



**Examining the Use of Social Grants as a Means to Reduce
Income Poverty: A Case study of Ubuhlebezwe Local
Municipality in KZN**

By

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DECLARATION – PLAGIARISM

I Sbonelo Kwenzokuhle Nhlangulela, student number 209521191 declare that this dissertation is my own work. All citations, references and borrowed ideas have been duly acknowledged. None of the present work has been submitted previously for any degree or examination in any other university

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ABSTRACT

This research looks at income grants and the extent to which they have helped alleviate poverty in Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality in KZN. Income grants come from government and recipients receive a monthly stipend that helps them cover for basic amenities within their household. The research sought to find out how this scheme is addressing poverty alleviation. The results of this study showed that the recipients were grateful for the social grants and that they played a vital role in their families by helping take care of a number of costs such as basic groceries. The complaints about social grants largely involved the administration of getting the money including the long queues, additional complaints about social grants were from the distances travelled and how social grants made men who did not receive them, in households in which women received social grants, feel more insecure. Although the money for social grants helped cover basic costs of goods, it was not enough to take care of other costs within the household. As such, the money for social grants does not cover household shocks such as major illnesses befalling family members and price increases of basic commodities in South Africa which have meant that the monthly amount that is received from social grants has less buying power.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

Income poverty describes a situation whereby a household has a standard of living that is below the poverty line (UN, 2015). In South Africa, an income of R800 per month per household is regarded as an ultra-poverty line, and is used by national government to denote the households that are poor (Stats SA, 2017). Local governments are given funding based on the number of such households in their area. The R800 is not based on the calculation of any basket of goods, but it is presumed that subsistence is very difficult at these low levels of income.

Reducing poverty is undeniably a major development issue worldwide, and this is a priority target in the so-called 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs). To this result, various social security policies and initiatives have been placed in place by several countries around the world as major reduction measures to help address and reduce the poverty scourge (World Bank Poverty Report, 2018). For instance, cash transfers have emerged across the world as a standard social security activity. Access to social security is codified to guarantee its continuity, to fulfil the purpose of continuing support for their people's welfare, as Slatter argued (2001). Further, with an approximate population of around 17.2 million over the past decade (2006-2017), the Republic of South Africa has offered social support services and continues to provide children's care grants to the estimated population of around 17.2 million (World Bank Poverty Report, 2018).

In recent years, the volume transferred to individual recipients has increased from R820 to R1500. Social subsidies scheme arose from the Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP) to redress the disparities generated by the authoritarian and discriminatory regime of apartheid. The government launched the White Paper on Social Welfare in 1997, led by concern and devotion to

improving the welfare of oppressed Africans. The White Paper proposed a welfare system through economic empowerment that ensured active involvement of people in their own welfare (Midgley, 2003). The social grant program has therefore become an enabling strategy for strengthening social stability, preventing, and helping most poor Africans against shocks and stress.

Society's lower quintiles are the most economically unstable category that are quickly affected by shocks and stress. In order to augment the household income earned from grants, Devereux (2013) found that social grants are an incentive for individuals to pursue wage labour. As explained in the hypothesized hypothesis in the study by Devereux, this result is contradictory to the belief that social grants make people lazy about seeking jobs (2013). Poverty reduction in households is the product of several factors in this regard, and in Ward 3 of uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality, the study attempts to document the basic role of social subsidies in reducing household poverty. The research is based on Ward 3 of the town, a rural community supported by the Izinduna, where people are living in a resource-stressed area. The main subject of the analysis will be the social aspects and priorities of households using their social subsidies to reduce poverty. Therefore, the research aims to investigate the efficacy and degree to which the funding of social grants contributes to household poverty reduction.

In this chapter the researcher will discuss the background to the study, the research objectives, the research questions, the statement problem, and a paragraph that will summarise the whole chapter.

1.2 Background of the study

Poverty is calculated across a poverty line, splitting communities into two 'less privileged and poor' classes based on income ranks (Johnson, 1999). If the poverty line is arbitrary, some experts say that special needs understand and define poverty (Woolard and Leibbrabdt, 2010). Sen (1976) describes poverty

as a characteristic of capability deprivation and very low household average income. Chambers (2006:99) says, in addition to the above, the definition of poverty depends on who asks for and who responds. Therefore, its categorised poverty in four groups of income-poverty, material shortages, deprivation of capacity (as defined in the 1976 Sen) and multi-dimensional deprivation of material shortages. In addition, Sen's (1976) broad dimension of poverty defines deprivation as an absolute and relative state of poverty and poverty, (Blacksher, 2002).

There has been public discussion that social security and poverty are the priority agenda for most governments in developing countries. Sadly, often the government adopts a welfare approach as a provider of direct subsidies in view of the complicated process of the effect of income growth on the poor. Social protection is also at the heart of the fight against acute poverty (Bhorat, 1999). Blacksher (2002) claims that as an efficient instrument for alleviating poverty, social security is context-specific based on poverty level. Therefore, social security as grants should be accepted as a temporary solution, while the government focuses for more permanent ways to enable people to play an important role in alleviating their own poverty. In the form of cash transfers, social security interventions impact the general wellbeing of the family (Aguero, 2007). In her research about the implementation and efficacy of social grants in South Africa, Neves, Samson, Van Niekerk, Hlatshwayo and Du Toit (2009) concludes that social grants contribute to alleviating poverty, providing stability in a shocking situation, and promoting stress and transformation. In particular cases, social grants for the safety net require funding and are not intended to be permanent programs. The security and promotional side of social safety net initiatives for the reduction of even chronic poverty are further defined by Deverex (2002).

In comparison, Woolard and Leibbrandt (2010) maintain that while they agree to protect against slipping into a pit of persistent poverty, there is no empirical evidence to support theoretical claims that social assistance tends to minimize

income deficit and the difference. From a policy perspective, Bhorat (1999) argues that the efficacy of social subsidies in raising households from poverty is linked to programme's sustainability. It is therefore still important to investigate and demonstrate the importance of such social policy (social grants), as Kaseke argued (2010).

1.3 Objectives of the study

The main aim of the research was to study the implementation of social grants as a means of reducing poverty in Ward 3 of Uuhlebezwe Local Municipality which falls under Harry Gwala district municipality.

The goals were therefore:

- Explore the use and effectiveness of social grants in ward 3 of Uuhlebezwe Local Municipality area.
- To explore the challenges experienced by social grants beneficiaries
- Unpack the impact of social grants in the fight against poverty and family structure in ward 3 of Uuhlebezwe Local Municipality area

1.4 Research questions

- How effective social grant is in households from beneficiary's point of view in rural area?
- What are the challenges experienced by households and social grant beneficiaries?
- What is the impact of social grant in the family structure?

1.5 Significance of the study

Social grants are seen as a useful poverty alleviation tool and this study seeks to understand to what extent that is true, if social grants are adequate for those who receive them and how they impact the socio-economic life of those who

receive them. This study is also significant to the academic institution because it adds to the already vast amount of literature the university has on the issue of social grants in South Africa.

1.6 Problem Statement

As seen from research done by (Deverex, 2002), social grants play a pivotal role in promoting development. Also as indicated through research done by (Blacksher, 2002), social grants although useful are usually not adequate. The aim of this research is to fill a gap in literature through looking at the issue of social grants from the context of the people in Kwazulu Natal in the specific ward that the study is going to be carried out in

1.7 Conclusion

This chapter discussed the general introduction and overview of the study; background of the study area, theoretical framework and the research aim and objectives. The methodology of the study and scope of the research is also outlined. The next chapter will review the literature related to this study.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

The following literature review refers to social grants as an underlying poverty reduction technique in this report. The aim of a literature review is to decide based on Denscombe (2015), to what extent the subject under study lies within the current theoretical knowledge or study structure. The literature reviewed for this study therefore offers a theoretical context and helps to relate what is being discussed by the researcher and what is already under consideration.

This chapter consists of three sections: the first deals explicitly with the meaning, knowledge, and contextualisation of poverty. Following this are the crucial discussions on the relationship between social subsidies and poverty eradication, poverty triggers in Southern Africa post-apartheid, emerging modes of social assistance in South Africa's new democracy, the efficacy and effect of social support on livelihoods as well as trends in poverty in South Africa. In the last part, the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA), its strengths and drawbacks are addressed.

2.2 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs that applies to this study SGD1: poverty and SDG10: inequality.

2.2.1 Poverty (SDG1)

United Nations have placed poverty eradication as the sustainable development goal (SDG) number one, after failing to achieve the target as a millennium development goal (MDG). UN kept this poverty eradication as goal number one (UN, 2015). While the current SDG1 target poverty eradication, there is still a gap in the literature in that most of the models target only poverty alleviation. Studies in specific areas of the world, such as the African Sahara region shows that extreme poverty persists (Tarisayi, 2016). In fact, in order to safeguard

people from different poverty throughout their life cycle, we need to develop a variety of unique models in the area of poverty elimination and poverty prevention. As UN published in its official website, to reach SDG1, the world needs models to reduce peoples' vulnerability to disasters, which even developed rich countries like America, and Japan can suffer from periodically (Arruda, 2018). The world needs models that focus on low-income families living on less than US \$2 per person a day and ensure that they enter the coverage of the social protection net (Tarisayi, 2016). This is why social grants are the target of this current study.

2.2.2 Inequality (SDG10)

Another target of the current study is inequality which forms part of the UN SDGs. At face value, Goal 10 sets a strong norm on reducing inequality within and between countries. Yet this is undermined and distorted by the targets and indicators which are weak and set an agenda for inclusion rather than for reducing inequalities (Arruda, 2018). The two most widely used indicators on inequality used in the economic development literature are the Gini coefficient and the proportionate share of national income by population decile or quintile. This indicator is the ratio of the top 10 per cent share of national income relative to the bottom 40 per cent share. This measure captures shifts at the top and bottom ends of the distribution and overcomes the problem with the Gini coefficient which is sensitive to shifts in the middle (UN, 2015).

The UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs originated from two parallel processes. The first was the consultations over the Post-2015 Development Agenda initiated by the UN Secretary General (SG) to formulate a successor agenda to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The second was the Open Working Group on the SDGs (OWG) of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), set up following a decision of the Rio+20UN Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) to elaborate goals for sustainable development SDGs encompassing social, economic, and environmental objectives (UNCED, 2012).

The Post-2015 process started first, opening in 2011, and the main consultations were completed by May 2013. The reports of those deliberations fed into the OWG (Arruda, 2018). The OWG met 13 times from March 2013 to July 2014 when they reached agreement on a proposed set of 17 goals and 169 targets, submitted to the UNGA in September 2014. The proposals were adopted by the GA in September 2014, with only minor editorial modifications (UN, 2015).

2.3 Global experiences of Social Grants as a Means to Reduce Income Poverty

2.3.1 United States of America

The Federal Government in the United States is providing funds in support of childcare services. The government uses this money in addition to its grants to support low-income parents or education providers pay for their kindergarten (Duncan and Magnuson, 2013). This form of aid was previously provided only to households whose parents were involved who obtained assistance through the AFDC, in AFDC-related training/learning programmes, while those who left welfare were only given a single penis to focus on work. This is suppressed by Congress and President George H.W. Bush after the implementation of the At-Risk Child Care and Child Care program (Finn-Stevenson, 2018). Since then, the support for childcare for low-income working families has been growing. However, only a small portion of the poor receive help because of insufficient funds. For example, only one out of 6 children from low-income families qualifies for federal assistance (Finn-Stevenson, 2018).

Child awareness organisations say that providing a reliable and secure childcare is expensive, according to Duncan and Magnuson (2013). For example, the cost of providing full-time cancer-based treatment in 2012 was about \$7,600 and of having full-time care of baby close to \$9,400. These expenses are considered costly since they far outweigh the minimum wage that

a mum who works full-time would usually afford. To sustain their jobs, low-income parents need secure access to childcare. These situations contribute to child-related job disturbances for parents. This can contribute to the shortage of employment for those employees and the fact that they are being fired at a late point. It is therefore of great importance for these parents to have quality children's treatment assisted (Finn-Stevenson, 2018).

A research focusing on Medicaid's impacts on recipients contrasted outcomes in Oregon for low-income individuals who earned Medicaid to another category of individuals who were not protected. The findings showed that adults with medical benefits had greater access to health insurance than those without health care (Finn-Stevenson, 2018). The study also showed that in comparison to the non-insured, the insured are more likely than women to have access to mammograms, for example. The study also showed a remarkable increase in the diagnoses of diabetes and depression for those with Medical aid. A separate research has shown in support of these results that the extension of healthcare for low-income adults in New York, Maine and Arizona resulted in a 6.1 out of 100 mortality reductions (Dixon-Woods, et al 2006).

2.3.2 The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has made noteworthy strides in its commitments to support disadvantaged communities, women, and young people. The true amount or share of the funding reaching established disadvantaged groups is not easy to ascertain, but it has been shown that expenditure on services based on these individuals has increased, (Dixon-Woods, et al, 2006). In addition to helping partners and global brokers working on these topics, the UK has demonstrated its lead in orphans and disadvantaged children (OVCs), in sexual and reproductive health, harm reduction, prevention of HIV, sex workers' treatment, prevention and care.

In addition, the UK funded the most ground-breaking projects on the basis of evidence focused on disadvantaged citizens in the Caribbean, Latin American,

Asia and Eastern Europe, Vostanis (2010) said. The United Kingdom at national level has consistently supported the rights of disadvantaged groups to promote civil society and leadership in favour of these needy groups. However, prisoners have not received much publicity but are known by UNAIDS as a dangerous group.

2.3.3 Brazil

Brazil's dabbled program Bolsa Escola (2001) offered scholarships monthly, and the conditional cash transfer (CCT) was approved in 2001-2003 by the World Bank. The Bolsa Familia software was then upgraded to (Lindert, 2005). The plan, which was designated in all communities, had to be chosen and transferred by each municipality.

The role of the local authority in the redirected delivery of the Brazilian Bolsa Schola Program was assessed by De Janvry, et al (2005). The results of the study show that a lot of misconceptions of the municipality's position in selecting those who are needed exists based on the review of 260 municipalities. The problem was the lack of transparency process.

2.3.4 Kenya

Munyao (2017), conducted a funding management and sustainability analysis of self-help groups in developing countries such as Kenya (Munyao, 2017). The study concentrated on 35 self-help organisations, Krejcie and Morgan were able to survey 234 people. The results showed that many groups survived outside the existing grants. Regardless of their life, groups expanded their resources to a sustainable standard.

2.3.5 Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe initiated the first national cash grant scheme for families and children in 2011 (Arruda, 2018). This was achieved in a joint venture to meet both orphans and disadvantaged children's social and fundamental needs. The

move was carried out by the Zimbabwean Government, including the governments of Sweden, the US UK, UNICEF, and the Commission of the European Union. The international donor community. The second action plan has been introduced with the assistance of the Children's Security Fund, which has three types of interconnected interventions to deal with shocks and threats of families. Firstly, through cash transfer to the poorest households, secondly through funding for education through the BEAM module and then thirdly through child protection programs for the surviving neglected and exploited children (Tarisayi, 2016).

HIV has contributed to household poverty in Zimbabwe. Children are more vulnerable in this context because they tend to have no access to fundamental health and welfare services. Furthermore, poverty exposes children to violence, abuse, and many forms of abuse. It is reported that only half of orphans, with over one million orphans in the country, receive external support (Tarisayi, 2016). The Community and familial orphan support schemes have been subjected to considerable financial pressures that therefore make children's access to education more difficult, health care and other crucial services more difficult (Owusu-Addo, et al., 2018).

A research was conducted in Zimbabwe under the name "Grants in Zimbabwean Schools: Opportunities and Challenges" ('Grants in the Zimbabwean Schools: Opportunities and Challenges'). He researched semi-structured interviews using a qualitative approach. The results of the study showed that the fund is essential to schools through improved school planning and water infrastructure enhancement.

In particular, Boccia et al (2016) placed the emphasis on cash transfers as a way of alleviating poverty and improving social safety in more than 30 developing countries. Cash transfer is seen as more convenient in comparison to transfers of food or in-kind since it allows recipients to use their funds more favourably in addition to producing many social benefits, as it also has a low

administrative cost in the developing world (de Bruin and Becker, 2019). In cases where no food market convergence happens because the injection of cash contributes to an increase in food prices, cash transfers are of advantage.

Mexico was one of the first countries to allow conditional money transfers, according to Parker and Vogl (2018). The cash transfer model was called Oportunidades, targeting at poor and very poor families and incorporating them into the three-fundamental health, nutrition and education rights. The software was structured to allow an impact evaluation to display the program's effects within a short time, which allowed them to easily turn into other areas of the world. The Software was introduced in 1997 and has since been implemented under different backgrounds in more than 52 other countries around the world.

Conditional cash transfers are known and praised for their appraisal function, which allows them to demonstrate their performance. The assessment enables the program to be updated to satisfy the criteria of the recipients and the background of the country it requires in the circumstances of less than 6 years of implementation. This initiative has contributed to poverty reduction, expanded education and health and nutrition development in a number of environments in Mexico. The program's success was due to the continued mutual experience of numerous nations (Schmook, et al., 2018).

2.4 Contextualisation of poverty in South Africa

In the South African politics and public government, social grants and eradication of poverty remain controversial. I argue that both issues are influenced to some extent by many factors such as apartheid, historical, social and economic. Apartheid, for example excluded the vast majority of Black people by favouring and enriching the White Minority from participation in the mainstream economy. Based on Meyiwa and Ngubentombi research (2010:127), "Southern Africa continues to be one of the world's worst and poorest regions." This shows how many people throughout South Africa continue to be marked by social and economic hardships and inequality.

With the establishment of a democratic dispensation, and with the abolition in South Africa of the most racist and inhuman government system known as apartheid, remarkable steps have been taken to address South Africa's poverty scourge with a view to resolve the previous imbalances and the problems of the Apartheid government's racial disparities. The Democratic Government has introduced programs and implemented new policies, for example the RDP, growth, jobs and redistribute, with the sole objective of reducing relative and absolute poverty and creating jobs that favor human development (Satumba, Bayat and Mohamed, 2017).

However, following such remarkable steps in making the country a better country, responding to the needs of its citizens, poverty remains for the government of post-apartheid South Africa a key challenge, raising many questions about why it continues. It is crucial to understand fully how poverty and what poverty is and to understand what factors affect poverty and the life effect of poverty are previously identified by various scholars and development intellectuals in order to fully understand poverty, particularly in South Africa.

2.4.1 The multi-dimensionality of poverty

The notion of poverty is linked to multi-dimensional concepts. According to certain postulations by Menyuko (2011), for instance, "a poor state" and a "multi-dimensional problem" are defined specifically as the term poverty caused by different factors, and they also affect different people. Menyuko (2011:9), claimed that poor people suffer from a pandemic influenced by coexisting factors such as unemployment, lack of education, lack of marketing skills or resources that affect poverty in human lives. Pandemic with AIDS.

Another somewhat related point is that Van Wyk and Posel (2019) have argued that the definition of poverty is characterized by a number of connected deprivation and treated it as a matter of fact. He also considered poverty to be the result of a lack of diverse intrinsic and instrumental capabilities like wages, education, health, and civil rights. In addition, Tarirayi (2016:12) argued that

many of the poor people are locked in a poor situation with a low-income cycle, limited assets and opportunities that therefore limit their (people) investment in order to escape poverty."

The Moosa study (2019), demonstrated that while some citizens benefited from economic growth or redistributive policies, others dropped as a result of either economic or political change. The above point of view therefore indicates that the new era of democracy, while it brought hope for the majority of the South African people, particularly the Black community which had for decades been cruelly and inhumanely subjected to the racist and segregationist apartheid regime. In comparison, the current government of the ANC has operated by means of various steps in order to place others in unavoidable poverty and hopelessness, like corruption in South Africa's new democratic (Van Wyk & Posel, 2019). Some of the representatives of the states entrusted, or empowers to, the benefit of the people has deceived and are tending to enrich themselves by self-aggrandising schemes to the detriment of the municipal (Moosa 2019). The introduction of policies and programs to reduce poverty is therefore very difficult.

The debt burden was criticized by researchers as one of, the major perpetrators of South Africa's history's evolution of poverty. Empirical evidence, for example, shows that the apartheid government has left R190 billions of total public debt, some R5 billions of which was external debt (SARB, 1996). Based on the above, the IMF and World Bank debt problem in South Africa appears to be due to have an adverse effect in the capacity of the state to provide services effectively, thereby impoverishing the vast majority of the nation's population due to the lack of an efficient solution to the problems posed by the State. This is because most of its funds and resources tend to leave the country in return for international lending institutions, instead of being spent on improving human lives and changing impacts within the country.

Early studies also suggest a fall in formal employment rates between 1993 and mid-1998, with a 12-percent decline in jobs, or some 62000 losing jobs (Stats SA, 2018). Moreover, job losses and reductions in sectors which employ unqualified workers were said to be the highest (Stats SA 2018). Consequently, it is very difficult to address the problem of unemployment since there are more jobseekers than jobs (Triegaardt, 2005:2). In view of this, unemployment has also increased dramatically after apartheid in South Africa, adding to the poverty conditions of many South Africans, particularly in rural areas where social isolation and the deprivation of the vast majority of rural populations remain primarily characterized in political and economic activities. Moreover, it is possible to add that as Aliber argued (2003:478), the problem of unemployment affecting the majority of the population leads to intensified poverty.

The rising unemployment in South Africa helps to make poverty worse (Aliber, 2003:478). Despite economic growth and rapid labor expansion, unemployment has risen (Nelson, 2010:89). The government promises to reduce poverty in 2014 seem to be inaccessible and the unemployment rate of South Africa in 2009 increased to 23,5% (Stats SA, 2018) and to 24% in 2010 (Nelson, 2010:89). Poverty factors include inadequate employment access, particularly in rural areas, and limited job opportunities for skilled workers (Stats SA, 2018). Segalo (2011:233) says that “many of the rural population are deserted at home, unemployed with nothing to do, and experience limited choices to make a living”.

Some scholars have however claimed the problem of urbanization and the low percentage of employment often exacerbate the picture (Pillay, 2008). He went on to argue that rural areas have not earned a lot of publicity and appreciation for development projects, as mega-development projects are being carried out in most cities in this newly globalized technology-driven world, which has left the local people of rural areas missing employment opportunities (Pillay, 2008). As more people migrate from rural to urban, rural areas begin to lose recognition of development, so that even government spending appears to be more in

urban rather than rural areas, which contributes to an unequal distribution of resources.

Tarisayi (2016) gave a very different view on the causes of poverty, It is also a significant factor in the production of poverty for population growth. He added that, because there are more work seekers than jobs, economic policies are difficult to enforce to address social problems like poverty (World Inequality Report, 2018). There is a 52,98 million population in South Africa, with 2.5% Indians, 9.0% Colored, 8.7 whites and 79%, 8% Black and 50% Black (Stats SA, 2017). Poverty among black Africans is largely high (32%) and females (31%) (Stats SA, 2017).

According to Davis (2006: 2) it shows that “the black community compared with other racial groups still lag behind in terms of access to education and sufficient income for a livelihood”. Also, Davis (2006) points out that poverty is predominantly rural relative to urban communities, stating that 78% of the rural population is likely to be chronically poor and mostly black. The above suggests that urban and rural populations are unequal.

In addition, Tarisayi (2016) also emphasised that “lack of education and skills in conjunction with insufficient access to employment opportunities in the rural world remain major causes of rural poverty”. In addition, several researchers and development authors have cited a lack of schooling as an important factor contributing to poverty. For example, in the South African context research and statistics show that about 2.5 million people over 20 years of age have no education at all (Stats SA, 2017). The above also supports the fact that you potentially fall in poverty in the long term if you are not qualified and lack marketability skills.

2.5 Poverty trends in South Africa: A historical analysis of poverty

In South Africa poverty continues to be a historical phenomenon long influenced by apartheid heritage, which has been marked by racist and inhuman policies by the government that have impacted the vast population of South Africans, contributing to disparity between the levels of consumption of different racial communities in South Africa. Initial research and surveys carried out in 1959 indicate that more than 50 percent of African people in urban South Africa were not able to afford a minimum diet and lifestyle (Stats SA, 2017).

Moreover, between 68% and 77% of all the families in Africa were reported to be below the national poverty line during midsummer 1970, which suggested that poverty levels were on the rise during the 'great apartheid' period (DSD, SASSA and UNICEF, 2016). According to Carter and May (2000), more than half (52 per cent) of all South Africa households were poor before the democratic elections leading to the former President Nelson Mandela's government, particularly in rural areas. Cash metrician poverty, scope, and magnitude decline significantly between 1995 and 2004 in statistics SA (2017).

The UN (2015) examines the broadest current trends in poverty to date to reveal that the poverty gap has slightly improved, with an average gap declining between 1993 and 2008, from 32 per cent to 28 per cent of poverty (UN, 2015:17). Based on this viewpoint, it is possible to affirm that poverty trends cannot be holistically understood in the context of South Africa without referring to the past policies of the country that have placed many of its population in an inevitable poverty trap.

A different view on poverty patterns is one that has been suggested by Tarisayi (2016) who argues that “the issue of ‘heterogonous population’ remains a strong indication that poverty and inequality are evident and noticeable characteristics of many people, particularly in the rural world”.

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Social grants have several positive outcomes of state cash transfers to the impoverished and vulnerable groups of people which help in poverty eradication. However, some authors and researchers have criticised such grants, arguing that such grants are creating a 'dependency syndrome' and making government a 'nanny-government' (David et al, 2009). Take the above from, it can be argued that although such cash transfers play a significant role in the fight against poverty, on the other hand, this has resulted in the country becoming a nanny-state, which implies an 'overprotective' state, which as result lead to issues of laziness to people somehow.

Patel (2013) further argued that social subsidies promote state dependence, build an 'entitlement mentality' and a citizenry that is passive, waiting for government handouts. Dependence is called a managing mind in this case (Patel, 2013). Also listed is Devereux (2013) that social assistance makes the job seekers lazy. He also argued that these grants are often related to early adolescents, where young girls become pregnant because of their poverty at a younger age, hoping they will be given children's assistance to prevent poverty (Devereux, 2013).

2.6 Historical background of Social Grants System in South Africa

For decades (2006 - 2017), the Republic of South Africa has managed to provide social assistance to a population of approximately 17,2 million. Moreover, the colonial and apartheid model of South African welfare has been unequal, discriminatory, and dependent upon methods of delivery of services impractical and unreal (Patel, 2013). In South Africa in the early 1990s social subsidies were introduced, racially divided, and only intended for the white minority in the Apartheid era (Van der Berg et al, 2005).

Outside the social subsidy scheme, it originated from the RDP, which in light of past apartheid policies and government policies, has addressed the suffering of many citizens in a country of South Africa and especially the low majority in the

past in order to remediate the imbalance and disparities that had been created by the Apartheid past.

"As poverty continues to be a global dilemma, establishing and implementing a social grants system is an attempt by the government to address, eradicate and foster sustainable livelihoods" (Menyuko, 2011:4). Satumba et al. (2007), who argues the social subsidization scheme in South Africa was introduced as a social security measure, supports this postulation.

The definitions and concepts of social subsidies can vary from one geographical framework to another. In this report, however, 'social grants' clearly mean revenues earned by DSD, SASSA and UNICEF representatives of disadvantaged groups (2017). Satumba, Bayat and Mohamed (2017) also added that these social subsidies are provided to disadvantaged groups as they cannot meet minimum basic needs on their own. Such underprivileged parties include young children living in poor communities, the elderly, and people with disabilities (Van der Berg et al, 2007).

Based on the above, the social grants are now one of the key sources of income for most poor households in South Africa that has contributed significantly to eradicating poverty. In South Africa, however, numerous forms of social supports are available. The following segment addresses the social subsidies in South Africa in depth.

2.6.1 The Types of Social Grants in South Africa

South African government aid includes child support, disability support, care dependency grant, foster care grant and old-age pension grant (SASSA, 2018). Families who care for children under the age of 18 who are payable care benefits not cared for by their biological parents (DSD, SASSA and UNICEF, 2016). A grant to carers of children who have significant disabilities is given to parents, on the other hand, insofar as they require complete care (Waidler and Devereux, 2019). Disability Grant shall be paid to persons aged between 18 and 59 years who are not beneficiaries or are the responsibility of state agencies of any other kind of social assistance (Ralston, et al, 2019). The older

pension was established so that the elderly who are typically insecure in their old age SASSA gain financial protection .

The South-African social security system remains a crucial government intervention in addressing these problems, at 26 percent official unemployment, the poverty rate is estimated at around 50% and one of the world's largest inequality levels (Waidler and Devereux, 2019). The above suggests, therefore that South Africa's social grants remain a solution to counter poverty and inequality.

2.6.2 Advantages of the Social Grants Systems

South Africa has one of the biggest healthcare programs in South Africa (Kaseke, 2010). Certain scientists believe that social cash transfers are the leading social security initiative to resolve poverty and vulnerability in many developing countries and that these transfers are intended to allow households to recover from poverty (Samson, 2009). Social grants were very effective at creating an atmosphere in which families were willing to invest in human resources, the recipient numbers rose from 2,4 million in 1996/6 to approximately 17 million in 2017/18 (SASSA, 2016). Van Driel (2009) maintains that social assistance in South Africa transforms the lives of people. In addition, for example, childcare has had a positive effect on child poverty (Satumba, Bayat and Mohamed, 2017).

Budlender and Woolard (2006) have presented a somewhat similar opinion, claiming that the state's Old Age Pension (SOAP) and the CSG are reaching millions of households and that large payments have been generally believed to alleviate poverty. Eyal and Woolard (2011) have also related child support funds to increased school attendance and have added that they may help guarantee food safety, help parents in the purchasing and payment of school fees. school uniforms. All this points in a way that such funds play a major role in the form of cash transfers poverty reduction in many households which are

poor due to circumstances of unemployment, since the breadwinner typically dies first and harm the entire life for example, of a biological parent. However, these grants still have their own drawbacks and criticisms and below are the criticisms by different academics of the social grant method.

The involvement of unconditional cash transfer in poverty was examined by Woolard and Leibbrandt (2010) through the use of the first wave of National Income Dynamic (NIDS) analysis. Social grants have been shown to have a high effect on the lowest income distribution of households. This showed that social grants were directed at the poorest people. Although the findings showed little impact on the poverty ratio, the position of the grant in terms of severity and scope was important (Van Dijk and Mokgala, 2014).

Satumba, Bayat and Mohamed (2017) revealed comparable results on expenditure and revenue in 2010/2011. The research assessed the impact of social support on poverty in the use of the poverty index for Foster, Greer and Thorbecke. The study showed that social grants were greatly reduced by poverty, especially in high poverty areas such as Eastern Cape, Limpopo and rural areas. The social grants were strongly affected by disadvantaged groups in particular by Africans and female households. The authors also argued that subsidies were directed at the poor.

Armstrong and Burger (2009) were used for their estimation of the influence of social welfare on poverty in their 2005 spending and income statistics. Similar to the above results, social grants also showed that the magnitude, degree, and depth of poverty was affected extensively. Regardless of the major role played by poverty, the role of social grants in inequality has been insignificant.

Moller's (2011) analysis of older households in South Africa found that grants for younger age and other social support are important for the quality of life of beneficiaries. The study concluded that the enhancement of beneficiaries' health and wealth is a vital factor in social pensions. In rural areas it is proposed

that the wealth of the households emanates greatly from a daily pension income. The government's allocation of funds to the elderly was a crucial solution to targeting the vulnerable.

In particular, the transition of governments to seniors is a sure way to combat the suffering of seniors. In reverse, Kasere (2012) described numerous issues relating to the elderly, such as the violence, HIV/AIDS, inadequate basic needs of pensioners and consideration for election periods alone.

Kasere (2012) conducted an extensively localized analysis in eastern cape to prove the role of old age pensions in alleviation of poverty by using government-generated statistical data. The scientist showed that pensions were inadequate to alleviate household poverty in the long term while pensions offered relief. The study also found that the frameworks which directed decision-making in households regularly triggered the allocation and use of pension funds. The extended families shared the money so that the beneficiary never saw the effect but was of benefit to the entire family (Kasere, 2012).

In a case study of the Kgautswane rural group van Dijk and Mokgala (2014) evaluated whether granting for old age actually benefits the rural poor. The group has been chosen to make a comprehensive analysis using unstructured interviews. The results of the study show that the old age subsidy offers recipients spending opportunities which support the poor and less fortunate in the communities in the long term (Van Dijk and Mokgala, 2014). The Old-Age Grant provides recipients with a chance to invest in social networks and social security methods, which in turn improves livelihoods, for example in the studied area (Mpofo and Ndlovu-Gatsheni, 2019).

The quality of life and stamina caused by social shock caused by poverty and elderly need and well-being are influenced by both the capacity of the granting managers and the capacity for administration. The problem posed by the authors was thus the dysfunctional bureaucracy-wide administrative

mechanism and practices. The reduction of poverty will continue to be the main government problem, more so if the use of social security does not resolve efficacy, quality, and ethics issues (Mpofu and Ndlovu-Gatsheni, 2019).

2.7 Sustainable Livelihoods Approach as a Theoretical Framework

In the context of this research project, the sustainable livelihoods approach (SLA) is a theoretical framework which conceptualizes the use of social aid in order to reduce poverty and take account, in stressful conditions, of the connection between social aid and poverty alleviation. 'One of the prevailing approaches to policy interference used by the major development authorities is architecture "Sustainable livelihoods" (Mpofu, and Ndlovu-Gatsheni, 2019)." The approach to sustainable living is characterized in respect of its ability to enhance the assets and abilities of communal institutions in the face of unpredictable behaviour and pressures over time (Mpofu and Ndlovu-Gatsheni, 2019). This approach (SLA) is therefore largely focused on the principle that action should be based on an understanding of the underlying livelihood.

The approach to sustainable living conditions resonate with old ideas; the increase in what is called human growth' in the 1980s was one of their main influences (Marschke, Melissa, & Berkes, 2006). Indian economist Amartya Sen and his writing on Capabilities inspired his human development (Sen, 1984; 1985). 'Human growth' is a mechanism to expand the options of people (Marschke, Melissa, & Berkes, 2006). Unlike several previous initiatives, the Sustainable Livelihoods solution is more realistic in terms of human development. In this situation, just a livelihood:

comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living, a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation, and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels in the short and long terms (Chambers and Conway, 1992:7).

Five major properties, physical, environmental, human, economic, financial, and social resources, are recommended in the approach to sustainability

(Scoones, 1998:44). Therefore, the components of human capital' that include expertise, experience, employment, good health and physical capacity are the advantages taken into consideration in this study and are therefore related to the motivation and conduct of the person within the sustainability approach. The approach to sustainability also stems from the philosophy of 'resiliency' to consider society's resistance to pressure, shocks, and how people are faced with difficult conditions (Morse and McNamara, 2013).

Sustainable Livelihoods also calls for five capitals as postulated by Scoones(1998): natural capital (biodiversity, water, environmental services), social capital (networks, affiliations and organizations), physical capital (infrastructure buildings and highways, cash and equipment) and human capital (skills, knowledge and labour) (capital base-cash, credit, savings). The definition of capital is described as an opportunity for people to engage with the world, and especially with the potential to change the world, more efficiently and meaningfully" (Scoones, 1998:16). Bebbington (1999) also suggested the three distinct roles of these capitals to be instrumental (living), hermeneutic (living) and transmissive; (challenging the structures under which one makes a living).

Unlike several top-down and mechanical approaches, the sustainability approach places people at the center of the growth (UNDP Human Development Report, 1990:61). The sustainable livelihood approach (SLA) is consistent and people-centered specifically (Glavonic, 2006; Chang and Triple, 2009; Hogg-Jensen et al, 2010). SLA also recognizes that multisectoral services are required, which is holistic (Tao and Wall, 2009). The SL idea tries to move beyond conventional definitions and approaches to poverty eradication (Krantz, 2001).

The SLA has its own critique of this approach, however, and its critics also make sure that it isn't a panacea (Krantz, 2001). The danger is that SLA could become a very mechanical and quantitative cataloging practice that fits right into the general criticisms provided by post-modernist artists (Krantz, 2001). In addition,

while the vulnerability attempt is being made, there is clearly a great deal of unpredictability, particularly on macro scales (Morse and McNamara, 2013). As discussed above, the theory of Sustainable Livelihoods Approach remains a well-grounded concept for understanding human development, poverty, and sustainable livelihoods methods and in terms of elucidating the key factors leading to the evolution of poverty and ways on how to escape the poverty cycle, considering the fact that the types of capital discussed are available to sustain human lives for a sustainable livelihoods in the long run. The significance of the chosen theory discussed above is that it acts to create a link between research findings by revealing the types of capitals needed for enabling the sustainable livelihoods.

2.8 Conclusion

This chapter began by contextualising poverty in South African giving an insight into the dimensions and dynamics of the phenomenon in the context in which this current study was undertaken. The literature pertaining to the multiple dimensions of poverty was explored and was expanded by a discussion of the poverty trends in South Africa. A historical analysis of poverty was crucial in this review as it laid out some cause-effect analysis of the contemporary poverty trends in the country. Afterwards, a historical background of the social grants system in South Africa was provided together with a review of some of the perceived benefits of social grants in the country. A global perspective was also shed during this literature exploration; together with a reflection towards the sustainable development goals of poverty and inequality. The chapter concluded by discussing the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach and the theoretical framework that underpinned this study. The next chapter discusses the research methodology.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The study examined using social grants to reduce income poverty in Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality area in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. This chapter focuses on the research methodology used and the paradigms used in this study. The concept of 'methodology' is described as the overall strategy from identifying a problem to the last plans for data collection and analysis, according to an application by Frey (2018). The overall strategy In addition, Horton (2020:17) argues that the idea of study paradigm simply implies a fundamental collection of values, which guides behavior and also guides and influences research. In essence this chapter offers an overview of the research methodology, the research design, the sampling and recruiting strategy applied, the processes, tools and techniques used for data collection, the kind of data analyzes used and ethical issues that informed the project.

3.2 Research Methods/Approach to Study

The study used the research qualitative method for collecting relevant information and achieving research goals and problems. The approach described above was selected based on the fact that “it mostly uses observations and interviews to ensure that views of participants are not restricted” (Bless et al., 2013:162). Since the study's main goals were to analyse and discuss the role of social grants as a means of reducing income poverty, qualitative research is useful in the achievement of research goals, since it seeks to understand the perspectives of the people involved in a matter at issue or is being investigated. In addition, Holloway, and Wheeler (2002:30) further describe the importance of the qualitative approach to the study of social issues, disagreeing that it is a social problem, “a form of social inquiry that focuses on the way people interpret and make sense of their experiences and the world in which they live”.

Qualitative study was also chosen on the basis that the data were sensitive to the social context in relation to the quantitative method, whereby subjects were excluded from real life as postulated by (Mason, 1996). Therefore in this proposed analysis a quantitative methodological method has failed because it stresses "the production of accurate and measurable amounts of statistical findings," which was not the focus of the proposed studying, as argued by Denzin (2000:18). Finally, qualitative research methodology has been focused on the fact that the study of citizens and their issues is more participative and democratic, using person and group interviews and remarks as theorized by Bless etc (2013). This was necessary to ensure the reliability of research results and not to limit the opinions of respondents or the persons studied.

3.3 Sampling strategy

In the proposed analysis, the participants who provided appropriate and factual information on the study focus were searched for a purposive sampling (non-probability) technique. Parahoo (1997:232) defines a purposive sampling as "a method of sampling where the researcher deliberately chooses who to include in the research based on their ability to provide necessary data". Purposive sampling involves carefully defining applicants in the study as falling within the bracket of those who are supposed to have the requisite details. These are often the main informants in the sample community who hold a central role (Jupp, 2006).

The direct beneficiaries of social grants in this circumstance who are also the policy makers are considered the focus community. Given the design of the research to a particular location and section in the Ward 3 rural area, a case study approach was used to investigate the subject and analytically challenge social support contribution to poverty reduction (Creswell et al., 2007). The research therefore aims at a sample of 20 rural Ward 3 respondents.

In the proposed research, participants were recruited as local gatekeepers with assistance from the Izinduna. The sample used however is the ward committee,

which deals directly with people and is well aware of available subsidies and beneficiaries. The Ward Committee helped to collect the sample, as mentioned above from the various focus areas of the community in order to provide representation and coverage across a broad spectrum in order to improve the credibility of the study.

3.4 Research design

A case study research design was used to perform this study. The research design is the structure for a study, as a guide for the collections and review of research data according to a description given by Creswell et al (2007). In addition, Burns and Groove (2003) added that study designs for exploratory cases form part of qualitative research and remain useful to obtain new perspectives, explore new ideas and to gain an improved understanding of the phenomenon under review.

The study has subsequently explored the full nature of this topic, in this case, by somehow applying research design to exploratory research, the use of social grants to minimize income poverty in the sample. The research design for an exploratory case study is important to better understand how social funding is used to eradicate income poverty among different homes in the municipal area of Ubuhlebezwe, the case study.

The case study model is commonly used by researchers the world over, especially those who want to carry out studies which are qualitative in nature (Baskarada, 2014). There are a number of case studies that one can undertake such as theory test case studies, plausibility probes and building block case studies (Starman, 2013). This study uses the disciplined configurative case study method, this method uses established theories to explain a phenomenon (George and Bennet, 2007). There are a number of advantages for case studies, they help with conceptual validity because they allow the researcher to explore contextual factors, something which the researcher could not have done in a quantitative study (Starman, 2013). They are also useful for deriving new

hypotheses and for exploring casual mechanisms. For this research the case study method was relevant because the research is qualitative in design and additionally it is studying the issue of social grants of which a case study can be used to test the theories surrounding the issue of social grants.

3.5 Research approach

A qualitative analysis methodology has been used to achieve the aims of this dissertation. This research method was chosen based on the essence of this project of research aiming, from the point of view of target research participants, which included adult (18 and over) beneficiaries of the social grants, to look at the practice of social grants as a way of reducing income poverty in Ubuhlebezwe local municipality. This thesis posed the following research questions to investigate and analyse the use of social grants:

- How effective is the social grant in households from beneficiary's point of view in a rural area?
- What are the challenges experienced by households and social grant beneficiaries in a rural area?
- How effective is social security policy in the fight against household poverty in a rural area?

Thus, the research questions listed above put the analysis within the field of qualitative research, which involves the application of qualitative research methods. The definition of qualitative analysis clearly implies that Sanghera says (2003:16) "an exploration of what is assumed to be a dynamic reality from the perspectives of the people concerned". This research was then concerned with discussing and analyzing in what way social grants are used to alleviate income abject poverty.

Moreover, Holloway, and Wheeler (2002) maintained that qualitative research is a technique for social research that focuses on the understanding and importance of the natural environment of a person in its geographical context in

regard to his or her life. One of the advantages of quality analysis, as Kumar (2011) maintains, was that it relies on what was referred to as an emitter's viewpoint and that the methodology captures what people in the natural realm think. This methodology was important for the validity of study findings as the sources of data collection are beneficiaries of different forms of social assistance.

Hence a qualitative method was chosen because the quantitative research approach for this research project would not be sufficient simply because the researchers had little interest in evaluating the scope and duration of social funding, but rather in finding out how social support is used as a tool for reducing income poverty in the municipality of Ubuhlebezwe. Bless et al. (2013:162) also said “qualitative research approach is a method that uses interviews and observations to ensure that views of interviewees participants targeted are not restricted”. As such the author was able to explain more effectively how the use of social subsidies in families or households using open-ended problems can be effective in collecting as much knowledge as they can.

3.6 Population and Sampling

The study used a non-probability sample of 20 participants in the analysis. In this survey, the target groups were domestic recipients of social assistance for the purposes of evaluating the efficiency of these subsidies to tackle poverty at the family and family level, including child-support, Old-Age Pension Grant and Disabilitation Grant to Care Dependency Grant. The age range of the study participants was 18 to 75 years. In total, there were 10 men and 10 women who took part in this research to get a balanced view of both sexes and the phenomena under study. Participants were drawn from Ward 3 in the region under Harry Gwala District Municipality in the Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality.

The concept of sampling is described, according to Daniel (2012), as involving the collection of a sample appropriate for a study. Therefore, in this report, I employed a technique (not likely) to identify and hire people who would provide the most appropriate and essential data on the study, namely the use of social subsidies as a strategic strategy for reducing income poverty.

In further detail, Lavrakas (2008:232) describes that an 'intent sample means that the researcher determines intentionally who will be Respondents involved based on their ability to provide the necessary information in order to perform analysis. In addition, "a qualitative research requires the researcher to identify a specific group of people who can provide information about a given problem unlike the quantitative research method which is mainly based on computational and statistical data analysis" (Yedigis and Weinbach, 1991:155).

In this study the research informants were selected based on their ability to provide relevant information on the subject under study (the use of social grants to reduce income poverty). However, considering all the benefits of deliberate sampling, the researchers who are intentionally chosen for research subjects have a problem, which could impact the validity of the findings (Morgan, 1997).

3.6.1 Geographic Context

The research was conducted in the municipality of Ubuhlebezwe. The territory of the local authority of Ubuhlebezwe is located at an altitude of about 85,000 kilometers south-east of Pietermaritzburg. It is under a Harry Gwala district municipality in the KwaZulu-Natal province (KZN). The local municipality goal has 12 wards, but only ward 3 has been chosen as part of the research for this study. The selected station was chosen on the basis that the sectors are composed of households that depend heavily upon social grants. Secondly, these are highly rural areas with the distinguishing characteristics of the surrounding regions that have become total and relative poverty and socio-economic inequality.



The municipality of Ubuhlebezwe is predominantly inhabited by the Black Community, representing approximately 97,5% of its total population. The target groups and populations are people who can share and reflect on the efficacy of social subsidies to mitigate the brunt of poverty. In Ubuhlebezwe municipality there are approximately 9136 population (Stats SA, 2017). Below is the map of the municipality of Ubuhlebezwe.

3.7 Data collection

The data collection stage is extremely important in conducting a study because the type and quality of data collected often affects any conclusion drawn (Babbie and Mouton, 2001:35). For data collection, unstructured interviews were used. With the use of organized interviews, the interviewees have been versatile and allowed participants to share without limitation all the details they wish to share. This played a major role for the researcher by offering a greater insight into the topic under study.

After the approval of the University of KwaZulu-Natal Ethics Committee, data collecting began. Data collection started. Before starting an interview, a letter from the Gatekeeper has been sent to me by the local municipality of Ubuhlebezwe. Traditional leaders and community leaders negotiated entrance into the community to produce a study. Other main methods of data collection used during the study include field notes, tape recorder use, coding and transcriptions. Furthermore, the investigator employed testing interviews (verbal and non-verbal), which involved sampling, instigating and summarizing silences.

There have been several ground rules developed to ensure that interviews with participants were smooth and uninterrupted. There was no ban during an interview, for example, on the use of cell phones. The interview lasted 45 minutes to 1 hour per interviewee, which offered ample time for research participants to speak and to take a break if they wished.

Data collection is of utmost importance since the existence and quality of the data collected will affect all conclusions drawn (Babbie, 2010). Interviews are more valuable in face-to-face research because it offers more clarification on the points highlighted by the interviewer and helps to ensure that the answers are clear and collaborative (Cresswell, 2007). Cresswell (2007) describes profound interviews as a purposeful conversation that creates knowledge in a human way about the social environment. The survey will perform all of the interviews in IsiZulu, as the way in which the experiences and difficulties will be extended and explained. A single interview can take about 1 hour for a detailed review of the subjects being examined and will be registered with the participant's consent. Although the interviews are recorded, field notes will be taken in case of technical failure during the interviews. The researcher also codes the data and carries out thematic analysis, finding descriptive terms to define themes.

3.8 Data analysis

The thesis will follow a method of thematic analysis to interpret the outcomes of the research. A thematic analysis is particularly suitable for communication study and for answering classic communication research questions like what and why (Babbie, 2010). In order to make the data make sense, the answers are written and read again and again during the interview and are coded (Jupp, 2006). When coded, all codes also appear under a single theme, creating a thematic structure for analysis and interpretation (Burns and Grove, 2003).

After collecting data from research participants, the researcher coded the collected data and performed thematic analysis in order to look for particular terms to classify the topics. In addition, all the data obtained, including field notes and tape recordings, were used after all the interviews to draw up the study report, which was then sent to KwaZulu-Natal University.

The notion of "thematic analysis" literally means that the data obtained by researchers are classified into subjects and sub-themes (Babbie and Mouton,

2001). Furthermore, Babbie and Mouton (2001), who are concerned with the phenomena under study, elaborated that "thematic analyses" help address questions such as what, how and who. The use of thematic analyses played an important role in the reduction, simplification, and interpretation of the collected data for significance in this report. The data have been entered through the NVIVO-software.

The researcher was able to use thematic analysis to organize the data collected effectively to ensure that the research goals were fulfilled in this study. In this study even qualitative research data collected are evaluated using inferences to draw a conclusions based on facts. The researchers also developed an interpretive account in their review of the data collected that included voices (anonymously interpreted) and direct quotations by participants, coding field notices and transcripts of interviews. The data was analysed also by transcribing the responses of the interviewees in literal form to ensure that the study results were confident and accurate.

In resolving the researcher's partiality Thorpe and Holt (2008) was often exercised as 'reflexiveness' and 'bracketing.' Thorpe and Holt (2008:292) defined reflexivity as a method in which the academic reflects on his previous ethics and those of the research participants, such as the way data are collected influences the way participants view the researcher. To practice bracketing the researcher used memos when collecting data, by reviewing these memos the researcher was aware of when bias was creeping in, the researcher also kept a journal regarding the topic before beginning data collection to make preconceptions come to the fore. For reflexivity the researcher will make sure that it is known that the researcher is not a recipient of social grants so that readers know that the researcher is an outsider. For reflexivity, the researcher also conducted multiple interviews with the respondents in a bid to avoid all forms of bias.

Bracketing clearly, on the other hand means suspending the researchers' preconceptions, biases, and values to avoid intervening with or having any effect on the experiences of the participant (Parahoo, 1997:45). Therefore, the researcher has disregarded what was known about the subject under review and used social grants to alleviate poverty in the event of this study to address the research bias against the topic under investigation. After completing the analysis, the researcher sifted the data and then assembled the parts and organized them.

3.9 Rigour and Trustworthiness

This refers to the quality of data collected which is measured in terms of conformability, dependability, credibility and transferability (Cresswell, 2007).

3.9.1 Credibility

Credibility was ensured through the correct procedures for interviews and audiotapes. The neutrality of the researcher during the interviews, careful handling of the emotional expressions and the examination of the findings by the supervisor aided the researcher's quest for credibility as well.

3.9.2 Dependability

Dependability is the ability of data to remain consistent over time. Dependability was ensured by data consistency and usability, where the researcher demonstrated the truthfulness of the data collected and analysed. Keeping those field notes, and an audit trail help reader's trust data.

3.9.3 Transferability

Transferability is the extent to which the research questions or hypothesis can be applied to another context. The researcher endeavoured to achieve transferability in this study by presenting a 'thick' description of the participants,

the context and the setting of the research study and by data triangulation from different sources to build justification for themes. Besides interviewing the participants this research also carried out document analysis from the ministry of social welfare. This helped with triangulation and also implies that the research is transferrable to other contexts.

3.9.4 Confirmability

Confirmability is the ability of the researcher to interpret and make sense of the study being undertaken from the stand point of the participants (Jensen, 2008). This was achieved in this study through the process of getting ethics clearance from the ethics committee and the participants involved in this study. You can confirm by doing a member check, you ask the participants if what you captured is correct – that is after the interview.

3.10 Ethical considerations

Although there have been some ethical concerns, interest conflicts and ethical dilemmas in this report, I have always been very cautious, as a researcher, to respect and sensitive the researchers, to respect their rights as enshrined in the Constitution, and I completely support the University of KwaZulu-Natal code of ethics. The University of KwaZulu-Natal requested the permission to undertake this research. After the University of KwaZulu-Natal approved the research subject, the researchers began conducting interviews with targeted participants. This research did not include participants who were coerced, but rather voluntary participation.

In this study, the confidentiality of participants to research was guaranteed using codes and participants were told that they could leave the study freely. The main principles and values that influenced this study were anonymity, harm security, privacy, and confidentiality. To protect the privacy and confidentiality of the respondents, the researcher made sure that names of respondents were not

recorded anywhere, instead the researcher used a system of codes for the respondents. The researcher also protected the confidentiality and prevented any harm that might befall the students through the use of a cloud server to store data. The cloud server has a strong encryption. Confidentiality was also respected through the researcher not divulging any information about participants to third parties. Prior to starting the study with the willing targeted participants, a consent form was required to ensure and encourage voluntary study participation. Participants were required to be allowed to write field notes and use the recording system. The identities of the participants have nothing to do with the data provided to secure the privacy of the study participants. There was no dismay, humiliation, or offense among participants.

3.11 Limitations

This case study was undertaken in the Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality in KZN, and therefore, the results of this study cannot be generalised to all the other municipalities or provinces in South Africa.

The limitation was the hesitation and rejection, with no financial benefits, of some targeted people participating in the research. As such, efforts to develop a clear connection with the participants to explain the design and objectives of the study have allowed participants to gain informed acceptance. However another participant was picked on their position in situations where the participant declined to be interviewed.

Since this study is a qualitative and the sample is small, there can be questions raised about how it is applicable in other settings. Additionally the research is only focusing on one area and not nationwide in South Africa even though grants are issued out nationwide, this might mean the feelings of people over grants on the research area may not be applicable nationwide. Additionally there was also risk of researcher bias.

Time constraint was another challenge the researcher faced. Because the researcher had to juggle a number of life commitments such as study, personal and work life, the researcher did not have as much time as he would have wanted to thoroughly carry out this research. This might mean some of the research findings in this study might not be full proof.

3.12 Delimitations

The scope this study required to investigate the use of social grants as a means to lower income poverty at a provincial level. Therefore provincial and country wide implications of grants were not included. In addition, other state sponsored incentives such as free basic education and housing programmes such as the Reconstruction and Development Programme. The participants were only composed of adult beneficiaries of grants and minors were excluded.

3.13 Conclusion

The research methodology was defined and explained, the appropriateness of the approach to qualitative research was explained, the strengths and applicability of the approach to this analysis. The procedures, tools and methods used in this study were defined for data collection. The section addressed study designs, main research participants, method of sampling, rationalization for the selection and recruitment of participants as well as data collection process. A number of ethical issues have also been discussed in the last section of this chapter. The following chapter addresses the results of this analysis.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

It is primarily a question of providing data from the research participants based on the findings of this chapter. In this chapter, the findings of the analysis are analysed and discussed. The results of the research and those of the previous studies by various academics are evaluated critically in this way. The main purpose of the research was to study social support use and effectiveness in workers of the municipality of Ubuhlebezwe, study the problems of social aid recipients at Station 3 in the municipality of Ubuhlebezwe and recognize and understand the impacts of social aid in the war against poverty in stages 3 of the local municipality.

The data were collected through interviews. There were ten participants in this study, male, and female. Participants of this research have been mainly from Station 3 of the municipality of Ubuhlebezwe at Harry Gwala district.

Biographical Data

Sex

Male	Female
10	10

Age

18-25	25-50	50-75
3	6	11

Table 4.1: Identified perceptions about social grants

Theme	Sub-theme
Theme 1: difficulties faced at ward 3 of Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality by beneficiaries and families of social grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long waiting hours with no chairs• Inadequacy of the social grants• Technical problems at the payment points• Cash out situations

Theme 2: Impact of social grants in the fight against poverty and family structure in ward 3 of uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflicts among families • Eradication of poverty
Theme 3: Strategies to improve administration of social grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of the waiting times • Hiring of more people at the payment points • Adoption of effective payment systems

As seen in Table 4.1 the first perception related to challenges associated with social grants, particularly from benefactors of these social grants in ward 3 of Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality. These challenges will be discussed further later on in this chapter. The second perception was about how social grants were viewed by the participants and its effect on poverty reduction and the structure of the family. Finally, the participants shared their views on how to improve the experience of social grants especially in terms of administration.

4.2 Use of grants for poverty eradication

In terms of poverty, the participants in the study have noted that social assistance has been highly successful in eradicating poverty. The question was posed to the participants in the research: Do you think social assistance was highly effective in reducing poverty? Sub-themes that emerged were access to food, income equality and gender equality.

4.2.1 Access to food

The participants explained that grants helped them to easily source food which were important to providing nutrition to households. The sentiment from the respondents however was that the quality of food that beneficiaries could source using grants was low. The participants at the same time maintained that they appreciated the grants as they were critical in providing some hope for food every month during the year.

As encapsulated by one respondent:

The grant is important for us because we are even able to go and buy some food from Shoprite. We can cook good food that we would not have been able to have if we did not have this grant. Of course the grant is not enough to get enough food that we require but I feel that we are in a better position than when we did not have access to this grant. (Interview, November 2020)

Another respondent agreed with this view and added:

I am unemployed and I have 4 children. This grant is very helpful in my situation because I do not have any other way to make a living and provide for this family. So for me the grant is a big help. I would want it to be increased because as you know the prices of food are always going up. This means that the government needs to act so that the value of the grant can help me get adequate food for the family. (Interview November, 2020)

The view of the participants was that the grant was critical for food security of the household as well as the individual beneficiaries. Some respondents even went further and said that the grant provided them with peace of mind of knowing that there was a money coming in every month to cover food expenses.

I have been unemployed before and I know the anxiety that comes with looking for money to buy food. When you are struggling to make ends meet you can never be at peace. It also gets worse when you have children because they eat a lot and fasting on difficult days is not an option. Seeing the children go hungry can break you mentally so the grant, while it does not cover a lot affords that peace to say that I am not going to start and watch my children go hungry. (Interview November, 2020)

These results are consistent with the observations of Satumba, Bayat and Muhammad (2017) that unless social subsidies are paid, they will have a serious impact on the poor and disadvantaged houses. The awarding of grants helped citizens to purchase food because there are always no kinds of savings in those households that receive grants. The study also suggested that families would be unemployed if they fail to collect the payment of the grant in a timely manner.

4.2.2 Income equality

The respondents said that their lives were changed by having access to grants. The grants enabled beneficiaries to live nearly the same quality of life that their neighbours and relatives lived. This pertained to the ability to buy clothing, food and maintain the home. One of the participants stated:

I am able to stand shoulder to shoulder with my neighbours I can afford to somewhat live the same quality of life that they live. We both can buy food, buy clothes for our kids and also maintain our homes. (Interview November, 2020)

The respondents also mentioned that grants gave them the ability to send their children to school on full stomachs and in uniforms like any other children. There was a sentiment that when children are hungry and starving, they become unable to go to school and stay in school. This is consistent with a study by Woolard, Harttgen & Klasen (2011) found that both the health care and attendance of young children at school had a positive effect on social support. The childcare has played an important role in preventing risky behaviour, such as alcohol consumption, unprotected sex, illegal behavior, substance use and membership of the gang. This is because young people are still paid pocket money from the grant. The study has found that the number of hungry people has generally decreased and that the study has attributed this to the rise in social grants, (Biyase, Zwane & Rooderick (2017)). Grant money played a crucial role for respondents in that respect.

This reflects the study by Biyase, Zwane & Rooderick (2017) that highly successful in contributor to the tenfold rise in incomes for the most vulnerable is the social support of South Africa, in conjunction with taxation policies and social expenditure, which played a key role in the reduction by one fifth of sales inequalities. The results of the study also indicate that it played a key role in improving diet, wellness, and education. In addition to reinforcing household shock resilience (Biyase, Zwane & Rooderick), it was highly crucial to shield adolescence from threats (2017).

Respondents also said that grants established or restored some degree of socio-economic dignity. One of the participants affirmed:

When you can afford to support yourself it gives you some satisfaction. The grant has allowed me to be somebody and participate in society as an equal member. My friends and people in society do not look down upon me because even though I have a few Rands from this grant, I am not begging for food or money to send children to school. Therefore, this grant is able to make me an equal member of society. (Interview November, 2020)

A research was also conducted by Armstrong & Burger (2009) to investigate the efficacy of social grants in reducing poverty and inequality. The paper's results suggest that social subsidies are highly successful in alleviating poverty. According to the scholars, the most disadvantaged in society are the social grants. The study also noted that social assistance was very successful in getting poor people closer to the poverty line and thus providing some form of relief from poverty. It noted however that the long-term solution of the perpetual poverty and inequity situation calls for the poor to be given the means of achieving sustainable higher income levels because social grants are insufficient to ensure sustainable access to higher income levels (Burger, 2009).

4.2.3 Gender equality

The female respondents unanimously viewed grants as a tool to empower women's socio-economic position:

Grants empowers me to provide for my family without looking towards a man to give me money for food, shelter and other amenities that I require especially for my children. Due to social grants I do not need to be in a romantic relationship with a man with one of the primary reasons being that he is a provider. Social grants has given me more agency in decision making. (Interview November, 2020)

The findings of a study, which was carried out by Lekweza (2011), which found that women had been empowered by social grants and it had helped them leave abusive situations as they now had the monetary power to empower themselves and not live under the yoke of abusive men.

Another respondent added:

This grant helps me as a widow to be independent. Men get all they want in this economy but us we only get the bread crumbs. The grant is able to make me afford some of the things that these men are able to afford. I can take care of myself and my household without having to struggle to be accepted at a job and be underpaid. (Interview November, 2020)

This is consistent with a study by Moyo (2017), who found that social support has been a significant contributor to empowerment and gender equality in South Africa. It is a highly effective instrument used by the government in addressing some of the key problems facing women, including poverty reduction. The scholar states. The results of the study also note that the social subsidies have

played a key role in helping the disadvantaged people and the highly vulnerable groups to cope better.

4.3 Challenges experienced by social grants beneficiaries and households in ward 3 of Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality

Table 4.1 below indicates some of the key problems facing recipients and households of ward 3 of the municipal council of Ubuhlebezwe. The research was conducted to analyze some of the major difficulties faced in the Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality by recipients of social grants and households. Based on the study results, the long waiting hours comprise some of the key topics. The informants said that due to the high number of people who still earn Social Grants they always waited for long hours. They also stated that there are no chairs to sit on while waiting in the long queues. The question was asked of the researchers: are you facing a struggle to obtain social subsidies?

The three main challenges that were identified were lengthy waiting times, lack of communication by the grants department, complications in the administration of grants as well as the inadequacy of grants.

4.3.1 Lack of communication

One of the challenges that was identified by participants was the lack of communication by the grants department. This was with regards to clarity over the dates of grant payments as well as changes pertaining to the centers dedicated for the distribution and withdrawal of grants.

There have been times when we did not know if we are going to get the grant from the Post Office of the bank. Now people have to guess where we actually will get access to the money. Bear in mind that we have to wake up early in the morning - so if I wake up and go to the wrong place to collect the grant - that becomes frustrating. I hope that government improves communication so

that people know exactly where they have to go to collect the social grants. (, Participant B, Female, Child Grant Recipient, Aged 40)

This view is supported by a study carried out by Satumba, Bayat, and Mohamed (2017), who found that some people have to travel long distances to get these grants and going back makes no sense considering the high cost of transport and the relatively meagre sum they get from grants makes it impossible to go back and come another day, this leaves them with no choice but to sometimes sleep outside or rely on the generosity of well-wishers.

Another participant agreed and said that the grant system lacked transparency at times which meant that communication was negatively affected.

There always rumors about the grant being increased or decreased for example. However, we find out about this information from the TV or from people in the streets which is frustrating as one can never know easily what the actual information is. We hope that there is more official communication at regular intervals from government and the relevant ministry (Context, Participant C,)

A point to note is the human context caused by lack of communication as beneficiaries do not always have proper shelter, Chairs, and no drink, except for the elderly, are given , these should be provided at collection points to make it more comfortable for people who receive grants.

The findings here are in line with the study by Biyase, Zwane and Roodericks (2017) which found that beneficiaries faced challenges because of lack of communication. The study found that poor communication has led to long queues in different post offices, bank ATM or shopping centers joining social assistance recipients without confidence that they would in fact withdraw money.

By the end of 2018, about 10.9 million recipients of the social grant had a very easy way to receive the money monthly. They had a South African Social Security Agency (Sassa) card to be used at special pay points from the Cash Paymaster Services (CPS). The recipients got the money perfectly. Pay points is a very easy way of receiving grants monthly by individuals. The recipients faced multiple difficulties when the use of the CPS was halted. With the closure of around 80 percent of the cash salary points, the social grant recipients, particularly rural and peri-urban citizens, suffered devastating consequences (SA, stats, 2019).

Respondents were in agreement that in cases where there were changes to the venues for collecting grants and where the government intended to make changes to the grant value, beneficiaries ought to be provided with clear communication. The politicisation of the grants payments was also believed to bear the roots of poor communication.

During elections we always experience challenges with getting correct information about grants. Councilors are always spreading all kinds of information about grants so that they can get votes. Once the election is over there is no telling whether the system will change according to electoral promises or things are going to stay the same. (Interview November, 2020)

Respondents believed that this kind of approach to the grants system created anxiety and uncertainty which is counterproductive to the efficient delivery of grants. Another issue that affected efficiency with grants was lengthy waiting times during processing and the eventual administration of funds. In terms of policy and practice it means the ministry of social welfare should ensure that communication increases during election time through outreach programs, radio and TV adverts, reminding them not to fall for politicians lies and that they should only listen to information that comes from official channels.

4.3.2 Length waiting times

The respondents said that they were required to commit too much time with regards to processing the grants (matters such as application and registration) as well as the actual waiting times for conducting withdrawals for grant money.

When I applied I was made to wait for a very long time in the queue and then afterwards, I also waited for long for my application to be confirmed (female participant, age 32)

Another respondent concurred with this experience and said:

The application process took too much time. I even went back home two times before I managed to get in and get served. I was only helped the third time after I reached out to our councillor who explained to the grants office that I have children back home to take care of and it was inconvenient to come and wait in the queue several times. Hopefully the government can have an online application system or can carry out programs in the community that make applying easy. (Interview November, 2020)

This kind of finding signaled a troublesome trend in the administrative efficiency of grants. The participant's sentiments were that the officials were less mindful of the fact that most beneficiaries came from low income homes and therefore processing grants need not to be a lengthy undertaking. Findings also showed that even the monthly processing and withdrawal of the grant was inefficient. One of the respondents had this to say about the process:

I always face lots of challenges; sometimes we really wait for long before we are attended to. And they do not always have chairs, so you end up standing for long hours. They do not have enough

employees, and this also result in delays. (Interview November, 2020)

While the grant system has managed to accommodate many people in need, this has subsequently meant that every month, beneficiaries will overcrowd the access points, thereby resulting in long queues.

There are always so many people, so we wait for long. There was a time that I was told that there was no cash, so I had to come again. This wastes a lot of time. The process is also time consuming and it means that I have to spend all day waiting to receive my grants whilst my other duties leg behind. (Interview November, 2020)

This is consistent with findings from a study that was conducted by Mabugu et al. (2013) suggesting that most applicants would expend a great deal of time and distance so they can receive grants. They cannot afford the exorbitant transport costs which transportation operators charge. In rural areas, where most of the recipients reside, the Postal offices, designated commercial dealers or bank cards are also located far away.

Another respondent agreed with this sentiment and said:

I always face challenges when it comes delays at the payment centres. I once experienced a situation where after waiting for five hours, there was a technical problem, and I was told to come back later. This is time wasting. (Interview November, 2020)

Such a finding has implications on the net benefit of the grants for both the beneficiaries and the government. The beneficiaries cannot enjoy the intended impact of grants if the service is delivered inefficiently. In addition, people who are in need may not be able to access grants initially as the long queuing may demotivate prospective beneficiaries of the grants (Magubu *et al*, 2013). In terms of government, the implications are that the envisaged benefits of grant

programmes might be ineffective. If the grants cannot be processed efficiently, people in need will not be able to effectively alleviate their dire circumstances and get peace of mind. Another issue that was found to complicate the envisaged benefits of grants was administrative complications as presented in the next section.

4.3.3 Administrative complications

Participants said that there were administrative complications which posed challenges when accessing grants. One participant expressed the following:

The process is always marred with challenges. I always face at least a challenge when I go to collect the cash. For instance, there was a time when I was told of missing files. There was a day when there were technical issues, which made me to wait for 4 hours. There was a time when the people ran out of cash, so we had to wait. (Interview November, 2020)

This is consistent with the findings of Mitra and Ray (2010) who found that there were administrative challenges with grants which caused beneficiaries going to many outlets to demand their money because it is often popular to conclude that cash to pay for subsidies is inadequate. The study revealed that most rural beneficiaries would spend around 6% (for example, bank charges from ATMs) of their travel subsidies so that they can get their grants (Mitra and Ray, 2010).

Other participants also supported this view and added that the grants office was also marred by technological challenges:

Sometimes when you get there you're told that the system is offline which means that you cannot apply, register or even withdraw money if you are already in the system. This makes me anxious every month because the grant only lasts a few days so I

*have to make sure that by month-end I can withdraw again.
(Interview November, 2020)*

Mitra and Ray (2010) found that in cases where beneficiaries face some form of problem on the branch of the SAPO, the ATM or retailers, the beneficiaries have to travel to the Sassa office and in most cases to the police station in order to collect an affidavit. This raises the costs, threats and inconveniences involved and decreases the amount they take home.

In addition, Ardington, Bärnighausen, Case and Menendez (2013) have pointed out that a variety of administrative problems often occur in the area of the social subsidy. The study also established problems in implementation, including in particular, corruption, fraud, and mismanagement. In the recent past, many "ghosts" have earned a high degree of corruption (Ardington, Bärnighausen, Case & Menendez, 2013).

4.3.4 Inadequacy of the social grants

One common topic was that social subsidies are not always appropriate for meeting the many financial difficulties faced by recipients. Some of them were however happy with this reality. When asked whether one of the participants in the research found the grants to be highly successful, the participant noted in the achievement of their goal:

I think they are. Though the amount is never enough. I appreciate that government is giving us something, however I wish these funds would be more because they barely last the month and if unexpected costs come along during the month then the money will not even reach close to month end which makes it very difficult for me. (Interview November, 2020)

This was demonstrated by another participant:

The state has sought to do something. And if it doesn't suffice, at least we can do something with it.

One more participant agreed with this sentiment and stated that:

To me the grant sorts the basics, though not all. This is because it is always never enough.

Another respondent noted to the same query that the grant was not satisfactory. Their view was that the grant was not enough to meet all their needs even though they appreciated that it alleviated some basics to a lesser extent. All the respondents said that the value of the grant should be increased although there was no consensus on an exact figure that could be deemed sufficient for beneficiaries.

In the studying of the successful essence of social aid reform during a fiscal stress era by Van der Berg and Siebrits (2010), the policy has focused heavily on fiscal sustainability, efficiency as an instrument for fighting poverty in the long term, and its influence on allocating resources. The study shows that the grant system is a very efficient initiative which has contributed significantly to poverty reduction but has nonetheless shown that the potential for further expansion of the social grant scheme in South Africa is very small.

After someone was asked if they were pleased with the social subsidy they got, they said:

No. It is not enough. The government should consider increasing the money that we get. Whereas the amount I get is always small, it helps me to cater for the bills of my daughter. So I can say that it helps but more money could impact us productively. (Interview November, 2020)

In order to research the productivity and equity impact of social aids in South Africa, Van der Berg, Siebrits & Lekezwa (2010) have conducted a study. In

view of the international developments in the restructuring of the welfare system, this paper addressed the existence and effect of social assistance programs in South Africa. The study's results also shown that South Africa has a well-developed social assistance system that reduces extreme poverty substantially, partially because the subsidies remain very targeted. The study further noted that grants influence the behaviour, not necessarily benevolent, of beneficiaries and potentials in various ways (Van der Berg, Siebrits & Lekezwa, 2010).

4.4 Impact of social grants on family structure

In ward 3 of the uBuhlebezwe municipality, the research also looked at the social support effect in poverty reduction. Based on the study's results, grants influence the nature of the family – tension between the family members was a common theme. This study found that the unemployed men who belong to families remain in the family business because they do not in any way contribute to the financial circumstance of families for families which have many women beneficiaries. This leads to disputes in some situations. When asked how participants think social subsidies impact them, the answers were as follows:

Most of my brothers feel that we neglect them because we get cash through the grants, unlike them. So the grants always bring some rifts in the family because they always feel side-lined. (Interview November, 2020)

Another respondent agreed and said:

Within some families, there are people who get the grants, while others always fail to get the grants. That is where the problem always comes. This affects families. My brothers who are unemployed feel like we are more empowered when we get the money, and they do not like it. (Interview November, 2020)

The sentiment here was that in the families, which have access to the grants, whereas other members have no access, this makes them feel guilty about it. This results in a number of family disputes.

In addition, the study also found that there were gender dynamics here which complicated the outcomes of grants on the family structure. A study by Satumba, Bayat and Mohamed (2017) found that since the majority of recipients of grants are predominantly women, it has ensured that women have a positive effect by making them more motivated. The study noted in particular that child support grants were crucial for improving the power and authority of women over household decisions in different financial matters, in household expenditure and also in terms of the well-being of children.

However, in this current study, it was found that there are people within the families who did not have access to grants and most of them were men. According to respondents, some of these men tend to be unemployed, and they have no source of income. This therefore complicated the patriarchal dynamics because men still feel insecure when women get some money in the form of subsidies.

One respondent said:

It is like the women are the ones taking care of the families, and this always affect the men because they are used to having the title of provider in the family. Receiving grants and not having any means to make money has made men insecure and this sometimes comes at the cost of passive aggressive behavior within the household which makes the situation uncomfortable for everyone living within the house. The men believe that women receiving grants mean that men will be looked down upon and feel that boy children will be seen in a lesser light from their parents. (Interview November, 2020)

The changed power dynamics are clearly having a negative effect on men as they feel women are now more empowered. These issues might lead to resentment and cause internal conflict amongst families who receive social grants. However it should be noted that some participants in the study indicated that some men had used the money from social grants to start projects to complement income from social grants and once they grew completely detach from them as average household income would have increased.

4.5 Discussion

This chapter focused on whether social grants were a useful tool for reducing poverty inequality. The findings indicate that social grants play a role in trying to reduce poverty as they assist families in need to have access to some basic commodities through the money disbursed. Social grants were especially helpful to women who are largely a disenfranchised group that has been able to thrive through social grants. However the money received from social grants although useful was often not adequate to meet needs, additionally the admin involved in getting social grants was strenuous and needs to be improved for more seamless access to social grants for the people.

4.5 Conclusion

This chapter attempted to present an understanding on social grants in South Africa are used and effective. The results produced by the analysis views of support towards the social grants, while there was also a sentiment that the value of the grants can be expanded for better outcomes for beneficiaries. Note that none of the participants disapproved of social grants or argued that they are not very successful in solving the real problems faced.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter concludes this study. It will draw from work of the previous chapters, especially Chapter Four and offers recommendations on what government can do in terms of improving service on social grants, because although social grants have helped communities alleviate poverty and have been generally positive, it must be noted that the amount per individual/household given out every month can increase and there is also need to work on the administration of the grants.

5.2 Summary of the study

As regards the effect of social aid in ward3 of the uBuhlebezwe municipality in the battle against poverty and family structure, it can be assumed that the resulting social aid often entails various kinds of conflict between the members of the family. The survey also indicates that while social grants are typically inadequate based on the responses of research participants, they play an important role in eradicating poverty. Some primary techniques are described in the study to enhance the management of social grants include implementing highly effective steps to ensure that the wait times of the beneficiaries are minimized. You should ensure that the payment points employ more staff.

5.3 Research findings and discussions

This section discusses the main findings of this study.

5.3.1 Uses of social grants

It is worth noting, based on the results of this report, that social granting is an important element in the fight against poverty and famine in South Africa. However, they are not enough to meet all the obstacles and problems in the societies. Furthermore, it should also be stressed that social assistance alone is not sufficient. Although the social subsidies in South Africa usually did not affect the health of the poor, without them, millions would live in poverty that would get worse. This typically calls for a more systematic approach to ensure that the aim they were meant to accomplish is accomplished.

5.3.2 Challenges with grants

The study aimed to investigate some of Ubhlebezwe Local Municipality's major challenges faced by social grants and households. Based on the study results, the long waiting hours comprise some of the key topics. Informants claimed that because of the large number of people who still queue for social services, they always waited long hours. They also stated that there are no chairs to sit on while waiting in the long queues.

The three main challenges that were identified were lengthy waiting times, lack of communication by the grants department, complications in the administration of grants as well as the inadequacy of grants.

5.3.3 Strategies to improve administration of social grant

This study discusses some strategies to enable better delivery of social grants. Several steps should be taken to ensure that the challenge to poverty for which the program was intended is handled in an efficient and successful manner.

Recommendation 1

In terms of communication, there is much that is needed to be done to improve the provision for social grants. The fact that participants stated that they had to travel long distances and sometimes went to wrong post offices shows that there is clear lack of communication. There should be regular updates via text messaging, social media, and radio and TV on exact dates and locations for grants. The relevant ministry also needs to consult local councilman on these issues and since these are the influential people in the community they can help spread information to those who might not have any medium to access this information. Additionally, as one respondent pointed out, politicians are using social grants as a campaigning tool during election season and there is need to counter this by carrying out outreach programs that ensure that no false information is being spread during election time.

Recommendation 2

In terms of waiting times there is also need to find ways to improve service delivery. The relevant ministry can carry out programs where they mobilise community members at conveniently placed points and help them apply instead of them waiting in long queues every day. Furthermore, days of collection can be distributed to alleviate heavy congestion on collection days and everyone who comes on their designated day is guaranteed to get their monies. Some respondents also complained about having to stand whilst waiting and therefore there is a need to provide more chairs for people to sit on whilst they wait for their monies.

Recommendation 3

As noted by many respondents in this research, although they are hugely grateful for the money they receive, it is usually not adequate to meet their every needs, especially when it comes to unexpected shocks. Government should look for ways to increase social grants, through methods like taxing the rich more or implementing economic policies that boost the GDP so that there is more funding that can be directed towards social grants, meaning that average household income of those receiving grants increases and they can be able to do more with that money.

Recommendation 4

In terms of the way grants have affected gender dynamics, government needs to heavily invest in changing perceptions. Most participants noted that male members of households were not comfortable with women receiving more money. There is need to carry out a comprehensive gender awareness training in these communities. The gender awareness trainings will teach men more about gender equality and how it is imperative to address previous gender inequalities that were posed by patriarchy. There is also need to address issues that make men feel uncomfortable by being taken care of women especially those who are recipients of social grants as this was raised as a key issue amongst women participants in this study.

5.4 Conclusions and Recommendation for further research

The focus of this study was in the municipality of Ubuhlebezwe. Therefore, future studies at national level should be carried out in order to achieve a national comprehensive image of social grants' efficacy as a tool for alleviating poverty. Future research should not only be done in South Africa but should also provide a comparison of the social effect of social grants with that of the male households in other African countries such as Lesotho. In addition to this,

this would make an enormous contribution to the current body of information about the issue of poverty in Africa. This study also indicates that further research on the cause of poverty and social benefits needs to be carried out. The study suggests also widening the sample size to include a wide variety of subsidies and their relevance in the reduction of poverty. The literature points that social grants generally help alleviate poverty but only up to a certain point in developing countries, however in developed countries such as America and Britain social grants provide a critical function helping to alleviate poverty because the money disbursed is larger

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LIST OF APPENDICES

Questionnaire for participants

1. Does the social grant help you with access to food?

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2. Does the Social grant help with achieving income equality amongst community members?

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3. Does the social grant help with gender mainstreaming issues?

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4. What are the Challenges you face in terms of access to social grants?

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5. Is the money for social grants adequate to meet your monthly expenses?

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