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THE ROLE OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANTS IN ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE
OF BENEFICIARIES IN DIMBAZA, BUFFALO CITY MUNICIPALITY

By

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DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, Siphe Nyandeni, hereby declare that the work contained in this dissertation is my own work, except where due acknowledgement is made with full references, and it has not previously been submitted to any university or institution of higher learning for any qualification or certificate.

Signed

Date.....

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my family, especially to the pillar of my strength, mother Ntombizethu Boo.ii

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I wish to thank my supervisor, Professor P. T. Tanga, for his much appreciated help during the time of writing this dissertation, his support and advice, for believing in me and his patience with me. I thank God that he gave me the courage to do my Master's Degree even though it was not easy, but he gave me the strength and power to continue to the end. I also want to thank my supervisor's postdoctoral fellow, Dr Langton Mundau, for believing in me even though I did not believe in myself at the time of undertaking this dissertation.

I also wish to thank my friends and family who encouraged me to carry on with my work even when I felt like giving up in difficult times; I really appreciate it. I would also like to thank the father of my child, Phumezo Ndzunga, who has been supporting me from day one. Lastly, I wish to thank everybody who supported me during the time of writing this dissertation, with special acknowledgements to the Govern Mbeki Research and Development Centre (GMRDC) for supporting me financially; they made it possible - and to the University of Fort Hare as a whole.

ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to investigate the role of the Child Support Grant (CSG) in enhancing the quality of life of beneficiaries in the Dimbaza Community, Buffalo city Municipality. The study utilised the quantitative research method through questionnaires to collect data from 150 beneficiaries of Child Support Grant (CSG), using the non-probability sampling method. The findings of the study highlight the fact that indeed, the beneficiaries of the child support grant are truly dependent on the Child Support Grant (CSG) income, and their livelihood depends on the grant and how they use it. Another important finding of the study is that most beneficiaries (CSG) are not fully satisfied with how the Child Support Grant fulfils the gap in terms of their needs e.g. in healthcare and schooling, amongst others. The study recommends that the government should focus more on the issue of healthcare of beneficiaries through access to private doctors whenever there is an emergency - in order to address the issue the of inaccessible doctors in public hospitals.

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ACRONYMNS/ABBREVIATIONS

ABET	Adult Basic Education and Training
ANC	African National Congress
CDG	Care Dependency Grant
CSG	Child Support Grant
EPRI	Economic Policy Research Institute
FCG	Foster Care Grant
GEAR	Growth, Employment and Redistribution
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
ID	Identity Document
IMF	International Monetary Fund
OAP	Old Age Pension
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Program
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SASSA	South Africa Social Security Agency
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

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CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Background of the Study

Kerce (1992) states that *quality of life* is based on how one's life is and consists of their needs and wants and how one lives both, psychologically and physically. Furthermore, the quality of life can be based on what one does in order to survive and how they carry out their lives. This research study sought to examine the role of Child Support Grant (CSG) in enhancing the quality of life of the beneficiaries. However, for the benefit of this study, the quality of life is based on the following perspectives: housing, children's schooling, food consumption, clothing and health care.

In South Africa, the division of families caused by apartheid and exacerbated by poverty and political violence endemic to apartheid led to a breakdown of the family. Despite the absence of an unemployment grant in South Africa, there is growing concern that other social assistance provisions might weaken work motivation and create a "dependency culture" (Surender, 2011). The child support grant has played an important role in many people's lives; as a result, some of them are too dependent on it.

This study investigated the role of the state Child Support Grant (CSG) in enhancing the quality of life of beneficiaries in the Dimbaza Community. Child Support Grant (CSG) in

South Africa is seen as a strategy to alleviate part of the financial burdens on parenthood, but it should be noted there are concerns with the misuse of the grant in most cases by desperate mothers, who use it as an income-generating scheme. According to Gutura and Tanga (2014) and Jordan (2005), the child support grant has created a culture of dependency. The authors further argue that most parents (especially women) after collecting the grant, instead of maintaining the children or providing child care services such as buying books, food and paying school fees, they use it for their own needs.

The term *child social grant* basically means it is a grant directed to children. However, since the child is dependent on the mother, the child social grant is given to the mother but to use for the child's needs and nothing else. The child support grant is received by parents who are unemployed or those who are employed but qualify through the means test. It is used for feeding other family members and meeting other needs such as electricity and water (Goldblatt, 2005). In a study conducted in Nelson Mandela Bay, Eastern Cape, the Herald (2011) established that many African parents frequently go to taverns and drug dens after receiving their pay-outs on the first day of the month. The State, bound by its legal obligation has, since 1994, drafted many policies in the field of health, education and other basic social services to address the plight of children born under poverty-stricken conditions.

The new democratic government in South Africa has committed itself to addressing the realities of poverty by initiating a review and restructuring its social system. According to

Proudlock (2014), the government has developed a social security system that provides three social grants specifically for children: The Child Support Grant (CSG), Care Dependency Grants (CDG) and Foster Child Grant (FCG). According to Makhiwane (2010), the Child Support Grant is the successor to the State Maintenance Grant which was initially designed for whites and later extended to other racial groups. The State Maintenance was implemented in 1921 and later replaced by the Child Support Grant in 1998.

According to Section 27 of the South African Constitution, “everyone has the right to access social security, especially when they are unable to support themselves and their dependants” (Republic of South Africa, 1996). It further states that the state must take reasonable legislative measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights. However, Nkuna (2008) states that in South Africa, the Child Support Grant is received by teenage mothers due to the high rate of teenage pregnancy. Mostly, these parents use the Child Support Grant to buy themselves clothes and drugs. Some children are left in the care of their grandparents while their biological parents leave with the grant, resulting in the children starving. Some of these children usually end up leaving their homes to look for a better life (Williams & Van Aardt, 2011).

In addition, in some instances, these parents would borrow money from the money lenders and end up having to leave their bank cards, identity documents or their All Pay cards as a guarantee of paying back the money.

1.3 Problem statement

The role played by the child support grants in enhancing the quality of life of beneficiaries can be good and bad. The child support grant is meant for children from poor backgrounds, but sometimes that may not be the case because the grant does not meet all the needs of the child, so it becomes difficult to maintain a good quality of life of the beneficiaries. In some cases, the families or the parents of the beneficiaries of child support grants tend to misuse it by using it to cover their needs. The child support grant plays a big role in supporting many families' lives.

South Africa is facing a big problem of families that depend on the child support grant. The government ensures that such families do not go hungry and makes sure that the grant maintains the child's life as the actual beneficiary of the child support grant. The study covered those aspects that are addressed by the child support grant in enhancing the quality of life of the beneficiaries. This was done by exploring whether the beneficiaries' schooling, clothing, health and food consumption needs are met through proper use of the grant.

1.4 Research Aim and Objectives

The main aim of the study was to examine the quality of life of the beneficiaries of child support grant at Dimbaza community. The specific objectives include the following:

- To explore the quality of food consumption by child support grant beneficiaries.
- To investigate the type of housing where the beneficiaries are living.
- To determine the adequacy of clothing of the beneficiaries.
- To determine adequacy of the health care received by the beneficiaries.
- To examine the beneficiaries' schooling / fairness of the schooling.

1.5 Research Questions

This study is guided by the following postulated research questions:

- What is the quality of food consumption received by the child support grant beneficiaries?
- What is the size of the beneficiaries' households?
- How often do the child support grant beneficiaries need clothing?
- How is the beneficiaries' dependence on the child support grant?
- How is the beneficiaries' school attendance like?

1.6 Significance of the study

The findings of this study will be of importance to academics like University of Fort Hare students and the Social Work department as well as the field of social welfare as its main aim is to look at how best to improve the general living standards of children who are grant beneficiaries. This study is also of significance to the general society of South

Africa, especially recipients of the Child Support Grant (CSG) as it seeks to make communities respect and uphold the best interests of children. It will also be of importance to the policy makers and the Department of Social Development as well as South African Social Security Service Agency (SASSA) in reviewing the programme and improving the child support grant administration and implementation.

1.7 Scope of the study

The research was conducted in the Dimbaza Community, Buffalo Municipality and focuses only on the Child Support Grant. The study covers only certain aspects of the quality of life. These aspects include: the quality of food consumption received by the child support grant beneficiaries, size of the beneficiaries' household, clothing, child support grant dependency, schooling, whether the child beneficiaries are dependent or not on the child support grant.

1.8 Definition of key terms/concepts

This part of the study defines the main concepts mainly used throughout the study.

1.8.1 Social grant

Social grants have been defined in various ways. Tanga (2007) defines it according to the Social Assistance Act, No. 13 of 2004, which states that social assistance (grants) are for people who cannot support themselves and /or their families. This is as stipulated in the Constitution of South Africa, Bill of Rights Section 27, paragraph 1 and 2, and it is one way of the government giving people access to their constitutional rights. Another definition of social grant is by Tanga and Gutura (2013) that social grant refers

to a grant paid to a primary caregiver of a child who satisfies the criteria in terms of section 6 of the Social Assistance Act (No. 13 of 2004). For purpose of this study, social grant refers to the South African government's aim to provide a minimum level of income to marginalised groups such as the poor, orphans, elderly and disabled people. The definition by Tanga and Gutura (2014) is adopted in this study.

1.8.2 Child

The UN defines a child as anyone below the age of 18 years and spells out the basic human rights that children everywhere should have, including the right to protection from economic exploitation (Article 32) and the right to education (Article 28) (Republic of South Africa, 1996). Archard (2014) argues that the South African definition is adopted for this study, and it states that a child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

1.8.3 Quality of food

For the purpose of this study, the *quality of food* is regarded as any nourishing substance that is eaten, drunk or otherwise taken into the body to sustain life, provide energy, promote growth, etc. as defined by Dictionary.com (2015). However, other definitions include Giusti *et al.*'s (2007) that quality of food includes organoleptic and sensory attributes, food safety, nutritional value, functionality, service and stability, wholesomeness and psychological factors.

1.8.4 School attendance

According to this study, school attendance of children means going to school regularly and every day of the school week and excelling. School attendance is any regular accredited educational institution or programme, public or private, for organised learning at any level of education at the time of the census or, if the census is taken during the vacation period at the end of the school year, during the last school year (OECD, 2001).

1.8.5 Poverty

Brady (2016) states that poverty refers to diverse conditions, most often: insufficient economic resources (e.g., income, consumptions, earnings), the deprivation of human capabilities or social exclusion and marginalization. According to Tanga (2007), poverty can be measured using monetary measures such as consumption and income levels and through human capabilities which include health indicators (health facilities beds, health workers, expenditure on health infrastructure and infant mortality) and educational indicators such as class size, type of school children attend, facilities and so on.

1.9 Chapter outlines

This section carefully highlights the different chapters that make up this dissertation. A brief description of each chapter is provided to highlight its coverage.

Chapter 1: Introduction and Background of the study

Chapter 2: Literature Review

This chapter focuses on reviewing literature related to the research topic and the theories of other authors concerning the role of child support grant in enhancing the standard of living of beneficiaries.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

This chapter focuses on the research methodology: the research design, population, sample and sampling strategies of the research is being provided. Data collection instruments, methods of data analysis are described in detail.

Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Interpretation of findings

This chapter is the presentation and analysis of data collected through questionnaires. The findings are also discussed in the light of the current literature and theories that underpin the study.

Chapter 5: Summary of findings, Conclusions and Recommendations

This chapter provides a summary of the study's findings, conclusions and recommendations. Finally, the implications for social work policy and practice are presented as well as suggestions for further studies.

1.10 Conclusion

Basically, the child social grant is playing a big role in the lives of many children in South Africa in terms of clothing, food, schooling and on health issues. There is a huge gap between those not on CSG and those who receive it, especially black children in the rural areas. All in all, the government has really outdone itself by providing this support. The chapter presented the background and problem statement to highlight the study's focus, that is, issues regarding the need to explore the quality of lives of children who are meant to be beneficiaries of the child support grant.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

Literature is an excellent source for focusing on a topic as it reduces the chances of selecting something irrelevant by investigating what has already been done in a particular problem area (De Vos et al., 2005). This chapter reviews the various legislative and theoretical frameworks in South Africa and the empirical literature on social grants and social protection. It begins with the theoretical framework, followed by need for social security as well as the legislative framework which lays down the foundation or pillars of the social grants in South Africa.

2.2 Theoretical framework

This study is underpinned by two approaches, namely: the Economics of happiness theory and the Feminist approach. These two approaches serve as foundations to view the role of the child support grant on the quality of life of the beneficiaries.

2.2.1 Feminist approach

Hemmings (2005) argues that feminist post-structuralist theorists are positioned as the first to deconstruct a woman as either heroic in surpassing past mistakes or responsible for the ills of feminism in general. This study is spurred by the public concern that women abuse the grant payment by failing to use it for the benefit of children. These responses are part of a worrying trend of both anti-women and anti-poor ideological attacks common in the world in response to welfare (Williams, 1995; Fraser, 1989a;

Fraser & Gordon, 1994). Despite these troublesome rumblings and evident weaknesses of the social assistance system from a gender perspective, the CSG is an important area of study and feminist activism. This is because it is collected by women, spent by women and appears to have both a positive and negative impact on their status in society. Drawing on ideas of feminist philosopher, Nussbaaum (1997/2002), who argues for the development of appropriate rights, there are debates that can be used to improve the position of women through legal challenges and broader political struggles of social assistance. A more holistic perspective of analysing poverty from a gender perspective is advocated by moving beyond a “narrow and static focus on income and consumption and that embraces poverty as multi-dimensional and dynamic” (Chant, 2007: 23).

The feminist approach is related to the role of social grant in enhancing the quality of life of beneficiaries because primary care givers of the grant are mostly women who are also mothers, aunts, grandmothers and sisters of the children that are meant to receive the grant. Furthermore, the feminist approach is relevant to this study because it is women who spend the grant, whereby the author, Nussbaaum (2002) mentioned above that it appears to have both positive and negative impacts on their status in society. The White Paper (1997) adds that African households, households in rural areas, especially those headed by women in rural areas are mostly affected by poverty.

2.2.2 Economics of happiness theory

The economics of happiness is an approach to assessing welfare which combines techniques typically used by economists with those more commonly used by psychologists. It relies on surveys of the reported well-being of hundreds of thousands of individuals across countries and continents. It also relies on more expansive notions of utility than conventional economics, highlighting the role of non-income factors that affect well-being.

It is well suited to informing questions in areas where revealed preferences provide limited information such as the welfare effects of inequality and of macro-economic policies such as inflation and unemployment. One such question is the gap between economists' assessments of the aggregate benefits of the globalization process and the more pessimistic assessments typical of the general public (Graham, 2005). This theory is relevant to this study because it highlights the issue of welfare and social security, which is the focus of this study. The economics of happiness approach relates to the role of social grant in enhancing the quality of life of beneficiaries because its concern is also about the well-being of the beneficiaries of Child Support Grant who depend deeply on the welfare of this country in order to live the lives that they are meant to live.

2.3 The need for social security in South Africa

In South Africa, apartheid division of families into different races exacerbated poverty and political violence endemic to apartheid which led to breakdown families. The State, bound by its legal obligation, has since 1994 drafted many policies in the field of health,

education and other basic social services to address the plight of children born under poverty stricken conditions.

The CSG was introduced in April 1998 as a poverty alleviation grant aimed at the poorest children. At first, it was restricted to eligible children less than 7 years old, but this was extended to 14 years of age in 2003. The grant is paid to the person who is the child's primary care giver (Leila, 2012); this is any person above the age of 16 who is mainly responsible for meeting the child's daily needs (excluding people who are paid to undertake such responsibility).

A person is eligible for a CSG for a maximum of six children, even if these are not his or her biological or legally adopted children. In order to qualify, the primary caregiver should live in a household with an income of below R800 per month in a town or city, or R1100 per month in a rural area or informal settlement (Leila, 2012). The child and the primary care-giver must both be South African citizens or permanent residents, and the child must have a birth certificate.

According to Jacobs *et al.* (2005), the South African government introduced universal cash - grants, a package of services to enable everyone, including children - to live and function in society, strategies to ensure access to food and income generation, and consideration for children and adults with special needs. There is general agreement in developed and developing countries on the importance of social security for poverty reduction in ensuring a basic minimum standard of living for the people and achieving a

more equitable income distribution in society (Patel, 2005). South Africa, as a new democratic government, committed itself to addressing the realities of poverty by initiating a review and restructuring its social system since the country attained democracy in 1994.

During the past decade, the South African government has developed many policies and programmes, especially those affecting vulnerable women and children. This move by government has resulted in the implementation of the following social imperatives: the Child Support Grant, the Foster Care grant, the Child Care Dependency Grant, the National School Nutrition Program, School Fees Exemption Policy and Free primary health care to, name a few.

Over the past 14 years, South Africa's social grant programme has evolved into one of the most comprehensive social protection systems in the developing world. Expansions to the Child Support Grant's criteria for eligibility over this same period include an increase in the age limit from seven to eighteen years old and adjustments to the income threshold to take inflation into account and improve equity. The goal of the South African government is to create conditions in which a demographic transition to stability can be approached.

According to Delany *et.al* (2008), cash transfers alone are not sufficient to reduce poverty and must be accompanied by other poverty alleviation programmes and developmental initiatives. Such initiatives in South Africa include access to free basic

health care for children under six years; school nutrition programmes; access to school fee exemptions; and, increasingly, no-fee schools. Other measures that do not target the child specifically but which aim to improve household well-being include access to free basic services, housing subsidies, public works programmes and Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET). Levels of access to such measures varied greatly among participants in this study.

Patel (2005) states that one of the most striking problems our modern world is facing is the peaceful co-existence of growing poverty in the developing world and growing prosperity in the developed world. There is general agreement in developed and developing countries about the importance of social security for poverty reduction in ensuring basic minimum standards of living for people and achieving a more equitable income distribution in society.

Zastrow (2013) argues that the goal of social welfare is to fulfil the social, financial, health, and recreational requirements of all individuals in a society. Social welfare seeks to enhance the social functioning of all age groups, both rich and poor. When other institutions in society, such as the market economy and the family, fail to meet the basic needs of individuals or groups of people, then social services are needed and demanded.

Williams (2007) states that in the past decade, South Africa's social welfare system has come to play an increasingly important role in the government's poverty reduction

strategy, and its restructuring has been one of the most visible and controversial tasks undertaken by the new government. The social welfare system dates to 1928 for Whites and 1944 for Blacks, with differing grant amounts and eligibility for different racial groups until the government began to close these gaps during the 1980s. The current structure was created by a series of reforms in the 1990s (both pre- and post-1994), and consists of three main grants: the state Old Age Pension (OAP), Disability Grant (DG), and Child Support Grant (CSG).

2.4 Legal framework

This section of the study briefly describes the legislative framework that informs the administration of the CSG in South Africa.

2.4.1 The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996

Section 27 (1) (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa [RSA] states that everyone should have social security if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants. The constitution further states that “it is the supreme law of the land, which serves as an umbrella framework that provides constitutionally guaranteed rights to equality and the enjoyment of fundamental human rights, as enshrined in International Conventions and treaties” (Republic of South Africa, 1996). The above and other provisions of the constitutions serve as a framework for any meaningful comprehensive social security system if poor women have to effectively enjoy the proceeds of a fruitful democracy”.

2.4.2 Reconstruction and Development Program of South Africa (RDP)

Bennette *et.al.* (2015) stated that housing for the poor in South Africa is a contentious issue. A highly successful housing programme by quantitative terms (i.e. in terms of number of house units delivered per year) is unsustainable. Moreover, when Tokyo Sexwale, a newly appointed Minister of Human Settlements proposed that the government could not continue to provide RDP houses (referring to the Reconstruction and Development Programme of South Africa) for those who were not immediately and directly affected by Apartheid, the backlash was understandably strong: “Public housing, far from being some kind of unique and temporary South African exception to the general status quo, is a standard part of even basic social democratic programmes”.

Tanga and Gutura (2014) further highlight that the Reconstruction and Development programme (RDP), drafted in 1994, identified food security as a priority policy objective. As a result, the government reprioritized public spending on the improvement of food security conditions of historically disadvantaged people.

2.4.3 The White Paper on Social Welfare 1997

The White Paper on Social Welfare (1997) states that the South African government formulated the notion of developmental social welfare, a seemingly progressive concept that implies that social assistance is linked to economic development as an empowerment tool for the poor. The White Paper for Social Welfare (1997) also states that social welfare policies and programmes which provide for cash transfers, social

relief, and enabling and developmental services ensure that people have adequate economic and social protection during times of unemployment, ill-health, maternity, childrearing, widowhood, disability, old age and so on. Social welfare programmes of this nature contribute to human resource development by enabling impoverished households to provide adequate care for their members, especially children and those who are vulnerable. When such programmes are combined with capacity building, people can be released from the poverty trap.

South Africa has embarked on the arduous task of socio-political and economic reform. While sound economic policies and a well-functioning labour market are essential for growth and employment-generation, by themselves, they are not sufficient. To reap the benefits, South Africa must invest in people; that is, develop the human capital which is essential for increasing productivity and moving people out of poverty. Internationally, the strategy that has proved most effective in improving economic and social well-being consists of three elements: labour-absorbing growth, equitable investments in education, health care and social support for poor and vulnerable groups (White Paper for Social Welfare, 1997).

2.5 The significant role played by the Child Support Grant

The Child Support Grant (CSG) is known to play a very vital role in the socio-economic challenges facing poor families in South Africa. This role is reviewed in the proceeding paragraphs.

2.5.1. The role of CSG and quality enhancement in the life of beneficiaries

According to the Social Assistance Act (2004), both the primary care giver and the child must be residing in South Africa; at the time of the application for the grant, both must be South African citizens or permanent residents, and necessary documents should be produced on application. Amongst these are the caregiver's identity document, the child's birth certificate and affidavit from South African Police Services (if the father of is not maintaining the child) and a death certificate (if the parent is deceased).

The primary caregiver should not be receiving any other grant for the child, and the child must not be in an institution. The applicant must also undergo a means test which is linked to his or her personal income. The means test aims to ensure that the grants are paid only to families where real needs are established. The current amount for CSG is R350 per child a month, according to the Government Gazette on Social Assistance Act (2016).

The conditions for accessing the CSG, particularly the age limit (children under 14) of the beneficiaries, is contradictory to the provisions of Section 27(1) of the Constitution of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996) which states that "everyone has the right to access of social security, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants." Children are not able to fend for themselves, and their rights to social assistance need to protect them. There are many children above the age of 14 years who are in need of the CSG. There are many recommendations that CSG should make to include all children and achieve its main goal.

The importance of the Child Support Grant can only be properly explained by taking into consideration the contributions of the young citizens and ascertaining its influence on the well-being of the children and other household members. In addition, Statistics South Africa (2009) estimated that about 3.7 million of the South African population, which reflects a high percentage of young citizens in South Africa. According to Lombard and Kruger (2009), the majority of South Africa's population has low income and lives in large and multi-generational, female-dominated and female-headed households. Black household members are mostly concentrated in rural areas, although similar populations in urban and rural black households include members of three generations (Lombard & Kruger, 2009). The recipients in South Africa have never enjoyed access to employment owing to past discriminatory practices, so they have never had secure retirement benefits.

In 1996, the Lund Committee was formed with the support of the Department of Welfare to explore policy options regarding social security for children and families. The purpose of introducing a social grant for children was primarily to provide support for children living in poverty. While these objectives were sound, the flaw lay in its exclusionary components brought about by budget limitations.

Robinson and Sadan (1999: 26) note that 'to make the grant more accessible to a larger number of poor children across the country, the grant should be reduced to R100 per child, pointing to the controversial trade-off between equity and affordability in the provision of child support for poor families. The White Paper for Social Welfare

(Republic of South Africa, 1997) noted the racial bias of past family and care allowances. As a solution to poverty, it advocated for inter-sectoral collaboration and a multi-pronged approach within developmental social welfare, seen as the strategy most likely to increase welfare resources and services to previously marginalised sectors of the population, and to achieve a just and equitable system of welfare provision (Gray, 1998: 58).

The White Paper for Social Welfare (Republic of South Africa, 1997) recognised that poverty alleviation could only be addressed by extending resources and opportunities to the poor. However, there were tensions between the White Paper's stance on poverty alleviation and the Constitutional human rights framework, particularly in the case of the CSG and the right for every child to have basic nutrition, shelter and basic healthcare services. Thus, the restriction of the CSG, as a result of fiscal constraints, to children up to the age of 6 years, was unacceptable to service providers within the NGO sector at the time of its launch (Tanga & Gutura, 2015).

Within this transformed welfare policy based on a social development approach, the CSG became an important means of poverty alleviation since social grants that awarded cash benefits constituted the main income of many impoverished individuals and families. Therefore, the CSG may be the sole source of income for many poor families, and thus essential for people's survival. Research conducted on the CSG indicated that the grant was spent mainly on food in the rural areas (CASE, 2000: 43-44).

Previous research has demonstrated that social pensions play a major role in poverty stricken households, and, in particular, in rural households (Ardington & Lund, 1995; Möller & Sotshongaye, 1996; Vorster, Rossouw & Muller, 2000). For example, even though old age pensions are intended for pensioners, they also reach large numbers of poor children who live in the same household. Rural households are heavily dependent on these social transfers, which they supplement with other income sources, such as remittances from family members sending money from urban centres and informal sector income (Vorster et al., 2000). Nevertheless, social grants in South Africa remain means tested and place the onus on individuals to prove their destitution.

The CSG has four immediate objectives, namely:

- (i) ensure greater access for poor children to an integrated and sustainable security system in the country;
- (ii) provide a child grant on an equitable basis to those in need, regardless of family structure, or tradition or race;
- (iii) prevent children from unnecessarily entering or remaining in statutory substitute care; and
- (iv) Keep children off the streets and out of juvenile detention centers (Lloyd, 2000: 50).

Thus, it was designed to give the poorest children the opportunity to access resources. However, the government admitted that the CSG is not reaching poverty-stricken children for a range of reasons. In order to effectively target the poorest children,

demographic and financial modelling was conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), and this project contributed to the policy decision of the age extension of the CSG (Department of Social Development, 2003a). In March 2003, the government decided to extend the CSG to impoverished children below the age of 11 and below 14 years in 2005 (Department of Social Development, 2003b: 2). The extension of the CSG to children up to the age of 14 years is seen as part of the build-up to the national election in 2004 and the following Summit on Social Development in 2005 where signatories to the 1995 Summit, including South Africa, report on their progress in eradicating poverty (Triegaardt, 2004). Today, the child support grant is provided to children below the age of 18 years (Tanga & Gutura, 2015).

2.5.2 The role of child support grant on the health of the child and that of household members

Evidence-based findings on the child support grant on the health of the child, according to the Department of Social Development (2012), South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and United Nations Children's Fund (2012), has indicated a positive outcome of the link between the child support grant and the children's health. There is a reciprocal relationship between the child support grant and health services, and some people have received the grant through the health system. For some, the child support grant helps them to access health services. Recently birth certificates are now also issued in hospitals, and people can have easy access and apply directly to the South African Social Security Agency offices.

Barrientos and De Jong (2006) maintain that in most cases, cash programmes cannot support children; instead, they supplement the income of families with children, with the assumption that the standard of living of children in these households will also improve. The impact of cash transfers on poverty among children, therefore, depends on the household (Alderman et al., 1997). This makes it important to understand how households allocate resources internally. This is likely to be a complex issue, however, because household arrangements are not only determined by individual preferences but are also strongly influenced by prevailing social and cultural norms in the long run and by economic conditions in the short run.

Many households in rural South Africa have low levels of monthly income. These levels of household income are lower in rural or informal urban areas than formal urban areas (Tanga, 2015). Where income is limited and *per capita* income is low, any grant money coming into the household, such as the CSG, is likely to be pooled to cover general household expenses rather than being spent solely to maintain the targeted child. Tanga's study (2015) found that over half of the recipients (51%) reported pooling the grant money with other household income although this was likely to be an underestimate as recipients were aware that the grant is intended for the targeted child.

Such practices dilute the benefits of the CSG for the targeted child, but this would be relieved, to an extent, if the grant were to be extended to all children. On average, the CSG accounted for 40% of reported household income. Dependence on the CSG was even higher when the personal incomes of the primary caregivers were considered. The CSG, therefore, acts as a lifeline for many households in the face of high levels of

unemployment and limited opportunities for economic development (Delany et al., 2008).

2.5.3 The role of the child support grant and schooling of the beneficiaries

Qualitative research findings by the Department of Social Development, South African Social Security Agency and United Nations Children's Fund (2011), indicate that children missing school is due to financial constraints as they lack basic school necessities, for example, money for school fees, shoes, uniform, transportation and so on. Limited access to food affects pupils' concentration enormously because no-one can concentrate on an empty stomach. This limits the level of operation that the child has.

A regulation requires that beneficiaries attending school have to show proof of regular attendance twice a year. Education is highly valued in South Africa, and school attendance is not a priority problem. The quality of education for children from households in poverty is, however, dismal (Francie, 2011).

2.5.4 Child Support Grant (CSG) and Economic Development

The CSG alleviates poverty in the short and medium terms because it increases a household's buying power. The degree of the social-economic impact depends on the initial income rate - the lower the initial income, the higher the CSG's impact. For instance, as households use their CSG to buy basic goods, the shop owners order more of these products in order to meet the demand. This benefits the small retailer as well

as everyone else in the supply chain. It can also help job creation, from the extra employee of the supplier or distributor, to the opening of new *Spaza* shops to satisfy the increased demand.

Chagunda (2006) argues that households can benefit even when they run out of purchased food towards the end of the month. This is because some households use the grant to buy seeds and manure to cultivate vegetables around their place of residence. Some creative households use the money as working capital to increase profits from informal activities such as petty-trading. Some CSG beneficiaries have the grant as their only source of income, but for those who have other sources of income, the grant can represent the difference between mere survival and the ability to save, invest and plan for the future. This, together with the fact that income stabilisation and security reduces stress and worry, means that the grant can have an impact beyond its mere monetary importance (Chagunda, 2006).

Barrientos and Dejong (2006) further noted that widespread poverty and vulnerability among children and their households in developing countries provide a strong motivation to find appropriate policy responses. Gordon et al. (2003) used household survey data from 46 developing countries to examine the incidence of severe deprivation among children along eight dimensions of well-being – food, water, sanitation, health, shelter, education, information and access to services. They found that one in two children in the sample suffers from severe deprivation in at least one dimension, and that one in three suffers from two or more forms of severe deprivation.

The incidence of infant mortality for developing countries shows that poverty and vulnerability have an impact not only on the quality of their lives, but also on the quantity of life in general. Concerns with the incidence and depth of poverty among children reflect an understanding of the long-term consequences of poverty and vulnerability in childhood. There is a great deal of evidence supporting the view that spells of poverty in early life have detrimental effects extending over the entire life of an individual and can generate or reinforce inter-generational poverty persistence (Yaqub, 2002; Case et al., 2003; Harper et al., 2003).

Inter-generational effects operate through a number of channels. These are: childhood poverty is strongly associated with less schooling and lower educational attainment, with long-term effects on future productive capacity and standard of living; childhood poverty in developing countries often leads to malnutrition and stunting, with malnourished girls, in particular, having a greater likelihood of giving birth to low birth weight babies, which jeopardises their life chances; and nutritional deficiencies during childhood lead to lower learning outcomes because the education of mothers has been shown to be particularly important to children's well-being'.

2.5.5 Child Support Grant as a poverty alleviation strategy

Poverty alleviation in South Africa is one of the primary objectives of social welfare policy (Republic of South Africa, 1997; Van der Berg, 1998a). There are various debates related to poverty alleviation and eradication because poverty is a complex matter in terms of ideological orientations, conceptual issues, causation and its nature.

Estes (1999: 11–18) articulates these complexities by noting the many faces of poverty and by evaluating the major conceptual and methodological approaches used by a range of researchers on the extent of global poverty (Triegaardt, 2005).

Triegaard (2005) states that concerns on poverty interventions in South Africa reach as far back as the turn of the nineteenth century, just after the Anglo-Boer war (1899–1902). These interventions mainly emanated from faith-based organisations and people's reciprocity within communities. Later, the Carnegie Commission of Inquiry investigated the 'poor white' problem in the 1930s and, as a result, the Department of Welfare was established in 1937. Social security in the form of social pensions was awarded to white people only, with the express purpose of poverty prevention.

Social pensions or grants were some of the pillars of social security, also referred to as social assistance. The other was one social insurance. Social pensions are non-contributory, means-tested government schemes that award cash benefits which, according to Disney (in Legido-Quigley, 2003), constitute family capital. In contrast, social insurance schemes involve contributions by the employer and employee for protection in the event of illness, disability and retirement.

Since the inception of democracy in 1994, the social protection system in South Africa has been significantly expanded to reduce poverty, which was one of the foremost legacies of the apartheid era. Non-contributory social assistance, also referred to as social grants, is an important component of social protection for children, older persons, and people with disabilities (Leila, 2012). Cash grants directly reduce poverty of some of

the most vulnerable and in so doing, also reduce inequality. Payment of cash to poor households will reduce the poverty headcount or poverty gaps and also reduce inequality measures because they are typically funded from progressive taxation (in national scale programmes). Cash grant, therefore, directly improves the living standards (consumption) of the poor and increase consumption levels of the poor, relative to those in higher income groups, thus directly reducing poverty and inequality. Child Support Grant also builds, protects and promotes human capital and other productive assets while enabling people to manage risks and shocks more productively as well as promoting social cohesion.

There is general agreement in developed and developing countries on the importance of social security for poverty reduction in ensuring a basic minimum standard of living for people and achieving a more equitable income distribution in society (Patel, 2005:122). South Africa, as a new democratic government, committed itself to addressing the realities of poverty by initiating a view and restructuring its social system since the country attained democracy in 1994 (Ndlovu, 2009).

2.5.6 Social Development and Poverty

An estimated 58% of children in South Africa live in poverty (with a per capita income of less than R604/month), and glaring racial and geographic disparities persist – 66% of African children continue to live in poverty compared to Coloured (30%), Indian (8%) and White (2%) children. Child neglect and malnourishment is a serious consequence of poverty (Albino & Berry, 2013). ECD interventions, therefore, play a critical role in

identifying and responding to children who are most vulnerable and have the potential to break inter-generational cycles of poverty (Albino & Berry, 2013).

Katherine (2013) argues that South Africa has very high rates of child poverty; in 2011, 58% of children lived below the lower poverty line (R604 per month). The author further claims that income poverty rates have fallen consistently since 2003. The author also adds by saying that significant decreases in child poverty occur across all provinces except the Northern Cape as there are substantial differences in poverty rates across the provinces. This poverty reduction is largely the result of a massive expansion in the reach of the Child Support Grant over the same period.

Using the lower poverty line, over 70% of children in Limpopo and the Eastern Cape are poor. Gauteng and the Western Cape have the lowest child poverty rates – calculated at 34% and 32%, respectively. There are glaring racial disparities in income poverty: while two thirds (66%) of African children lived in poor households in 2011, only 2% of White children lived below this poverty line, and poverty rates for Coloured and Indian children were 30% and 8%, respectively. There are no significant differences in child poverty levels across gender or age groups. The author also argues that , because social development marries social and economic goals, one cannot evaluate developmental welfare or social development without examining shifts in economic policy. Thus, it also examines economic policy transitions from development, to growth, to black economic empowerment. It shows how social security has become the major poverty alleviation measure within the developmental welfare system. It acknowledges

that it is tough for developmental welfare to succeed in an economic system that promotes gross income disparities and a widening gap between the rich and poor.

Social development needs widespread institutional support to succeed, and this is unlikely to be forthcoming while there is high unemployment, low economic growth and insufficient foreign investment. However, this state of affairs is unlikely to change as long as the government intervenes in the economy, promotes black economic empowerment and centralises decision-making (Gray, 2006).

A UNICEF report (UNICEF, 2010) on the state of the world's children explains the extent of child poverty in the world by providing the following statistics:

- 2.2 million children die each year because they are not immunized;
- 1.4 million die each year from lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation;
- 640 million children in developing countries are without adequate shelter.

According to Mkhize (2009), currently, the social security system is fragmented and non-comprehensive, with many children not able to access grants for which they are eligible and many more not qualifying for social security despite clearly needing it. Children are recognised to be among the poorest and vulnerable in society in South Africa, and in 1999; 11% of households with children under 7 years of age went hungry due to lack of money to buy food. Preventable illnesses like malnutrition remain some of

the biggest contributors to child morbidity and child mortality in South Africa while nearly 25% of children's growth is stunted due to malnutrition. These children face shortages of food, clothing, shelter and access to basic services (Mkhize, 2009).

The ANC-led government has introduced various types of poverty alleviation measures in the past fifteen years; with social assistance assuming a prominent role which includes assistance to vulnerable groups that are unable to provide for their minimum needs. Social grants fulfil a crucial function in the poverty alleviation process and are intrinsic in helping poor households enjoy an adequate standard of living. These grants also help to ensure that the poor obtain basic human rights in terms of having a life of dignity. Social assistance grants alter the levels of inequality only marginally but have been crucial in reducing poverty among the poorest households (OECD, 2010; Tanga & Gutura, 2014).

2.5.7 The role of CSG in nutrition of the beneficiaries

Access to adequate nutrition for young children is of particular concern as nutritional deprivation and malnutrition in the early years have long-term negative consequences on physical and cognitive development. Stunting (or low height for age as a result of chronic malnutrition) is associated with poverty and poor socio-economic conditions, and may be irreversible in older children. A study on developmental potential in the first five years among children in developing countries found that prevalence of early childhood stunting and the number of people living in absolute poverty are both closely associated with poor cognitive and educational performance in children. This is likely to

contribute to the inter-generational transmission of poverty (Grantham-McGregor et al, 2007; Delany et al., 2008).

Faber and Wenhold (2007) note in a study on nutrition in contemporary South Africa that the prevalence of stunting and being underweight increases significantly from the first to second year of life. The period between 6 to 24 months, in particular, carries a great risk of growth faltering and malnutrition because of inadequate nutritional quality of complementary foods and increased risk of infections due to decline in breastfeeding. This is a critical window period for child development. The CSG has also been found to boost early childhood nutrition (as measured by the children's height for-age), which could contribute to higher productivity and wages later in life (Aguero et al., 2007). In terms of use of the grant, a study conducted by CASE in 2000 found that three-quarters of beneficiaries reported that the CSG was their main source of financial support (Kola et al, 2000).

Caregivers receiving the CSG indicated that the greatest impact of the grant was on their improved ability to provide food. This response was significantly more likely in rural areas, whereas in formal urban areas – where basic needs are more likely to have been met – greater emphasis was placed on its use in paying for education (Delany et al, 2008).

Gutura (2014) states that according to De Klerk et al. (2004), despite this national status of being food-secured, it has been estimated that about 1,5 million South African children are malnourished, with 14 million people prone to food insecurity, and 43% of

the households suffering from 'food poverty'. The right to food security is enshrined in Article 27 of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) which states that every citizen has the right to access to sufficient food and water (Republic of South Africa, 1996). The Reconstruction and Development programme (RDP), drafted in 1994, identified food security as a priority policy objective (Gutura, 2014).

2.6 The issue of single mothers and the Child Support Grant

The reduction of poverty after the demise of apartheid is attributed largely to South Africa's expansive social protection program. A key driver of this growth has been the Child Support Grant (CSG) established in 1998. Although the grant was not intended only for women caregivers of children, it is accessed mainly by women. This presents a rich opportunity to examine the gendered nature of poverty and to assess the contribution of the program to poverty reduction from a gender perspective (Patel, 2011).

Alam et al. (2016) argue that the main policy step was the introduction of the child support grant in 1999 designed to follow the child rather than the biological caregiver. Assigned on the basis of poverty status, the grant phased out the old state maintenance grant benefit paid mostly to Coloured and Indian single mothers in 2001. The government has since significantly expanded coverage of the child support grant by raising the age of eligibility; the child support grant increased from 150,000 beneficiaries at its inception in 1998 to about 11.2 million in 2013.

Critics of welfare believe that welfare benefits are too generous; they consider the high rates of out of wedlock births among the poor and conclude that welfare contributes to the problem. Does receiving social benefit encourage women to set up households independently? There is a great deal of debate on whether the welfare system, in particular; the social security programme Aid to Families with Dependent Children correlates with increasing rates of illegitimacy and increasing numbers of female headed households.

In South Africa, there is concern from the government and masses on whether the Child Support grant encourages teenage pregnancy. According to a review carried out by Kruger (1996), there is no correlation between high births and welfare benefits. The data indicated that while welfare benefit levels have decreased since the 1970s, illegitimacy and the relative number of female-headed households have continued to increase.

2.7 The issue of dependency and insufficiency of the grants

A lot has been written on the culture of dependency created as result of social grants as well as the concerns of the insufficiency of the grants. These are reviewed in the paragraphs that follow. A large number of poor people cannot gain access to social assistance. The present system is insufficient to guarantee a minimum standard of living and as such, the authors according to Tanga(2007) concluded that it thus provides a basic but inadequate safety net for the poor in South Africa (Tanga, 2007). According to Tanga (2007), it is estimated that the total number of the poor population in South Africa is between 45 and 55 percent.

It is evident that most CSG recipients are dependent on it as it is their only source of income. Although others have temporary jobs, most are doing nothing for themselves, especially women, in order to supplement their child support grant money. In order for single mothers to meet the needs of their children, they must work. This is confirmed by Budlender and Moyo (2004) who argue that women, especially African women, are more likely than men to be unemployed. Furthermore, statistics on women illustrate the inferior position of women in the labour market, which makes them even more vulnerable than South African men, to poverty and depending on other sources of income such as the child support grant and child maintenance grant (Budlender & Moyo, 2004).

2.7.1 Welfare dependency

If one were to define welfare more narrowly as relating to social problems such as child abuse, crime, alcohol abuse, rape and domestic violence, or in terms of fields of service such as child welfare, mental health, disability or aging, one might quickly conclude that developmental welfare had been totally ineffective (Gray, 2006). In addition, as much as people living with poverty can barely function properly without welfare assistance, they depend on it because beneficiaries are not all well-educated. Therefore, they cannot get well-paying jobs and are forced to depend on welfare for mostly everything.

People need assistance when they are in financial hardship for economic reasons. Factors contributing to wage declines include: erosion in the value of the minimum wage, a decline in manufacturing jobs and the corresponding expansion of lower-paying service-sector employment, globalization and increased non-standard work such as temporary and part-time employment (Mishel et al., 1999). South Africa has high unemployment rates, with 4.3 million people unemployed (Statistics South Africa, 2010).

Labour market patterns are changing internationally, with more and more people (especially poorer people) creating their own jobs or engaging in a range of productive activities, some waged and some unwaged, to put together a living. Those outside the labour force do well compared to those participating in the labour market (Kruger, 1996). Even though the country has experienced many changes, unemployment is still a challenge, especially among the youth of South Africa today.

2.7.2 Sufficiency of the CSG for the beneficiaries

Cash transfers alone are not sufficient to reduce poverty and must be accompanied by other poverty alleviation programmes and developmental initiatives. Such initiatives in South Africa include access to free basic health care for children under six years; school nutrition programmes; access to school fee exemptions; and, increasingly, no-fee schools. Other measures that do not target the child specifically but which aim to improve household well-being include access to free basic services, housing subsidies, public works programmes and Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) (Delany et al, 2008).

The Bill of Rights provides that everyone has the right to have access to social security if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants. Secondly, the state is obliged to take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realization of this right. It seems that the notion of 'support' will have to be given greater definition as will the meaning of 'appropriate'. As Fraser (1989b) points out that the interpretation of 'need' is politically contested and must be examined contextually. Regardless of the outcome of such contest and even on a very minimalist interpretation of need, there should be reasonable *proviso* to the right, as interpreted by the Constitutional Court. Lastly, claims to extend the reach of social assistance policy will face serious difficulties in the courts (Goldblatt, 2005).

Guthrie (2002) argues that a comprehensive social security system seeks to provide a package of benefits that meet the range of needs of vulnerable persons. Thus, it is not a case of either cash transfers or feeding schemes. It must be recognized that while the child's need for good nutrition is paramount to their survival and development, it is not their only basic need. Children have the right to a minimum standard of living, housing, clothing, health and education. Thus, housing schemes are essential, as are cash transfers to empower carers to provide for the child's range of needs.

2.8 Criteria for accessing the child support grant

The central aims of the child support grant were to: ensure more equitable distribution of child support grant among a larger number of children than were reached by the State

Maintenance grant and to provide for children from economically disadvantaged families (Clark, 2000 cited in Van Ransburg & Horsten, 2004:61). According to the Department of Social Development, the aim of the Child Support Grant is to target the poverty stricken children who are South African citizen residing in South Africa.

Many people are unable to access the grants to which they are entitled. Even for those who do succeed in obtaining a grant, the process of applying for one is often cumbersome and frustrating. A fieldwork study was undertaken to explore some of these implementation problems and to examine whether legal regulations were being followed by officials in dealing with applicants. The research was also intended to find out whether the experiences of applicants and the responses by officials and others were informed in any way by gender issues (Goldblatt, 2005):

- The child and primary caregiver must be a South African citizen or permanent resident and must be resident in South Africa;
- The applicant must be the primary caregiver of the child/children concerned;
- The child/children must be under the age of 14 years (this will increase to 15 years in 2009);
- The applicant and spouse must meet the requirements of the means test;
- The applicant must be able to produce his or her 13-digit bar coded identity document (ID) and the 13-digit birth certificate of the child; and
- The applicant cannot apply for more than six non-biological children (Department of Social Development, South African Social Security Agency and United Nations Children's Fund, 2012).

2.9 Child Support Grant's Challenges

In order for the Child Support Grant to reach the poorest children, it has to be effectively targeted. The Constitution states that by *child* is refers to a person under the age of 18 years [RSA, 1996, section 28 (3)]. Depending on the age cohort for the grant, there will always be trade-offs on the extent of the coverage, i.e. between the amount of the grant and the number of children who can be reached. The bone of contention will always be the size of the grant.

There are concerns about the efficacy of the means test for social grants, and there are suggestions that it should be scrapped (Asher, 1999; Ensor, 2003; Van der Berg, 1998b). Most developing countries are fiscally strapped; therefore, South Africa has to carefully weigh the demands of social re-engineering with that of the debts that must be paid. There is need, therefore, for an economic policy that promotes a structural adjustment programme, such as Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) that emphasises fiscal prudence, economic growth, liberal trade and industrial development. Within a free market system, and conformity to international bodies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and concomitant regulations concerning the economy, trade and industry. There are those who see poverty alleviation as a major priority. The concern raised by trade unions is that 100,000 jobs have been shed since the introduction of the economic policy of GEAR, and this has led to increasing poverty (Taylor, 2002: 20; Triegaardt, 2005).

Makiwane (2010) states that eligibility for the Child Support Grant is determined through specific demographic and socio-economic criteria. More than three million children aged 15 or younger are beneficiaries. However, although the grant is designed for all children, due to administrative, technical and logistic reasons, not all benefit. In some cases, caregivers do not have the requisite documents for the children, such as birth certificates and national identity documents, and this prevents them from accessing the grant.

Social Grants in South Africa by SASSA (2016) reports that the number of CSGs has increased drastically. In July 2016 in the Eastern Cape (EC), the fact sheet displays the number as 1,873,154, Gauteng (GP) 1,732, 213, Free State (FS) 669,472, KwaZulu Natal (KZN) 2,813, 058, Limpopo (LP) 1756,820, Mpumalanga (MP) 1,055,256, Northern Cape (NC) 298,619, North West (NW) 818,583 and lastly, the Western Cape Province (WC) 969,062.

Delany *et. al* (2008) state that there is evidence that social assistance has a positive impact on the lives of children in poor households. However, only a limited number of studies focusing on the effect of the CSG on children have been conducted, and these tend to show associations rather than direct causal links. Further longitudinal studies are required to provide evidence of impact. The researcher personally believes that the government has done a tremendous job in reducing poverty by introducing the CSG.

Chitiga et al. (2015) argue that poverty in South Africa is much higher than one would expect in a country with its level of per capita gross domestic product (GDP). A high degree of inequality has its origins in the apartheid policies of the past. Child poverty, in turn, is still much higher than poverty among adults. Moreover, despite special measures taken by the state to provide child grants to reduce the extent of poverty among children, most children are in households that are weakly linked to the labour market and may thus be especially vulnerable to shocks that affect unemployment. There is widespread concern that the global economic crisis in 2008 that was triggered by the United States of America's sub-prime mortgage crisis (which began in August 2007) may have exacerbated the situation.

Chitiga et al. (2015) state that the South African economy was plunged into a recession for the first time in 17 years, and its macro-economic forecasts had to be revised downwards substantially. With child poverty already a long-term concern, the specific context of the global economic crisis puts the vulnerability of South African children into the spotlight. It is necessary to understand the extent of this vulnerability in order to enable children who were pushed into dire circumstances by the crisis to develop their potential. Economically, childhood poverty also leaves a mark in terms of poor human capital and lower productivity in later life, thus creating the risk of a vicious cycle of poverty. The same research suggests that households that receive social grants rather than other income streams alone tend to spend more on basics like food, fuel, housing and household operations (Delany et al., 2008).

2.10 Conclusion

Various studies have been conducted on this study on Child Support Grant, but each study had its own unique findings that are relevant. The grant plays a very important role in the lives of the beneficiaries, be it household, schooling, food, clothing and healthcare. This study intended to find determine the role played by the child support grant on the issues mentioned on the background of the study. Thus, the researcher realised that the government still has bigger shoes to fill on the issue of child support because beneficiaries and caregivers are still suffering.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The previous chapter dealt with the literature review of the role of the child support grant in enhancing the quality of life of beneficiaries. The focus of the current chapter is the discussion of research methodology, which includes the research design, population, sample and sampling strategy, data collection instruments and data analysis. The trustworthiness of the instruments as well as ethical clearance issues are discussed in this chapter.

3.2 Research Paradigm

This study utilized a quantitative research approach which is the most appropriate approach for this study because it allows the researcher to explain and analyse people's actions, beliefs and thoughts. It also fits perfectly because this study sought to find out as much as possible about the Child Support Grant.

According to Creswell (2013), research designs are types of inquiry within qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches that provide specific direction for procedure in a research design. The child support grant manual on research methodology and career orientation (2005) states that research design focuses on the end product and the logic of research. Quantitative methods can be used to verify the hypothesis. Creswell (2013) also argues that quantitative methods are research

techniques used to gather information dealing with numbers and anything that is measurable. Statistical tables and graphs are often used to present the results of this method.

Thomas (2010) states that according to Terblanche and Durrheim (1999), the research process has three major dimensions: ontology, epistemology and methodology. Ontology deals with philosophical beliefs and ideas of the study. Chebba et al (2015) add by saying that ontology is a term in philosophy, and its meaning is the theory of existence. Buiteloar et al (2003) contend that ontology is an explicit, formal specification of a shared conceptualization of a domain of interest, where *formal* implies that the ontology should be machine-readable and shared. This means that it is accepted by a group or community and should be restricted to a given domain of interest and model concepts and relations relevant to a particular task or application domain.

Epistemology, on the other hand, according to Oxford dictionary refers to the theory of knowledge, especially with regard to its methods, validity, and scope, and the distinction between justified belief and opinion. In a research study, there are various types of paradigms that are used, namely: Radical Humanist, Residual Structuralism, Interpretive and functionalist (Oxford dictionary, 2013). Gray (2004) states that positivism was the dominant epistemological paradigm in social science from the 1930s through to the 1960s; its core argument was that the social world exists externally to the researcher, and that its properties can be measured directly through observation. In essence, positivism argues that: Reality consists of what is available to the senses –

that is, what can be seen, smelt, touched, etc. Inquiry should be based upon scientific observation (as opposed to philosophical speculation) and on empirical inquiry. The natural and human sciences share common logical and methodological principles, dealing with facts and not with values. He further highlights that adopting a positivistic stance is not only about adopting certain approaches to the design of research studies. Hence, with the deductive approach, theories are tested through observation, thereby leading either to the falsification and discarding of the theory, or to the creation of, as yet, unfalsified laws. Normal science consists of extending the knowledge of facts that a paradigm suggests are especially important, by extending the match between those facts and the paradigm's predictions, and by further articulation of the paradigm itself (Gray, 2004).

For Bruce et al (2013), positivism assumes a stable observable reality that can be measured and observed. Therefore, for positivists, scientific knowledge is proven knowledge, and theories are thus derived in a systematic, rigorous way from observation and experiment. Bruce et al (2013) state that one of the primary characteristics of a positivist approach is that the researcher takes on objective distance from the phenomena so that a description of the investigation can be detached and undistorted by emotion or personal bias (Davey, 1994)

According to Forte (2014), positive theorists consider theory to be a set of concepts, interrelated set of propositions, and the explicit and sometimes mathematical statement of the relationship of these elements in a larger conceptual structure.

Forte (2014) argues that positivist theorists aim to create or test formal theory. Theory is used to explain real aspects of human behaviour and the social environment such as: the psychological causes of impulses and decisions to join social movements, influence on the quality of attachment between a child and a mother or the dynamics of an economic exchange between a tenant and a landlord. Theorizing in this style discovers and identifies the causes, factors, or conditions (Pasian, 2015). This is critical in explaining the specific biological, psychological, social or spiritual phenomena of interest in people. The researcher argues that positivist theorists aim to look carefully into the positive side of things and as well as how humans interact from day to day and entails critical thinking.

The researcher's design for this study is located on or focuses on the interpretive side. This paradigm was suitable to the nature of this study because the researcher got to interpret the responses personally. It was also deemed suitable because the researcher believes that the responses were either direct or indirect, which made it easier to be interpretative.

Mukherji and Albon (2009) conducted a successful study on the positivist paradigm stating that "the positivist paradigm leads to scientific, systematic approach to research and as such, lends itself to the use of quantitative methodology'. These researchers argued that positivism tends to use quantitative methodology that aims to produce information or data (in numerical form) that can be analysed through statistics. Mukherji and Albon (2009) add by stating that quantitative methodology aims to measure,

quantify or find the extent of a phenomenon. The study adapted the quantitative approach to analyse data statistically.

3.3 Research Approach

According to Creswell (2013), research approaches are plans and procedures for research that span the steps from broad assumptions to detailed methods of data collection, analysis and interpretation. Quantitative and qualitative approaches are the most commonly used approaches in research. Kothari (2004) argues that there are two basic approaches to research, quantitative and qualitative approach. The author also states that the former involves the generation of data in quantitative format, which can be subjected to rigorous quantitative analysis in a formal and rigid fashion. This approach can be further sub-classified into inferential research. The purpose of inferential approach is to form a database from which to infer characteristics or relationships of population. This usually refers to surveys where a sample of the population is studied (studied or observed) to determine its characteristics (Kothari, 2004).

This study is based on the quantitative research approach. Quantitative research is an approach for testing objective theories by examining the relationship among variables (Moule & Goodman, 2013). These variables can be measured so that numbered data can be analysed using statistical procedures (Creswell, 2013). Babbie and Rubin (2009) state that quantitative studies are more likely to generalize precise and objective findings to a larger population. Quantitative research approach's weakness is that at

times, it may not be flexible to study a new phenomenon as compared to the qualitative research approach (Babbie & Rubin, 2015). Qualitative research often tends to be focused on language, perceptions and experience in order to understand and explain behaviour (Moule & Goodman, 2013).

Quantitative research generates data that is numerical in nature which will need to be analysed using statistics. Taking this path usually aligns with a positivist theoretical perspective where the belief is that a theory or hypothesis needs to be tested to see if it is true or not. This calls for controlled testing and use of inferential statistics to test hypotheses through descriptive statistics, multi-dimensional measurements, factor analyses and interpretation of statistical results. This means that the types of sampling and research designs applied need careful consideration (Nolan et al., 2013).

The quantitative approach was deemed suitable for this study because according to Newby (2014), quantitative research can analyse data collected from surveys or experimental situations. The University of Vassa adds that quantitative approach works best to identify factors that influence an outcome, the utility of an intervention or understanding the best predictors of outcome (Creswell, 2003; 21-22). This assertion is relevant to this study because, hence the research approach choice.

Vogt (2007) utilised the quantitative research approach due to its proven success over the years through his integrated discussions of design and measurement as well as analysis. Helpful and thoughtful discussion questions help instructors and students to

probe subjects more deeply and apply the chapters' concepts to topics of a particular interest to them.

Balnaves and Caputi (2001) also utilised a study based on the quantitative approach, which is basically. These authors used a detective theme throughout their text and multimedia courseware to show how quantitative methods were used to solve real-life problems.

3.4 Research Design

David and Sutton (2004) assert that the purpose of a research design is to provide a framework for the collection and analysis of data. According to Creswell (2013), research designs are types of inquiry within qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches that provide specific direction for procedure in a research design. Research design is best described as the actual structure according to which our study is organized (Rasinger, 2013).

There are different types of designs that are in line with the quantitative approach; these are: Descriptive research and Correlation research. Lodico et al (2010) maintain that this type (descriptive) of research design seeks to determine the degree of relationship between two or more variables. In addition, Kumar (2014) states that the main emphasis in a correlation study is to discover or establish the existence of a relationship, association or interdependence between two or more aspects of a situation or phenomena. Casual-comparative/Quasi experimental research is a research

approach that seeks to explain differences between groups by examining differences in the experiences of group members (Lodico, 2010).

In addition, Quasi-experimental research designs are useful in describing characteristics or participants, activities or participants (Waruingi, 2013). Thyer (2012) describes a quasi-experimental design as a design that compares a treatment group against other groups of clients who received no treatment, standard treatment, another treatment or placebo treatment, and lastly, the experimental research which is designed to determine cause-effect relationships (Lodico, 2010).

Descriptive research designs appeared are relevant to this study because they deal with a population of people used to collect data. Babbie and Rubin (2009) state that descriptive research refers to the characteristics of a population and is based on data obtained from a sample of people thought to be representative of that population. Babbie and Rubin (2009) explain the data described in quantitative studies are likely to refer to surface attributes that can be easily quantified, for example: age, income, and size of the family and so on.

A descriptive study is concerned with and designed only to describe the existing distribution of variables, without regard to causal or other hypotheses. The key qualifier of causal hypotheses is sometimes forgotten by investigators, thus resulting in erroneous conclusions. Below is an overview of the advantages and disadvantages of

descriptive studies, examples of several types of descriptive study, examining their clinical uses and showing how they can be misinterpreted (Grimes & Schulz, 2002).

Grimes and Schulz (2002) explain that descriptive studies have strengths and weaknesses. Often, data are already available and thus inexpensive and efficient to use. Furthermore, few ethical difficulties exist. However, descriptive studies have important limitations. According to Weinstein et al (2005), each approach has its strengths and weaknesses and each is particularly suitable for a particular context.

Rensburg et al (2006), suggest that experimental designs differ from non-experimental designs primarily in that the researcher can control the action of the specific variables being studied. These researchers also state that experiments are concerned with testing hypotheses and establishing causality. Experimental designs include the elements of pre-and-quasi experimental designs plus the added feature of creating these groups through random-assignment methods (Thyer, 2012:22).

The approach adopted and the methods of data collection selected will depend on the nature of the enquiry and type of information required (Weinstein et al., 2005). Temporary associations between putative causes and effects might be unclear. The design chosen is suitable for this study because it entails measurements that are related to the quantitative research method.

3.5 Population and Sampling

Kreager (2015) argues that a population is a collection of people with certain characteristics. On the other hand, Drew et al (2007) state that a population refers to all constituents of any clearly described group of people, events, or objects who are the focus of an investigation. Mbokane (2009) states that according to Polit and Hungler (1999:37), population refers to the population as an aggregate or totality of all the objects, subjects or members that conform to a set of specifications. The dictionary.com (2016) describes population as the number or body of inhabitants in a place belonging to specific social, cultural, socio-economic, ethnic or racial subgroups.

The population of this study consisted of households in Dimbaza community that are receiving child support grant. The sampling size comprised 150 households from the community. The researcher chose a sample of 150 households because it was cheaper or cost effective to observe or interview these through questionnaires rather than the interviewing the whole community of Dimbaza. The researcher used the door-to-door method. Bless et al (2006) define a sample as the sub-set of the whole population which is investigated by a researcher and whose characteristics will be generalized to the entire population. According to Kerlinger (1986) as cited by Strydom (2005:193), sampling refers to taking any portion of a population or universe as representatives of the total population or universe. The purpose of sampling is to use a relatively small numbers of cases to find out about a much larger number (Gorard, 2001).

The researcher used a systematic sampling technique where a certain number of households has been selected. Babbie (2013) describes systematic sampling as a type of probability sampling in which every unit in a list is selected in the sample. On the other hand, Mukhopadhyay (2008) argues that systematic sampling is equivalent to choosing one unit at random from the first stratum and then choosing units having the same relative positions from subsequent strata.

Chaudhuri (2014) describes a sample as a more usefully defined set of distinct labels which are distinct entities. Anastas (2012) further defines a sample as a sub-group of elements of the population that has been included as the source of information in a study. The researcher chose the youth of the Dimbaza community who are in receipt of the Child Support Grant to participate in the study.

3.5.1 Research Procedure

The researcher first asked for informed consent from parents as permission to conduct the study using their children. This was done by writing a letter to the chairperson of the community asking for permission. When permission was granted, the researcher then distributed the questionnaire schedules to both male and female youth of the Dimbaza community and explained to the participants the purpose of the study. Moreover, there was an ethical clearance obtained from the University of Fort Hare Ethics Committee.

The researcher also received consent from the youth to confirm that they agree to participate through a consent form. The researcher also informed them of their anonymity in filling in the questionnaire.

3.6 Data Collection Instruments

Kielhofner (2006) states that data collection (based on a quantitative research method) instruments can include tools such as self-report forms, interviews with rating scales, observational checklists or rating scales, calibrated measurements devices and tests.

Anderson and Arsenault (2005) argue that during data collection, commonly used instruments include: observations, interviewing, questionnaires, unobtrusive measures and sometimes diaries, meetings and the use of knowledgeable informants. Gray (2013) describes data collection instruments in quantitative approach as questionnaires, standardized measuring instruments (such as psychometric tests) and the kinds of observation schedules that involve counting the number of times an event or activity occurs.

3.6.1 Questionnaires

Questionnaires are some of the means of getting information from people usually by posing direct or indirect questions (Gillham, 2007:2). Brace (2013) argues that questionnaires are written in many different ways, used in different situations and with different data-gathering media.

McNabb (2015) points out that researchers use two different approaches when gathering data in quantitative research studies; they may collect data by observing and counting overt acts of behaviour or may use questionnaires to generate responses to specific questions - including questions about attitudes, opinions, motivation, knowledge, demographics, and many more categories.

Questionnaires are the most frequently used data collection method in educational and evaluation research. Questionnaires help gather information on knowledge, attitudes, opinions, behaviours, facts and other information (Radhakrishna, 2007). A questionnaire was chosen as appropriate for the study because it allowed anonymity of participants. Questionnaires also give immediate responses and saves time for both the researchers and the respondents and are the most popular means to gather primary data.

It has been estimated that questionnaires are used in 85 percent or more of all quantitative research projects and are particularly appropriate when the research problem calls for a descriptive design. Questionnaires can be used to gather information on large numbers of respondents (populations) or small groups (samples) (McNabb, 2015).

MacNabb (2015) continues that the greatest strengths of questionnaires are flexibility and that they can be custom designed to meet the objectives of almost any type of research project. Researchers can also purchase the rights to use different types of pre-prepared questionnaires that have been developed by other researchers. MacNabb (2015) argues that questionnaires have been thoroughly tested with a variety of different

samples. The weakness or disadvantage of using questionnaires is that there is no way of telling how truthful the respondent is.

Another disadvantage is that people may read differently into each question and reply based on their own interpretation of the question – i.e. what is 'good' to someone may be 'poor' to someone else; therefore, there is a level of subjectivity that is not acknowledged (Institute of Life Long Learning, 2009). Questionnaires are rooted in the positivist paradigm, and questionnaires surveys have been used as mantras for positive and negative critiques of quantitative research (Scott & Morrison, 2007). Scott and Morrison further argue that questionnaires are empiricist and add a little theoretical value. They add that questionnaires are based on a science model of hypothesis and significance testing which lacks imagination or creative thinking. Disadvantages of questionnaire surveys are that they establish correlations between variables, not causes; questions used in surveys are incapable of getting to the meaningful aspects of social action, lack context and tend to produce atomistic outcomes (Scott & Morrison, 2007).

To avoid these weaknesses in this study, the researcher made the questions clear for the respondents to respond to and was present during the whole process so as to deal with misunderstandings that might occur. Wisker (2007) contends that questionnaires gather information directly by asking people questions and using the responses as data for analysis. They are often used to gather information about facts, attitudes, behaviours, activities and responses to events and usually consist of a list of written

questions. Wisker (2007) continues to state that questionnaires are used to gather responses from large numbers or respondents as they can be counted, measured and statistically analysed. Questionnaires are favourites among those with a positivistic worldview and methodology who seek to test a theory (deductive rather than inductive).

3.6.2 Justification of data collection instruments

Many researchers prefer to use semi-structured interviews because questions can be prepared ahead of time. This allows the interviewer to be prepared and appear competent during the interview (Creswell, 2009). Semi-structured interviews also allow informants the freedom to express their views in their own terms, as questions are predominantly open-ended. Semi-structured interviews can provide reliable comparable qualitative data and are simply conversations in which one wants to find out certain issues. Conversation is usually free, varies and is likely to change substantially between participants (Mile & Gilbert, 2005).

3.7 Validity and Reliability

This section examines the validity and the reliability of the instruments used in collecting data for this study.

3.7.1 Test –Retest Reliability

Test-retest reliability addresses the consistency of a test measurement (Weir, 2005). Since the study is based on the quantitative research approach, it was necessary for the

researcher to do the test re-test reliability on the same group of individuals that participated.

3.7.2 Inter-rater Reliability

Inter-rater reliability entails analysing data in different ways. Here, the measurements of reliability were tested/ rated by completing a table so to note different types of response from participants.

3.7.3 Internal consistency reliability

The researcher addressed this reliability method by means of pie charts and bar graphs to make ensure consistency of the measurements. Goodman et al (2015) argue that a meta-analysis of interview reliability is a useful complement to validity meta-analyses for two reasons. First, reliability provides an estimate of the upper limit on validity. Although recent validity meta-analyses (Huffcutt & Arthur, 1994; McDaniel et al., 1994) have provided invaluable information on typical validities, they beg the question of the upper limits. Moule and Goodman (2013) highlight that Internal Consistency Reliability is the split-half consistency and state that it is used with questionnaires that have a total score and measure specific criterion.

3.7.4 Validity

Validity entails that the questions asked be accurate, correct and specific in order to source accurate answers. In this study, the answers were accurate because the

questions were clear and simple, with no hidden clauses. Regarding Content Validity, questions were asked according to the population make-up.

3.7.4.1 Content Validity

Content validity refers to whether or not the content of the variables (e.g. items of a test or questions of a questionnaire) is right to measure latent concepts (self-esteem, achievement, attitudes) that the study is trying to measure. The researcher ensured the validity of the study by showing the respondents the questionnaire beforehand. Asking respondents whether the instrument or test looks valid to them is also important. This is called establishing face-validity because respondents are judging whether the instrument is acceptable to them (Muijs, 2004).

3.7.4.2 Construct validity

Moule and Goodman (2013) illustrate that Polit and Beck (2010) suggest that establishing Construct Validity is more challenging than content validity as it involves making judgement on what the instrument is measuring. To ensure that this study's questions source precise responses, the researcher used open-ended questions for respondents to easily express themselves and have a chance to say exactly what it is that they want to say when responding.

3.8 Conclusion

The aim of the study was to investigate the role of the child support grant in enhancing the standard of living on the beneficiaries in the Dimbaza Community. The researcher intended to find out how children are benefiting from the child support grant. Through the findings, the researcher was able to conclude whether the grant had a positive effect and made recommendations. This study's research approach necessitated that when the researcher was collecting data, she adhered to research guidelines. These were: ensuring that the data collection instruments go hand in hand with the main aim of the study and that the questions were easy to respond to.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the research focuses on the presentation and interpretation of data. According to De Vos et al. (2005: 218), data analysis means categorising, ordering, manipulating and summarising data to obtain answers to research questions. The authors move on to say that interpretation takes the results of analysis, makes inferences pertinent to the research relations studied and draws conclusions about these relations. In this chapter, quantitative data analysis and interpretation focuses on whether the role of Child Support Grant does enhance the quality of life of beneficiaries in Dimbaza, Buffalo City Metro Municipality.

Data findings show that the role played by CSG in enhancing the quality of life of the beneficiaries in Dimbaza is important because the beneficiaries do see a change after receiving CSG support from the government. The researcher also noted that the beneficiaries appreciate and acknowledge the role played by the CSG.

4.2 Presentation of findings

This study utilised the quantitative data approach using questionnaires. The main findings presented in the study focus on: the schooling of the beneficiaries, healthcare, household of the beneficiaries the role played by the CSG and the economic status of the CSG beneficiaries.

4.2.1 Demographic characteristics of respondents

This section presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents, namely: gender, age and race. The demographic characteristics of respondents in the study are 61% for women and 39% for males. Table 4.1 shows the age distribution of the respondents of this study.

Table 4.1: Age group distribution

Age	Freq.	Percentage
13-18	63	42
19-60	87	58
Total	150	100

Table 4.1 illustrates the age group/distribution of the respondents as well as the percentage. It shows that 42% of the participants are from the age group 13-18 years while 58% were in the age range of 19-60 and above.

4.2.2 Economic status of CSG beneficiaries

Respondents were asked about their economic statuses, and the responses are displayed in table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Economic status in CSG

Economic Status	Freq.	Percentage
Poor	34	23
below average	63	42

Average	51	34
Above average	2	01
Total	150	100

The respondents were asked about their economic status regarding CSG, so table 4.2 shows that 1% percent of the respondents reported that the economic status of CSG beneficiaries was above average. On the other hand, it also displays that 34% of the respondents reported that their economic status from CSG was average. To add, 42% of the respondents reported that their economic status was below average; lastly, 23% of the respondents said that they were poor.

4.2.3 Levels of satisfaction with home and apartment

The participants were asked to answer question on the levels of satisfaction with their homes, apartments or places where they live. The participants' responses on their levels of satisfaction with their homes and apartments are shown in figure 4.1.

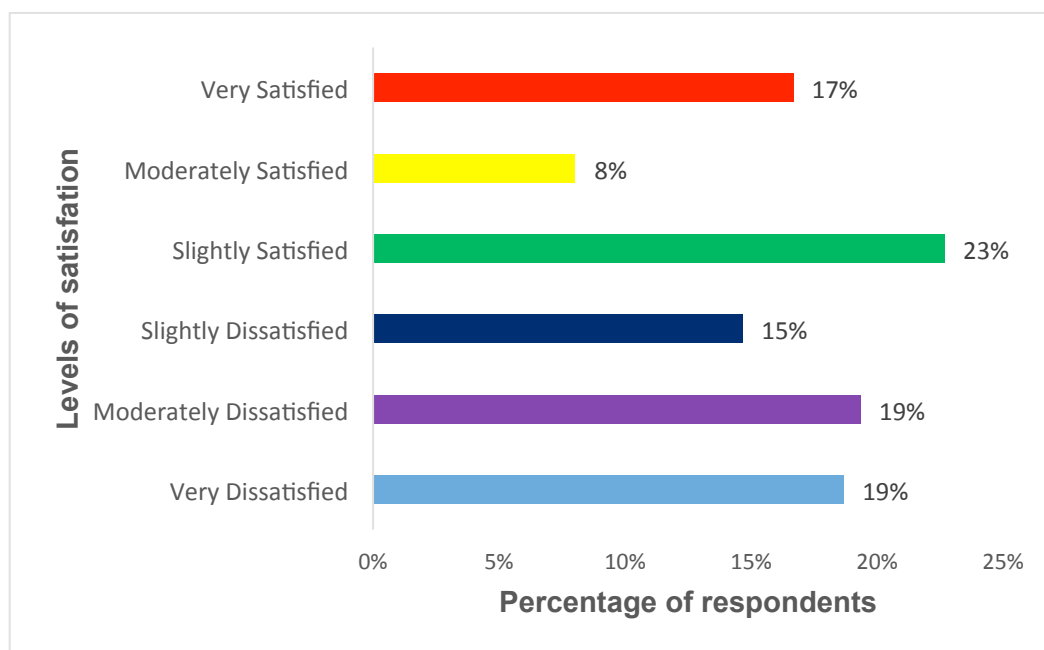


Figure 4.1: Levels of satisfaction with home and apartment

Figure 4.1 shows that 17% of the respondents were very satisfied with their homes and apartments. The figure also illustrates that 8% of the respondents were moderately satisfied with their homes or apartments. Figure 4.1 also shows that 23% of the respondents were slightly satisfied with their homes or apartments while 15% were slightly dissatisfied. Furthermore, it shows that 19% of the respondents said they were moderately dissatisfied. Finally, it illustrates that 19% of the respondents were very dissatisfied with their homes or apartments. Figure 4.2 below reveals the respondents' descriptions of their area.

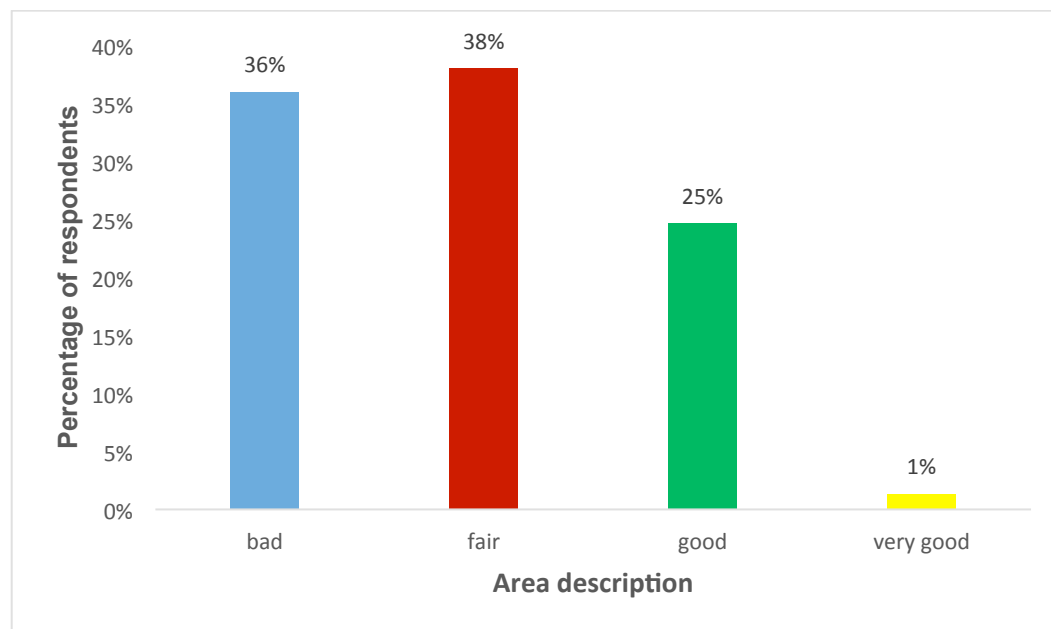


Figure 4.2: Respondents' description of their areas

Figure 4.2 shows that 36% of the respondents described their areas as bad neighbourhoods. The figure illustrates that 38% of the respondents reported their areas as fair while 25% reported theirs as good. Lastly, the figure shows that 1% of the respondents stated that their areas were very good.

4.2.4 The role of CSG in enhancing the standard of living

The role of CSG was examined in relation to enhancing the standard of living of the respondents. The results are presented in figure 4.3.

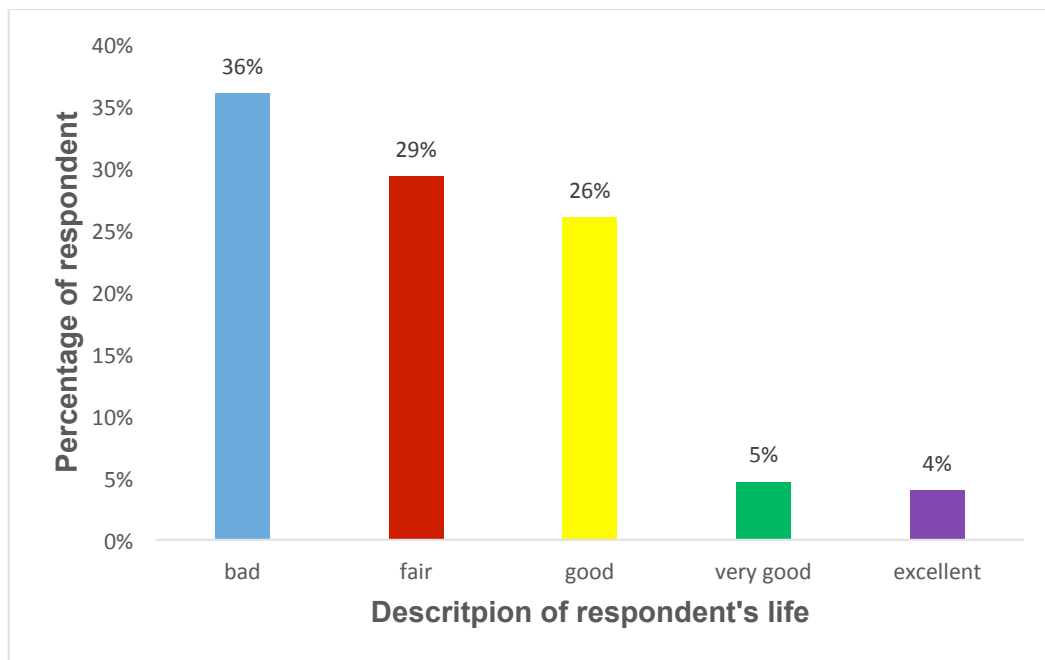


Figure 4.3: Description of respondents' lives

Figure 4.3 describes lives of the respondents. The figure shows that 36% of the respondents stated that their lives were bad, with 29 % of them reporting that their lives were fair. Furthermore, the figure reveals that 26% of the respondents stated that their life was good. In addition, the figure shows that 5% described their lives as very good. Finally, only 4% of the respondents reported that their lives were excellent.

4.2.5 Satisfaction with educational level

Respondents were asked about their satisfaction with their educational levels. The results are shown on figure 4.4.

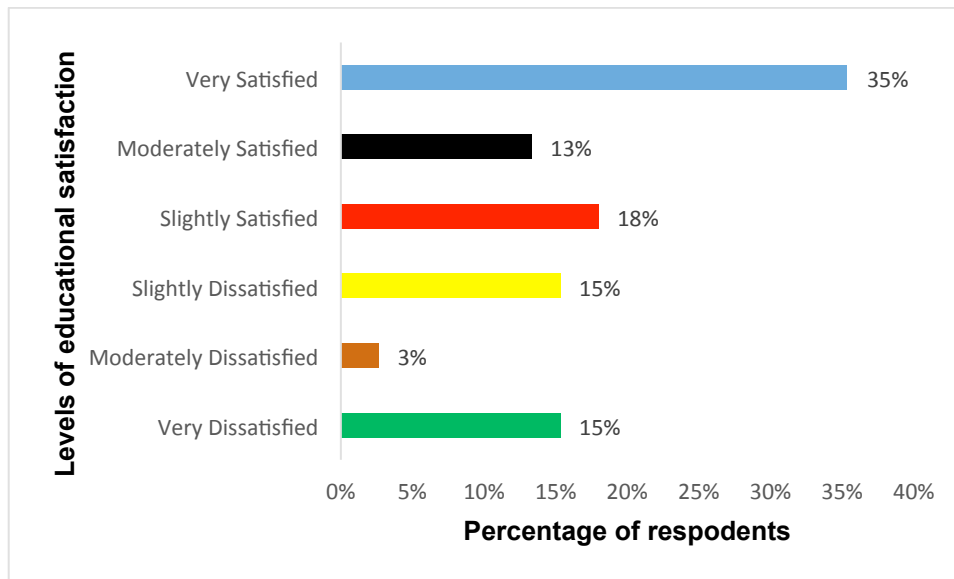


Figure 4.4: Levels of educational satisfaction

In terms of the levels of educational satisfaction of the respondents, Figure 4.4 shows that 35% of the respondents reported that they were very satisfied with their educational level. Thirteen percent of the respondents were moderately satisfied with their education levels, whereas 18% of the respondents were slightly satisfied with their levels of education. Furthermore, figure 4.4 shows that 15% of the respondents who participated in this study were slightly dissatisfied with their education, while 3% were moderately dissatisfied with their education. Finally, 15% of the respondents were very dissatisfied with their levels of their education.

4.2.7 Quality of food consumption

Respondents were asked of the quality of food they consume at home, and the results are presented in figure 4.5.

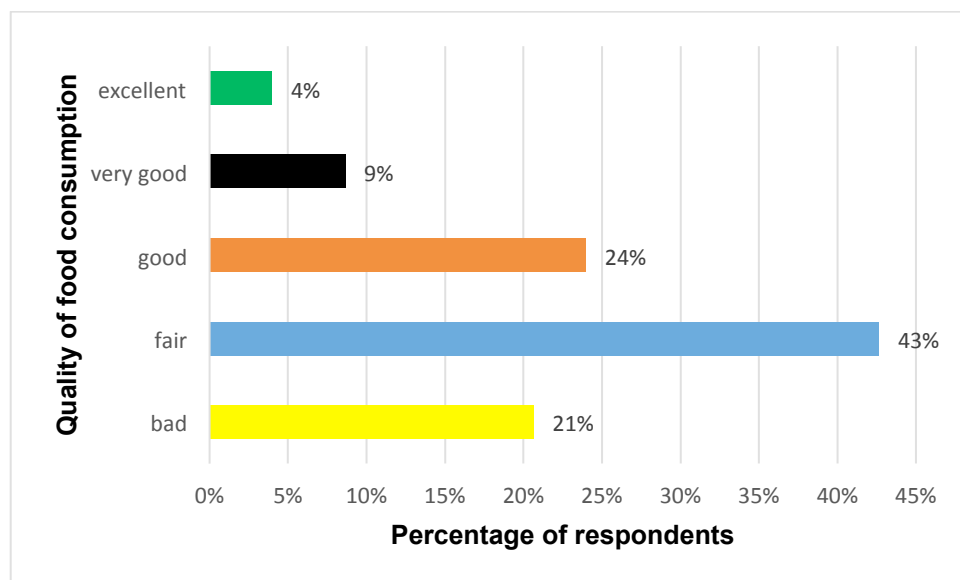


Figure 4.5: Quality of food consumption

Figure 4.5 shows the findings regarding the quality of food consumption. It shows that 4% of the respondents maintained that their food consumption quality was excellent while 9% stated that their quality of food consumption was very good. Twenty-four percent responded by stating that the quality of food consumption for them was good. Figure 4.5 also displays that 43% of the respondents reported that the quality of food consumption was fair. Finally, 21% of the respondents reported that the quality of food consumption was bad.

4.2.7 Importance of health

The respondents were asked about the importance of their health. Figure 4.6 shows that 63% of the respondents stated that their health was very important to them while 17% said their health was moderately important. Moreover, 13% of the respondents reported that their health was slightly important. Only 5% of the respondents reported

that their health was slightly unimportant while 2% reported that their health was moderately unimportant to them.

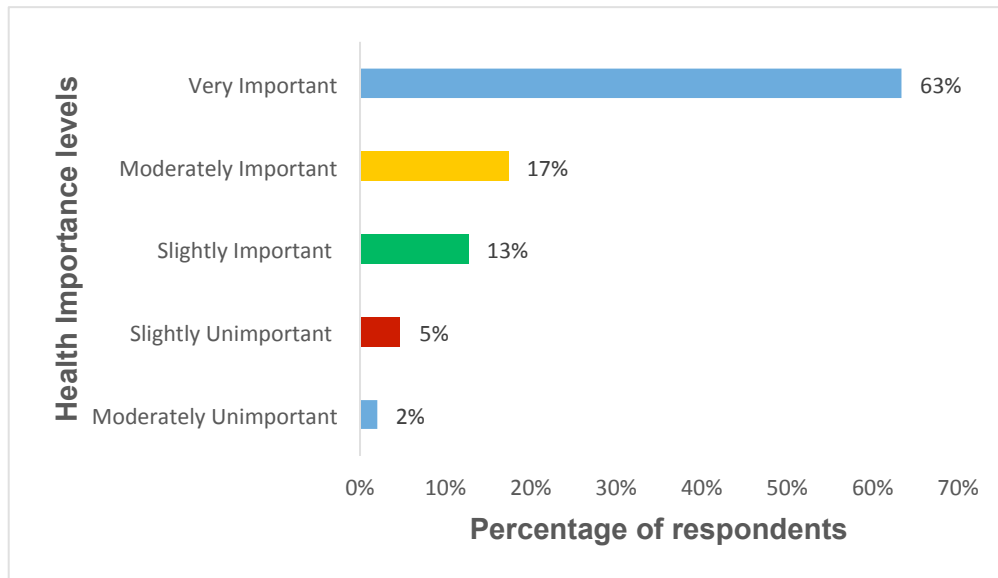


Figure 4.6: Importance of health to the respondents

4.2.8 Satisfaction of caring for oneself

One of the questions posed to the respondents was whether they were satisfied with their ability to take care of themselves. Figure 4.7 shows that 23% of the respondents reported that they were very satisfied while 15% were moderately satisfied. Moreover, the figure illustrates that 25% said that they were slightly satisfied while 17% were slightly dissatisfied. Furthermore, figure 4.7 indicates that 15% showed that the respondents were moderately dissatisfied while 4% were very dissatisfied with their inability to take care of themselves without help.

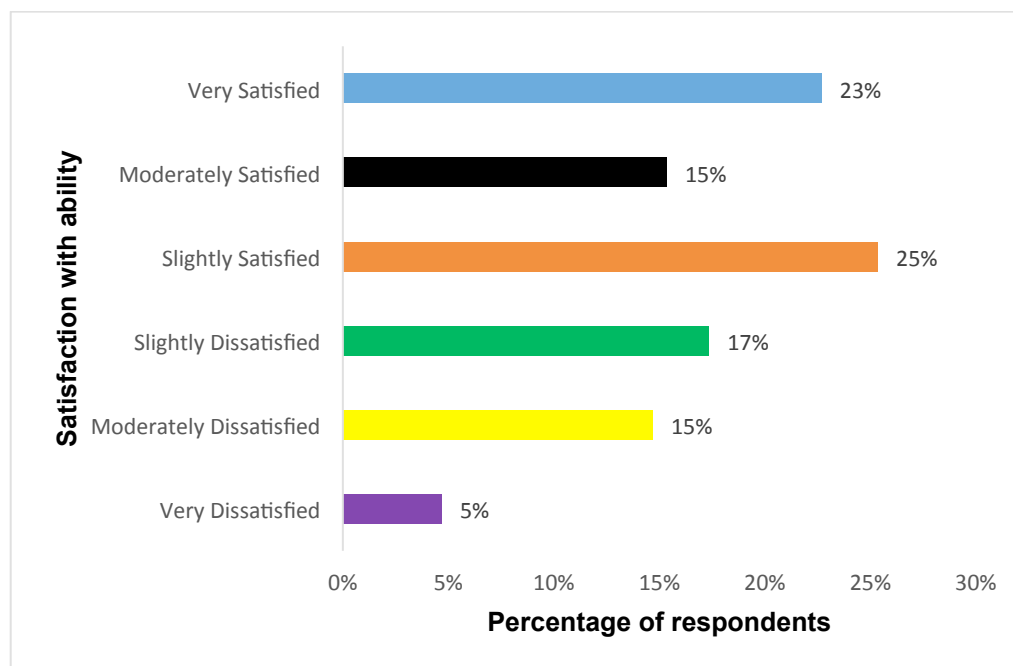


Figure 4.7: Respondents' Satisfaction with ability to take care of self

4.2.9 The quality of life of children who receive CSG

This section of the study sought to find out more about the importance of taking care of the beneficiaries' financial needs. Figure 4.8 shows that 30% of the respondents were able to take care of their financial needs. The figure illustrates that 20% of the respondents stated that being able to take care of financial needs was moderately important while 18% of the respondents reported a slight importance in their ability to take care of their financial needs.

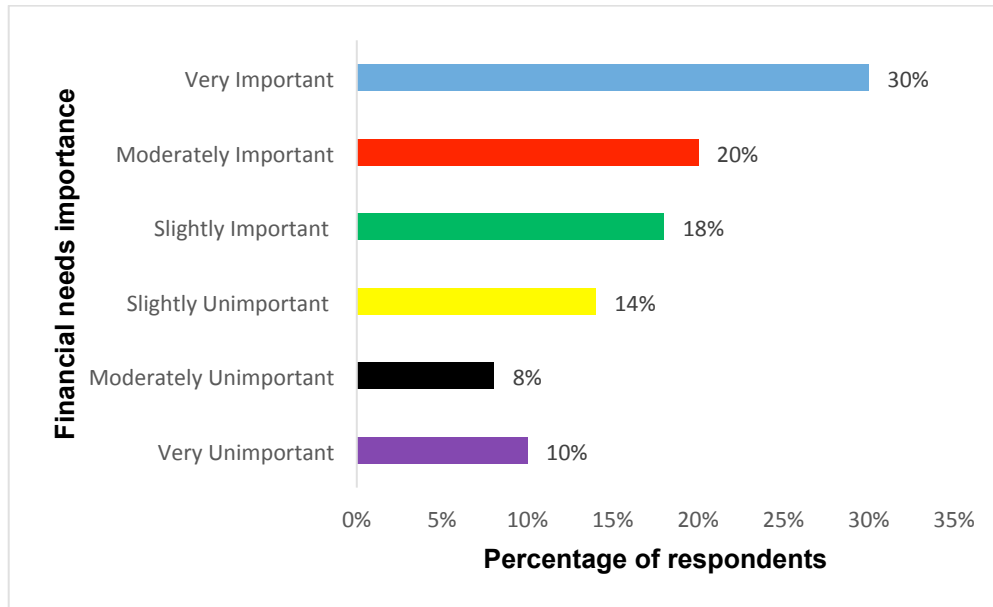


Figure 4.8: Importance of taking care of beneficiaries' financial needs

Figure 4.8 shows that 14% of the respondents reported that being able to take care of their financial needs was slightly unimportant while 8% of the respondents reported that being able to take care of financial needs was moderately unimportant. To add, 10% reported that being able to take care of financial needs was very unimportant. Figure 4.9 shows the happiness levels of respondents.

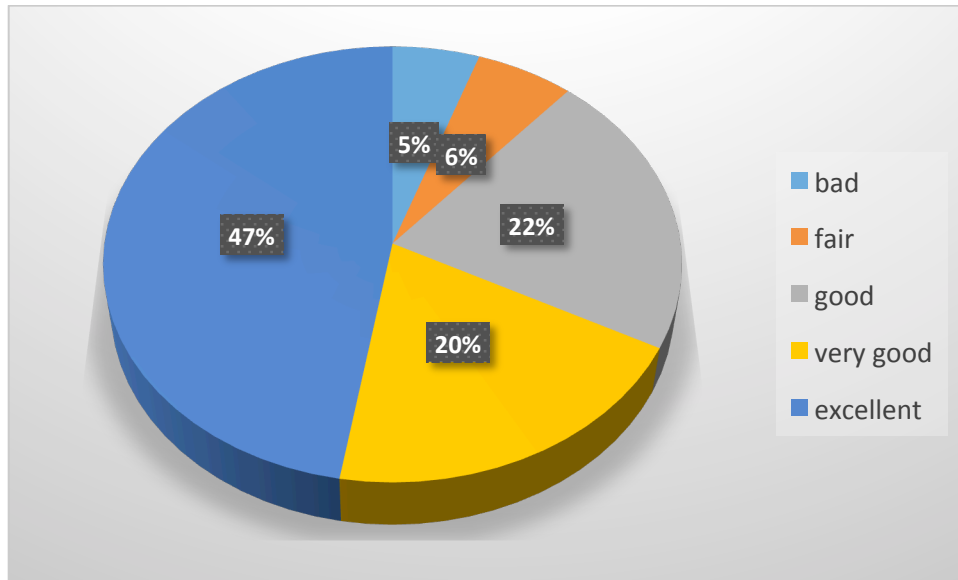


Figure 4.9: Happiness in general

Figure 4.9 shows the respondents' happiness levels in general with a rating of bad, fair, good or excellent. It shows that 5% of the respondents reported that their level of happiness was bad, with 6% saying that their happiness was fair while 20% reported that their level of happiness was very good. It also shows that 22% of the respondents reported that their happiness was very good while 47% reported an excellent level of happiness. The emotional support from the family is shown in figure 4.10.

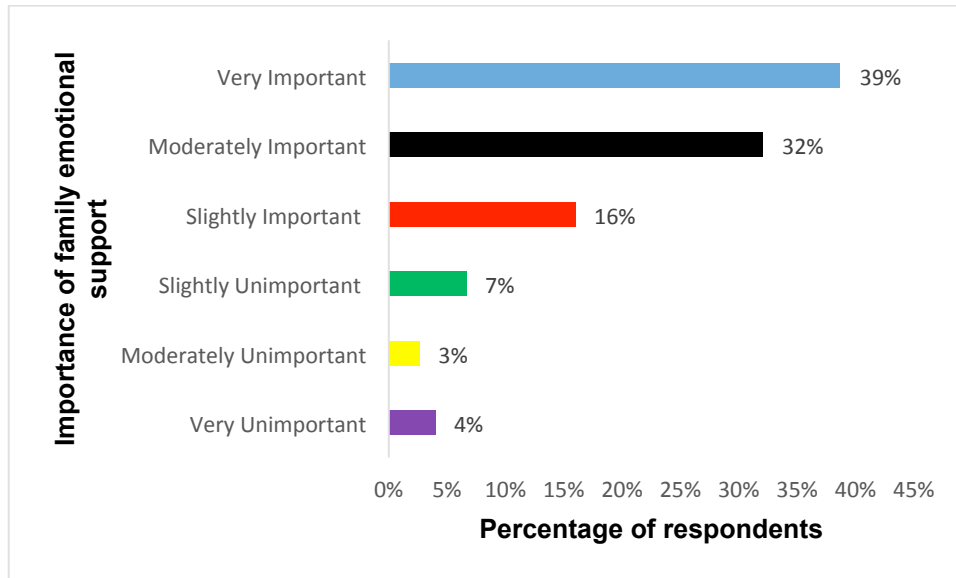


Figure 4.10: The emotional support from family

Figure 4.10 illustrates that 39% of the respondents stated that getting emotional support from their families is very important while 32% reported it as moderately important. It also shows that 16% reported that the emotional support from their families is slightly important. The figure shows that 7% reported that getting emotional support from family was slightly unimportant while 3% reported that it is moderately unimportant; four percent reported that getting emotional support from their families is very unimportant. The state of the respondents' health was sought, and the results are shown in figure 4.11.

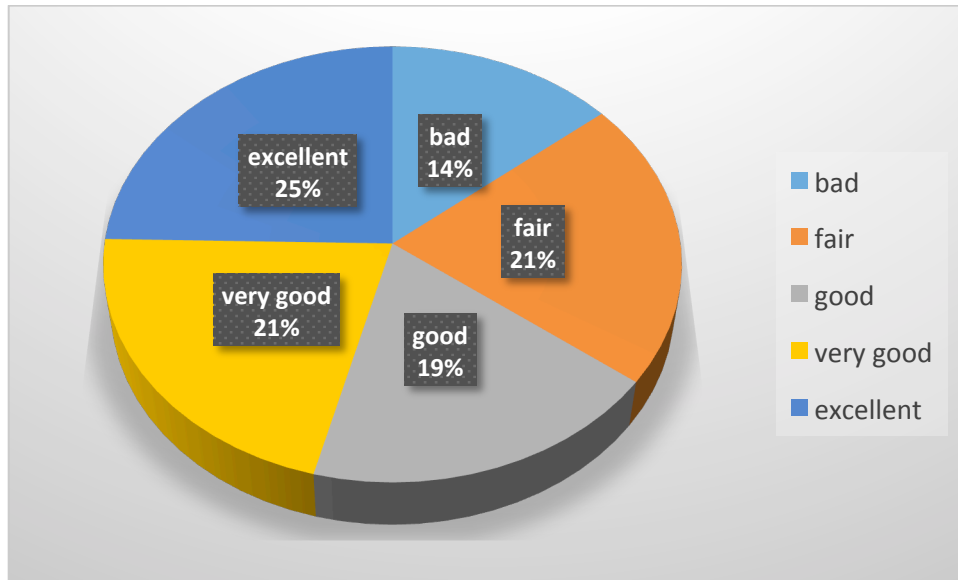


Figure 4.11: State of healthcare

Figure 4.11 shows that 14% of the respondents reported that their healthcare is bad, 21% as fair whilst 19% reported it as good. It also shows that 21% of the respondents reported that their healthcare is very good while 25% reported it as excellent. Figure 4.12 shows the importance of living to the respondents.

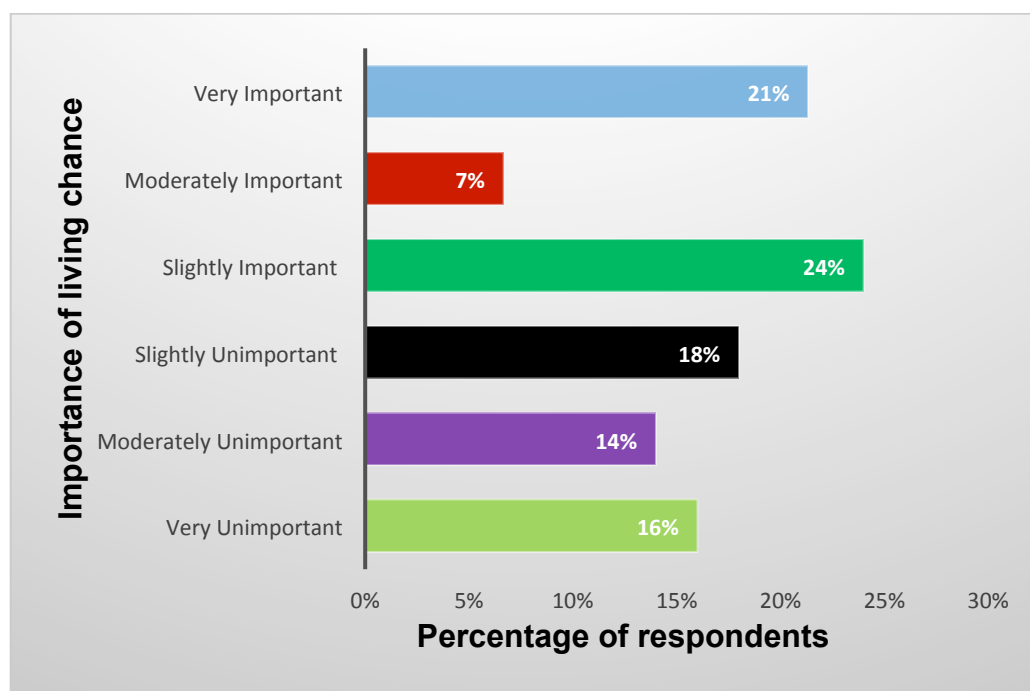


Figure 4.12: Respondents' chance of living

Figure 4.12 shows that 21% of the respondents reported that their chances of living are very important to them, with 7% reporting that chances of living to them are moderately important. The figure of the respondents reported that the chances of living to them are very unimportant. also illustrates that 24% of the respondents reported that their chances of living are slightly important while 18% reported that their chances of living are slightly unimportant. The figure shows that 14% reported that their chances of living are moderately unimportant. This figure illustrates that 16% .

4.2.10 Quality of life of household members and CSG beneficiaries

The quality of life of household members and CSG beneficiaries was explored with respect to: the level of satisfaction with the energy, support received from friends, usefulness to others, the amount of worries in the respondents' lives and satisfaction

with the neighbourhood, amongst others. Figure 4.13 shows the state of satisfaction with energy for undertaking everyday activities.

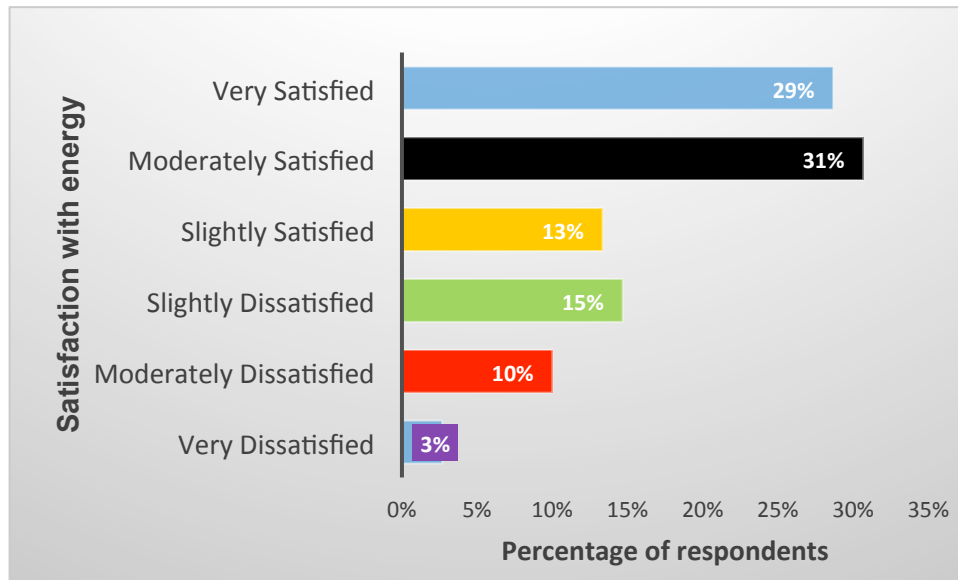


Figure 4.13: Satisfaction with energy for everyday activities

Figure 4.13 shows the respondents' level of satisfaction with the energy that they have for everyday activities. The figure illustrates that 29% of the respondents are very satisfied with the amount of energy they have for everyday activities while 31% are moderately satisfied. The findings also show that 13% of the respondents are slightly satisfied with the energy they have for everyday activities while 15% are slightly dissatisfied. Figure 4.13 indicates the level of satisfaction with the emotional support that respondents get from friends.

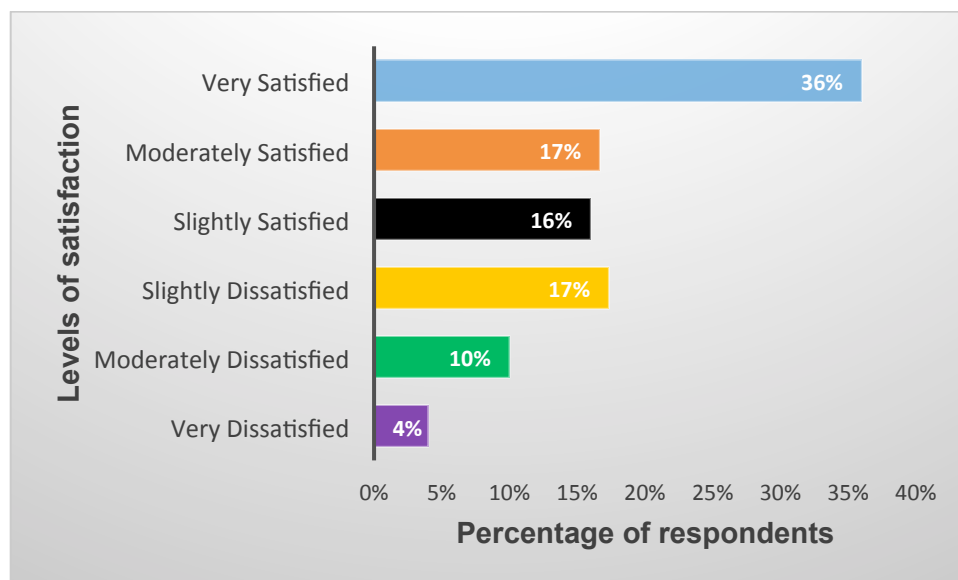


Figure 4.14: Satisfaction with emotional support from friends

Regarding satisfaction with the level of support received from friends, the findings show that 36% of the respondents are very satisfied with the emotional support that they get from their friends, as illustrated in figure 4.14. The figure also shows that 17% are moderately satisfied with the emotional support they get from friends while 16% noted that they are slightly satisfied. Furthermore, 17% indicated that they are slightly dissatisfied with the emotional support they get from their friends, with 10% reporting that they are moderately dissatisfied. Similarly, respondents were asked to ascertain the level of satisfaction with their usefulness to other members of the community. The results are shown in figure 4.15.

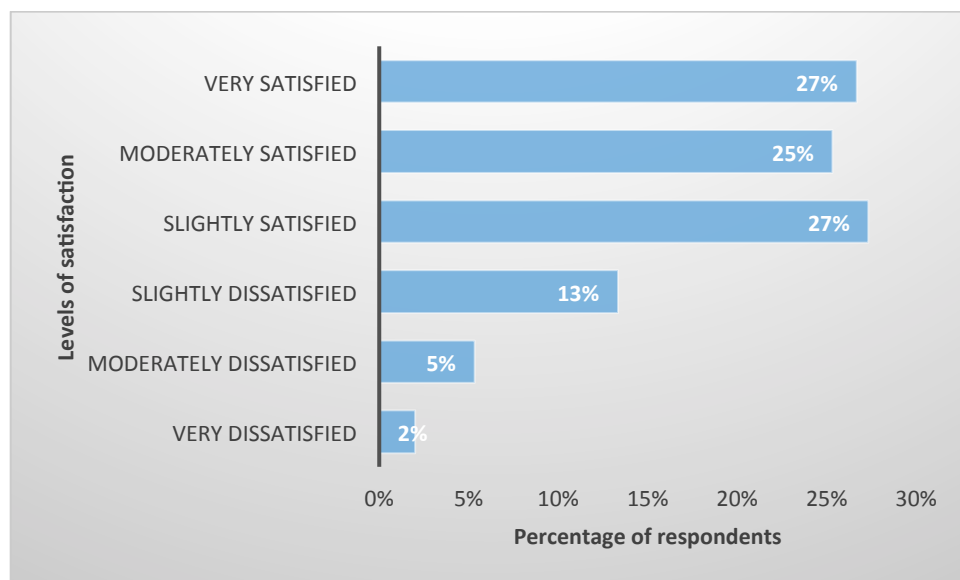


Figure 4.15: How satisfied are you with being useful to others?

Figure 4.15 shows that 27% of the respondents are very satisfied with how useful they are to others while 25% are moderately satisfied. It also shows that 27% of the respondents are slightly dissatisfied with how useful they are to others while 13% are slightly dissatisfied with how useful they are to others. The graph also shows that 5% are moderately dissatisfied with how useful they are to others while 2% are very dissatisfied.

Figure 4.16 shows the responses to the question regarding satisfaction with the amount of worries in the respondents' lives.

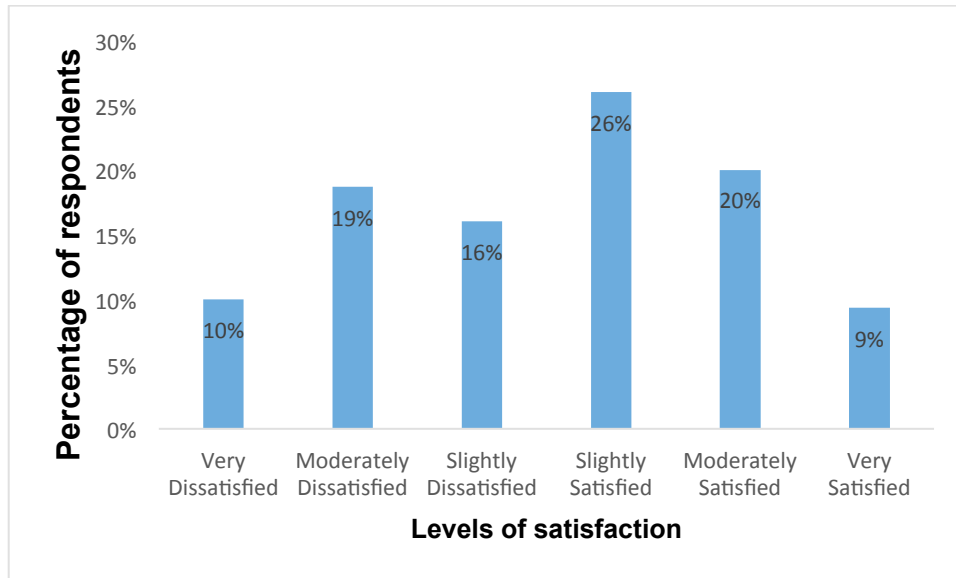


Figure 4.16: Satisfaction with the amount of worries in a respondent's life

Figure 4.16 shows the respondents' levels of satisfaction with the amount of worries in their lives. It shows that 10% of the respondents reported that they are very dissatisfied with the amount of worries they have in their lives while 19% reported being moderately dissatisfied. Figure 14.16 also shows that 16% of the respondents were slightly dissatisfied with the amount of worries they have, with 26% showing that they are slightly satisfied. To add, 20% are moderately satisfied while 9% reported that they are very satisfied with the amount of worries they have.

Figure 4.17 shows the responses to a question regarding the respondents' satisfaction with their neighbours.

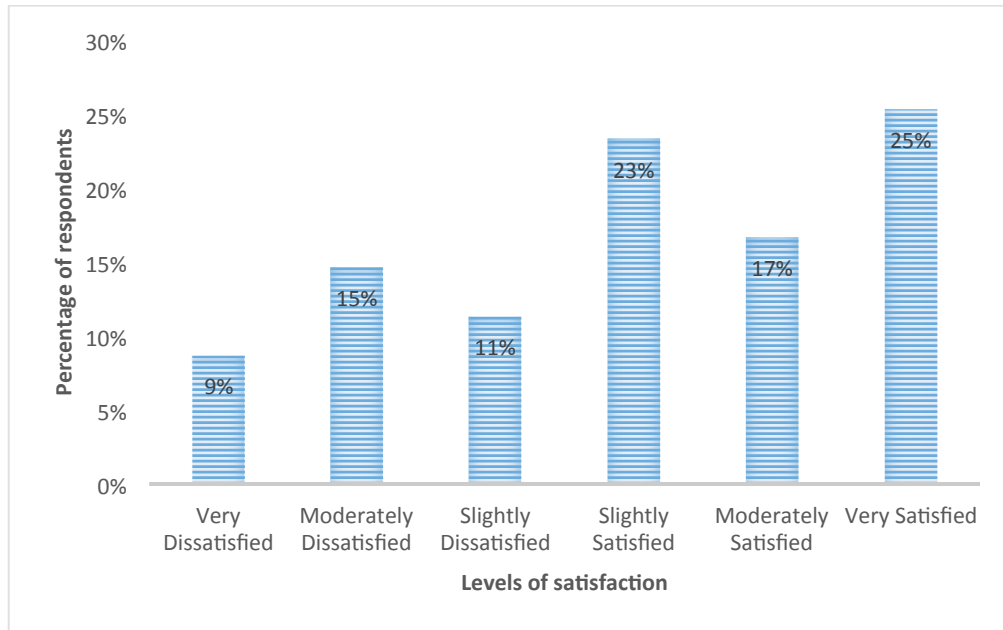


Figure 4.17: Satisfaction with the neighbourhood

Figure 4.17 shows that 9% of the respondents are very dissatisfied with their neighbourhoods while 15% are moderately dissatisfied. Furthermore, 11% of the respondents are slightly dissatisfied, with 25% of them reporting being very satisfied with their neighbourhoods. Figure 4.18 depicts the level of satisfaction with the things the respondents do for fun.

Figure 4.18 shows that 1% of the respondents are very dissatisfied with the things they do for fun. It also shows that 7% of the respondents reported that they are moderately dissatisfied with the things they do for fun while 15% reported that they are slightly dissatisfied. It also reveals that 36% of the respondents show that they are slightly satisfied with the things they do for fun while 22% reported being moderately satisfied. Finally, only 19% of the respondents said that they are very satisfied with the things they do for fun.

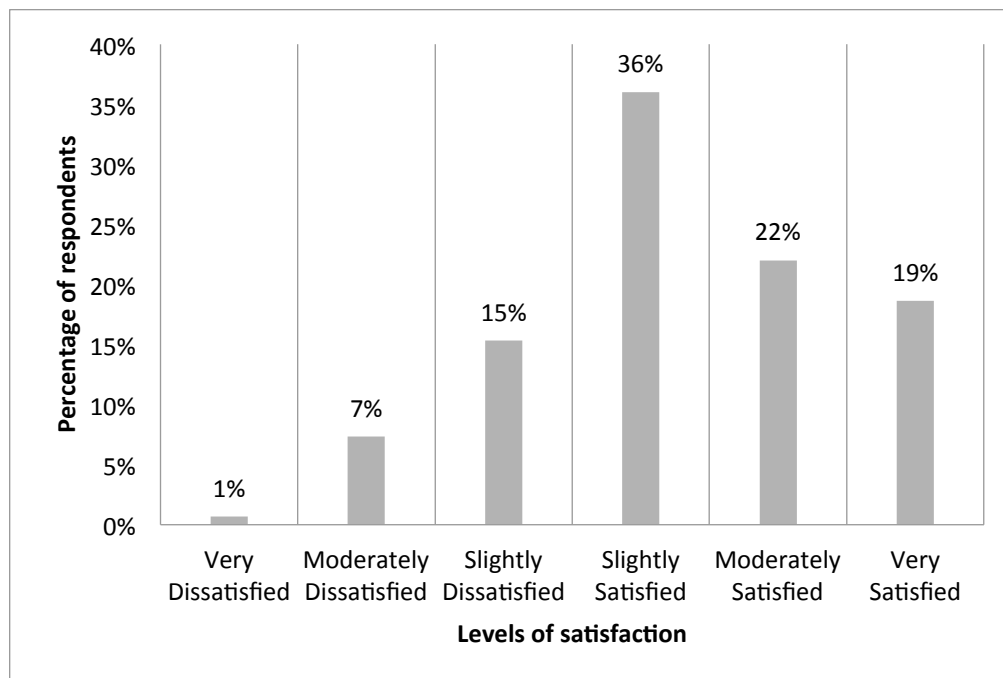


Figure 4.18: Satisfaction of doing things for fun

The respondents were asked about their chances of a future life that is characterized by happiness. The results are shown in figure 4.19.

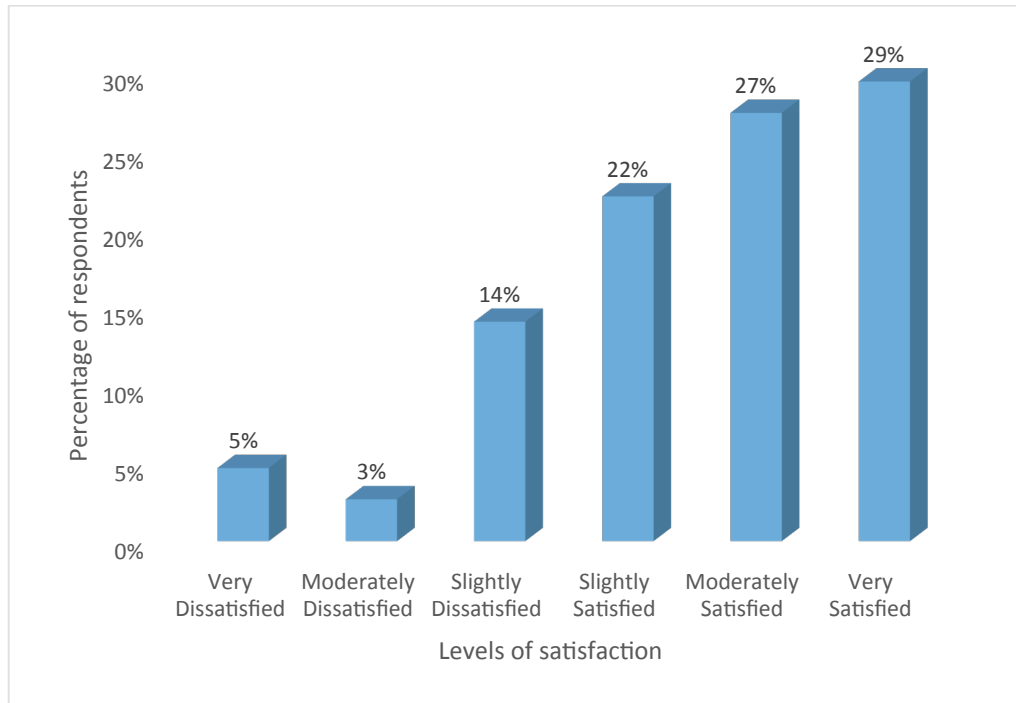


Figure 4.19: Satisfaction with the chances of a happy future

Figure 4.19 illustrates that 5% of the respondents shows that they are very dissatisfied with their chances of a happy future. The figure also illustrates that 3% of the respondents showed that they are moderately dissatisfied with their chances of a happy future while 14% pointed out that they are slightly dissatisfied. In addition, 22% were slightly satisfied with the chances of a happy future while 27% reported that they are moderately satisfied. Lastly, 29% were very satisfied with their chances of a happy future. The researcher also sought to find out the level of happiness with the state of the mind of the respondents. The results are presented in figure 4.20.

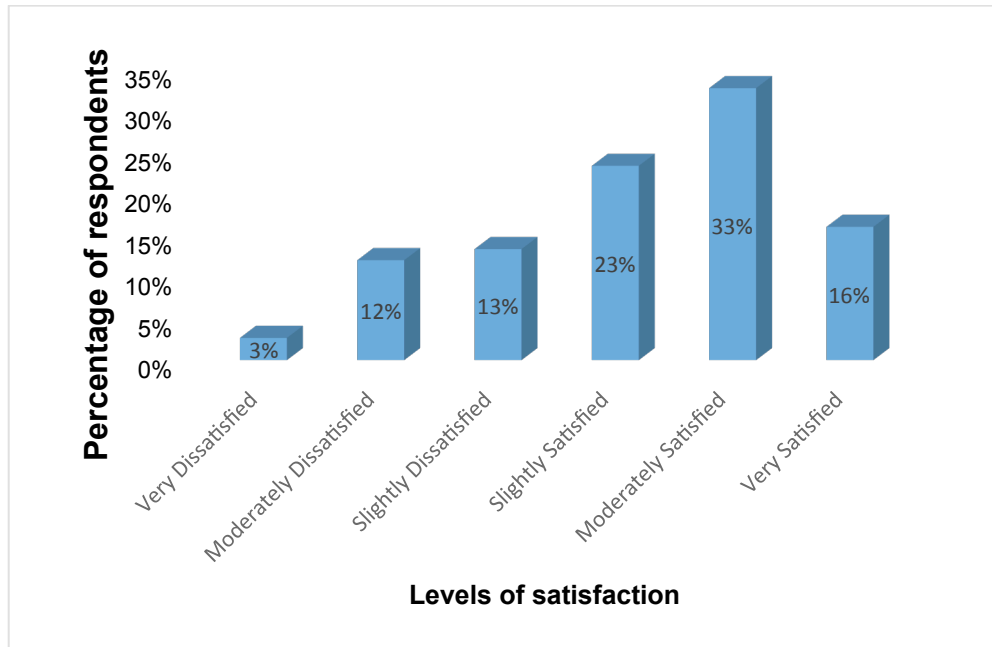


Figure 4.20: Satisfaction with peace of mind

Figure 4.20 shows that most of the respondents (33%) said that they were moderately satisfied with their peace of mind while 23% said that they were slightly satisfied. Moreover, only 3% were very dissatisfied with their peace of mind.

The achievement of goals was also assessed to determine the level of the respondents' happiness. The results are reported in figure 4.21.

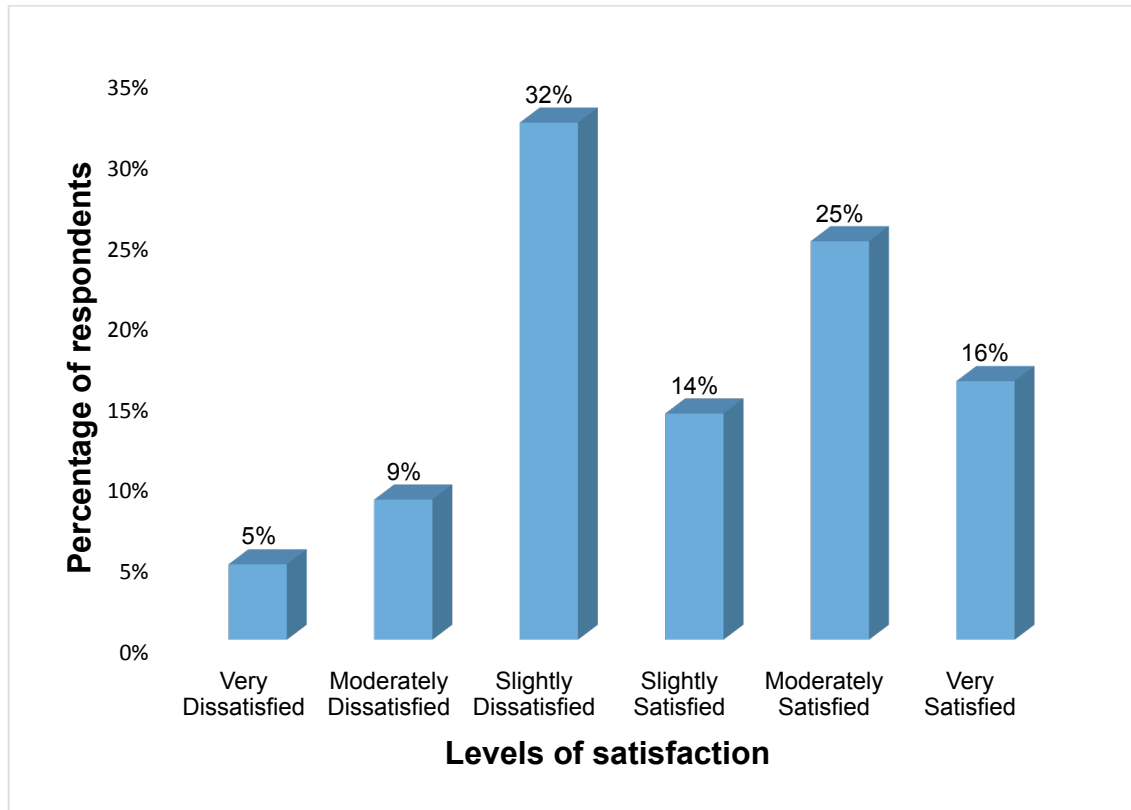


Figure 4.21: Satisfaction with the achievement of goals

Figure 4.21 displays that 5% of the respondents reported that they are very dissatisfied with their achievement of goals while 9%percent reported that they are moderately dissatisfied. Moreover, 32% of the respondents reported that they are slightly dissatisfied with their achievement of goals, and 14% reported that they are slightly satisfied, 25% reporting that they are moderately satisfied. Lastly this figure illustrates that 16% of the respondents reported that they are very satisfied with the achievements of their goals.

Similarly, satisfaction with the general state of self was assessed, and the results are shown in figure 4.22.

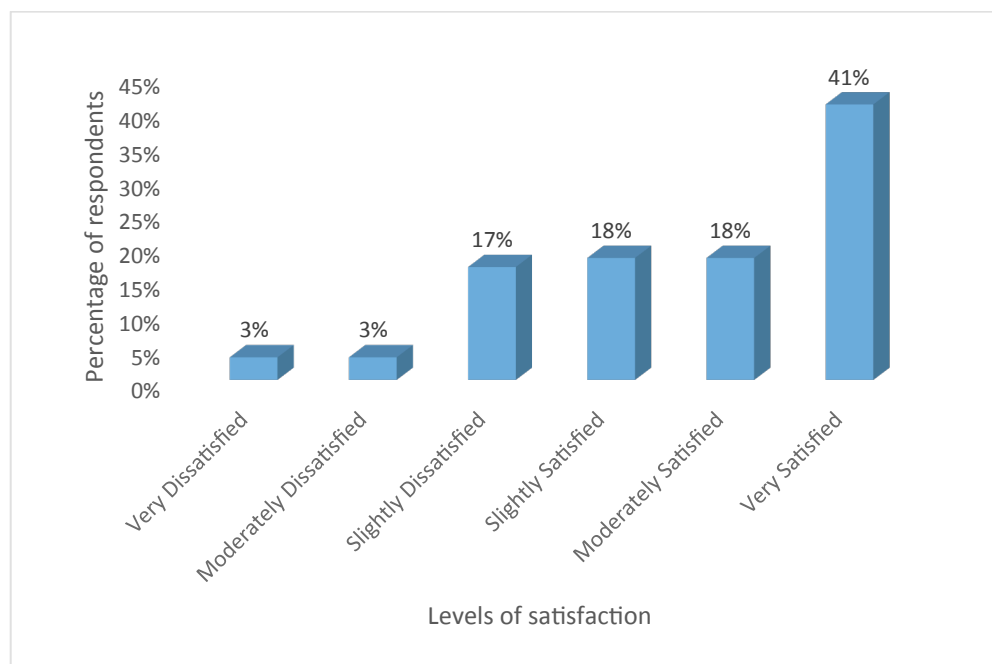


Figure 4.22: Satisfaction with self in general

Figure 4.22 shows that 3% of the respondents reported that they are very dissatisfied with themselves in general, and another 3% reported that they are moderately dissatisfied with themselves. Figure 4.22 also shows that 17% of respondents reported that they are slightly satisfied with themselves while 18% reported that they are slightly satisfied. Figure 4.22 further shows that 18% of the respondents reported that they are moderately satisfied with themselves in general, and 41% reported that they are very satisfied.

4.3 Discussion of the Findings

The role played by the child support grants in enhancing the quality of life of beneficiaries can be both good and bad. As shown in the presentation of findings, even though the government plays a role in providing the CSG in South Africa aiming to help

the poor, findings show that the beneficiaries are too dependent on the CSG. The child support grant is meant to support children from poor backgrounds, but sometimes that may not be the case because the grant is not enough to meet all the needs of the child, so it becomes difficult to maintain the quality of life for the beneficiaries.

The White Paper (1997) argues that within this transformed welfare policy based on a social development approach, the CSG became an important means of poverty alleviation since social grants constituted the main income for many impoverished individuals and families. Therefore, the CSG may be the sole source of income for many poor families, and thus essential for people's survival. The study revealed that the beneficiaries merely depend on the grant in order to survive, meaning they spend it on food mostly and on clothes. Research conducted on the CSG indicated that the grant was spent mainly on food in the rural areas (CASE, 2000: 43, 44).

The most important role played by the CSG is in the schooling of the beneficiaries e.g. school fees, uniforms, books and funding school activities. The study found that 35% of the respondents were very satisfied with the level of their education, which means that CSG has a positive impact and plays a big role on the education of the beneficiaries. The results indicate that the beneficiaries depend on the child support grant because without it, most beneficiaries would not be satisfied with the level of their education due to poverty mostly caused by unemployment.

According to Delany *et al.* (2008), cash transfers alone are not sufficient to reduce poverty and must be accompanied by other poverty alleviation programmes and developmental initiatives. Such initiatives in South Africa include: access to free basic health care for children under six years; school nutrition programmes; access to school fee exemptions; and, increasingly, no-fee schools.

However, there are some beneficiaries who were not too happy about their education. These constitute 3% of the respondents that were moderately dissatisfied with their level of education; this could be because they are experiencing some problems concerning the child support grant. In addition, in some big households where no one is employed, the child support grant is shared amongst all members. Delany *et al.* (2008) state that there are other support initiatives that do not target the child specifically but aim to improve households' well-being; these include access to free basic services, housing subsidies, public works programmes and Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET). Levels of access to such initiatives vary greatly among participants in this study.

The study also took note of the role played by CSG in enhancing the quality of life of beneficiaries regarding healthcare. The results show that 25% of the respondents said that their healthcare was excellent. This could be because of their access to public hospitals/clinics which have doctors that are ready to assist those that cannot afford private hospitals. It could also be that they use the CSG income to supplement other incomes. Zastrow (2013) argues that the goal of social welfare is to fulfil the social,

financial, health and recreational requirements of all individuals in a society. Social welfare seeks to enhance the social functioning of all age groups, both rich and poor.

This means that the child support grant plays its role in the quality of life of the beneficiaries. However, these results do not mean that other beneficiaries are satisfied with their healthcare because the results in the study show that 14% of the respondents reported that their healthcare was bad while 21% reported that their healthcare was fair. According to the Department of Social Development, the South African Social Security Agency and United Nations Children's Fund (2011), there is a reciprocal relationship between the child support grant and health services wherein some people receive the grant through the health system. For some, the child support grant helps them to access health services. The study also revealed that the government still has a long way to go in maintaining the health services for the CSG beneficiaries.

With regards to economic status, the child support grant is meant for people that are poor. Therefore, the beneficiaries of the child support grant should see the role being played by the CSG or should see the difference after they have received the income. The results show that 42% of the respondents said their economic status was below average. This means that the beneficiaries rely solely on the CSG income in order to survive. Chagunda (2006) argues that households can benefit even when they run out of purchased food towards the end of the month. This is because some households use the grant to buy seeds and manure to cultivate vegetables around their place of

residence. The findings show that the beneficiaries' economic status is below average mainly because their only income is the CSG.

This section states that everyone should have social security, especially if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants. The White Paper on social welfare (1997) states that the South African government formulated the notion of developmental social welfare, a seemingly progressive concept that implies that social assistance is linked to economic development to empower of the poor.

4.4 Conclusion

This chapter presented the results of the role played by the child support grant in enhancing the quality of life of beneficiaries. The beneficiaries of the Dimbaza community rely on the child support grant. They also acknowledge that the child support grant has a positive impact on their lives because even though they are poor, they have hope for a happy future.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter includes a summary of findings, the conclusion of the study as well as the recommendations of the study. The researcher found that the role played by the child support in enhancing the quality of life of beneficiaries is very important because most beneficiaries are dependent on the CSG in order to survive. The summary of findings is presented according to the research questions that were postulated to guide the study. This is followed by conclusions drawn from the findings and discussions. Implications for social work policy and practice are discussed as well as recommendations and suggestions for further studies.

5.2 Summary of findings

In order to ensure that the findings are presented in such a way as to answer the research questions, the summaries are presented in subtopics reflecting the research questions postulated in Chapter one to guide the study.

5.2.1 The quality of food consumption by child support grant beneficiaries

The findings of the study indicate that the Child Support Grant beneficiaries reported that the quality of their food consumption was fair, meaning that they are managing to at least have a decent meal at night and every day of their lives. The findings showed that

43% of the respondents reported that the quality of food consumption was fair. On the other hand, the findings also show that 24% of the beneficiaries said that the quality of food consumption was good, meaning that the Child Support grant has a good impact on their food intake.

5.2.2. The type of housing where the beneficiaries are living in

Bennette *et al.* (2015) stated that "Housing for the poor in South Africa is a contentious issue. The beneficiaries of the Dimbaza community live in apartments that are affordable, through the CSG, with their families. Some of the beneficiaries rent flats because they cannot afford their own houses while others live in shacks. Unfortunately, there are no RDP houses yet at the Dimbaza community where the researcher was collecting data; it is said that the plans for building RDP houses for the poor are still in the pipeline. The findings show that 23% of the respondents said they were slightly satisfied with the homes where they live in, while 15% of the respondents were slightly dissatisfied with their homes. This means that the beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant in Dimbaza are not satisfied with the type of housing they live in.

5.2.3 The adequacy of clothing of the beneficiaries

The findings revealed that the beneficiaries of Child Support Grant in the Dimbaza community buy clothes only when it is necessary, meaning they can only afford to do so during winter and summer holidays. Other beneficiaries can only afford school uniforms.

5.2.4 The adequacy of health care received by the beneficiaries

The study also shows that 33% of the child support grant beneficiaries said that their healthcare was very important to them, which means when they get sick, the CSG income caters for medical advice. Furthermore, the study found that there is a relationship between the CSG and unemployment - poverty and illiteracy. The government's strategy is meant to provide temporary relief rather than permanent hand outs to beneficiaries.

5.2.5 The beneficiary's schooling /fairness of the schooling

Education is very important, but when children cannot attend school due to financial problems, then the future of these children becomes uncertain. According to Delany *et.al* (2008), cash transfers alone are not sufficient to reduce poverty; these must be accompanied by other poverty alleviation programmes and developmental initiatives. Such initiatives in South Africa include: access to free basic health care for children under six years; school nutrition programmes; access to school fee exemptions; and, increasingly, no-fee schools. The findings show that 35% of the respondents reported that they were very satisfied with their educational level. Furthermore, findings reveal that 18% of the respondents were slightly satisfied with the level of their education.

5.3 Conclusions

The study's conclusions are presented in sub-topics so as not to leave out any important section or research questions without drawing pertinent conclusions from them.

5.3.1 The quality of food consumption by child support grant beneficiaries

The study established that 33% of the child support grant beneficiaries said that their healthcare was very important to them, which means when they are sick, the CSG caters for medical advice. Furthermore, the study found that there is a relationship between the CSG and unemployment - poverty and illiteracy. The government's strategy is meant to provide temporary relief rather than permanent hand outs to beneficiaries.

In addition, some children are left in the care of their grandparents while biological parents took the Child Support Grant with them and left the children starving. Some of these children would end up leaving their homes because of poverty. Another factor is that the child support grant is merely there to support a child who is in need, but since unemployment is high, the whole household of the beneficiary also depends on the child support grant even though it is not enough to support the whole family.

5.3.2. The type of housing where the beneficiaries are living in

The type of housing where the beneficiaries of Dimbaza community are living in is fair because the beneficiaries have roofs over their heads. They may not be living in mansions but live in fairly furnished houses with running water and food.

5.3.3 The adequacy of clothing of the beneficiaries

The study also points out that beneficiaries invest a lot in clothes for winter and school uniform. The Child Support Grant may not be enough to cover all the needs of the beneficiaries, but it does play a big role in shaping their lives. Even though some care

givers tend to misuse the grant income, others really do put the needs of the children first.

5.3.4 The adequacy of health care received by the beneficiaries

The study reveals that the healthcare received by the beneficiaries in Dimbaza is fair. This means that the beneficiaries put their health in top priority. The findings show that 33% of the child support grant beneficiaries said that their healthcare was very important to them, which means when they do get sick, the CSG income caters for medical needs.

5.3.5 The beneficiaries' schooling / fairness of the schooling

The quantitative data of the study shows that the beneficiaries of child support grant are not satisfied with their schooling, which explains that indeed the CSG income does not accommodate all of their needs.

5.4 Implications of the findings for social work policy and practice

It is necessary to discuss the implications of the findings of this study to social work policy and social work practice. These implications are discussed in the next sub-sections.

5.4.1 Implications for social work policy

The role of social work is to empower beneficiaries to become interdependent and self-sufficient. The social work community needs to address the issue between beneficiaries re-building their livelihoods, through employment opportunities created by government programmes, in terms of sustainability and how these programmes contribute towards

self-reliance. The Government has applied the developmental approach within the social security system which needs to stay consistent.

5.4.2 Implications for social work practice

The Department of Social Development is aware of the poverty and vulnerability affecting a large number of children, hence the urgency to roll out the CSG as rapidly as possible. In the social work practice fields, the beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant are the most serviced and the practitioners are always prepared. Another important recommendation is that social workers should conduct life skills and job searching programs with the recipients in order to assist and empower them to become independent.

5.5 Recommendations

Having taken into consideration the findings and conclusions, this research study wishes to make the following recommendations under community action programmes, creation of jobs, SASSA and Social Development, as well as policy formation.

➤ Community Action Programmes

Community action programmes should be established both at national and provincial levels to reduce poverty. To try to help caregivers with their challenges, communities need to establish organizations and support centres for children and families in need. Through this, they can provide feeding-schemes. Non-governmental organizations should establish one-stop crisis centres located near rural areas in Dimbaza. This will enable children to receive help from welfare officers and social development.

➤ **Creation of jobs**

The South African government, especially local municipality, should make means for job opportunities. This will improve and develop the standard of living of all members of the community. It will also play a big role for caregivers to be able to provide for their children. According to the Convention of Rights of Children, children should be provided with food, have basic education illiteracy, have their health taken care of, and be protected. This is because hunger and malnutrition contribute to about half of the death of young children.

➤ **SASSA and Social Development**

The Department of Social Development and the SASSA agency should work harder in making sure that every child that deserves to receive the CSG can easily access their income. They should also assist any child experiencing difficulties in receiving the child support grant. Moreover, the government should provide a healthy working environment between its workers and the people that need the government services. The government should also try to encourage people by making a more easily accessible system which meets the needs of the people - a system that addresses the people's needs.

➤ **Policy Formation**

There is a continuous need to reduce poverty; it is the constitutional and international obligation of the state to provide social security to children. There is a high rate of unemployed people in South Africa; therefore, social security has become vital to the

survival of many South African families. The low level of the grant, presently R350, must be reviewed considering the inflation rate; the government must also extend the age limit because at age 18, others are still attending school and their parents are not working.

5.5 Suggestion for future studies

The issue of single mothers who depend on the child support grant should be examined. Further studies should also be conducted along with the foster care grant (FCG).

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APPENDIX1: INTRODUCTION LETTER



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

I am a University of Fort Hare student conducting research titled: The Role of child Support Grant in Enhancing the Standard of Living of Beneficiaries in Dimbaza, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. I am interested in finding out more about the role played by the child support grant in the lives of the beneficiaries and how much people/beneficiaries know about the child support grant. I am carrying out this research to help people out there to have more and clear knowledge about the child support grant.

Please understand that you are not forced to take part in this study, and the choice whether to participate or not is yours. However, I would really appreciate it if you do share your thoughts with me. If you choose not take part in answering these questions, you will not be affected in any way. If you agree to participate, you may stop me at any time and tell me that you do not want to go on with the interview. If you do this, there will also be no penalties, and you will not be prejudiced in any way. Confidentiality will be observed professionally.

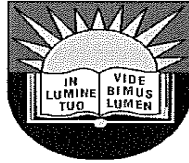
I will not be recording your name anywhere on the questionnaire, and no one will be able to link you to the answers you give. Only the researchers will have access to the

unlinked information. The information will remain confidential and there will be no “come-backs” from the answers you give.

The interview will last around 45 minutes. I will be asking you a questions and ask that you are as open and honest as possible in answering these questions. Some questions may be of a personal and/or sensitive nature. I will be asking some questions that you may not have thought about before, and which also involve thinking about the past or the future. We know that you cannot be absolutely certain about the answers to these questions, but we ask that you try to think about these questions. When it comes to answering questions, there are no right and wrong answers. When we ask questions about the future, we are not interested in what you think the best thing would be to do, but what you think would actually happen.

Should you require any additional information on this study, you are welcome to contact Ms. Siphe Nyandeni at: 078 121 0443.

Appendix 2: Ethical Clearance Certificate



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

ETHICAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE REC-270710-028-RA Level 01

Certificate Reference Number: TAN131SNYA01

Project title: **The role of Child Support Grant in enhancing the standard of living of beneficiaries in Dimbaza, Buffalo City Metro Municipality.**

Nature of Project: Masters

Principal Researcher: Siphe Nyandeni

Supervisor: Prof P.T Tanga

Co-supervisor: N/A

On behalf of the University of Fort Hare's Research Ethics Committee (UREC) I hereby give ethical approval in respect of the undertakings contained in the above-mentioned project and research instrument(s). Should any other instruments be used, these require separate authorization. The Researcher may therefore commence with the research as from the date of this certificate, using the reference number indicated above.

Please note that the UREC must be informed immediately of

- Any material change in the conditions or undertakings mentioned in the document
- Any material breaches of ethical undertakings or events that impact upon the ethical conduct of the research

The Principal Researcher must report to the UREC in the prescribed format, where applicable, annually, and at the end of the project, in respect of ethical compliance.

Special conditions: Research that includes children as per the official regulations of the act must take the following into account:

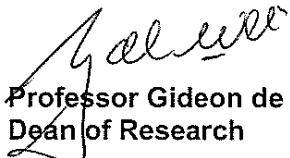
Note: The UREC is aware of the provisions of s71 of the National Health Act 61 of 2003 and that matters pertaining to obtaining the Minister's consent are under discussion and remain unresolved. Nonetheless, as was decided at a meeting between the National Health Research Ethics Committee and stakeholders on 6 June 2013, university ethics committees may continue to grant ethical clearance for research involving children without the Minister's consent, provided that the prescripts of the previous rules have been met. This certificate is granted in terms of this agreement.

The UREC retains the right to

- Withdraw or amend this Ethical Clearance Certificate if
 - Any unethical principal or practices are revealed or suspected
 - Relevant information has been withheld or misrepresented
 - Regulatory changes of whatsoever nature so require
 - The conditions contained in the Certificate have not been adhered to
- Request access to any information or data at any time during the course or after completion of the project.
- In addition to the need to comply with the highest level of ethical conduct principle investigators must report back annually as an evaluation and monitoring mechanism on the progress being made by the research. Such a report must be sent to the Dean of Research's office

The Ethics Committee wished you well in your research.

Yours sincerely


Professor Gideon de Wet
Dean of Research

22 March 2016

APPENDIX 3: Consent Form

INFORMED CONSENT

I hereby agree to participate in research regarding **The Role of Child Support Grant in Enhancing the Standard of Living of Beneficiaries in Dimbaza, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality**..... I understand that I am participating freely and without being forced in any way to do so. I also understand that I can stop this interview at any point should I not want to continue and that this decision will not in any way affect me negatively.

I understand that this is a research project whose purpose is not necessarily to benefit me personally.

I have received the telephone number of a person to contact should I need to speak about any issues which may arise in this interview.

I understand that this consent form will not be linked to the questionnaire, and that my answers will remain confidential.

I understand that if at all possible, feedback will be given to my community on the results of the completed research.

.....

Signature of participant

Date.....

I hereby agree to the tape recording of my participation in the study

.....

Signature of participant

Date.....

APPENDIX 4: Questionnaire

EXAMPLE of how to complete this questionnaire:

Your gender? E.g. If you are a female

Male ☐

Female ☒

There abbreviation used in the questionnaire i.e.

CSG - refers to Child Support Grant.

Section A: Background information

This section of the questionnaire refers to background or biographical information. Although I am aware of the sensitivity of the questions in this section, the information will allow me to compare groups of respondents. Once again, I assure you that your response will remain anonymous. Your cooperation is appreciated.

1. Gender

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Age

13 -18	<input type="checkbox"/>
19 - 60+	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Race

Black 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
White 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colored 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

If other, please specify

4. How would you describe your economic status in CSG?

Poor 1	Below average 2	Average 3	Above average 4	Affluent 5
--------	-----------------	-----------	-----------------	------------

5. How satisfied are you with your home, apartment, or place where you live?

6. How would you describe the area in which you are residing/neighbourhood?

7. Size of your household, i.e. the number of people, including yourself, who live in your house/dwelling for at least three months of the year?

SECTION B: THE ROLE OF CSG IN ENHANCING THE STANDARD OF LIVING

This section of the questionnaire explores the role of CSG in enhancing the standard of living of beneficiaries.

Question 1: How is your life in general?

Question 2 How satisfied are you with your education?

Question 3: What is the quality of your food consumption?

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Bad
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If other, please specify:

Question 4: How important to you is your health?

Question 5: How satisfied are you with your ability to take care of yourself without help?

SECTION C: THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE CSG

This section of the questionnaire explores the quality of life of children who receive CSG.

Question 1: How important to you is being able to take care of your financial needs?

Question 2: How is your happiness in general?

Question 3: How important to you is the emotional support you get from your family?

Question 4: How is your healthcare?

Question 5: How important to you are your chances of living as long as you would like?

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX (ARTHRITIS VERSION – III - Adapted from Ferrans and Powers (1984 and 1998).

PART ONE

For each of the following, please choose the answer that best describes how **satisfied** you are with that area of your life and write it down by choosing from the responses below numbered from 1-6. There are no right or wrong answers.

Very Dissatisfied	Moderately Dissatisfied	Slightly Dissatisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Very Satisfied
1	2	3	4	5	6

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH:

1. Your health? 1 2 3 4 5 6

2. Your health care? 1 2 3 4 5 6

3. The amount of energy you have for everyday activities? 1 2 3 4 5 6

4. Your ability to take care of yourself without help?	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. Your chances of living as long as you would like?	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. Your family's health?	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. Your children?	1	2	3	4	5	6
8. Your family's happiness?	1	2	3	4	5	6
9. The emotional support you get from your family?	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. The emotional support you get from your friends?	1	2	3	4	5	6

PART TWO

For each of the following, please choose the answer that best describes how **dissatisfied** you are with that area of your life and write it down by choosing from the responses below numbered from 1-6. There are no right or wrong answers.

Very Dissatisfied	Moderately Dissatisfied	Slightly Dissatisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Very Satisfied
1	2	3	4	5	6
11. Your ability to take care of family responsibilities?					
1	2	3	4	5	6
12. How useful you are to others?					
1	2	3	4	5	6
13. The amount of worries in your life?					
1	2	3	4	5	6
14. Your neighbourhood?					
1	2	3	4	5	6
15. Your home, apartment, or place where you live?					
1	2	3	4	5	6
16. Your job (if employed)?					
1	2	3	4	5	6
17. Not having a job (if unemployed, retired, or disabled)?					
1	2	3	4	5	6

18. Your education?	1	2	3	4	5	6
19. How well you can take care of your financial needs?	1	2	3	4	5	6
20. The things you do for fun?	1	2	3	4	5	6
21. Your chances for a happy future?	1	2	3	4	5	6
22. Your peace of mind?	1	2	3	4	5	6
23. Your achievement of personal goals?	1	2	3	4	5	6
24. Your happiness in general?	1	2	3	4	5	6
25. Your life in general?	1	2	3	4	5	6
26. Yourself in general?	1	2	3	4	5	6

PART THREE

For each of the following, please choose the answer that best describes how **important** the area of your life is to you. Please write down your answer by choosing from the responses below numbered from 1-6. There are no right or wrong answers.

Very Unimportant	Moderately Unimportant	Slightly Unimportant	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important
1	2	3	4	5	6

HOW IMPORTANT TO YOU IS:

1. Your health?	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Your health care?	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Having no pain?	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. Having enough energy for everyday activities?	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. Taking care of yourself without help?	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. Your ability to get around, go places?	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. Your ability to do things with your hands and arms?	1	2	3	4	5	6

8. The amount of control you have over your life?	1	2	3	4	5	6
9. Your chances of living as long as you would like?	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. Your family's health?	1	2	3	4	5	6
11. Your children?	1	2	3	4	5	6
12. Your family's happiness?	1	2	3	4	5	6
13. The emotional support you get from your family?	1	2	3	4	5	6
14. The emotional support you get from your friends?	1	2	3	4	5	6

PART FOUR

For each of the following, please choose the answer that best describes how **important** the area of your life is to you. Please write down your answer by choosing from the responses below numbered from 1-6. There are no right or wrong answers.

Very Unimportant	Moderately Unimportant	Slightly Unimportant	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important
1	2	3	4	5	6

HOW IMPORTANT TO YOU IS:

17. Taking care of family responsibilities?	1	2	3	4	5	6
18. Being useful to others?	1	2	3	4	5	6
19. Your neighbourhood?	1	2	3	4	5	6
20. Your home, apartment, or place where you live?	1	2	3	4	5	6
21. Your job (if employed)?	1	2	3	4	5	6
22. Having a job (if unemployed, retired, or disabled)	1	2	3	4	5	6
23. Your education?	1	2	3	4	5	6
24. Being able to take care of your financial needs?	1	2	3	4	5	6
25. Doing things for fun?	1	2	3	4	5	6
26. Having a happy future?	1	2	3	4	5	6

27. Peace of mind?	1	2	3	4	5	6
28. Your faith in God?	1	2	3	4	5	6
29. Achieving your personal goals?	1	2	3	4	5	6

Thank you for your participation

APPENDIX 5: English Language editor's letter



To whom it may concern:

This document certifies that the dissertation whose title appears below has been edited for proper English language, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and overall style by Ruby Mann, a member of the Professional Editors' Group whose qualifications are listed in the footer of this certificate.

Title:

THE ROLE OF CHILD SUPPORT GRANTS IN ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF BENEFICIARIES IN DIMBAZA, BUFFALO CITY MUNICIPALITY

Author:

Siphe Nyandeni

Date Edited:

14 December 2016

Signed:

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials "RM" or a similar monogram.

Ruby Mann

B.A. Ed; Hons (ELT); M.A. (Linguistics); PhD