosen from these clusters to be studied.

For this study, the researcher identified the various strata according to the independent variable - *the usage of child support grant money*. After dividing the population into groupings (i.e., strata), clusters of sampling units (e.g., residential areas) were formed in each group. A random sample of clusters was then selected, and a sub-sample of sampling units was finally randomly chosen from each selected cluster to actually be interviewed.

To collect data from the selected sub-samples in the clusters, several methods are available to researchers. These data collection methods will be discussed in detail below.

The Sample used in this Study

List of Residential areas of Mafikeng used

GROUP A

Serial No.	Residential Area
1.	Unit 1
2.	Unit 2
3.	Unit 3
4.	Unit 5
5.	Unit 7
6.	Unit 8
7.	Unit 9
8.	Unit 10
9.	Unit 12
10.	Unit 13
11.	Unit 14
12.	Unit 15 + Ext.39
13.	Montshioa
14.	Imperial Reserve + Others
15.	Motlabeng

GROUP B

1. Riviera Park + Riviera Park North
2. Golf View
3. Unit 3
4. Unit 6
5. Leopard Park
6. Danville

GROUP C

1. Signal Hill
2. Lonely Park
3. Aaslaggte

Randomization

Residential areas were stratified into groups according to socio-economic status. Four residential areas (clusters) were used. The proportional representation method was used to choose the number of areas to use from each group (group). From Group A, three residential areas were chosen, from Group B, none was chosen because it was thought that there are no children receiving child support grant in these areas or if they are there, the number is negligible, and from Group C only one area was chosen. Simple Random Sampling (SRS) method was then used to select the particular areas to use. The areas are Unit 1, Montshioa, Unit 10 and Unit 13, which were randomly selected from Group A, and Lonely Park, which was chosen from Group C.

One hundred households of grant holders were selected to be interviewed that is, 25 from each area. The areas were: Unit 1 with Montshioa, Unit 10, Unit 13, and Lonely Park. That is:

No.	Residential Area	No. of grant holders
1.	Unit 1 + Montshioa	25
2.	Unit 10	25
3.	Unit 13	25
4.	Lonely Park	25

To collect data from the selected sub-samples from the strata, several methods are available to researchers. These data collection methods are discussed below.

iii. Method of Data collection

The methods of data collection can be divided into two approaches according to Copper & Schindler (2001: 295). Cooper & Schindler (2001) say that one can observe conditions, behaviour, events people or processes (that is, behaviour approach) or one can communicate with people about various topic (that is, the communication approach). The observation and communication approaches are discussed in details below.

Cooper & Schindler (2001: 370) state that the observation approach of research qualifies as a scientific enquiry when it is conducted specifically to answer a research question. It should be systematically planned and executed should use proper controls and provide a reliable and valid account of what happened. Cooper and Schindler (2001) argues that many academics have a limited view of observation, relegating it to a minor technique of data collection, thereby ignoring its potential for forging decisions and denying its

historic stature as a creative means of obtaining primary data. Besides collecting data usually observation involves listening, reading, smelling and touching.

According to Saunders et al. (2000; 218), observation involves a systematic observation, recording descriptions, analysis, and interpretation of people's behaviour. Cooper and Schindler (2001) advise that if research questions and objectives are concerned with what people do, an obvious way in which to discover about a phenomenon is to watch them doing it.

The communication approach involves questioning or surveying and recording their responses for analysis. The great strength of questioning as a primary data collecting technique is that it does not require the visual or other objective perception of the information sought by the researcher. Abstract information of all types can be gathered by questioning another. Cooper & Schindler (2001:295) argue that there is not much that can be learnt about opinion, attitudes, intentions and expectations of others except by questioning. They argue that questioning is more economical and efficient than observation. A few well-chosen questions can yield information that would take much more time and effort to gather by observation. The communication approaches has its weakness too (Cooper and Schindler, 2001:295). The quality and quantity of information secured depend on the ability and willingness of respondents to co-operate. This unwillingness to cooperate may be due to people failing to see any value in participation. They may fear the interview as being potentially embarrassing or intrusive. Even if the respondents do participate, they may not have the knowledge sought or even have an opinion on the topic of concern. However, too often, they feel obliged to express some opinion even if they do not have one. In such cases it is difficult for the researcher to identify false information given.

For this study, the communication approach was used since the research objectives require gathering of information about opinions, attitudes and expectations of the

members of the target population, which are parents and foster parents receiving child support grant in Mafikeng. This information would have been difficult or even impossible to obtain through the observation approach. The common types of data collection methods include personal interviews, mail interviews and telephone interviews and observation. In this study the face-to-face interview method was used. This method is discussed below.

a. Personal Interviewing

According to Cooper & Schindler (1998), this is a two-way conversation initiated by an interviewer to obtain information from a respondent. The respondent is asked to provide information and has little chance of receiving any immediate or direct benefit from this cooperation. But this technique has its advantages and disadvantages, which are discussed below (Cooper & Schindler, 1998).

Advantages

- ❖ The greatest value of the personal interview method lies in the depth of information and detail that can be secured. It, for example, exceeds the information obtained from telephone and self-administered studies.
- ❖ The interviewer can also do more things to improve the quality of information received than with the other methods.
- ❖ Interviewers also have more control with this type of interviewing than with other kinds of interrogation. They can make sure that the correct respondent is replying and they can set up and control interviewing conditions.

Disadvantages

- ❖ Costs are particularly high if the study covers a wide geographical area or has sampling requirements, which are not easy to get.
- ❖ Many people have become reluctant to talk with strangers or permit visits in their homes.
- ❖ Interviewers are reluctant to visit unfamiliar neighborhoods alone, especially for evening interviewing.
- ❖ Lastly, the results of personal interviewing can be affected adversely by interviewers who alter questions asked or in other ways bias the results.

b. Telephone Interviewing

Cooper et al (1998: 300) maintain that telephone can be helpful in arranging personal interviews and screening large populations for unusual types of respondents. Studies have shown that making prior notification calls can improve the response rate of mail surveys. Telephone interview makes its greatest contribution in survey work. But, like personal interviewing, telephone interviewing has its own advantages and disadvantages, which will be discussed below (Cooper et al: 1998).

Advantages

- ❖ It offers moderate costs. Much of its savings come from cuts in travel costs and administrative savings from training and supervision.
- ❖ When calls are made from a single local, the researcher may use fewer yet more skilled interviewers.
- ❖ Telephones are especially economical when callbacks to maintain probability sampling are involved and respondents are widely scattered.

- ❖ Long-distance service options make it possible to interview nationally at a reasonable cost.

Disadvantages

- ❖ Respondents must be available when called
- ❖ Because some households move each year there are always many obsolete numbers and new households for whom numbers have not yet been published.
- ❖ Some household phones are unlisted.
- ❖ A limit on interview length, but the degree of this limitation depends on the respondent's interest in the topic.
- ❖ It is not possible in telephonic interview to use maps, illustration, some other visual aids, complex scales, or measurement techniques.

c. Mail interview or Self-administered surveys

According to Cooper et al (1998), self-administered has become ubiquitous in modern living. Usually a short questionnaire is left to be completed by the respondent in a convenient location. Questionnaires can be delivered by postal services, facsimile or a courier service. Computer-delivered self-administered questionnaires use organisational intranets, internet or online services to reach their respondents. Self-administered surveys also have their advantages and disadvantages which are discussed below (Cooper et al, 1998).

Advantages of mail interview or self-administered surveys

- ❖ Mail surveys typically cost less than personal interviews, the cost are generally in the same range as telephone, although in specific cases either may be lower.

- ❖ The more geographically dispersed the sample, the more likely that mail will be the low-cost method because it is often a one-person job.
- ❖ Respondents who might otherwise be inaccessible can be contacted when the researcher has no specific person to contact – say in the study corporations – the mail survey often will be routed to the appropriate respondent.
- ❖ Respondents can take more time to collect facts; talk with others considers replies at length than is possible with the telephone, personal interviewing or intercept studies. These are typically perceived as more impersonal, providing more anonymity than the communication modes, including other methods for distribution self-administered questionnaires.

In this study, the face – to face interviewing method was used to collect the data, the reason being that, unlike other methods, this method could be used to persuade respondents to participate in the survey since a large number of respondents were illiterate and could not read and write. Telephone interview was not possible for it could have been too costly and many of the respondents did not have telephones.

iv. Non response Error

In statistical surveys, missing data occur for two reasons: non- coverage and non-response. Non-coverage occurs in situations where some units in the target population have no chance of being selected into the sample, this is when the sample frame is not complete. Nonresponse occurs when the interviewer fails to obtain data from the sampled units. There are two types of nonresponse identified. These are (1) Unit non-response, which occurs when a sampled unit (person or household) fails to participate or is too ill to participate, and (2) Item nonresponse which occurs when a sampled unit participates in the survey but fails to provide responses to one or more of the survey questions, for example, because they are too sensitive or personal, he or she does not

Major limitations concern the type and amount of information that can be secured.

Kahn and Cannel (in Saunders et al. 2000:264) define an interview as a purposeful discussion between two or more people. They categorize interviews as:

- ❖ Structured interviews
- ❖ Semi-structured interviews
- ❖ Unstructured interviews

Structured interviews use questionnaires based on predetermined and standardized identical set of questions, usually with pre-coded answers. In semi-structured interviews; however the researcher has a list of themes and questions to be covered although some questions may be omitted in some interviews depending on the flow of the conversation (Saunders et al 2000:246). Unstructured interviews on the other hand are informal. They can be used to explore in depth a general area in which the researcher is interested. There is no predetermined list of questions to work through although the researcher needs to have a clear idea about the aspects he/she wants to explore.

A questionnaire is a document, which contains a set of pre-determined questions to be posed to a survey respondent. There are various types of questionnaires: self-administered questionnaires (like in the mail survey), on-line questionnaires (e.g. in personal interview surveys), telephone questionnaires and structured interview questionnaires.

Questionnaire relevance

The questions that were asked in the questionnaire had to be relevant in terms of the study's goals and to the individual respondents' situation. In the interests of being

unambiguous and precise and pointing to the issues, the research used short and precise questions. The questions were easy to be read quickly and to be understood thereby putting the respondents at ease to provide answers. These questions included open-ended, multiple choice, dichotomous, scaled- response, closed questions, ranking questions as well as free choice questions. Closed questions served a multiple purpose namely:

- To simplify the communication of the information due to the respondents expected level of education;
- To make the answering of the questions less time consuming; and
- To make the analysis process less complex due to time constraints.

The problem with closed questions is that the researcher limits the respondent only to those possible answers listed by him or her in the questionnaire. Open-ended questions accommodated those respondents with unique experience or situations they were in; they were given freedom to express themselves according to their experiences. The questionnaire consisted of two parts. Section A of the questionnaire consisted of questions on household aspects, section B personal questions, section C questions on employment and earnings, section D other household income, section E questions on household expenditure, section F questions poverty per se, section G questions on HIV/AIDS and section H abusive relationship and domestic violence.

Covering Letter

The influence of the covering letter on response rates has received almost no experimental attention, although it is considered the integral part of the mail survey package. It is there the most logical vehicle for persuading individuals to respond (Cooper 1998: 306).

The covering letter was attached to all questionnaires. The main purpose was to: identify the person conducting research; explain why the study is important and should be conducted; and stipulate why it is important and should be conducted; and stipulate why it is important that the respondent should complete the questionnaire.

Other reasons why a covering letter was attached to the questionnaire were to explain the estimated timing of completing the questionnaire, the focus of the questions, to request the respondents to be honest and critical in selecting the best answer and to assure them that their responses were strictly confidential. To ensure good responses and valid results, follow ups were also made.

Follow Ups

According to Cooper et al (1998: 305), follow-ups are a reminder and are very successful in increasing response rates. Since each successive follow up produces more returns the very persistent researcher can potentially achieve an extremely high response rate should the potential respondents not return their questionnaires, receiving a follow – up letter might encourage them to do so. In this project participants were followed up telephonically and personally to remind them to complete the questionnaires.

Personal interviewing was chosen for this study because the interviewer can do more things to improve the quality of information received and also note the conditions of the interview, probe with additional questions and gather supplemental information through observation than other methods.

3.3.3 Data Analysis

Descriptive Data analysis

Descriptive statistics (i.e. summary of raw data) was done. The descriptive statistics method of analysis was the most appropriate data analysis technique, since the questionnaire consisted of questions of the descriptive type of data analysis. A computer aided statistical analysis was employed. The SPSS programme was used to compute the results of the study. Average values were calculated in terms of standard deviation. The data entailed statistics like frequency distribution and tables and charts or histograms and bar diagrams/graphs (depending on the nature of the data and outcome of the study) as described below.

Frequency distribution or frequency table

A frequency distribution is a summary table in which data are arranged into conveniently established numerically ordered class groupings or categories (Berenson and Levine, 1996: 62). Frequencies are generally obtained for nominal and demographic variables such as age, years of service education and others. Alternatively, a frequency table or frequency distribution is an arrangement of data by classes together with the corresponding class frequencies. The classes are a sequence of intervals defined by lower and upper limits. The class frequency is the number of observations whose values lie between the lower and upper limits may be included. The problem with a frequency table is that by grouping the data like this, much of the original detail is lost. The advantage of the frequency table is that one obtains a clear overall picture of the data by summarizing discrete or continuous data into class intervals each with corresponding frequencies. In this study, the frequencies of the respondents biographical data and some other data are depicted in a summary table.

Histogram

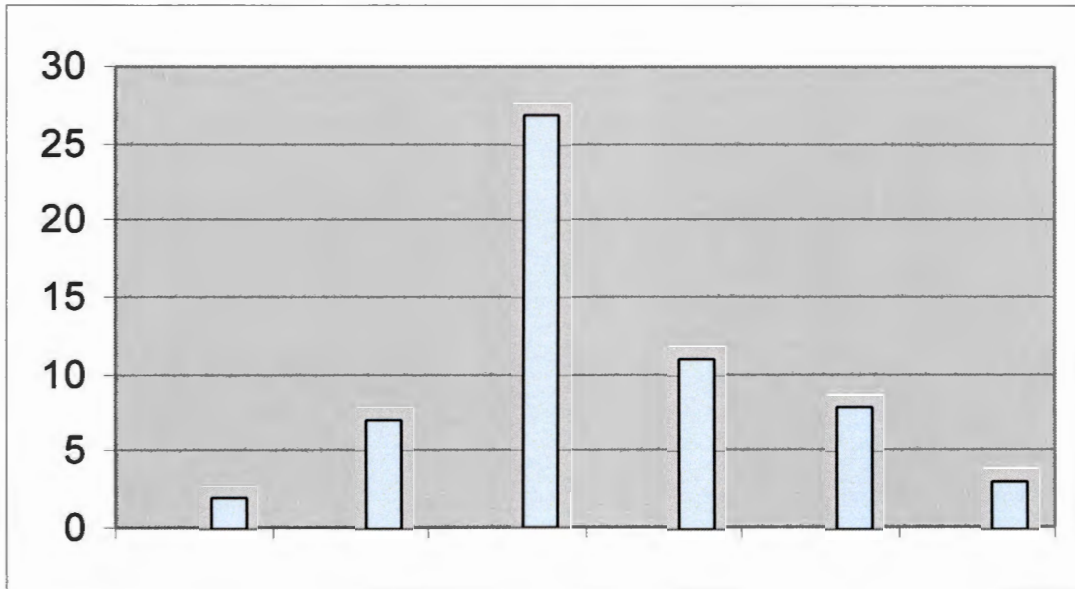
A chart or a histogram is a graphical representation of a frequency distribution. A histogram is a set of rectangles with bases on a horizontal (x) axis, with centres at the class marks and base lengths equal to class interval sizes. The areas of the rectangles are proportional to class frequencies. If all the class intervals have equal sizes then the heights of the rectangles will also be proportional to the class frequencies.

The Bar Chart

When the data is discrete a bar graph may be used. For example, the following bar graph depicts the data for tiller counts in plots of oats. Note that the number of tillers cannot be figures such as 1.5 or 3.2. The number of tillers can only be whole numbers such as 0; 1; 2; etc. For a bar chart, width is not important, only the bar length (height) is used to indicate the number of plots.

A bar chart

Figure 3.1 : frequency bar diagram of tillers in 58 oats plots



3.4 SUMMARY

The research design for the study has been discussed in this chapter. The personal interviewing method was employed to collect the data. The descriptive data analysis technique, which includes frequency distribution and measures of central tendency or averages (i.e., arithmetic mean, median and mode) were also discussed. The next chapter deals with data analysis and presentation of the results.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to present the results of the study. A sample of 100 grant – holders was selected for the study but only 94 respondents were interviewed mainly due to time constraints. This gave a response rate of 94 percent.

In the survey, the caretakers of the children who were receiving the child support grant (CSG) are the ones who were interviewed because they are the ones who collected the money from government and spent it. The children that were included in the sample were aged between 5 and 14 years.

In this chapter, section 2 presents information on the households of the grant – holders, section 3 discusses expenditure, section 4 income, section 5 poverty and section 6 gives a discussion of the results and concludes.

4.2 HOUSEHOLD ASPECTS

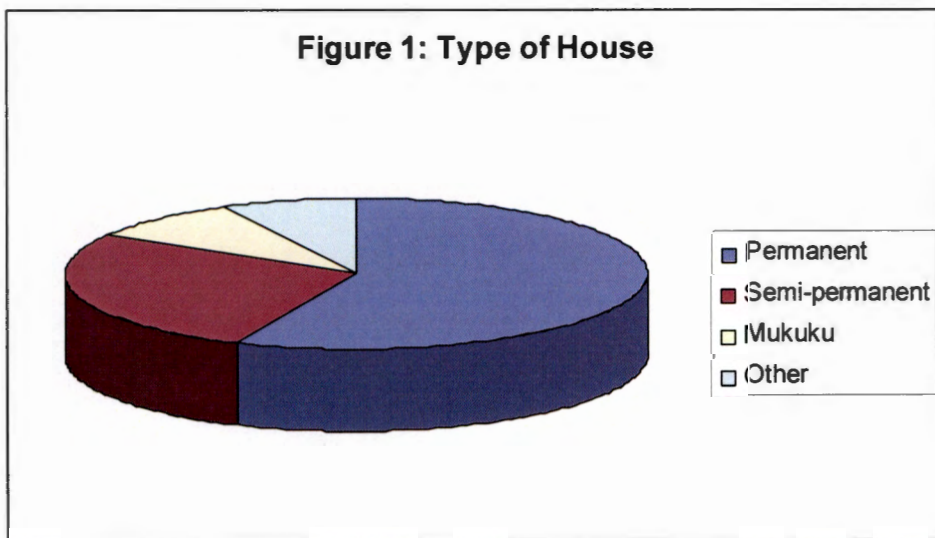
i. Type of House

Information was sought on the type of houses the caregivers that receive government child support live in – This was to establish their socio-economic wellbeing. Table 3 shows the results. Column one gives the house type, column two shows the frequency and column three the percentage for that particular house type. According to Table 4.1, 57 percent of these children live in permanent houses and about 9 percent live in Mukuku (i.e., shacks). One observation was missing. This implies that the majority of the children live in decent houses. Figure 1 illustrates this more clearly.

Table 4.1: Percentage Distribution of House Type

House type	frequency	percent
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Permanent	53	57
Semi-permanent	25	27
Mukuku	8	9
Other	7	7
Total	93	100



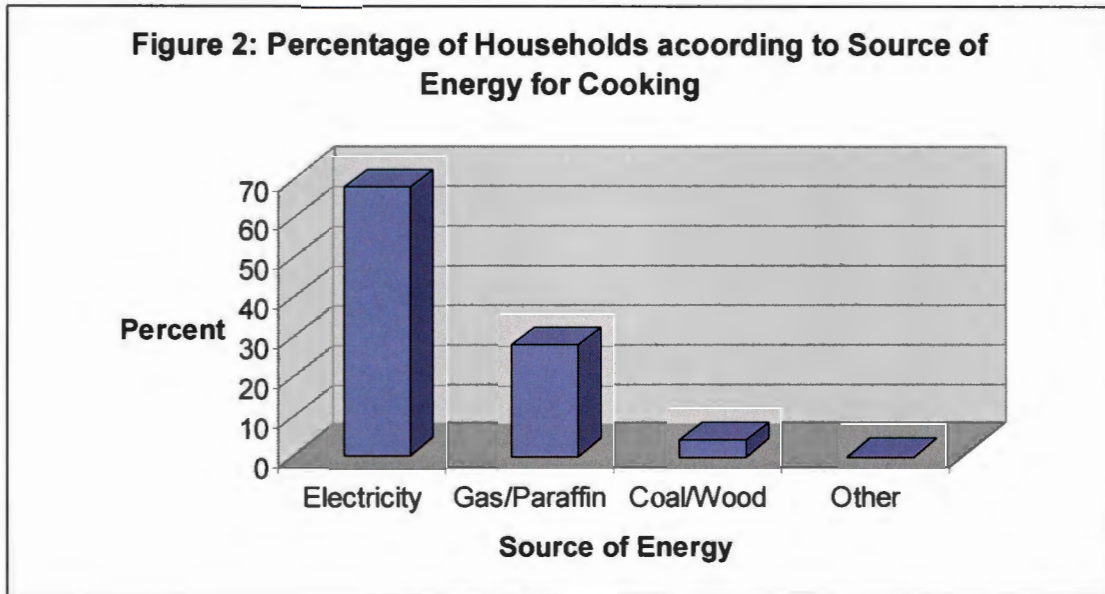
ii. Source of Energy

The data indicated that 85 percent of the houses of grant holders in Mafikeng have electricity connection. Table 4.2 demonstrates that 68 percent of the households use electricity to cook. Four respondents did not divulge the information. Figure 2 illustrates this finding more clearly.

Table 4.2: Percentage Distribution of Households according to Source of Energy for Cooking

Source of energy	frequency	Percent
Electricity	61	68
Gas/Paraffin	25	28

Coal/Wood	4	4
Other	0	0
Total	90	100



The majority of the households (83%) use electricity for lighting according to Table 4.3 and Figure 3. Five respondents did not furnish the information.

Table 4.3: Percentage Distribution of Households according to Source of Energy for lighting

Source of energy	frequency	Percent
Electricity	74	83
Gas/Paraffin	3	3
Coal/Wood	0	0
Other	12	14
Total	89	100

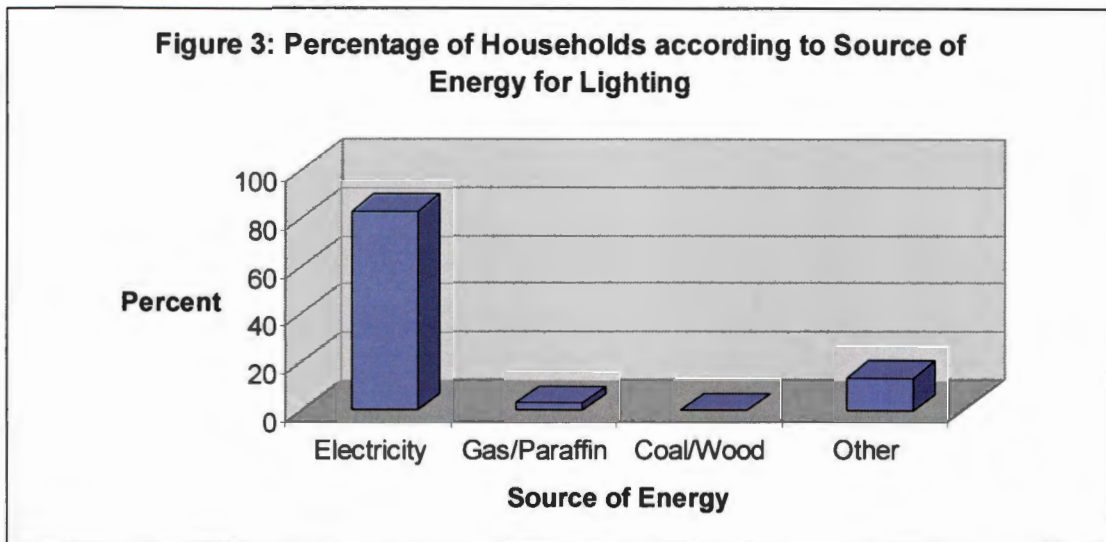
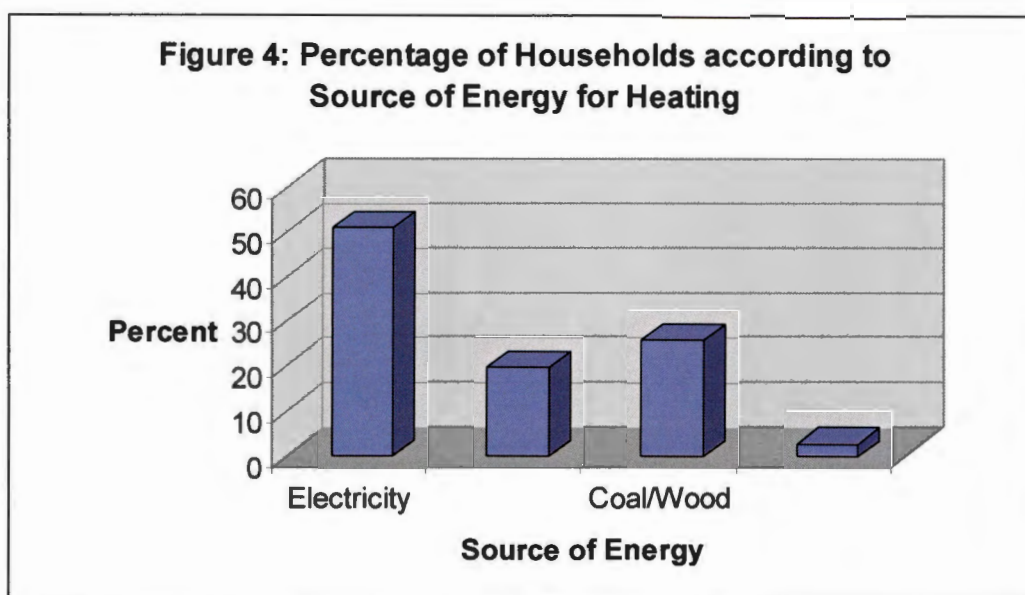


Table 4.4 shows that 45 (51%) out of 87 respondents who answered the question said that they used electricity for heating. The results indicated that three percent of the children's households do not heat in winter due to poverty. There are five missing observations. Figure 4 illustrates this more clearly.

Table 4.4: Percentage Distribution of Households according to Source of Energy for Heating

Source of energy	frequency	Percent
Electricity	45	51
Gas/Paraffin	17	20
Coal/Wood	23	26
Don't heat	2	3
Total	87	100



iii. Toilet Facility

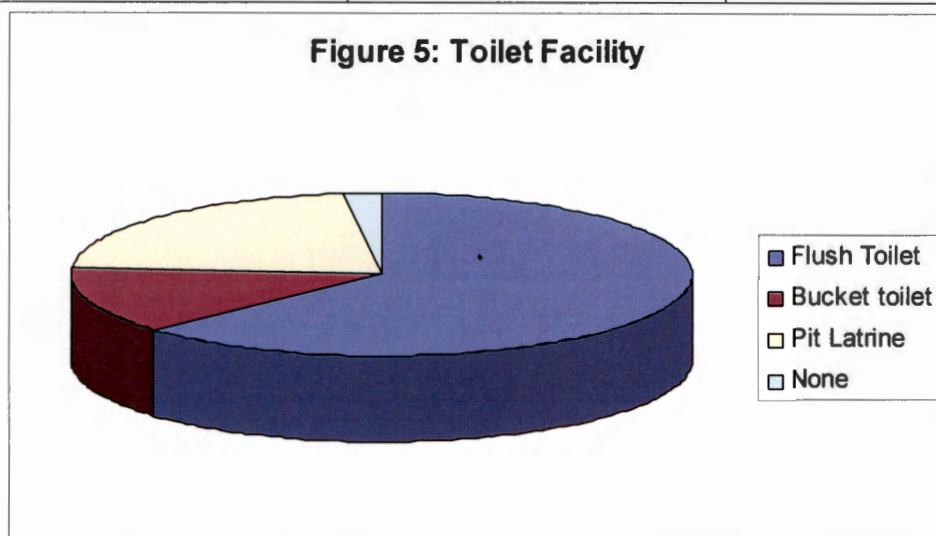
The majority of households (63%) use a flush toilet (that is, 9% in dwelling, 27% on site and 27% off site). According to Table 5, 20 (22%) out of 92 respondents reported that they use a pitlatrine. There are a few households who do not have toilets (2%). They possibly use neighbours' toilets. Two respondents did not provide the information. Figure 5 illustrates this more clearly.

The results also indicated that about 40 percent of households share toilets which is not good because this is one way diseases can spread. It was found that about three percent of the households walk long distances ranging from 50 meters to 100 metres to go to toilet. Two respondents did not answer this question.

Table 4.5: Percentage Distribution of Households according to type of Toilet Facility

Source of energy	frequency	Percent
Flush Toilet (In Dwelling)	8	9
Flush Toilet (On Site)	25	27
Flush Toilet (Off Site)	25	27
Bucket Toilet (On Site)	2	2

Bucket Toilet (Off Site)	10	11
Pit Latrine	20	22
None	2	2
Total	92	100



iv. Water

Water is one the basic needs of life. Eighty - three (91%) out of 91 respondents reported that they have access to clean, drinking water.

v. Family Type

Table 4.6 shows the results for the family type associated with the children who are receiving CSG in Mafikeng. Fifty (56%) out of 90 respondents said that they have extended families, 25 (28%) nuclear families and 15 (17%) single – unit families.

Table 4.6: Percentage Distribution of Households according to Family Type

Family Type	frequency	Percent
Extended	50	55.5
Nuclear	25	28
Single	15	16.5
Total	90	100

The results also indicated that 60 percent of the households have either a TV or Radio or both.

vi. Household Size

According to Table 4.7, 59 percent of households have between one and five people. The average household size is 5.

Table 4.7: Percentage Distribution of Number of People in a Household

No. of People	frequency	Percent
1 - 5	54	59
6 - 7	28	30
8 +	19	11
Total	91	100

Seventy - five percent of these households have up to two children less than five years of age.

vii. Hunger

Respondents were asked whether in the past week, their children (receiving CSG) ever went hungry because there was not enough money to buy food. Twenty - four (26%) out of 92 respondents (who answered the question) answered yes. The days for which they went hungry ranged between one and 7 days a week.

viii. Employment and Education of Caretakers

Out of 93 respondents, 53 (57%) reported that they did not have a job. Most of those who worked did low paid jobs such as cleaning, domestic work (43%) and piece jobs. Almost all the respondents (i.e., 99.5%) never went beyond grade 10 at school. This implies that

education and employment are very important factors in poverty alleviation. It means that the low levels of these factors are exacerbating the problem of government child support.

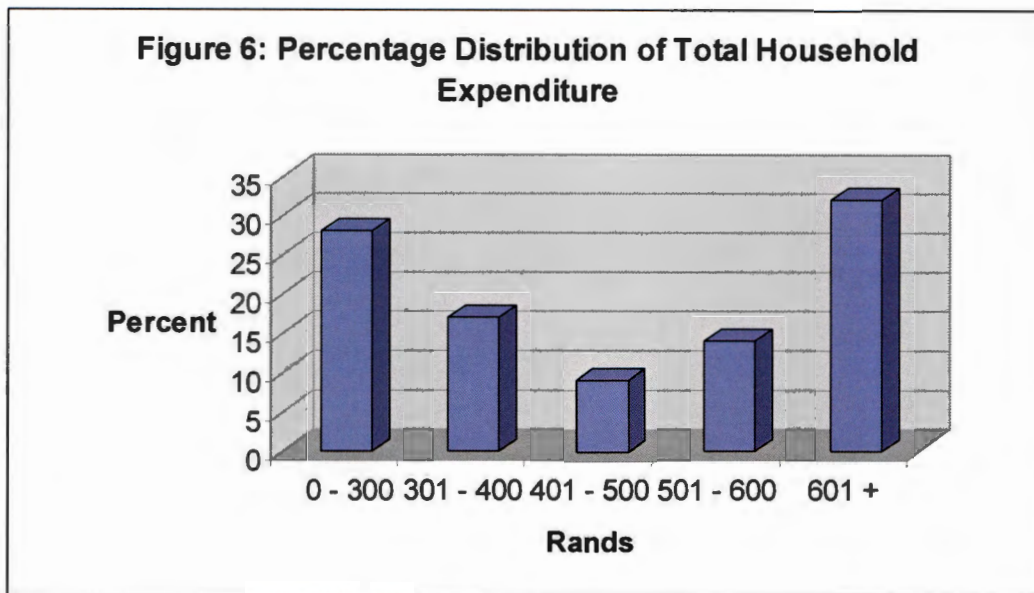
4.3 EXPENDITURE

i. Total Household Expenditure

Table 4.8 shows the percentage distribution of total household expenditure. Almost 70 percent of the respondents reported that they spend less than R600 per month. Figure 6 illustrates this more clearly.

Table 4.8: Percentage Distribution of Total Household Expenditure

Total Expenditure (in Rands)	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
0 - 300	26	28	28
301 - 400	16	17	45
401 - 500	8	9	54
501 - 600	13	14	68
601 +	30	32	100
Total	93	100	



ii. Groceries

Table 4.9 indicates that the majority (98%) of care givers spend between R0 and R300 on groceries.

Table 4.9: Percentage Distribution of Expenditure on Groceries

Expenditure (in Rands)	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
0 - 300	89	98	98
301 - 400	2	2	100
401 - 500	0	0	100
501 - 600	0	0	100
601 +	0	0	100
Total	91	100	

Most households spend R300 per month on groceries. The maximum amount of money spent on groceries is R1500 per month. The average expenditure on groceries is R410.

iii. Alcohol and Gambling

Table 4.10 shows that 71 percent of the respondents said that they do not spend money on alcohol.

Table 4.10: Percentage Distribution of Expenditure on Alcohol

Expenditure (in Rands)	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	64	71	71
1 - 100	14	16	87
101 +	12	13	100
Total	90	100	

iv. Public Transport

Table 4.11 indicates that households spend between R0 and R50 on public transport.

Thirty – eight percent does not spend money on public transport. Eight respondents did not answer this question.

Table 4.11: Percentage Distribution of Expenditure on Public Transport

Expenditure (in Rands)	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	33	38	38
1 - 50	53	62	100
51 +	0	0	100
Total	86	100	

Total Expenditure on Transport (including private transport)

When private transport is also considered, the maximum amount of money spent on transport by households is R500 per month. The average is R130 per month.

v. Rent

Out of 92 respondents who provided information on 'renting', only 24 (26%) said they rent the houses they were living in. The rentals are between R30 and R2000 per month. The average rental is about R100.

4.4 School Fees, Transport and Other expenditure

Table 4.12 shows the results on school fees expenditure for the children.

Table 4.12: Percentage Distribution of Expenditure on School Fees

Expenditure (in Rands)	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	17	29	38
1 - 250	28	48	100
251 +	13	23	100
Total	58	100	

The results indicate that 29 percent of the households do not have children at school. Those who have, spend between R1 (2%) and R2500 (2%) per month on school fees. The majority (almost 90%) spend less than R350 on a child. Thirty - six respondents did not provide the information – data are missing.

Out of 37 respondents (who furnished the necessary information), 22 (59%) did not spend money on transport for children's schooling. Those who did spent between R70 and R300

per month. For school books, the households spent from R50 to R800 per year. Twenty - six percent of 47 respondents who provided information did not buy books or spend money on other things for schooling.

Some of other items on which the households spend money are **fuel and power** (92%), **clothes** (57%), **cosmetics** (16%), **telephone** (16%), **weddings or funerals** (7%) and **remittance** (6.5%).

Fuel and power (including electricity) expenditure ranges from R10 to R600 per month, expenditure on clothes ranges from R50 to R700, that on telephone is between R12 and R200, on weddings or/and funerals, it ranges between R70 to R40000 per year, on transport, it ranges from R10.50 to R500 per month and expenditure on remittances ranges between R160 and R1500 per month.

The average expenditure on fuel and power is about R120, that on clothes is R115, for cosmetics it is R20, for telephone it is R15 and average expenditure on remittances is about R40.

4.5 HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Apart from the meager income earned by the 43 percent of the child caregivers who work and the CSG received, a small number of them (9%) have other sources of income such as selling of a home, selling of beer or renting out a house. Fifty – seven percent of child caregivers work. Their wages or salaries are between R50 and R2000 per month.

Some 34 percent of the caregivers receive old age pension money of between R200 and R1880 per month. It should be noted that some of these children are being cared for by their grand parents (especially grand mothers).

It was also revealed that about 57 percent of the households of the grant - holders have another person (63%) or two (34%) persons who work (apart from the head of household). These households earn extra money of between R30 and R25000 per month. Ninety - seven percent of them earn less than R4000 extra per month.

Table 4.13 shows the results obtained on CSG. Out of 62 respondents, 59 (95%) reported that the total amount of money their households received from CSG was between R200 and R1200 per month. This amount depended on how many CSG receivers a household had. It should be noted that some households had more than one child who received a CSG and the more children (who receive CSG) a household had the more money the household received. For example, if a household had one child who was receiving a CSG of R210, the household received R210 from CSG, and the income (from CSG) that was recorded in the survey was R210; if a household had two children and both were receiving a CSG of R210, this household received R420 per month and the income that was recorded in the survey was R420.

Table 4.13: Child Support Grant

Income (in Rands)	Frequency	Percent
200 - 500	59	95
501 +	3	5
Total	62	100

Some households receive Foster Grant instead of Child Support Grant. In this study, it was found that Foster Grant money received by these households ranges from R210 to R1140 per month.

4.6 POVERTY

i. Basic Needs

The respondents were asked to list their basic needs. The major basic needs they listed were water, food, house and job - in that order. When they were asked whether their basic needs were satisfied or not, out of 88, only 40 (45%) respondents said that they were satisfied.

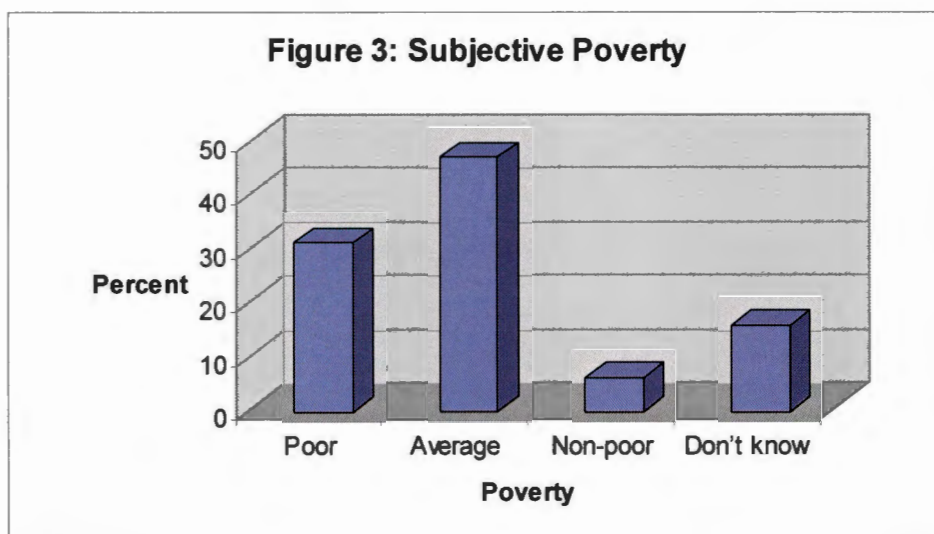
The reasons given why their basic needs were not satisfied were for example, not having money or not having enough money and unemployment.

ii. Subjective Poverty

The respondents were also asked to categorize themselves on a scale of from poor to non-poor. Table 4.14 shows that out of 86 respondents, 27 (31%) regarded themselves as poor. Forty – seven percent regarded themselves as average.

Table 4.14: Poverty

Poor	Frequency	Percent
Poor	27	31
Average	40	47
Non-poor	5	6
Don't know	14	16
Total	86	100



iv. Objective Poverty

Using US \$1 per day an individual requires to live out of poverty, that is, as a poverty line, it was estimated, using per capita expenditure, that 62 (69%) out of 94 households live in absolute poverty. This means that the majority of grant holders in Mafikeng live on less than US \$1 (i.e., R7.5) a day.

ii. Problems

According to the respondents, the problems the child caregivers in Mafikeng are encountering are predominantly lack of money and unemployment.

4.7 Summary

The children studied were between ages 5 and 14. All these children were schooling. About 9 percent of the children live in Mukuku (shacks). However, 85 percent of the houses they are living have electric connection. It was found that three percent of the households do not heat in winter due to poverty. The majority of care givers (63%) use a flush toilet. There are a few households who do not have a toilet (2%) and about 40 percent of households share toilets, which is not good because this is one way disease can spread. It was found that about three percent of the households walk long distances

ranging from 50 meters to 100 metres to go to toilet. Nine percent of the households have no access to clean, drinking water.

Fifty six percent of the children live in extended families and 41 percent of caregivers have more than five people in a household. The average household size is 5. Twenty – six percent of the children go hungry for days ranging between one and 7 days a week.

Fifty – three percent of the child caregivers have no jobs, and most of those who work, do low paid jobs such as cleaning, domestic work and piece jobs. Almost all the child caregivers (i.e., 99.5%) never go beyond standard 10 at school. This implies that education and employment are very important factors of poverty alleviation and this might mean that the low levels of these factors are exacerbating the problem of government child support.

Twenty – eight percent of the caregivers spend up to R300 a month, and 32 percent of the households spend more than R600 a month. Twenty – one percent of the households earn up to R300 a month and 44 percent of the households earn more than R600 a month.

Using US \$1 per day as a poverty line, it was estimated that 87% households live in absolute poverty. This means that most of the children who receive CSG in Mafikeng live on less than US \$1 a day. To the contrary, 31 percent of the respondents regarded themselves as poor. These people do not realize that they are poor; they think that there is nothing wrong with their standard of living, which supports the theory of Culture of Poverty.

The problems the child caregivers in Mafikeng are encountering are lack of money and unemployment. Seemingly, because of these problems, there is a tendency on the side of child caregivers to misuse the child grant in that they tend to use the money for themselves rather than the children that the money is meant for – resulting in the grant not being enough to cater for the children's needs.

Chapter five gives a conclusion of the study and recommendations. In this chapter, the results will be interpreted and discussed.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter five interprets and discusses the results that were presented in chapter 4. It also gives the conclusion and policy recommendations.

The purpose of the study was to analyse the usage of CSG and there after come up with solutions to the possible misuse of the grant in Mafikeng. Cluster and Stratified sampling were used to select a random sample of households to be studied and face-to-face interviews with a questionnaire were done to collect the data. The sample of 100 respondents included caregivers of children on child support grant. Descriptive data analysis was done.

Section 5.2 interprets and discusses the results, section 5.3 gives the conclusion and section 5.4 presents the recommendations.

5.2 Results: Interpretation and discussion

The study was done in order to achieve certain objectives. In this section, these objectives are looked at, one by one, to find out whether they have been achieved or not.

- The first objective of this study was: to determine what child caregivers actually buy or do with the CSG money in Mafikeng. In other words, to find out how child caregivers spend the CSG money in Mafikeng.

It was found that the CSG money was pooled together with the money from other sources such as wages and salaries to be spent. So, it was not easy to separate expenditures from the CSG money and those from other sources. It was found that the majority of

households spend less than R600 per month. They spend between R0 and R300 on groceries. Most households spend R300 per month on groceries – average expenditure being R410. A few (29%) caregivers spend money on alcohol and gamble (8%) with up to R350 per month.

Caregivers spend between R0 and R50 on public transport on average. If private transport is also considered, the average expenditure on transport is R130 per month. Twenty – six percent of the households rent the houses are living in – rentals being between R30 and R2000 per month. The average rental is about R100.

The results have indicated that 29 percent of the households do not spend on school fees. Others spend between R1 (2%) and R2500 (2%) per month on school fees. The majority (almost 90%) spends less than R350 on a child.

Some of the other items on which the households spend money are **fuel and power** (92%), **clothes** (57%), **cosmetics** (16%), **telephone** (16%), **weddings or funerals** (7%) and **remittance** (6.5%). Fuel and power (including electricity) expenditure ranges from R10 to R600 per month, expenditure on clothes ranges from R50 to R700, that on telephone is between R12 and R200, on weddings or/and funerals, it ranges between R70 to R40000 per year and expenditure on remittances ranges between R160 and R1500 per month.

The average expenditure on fuel and power is about R120 that on clothes is R115, for cosmetics it is R20, for telephone it is R15 and average expenditure on remittances is about R40.

- The second objective was: to determine whether vulnerable children benefit socially and economically from the CSG in Mafikeṅg.

About 9 percent of the children live in shacks. Eighty – five percent of the houses they are living have electric connection. It was found that three percent of the households do not heat in winter due to poverty. The majority of households use a flush toilet. A few households who do not have a toilet and about 40 percent of households share toilets. This is not good for health reasons. It was found that about three percent of the households walk long distances ranging from 50 meters to 100 metres to go to toilet. Nine percent of the households have no access to clean, drinking water. Though, seemingly the majority of children enjoy good life, there are some who live a miserable life. For example, some children go for days without eating enough food.

- The third objective was: to find out whether or not the CSG money is enough to sustain the recipients in Mafikeng

It has been found that 95% of caregivers receive between R200 to R500 per month, which is too little to take care of a child considering the high cost of living these days. It is clear that the money is not enough to sustain the recipient in the context that many of the caregivers do not have jobs and those who do, earn meager salaries or wages. There is a tendency of using the CSG money for themselves.

- The fourth objective was: to try and find the cause of the possible misuse of the CSG in Mafikeng.

If at all there is a misuse of the CSG money, unemployment and small wages and salaries of the caregivers might be causing the misuse. The caregivers are seemingly struggling to provide for all their own basic needs; hence they tend to use the money they receive from government for themselves and not the children. For example, there are households who earn less than R300 per month but spend more than R300 per month.

- The fifth objective was: to recommend possible strategies and solutions to the misuse of the CSG in Mafikeng. Recommendations are given in section 5.4.

5.3 Conclusion

In this study, it has been found that child caregivers in Mafikeng spend money on groceries, alcohol, gambling, transport, rent, school fees, fuel and power, clothes, cosmetics, telephone, weddings and funerals, remittance, insurance, etc. Groceries take the bulk of the money. The majority of households spend between R0 and R300 on groceries. The average expenditure is R410. The other big expenditures are for transport and renting a house. The average expenditure on transport is R130 per month. The average rental is about R100.

Though, seemingly the majority of children enjoy good life, there is a significant number of children who live a miserable life. For example, some children go for days without eating enough food.

It is clear that the money is not enough to sustain the recipient in the context that many of the caregivers do not have jobs and those who do, earn meager salaries or wages. There is a tendency of using the CSG money for themselves instead of the children. Seemingly, the caregivers are struggling to make ends meet, hence the tendency to use the CSG money for themselves.

5.4 Policy Implications and Recommendations

According to the results obtained in this study, there must be long-term solutions to the problem of child support grant in Mafikeng. It has been identified that the root cause of the problem is chronic poverty and unemployment. So if the poorest people in Mafikeng should be supported adequately financially then the children will have a better life. For those caregivers who do not have a job but are able to work, the private sector should try and create jobs for them. Some poor people do not regard themselves as poor. They tend to accept their poverty situation as normal. This makes them to be lazy and do nothing about it. For example they do not try to look for jobs or start a small business. People can be mobilized into community development organisations such as social clubs especially

for women and youth organisations. Community development projects such as vegetable gardening, knitting and sewing can be initiated for them.

The business community should also come on board by contributing financially and also creating some job opportunities for caregivers who are unemployed.

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APPENDIX

Questionnaire

The Social and Economic Impacts of Child Support Grant in Mafikeng

Graduate School, North West University

Questionnaire No.

Date of interview

SECTION A: GRANT HOLDER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION

- 1.1 Gender male Female
- 1.2 How old is he/she?
- 1.3 What is the highest standard he/she finished in school?
- 1.4 Health 1. Excellent.....2. Good.....3. Average.....4. Poor.....5.
Very Poor

1.5. Is he/she presently attending school/ college/ university/technikon, etc (This includes studies by Correspondence)?	1 2 3
1 = Yes, full-time	3
2 = Yes, part-time	
3 = No	
1.6 Does he/she benefit from the school feeding scheme?	
1 = Yes	1
2 = No	2

1.7. Did you consult any of the following, during the past month as a result of illness or injury? If 'Yes', state number of times	
1 = Nurse/Doctor/Medical specialist/Dentist/etc.....	
2 = Pharmacist/chemist.....	
3 = Spiritual healer (church related)	
4 = Traditional healer (Sangoma/Inyanga)	
1.8. Did the household have to pay for this service/medicine?	
1.9 Sickness (Mention...)	

SECTION B: HOUSING AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD ASPECTS (*Ask the Parent/Foster Parent or any responsible adult in the household*)

2.1 House Type: 1. Permanent2. Semi-permanent.....3. Shack4. Other.....

2.2 Do you have electric connection? 1. Yes 2. No

2.3 What do you use for cooking?	1. Electricity	2. Gas/Paraffin	3. coal/wood	4. other, specify .
2.4 What do you use for lighting?	1. Electricity	2. Gas/Paraffin		4. other, specify..
2.5 What do you use for heating?	1. Electricity	2. Gas/Paraffin	3. coal/wood	4. other, specify.

Sanitation

2.6 What type of toilet facility is available for this household? *Mark only one code*

In dwelling	On site	Off site	Toilet facility
11	21	31	Flush toilet
	22	32	Bucket toilet
		33	None
		34	Other, specify ...

2.7 Is the toilet facility shared with other households?

1. Yes 2. No.

If the toilet is "Off site"

2.8 How far is the nearest toilet facility to which the household has access?

1	Less than 25 m
2	25 m - less than 50 m
3	50 m - less than 100 m
4	100 m or more

2.9 Do you have access to clean drinking water? 1. Yes.....2. No.....

2.10 Family type: 1. Traditional, extended family 2. Nuclear family 3. Single-unit family

2.11 Does this household own other property or a share of other property (such as a second home,

motor vehicle, TV) (not counting the property on which the household lives presently)?

No.	Asset	Yes/no	Value (Rands)	Is any rent being received? (Rands
1	Motor vehicle/ Motor cycle			
3	Bicycle			
4	TV, Radio(s)			
7	Others. Specify..		:	

2.12s there anyone in this household who is suffering from HIV/AIDS? 1. Yes...2. No...

2.13ls there anyone in this household who died of HIV/AIDS? 1. Yes....2. No....

SECTION C: ECONOMIC CONDITION

3.1 Dependency

- a. How many people are living in the home?.....
- b. How many siblings does he/she have?
- c. Number of children (below 15 years of age) in the home
.....

3.2 Incidence of starving

In the past year or week, did he/she ever go hungry because there was not enough money to buy food?

- 1. Yes 2. No

If yes, how many days?

.....

Employment (Parent/ Foster Parent)

- 3.3 Do you do any work for a pay?
- 3.4 If so, how much do you earn per month?
- 3.5 What kind of work are you doing?

Home background information of the grant holder:

3.6 What is or was (in case he is late) his/her father's occupation? (Specify) ...	
3.7 What is or was (in case he is late) his/her father's highest educational level? ...	
3.8 What is or was (in case she is late) his/her mother's occupation? (Specify) ..	
3.9 What is or was (in case she is late) his/her mother's highest educational level? ...	

Expenditure

a. What was the total household expenditure in the last month?

Include everything that you spent money on, including food, clothing, transport, rent and rates, alcohol and tobacco, school fees, entertainment and any other expenses

0 - 300	300 - 400	400 - 500	500 - 600	More
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b. What was the household expenditure on groceries (excluding non-food) last month? Do not forget expenditures when people eat away from home, e.g. at work or in a restaurant.

0 - 300	300 - 400	400 - 500	500 - 600	More
---------	-----------	-----------	-----------	------

c. What was the household's expenditure on alcohol (excluding soft drinks) last month? Do not forget expenditures when people drink away from home, e.g. In a bar/shebeen.

0	1 -100	More
---	--------	------

d. What was the household's total expenditure on public transport (train, bus or minibus taxi) last month?

Do not include money spent on holiday travel.

0	1 -50	More
---	-------	------

e. Gambling

Do you spend money on Gambling? 1. yes 2. no . *If yes, how much money did you spend on gambling in the past month?* R

Other Expenditure

In this section, I am going to talk about all the expenses (including those already covered in the previous sections) which were incurred by you during the past month.

a. How much money (approximately) did you spend, during the past month towards:

item	Yes	No	Rands
1 House (a) Rent (b) Other (including repairs)			
2 Groceries (including toiletries and household essentials)			
3 Fuel & power (for heat & light energy, i.e. electricity, paraffin & gas)			
4 Clothing & footwear (including payments on accounts)			
5 Cosmetics			
6 Imputed value for consumption of household produced food and drink			
7 Telephone			
8 Weddings and funerals etc.			
9 Transport			
10 Remittances			
11 Other (Specify			

b. What did you spend on education tuition fees for scholars/students?

Type of Education	Fees	Transport	Other (e.g. books,school uniform,boarding
1. During past month (Grant holder)			
2. During the past month			

3. During the past month			
4. During the past month			

Income

a. What was the total income in the last month, including wages/salaries government grants, private pensions and all other sources of income?

0 – 300	300 - 400	400 - 500	500 - 600	More
---------	-----------	-----------	-----------	------

b. Did you receive cash loans or buy on credit from any of the following in the past 12 months?

Yes	No	Cash loan received from
1	2	Family member
1	2	Neighbour
1	2	Local dealer/shop, Commercial farmer
1	2	Bank, building society, Non-governmental organization (NGO)
1	2	Stokvel
1	2	Money lender/mashonisa
1	2	Other, specify
	
		.

Other Income

c. Is there any additional money that you generate, and that has not been included in the previous questions (e.g. the sale of home, grown produce or sale of beer or the

rental of property)? If so, please indicate this total amount, if anything, during the past year. (1 January, 2007 - 31 December 2007). If none, enter "0". R
for the year

d. If you receive any remittances or payments (e.g. money sent back home by someone working or living elsewhere or alimony), please indicate the total received during the past year. (1 January 2007 - 31 December 2007). R ...
for the year

e. Are you producing any goods for home consumption or are part of the goods produced by the household, if any, consumed at home? 1 Yes 2 No

If 'Yes', what is their total monthly value? Rands

f Here, we are going to talk about any other money or any other form of assistance you or other members of the household may have received from sources which do not involve employment of some kind. There are many ways in which the household can receive money without being employed. For example, pension payments, charity, unemployment insurance fund, etc. You are kindly requested to indicate in the list below whether any member of the household did, in fact, receive such assistance or not.

	Source	Yes	No	How much in total was Received by the household last month (Rands)
1	Old age pension/social pension			
2	Private pension/private provident fund			
3	Government civil servants pension			
4	Government disability grant			
5	Government poor relief			

6	Government workmen's compensation			
7	Interest earnings including dividends from savings, loans			
8	Unemployment insurance fund			
9	NGO food or meals			
10	Other NGO transfers			
11	Government supplementary food scheme			
12	Foster Grant			
13	Child Support Grant			
14	Other (describe)			

g. Is there any other member of household who is employed or working? 1. Yes.....2.

No

If Yes, how many?, what is the total monthly income received?

.....

Poverty (People's perspective)

a. What are your basic needs?

List (*in order of preference*)

b. Are your basic needs satisfied? 1. Yes 2. No

c. If the answer to Q b is No, why?

d. How do you categorize yourself? 1. poor 2. Average 3. Non-poor

4. Don't know

e. What do you think is keeping you in this poverty situation? What is really the problem?

Explain

f. What do you think can be done, maybe by the government, NGOs, the community, yourself or any other organization, to effect poverty reduction?

Explain

g. Apart from being in this (poverty) situation, do you have any other problem – regarding the grant?

1. Yes.... 2. No...

If Yes, explain

h. Any other suggestions regarding the problems encountered.....

SECTION D: OTHER

Abusive Relationship and Domestic Violence

4.1. During the past year, were are you abused, sexually or otherwise? yes
no

If the answer is yes, what kind of abuse? Explain

4.2. During the past year, was there any domestic violence at home? yes
no

If the answer to q.4.2 is yes, explain what happened?

CODE LIST

1 Employer

- 1 = Central Government
- 2 = Provincial Administration
- 3 = Local Authority or Regional Authority
cars in town
- 4 = Public Corporation

2 List of possibilities

- 1. selling on the street
- 2. begging
- 3. helping with packing
- 4. ..

- 5 = Private Sector Employer
- 6 = Non-Profit Institution
- 7 = Self-employment
- 8 = Household
- 9 = Other (Specify)

3 Sector/Industry

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 01 = Agriculture/Fishing/Forestry | 09 = Finance |
| 02 = Mining | 10 = Educational Services |
| 03 = Manufacturing | 11 = Medical Services |
| 04 = Electricity & Water | 12 = Legal Services |
| 05 = Construction | 13 = Domestic Services |
| 06 = Wholesale & Retail | 14 = Armed Forces |
| 07 = Restaurant & Hotels/Entertainment/Sport | 15 = Other Services |
| 08 = Transport & Communication | 16 = Other (Specify) |

10. Occupations

- 1 = Agricultural/fisheries and other mobile operators or tractor drivers, farm workers and mining labourers
- 2 = Bus, track and taxi drivers
- 3 = Railway trackers, shunters and related workers
- 4 = Machine operators, mechanical/equipment assemblers, earth-moving and related plant operators
- 5 = Ship's deck crews and related workers
- 6 = Elementary occupations, e.g. shoe cleaners
- 7 = Sales and service workers
- 8 = Street vendors and related workers
- 9 = Domestic workers, cleaners, launderers and other related helpers

10 = Messengers, porters, door keepers, attendants, watchmen/women and related workers

11 = Garbage collectors and related labourers

12 = Manufacturing/transport and construction labourers

13 = Faith healers and Sangomas

14 = Other, specify

99 = Unspecified