

A comparative analysis of social work services to child-headed households in Moses Kotane Local Municipality

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Master of Social Work in Child Protection at the
North-West University

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DECLARATION

I, Suzan Ditshele Ramokoka, hereby declare that this dissertation, entitled “A comparative analysis of social work services to child-headed households in Moses Kotane Local Municipality”, submitted for the degree of Master of Social Work in Child Protection at the North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, is my own work, which has not been submitted for examination at any other institution of higher learning. I also declare that all the sources utilised, quoted, or referred to have been duly acknowledged by means of complete references.

Suzan Ditshele Ramokoka

Signature:



Date: 30.09.2020

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to all the children in child-headed households who have not allowed their circumstances to define them, but have instead changed their situation to suit the challenges facing them. This is also dedicated to my only son, Keamorata, who was born during the COVID-19 lockdown on 21 July 2020 while I was still busy with my studies.

FOREWORD

This dissertation is presented in article format according to the guidelines set out in the manual for postgraduate studies (2020) of the North-West University. This article will be submitted to the *Social Work* journal. See the guidelines for submission on the next page.

SOCIAL WORK/MAATSKAPLIKE WERK

The guidelines for the submission of an article to this journal include the following:

Manuscripts may be written in English or Afrikaans, while ensuring that capital letters and punctuation marks are used accurately accordingly; all articles should include an abstract in English, which should not exceed 100 words. All contributions will be critically reviewed by at least two referees, on whose advice contributions will be accepted or rejected by the editorial committee, and will be kept strictly confidential.

Manuscripts may be returned to the authors if extensive revision is required or if the style or presentation does not conform to the journal practice. Articles of fewer than 2 000 words or more than 10 000 words are normally not considered for publication. Manuscripts should be typed in 12 pt Times New Roman, double-spaced, on A4 paper size, and should make use of the Harvard system for referencing. Short references in the text: when word-for-word quotations, facts, or arguments from other sources are cited, the surname(s) of the author(s), year of publication, and page number(s) must appear in parenthesis in the text, for example, “...” (Berger, 1967:12). In addition, more details about sources referred to in the text should appear at the end of the manuscript under the heading “References”, and the sources must be arranged in alphabetical order according to the surnames of the authors (Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk, 2014:1)

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SUMMARY

According to the National Action Plan for Orphans and Other Children made Vulnerable by HIV and AIDS in South Africa (2016), child-headed households are an increasing social problem in South Africa. According to section 150 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005, as well as the Children's Amendment Act 41 of 2007, children living in child-headed households are regarded as children in need of care and protection.

To facilitate a service delivery model that met the needs of child-headed households, the National Department of Social Development developed the National Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households (2010) and the Strategy on Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households (2011). Efforts to use the documents to provide statutory services to these children have shown gaps in the uniformity and standardisation of services rendered to children in these households. Although the Department of Social Development has set guidelines for service delivery to child-headed households, there is no certainty on how successfully these guidelines have been implemented to address the needs of this target group.

This situation motivated the researcher to explore the nature of social work services rendered to child-headed households and compare it with the guidelines in order to identify the gaps and to make possible recommendations. The researcher did a document analysis to identify the services provided to child-headed households. A comparative analysis was done against the set guidelines. The researcher used thematic analysis to identify the key services rendered to child-headed households.

To analyse the data, the researcher manually arranged qualitative data into identified salient themes, ideas, and patterns.

Title: A comparative analysis of social work services to child-headed households in Moses Kotane Local Municipality

Keywords: social work services, child-headed households, comparative analysis

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	I
DEDICATION.....	II
FOREWORD.....	III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	IV
SOCIAL WORK/MAATSKAPLIKE WERK.....	IV
SUMMARY.....	VI
SECTION A: INTRODUCTION AND ORIENTATION.....	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Contextualisation and problem statement	3
1.3 Contribution of the study.....	7
1.4 Research question.....	7
1.5 Aim and objectives	7
1.6 Methodology.....	8
1.6.1 Research design	8
1.6.2 Population	9
1.7 Sample	10
1.7.1 Sampling method.....	10
1.7.2 Sample inclusion criteria	11
1.7.3 Sample exclusion criteria.....	11
1.7.4 Sample size and motivation	11
1.8 Data gathering process.....	12

1.9	ETHICS.....	13
1.10	Trustworthiness	16
1.11	Data analysis methods.....	16
1.12	Choice and structure of the report.....	18
1.13	Additional ethical issues.....	19
1.13.1	Expertise of researchers.....	19
1.13.2	Risk level of the study	20
1.13.3	Dissemination of results	20
2.	Reference list.....	21

**SECTION B: RESEARCH TITLE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL
WORK SERVICES TO CHILD-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS IN MOSES KOTANE
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

		25
1.	INTRODUCTION AND PROBLEM FORMULATION	26
2.	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	30
2.1	Results of findings.....	31
3.	RESEARCH FINDINGS	32
3.1	Background information on each case	32
3.2	Comparison of services provided to child-headed households with the Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households and the norms and standards related to child-headed households as prescribed in the Children’s Act 38 of 2005.....	37
3.3	Summary	47
4.	Reference list.....	48

SECTION C: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	51
1 Introduction	51
2 Literature review	51
3 Empirical study.....	52
4 Methodology.....	52
5 Ethical aspects.....	52
6 Data analysis	53
7 Procedure	53
8 Findings	53
9 Contribution of the study.....	53
10 Limitation of the study	53
11 Conclusion.....	54
12 Recommendations.....	55
13. Reference List	56
SECTION D: ADDENDA.....	57
ADDENDUM 1: ETHICS APPROVAL LETTER OF STUDY	57
ADDENDUM 2: REQUEST TO CONDUCT RESEARCH (LETTER TO SERVICE POINT MANAGER – MOSES KOTANE)	59
ADDENDUM 3: APPROVAL LETTER FROM SERVICE POINT MANAGER (MOSES KOTANE – DSD).....	61
ADDENDUM 4: REQUEST TO CONDUCT RESEARCH (LETTER TO PROVINCIAL DSD).....	62
ADDENDUM 5: APPROVAL LETTER FROM HEAD OF DEPARTMENT (NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL DSD)	64

ADDENDUM 6: LETTER FROM LANGUAGE EDITOR 65

LIST OF TABLES AND GRAPHS

TABLE 1: NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR CHILD-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS 37

**GRAPH 1: REASONS FOR RECOGNISING AS A CHILD- HEADED
HOUSEHOLD 40**

GRAPH 2: SERVICES RECEIVED BY CHILD-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS 43

SECTION A: INTRODUCTION AND ORIENTATION

1.1 Introduction

The phenomenon of child-headed households (CHHs) is challenging and multifaceted. The increased morbidity and mortality rates among adults as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, poverty, violence, and sexual coercion have resulted in a growing number of child-headed families (UNICEF, 2012). In South Africa, the impact of HIV/AIDS has been exacerbated by social challenges such as poverty and socio-economic imbalances that already existed in various communities. These challenges have increased the physical and emotional exposure of child-headed households (Agere, 2018).

The definition of a child-headed household contained in section 137 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005 includes a household in which a child over the age of 16 has assumed the role of caregiver, even if there is an adult living in the household who, for instance, is very old or terminally ill and is unable to take responsibility for heading the household. The definition of such a child-headed household is dependent on its identification by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and welfare services and a discretionary decision by the provincial head of the Department of Social Development that it is in the best interests of the children in the household for it to be defined as a child-headed household (Underhill, 2015).

Children in child-headed households are among the most vulnerable, and the protection of their rights deserves to be the main focus of all individuals and agencies dealing with these children. Such children have special needs and are extremely vulnerable to abuse; exploitation, child trafficking, and commercial sex work due to the fact that they do not have an adult to ensure their protection and safety. Therefore, there is a need to have guidelines for statutory services

for child-headed households to ensure that their rights are protected (Department of Social Development: National Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households, 2010).

Agere (2014) indicates that the extremely rapid growth in the number of orphaned and destitute children makes it difficult for families and communities to respond in the traditional manner of taking these children into extended families. According to Geldenhuys (2016), it is widely acknowledged that children living in child-headed households are extremely vulnerable: they are confronted with a multitude of difficulties in their everyday lives, the principal of these being the lack of having an adult living with, managing, and protecting them. Being in a child-headed household has profound implications for children. Evans and Becker (2009) state that the children heading households are often found to be fulfilling parental roles and carrying out tasks such as household chores, helping siblings with homework, and providing spiritual guidance to family and siblings.

According to Nyizane (2010), in the past, African indigenous cultures did not allow children to grow up in child-headed households. Soji (2013) comments that, traditionally, the family, in particular the extended family, fulfilled an array of important functions for its members and society, such as family formation, economic support, and socialisation. The accomplishment of these roles enabled individual members of families to develop a sense of competence, belonging, personal and society identity, as well as meaning and direction in life, and knowledge about the fulfilment of life, and to experience the fulfilment of basic needs and achievement of physical, psychological, societal, and spiritual growth.

Masondo (2006) found that the rate of non-attendance or poor attendance of school among Child headed households in South Africa was high. Mkhize (2006) notes that other reasons for children who are living in or heading child-headed households not attending school or being absent most of the time include the fact that they must take care of siblings or sick parents.

Children leading households may experience difficulty focusing on their own education while bearing the responsibility for a household.

Phillip (2011) argues that children living in child-headed households generally have no access to grants due to their being minors and, as such, are ineligible to apply for support without the requisite assistance of an adult. Phillip (2011), furthermore, reports that children in child-headed households usually live in inadequate dwellings and in extreme poverty, without any financial support. In some cases, land and other assets have been sold during the illness of the parents to pay medical costs.

1.2 Contextualisation and problem statement

The Children's Amendment Act 41 of 2007 states that a household is recognised as a child-headed household if the parent or caregiver of the household is terminally ill, has died, or has abandoned the child, no adult family member is available to care for the children in the household, and a child over the age of 16 years has assumed the role of caregiver in respect of the children in the household. The HIV and AIDS pandemic has disrupted families, communities, and social structures and has led to a marked increase in the number of child-headed households. A general household survey done by Statistics South Africa (2015) showed that there were about 80 000 children in 40 000 child-headed households. While this figure is not large in relation to the total number of children in the country, this is still cause for concern. Child-headed households are at risk of having to cope without parental care or regular income and are in areas where services are poor. In addition, this vulnerable group must deal with emotional strain and is more likely to be abused and exploited (Worku & Morrow, 2016). They are often poor, live in poor conditions, and are exposed to hard labour (Khoza & Mokwena, 2016; Ngconjana, 2017 & Statistics South Africa; 2015). Howarth (2007) indicates that children are also at risk of poor education, as they quite often lack money to pay their school

fees or those of their siblings. Other risks identified by Howarth (2007) relate to employability because of poor education and lack of skills, disease, and commercial sex work, crime, pregnancy, poor or no shelter, and no knowledge about their rights. They are exposed to emotional trauma, as they may have to cope with multiple losses in the form of death, siblings' dispersal, relocation, and reconstruction of the family after the death of parents (Lets' Opha & Jacobs, 2017).

Greenberg (2007) emphasises that, while all children require protection, state agencies in partnership with communities should be more vigilant in protecting children in child-headed households because they are at risk of being sexually abused and exploited. Foster (2014) states that children who grow up without parental or adult care face unrelenting problems such as food insecurity, problems of access to education and skills training, the struggle to meet material needs, the absence of an extended family network, poor housing conditions and insecurity of tenure, and poor access to health care. Malnutrition is a greater hazard for them than for any other children. Raniga and Seepamore (2017) indicate that, although the government has made available mechanisms such as food security through social relief of distress programmes in South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the Department of Social Development, foster care placement, and grants to support children living in vulnerable circumstances, problems exist that cast doubt on the ability of the systems in place to meet the needs of these children, as many eligible children do not receive the necessary support. Foster (2014) remarks that it may sometimes take several months or even years for children to receive state benefits such as social grants or food parcels. Children are not permitted to apply for social grants or birth registration on their own. Child-headed households do receive services, but the question is whether these services are in line with the guidelines.

Other challenges, as outlined by Schafer (2011), are that some of the children in child-headed households require an urgent response from the state to realise the right to shelter, as they live in unsafe housing conditions that expose them to further harm and danger. Van Breda (2010) points out that the impact of poverty on children is that they end up living and working on the street and turn to crime and prostitution.

According to the National Social Development Strategic Plan (2015 to 2020), social service practitioners or organisations are mandated to provide programmes and services to child-headed households according to various national and international agreements. These include services aimed at protecting children's rights as entrenched in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996, the Children's Act 38 of 2005, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (2001).

The National Department of Social Development developed the National Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households (2010) and the Strategy on Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households (2011). Efforts to use the documents to provide statutory services to these children have shown gaps in the uniformity and standardisation of services offered to children in these households (Mokomane & Molefi, 2015). At present, the Department of Social Development is developing a consolidated strategy and guidelines on the rendering of statutory services to child-headed households. The objective of the combined document is to promote the rights of children in CHHs to reach their full potential within their communities, striving for the prevention of, and early intervention in, problems and a continuum of care through a multidisciplinary and inter-sectoral approach. The aim of the social service profession is similarly to improve the social functioning of child-headed households (Agere, 2018).

In the National Social Development Strategic Plan (2015 to 2020), there are programmes that are offered to CHHs by social workers employed by the Department of Social Development. The national guidelines for statutory services to CHHs developed by the DSD (2010) indicate that programmes that are supposed to be offered to child-headed households include child protection services, family care services, psychosocial support services, skills development, group work, and community work services. However, the situation in practice is that, although government has programmes in place for CHHs, they still face challenges on a daily basis. The researcher is a social worker at the Department of Social Development and is aware of challenges that still face CHHs, although services are rendered to them, for example, increased responsibilities of house chores, taking care of a terminally ill parent, the stigma of a parent being sick or dead, a lack of grief support, an increased risk of starvation and malnutrition as a result of poverty, sexual exploitation, and increased school absenteeism, withdrawal, and poor performance.

Moses Kotane Local Municipality is located within Bojanala District in North West Province. According to Moses Kotane Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for the financial year 2017/2022 it is mostly rural in nature, comprising 107 villages and two formal townships of Mogwase and Madikwe. This municipality reports a high number of child-headed households, based on the statistics of the Department of Social Development.

Therefore, it is important that the nature of the services that are provided to child-headed households be explored to identify the gaps and the reasons why this vulnerable group still faces challenges. This study aimed to provide insight into the social work services rendered to child-headed households in Moses Kotane Municipality and to benchmark these against existing guidelines. By benchmarking these services against the National guidelines for

services to child-headed households (DSD, 2010), the quality and the type of services could be identified.

1.3 Contribution of the study

In South Africa, the move towards legally recognising child-headed households resulted in the inclusion of child-headed households in the Children's Act 38 of 2005, as amended by the Children's Amendment Act 41 of 2007. Through the literature study that was done, a gap was identified in research regarding services rendered to child-headed households for the period 2012 to 2018. As mentioned, guidelines were not effectively implemented, resulting in non-standardisation of services provided to child-headed households.

This study explored current services rendered to child-headed households and how these correlated with existing guidelines. The findings of this study can contribute to the development of new interventions for these households. This research indicated the gaps in current services offered to child-headed households and future programme developments.

1.4 Research question

How do social work services provided to child-headed households in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality compare with the national guidelines?

1.5 Aim and objectives

The aim of the study was to do a comparative analysis of social work services provided to child-headed households in Moses Kotane Local Municipality against existing guidelines for social work services rendered to child-headed households.

The objectives of the study were as follows:

- To do a document analysis of the case files of social workers regarding social work services rendered to child-headed households.
- To explore whether the social work services rendered to child-headed households were in line with the guidelines for social work services (National guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households, 2010).

1.6 Methodology

1.6.1.1 Research design

This study was qualitative in nature. Qualitative research focuses on describing and understanding phenomena within their naturally occurring context (called naturalistic context) with the intention of developing an understanding of the meaning(s) imparted by respondents (Grinnell & Unrau, 2011; Maree, 2007). By using a qualitative approach, an attempt was made to understand the nature and quality of social work services rendered to child-headed households.

Due to the lack of information on the quality of services and the proper implementation of these services when measured against the guidelines for child-headed households (National guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households, 2010), the researcher was of the view that it was an appropriate area of research for the study. De Vos, Strydom, Fouché, and Delport (2011) mention that exploratory research is conducted to gain insight into a situation, phenomenon, community, or individual. The need for such a study could arise out of a lack of basic information on a new area of interest or in order to become conversant with a situation for the purpose of formulating a problem or developing a hypothesis.

This study was descriptive in nature. According to Botma, Greef, Mulaudzi and Wright (2010), descriptive research is used when the researcher wants to give a description of an event or a phenomenon. The researcher wanted to describe the nature of services offered to child-headed households through a document analysis and to benchmark these services against the existing guidelines (Department of Social Development: National guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households, 2010). This was implemented through a document analysis to examine the content of the case files of social workers rendering services to child-headed households. According to Bowen (2009), a document analysis is a systematic procedure for reviewing or evaluating documents. These social work services were also compared with existing guidelines for services provided to child-headed households (Department of Social Development: National guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households, 2010).

1.6.2 Population

The study focused on the analysis of the content of case files of social workers rendering services to child-headed households and benchmarked the social work services against the Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households. The population included all case files of social workers of the Department of Social Development rendering social work services to child-headed households in the Moses Kotane Municipality. Moses Kotane Local Municipality is located within Bojanala District in North West Province. It is mostly rural in nature, comprising of 107 villages and two formal townships of Mogwase and Madikwe (Moses Kotane Local Municipality Final Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for financial year 2017/2020) . The focus was on cases for the period 2012 to 2018. The reason was that the researcher wanted to get a picture of the services rendered and benchmark these against the guidelines for social work services offered to child-headed households that were introduced in 2010 and 2011 (National guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households, 2010).

1.7 Sample

The case files of social workers employed by the Department of Social Development in Moses Kotane Municipality who provided social work services to child-headed households were studied and analysed.

1.7.1 Sampling method

Maree (2007) states that sampling refers to the process used to select a portion of the population for study. Non-probability sampling was used for this study. Bless and Higson-Smith (2013) describe non-probability sampling as meaning that the probability of including each element of the population is not known. The focus was on purposive sampling. According to Delport and Fouche (2011), in purposive sampling, a particular case is chosen because it illustrates some feature or process that is of interest for a particular study.

Procedure

The Department of Social Development has two offices in Moses Kotane Municipality: Mogwase service office and Madikwe service office. The researcher chose this municipality because the municipality had the highest number of child-headed households in the Bojanala District based on statistics. Moses Kotane Local Municipality is a mining area. People move from their place of origin to Moses Kotane Local Municipality for employment purpose. Their children does not know their place of origin or extended families, when their parents die they end up being CHHs. Each office had 15 social workers working in the child protection programme. The case files of only 15 social workers (15 from both offices) employed by the Department of Social Development who provided social work services for the children living in child-headed households in Moses Kotane Municipality were selected for inclusion in this study.

The Register for Child-Headed Households was used to select the files of these social workers. Criteria included that social workers had to be part of the programme for at least three months. Cases from 2012 to 2018 were selected because the guidelines were implemented in 2011. The Department of Social Development was asked for permission to access the files in these two offices, and it was included in the request for permission for the research.

1.7.2 Sample inclusion criteria

- The case files of social workers who had at least three months' experience regarding service rendering to child-headed households
- All cases of the social workers for child-headed households
- All case files from social workers of Moses Kotane Local Municipality
- Case files for the period 2012 to 2018
- All long-term and short-term cases

1.7.3 Sample exclusion criteria

- Cases that were not focused on child-headed households
- The researcher's caseload

1.7.4 Sample size and motivation

As mentioned, the Department of Social Development has two offices in Moses Kotane Municipality. The cases of all 15 social workers from the two offices were selected to be part of the study. These cases were selected based on social work services rendered between 2012 and 2018 after the implementation of the National Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-

Headed Households (2010). These social worker case files were selected by the mediator (supervisor).

1.8 Data gathering process

Core themes were developed from the Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households and compared with the results of the services as identified in the files. According to Ritchie and Lewis as cited in De Vos et al. (2011), documentary analysis involves the study of existing documents, either to understand their substantive content or to illuminate deeper meanings that may be revealed by their style and coverage. The researcher implemented the following steps regarding document analysis as outlined in Strydom and Delport (2011):

- The initial research question was formulated.
- Starting a research diary: the researcher routinely made notes of all courses of action.
- The researcher found possible sources of material and began to generate an archive. This was achieved by gathering pre-existing data from the case files of the social workers.
- Transcribing the texts in some detail: the researcher worked through each file and made notes.
- Coding: once familiar with the data, the researcher then started identifying preliminary codes, which were the features of the data that appeared in specific themes. The researcher identified the service type in each file. A service code list based on what was identified in each case file was developed.
- The researcher then analysed these and formulated tentative findings.

- Subsequently, the researcher checked the credibility, validity, and reliability of the findings through analysing deviant cases and compared the findings with the Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households.
- This was followed by writing the report.

1.9 ETHICS

Legal authorisation

The Department of Social Development of the North West province gave the researcher permission to conduct the research, (Addendum 3). The researcher was granted ethics clearance by the Health Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of the North-West University (NWU) before commencement of the research, (Addendum 1). Ethics number is NWU-00493-19-A1.

Goodwill permission/consent

A goodwill permission letter was obtained from the Department of Social Development, North West province. The service point managers acted as mediators and were requested to communicate information to the supervisors of the different offices.

Confidentiality, anonymity, and privacy

De Vos et al (2011) states that privacy implies the element of personal privacy, while confidentiality indicates the handling of information in a confidential manner. The researcher was of the view that the disclosure of identities would be a violation of privacy. Morris (2006) asserts that this principle can be violated in a number of ways and that it is imperative that the researcher be reminded of the importance of safeguarding the privacy and identity of respondents and acting with the necessary sensitivity where the privacy of a subject is relevant. This idea is supported by Mkhize (2006) in her argument that, even though relative confidentiality is sometimes applied in social work practice, social workers use “pseudo-names” to conceal the identity of participants. For this study, the content of the files was

anonymised before handing these to the researcher. The justification for concealing cases in this study was that issues that people found sensitive might arise in document analysis. The researcher signed a contract with the office supervisors that confirmed that she would not reveal any information from the files to any third party. It would be unethical of the researcher to reveal the identity of clients. The researcher did not use individuals' names or identity numbers or any identity documents from the case files. No personal information from the case files was revealed in the final report or to any outside people.

The researcher requested private offices for doing document analysis, since no files could leave the offices. These offices were private and had the necessary equipment such as a table and chair.

All hard-copy research documents were kept in a lockable cabinet, and electronic documents were password-protected. See the section on the storage of data below for further details.

Role players

The head of the Department of Social Development was the gatekeeper of this study, and the service point managers of the particular offices acted as mediators.

Facilities

The researcher requested that she be allowed to study the case files at each particular office, since case files could not be taken out of the offices. As previously mentioned the offices were private and had all the necessary equipment.

Storage of data

Once data collection commenced, the researcher kept all hard copies secure in a locked cabinet in her office. Electronic information was kept on a personal computer, which was password-

protected, and backup hard copies were stored in a locked cabinet, with only the supervisor and the researcher being able to access the information.

After completion of the research and at the time of submitting the final report for examination, the complete data set was given to compress for storage for the institution-required period of five years, after which it would be destroyed.

Experience of participants

For the purpose of this study, only case files of social workers with more than one year of experience in working with child-headed households were used.

Risk-benefit analysis

The intended research aimed specifically at including case files of social workers who provided social work interventions for children in child-headed households. The study was desk-based and involved no direct interaction with participants. The study could benefit the social worker, the community, the child-headed household, and policy development to know whether the CHH needed the particular services, what the gaps in the services were, and what could be done to provide effective and efficient services. The research could allow the parties involved to gain insight into the subject and give them the opportunity to talk about it. The risks related to this study were minimal, and the benefits outweighed the risks.

Vulnerable participants

The study was desk-based and did not include vulnerable participants.

1.10 Trustworthiness

Credibility/Authenticity

To get consensus on the meaning of the data, the research supervisors also checked the data and analysis and conducted reflective discussions with the researcher.

Transferability

The aim of qualitative research is not to generalise; however, the research should be described clearly, so that the reader can decide whether the findings and recommendations can be applied to his/her client populations (Schurink et al., 2011). Here the researcher asked whether the findings of the research could be transferred from a specific situation or case to another, so that the reader could decide whether the findings and recommendations could be applied to other populations (Schurink et al., 2011). The researcher ensured transferability by describing the context and setting of the study in detail (Braun & Clarke, 2013).

Dependability

De Vos et al, (2011) indicate that, in this regard, the researcher should ask whether the research process is logical, well documented, and audited. The researcher described the methodology in detail in the research report and also gave a detailed description of the data and data collection process. The researcher did the coding as accurately as possible.

Conformability

De Vos et al. (2011) stress the need to ask whether the findings of the study can be confirmed by another. The researcher kept evidence of the research findings to be validated.

1.11 Data analysis methods

Maree (2016) points out that qualitative data analysis is usually based on an interpretative philosophy that is aimed at examining the meaningful and symbolic content of qualitative data.

It tries to establish how participants make meaning of a specific phenomenon by analysing their perceptions, attitudes, understanding, knowledge, values, feelings, and experiences in an attempt to approximate their construction of the phenomenon. This is best achieved through a process of deductive analysis of qualitative data where the main purpose is to allow research findings to emerge from the frequent, dominant, or significant themes inherent in raw data, without the restraints imposed by a more structured theoretical orientation.

For the purpose of this qualitative study, the researcher used thematic data analysis which was conducted by manually identifying themes. The researcher followed the six steps prescribed by Braun and Clarke (2013).

Familiarising yourself with your data

Firstly, the researcher performed content analysis by gathering all the collected data from the relevant documents.

The researcher transcribed and read (and reread) the transcripts. Any initial ideas were noted. It was important that the researcher had a comprehensive understanding of the content of the case files and familiarised herself with all aspects of the data. This step provided the foundation for the subsequent analysis.

Generating initial codes

Once familiar with the data, the researcher started identifying preliminary codes, which were the features of the data that appeared interesting and meaningful. These codes were more numerous and specific than themes, but provided an indication of the context of the case files.

Searching for themes

The third step in the process was the start of the interpretive analysis of the collated codes. Relevant data extracts were sorted (combined or split) according to overarching themes. The researcher identified the relationship between codes, subthemes, and themes.

Reviewing themes

A deeper review of identified themes followed, where the researcher questioned whether to combine, refine, separate, or discard initial themes. Data within themes had to cohere meaningfully, and there had to be clear and identifiable distinctions between themes. This was done over two phases, where the themes were checked in relation to the coded extracts (Phase 1) and then for the overall data set (Phase 2). A thematic map was generated from this step.

Defining and naming themes

This step involved refining and defining the themes and potential subthemes within the data. Ongoing analysis was required to further enhance the identified themes. The researcher provided theme names and clear working definitions that captured the essence of each theme in a concise and punchy manner. At this point, a unified story of the data needed to emerge from the themes.

The researcher then compared the data themes with the national guidelines on services provided to child-headed households.

Producing the report

Finally, the researcher transformed her analysis into an interpretable piece of writing by using vivid and compelling extract examples that related to the themes, research question, and literature. The report relayed the results of the analysis in a way that would convince the reader

of the merit and validity of the analysis. It went beyond a mere description of the themes and gave an analysis supported by empirical evidence that addressed the research question.

1.12 Choice and structure of the report

The journal *Social Work* will be considered for publication.

Structure of the research report

Tentative title: A comparative analysis of social work services to child-headed households in Moses Kotane Local Municipality

Section A

Introduction and orientation

Section B

Research Article

Section C

Conclusion and Recommendations

Section D

Addenda

1.13 Additional ethical issues

1.13.1 Expertise of researchers

The researcher is a qualified social worker with a degree in Social Work. She is also busy with a master's degree in Child Protection and regards herself as skilful to implement the study. The supervisors, Dr Simeon and Dr Mokwele, both have PhDs in Social Work. They have experience in qualitative research, document analysis, and mixed-methods research.

1.13.2 Risk level of the study

As mentioned in the section on risk-benefit analysis, this study had minimal risks. No human participants were used in the study.

1.13.3 Dissemination of results

The research findings will be made available to the Department of Social Development. This report will be presented to the managers of the child-headed household's programme, who will then disseminate it to other organisations in their various areas.

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SECTION B: RESEARCH TITLE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES TO CHILD-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS IN MOSES KOTANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Ms SD Ramokoka is a student doing a Master's of Social Work in Child Protection at the North-West University. Her supervisor, Dr E Simeon, and co-supervisor, Dr R Mokwele, are senior lecturers in the School of Psychosocial Behavioural Sciences of the Social Work division at the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University.

Abstract

It is widely recognised that children living in child-headed households are extremely vulnerable; they are confronted with a multitude of complications in their everyday lives, the most serious of these being the lack of an adult and protection. The children heading such households are regularly found to be fulfilling parental roles and carrying out tasks such as household chores, helping siblings with homework, and providing spiritual guidance to family and siblings.

Child-headed households have developed into a communal and fundamental part of South African society. Millions of children have lost their parents and/or caregivers due to a multiplicity of reasons, of which the HIV/AIDS pandemic can be singled out as the main cause. Families and communities are presently unable to cope with the effects of HIV and AIDS, with special emphasis on the care and support of the affected orphans and vulnerable children who, as a result, have been obligated to look after themselves, giving rise to a new type of family, the child-headed household. The occurrence of this type of family needs government's response in terms of care and support.

This study deliberated on observed data obtained from qualitative research that concentrated on a comparative analysis of social work services provided to child-headed households against the existing guidelines for social work services provided to child-headed households developed by the Department of Social Development. These guidelines identify norms and standards for services offered to child-headed households.

This study revealed that there were gaps that needed to be addressed in terms of social work services provided to child-headed households.

Keywords: social work services, child-headed households, comparative analysis

1. INTRODUCTION AND PROBLEM FORMULATION

The Children's Amendment Act 41 of 2007 states that a household is recognised as a child-headed household (CHH) if the parent or caregiver of the household is terminally ill, has died, or has abandoned the child, no adult family member is available to care for the children in the household, and a child over the age of 16 years has assumed the role of caregiver in respect of the children in the household. The HIV and AIDS pandemic has disrupted families, communities, and social structures and has led to a marked increase in the number of child-headed households. A general household survey done by Statistics South Africa (2015) showed that there were about 80 000 children in 40 000 child-headed households. While this figure is not large in relation to the total number of children in the country, this is still cause for concern. Child-headed households are at risk of having to cope without parental care or regular income and are in areas where services are poor. In addition, this vulnerable group must deal with emotional strain and is more likely to be abused and exploited (Worku & Morrow, 2016). They are often poor, live in poor conditions, and are exposed to hard labour (Khoza & Mokwena (2016), Ngconjana (2017) and Statistics South Africa (2015)). Howarth (2007) indicates that children are also at risk of poor education, as they quite often lack money to pay their school fees or those of their siblings. Other risks identified by Howarth (2007) relate to employability because of poor education and lack of skills, disease, and commercial sex work, crime, pregnancy, poor or no shelter, and no knowledge about their rights. They are exposed to emotional trauma, as they may have to cope with multiple losses in the form of death, siblings' dispersal, relocation, and reconstruction of the family after the death of parents (Lets 'Opha & Jacobs, 2017).

Greenberg (2007) emphasises that, while all children require protection, state agencies in partnership with communities should be more vigilant in protecting children in child-headed

households because they are at risk of being sexually abused and exploited. Foster (2014) states that children who grow up without parental or adult care face unrelenting problems such as food insecurity, problems of access to education and skills training, the struggle to meet material needs, the absence of an extended family network, poor housing conditions and insecurity of tenure, and poor access to health care. They are at greater risk of malnutrition than any other children. Raniga and Seepamore (2017) indicate that, although the government has made available mechanisms such as food security through social relief of distress programmes in South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the DSD, foster care placement, and grants to support children living in vulnerable circumstances, problems exist that cast doubt on the ability of the systems in place to meet the needs of those children, as many eligible children do not receive the necessary support. Foster (2014) remarks that it may sometimes take several months or even years for children to receive state benefits such as social grants or food parcels. Children are not allowed to apply for social grants or birth registration on their own. Child-headed households do receive services, but the question is whether these services are in line with the guidelines.

Other challenges, as outlined by Shafer (2011), are that some of the children in child-headed households require an urgent response from the state to realise the right to shelter, as they live in unsafe housing conditions that expose them to further harm and danger. Van Breda (2010) points out that the impact of poverty on children is that they end up living and working on the street and turn to crime and prostitution.

According to the National Social Development Strategic Plan (2015 to 2020), social service practitioners or organisations are mandated to provide programmes and services to child-headed households according to various national and international agreements. These include services aimed at protecting children's rights as entrenched in the African Charter on the Rights

and Welfare of the Child (2001). Constitution of the Republic South Africa Act 108 of 1996, the Children's Act 38 of 2005 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

The National Department of Social Development (DSD) developed the National Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households (2010) and the Strategy on Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households (2011). Efforts to use the documents to provide statutory services to these children have shown gaps in the uniformity and standardisation of services offered to children in these households (Mokomane & Molefi, 2015). At present, the Department of Social Development is developing a consolidated strategy and guidelines on the rendering of statutory services to child-headed households. The objective of the consolidated document is to promote the rights of children in CHHs to reach their full potential within their communities, focusing on the prevention of, and early intervention in, problems and a continuum of care through a multidisciplinary and inter-sectoral approach. The aim of the social service profession is similarly to enhance the social functioning of child-headed households.

In the National Social Development Strategic Plan (2015 to 2020), there are programmes that are offered to CHHs by social workers employed by the DSD. The national guidelines for statutory services to CHHs developed by the DSD (2010) indicate that programmes that are supposed to be offered to child-headed households include child protection services, family care services, psychosocial support services, skills development, group work, and community work services. However, the situation in practice is that, although government has programmes in place for CHHs, they still face challenges on a daily basis. The researcher is a social worker at the Department of Social Development and is aware of challenges that still face child-headed households, although services are rendered to them, for example, increased responsibilities of

house chores, taking care of a terminally ill parent, the stigma of a parent being sick or dead, a lack of grief support, an increased risk of starvation and malnutrition as a result of poverty, sexual exploitation, and increased school absenteeism, withdrawal, and poor performance.

Therefore, it is important that the nature of the services that are provided to child-headed households be explored to identify the gaps and the reasons why this vulnerable group still faces challenges. Moses Kotane Local Municipality is situated in the Bojanala District in the North West Province. The municipality is rural in nature, comprising of 107 villages and 2 formal townships of Mogwase and Madikwe. Moses Kotane Local Municipality population was estimated at 242 553 by 2011 census compared to 237 175 by census 2001. It has 31 wards. The municipality has a predominantly African population with fewer Indians, coloureds and white groups who are mostly residing in Sun City residence and Mogwase Unit 2. Moses Kotane Local Municipality's economy is dominated by the mining industry. Agriculture and Tourism which forms the backbone of the provincial economy, contributing to the employment figure. The Pilanesburg/Madikwe Corridor (Heritage Park) represents major new tourism initiative within the Moses Kotane Local Municipality. The initiative has the potential to act as a catalyst for greater economic investment into the municipality. Other than the Pilanesburg Nature Reserve and the Sun City complex which are the main tourist centres in the municipality there are other smaller isolated nature reserves like the Madikwe, Impala, Kwa Maritane, Manyane, Bakgatka and Bakubung game reserve. Other tourism facilities comprise of the Molatedi dam, Madikwe dam, the Roodeval farm and the Kolotwane River valley. (Moses Kotane Local Municipality Final IDP for the financial year (2017/2020)). People move to Moses Kotane Local Municipality from their area of origin because of the employment to mining and when they die most of the children does not know their place of origin or their extended family members as a results children become child-headed households. This study aimed to provide insight into the social work services rendered to child-headed households in

Moses Kotane Municipality and to benchmark these against existing guidelines. By benchmarking these services against the guidelines, the aim was to do a comparative analysis of social work services provided to child-headed households in Moses Kotane Local Municipality against existing guidelines for social work services rendered to child-headed households.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The aim of this study was to do a comparative analysis of social work services provided to child-headed households in Moses Kotane Local Municipality against existing guidelines for social work services rendered to child-headed households. A qualitative research approach was followed (Grinnell & Unrau, 2011; Maree, 2007). By using a qualitative approach, an attempt was made to understand the nature and quality of social work services offered to child-headed households compared with the guidelines implemented by the Department of Social Development.

The study was descriptive in nature. According to Botma, Greef, Mulaudzi & Wright (2010), descriptive research is used when the researcher wants to give a description of an event or a phenomenon. The researcher described the nature of services offered to child-headed households through a document analysis and benchmarked these services against the existing guidelines (National guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households, 2010). This was implemented through a document analysis to examine the content of the case files of social workers rendering services to child-headed households. According to Bowen (2009), a document analysis is a systematic procedure for reviewing or evaluating documents. These social work services were also compared with existing guidelines for services provided to child-headed households (National guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households, 2010).

The study made use of purposive sampling to identify case files of social workers on child-headed households to be analysed and benchmarked against the existing guidelines. According to Strydom and Delpont (2011), in purposive sampling, a particular case is chosen because it illustrates some feature or process that is of interest for a particular study.

According to Ritchie and Lewis as cited in De Vos et al. (2011), documentary analysis involves the study of existing documents, either to understand their substantive content or to illuminate deeper meanings that may be revealed by their style and coverage.

The researcher implemented various steps regarding document analysis as outlined in Strydom and Delpont (2011). Core themes were developed from the Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households and compared with the results of the services as identified in the files. To analyse the data, the researcher manually arranged qualitative data into identified salient themes, ideas, and patterns (Maree, 2016). The study adhered to the ethical guidelines as approved by the Health Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University.

2.1 Results of findings

The findings of the research will now be discussed.

Fifteen cases were used, from which different themes were identified. Theme 1 focuses on the process of recognition of the child-headed household. Theme 2 is centred on the functioning of the household. This includes the nature of relationships among siblings, stable emotional support, material protection of members, stable and consistent rules, and respect given to the child heading the household by siblings. Theme 3 focuses on a safe and nurturing environment for children, which consists of the following, among others: adequate nutrition, water, and means of preparing food; adequate health care for children; the right to rest, leisure, and play;

respect for the culture, language, and development of the child; and access to psychosocial support. Theme 4 concentrates on services and skills development, which include application for birth registration, social assistance, social and community services, access to education, and the development of skills. Theme 5 revolves around the protection of property. Theme 6 addresses exposure to harm, violence, and abuse. Theme 7 focuses on the mental and physical health of the children, and Theme 8 is centred on supervision of the child-headed household. Theme 9 focuses on the gaps identified.

Firstly, each case will be discussed, followed by a comparison of the services rendered by the social worker with the norms and standards and a comparison of the interventions with the mentioned norms and standards applied or adhered to by the social worker. Secondly, gaps in the interventions will be identified. In the third place, a comparative summary will be given of the themes around which services were mostly rendered.

The aim was to compare the services with the themes to identify similarities in services and existing gaps.

3. RESEARCH FINDINGS

3.1 Background information on each case

Case No. 1

The child's mother was deceased, and the father's whereabouts were unknown. The child was 17 years old when the case was reported by a concerned community member. The child dropped out of school when he was in Grade 11. The family was from outside Moses Kotane village, and their relatives lived far away. The security of the child's home environment was not good enough, as the home was not well fenced as per the assessment report. The child was living at home alone.

Case No. 2

The children's father was physically disabled, and the mother was deceased. The eldest child was 16 years old, the second child was 13, and the youngest was 10. During the assessment, poor school attendance of the 16-year-old was indicated. The children were living alone.

Case No. 3

The child's mother and father were both originally from Mozambique. The child's mother passed away and was buried in Moses Kotane Local Municipality. The father was said to be in Mozambique. During the tracing of the father, it was also indicated that he had passed away and was buried in Mozambique. The child (a 16-year-old boy) was left alone. The child did not have an identity document, although he was born in South Africa. The neighbour who reported the case was the person who was voluntarily assisting and supervising the child. The process of obtaining a document from the Department of Home Affairs was a challenge due to Home Affairs policy, the implementation of late registration of a birth, and the legal documents of the parents. The child was a Grade 11 learner using a clinic card to register at school. The social worker did not immediately ensure the safety and protection of the child or any necessary emergency support required, as a neighbour was already volunteering as a supervising adult.

Case No. 4

The two children's mother was deceased, and their father was staying in another town. He was unemployed, but looking for a job. The older child was 15 and the younger 13 years old. Their other relatives were living in another town.

Case No. 5

The children's mother left them without informing any adult in the village. She told the children that she was going to look for a job. The case was reported by a concerned neighbour. The mother was traced, and a case was opened at the South African Police Service for both a missing person and child neglect. There had been no progress in terms of the investigations. The mother's telephone was turned off when she realised that a case had been opened against her. She could no longer be traced, and no one was sure of her whereabouts. The children continued to live alone at their home until a supervising adult was appointed by the social worker.

Case No. 6

The children's mother left them to work as a domestic worker in Johannesburg. The two children, a boy aged 16 and a girl aged 13, were left alone. The elder child's school attendance was reported to be poor, and he was at school during the assessment. He was also reported to be repeating Grade 8 due to a lack of support and parental guidance. The mother was interviewed telephonically. She indicated that she would take the children the following year to register them at schools in Johannesburg and stay with them, but she did not come, and her cell phone had been off since then. The mother could not be traced, as no one knew exactly where in Gauteng she was. The children continued to live alone.

Case No. 7

The children's parents were deceased, and they were staying with their maternal grandmother. The family's house burnt down, but the family did not know what had caused the fire. The grandmother was hospitalised for almost seven months due to injuries sustained during the fire. She passed away while she was hospitalised. The children were then left with a mentally ill

aunt, who had also been part of the family before the house burnt down. A shack house was built for the family through a community member's financial and physical contribution. The children were 13 and 15 years old.

Case No. 8

The children were staying with their mentally disabled grandmother who was unable to care for them. The case was reported by a community member. The grandmother was 85 years of age, and the children were 16 and 14 years old. The grandmother was a danger to herself, the children, and other community members, as she was mentally ill.

Case No. 9

The parents were deceased, and the children were left alone after the death of their parents. The children (15 and 12 years old) had been living alone for almost three years before the case was reported by a community member. The children were still living alone.

Case No. 10

The mother was deceased, and the father was unknown. The children were identified by the school, and the case was referred to the social worker. The children were 15 and 14 years of age.

Case No. 11

The children's mother left them a long time ago, and the father was not known to anyone. The children were left with their paternal grandmother, who later passed away, leaving the children alone. The children were aged 16 and 13.

Case No. 12

The children's parents passed away. The children (14 and 16 years old) were left without anyone's supervision. The case was reported by a concerned community member. The children had been living alone for two years before the case was reported.

Case No. 13

The children's mother was deceased, and the father was unknown to the children. The children (aged 16 and 12) indicated that they originated from Mozambique. The younger child attended a special school due to a mental/learning disability (failing one class many times). The children did not know their extended families; they only knew that their mother came from Mozambique.

Case No. 14

Both parents of the children passed away. The children (16 and 15 years of age) lived alone. The children indicated that they only knew that their mother's place of origin was Lesotho, as she told them when she was sick. The children were attending school. The case was reported by the home-based-care child and youth care worker.

Case No. 15

The children's father passed away years ago. Their mother went to a traditional healers' school in Limpopo. She got sick and passed away while she was in Limpopo. The children (14 and 16 years old) were left alone while their mother was attending the traditional healers' school and after her death. They were attending school.

3.2 Comparison of services provided to child-headed households with the Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households and the norms and standards related to child-headed households as prescribed in the Children’s Act 38 of 2005

The Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households focuses on key elements (norms and standards) as illustrated in the table below. The information on services rendered by the social workers as obtained from the file content was compared with these key elements.

TABLE 1: NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR CHILD-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

The National Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households (2010) indicated the following table:

Key element in legislation	Issues to monitor	Indicator
Recognition of the child-headed household	Adherence to the process of recognising the household	Number of child-headed households recognised and registered on the database
Functioning of the household	Promotion of the functioning of the household as a family unit and keeping siblings together as much as possible	Nature of relationships among siblings Stable emotional support Material protection for members Stable and consistent rules Respect given to the child heading the household by siblings
Safe and nurturing environment for children	Adequate nutrition, water, and means of preparing food Adequate health care for children Right to rest, leisure, and play Respect for the culture, language, and development of the child	Number of child-headed households benefitting from the following support: Nutritional support (food and nutritional supplements) Frequency of meals per day Material support (clothing, shoes, blankets) Health care (immunisation, primary health care)

Key element in legislation	Issues to monitor	Indicator
	Access to psychosocial support	facilities, reproductive health) Psychosocial support Adequate and safe shelter
Birth registration, social assistance, social and community services, access to education, and development of skills (norms and standards)	Benefit from official registration of their birth Access to social assistance Emergency assistance or aid (food, goods, or transport assistance) Regular school attendance and access to education Access to participation in community life Skills development to participate in social and economic life	Percentage accessing social grants Number of successful applications for birth certificates and ID books Ratio of school attendance Percentage dropping out of school Number of children completing primary and secondary school Number of those out of school getting vocational skills Number of those out of school getting employment
Property (norms and standards)	The ability to assume responsibility for any property or possessions belonging to the household Maintenance and preservation of property belonging to the household and, wherever necessary, the ability to dispose of such property	Number of children getting legal support to keep household property
Exposure to harm (norms and standards)	No exposure to violence, abuse, maltreatment, sexual abuse, harm, or hazardous forms of child labour	Number of cases reported and investigated
Supervision of the child-headed household	Appointment of a supervising adult Services and visits by a supervising adult	Percentage of child-headed households supervised Increased percentage of child-headed households supervised
Reporting of adult supervisor by the child-headed household	Increased percentage of adults who continue to be suitable to supervise child-headed households	Percentage of adults who continue to be suitable to supervise child-headed households

The National Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households (2010)
highlighted the following themes

Theme 1: Recognition of the child-headed household

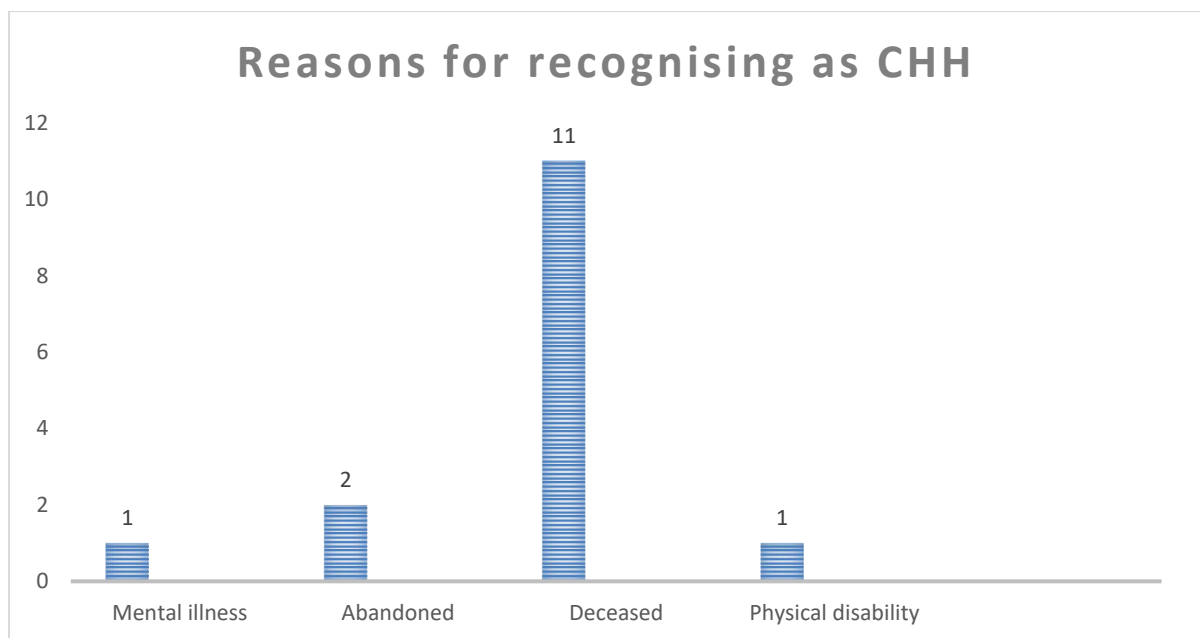
In all 15 cases, the assessment was done by the social worker to confirm the recognition of the child-headed household and to determine the reasons for its being child-headed, which is part of the household recognition step of the guidelines on child-headed households. These initial assessments took place within seven days of the reporting of the cases, as stipulated by the guidelines. On conclusion of the assessments, the households of all the affected children were recognised as child-headed household because there was no adult available to provide care for the children as indicated in section 137 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005 as stated in the guidelines.

Section 137 of this Act stipulates that the provincial head of the Department of Social Development may recognise a household as a child-headed household if the parent, guardian, or caregiver is terminally ill, has died, or has abandoned the children in the household. According to the case analysis, in seven cases, the parents were deceased, with no available family member to care for the children. In two of the cases, the deceased biological parents were originally nationals from Mozambique and Lesotho. In two cases, the mother left the children and could not be traced. In one case, the father could not care for the children because of his physical disability. In two of the cases, the biological parents passed away some time ago, while the grandparents took care of the children. After their death, the children were left alone. In one case, the parents were deceased, and the present caregiver, the grandmother, became mentally unfit to care for the children.

Section 137 of the Children's Act also states that a provincial head of Social Development may recognise a household as a child-headed household if no adult or family member is

available to care for the children in the household. Child-headed households are commonly defined as households where all members are under 18 years. The above procedure was followed with all of these cases. In all the cases, the ages of the children were from zero to 17 years.

Graph 1: Reasons for recognising as a child headed household



Graph 1 illustrates the reason for recognition as a child-headed household. In most of the cases the parents of the children is deceased.

Theme 2: Functioning of the household

In 12 (80%) of the cases, the households functioned well. Although the children were living alone, they related well as siblings and respected one another. In two of the cases, there was no stable home environment with regard to rules, boundaries, and discipline, and there was no sense of a family unit, which typifies a household. The children received counselling from the social worker. In one of these two cases, the child's safety was under threat, and he was temporarily removed to a place of safety until a supervising adult could be appointed.

According to the National Guidelines for statutory services to Child-Headed Households (2010) if the assessment shows that it is in the best interest of the children to be in a child-headed household, the next important step is to find a suitable supervising adult. According to section 137(2) of the Children's Act a child-headed household must function under the general supervision of an adult.

Theme 3: Safe and nurturing environment for children

According to Raniga and Seepamore (2017), children in CHHs are at greater risk of malnutrition than any other children. In all of the cases, the children were provided with social relief of distress (SRD) by the Department of Social Development in the form of food parcels for three months. They had water and electricity. They, furthermore, had access to health care facilities, as there were clinics available in the areas where they lived. In cases where their house did not have a fence, etc., these children received assistance from the child and youth care workers from the Community Home Based Care centre, who also provided psychosocial support to the children. Their cultural practices were valued.

Counselling services were provided by the social worker. The children benefitted from the cooked meals offered by the home-based care funded by the Department of Social Development. The school nutrition programme assisted them as well.

Theme 4: Services and skills development

In 12 cases, the children had identity documents and attended school. In two cases, the children obtained birth certificates through a neighbour who reported the case, who continued to volunteer as a supervising adult, and who assisted the children to obtain legal documents (birth certificates) as well as have access to schools. This prevented the children dropping out of

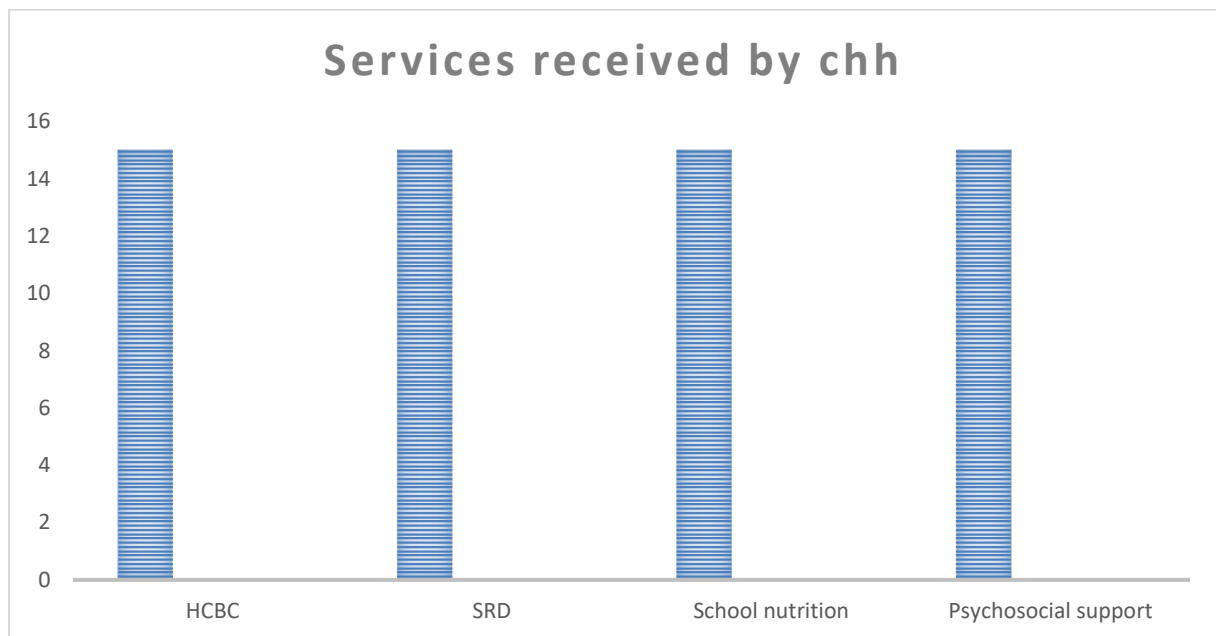
school. As mentioned before, Howarth (2007) indicates that these children are also at risk of poor education, as they quite often lack money to pay their school fees or those of their siblings.

A motivation was written to the Department of Home Affairs by the case social worker to obtain birth certificates for the children in one household. The process was long and challenging. The relevant stakeholders were not aware of their roles with regard to services offered to child-headed households, as it was difficult to have the child's birth registered.

The child and youth care workers from funded non-profit organisations (NPOs) or home-based care centres also supervised the families, helped them to manage disability grants for family survival, and provided other psychosocial support services such as ensuring that their houses were cleaned, their clothes were clean, school homework was done, and children attended after-school care and life skills programmes at the NPOs/home-based care centres. Social relief of distress was provided in the form of school uniforms and food parcels.

In all 15 cases, the children benefitted from the school nutrition programme. In one case where the children did not perform well at school according to the school assessment forms in the file, they were enrolled in the after-school care programmes offered by the nearby NPO.

Graph 2: Services received by child-headed households



Graph 2 illustrate the service received by the child-headed household's,

Theme 5: Protection of property

In all 15 cases, the children lived in their parents' house under the supervision of a neighbour or a home community-based care (HCBC) worker. Agere & Tanga (2017) indicated that child headed household's need a family setting, adult supervision and sound care relevant for their optimal development and that their property must be protected.

Theme 6: Exposure to harm

In five of the cases exposure to violence, abuse, maltreatment, sexual abuse, harm, or hazardous forms of child labour were reported.

Section 28 of the Constitution of South Africa deals with the protection of children's rights against maltreatment, neglect, or degradation. The National Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households (2010) on the norms and standards relating to children in child-headed households similarly stipulates that such children should not be exposed to any form of

violence, abuse, child labour, maltreatment, or degradation. The fact that five of the cases indicated that the children in the CHHs were exposed to harm is a negative aspect, especially because they were vulnerable to abuse, sexual abuse, and exposure to unprotected sex and substance abuse (Madikizela, 2013, Masilo & Makhubele, 2017).

Theme 7: Mental and physical illnesses

Out of all the case files of the child-headed households, only one child in one of the families was disabled (Case No. 13). The child did not receive the special care that was needed. Psychosocial support and counselling were given to the children in Case No. 6 and Case No. 12 due to extremely difficult psychosocial circumstances. In Case No. 13, the younger child, aged 12, attended a special school due to a mental/learning disability (failing one class many times). The 16-year-old received counselling. The younger child was referred for psychological assessment at the local hospital and had sessions with a psychologist due to learning disabilities.

Howarth (2007) points out that children with disabilities may be vulnerable to any form of abuse or may not receive the services and support they require to meet their needs. This can result in poor or negligent care for the disabled child, who becomes the perceived or real source of frustration to the carer.

Section 11 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005 indicates that, in any matter concerning a child with a disability, due consideration must be given to the following: providing special care, when appropriate; making it possible for the child to participate in social, cultural, religious, and educational activities, recognising the special needs that the child may have; and providing the child with conditions that ensure dignity, promote self-reliance, and facilitate active participation in the community.

According to Schafer (2011), learners with special needs may be accommodated either in a special school or an ordinary public school capable of addressing their needs.

Theme 8: Supervision of the child-headed household

A supervising adult was designated in most cases, but generally in an informal way. The names of the supervising adults did not appear in Part B of the National Child Protection Register. According to the guidelines, the supervising adult does not have to reside in the household with the children, but should be accessible to the household and visit the household periodically (not less than once every two weeks) to support the children and to fulfil the duties prescribed in the regulations to the Children's Act. This was done correctly. The role of the supervising adults was not clear to the children and, in most cases, to the supervising adults as well because they had arguments and experienced conflict. In some cases, the supervising adults were volunteers (neighbours), and their names were not checked against Part B of the national register.

Section 137(2) of the Children's Act specifies that a child-headed household must function under the general supervision of an adult designated by a children's court, an organ of state, or a non-governmental organisation determined by the provincial head of Social Development. Section 137(3) of the same Act indicates that the supervising adult must perform the duties as prescribed in relation to the household and be a fit and proper person to supervise a child-headed household.

Section 119 of the Children's Act states that the purpose of Part B of the register is to have a record of persons who are unsuitable to work with children and to use the information in the register to protect children, in general, against abuse from these persons.

Le Roux-Kemp (2013) comments that the designated adult supervisor may not take any decision relating to the household without consulting the child head or the children belonging to the household. The supervisor must, at all times, regulate the responsibilities of the children in the household in a manner that develops their self-reliance and promotes their involvement in issues affecting the house.

Theme 9: Identified gaps with regard to social work interventions in comparison with the norms and standards

In all of the cases, the supervising adult was either a volunteer in the community or a neighbour. It was clear from the case notes of all 15 cases that the supervising adult was not legally appointed. From most of the case notes, it was evident that there was role confusion, which sometimes led to arguments between the children and the supervising adult. Thirteen out of the 15 cases were not formally registered as child-headed households. No monitoring/care plan had been developed for any of the cases.

The National Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households (2010) specifies that, once the social worker has completed the assessment, a comprehensive assessment report should be compiled, with recommendations and a care plan for the children in the household. From the information found in the case notes of all the cases, it was clear that this had not happened. The Children's Act 38 of 2005 also prescribes that all child-headed households should be registered, and in all of the cases, the households were not formally registered. It was clear from the findings that the interventions of the social workers dealing with the different cases were not in line with national norms and standards for child-headed households in this regard. Lindsay (2009) states that it is very important for social work interventions to be in line with relevant legislation and to be to the benefit of client systems.

3.3 Summary

In all 15 cases, the assessment was done by the social worker to confirm the recognition of the child-headed households. It was found that 80% of the households functioned well. Basic needs were met, in that water and electricity were available for all children.

All children had access to health care and social service facilities. In all cases, no formal arrangements were made regarding the inheritance of property (houses). Five of the cases reported exposure to violence, abuse, maltreatment, sexual abuse, harm, or hazardous forms of child labour. Out of all of the cases, only one child was disabled. A supervising adult was designated in most cases, but mostly in an informal way.

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SECTION C: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Introduction

The aim of the study was to do a comparative analysis of social work services provided to child-headed households in Moses Kotane Local Municipality against existing guidelines for social work services rendered to child-headed households. The researcher followed a qualitative approach by means of a document study to do a comparative analysis of data obtained from the case files of social workers against the norms and standards for child-headed households. The objectives of the study were:

- To do a document analysis of the case files of social workers regarding social work services rendered to child-headed households and to explore whether the social work services rendered to child-headed households were in line with the guidelines for social work services (National guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households, 2010).

The overall aim and objectives of the research was achieved as the researcher gained an understanding of the services rendered by social workers and the successes and gaps with regard to the services. These services were benchmark against the National guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households, 2010. It was found that most services were implemented. However some gaps were identified regarding the rendering of some social work services to child-headed households.

2. Literature review

The literature review focused on the background and the challenges of child-headed households. Relevant sources were read and used to gather information, which assisted in gaining an understanding of the research. The purpose of the literature review was to provide a theoretical background to the empirical study (document analysis).

3. Empirical study

The study focused on an analysis of the content of the case files of social workers offering services to child-headed households and benchmarking these social work services against the Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households. As mentioned above, the aim of the study was to do a comparative analysis of social work services provided to child-headed households against existing guidelines for social work services rendered to such households. There are gaps that need to be addressed in terms of social work services offered to child-headed households. The research question was as follows: how do social work services provided to child-headed households in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality compare with the national guidelines? The question was answered by analysing the content of the case files of services rendered to child-headed households. The findings indicated that there were some gaps between the National Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households and the services that are rendered to this target group in the Moses Kotane Local municipality.

4. Methodology

The study was qualitative in nature. This was implemented through a document analysis to examine the content of the case files of social workers rendering services to child-headed households. The nature and the quality of social work services rendered to child-headed households were observed and described.

5. Ethical aspects

The researcher observed all the legal aspects applicable to a document study, and nothing happened that was not planned for. Specific precautions were taken with regard to focus was on confidentiality of handling information and privacy.

6. Data analysis

For the purpose of this qualitative study, the researcher used thematic data analysis which was conducted by identifying themes as described in the research report. The data analysis was conducted manually and according to procedure.

7. Procedure

The research was done according to procedure and went according to plan.

8. Findings

The findings of this research identified some positive contributions of social workers towards service delivery to child-headed households. According to the findings, many services adhered to the set Guidelines for Statutory Services to Child-Headed Households. This research also identified some gaps in current services, and it is hoped that the findings will contribute to the future development of programmes and implementation of services.

9. Contribution of the study

This study explored current services rendered to child-headed households and how these correlated with existing guidelines. The findings of this study can contribute to the development of new interventions for child-headed households. This research indicated the gaps in current services offered to child-headed households and future programme developments. By using a qualitative approach, an attempt was made to understand the nature and quality of social work services provided to child-headed households. The journal *Social Work* will be considered for publication.

10. Limitation of the study

This study was qualitative in nature and focused on only a few files. It was desk-based and time-consuming.

11. Conclusion

This study was qualitative in nature. The findings from the study established that the assessment of child-headed households was done by the social workers to confirm recognition of the child-headed households. The assessment was done accordingly and timeously, and it was found that there were no adults available to care for the children as indicated in section 137 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005. The study confirmed that, in 12 (80%) of the cases, the households functioned well, there were water and electricity, and the children received services such as counselling, health, educational, and school nutrition programmes, and social relief of distress in the form of food parcels and school uniforms. Some of the children were reported to be poor school attendees. In all 15 cases, the children lived in the parents' house under the supervision of a neighbour or a home community-based care worker. However, there was no mention of a formal arrangement regarding the children's property and no indication regarding ownership or inheritance of the property.

Section 28 of the Constitution of South Africa 108 of 1998 deals with the protection of children's rights against maltreatment, neglect, or degradation. Five of the cases reported exposure to violence, abuse, maltreatment, sexual abuse, harm, or hazardous forms of child labour. The study revealed that the supervising adults were not legally appointed. Neighbours and child and youth care workers from funded NPOs or home-based care centres supervised families. The study discovered that being a child-headed household frequently carried emotional and psychological suffering and social stress for the children, since most of them had witnessed their parents falling ill and their subsequent death. From the results of the study it can be deduced that there are adherence to some of the norms and standards as set out in the National Guidelines for Statutory services to child headed households (DSD, 2010), however many gaps still exist in some of the services that needs to be addressed.

12. Recommendations

The following recommendations are made based on the above-mentioned research findings:

- Social workers rendering services to child-headed households should be trained on each of the national norms and standards for services offered to child-headed households.
- The Department of Social Development should include child-headed households as its priority and increase the number of social workers working as part of this programme. This will increase the quality of care plans and the level of responsiveness to the needs of CHHs in the community.
- Funding of the programmes involving child-headed households in the Department of Social Development and NPOs (home-based care and community care centres) must be increased, and they have to be treated as an area of national interest. These children are easily forgotten and mistakenly treated as adults while they remain in need.
- Awareness or information-sharing sessions on inheritance of property and wills must be given priority by the relevant department. Most families are completely ignorant with regard to inheritance of property and wills, and many others are not well informed.
- Children in child-headed households who are living with disability have to receive proper care and appropriate therapeutic services. These children are the most vulnerable.
- Supervising adults should be legally appointed and must be trained by the Department of Social Development on their daily responsibilities. All supervising adults should be screened according to Form 30 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005.

13. Reference List

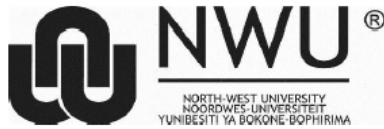
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SECTION D: ADDENDA

ADDENDUM 1: ETHICS APPROVAL LETTER OF STUDY



Private Bag X1290, Potchefstroom
South Africa 2520

Tel: 086 016 9698
Web: <http://www.nwu.ac.za/>

North-West University Health Research Ethics
Committee (NWU-HREC)

Tel: 018 299-1206
Email: Ethics-HRECAppl@nwu.ac.za (for human studies)

19 September 2019

ETHICS APPROVAL LETTER OF STUDY

Based on approval by the North-West University Health Research Ethics Committee (NWU-HREC) on 19/09/2019, the NWU-HREC hereby approves your study as indicated below. This implies that the NWU-HREC grants its permission that, provided the general and specific conditions specified below are met and pending any other authorisation that may be necessary, the study may be initiated, using the ethics number below.

Study title: A comparative analysis of social work services to child headed households in Moses Kotane Local Municipality

Principal Investigator/Study Supervisor/Researcher: Dr EJ Simeon

Student: SD Ramokoka-16472225

Ethics number:

N	W	U	-	0	0	4	9	3	-	1	9	-	A	1
Institution			Study Number					Year		Status				

Status: S = Submission; R = Re-Submission; P = Provisional Authorisation; A = Authorisation

Application Type: Single study

Commencement date: 19/09/2019

Expiry date: 30/09/2020

Risk:

Minimal

Approval of the study is provided for a year, after which continuation of the study is dependent on receipt and review of an annual monitoring report and the concomitant issuing of a letter of continuation. A monitoring report is due at the end of September annually until completion.

General conditions:

While this ethics approval is subject to all declarations, undertakings and agreements incorporated and signed in the application form, the following general terms and conditions will apply:

- *The principal investigator/study supervisor/researcher must report in the prescribed format to the NWU-HREC:*
 - *Annually on the monitoring of the study, whereby a letter of continuation will be provided annually, and upon completion of the study; and*
 - *without any delay in case of any adverse event or incident (or any matter that interrupts sound ethical principles) during the course of the study.*
- *The approval applies strictly to the proposal as stipulated in the application form. Should any amendments to the proposal be deemed necessary during the course of the study, the principal investigator/study supervisor/researcher must apply for approval of these amendments at the NWU-HREC, prior to implementation. Should there be any deviations from the study proposal without the necessary approval of such amendments, the ethics approval is immediately and automatically forfeited.*
- *Annually a number of studies may be randomly selected for active monitoring.*
- *The date of approval indicates the first date that the study may be started.*
- *In the interest of ethical responsibility, the NWU-HREC reserves the right to:*

- request access to any information or data at any time during the course or after completion of the study;
- to ask further questions, seek additional information, require further modification or monitor the conduct of your research or the informed consent process;
- withdraw or postpone approval if:
 - any unethical principles or practices of the study are revealed or suspected;
 - it becomes apparent that any relevant information was withheld from the NWU-HREC or that information has been false or misrepresented;
 - submission of the annual monitoring report, the required amendments, or reporting of adverse events or incidents was not done in a timely manner and accurately; and/or
 - new institutional rules, national legislation or international conventions deem it necessary.
- NWU-HREC can be contacted for further information via Ethics-HRECApply@nwu.ac.za or 018 299 1206

Special in process conditions of the research for approval (if applicable):


- a. Please provide the NWU-HREC with copies of the goodwill permission letter received from the supervisors at the service points to be included in the study, granting access to the documents to be analysed.

As the study progresses the aforementioned conditions should be submitted to Ethics-HRECProcess@nwu.ac.za with a cover letter with a specific subject title indicating "Outstanding documents for approval: NWU-XXXXX-XX-XX." The letter should include the title of the approved study, the names of the researchers involved, that the documents are being submitted as part of the conditions of the approval set by the NWU-HREC, the nature of the document i.e. which condition is being fulfilled and any further explanation to clarify the submission.

The e-mail, to which you attach the documents that you send, should have a *specific subject line* indicating the nature of the submission e.g. "Outstanding documents for approval: NWU-XXXXX-XX-XX". The e-mail should indicate the nature of the document being sent. This submission will be handled via the expedited process.


The NWU-HREC would like to remain at your service and wishes you well with your study. Please do not hesitate to contact the NWU-HREC for any further enquiries or requests for assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Digitally signed by Wayne Towers
Date: 2019.09.20 07:37:28 +02'00'

Prof Wayne Towers
Chairperson NWU-HREC



Digitally signed by Prof Minrie Greeff
Date: 2019.09.29 14:22:48 +02'00'

Prof Minrie Greeff
Head of the Faculty of Health Sciences Ethics Office

ADDENDUM 2: REQUEST TO CONDUCT RESEARCH (LETTER TO SERVICE POINT MANAGER – MOSES KOTANE)

Tel: 0839605749

Email: sd.ramokoka@gmail.com

To: Ms J.B Letsholo

The Service Point Manager

Department of Social Development-Moses Kotane

From: S.D.Ramokoka

The Masters of Social Work in Child Protection

North-West University student

Potchefstroom campus

Student no: 16472225

Date: 06.09.2019

PERMISSION TO ACCESS THE CASE FILES OF THE CHILD HEADED HOUSEHOLD ON THE 16.09.2019(MADIKWE AND MOGWASE)

Purpose

This communique serves as a request to access Case files of the Child Headed Household in Moses Kotane Service Point.

Background

I am masters' student in North West University and full time employed by the Department of Social Development as a Social Work Supervisor Grade 1 in Bojanala District (Moses Kotane

service Point). The Acting HOD of the Department of Social Development has granted me an opportunity to conduct research in Moses Kotane Service Point.

The aim of the study is to do a comparative analysis of social work services to child-headed households in Moses Kotane Local municipality against existing guidelines for social work services to child-headed households.

Objective of the study are as follows

To do a document analysis on case files of social workers for social work services rendered to child-headed households.

To bench mark the social work services against existing guidelines for social work services to child-headed households (Statutory services to child-headed households, 2010)

PARTICIPANTS ON RESEARCH

Case files (Madikwe and Mogwase)

Files will be handled in a confidential manner by the researcher

Upon completion of the study the researcher, undertake to provide your department with a copy on the outcome of the study.

Find attached permission letter from the Acting HOD

I will be happy to provide any additional information that might be required by your office.

Sincerely yours,

Suzan Ditshele Ramokoka

Masters student

ADDENDUM 3: APPROVAL LETTER FROM SERVICE POINT MANAGER (MOSES KOTANE – DSD)



social development

Department:
Social Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CHIEF DIRECTORATE: DISTRICTS & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT MANAGEMENT

Private Bag X 1055 • Mogwase, 0314 • 795 Kwana Drive, Unit 2 • MOGWASE
Tel: +27 (14) 555 – 5005/7432 • Fax: +27 (14) 555 – 6118 • E-mail: jbletholo@nwpg.gov.za

Enq: Ms J.B. Letsholo

Cell no: 0823294212

To: Ms S.D. Ramokoka

North West University (Potchefstroom Campus)

Student no: 16472225

From: Ms J.B. Letsholo

Moses Kotane Service Point Manager

09.09.2019

**SUBJECT: PERMISSION TO ACCESS THE CASE FILES OF CHILD HEADED
HOUSEHOLD FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES - MASTERS OF SOCIAL WORK IN
CHILD PROTECTION: (MADIKWE&MOGWASE SUB –OFFICES)**

This communique serves as an approval of the request you made to conduct research on the study that aims to do a comparative analysis of social work services to the child headed households in Moses Kotane Local Municipality; against existing guidelines for social work services to child- headed households.

The approval that was granted by the head of the Department (Provincial Social Development) on the 28.08.2019 after receiving the proposal of the study and other relevant documents is also acknowledged.

The Service Point Manager approves your request to access the office files for Moses Kotane Service Point (Madikwe and Mogwase Sub-office) in pursuit of your studies.

.....

Ms J.B. Letsholo

Service Point Manager

ADDENDUM 4: REQUEST TO CONDUCT RESEARCH (LETTER TO PROVINCIAL DSD)

Tel: 0839605749/0820499734

Email:sd.ramokoka@gmail.com

sramokoka@nwpg.gov.za

To: Mr I Mogorosi

The Acting HOD

Provincial Department of Social Development

Mmabatho

From: S.D.Ramokoka

Masters of Social Work in Child protection student

North West University (Potchefstroom Campus)

Student no.16472225

Date: 25.06.2019

Subject: Request for the permission to conduct research in Bojanala District (Moses Kotane Service Point)

I am masters' student in North West University and full time employed by the Department of Social Development as a Social Work Supervisor Grade 1 in Bojanala District (Moses Kotane service Point).I hereby request to be granted an opportunity to conduct research in the Department at Bojanala District (Moses Kotane Service Point).

The aim of the study is to do a comparative analysis of social work services to child-headed households in Moses Kotane Local Municipality against existing guidelines for social work services to child-headed households.

Objective of the study are as follows

- To do a document analysis on case files of social workers for social work services rendered to child-headed households.
- To benchmark the social work services against existing guidelines for social work services to child-headed households ((Statutory services to child-headed households, 2011)

Files will be handled in a confidential manner by the researcher.

Upon completion of the study the researcher, undertake to provide your department with a copy on the outcome of the study.

Your approval to conduct this study will be greatly appreciated. I will be happy to provide any additional information that might be required by your office regarding the study.

Trust to hear from you in this regard.





Sincerely yours,

Suzan Ditshele Ramokoka

.....

Masters student

ADDENDUM 5: APPROVAL LETTER FROM HEAD OF DEPARTMENT (NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL DSD)

	social development Department: Social Development North West Provincial Government REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	
CHIEF DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE SERVICES		
Private Bag X 6 • Mmabatho, 2735 • Provident House Building, University Drive • MMABATHO Tel: +27 (18) 366 – 2992/2255 • Fax: +27 (18) 364 – 5987 • E-mail: imogorosi@nwpg.gov.za		
Enq: Dr. Moshadi: 082 474 9189		
TO	: Mr I.S. MOGOROSI ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT	
FROM	: Mr. C. SEOME ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: CORPORATE SERVICES	
DATE	: 19 AUGUST 2019	
SUBJECT	: REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT BY MS. SD. RAMOKOKA	
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PURPOSE		
This submission serves to request the Acting Head of Department to grant approval for Ms Suzan Ditshele Ramokoka to conduct research in the Department of Social Development in the North West Province. The research project is part of the fulfilment for the requirement of a Masters' Degree in Social Work.		
BACKGROUND		
The Sub-Directorate Research and Evaluation received a request from Ms Ramokoka to conduct research within the Department. She is a registered student with the North West University (Potchefstroom Campus). She is registered for a degree of Master of Arts in Social Work. The research study is part of the COMPRESS Research. The registered title of the research is " A comparative analysis of		
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Lefapha la Tlhabololo Loego • Department van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling		
		

Social Work Services to the Child-Headed Households in Moses Kotane Local Municipality”.

The study aims to do a comparative analysis of social work services to the child headed households in Moses Kotane Local Municipality against existing guidelines for social work services to child-headed households. The study has the following main objectives: To do a document analysis on case files of social workers for social work services rendered to child headed households; To benchmark the social work services against existing guidelines for social work services to child headed households. The study will be qualitative in nature as it will focus on analysing case files for the period 2012 to 2018.

DISCUSSION

The Research and Evaluation Unit has critically went through the research requests and the proposal attached. This was with the view to assess the request of the applicant and ensure that all the professional research standards and ethics are complied with. The research applicant is also strongly urged to consider all ethical considerations during the course of this research project. In the event the applicant fail to comply with these requirements may lead to this permission being withdrawn or suspended. Strict measures will also be undertaken to ensure the security of the Departmental classified and confidential information.


It is a policy decision, that upon completion of the research study, a copy of the research report should be shared with the Head of Department. The research and evaluation unit will further provide technical research support to the researcher once approval has been granted by the Head of Department.

It is on the basis of the afore-mentioned background that the Research and Evaluation Unit, recommend that approval be granted for **Ms Suzan Ditshele Ramokoka** to conduct research in the Department as proposed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

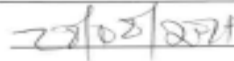
It is recommended that the Acting Head of Department approves the request of the applicant to undertake research study under the auspices of the Department.


MS D. MAKOE


DATE

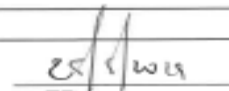
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED


Mr. C. SEOME
ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: CORPORATE SERVICES


DATE

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED


MR I.S MOGOROSI
ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT


DATE

ADDENDUM 6: LETTER FROM LANGUAGE EDITOR

Accredited Member: South African Translators' Institute

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Email: hencol@discoverymail.co.za

13 December 2020

To whom it may concern

I hereby declare that I edited Suzan Ditshele Ramokoka's mini-dissertation with the title "A comparative analysis of social work services to child-headed households in Moses Kotane Local Municipality". I am an accredited editor with the South African Translators' Institute (SATI Member No.: 1000193).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hendia Baker', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

Hendia Baker
APTrans (SATI)

APEd (SATI)