

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.

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DEDICATION

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

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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) childrens grants play a critical role in improvement of access to food, health care and education, (b) childrens 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.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AA	Administrative Area
AHP	Africa Health Placements
BNA	Basic Needs Approach
CSG	Child Support Grant
DoSD	Department of Social Development
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FCG	Foster Care Grant
HDI	Human Development Index
HSRC	Human and Social Science Research Council
IBRD	International Bank of Reconstruction and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ISSA	International Social Security Association
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SALGA	South African Local Government Association
SASSA	South African Social Security Agency

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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 utilised to collect debt from defaulters.

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