DECLARATION

I……………………………………………………………………………………………………. declare that the content of this thesis is my original work, it has not been previously submitted in part or its entirety to any other University and the work of the other scholars has been duly acknowledged.

Signature. ………………………………………………………………………………………

Date. ……………………………………………………………………………………………

SUPERVISOR’S STATEMENT

This is to certify that this study was conducted by Tafadzwa F Mwangolela under my supervision.

Name of candidate: Tafadzwa F Mwangolela

Student Number: 200253956

____________________________
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DEDICATION

For Wimbayi who comes and goes and Zoleka who always stays.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my supervisor Dr. Philani Moyo for the intellectual guidance, support. Without the efforts of Dr. Moyo I would not have managed to reach the final stages of the journey. I extend my gratitude to the informants from Nqabarha. These also included the community leaders, and civil servants working in the area. I would also like to thank the Regional Office of South African Social Security Agency and the officials at Mbashe area office for their support especially during the data collection phase. Above all I give thanks to God.
ABSTRACT

This study examines the impact of children’s grants on household access to food, education and health care. In the face of increased poverty and socio-economic inequalities, social grants are a critical poverty alleviation intervention implemented by the government of South Africa. The children’s grants are offered as part of the social security system which is provided for in the Republic of South Africa Constitution of 1996 and the Social Assistance Act of 2004. The basic needs conceptual framework is the lens informing the focus of the study. Among other major findings, the study reveals that (a) children’s grants play a critical role in improvement of access to food, health care and education, (b) children’s grants are used as collateral, to access short term loans, and (c) social networks and home gardens play a significant role in aiding children’s grants to ensure household access to food, education and health care.
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<table>
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<th>Acronym</th>
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<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Administrative Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHP</td>
<td>Africa Health Placements</td>
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<td>BNA</td>
<td>Basic Needs Approach</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSG</td>
<td>Child Support Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DoSD</td>
<td>Department of Social Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agricultural Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCG</td>
<td>Foster Care Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDI</td>
<td>Human Development Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSRC</td>
<td>Human and Social Science Research Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBRD</td>
<td>International Bank of Reconstruction and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISSA</td>
<td>International Social Security Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSA</td>
<td>Republic of South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALGA</td>
<td>South African Local Government Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SASSA</td>
<td>South African Social Security Agency</td>
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DEFINITION OF TERMS

‘Childrens grants’ refers to two main social grants for children these are foster care grant and child support grant.

Social security communities are communities mostly rural that depend mainly on the social grants to sustain livelihoods that are faced by challenges of limited access to basic needs in a context of poverty.

Agrarian communities, refers to communities mostly rural that depend on agricultural livelihoods to sustain the basic needs such as access to food.

Social policy, relates to a branch of public policy that focuses mainly on protection of basic human needs such as shelter, food, health care, care and support to the vulnerable.

‘Loan Sharks’ refers to informal money lenders normally targeting the poor who are unable to borrow in the formal market structures such as banks. They normally charge 30 percent interest rates and the use of force is at times utilized to collect debt from defaulters.
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