

**INTRA-HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING DYNAMICS IN THE USE OF SOCIAL
GRANTS: A CASE STUDY OF TYUTYU VILLAGE IN THE EASTERN CAPE
PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA.**

By

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DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, Nigel Makosa (Student Number: 201503344), hereby declare that the work contained in this Master's dissertation is my own work, except where due acknowledgement is in the references. This dissertation has not been previously submitted to any university or institution of higher learning for any qualification or certificate.

Signed.....

Date.....

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my late brother, Kudakwashe Makosa. May your soul continue to rest in peace brother.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would wish to show my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the accompanying people and institutions for the reinforcement and inspiration they gave me during my work:

The Almighty God, who gave me the strength, capacity and wisdom to be able to finish this work. I could sense his presence as he often assisted me with the determination and courage to take along.

My supervisor, Professor Pius Tanga; a scholar, a leader, a mentor, and above all, a mensch.

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My brothers and sister, for their continued support and motivation.

Many thanks to them all!

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to investigate intra household decision-making dynamics in the usage of social grants, particularly the Child Support and Foster Care grant. The area of study was Tyutyu village where the research sample and participants were drawn. The data were collected with semi structured in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The principle behind this survey is that, besides the government handing out social assistance to an increased number of beneficiaries, there is an increment in the number of allegations of families misusing grant money because of poor decision-making. It emerged in the study that women are the prominent decision makers in terms of the usage of the Child Support and Foster Care grant. In addition, women are the decision makers because of the high rates of divorce, and children end up being raised by a single parent (mother). It has also been said by participants that decisions made by women often lead to productive outcomes compared to a state of affairs where the male physical body is solely in control of the resources. The survey also proved that they are either very small, or no consultation with the beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care grants when decisions are being made on spending the grant money. The grounds being that the children are still immature, hence, are not capable of producing any meaningful conclusions. Nevertheless, kids who are 16 years and above can reason and are mindful of their preferences, therefore, they should be included in the decision making process. Guardians need to make decisions for children under 15 years of age, because they are still young.

In order for social assistance to be effective as a poverty alleviation strategy, there is a need to comprehend the decision making process in the household. Furthermore to

improve intra-household decision making, this study recommends that household heads and guardians need to be educated on decision making. Such educational programmes should be coordinated and carried out by the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA). This will in a way ensure that the grant serves its intended function.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	African National Congress
CDG	Care Dependency Grant
CSG	Child Support Grant
DG	Disability Grant
FCG	Foster Care Grant
GEAR	Growth, Employment and Redistribution Strategy
GIA	Grant in Aid
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
HIV	Human Immune Virus
AIDS	Humane Immune Deficiency Syndrome
OAG	Old Age Grant
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Program
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SASSA	South Africa Social Security Agency xxi
UN	United Nations
WVG	War Veteran's Grant
KZN	KwaZulu Natal
EC	Eastern Cape Province
LP	Limpopo Province
MP	Mpumalanga Province

NW	North West Province
NC	Northern Cape Province
WC	Western Cape Province
PDL	Poverty Datum Line
FDL	Food Poverty Line
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Education Fund.
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NDP	National Development Plan
FHH	Female Headed Households
FGD	Focus Group Discussion

CHAPTER 1: GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter dwells much on providing the background details of the study. That is, the history of social assistance in South Africa is explored comprehensively from the apartheid system into the modern day democratic South Africa. The Child Support and Foster Care grants have become of prime importance in South Africa, particularly in the aftermath of the high prevalence of HIV and AIDS, high rates of divorce, poverty among other societal ailments. According to SASSA (2015), the number of beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant stood at 11,792,596 whilst that of Foster Care beneficiaries registered 519,031. SASSA (2013) observed that the growth of social grant beneficiaries from 2.4 million in April 1998 to 16 million in 2013 is attributed to the increased coverage of the Child Support Grants with a rough estimate of the 66.6% of the total grants paid in April 2013 covering Child Support. Intra household decision making in the use of the social grants is another pertinent issue being illuminated in the setting of the study because of these grants to effect change in the lifetimes of the beneficiaries they ought to be rational in decision making. The chapter also problematizes the intra household decision making in the utilisation of the Child Support and Foster Care grants. Inquiry questions and objectives, as well as delineation and scope of the study are some of the vital aspects dealt with in this chapter

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The chronicle of social protection in South Africa requires analysis from various perspectives, including race, class, and national politics and external international pressure. Since 1924 onward, white South Africans were granted protection against poverty and vulnerability in the phase of social pensions, while black South Africans were excluded through discriminatory social and economic policies (Patel, 2005). According to Patel et al (2008) cited in Tanga and Gutura, (2015:72) “social policy was modelled on Western European institutional or ‘welfare state’ policies for whites and a residual system for black people.” Social pensions for white people formed part of the safety net in poverty prevention. The presentation of the first old-age pension in 1928 came after the Carnegie Commission of Inquiry into the ‘poor white’ problem. The Old Age Pensions Act of 1928 provided pensions for white and coloured people, but excluded Africans and Indians. Yet, not only was discrimination practiced along racial lines, it was also discriminatory because white people had a bigger pension than coloured people did. Black masses were mostly dependent on rural subsistence agriculture, missionary or church-based services for survival and these grounds were used to justify exclusion from the social pension system. Tanga and Gutura (2015) recognize that although the social aid programmes have been in existence since the 1920s and had a poverty alleviation focus, there have been largely discriminatory, inequitable and hinged on ineffective ways of service delivery.

A dominant political position at the time was that the pension system would facilitate white working-class loyalty towards the government and Nationalist Party ideology (Legido-Quigley, 2003). The Child Protection Act of 1913 was the forerunner of the

social protection system introduced by the Department of Welfare in 1937, and provided the foundation for the founding of the State Maintenance Grant (SMG) in 1947. The SMG was a social grant for single parent households. At first, the Act was racially discriminatory because it provided maintenance grants for white kids only (Community Agency for Social Enquiry (CASE), 2000). Subsequently, with the unveiling of the SMG in 1947, the state relinquished some of the racial restrictions by including coloured and Indian kids. Nevertheless, social security legislation continued to be prejudiced.

During the period 1948–1961, the gap between white and African pensions widened considerably. By 1987, African grants were only 17 percent with whites receiving the majority (CASE, 2000). The Social Assistance Act of 1992 made provision for the extension of all social security measures to all South African citizens on an equal scale (Vorster and de Waal, 2008). The national government in South Africa introduced the principle of parity in social pensions in 1993. Therefore, during the transition to a multi-racial democracy in South Africa, the provision of social security has historically been regarded as a core feature of the welfare system aimed at the prevention of poverty. In the post-apartheid period, there was a move from institutional models of welfare policy for developmental, social welfare, focusing on needy people who were barred from mainstream welfare and social security schemes. The focus of welfare was on moving people out of poverty, and not solely on the structure of social security for prevention, social compensation and income distribution, but on poverty alleviation too (Department of social development, 1997).

The conversion to a multi-racial democracy provided the impetus for initiatives to address poverty, which existed on a broad scale in South Africa. The flagship policy of

the new government in South Africa was the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). This policy framework provided an integrated, coherent, socioeconomic programme for addressing the ills of apartheid, including the relief of poverty arising from long-term discriminatory policies and practices (African National Congress, 1994). The RDP provided a theoretical account for societal development that would contribute to a transformation of welfare policy in South Africa in pursuit of the values of social justice, democracy, equity and people centred development. Besides emphasizing fiscal discipline, increased social spending was needed to address poverty alleviation, the marginalized sectors of the population, and the welfare of impoverished women and youngsters in particular, in terms of this RDP framework, which then informed government policies and programmes pertaining to benefit provision and poverty relief. In line with the RDP framework, welfare policy was debated and reviewed, and the White Paper for Social Welfare (1997) was invented within a social development paradigm.

The primary business was to address poverty, which was rampant throughout South Africa, in particular in rural fields. The transformation of welfare policy towards a social development paradigm, with its concomitant vision of inclusivity, would undertake to reach many more people who were in abject poverty. This shift in public assistance policy and vision was in direct contrast to the previous welfare policy of the Nationalist-led regime. Subsequently, in 2000 the Department of Welfare changed its name to the Department of Social Development, which represented the shift in welfare policy and practice in South Africa. Nevertheless, the RDP soon gave way to a more conventional economic policy known as the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) of

(1996). Thus, GEAR was launched in 1996 as a structural adjustment programme with the purpose of improving economic growth, increasing trade and industry across national boundaries and promoting employment.

Job creation has proved more and more difficult because of labour market conditions, including retrenchments and the shedding of jobs because of economic restructuring. It reflected the influence of the business sector and international socioeconomic policies promulgated by the ANC-led regime and its move to broad economic policies directed at increasing economic growth and international barter. South Africa is part of the worldwide economic system, and is influenced by international capitalism, and as a consequence, by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund requirements. Therefore, poverty alleviation became a secondary consideration, which had direct consequences for public assistance policy. Midgley (2004) noted the valid critique that the ANC government has put a higher priority on attracting international investments and achieving economic growth than on alleviating poverty and meeting basic societal demands. The South African Constitution (Republic of South Africa, 1996) made provision for welfare to be a concurrent responsibility of both the national and provincial governments. Furthermore, the national government is responsible for the development of policies, norms, and standards, while the provincial government has administrative responsibilities relating to the delivery of welfare services, including pensions and grants. The conceptualisation of the South African Constitution was a historic milestone in protecting the human rights of citizenry who had previously been disenfranchised and provided the mechanism for poverty relief. Despite this, 45 per cent of the population is poor.

Granting to the South African Constitution of 1996, every South African citizen has the right to be treated equal and to social security through among others social assistance. Guitar and Tanga, (2015) maintain that the point of social expenditure in terms of social grants in South Africa is extremely high as compared to other developing countries and even other Western European states in the 1980s (Midgley 2004). The South African regime as a developmental state has strengthened its social protection arrangements. These social security organisations are in the course of social grants such as a child support grant (CSG), old age grant (OAG), foster care grant (FCG), and disability grant (DG) among others. According to Gutura and Tanga (2014), the distinctive South African historical context largely structured the social security agreement that the new African National Congress (ANC) government enforced after gaining independence from the Apartheid regime. Its coverage is extensive across the provinces and it consists primarily of social grants that are targeted to the disabled, older people and children who were born on or after 31 December 1996 with over 16 million beneficiaries (SASSA 2013, cited in Gutura and Tanga, 2014). The social security system was established with a long-term agenda of eradicating poverty. Gutura and Tanga (2014) posited that among the poverty alleviation measures adopted by the ANC government, social assistance has assumed a prominent part, which includes aid to vulnerable groups that are unable to provide for themselves.

According to the Children's Act 38 of 2005 chapter 12, section 28 (1) "every child has the right.... (b) to family care or parental care or to appropriate alternative care when removed from the family environment [and] (c) to basic nutrition, shelter, health care services and social services". More significantly section 28 (2) clarifies that "the best

interest of the child is of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.” These principles in support of the well-being of the children validate the significance of the Child Support and Foster Care Grants. More so, the right to appropriate alternative care, with consideration of the best interest of the child principle is the starting point of the placement of children in foster care.

These social grants are provided within the context of a family or household in most cases where decisions have to be made pertaining to allocation, distribution, and usage. The family is a primary institution in society. That is the effectiveness of the social assistance grants depends on the decision making process within the family context in which the social welfare grant is disbursed. Booysen (2014) points out that concerning issues such as money, health, welfare, and well-being, families make decisions every day. Elliot and Gray (2000) affirms that the family is at the epicentre of development, particularly in poor communities and describe the decisions made by families as of an instrumental (money, health and food), economic (use and gathering of resources), and social (values, roles and goals) nature. Thus, for development policies and intervention strategy that target the poor and vulnerable households, such as South Africa’s social assistance in the form of grants there is need for in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the complexities of decision making within the household.

According to the White Paper on Families (2013), a family is a societal group that is related by blood (kinship), adoption, foster care or the ties of marriage (civil, customary or religious), civil union or cohabitation, and go beyond a particular physical residence (DSD, 2013). There are many decisions that are arrived at in the family and such decisions have a bearing on the welfare of each individual within that family or

household. Intra-household decision-making underpins the processes by which resources are allocated among individuals and the outcomes of those processes are commonly referred to as intra-household resource allocation.

South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 2010 carried out a study on intra-household decision making on the use of social security grants. The study was mainly focusing on the grant use, improvements in the accessibility of grants and the misuse of grants. The results of the study found out that decision-making concerning the use of grants, especially the Child Support and Foster Care Grants mainly relies on the primary caregiver (usually a woman) decided alone, or took the controlling decision on use. Many primary caregivers justified responses on their sole control of the use because of their superior knowledge of the child's and household needs. Many men from male focus groups agreed that the woman is the primary controller of the Child Support and Foster Care Grants transfer. A significant number of the women described situations where they take the ultimate decision, given that the grant is part of the overall household income, hence, they make an effort to consult with their children and also tell their husbands of the planned decisions. The study also yields that the age of the child determines whether he or she can be consulted or not. More so the study yields that there is some evidence that teenagers at times negotiate with their mothers over grant use. The study also found that if the mother is a teenager and still lives with her mother who has control over the total household income and therefore has seniority. The study conclusively yields that the inter-generational dynamics around decision-making are very interesting and require further investigation. Moreover, spending and decision making regarding the Child

Support Grant appear to depend largely on the demography of the children, if children are young, then caregivers take decisions (SASSA and UNICEF, 2010).

Ashraf (2009) conducted a study on spousal control and intra-household decision making in the Philippines and the findings were that savings decisions are observed at the household level, but little is understood about how such decisions are collectively made by the members of the household. The study utilized experimental design to investigate superficially understood concepts in household decision-making, namely household spending and savings decisions, focusing primarily on communication between a husband and wife. A number of husband and wives were given a sizeable amount of money and asked to decide on the use of the money under some treatment communication conditions. The outcomes indicated that men's decisions are not stable and are influenced by the conditions whilst women stuck to their decisions.

Household decisions pertaining to savings and investment hugely depend on the distribution of the decision making power between spouses (Ashraf, 2009). If the power is tilted towards women, there is a higher probability of greater savings and settling debts. Others emphasized an individual decision making whilst casting a blind eye to the intra household decision-making power. Prior theoretical work overlooked the influence of these factors in intra-household decision-making. The study also deduced that the existing models of intra-household decision making do not sufficiently explain the decision making nature and the conditions which decisions are made especially with regard to the allocation of income should be thoroughly explored (Ashraf, 2009).

This study is going to dwell on the intra - household decision making in terms of the usage of social grants in Tyutyu village in the Buffalo City Municipality of the Eastern Cape Province in South Africa. Of the entire social grants available in the South African social welfare system, this study will focus primarily on two, namely Child Support Grant (CSG) and Foster Care Grant (FCG) for the sole purpose of narrowing down the study.

1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Social welfare grants have been set up to be a useful governmental intervention strategy in the alleviation of poverty among South African citizens (Johannsmeier, 2007). Decision making in the household where the beneficiaries come from, has a crucial role to play if the intended outcome of those grants is to be achieved. Numerous studies on intra-household decision-making on the allocation and utilization of financial resources have concluded that parents or guardians have the decision making power invested in them with other members of the household being beneficiaries at the receiving end (Johannsmeier, 2007). Nevertheless, Mitra (2005) showed that there is a lack of research on intra-house distribution of grant income, and the kinships between the grant recipient and the family. In these instances beneficiaries are not included in the decision making process though the grants are intended to satisfy their demands. Some beneficiaries of these grants are the primary decision makers and some are ineffectual to prepare any conclusions because of advanced age, the nature of their disabilities and/or in addition, young to make any decisions in the sheath of the beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care Grants. Hence, some guardians make decisions that terminate up with the social welfare grants being used for

determinations that they are not originally intended for, though there are also cases where decisions on the use of these concessions are created on a collective basis with other household members (Johannsmeier, 2007). He further worked on to argue that although this means talking to family members, or giving an agreed part of the money to another household member who would then resolve what to do with that contribution there may be disparities on what the money may be eventually applied for and what was previously collectively agreed upon. Thus, the intended benefits of the social welfare grants may be ruled out, hence perpetuating poverty and poverty of the beneficiaries. The significance of this scenario is that the beneficiaries of these grants (Child Support and Foster Care Grants) end up without control of the grant money of which they are the intended primary beneficiaries. Examples of grant money being abused by family members or decision makers are really usual. It does not look as if there are marked gender differences in cases of maltreatment, and it seems like vulnerability is more based on severity of handicap. Lack of control was especially apparent where a household member was collecting the money on the beneficiary's behalf and in some cases, it is more a case of family manipulation to win mastery over the usage of the money (Johannsmeier, 2007). Examples of beneficiaries being the only decision makers in applying the social welfare grants are common. Nevertheless, this has also essayed to be fatal and problematic in some instances, for instance, child beneficiaries of the Child Support, Foster Care Grants especially in the age range 15-18 year old end up abusing alcohol, and drugs with the concession money, which is meant to sustain them. So the long-term aim of relieving poverty and improve the livelihoods of these short, vulnerable children becomes a pipe dream. Some decision makers also go

out of their furrows to the extent of abusing the social assistance facility itself, for instance, there are instances of parents collecting the Care Dependency Grant for their disabled kid and continue collecting it, although the youngster would be over 18 years. According to Joseph (2013) there is substantive evidence showing beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant (CSG) care for additional children in order to access the grant. These incentive effects are sometimes referred to as unintended consequences of the country's social assistance policy, which is by the way a constitutional right (Joseph, 2013). Hence, the decision making dynamics in the household need to be understood and redefined if the social welfare grants are to serve their function.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS.

This study is guided by the following research questions:

- Who is the ultimate decision maker in the use of Child Support and Foster Care grants in households within Tyutyu village?
- Do the beneficiaries have a role to play in determining the use of the Child Support and Foster Care grants in households within Tyutyu village?
- What challenges are there in deciding the use of the grants and how are these resolved?

1.5 RESEARCH AIM AND OBJECTIVES

- This research study aims to investigate the dynamics of decision-making in the household in terms of the usage of Child Support and Foster Care social grants in Tyutyu village in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.

This study is guided by the following specific objectives:

- To identify the ultimate decision maker in the use of Child Support and Foster Care social grants.
- To investigate the role-played by beneficiaries in determining the use of the Child Support and Foster Care grants.
- To examine the challenges faced in using social grants and how they are resolved.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge and inquiry concerning the intra-household decision-making in the usage of social welfare grants to the beneficiaries. According to Mitra (2005) there is a lack of research on the intra-household distribution of grant income (intra household decision-making), and the kinships between the grant recipient and the family. It is desired that this work will provide objective academic research for further policy planning and how the government can implement and effectively intervene in the intra household decision making in the utilisation of social security grants in South Africa. Without realizing the decision making process on how the grant money is to be used may spell doom for the government's social assistance programme given that there are possibilities that the grant money may be utilised for purposes for which it was originally meant for. The nature of intra household decision-making dynamics determines whether the social grants are serving their purposes or not. Therefore, this survey will offer data on the intra household decision making which will provide the government, social workers and

development practitioners with information to review and revise their intervention strategies in terms of the Child Support and Foster Care Grants so that its long term objective and intent is accomplished which is to relieve poverty among the South African public and improve the livelihoods of the marginalised, vulnerable and underprivileged.

The survey will also sensitize communities on how they can better their livelihoods through rational use of grants resulting from household decisions. Lastly, the study is also meant to demystify the importance of intra household decision making in the use of social grants. Professionals such as community educators, policy makers, and health workers are poised to benefit immensely from the findings of this research

1.7 DELINEATION AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is delimited to the Intra-household decision making dynamics in the use of social grants: A case study of Tyutyu village in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. Furthermore, the study is confined to only this village despite the presence of many other villages in the Eastern Cape Province and South Africa at large. Nevertheless, the sample used remains appropriate for purposes of this survey.

1.8 DEFINITION OF KEY CONCEPTS

1.8.1 Household

A household comprises either one person living alone or a group of people, who may or may not be related, living (or staying temporarily) at the same address, with common housekeeping, who either share at least one meal a day or share common living

accommodation (i.e. a living room or sitting room). Resident domestic servants are included. Members of a household are not necessarily related by blood or marriage (Jenkinson, 1998).

1.8.2 Social security system

According to the White Paper for Social Welfare (1997:48) social security refers to a an assortment of measures that aim to improve the social welfare of the vulnerable and underprivileged through the provision of money and /or other kind donations being performed at an unacceptable social cost. The point of departure or the legibility benchmark is that the beneficiary should be having no means to avoid poverty and the need to maintain children.

1.8.3 Children

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (1989) defines children as human beings below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

1.8.4 Foster child

A foster child is a child who is removed from their parents and legally placed in the care of foster parents, in terms of the Child Care Act. If one has been appointed a foster parent by a court, they can get a monthly payment from the government for their foster child (Skelton, 2012). The Foster Care Grant is therefore part of the state's statutory obligation towards the care and protection of children placed in foster care, in much the same way as it is obliged to provide for children in other forms of alternative care placement (Skelton, 2012).

1.8.5 Child Support Grant

The Child Support Grant is a cash support system that targets children in the age range 0 to 18 years of age. An act of Parliament in 1998 led to its promulgation. The funds that support the Child Support Grants are drawn from the public taxes and the expenditure account for 3.5 per cent of GDP (Leatt, 2006).

1.9 STRUCTURE OF THE DISSERTATION

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter provides a general introduction of the study in terms of background, problem statement, and research questions, rationale of the study and objectives, as well as the significance of the study.

Chapter 2: Literature review

The focus of this chapter is the review of literature on the extent empirical and theoretical studies on intra-household decision making in the use of social welfare grants.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

This chapter discusses the research design and methodology, scope of the study, consisting of the study area, target population, sampling technique as well as challenges encountered and how the challenges are to be resolved.

Chapter 4: Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion

This chapter four presents the results/ findings, interpret and analyse them. The themes of the study are outlined and discussed. It is here that the researcher can determine if the findings are similar or different to those of other researchers.

Chapter 6: Summary of findings, conclusions, and recommendations

This chapter provides the summary and conclusion of the study as well as bringing suggestions for further studies.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The previous chapter presented the synopsis of the study at hand by outlining the background of the study, problem statement, aims, and objectives of the study, the significance of the study and literature review. Furthermore, the chapter briefly discussed the research methodology to be employed, data analysis, ethical considerations, limitations of the study, and research structure. This chapter seeks to expand the literature review basing on the discourses and empirical studies on social welfare policy in South Africa, types of social welfare grants in South Africa, intra-household decision making dynamics, the nature of poverty in South Africa as well as the theoretical framework that underpin this study (unitary model).

2.2 Theoretical framework

2.2.1 Unitary model

The unitary model of the household treats the household as a single agent taking a decision. According to Nepal et al (2005), the unitary model assumes that a household, even if it consists of different individuals, acts as a single decision making unit. Briefly, the unitary models postulate that the behaviour of the household imitates that of utility maximizing individuals; the models of decision-making mechanism of a household are the justification of a simple utility-maximization model. Consequently, household decisions are the observable results of maximization of fixed household preferences

under resource constraints. The unitary model advances that the household is the primary decision making unit. Household members carry out household decisions by engaging in various activities. Decisions to participate in different activities as well as who participates are the results of negotiation of role, task and time allocation within the households. These decisions are derived from the pursuit of activities to satisfy household needs.

According to the unitary model, households adapt to sufficiently large stimuli by changing activity patterns and consequently, travel within time and money constraints. The household is viewed as an institution that controls everything that happens within it as a single unit, for example daily time and task allocations to household members (Samuelson, 1956). The household exercises this social control by means of some informal household rules and control strategies. Intra-household resource allocation makes available important information on household dynamics that influence daily time allocation and, therefore, should prove a valuable contribution to efforts to model activity time allocation behaviour and its impact on transportation. It is well known that members of a household unit often interact in making decisions. It is not always the case that each individual in the household has the same preferences. Differences in preferences do exist among members of the household across members, but they do have a certain degree of collective decision-making process. How household members interact and make the decisions about time and task allocations before performing and allocating individual members and their times to different activities is very important for realistic representation of the activity time allocation behaviour (Samuelson, 1956).

According to Nepal et al (2005), the unitary model in the intra household decision making process posits that the daily out of home activities are not only the independent activities but also the shared ones. The members of the household jointly involve on certain shared activities in space and time. These joint activities certainly require interaction and understanding of household members and, the decision of which is usually done at the household level. Activities that may be the domain of each individual member of the household have their decisions made at the household level. For example, decisions such as who is picking up the children from school or childcare centre, who is doing the daily shopping activities today, who will join the work force and who is free today for recreation and so on are usually made from the consensus among the household members. They as well involve task allocation. In this sense, the majority of decisions for activity time allocations and travel decisions are made at the household level rather than the individual levels.

The theory has enjoyed prominence in the literature, though it has been increasingly criticized for the limiting and somewhat unrealistic assumptions upon which it rests, most notably the requirement that a collection of individuals reach agreement over these key decisions, either through shared preferences, which allows a consensus to be reached (Samuelson, 1956), or through a benevolent dictator within the household making the key decisions to which everyone else happily accedes (Becker, 1991). Empirical evidence on South African households to date does not tend to support the

notion of a unitary model (see Duflo, 2000; Betrand et al, 2003; Posel et al, 2004), and rather, supports the need for collecting detailed information at the individual level.

2.3 Legislative framework

Social assistance in South Africa is anchored in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 and the Bill of Rights, section 27. According to the Constitution of South Africa of 1996, it is stated that "... everyone has the right to have access to social security, including appropriate social assistance if they are unable to support themselves (Republic of South Africa Constitution). According to Reddy& Sokomoni (2008) it is therefore every South African socioeconomic right (enshrined in the Bill of Rights) to be accorded social security if there meet the eligibility and means test requirements. Furthermore, section 27 (2) obliges and mandates the state to do everything within its power and use available resources and craft legislation to ensure that these rights are fulfilled (Olivier,2009).

In order to ensure that the citizens of South Africa are effectively and efficiently accorded their socioeconomic right to social security, Act No.9 of 2004 was promulgated and provided for the establishment of the South African Social Security Agency Act (SASSA). SASSA is mandated by the administration and payment of social grants (Reddy and Sokomoni, 2008). The Social Assistance Act of 2004 is the most important piece of legislation regulating the social assistance payments and other relief measures.

According to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2006), Article 26 every child has the right to benefit from social social security, including social insurance and the state

must ensure that this right is realised according to its national legislation. The benefits accorded should be in consideration of the resources and circumstances of the child as well as the person(s) looking after the child. The Committee on the Rights of the Children is one of the many pieces of legislation that provides for the rights of the children to social assistance thus in South Africa the Child Support and the Foster Care Grants have been established to fulfil the children in need's right to social security.

Foster Care is only an alternative strategy that is adapted after it has been realised that members of the immediate or extended family are not capable of adequately and satisfactorily taking care of the child because of whatsoever reason. However the initial emphasis is placed on ensuring that the child is taken care of and brought up in his/her nuclear family environment and or by the members of the extended family. According to the South African Constitution of 1996, Section 28 (1) , "Every child has the right... (b) to family care or parental care".

However, in the absence of family or parental care, the child should be placed in alternative care and this among other options leads to foster care and the need for the Foster Care grant for the support of the child under foster parent (s). This is in line with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, Section 28 (1) which points out that every child has the right to be placed in appropriate alternative care when removed from the family environment.

2.4 Empirical literature review

2.4.1 Poverty in South Africa

Poverty is defined as the inability to attain a minimal standard of living, measured in terms of basic consumption needs or the income required to satisfy them (Trie Gaardt 2005). Statistics South Africa (2007) as cited by Moyana (2008) reveals that in South Africa there is no universal or standardized way of measuring poverty. However, this brief review of literature on the nature of poverty in South Africa reveals that poverty is often understood in quantitative terms. In South Africa, the poor have often been defined in terms of their income specifically, by how much they earn per month or per day.

According to Statistics South Africa (2015), poverty levels in South Africa are decreasing as the number of people living below the Poverty Datum Line (PDF) has been dropping since 2006. Furthermore, according to The Poverty Trends Report by Statistics South Africa, the number of people surviving below the Food Poverty Line (FPL) has dropped to 20,2% of the population. The report applies three measures of poverty, with extreme poverty, defined in terms of a "food poverty line" under which people are unable to purchase enough food for an adequate diet. According to the report, the number of people now living in extreme poverty (below the fold line) is registered at 10.2 million South African compared to the 12.6 million in 2006.

Poverty has been going down in South Africa between 2006 and 2001 despite the prevalence of unfavourable economic environment between 2008 and 2009. The growth of the social wage in South Africa for example free primary health care, no-fee paying

schools, social grants (most notably old-age pensions and child support grants), state-subsidised housing, and the provision of basic services (water, electricity and sanitation) to households have been very effective in reducing poverty.

This is attributed to the expansion of the coverage of the social assistance grants and the number of beneficiaries multiplied from 3 million in 2000 to 15 million by 2014 (Statistics South Africa, 2014). According to the United Nations Development Programme's 2013 Millennium Development Goals country report for South Africa, close to 60% of government spending is allocated to the social wage, and expenditure on these services has more than doubled in real terms over the past decade. The growth in household income is also attributed as a factor important in the reduction poverty in South Africa. It is because of these statistics that through its National Development Plan (NDP), South Africa targets to eliminate poverty by 2030.

According to Bezuidenhout and Joubert (2009), the response to poverty requires a multi-sectoral, multi-faceted approach, which relies heavily on social policies and incorporates poverty alleviating programmes. In addition, integrated development plans, capacity development of communities, service delivering, and not least, social security should be prioritised. Social policy should aim to create a fair and equitable society where all get a fair share of the benefits of social co-operation.

Poverty in the provinces of South Africa

Of all the nine provinces in South Africa, three of them are hardest hit by poverty and are the poorest. These provinces include Limpopo, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal

(KZN) provinces. KZN province is the poorest of all provinces registering 53% of the people poor, with the Eastern Cape recording 52% and Limpopo also is 52% (National Development Agency, 2014:13). These provinces also record the highest number of recipients of social assistance grants such as child support, foster care, and care dependency among others. These provinces also heavily depend on allowances and remittances for survival. Poverty in these provinces is mainly concentrated in traditional settlements (39%), the informal settlements in urban areas and rural areas (26%).

Low levels of poverty are recorded in the richest provinces of South Africa, thus Gauteng and Western Cape, which register 26% and 27% respectively (National Development Agency, 2014).

2.5 Poverty in South Africa per population group

According to Statistics South Africa (2012), between the period of September 2008 and August 2009, black Africans were the population group most affected by poverty in South Africa with 61,9% of a share of the population earning below R577. The figure of R577 is considered as the upper-bound poverty line and is used as a measure for indicating poverty in South Africa as noted by Statistics South Africa (2012). Coloured people had the second highest proportion of people living below the upper-bound poverty line with figures standing at 32.9%, followed by Indians with 7.3 % and whites with 1.2%. Whites were the population group least affected by poverty.

With reference to Statistics South Africa (2013), of the total population of people who were living below the upper-bound poverty line of R577 between September 2008 and August 2009, blacks contributed the highest figure. According to Statistics South Africa

(2012), 93% of the total population of people living below the upper-bound poverty line was black Africans, whilst coloureds, Indians/Asians, and whites shared the remaining 6.2%. Coloureds contributed the largest percentage of that population with a figure of 5.7%.

Further, Statistics South Africa (2013) revealed that most of the population of poor people (that is 47.5%) who participated in the 2008-2009 living conditions survey reported that social grants and social security constituted their main source of income. This alone reveals that social grants are a major source of income for poor households in South Africa. On average, according to Statistics South Africa (2013), the annual household income from social grants and social security for poor households was at R9 159 during the period between September 2008 and August 2009. This translates into a figure of about R760 per month.

2.6 Explanations of poverty

2.6.1 Individual

The dimension of the individual sees poverty as the result of one's own personal deficiencies and is known as the social pathological model, (Llewellyn et al 2008). Under the dimension of the individual, various theories are subsumed. Chief among these is the generic theory, which sees behaviour and social activity as directly attributed to genetic makeup. Within this theory, there is a belief that poverty can be linked with inheritance, intelligence and social class. Inherent within this definition is the notion that natural processes are at the root of a disadvantage, as it is passed amongst generations. The eugenics movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century

reflected this social pathological view of poverty, with programs of selective out-breeding operating throughout Europe and USA to breed out undesirable and deviant characteristics, such as poverty (Townsend 1979) cited in (Llewellyn et al 2008). Llewellyn et al (2008) notes that this theory fails to account for factors that are extrinsic to the individual which shape intelligence, access to the labour market position, economic and wealth status.

2.6.2 Absolute poverty

Rowntree (1901) cited in Llewellyn et al (2008) defines poverty as a situation in which total earnings are insufficient to maintain the necessities for the maintenance of physical efficiency such as food, clothing, housing, heating, lighting and cooking utensils. All of which should be purchased at the lowest prices and in quantities only necessary for maintenance of physical subsistence. A notion of deserving undeserving underpins this theory with moral undertones.

In the 1960s, it was argued that poverty had largely disappeared from industrialized societies, based on the definition of absolute poverty by (Abel et al 1965) cited in (Llewellyn et al 2008). There was a widespread view that a safety net of welfare provision, providing a subsistence level of provision for those who could not contribute to the social security insurance system, had eliminated poverty. However, the concept of relative deprivation was developed to explore the relationship between different individuals and groups in terms of their access to resources and consumption patterns.

2.6.3 Relative poverty

Llewellyn et al (2008) presents that within the concept of relative deprivation, poverty is viewed in relative terms, where needs are not just physiologically determined, but also have a social and cultural dimension. This is not fixed in terms of time or historical period, but is a dynamic process associated with the changing nature of societies and patterns of consumption. From this perspective, poverty is relative to the living standards and income of the rest of the population. Poverty is not just about income and money, but must include non-materialistic items like the ability to participate in society. People are seen from poor if they are excluded from normal living standards. Relative deprivation explores the whole of what we understand by resources. Inequality is not just related to money and possessions, but is also about the responsibility to participate fully within the society, (Townsend 1979) cited in (Llewellyn et al 2008). There are also differences between needs and wants. For example, if the rest of one's social group has the latest mobile, one may feel excluded from full participation in the group if everybody else is exchanging messages, games and music (Towsend 1979) cited in (Llewellyn et al 2008). Needs are therefore more basic or essential than wants, one may need things that he/she does not necessarily want, such as immunizations to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Needs and wants are also not necessarily objective categories, but classifications of a need may be based on dominant group interests who are better able to articulate those needs.

2.6.4 Structural

With reference to Llewellyn et al (2008), the structures of society lead to poverty and the persistence of poverty. Inequalities in the labour markets, economic policies and the relationship to labour market policies and unemployment are factors that contribute to poverty. In addition, early retirement, redundancy and under-unemployment, as well as low wages are also seen as causal factors in terms of poverty and relative deprivation. This then affects people's ability to participate in patterns of consumption, which is an important part of advanced capitalism. Certain groups are particularly susceptible to poverty, due to socially created dependencies such groups as older people, families with children, low paid wage earners, unemployed and the disabled (Llewellyn et al 2008).

2.6.5 Social Exclusion

Llewellyn et al (2008) notes that social exclusion can encompass a range of factors that limit one's ability to fully participate in society. Economic exclusion is one aspect, where an individual's ability to participate in the normal consumption patterns of society is inhibited, as discussed above. Levitas (1998) cited by Llewellyn et al (2008) argued that policy responses have often focused on integration through employment, reflecting a Durkheimian notion of integration. However, people may also be socially excluded through legal exclusion, exclusion from voting or being able to participate in the democratic processes of the criminal justice system (Llewellyn et al 2008).

The failure to supply social goods or services to individuals or a group of individuals, for example, the failure to supply an adequate education system or health service will lead to social exclusion. A person who sees the education system or health service as

irrelevant to his/her needs may voluntarily exclude him/herself from school, through truancy, leading to patterns of exclusion in other areas of life. Social exclusion and social inclusion are useful terms for understanding processes of social differentiation in societies, as they are related to the notion of rights. Human rights can be categorized as civil rights, which are basic freedoms under the law, political rights such as the right to vote, to join and participate in political parties, and to hold government accountable and social rights, which may include the right to education, social welfare, and social security (Llewellyn et al 2008).

2.7 Overview of apartheid South Africa's social welfare system

The South African social welfare system during the apartheid era was biased and skewed towards serving the interests of the white minority whilst it excluded black South Africans and paid little attention to the Indians and coloureds. Whites were receiving an amount five times higher than that for Africans, while coloureds and Indians received half as much as Whites. Exclusion and disparities were maintained and perpetuated by various pieces of discriminatory legislative policies (Pelham, 2007). Van der Berg (2002) affirms that the welfare system at this time was constructed in such a way that it protected the whites against any form of eventualities by means of a social insurance.

According to Pauw and Mncube (2007) although the social welfare system eventually incorporated the other racial groups, thus the blacks, coloureds and Indians, it was still racially biased and discriminatory in nature with the whites still enjoying the best social insurance coverage compared with other groups and this was perpetuated for some time right into the 1980's. The Taylor Report (2002) called for a comprehensive system

of social assistance in order to meet the medium- to long-term goals of social and economic transformation in South Africa. This, the report argued, would indicate a commitment to addressing the socioeconomic backlogs of apartheid. Maintenance grants were largely restricted to non-Africans.

The enactment of South Africa's Children's Protection Act of 1913 marked the beginning of the social assistance programme that provided maintenance grants for children. Only a limited number of African children benefited from these grants (Bhorat 1995). For instance, statistical evidence highlight that in the year 1990 54 percent of maintenance and foster care grants were channelled to the whites whilst the remaining 56 percent covered Coloureds, Africans and Indians. African applicants were restricted by a lower income cut off for the means test and a lack of outreach and advocacy to educate them about their rights (Alderman 1999). The Old Age Pensions Act of 1928 provided grants in the form of social (non-contributory) pensions for Coloureds and Whites. Africans and Indians were initially excluded. It was argued that Africans could rely on their rural kinship ties to provide security in their old age (Gutura, 2012). The blind and old age pension scheme was only extended to Africans and Indians in 1944. However, the value of the grant received differed between race groups. For example, Bhorat (1995) notes that in 1947, the maximum pension for Whites was five times that of Africans while Coloured and Indian pensioners were paid half as much as Whites. Coloureds and Whites would also benefit from the disability grant introduced in 1937. Disability grants were extended to Africans and Indians in 1947. State old age pensions for Whites saw a constant increase over the years while African pensions were reduced. The gap between the two widened until 1971.

The deterioration of the South African economy in the early 1970s was a rude awakening to the National Party government (Bhorat, 1995). The National Party realised that the economy could not grow anchored on a small pool of White workers and this forced the government to incorporate the black labour force into the mainstream economy. This had the net effect of the cancellation of job reservation laws and to these effect trade unions for non-White, workers were legalised for the first time (Pauw and Mncube, 2007). This also led to the expansion the incorporation of the other racial groups besides the whites into the social security system. For example, African old age pensions as a percentage of White pensions, increased from 16 per cent in 1972 to 85 per cent in 1993 (Bhorat 1995). Van der Berg (2002) commented that the rise of African pension values coincided with some fiscal challenges. To deal with this challenge the National Party government reduced the White benefit levels particularly old age pensions. Relatively poor, elderly Whites were a small and politically marginal group whose benefits could be reduced with little fear of a political repercussion (Pauw and Mncube, 2007). The enactment of the Social Assistance Act of 1992 was a huge turning point in the history of social assistance in South Africa as it advocated for inclusive measures that would incorporate all South Africans into the social security system on an equitable and non-racial basis (Vorster et al, 2000).

2.8 The social welfare system in the democratic South Africa

South Africa embraced democracy in 1994 and one of the serious problems that confronted the new ANC government was the need for the transformation of the existing disjointed social security system that was inherited from the apartheid era, to one based on inclusivity and comprehensive coverage of the entire population (Pauw and Mncube

2007). According to Pauw and Mncube (2007) the Lund Committee on Child and Family Support convened in February 1996 after concerns were raised about the financial viability of extending state maintenance grants to Africans at the level then enjoyed by non-Africans. The Committee came up with some resolutions and recommended that it was pertinent to have continuation of child assistance because of the importance of the early, vulnerable years in a child's life. The Committee then recommended that the grant be given to the primary caregiver. Given financial constraints, the Committee recommended that each qualifying child be given a much smaller amount than was previously the case, and that the grant be restricted to children under the age of seven years so that it could reach a larger number of those most in need. The Committee's recommendations were largely accepted by Cabinet. Hence, the child support grant introduced in 1998 replaced the state maintenance grant. The introduction of the child support grant marked a major policy shift in government as it signalled the government's intention to support children in poverty, and those poor households, particularly in rural areas, who had been excluded from social assistance programmes in the past (Pauw and Mncube, 2007).

Gutura and Tanga (2015) stressed that it is significant to note that there are constitutional mandates and obligations that the state is supposed to fulfil when it comes to the issue of social assistance. Chapter Two of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa emphasizes among other issues the social economic rights for South African citizens. Furthermore, Section 7 (1) of Chapter Two upholds every individual's right to human dignity, equality and freedom. The state is bound and obliged to respect, protect and promote and fulfil these rights (Gutura and Tanga, 2015). Of

equally the relevance and importance of the Constitution is the right of all South Africans in need to social assistance

According to Pauw and Mncube (2007), the Social Assistance Act (2004) mandates and obliges the national government to be accountable for social security grants. The National Department of Social Development (formerly the Department of Welfare) performs a regulatory role by setting the policy framework on who qualifies for social assistance grants and monitoring the operations of the newly formed South African Social Security Agency (SASSA). SASSA is responsible for administering social assistance by implementing policies, programmes and procedures for an effective and efficient social assistance grants administration system. Therefore, since the establishment of this agency in 2005 all grants are administered nationally, whereas previously provinces carried out this function under the Social Assistance Act (1992). According to Gutura (2012) SASSA provides means tested grants for children up to the age of 18 and in older people over 60. There has been massive growth in terms of the number of beneficiaries of social assistance grants with SASSA (2013) recording 16.8 million beneficiaries compared to more or less 2.6 million people in the previous years. Gutura and Tanga (2015) observed that the number of recipients has skyrocketed from 2.4 million in April 1998 to approximately 16 million in 2014. They further went on to clarify that the segment of social assistance that has fuelled this rise are the Child Support Grant, Old age pensions and disability grants which have unprecedentedly growing with Child Support Grant at the forefront.

According to Lekezwa (2010) assessment South Africa is the country that has the largest spending on social assistance grants as compared to other African countries. He

further clarified that the current nature of social spending of South Africa on social assistance grants even surpass that of some Western European countries in the 1980s. This points to the fact that social grants in South Africa are sizeable and indeed impressive in comparison to both developed and developing countries (Gutura and Tanga, 2015). The reasons why social assistance grants were put in place were solely to alleviate poverty among the poor South African. However, there is still rampant and unabated poverty within the population and one of the major reasons is the misuse and abuse of social grants which emanates from warped decision making.

2.9 Social welfare policy in South Africa

The issue of social security in South Africa requires analysis from several perspectives, including race, class, and internal political and external international pressure. The transition to a multi-racial democracy provided the impetus for initiatives to address poverty, which existed on a wide scale in South Africa. The flagship policy of the new government in South Africa was the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). This policy framework provided an integrated, coherent, socio-economic programme for addressing the ills of apartheid, including the alleviation of poverty arising from long-term discriminatory policies and practices (African National Congress, 1994). The RDP provided a framework for social development that would lead to a transformation of welfare policy in South Africa in pursuit of the values of social justice, democracy, equity and people centred development. Besides emphasizing fiscal discipline, increased social spending was required to address poverty alleviation, the marginalized sectors of the population, and the welfare of impoverished women and children in particular, in terms of this RDP framework, which then informed government

policies and programmes relating to welfare provision and poverty alleviation. In concert with the RDP framework, welfare policy was debated and reviewed, and the White Paper for Social Welfare (1997) was formulated within a social development paradigm.

The main concern was to address poverty, which was rampant throughout South Africa, in particular in rural areas. The transformation of welfare policy towards a social development paradigm, with its concomitant vision of inclusivity, would attempt to reach many more people who were in abject poverty. This shift in welfare policy and vision was in direct contrast to the previous welfare policy of the Nationalist-led government. Later, in 2000 the Department of Welfare changed its name to the Department of Social Development, which symbolized the shift in welfare policy and practice in South Africa. However, the RDP soon gave way to a more conventional economic policy known as the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) of (1996). Thus GEAR was launched in 1996 as a structural adjustment programme with the purpose of improving economic growth, increasing trade and industry across national boundaries and promoting employment.

Job creation has proved increasingly difficult because of labour market conditions, including retrenchments and the shedding of jobs because of economic restructuring. It reflected the influence of the business sector and international socioeconomic policies promulgated by the ANC-led government and its move to liberal economic policies aimed at increasing economic growth and international trade. South Africa is part of the global economy, and is influenced by international capitalism, and as a result, by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund requirements. Thus poverty alleviation became a secondary consideration, which had direct consequences for welfare policy.

Midgley (2004) noted the valid criticism that the ANC government has placed a higher priority on attracting international investments and attaining economic growth than on alleviating poverty and meeting basic social needs. The South African Constitution (Republic of South Africa, 1996) made provision for welfare to be a concurrent responsibility of both the national and provincial governments. The national government is responsible for the development of policies, norms and standards, while the provincial government has administrative responsibilities relating to the delivery of welfare services, including pensions and grants. The formulation of the South African Constitution was a historic milestone in protecting the human rights of people who had previously been disenfranchised and provided the mechanism for poverty alleviation. Despite this, 45 per cent of the population is poor (Midgley 2004).

2.10 A statistical summary of social grants in South Africa

In revealing the current status quo of all the social grants in South Africa, SASSA (2013) makes use of a statistical fact sheet, which provides a summary of all social grants in the nine provincial regions of the nation including the Eastern Cape (EC). The eight other provinces included in the fact sheet are the Free State (FS), Gauteng (GP), KwaZulu-Natal (KEN), Limpopo (LP), Mpumalanga (MP), North West (NW), Northern Cape (NC), and Western Cape (WC). The fact sheet presents the state of social grants in the country, including the child support grant as at 30 June 2015. Social grants in this instance refer to the Old Age grant (OAG), War Veteran's grant (WVG), Disability grant (DG), Grant in Aid (GIA), Care Dependency grant (CDG), Foster Child grant (FCG), and the Child Support grant (CSG).

Table 2.1: Total number of social grants by grant type and region as at 30 June 2015

Table 1: Total number of social grants by grant type and region as at 30 June 2015

Region	Grant type							Total
	OAG	WVG	DG	GIA	CDG	FCG	CSG	
EC	530,968	44	181,799	17,062	19,335	118,648	1,863,380	2,731,236
FS	183,488	5	74,219	2,201	6,481	40,148	661,137	967,679
GP	490,084	80	110,287	3,382	16,387	56,506	1,678,508	2,355,234
KZN	636,213	33	279,241	41,253	36,551	123,732	2,790,744	3,907,767
LP	432,829	19	93,712	23,262	13,450	59,108	1,714,296	2,336,676
MP	228,972	14	77,234	5,603	9,676	36,051	1,041,343	1,398,893
NC	79,768	8	52,311	6,853	4,872	14,868	292,762	451,442
NW	235,824	11	82,331	7,333	8,914	39,250	803,638	1,177,301
WC	296,583	83	155,291	12,592	12,203	30,720	946,788	1,454,260
Total	3,114,729	297	1,106,425	119,541	127,869	519,031	11,792,596	16,780,488

Source: SOCPEN system

NB: The total include grant in aid

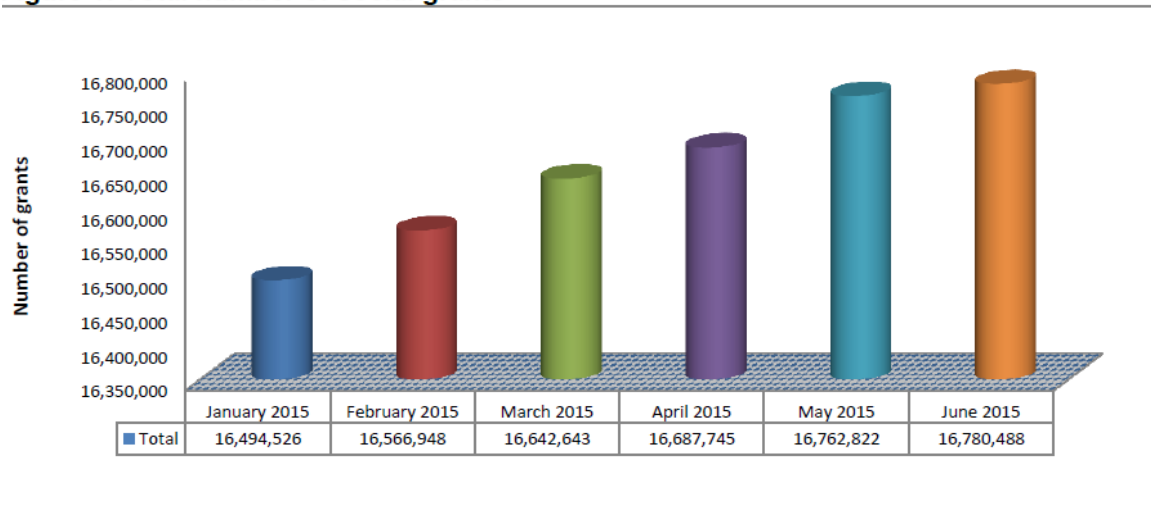
Table 1 shows the status quo of social grants as at 30 June 2015.

SOURCE: SASSA (2015)

Table 2.1 shows the status quo of social grants in South Africa per province as at 30 June 2013. It can be noted that as at 30 June 2013, the Eastern Cape had the highest total number of child support grants as compared to other provinces in South Africa. In total 1,834,805 child support grants were distributed in the Eastern Cape during the period in question and this translates to a total of 16% of the total number of CSGs.

Figure 2.2: Total number of social grants

Figure 1: Total number of social grants



Source: SOCPEN system

NB: The totals include grant in aid

Figure 1 shows the trend of social grants from 31 January to 30 June 2015.

SOURCE: SASSA (2015)

Figure 2.2 shows the trend of social grants in South Africa from December 2012 to June 2013. The table shows that from December 2012 to June 2013, the total number of social grants has not remained constant but has been fluctuating. Nonetheless, the total number of social grants has remained relatively high, as they have been above 16 million during each month. This reveals that dependency on social grants remains high in South Africa.

2.11 The child support grant

In 1996, the Lund Committee was formed with the support of the Department of Welfare to explore policy options regarding social security for children and families. The purpose of introducing a social grant for children was primarily to provide support for children in poverty. The principle behind this social grant was to ‘follow the child’, which means that

the grant would be allocated irrespective of the child's family structure. Whiteford (personal communication) in the Lund Committee Report (Department of Welfare, 1996) noted that the objectives of support were to contribute to the costs of raising children, redistribute income over the life cycle, influence the birth rate, provide a degree of equity in taxation, relieve child poverty, enable parents to care for children independently of the labour market, boost low earnings, reduce demands for a minimum wage, increase incentives to work and relieve unemployment or low income traps. While these objectives were sound, the flaw lay with its exclusionary components, brought about by budget limitations. Robinson and Robbillard (1999) note that in order to make the grant more accessible to a larger number of poor children across the country, the grant was reduced to R100 per child, pointing to the controversial trade-off between equity and affordability in the provision of child support for poor families. The White Paper for Social Welfare (Department of social development, 1997) noted in particular the racial bias of past family and care allowances.

As a solution to poverty the White paper for social welfare advocated for inter-sectoral collaboration and a multi-pronged approach within developmental, social welfare, seen as the strategy most likely to increase welfare resources and services to previously marginalized sectors of the population, and to achieve a just and equitable system of welfare provision (Gray, Wint, 1998). It recognized that poverty alleviation could only be addressed by extending resources and opportunities to the poor.

However, there were tensions between the White Paper's stance on poverty alleviation and the Constitutional human rights framework, particularly in the case of the CSG and the right for every child to have basic nutrition, shelter and basic health care services

(Gray, 1998). Thus, the restriction of the CSG, as a result of fiscal constraints, to children up to the age of 6 years was unacceptable to service providers within the NGO sector at the time of its launch (Gray, 1998). Within this transformed welfare policy based on a social development approach, the CSG became an important means of poverty alleviation since social grants that awarded cash benefits constituted the main income of many impoverished individuals and families. Therefore, the CSG may be the sole source of income for many poor families, and thus essential for people's survival.

Research conducted on the CSG indicated that the grant was spent mainly on food in the rural areas (CASE, 2000). Social pensions play a major role in poverty-stricken households, and particularly in rural households. For example, even though old age pensions are intended for pensioners, they also reach large numbers of poor children who live in the same household. Rural households are heavily dependent on these social transfers, which they supplement with other income sources, such as remittances from family members, sending money from urban centres and informal sector income (Vorster and de Waal, 2008). Nevertheless, social grants in South Africa remain means tested, and place the onus on individuals to prove their destitution.

The CSG has four immediate objectives. They are to (i) ensure greater access for poor children to an integrated and sustainable security system in the country, (ii) provide a child grant on an equitable basis to those in need, regardless of family structure, or tradition, or race, (iii) prevents children from unnecessarily entering or remaining in statutory substitute care and (iv) keep children off the streets and out of juvenile detention centres (Lloyd, 2000). Thus, it was designed to give the poorest children the opportunity to access resources. In order to effectively target the poorest children, the

Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) conducted demographic and financial modelling, and this project contributed to the policy decision on the age extension of the CSG (Department of Social Development, 2003). In March 2003 the government decided to extend the CSG to impoverished children below the age of 11 years in 2004 and below 14 years in 2005 (Department of Social Development, 2003). The extension of the CSG to children up to the age of 14 years is seen as part of the build-up to the national election in 2004, and the next Summit on Social Development in 2005 where signatories to the 1995 Summit, including South Africa, report on their progress in eradicating Poverty (Department of Social Development, 2003).

2.11.1 The implementation of the child support grant (CSG)

There were several key considerations relating to the implementation of the CSG, including the need for inter-sectoral collaboration to alleviate poverty. The Department of Social Development therefore was required to form partnerships with related government departments, such as Justice, Health, Home Affairs, Education, Labour, and Housing (Department of Welfare, 1996). Inter-sectoral collaboration has to be managed and coordinated so that all the sectors can promote the effective capacity and support of children to alleviate their poverty. In addition, it must be noted that inter-sectoral collaboration requires policy commitment, budget allocations, and the alignment of these policies and fiscal priorities. The problem in South Africa is that so many development institutions and initiatives are not coordinated with each other in any way (Mangcu, 2002). A related development was the Private Maintenance Bill, launched by the Department of Justice to take some pressure effectively. The private

maintenance system has been a cause of disagreement for women in their quest for maintenance because the system has functioned ineffectively to date.

The maintenance system is a reflection of the gender and power differentials that continue to exist in South African society. Women applied to the state in order to support their families when their efforts at procuring maintenance failed (Vorster and de Waal, 2008). Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) would be effective in playing a role in the alleviation of poverty because of the social services they render to women and children. Since the Department of Social Development had been plagued by inadequate administrative capacity, both at the provincial and national level, resulting in poor service delivery relating to social grants payments and administration (Vorster and de Waal, 2008), social grants payments were outsourced to private companies. In 2003, Cabinet approved the establishment of the National Social Security Agency responsible for administering the payment of social grants (Department of Social Development, 2003). Despite the administrative problems, research has revealed that the CSG has had a significant impact on poor children and poverty-stricken families. The findings revealed that the CSG grant was used mainly for food, clothes and education (CASE, 2000).

Stellenbosch University in the Western Cape conducted research on the effects of phasing out the State Maintenance Grant (SMG). Their findings revealed that the SMG was the only source of income in many poverty-stricken households, and was helpful in alleviating poverty (Vorster and de Waal, 2008). Despite the fact that research has demonstrated that social grants are an important component of poverty alleviation in poor households, removal of the SMGs has had a severe economic impact on poverty-

stricken households, especially in the absence of a transitional arrangement (CASE, 2000). Hence, developmental programmes are needed, in particular for unemployed women with children to assist them to escape the poverty trap (CASE, 2000). There are a few such programmes, and there are concerns about their sustainability. Thus, a great number of women with minimal education and skills continue to be unemployed. However, no developmental programmes were put in place to assist poor households to gain income from income generating schemes. This issue was raised by the NGO sector at the time when the SMGs was phased out because impoverished families were being 'hung out to dry' without adequate transitional planning for a safety net (CASE, 2000).

Developmental programmes are needed to provide poverty-stricken families with the opportunity to escape the poverty trap and to integrate people with special needs into the economy through vocational training, job placement, and the creation of micro-enterprises, cooperatives, and community-based projects that encourage economic self-sufficiency and full integration into society (Midgley, 1995). If cash transfers to poor families were to be relinquished, then it would be necessary to plan for their entrance into training and skills development, life skills and job-creation projects. The practice in the welfare paradigm was to focus on people in receipt of social grants and lose sight of these social development objectives (CASE, 2000).

Foster Care Grant

The Foster Child Grant is meant for children whose immediate and extended family members could not take care of them because of any reason and have been placed in a

foster home. According to SASSA (2015), the value of the Foster Care Grant stands at R860 per month. One of the eligibility requirements for this grant is that both the foster parent(s) and the child must be residing in South Africa. The child must be 18 years and below and there must be a court directive authorizing the foster parent to be the foster carer for the child. However, there is no means test that the foster parent(s) must pass in order to access the grant money. The child must remain in the care of the foster parent (SASSA, 2015).

2.3.10 Old pension grants

The old age grants provide support for senior members of the South African Society women and men who are above the ages of 60 and 65 respectively. Thus, people who are 60 years and above are eligible for the old age grant. Beneficiaries must not be receiving other grants and must not be receiving care at a state institution. A means test must be passed for one to be eligible for the Old Age Grant. If the potential recipient is single he/she must not be having income that is above R5, 390 per month and his or her assets must not be worth more than R930, 600. If married the combined income must not exceed R10, 780 per month and the worth of the assets combined must not be more than R1, 861,200. The recipients of the old age grant receive a monthly amount of R1, 420 and an additional R20 is provided if the beneficiary is 75 years and above (SASSA, 2015).

Care Dependency Grant

The Care Dependency Grant is meant to improve the welfare and wellbeing of children with disabilities, thus those who provides care for such children (caregivers) receives

this grant money. In order to receive the Care Dependency Grant the child must be 18 years and below and there must be permanency and severity of the disability. A medical doctor must assess and establish the nature of the disability to ascertain whether the child is eligible. The caregiver must pass a means test in order to access the grant money, for instance, if the caregiver is single his or her salary must not be more than R14, 100 per month and if married the household must not earn more than R28, 200 monthly. According to SASSA (2015) latest updates on the values of the social assistance grants the beneficiaries of the Care Dependents grants are entitled to get R1, 420 monthly.

Disability Grant

The Disability Grant targets those who are disabled and are unable to work. This could be a result of physical or mental impairment, which interferes with their functioning. The services of a competent medical doctor are enlisted to assess the degree of the disability and establish whether the disabled person is eligible for the Disability Grant. In order to qualify for this grant the disabled person must be between the ages of 18 and 59 years. The beneficiary must not be receiving other grants and must not be cared for in a state institution. The recipient must also pass a means test for example if single his or her income must not exceed R5, 390 per month and if married the combined income must not be more than R10, 780. The grant is provided either permanently or for the short term for instance between six months and 12 months but can be reapplied and renewed if the person has not sufficiently recovered to be able to go to work. The disabled person with a permanent grant is also subjected to occasional reviewing and

assessment to establish if the person is still disabled and eligible. The Disability grant is valued at R1, 420 per month (SASSA, 2015).

War veterans grant

The War Veterans grant is meant for the upkeep of ex combatants. In order for one to access this grant they must have fought in World War I, World War II or the Korean War. The beneficiary must also be above the age of 60 or disabled must not be receiving other grants and must not be cared for in a state institution. The beneficiaries must also meet the requirements of the means test. If the potential beneficiary is single he must be earning an income of R5, 390 and below per month and if married the combined income must not be above R10, 780 per month. The beneficiaries of the War Veterans Grant receive a total amount of R1, 430 monthly (SASSA, 2015)

Grant in Aid

The Grant in Aid is an additional grant extended to beneficiaries of the disability, old age, or war veterans' grants. This grant is provided because these people despite benefitting from social grants they are unable to look after themselves due to their mental and or physical disabilities hence are unable to take care of themselves. They must therefore enlist the services of a full time caregiver. A medical officer must also assess the person before the grant is availed. If the person can be cared for in a state institution, this grant cannot be extended. The Grant in Aid value is currently standing at R330 per month (SASSA, 2015).

Social Relief of Distress

This grant provides short term relief for people in distressful situation for example (i) an unexpected disaster has happened for example a house burnt down (ii) children need help whilst waiting for the grants to be processed (iii) the breadwinner in the household has died among a host of other catastrophic situations.

Since Social Relief of Distress is short-term emergency relief, it is provided per each month up to about three months. An additional period of three months may be granted if the situation is critical. People who are beneficiaries of this grant money can still qualify for Social Relief of Distress (SASSA, 2015).

2.3.11 Decision-making dynamics and/or processes in the household

According to Doss(2011) the increased role of women in decision making is expected by development practitioners to impact positively on the development outcomes of households for example on the health and education of children and the general wellbeing of the entire household. In the backdrop of the increased gains from the increased women's bargaining power in the household policy makers and development practitioners find it critical to formulate and implement measures that foster women's bargaining power. These measures will also be crucial in evaluating the effectiveness of intervention programs and efforts. Household members bargain over many different outcomes, whether the bargaining is explicit or implicit. These outcomes may include consumption and expenditure, production (such as the use of inputs), labour allocation, asset ownership, children's health and education, decision-making, and violence within the household. This paper provides details on the various outcome measures that have been used and the strengths and weaknesses of each for understanding women's bargaining power. Most analyses of women's bargaining power focus on the

relationship between spouses. Some research examines intergenerational bargaining, which may be transfers and investments in the health and education of children or the relationships between adult children and parents. Much of the intra household resource allocation literature has suggested that resources in the hands of women will have a larger positive impact on outcomes for children than similar amounts of resources held by men. Policy makers are often interested in targeting outcomes for children, especially health and education outcomes.

The question of who makes the decisions within the household is occasionally used as an outcome variable because it seems to capture an aspect of women's bargaining power. We might assume that women who have more bargaining power are more involved in decision-making. In a study, Allendorf (2007) focused on measuring women's empowerment and their bargaining power by asking questions on who has the final say on own health care, and large and small household expenditures. Findings revealed that women who owned land and thus were empowered with this crucial resource emerged to be more involved in these decisions. In a related case, Mabsout et al (2010) carried out a study in Ethiopia where he asked women about who decides over four domains: own health, daily household needs, large household purchases, and visits to family and relatives. Women were asked whether someone else makes the decision, the decision-making is shared, or they make the decision alone. Connelly et al (2010) used questions about who usually makes decisions in the family about events such as children's education, family planning, large purchases, investments, and the woman's own migration. These measures tell us something about the processes of household decision-making. Findings from these research studies highlighted that

women who were empowered played critical roles in making these household decisions and in some instances, the decision-making was a process that involved other stakeholders especially the husbands.

According to Lekezwa (2010) the participation of households in the society and the welfare of individuals are either directly or indirectly impacted upon are decision-making structures in households and the dynamics attached to them. Furthermore, they have bearing on the way in which unearned income, for example, the social grants enters the household and influence decisions about the distribution of resources between their members. In addition to its influence on social grants, the decision-making structure of the household effectively influences the way a household participates in society as a whole, such as its member's participation in the labour market, as well as how it affects individual welfare, the amount of education an individual can obtain and an individual's health status (Lekezwa, 2010).

A study carried out by (De Palma et al, 2011) concluded that there is strong evidence of bargaining and that the balance of power is not tilted towards one individual but rather occasionally shifts. In the same study it was also found out that the decision making power is in most cases obtained over the course of the decision making process. For instance the decision-making power of men exceed those of females thus joint decisions were closer to the individual preferences of men but women gets the decision making upper hand in the process and end up making and implementing ultimate decisions. Carlsson et al (2013) in turn find that when it comes to couple's risk

preferences, that women have a stronger influence relative to men, specifically where women contribute more to household income, live in higher income households, and, interestingly, are members of the communist party.

According to Rogers and Shortall (2002) a member of the household who contributes more in terms of income in the household is entitled to greater bargaining power in the intra-household decision making process. Hence, the assumption is that those members of the household who are not stakeholders or who do not have an influential voice in decision making especially women may push for equitable sharing of decision making if they make greater contributions into the household income. However this argument is contradicted by Ciabattari(2001) who argues that even if women are active in the labour market they have little bargaining power to have an influential decision making stake in the household thus initiatives and efforts to improve women's access to assets and income with the objective of increase their decision making power have been critiqued. A study conducted in Senegal to find out the balance of the decision making power between spouses found out that household decision making implies interpersonal interest and institutional responsibility in order to attain the welfare and the wellbeing of the household. To this effect each spouse gain income separately and each individual contributes to the household in effort to satisfy the household needs.

An experimental study undertaken by Yang and Carlsson(2012) in rural China on intra house hold decisions making on intertemporal choices focusing specifically on determinants of individual and joint decisions yielded that rates of return have significant effects on the decisions and also that both individual and joint decisions exhibit present biased time preferences. It was also concluded that both wives and

husbands have a significant influence on joint decisions. Nevertheless, husbands have a strong influence on decision making in the household. Although household decisions are often made jointly, they depend on a number of factors, which include the preferences of the individual household members making the decision and the bargaining position of each member. In a study, Schaner (2012) found out that in general, both wives and joint decisions show more patience than husbands do, which provides complementary evidence of misaligned time preferences between spouses.

2.4.12 Impact of social grants on households in South Africa

Barrientos (2010) outlined that throughout the world social assistance to the poor is one of the most effective poverty alleviation initiatives, According to Gutura and Tanga (2014) of all the various poverty alleviation measures implemented by the South African government, social assistance grants have come to be the most prominent intervention initiative. Social assistance grants include the assistance of vulnerable and poor groups unable to take care of themselves by improving their standards of living. According to the OECD (2010), social assistance has remained an indispensable government tool in alleviating poverty in poor households.

Dubihlela and Dubihlela (2014) acknowledged that social assistance grants in South Africa plays a critical role in lessening the adverse impacts of the social economic challenges particularly in female-headed households. Due to the availability of social grants in female-headed households (FHH) the prevalence and intensity of poverty dropped significantly in these households. Dubihlela and Dubihlela (2014:165) study also highlighted that if social assistance was withdrawn from these household the prevalence of poverty increased by 10.1% and the intensity of poverty by 17%. The

same study also indicated that the old age grant ahead of all other social assistance grants was leading in terms of reducing the prevalence and intensity of poverty although individuals received it. Leibbrandt et al (2009) cited in Gutura and Tanga (2014: 660) posited that in the year 2008 with grant income 54% of the South African population fell below the Poverty Datum Line (PDL) but without social grants more than 60% would have been recorded as surviving below the PDL. According to the Poverty Trends in South Africa report released by Statistics SA (2015) although social grants were viewed as a short-term poverty alleviation initiative it has become an important source of livelihood and have been playing an instrumental role in poverty reduction.

Hunger reduction is one element of poverty that the social assistance grants tackles. Gutura and Tanga (2014) in their study on the impact of social grants on hunger in South Africa yielded that the majority of the beneficiaries of grant used them on food this increased the availability and accessibility of foods in the households. This reduced hunger more importantly among the children and the old aged who lacked means and the capability to secure food on their own. It is reported that most households are in acute shortage to food when they do not have grants compared to when they have them (Gutura and Tanga, 2014).

Besides reducing poverty by boosting household incomes social assistance is also reported to be having positive impacts on other non-monetary aspects of poverty such as health, education and job opportunities on household members (Hagen-Zanker et al, 2011). Social security improves the livelihoods, secures the survival of poor and vulnerable households, and is crucial in redressing the discriminatory apartheid era social security systems.

Social assistance grants also impacts positively on housing and accommodation as recipients use the money to build or renovate their houses (Gutura and Tanga, 2014). This improves their standards of life.

Social assistance grants such as the Child Support and the Foster Care Grant that benefit children as well as a host of other grants that benefit the children indirectly have been found to be improving the welfare of children. Gutura and Tanga (2014) in their study found out that grants improved the lives of children for instance through affording them the opportunity to attend crèche and schooling. Social assistance grants enabled parents guardians or care givers to buy uniforms and pay school fees for the children.

2.3.13 Mismanagement of child support benefits or grants by guardians/ decision making

A review by De Villiers and Giese (2008) revealed risks to the rights of children in accessing benefits intended to support them. The review presented that funding institutions have no control over the use of child support money and it is not known as to what extent children are denied the benefit of funds intended for their support. De Villiers and Giese (2008) note that the manner of payment can either promote the child's interest, but at the same time it can invite abuse with the temptation of abuse being greater in cases where money is paid as a lump sum. De Villiers and Giese (2008) further note that funding bodies often do not keep in range with the care arrangements for a child and the mobility of children as a child may be moved between households for a variety of reasons which may include cultural norms, family customs, family social agreements and educational opportunities.

As cited by De Villiers and Giese (2008), in South Africa, 42% of all children are residing with one parent and 23% (1, 400, 000) are resident with neither parent. Clearly, large numbers of children (orphaned and non-orphaned) are not residing with either of their biological parents and many are brought up in households in which they are separate from their biological siblings. This may affirm De Villiers and Giese`s (2008) assumption that there is high mobility of children in South Africa and the presence of high mobility amongst children may simply mean that often, a child is not in the home to which the monetary benefits of their support are paid. In their discussion De Villiers and Giese (2008) seemingly conclude that there is no guarantee that a child`s monetary benefit or social grant can be safely entrusted to the child`s guardian. They argue that it is more likely that a poor family for whatever needs the caregiver views as immediately pressing will use benefits or social grants intended for the support of children. In this light, even the child support grant may be used for other purposes other than the support of the child who is the intended recipient. This review by De Villiers and Giese (2008) makes the issue of intra household decision making very central and strategic because it is only through effective decision making on the usage of social grants that they are going to serve their intended purposes that is to alleviate poverty and improve the social functioning of those who cannot provide for themselves.

2.5 Conclusion

In conclusion, this chapter dwelled much on the literature review basing on the historical overview as well as the post-apartheid social welfare system in South Africa.

More so, the chapter exhausted the discourses and empirical studies on social welfare policy in South Africa, types of social welfare grants in South Africa, intra-household decision making dynamics, the nature of poverty in South Africa as well as the theoretical framework that underpin this study (unitary model). Most of the prior studies have focused on the role of the social grants in poverty alleviation and some have focused on the bargaining power of women in the decision making process. This study intends to investigate the decision-making dynamics in the usage of the Child Support and Foster Care grants without narrowly focusing on the bargaining powers of women in such a process.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides an outline of the research design and methods used to gather and analyse data for the study. It discusses the following aspects: research design, data collection methods, sampling techniques and analysis of the findings. The previous chapter provided the theoretical framework guiding the study. The methodological approach adopted for data collection was aligned with this framework. This section of the study explains and justifies each method, i.e. the choice of study site, sampling procedures and research instruments. In order to ensure the validity and generalizability of results, the motives behind the choice of research design is discussed. Whereas a number of methodological approaches have been adopted in conducting research on intra household decision making the adopted method is expected to meet the objectives of the study. This study aims to investigate the dynamics of decision making in the household in terms of the usage of Child Support and Foster Care social grants in Tyutyu village in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.

More so, this chapter describes the research methodology followed by the researcher in order to operationalize this research study. The first chapter of this study also gave a general overview of the research problem that the study seeks to address and introduced the methodology that would be employed. In this chapter, the researcher describes how the methodology was applied as argued by Strydom as cited in De Vos et al (2002) that the purpose of the methodology is to develop confidence of the reader

in the methods used and to spell out the context and purpose for which the collection of data has taken place.

Silverman (2000:89) states that, methodology is “a general approach to studying research topics.” In corroboration to this, aspects and phases of qualitative research will be covered as suggested by Fouché and Delport cited in (De Vos et al, 2002:83-86). This structure was chosen as it provides the researcher with an accessible guide in terms of the sequence of events to be undertaken when carrying out a research project using the qualitative approach. The following are eight steps suggested by the researcher.

- a) Decision to use the qualitative research paradigm
- b) Selection of a qualitative research design
- c) Sampling procedure and preparation of participants
- d) Pilot study
- e) Data Collection method in form of in-depth interviews and Focus group discussions
- f) Data analysis in the form of narrative descriptions
- g) Data verification

Following the above procedures, the researcher outlines how the research process of this study has been implemented and conceptualized.

A large number of previous studies on intra household decision making used methods mainly applied in economics, not in social research; hence, this study opted for a

qualitative method since it is a social research in nature. Some of the models and methodologies are discussed in the preceding chapter (Literature review). This chapter also provides a brief overview of the philosophical underpinnings of qualitative research and outlines the utility and reasons for choosing this method over other methodologies. The basis for the use of a qualitative research design, in this study, is that it seeks to gain a deeper understanding of intra household decision-making dynamics in the usage of Child Support and Foster Care Grants. In this respect, it meets the best characteristics of respondents required for the study. Qualitative research is a broad approach that seeks to study social phenomena and to have a deep understanding of the activities and perceptions of the people. The chapter also highlights the validity and reliability of using a qualitative methodology. The methods of data collection that were used in this study are in-depth interviews and focus group discussions.

3.2 Research design and methodology

According to Myers and Avison (2002:2), “Research methodology is a strategy of enquiry which moves from the underlying philosophical assumption to the research design and data collection’. On the other hand, De Vos et al. (1998) argued that the term methodology merely means the way in which one proceeds to solve problems. In the context of research, it means the process one follows to answer the research questions or to solve the research problem. More so, Creswell (1994:43) maintains that methodology refers to the entire process of a study. In this regard, it is imperative to underline that a research methodology comprises of the population sample, sampling procedure, data collection and data analysis techniques used to conduct the study.

The research methodology is generally classified along the lines of being quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methodology or triangulation. As such, it is important to consider these differences and underpinnings between the research methodologies to adopt the relevant one for the phenomenon under study. Thus, this study employed a qualitative research method to gather data from the household heads and the beneficiaries of Child Support and Foster Care Grants.

3.3 The Qualitative Research Methodology

According to Silverman (2000:89), “methods used by qualitative researchers exemplify a common belief that they can provide a ‘deeper’ understanding of social phenomena than would be obtained from purely qualitative data.” Denzin and Lincoln (1994:24) added that qualitative research is “multi-method in focus, involving an interpretive naturalistic approach to its subjects.” This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of or interpret phenomena in terms of the meaning people bring to them. On the other hand, Holloway and Wheeler (1996:45) suggest, “qualitative research is based on the belief that knowledge is socially constructed.” The researcher and the participants have their own values and realities as multiple realities exist. Biklen (1992) argued that researchers who use this approach are interested in the ways different people make sense out of their lives. In other words, the researcher will be concerned with participant perspectives in the context of the research study under investigation. The researcher strived to solicit for the participants’ views and experiences of the heads of households and beneficiaries of the grants as far as intra household decision-making dynamics are under consideration.

Since the study topic sought to find out the experiences of the participants, this approach was found viable. The researcher found it rational to adopt the qualitative approach to the proposed study. Therefore, the researcher concluded that the qualitative approach focuses on the quality of human experiences, and that it emphasizes the participant's viewpoint. The importance of this study was to study and discuss the personal experiences of the participants, as they expressed them in their everyday lives.

Creswell (1998:15) defines qualitative research as “an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explore a social or human problem. He added that the researcher builds a complex holistic picture, analyses words; reports detailed views of informants, and conducts the study in a natural setting.

Furthermore, Hull (1997: 14) argued, “the purpose of qualitative research is to understand human experience to reveal both the processes by which people construct meaning about their worlds and to report what those meanings are.” Therefore, a qualitative research method was found useful for this study because it emphasises the importance of the social context for understanding the social world. In the case of this study, the method helped to explore the intra household decision-making processes in the usage of Child Support and Foster Care Grants by looking at the meanings that they gave in the context in which it appeared. In one's view, the notion of social context is of greater importance when carrying out a qualitative research in that relevant data was gathered directly and properly from the context in the phenomena under study occurs. In support of this, Myers (2009) argues that qualitative research is designed to help researchers understand people, and the social and cultural contexts within which they

live. Such studies allow the complexities and differences of worlds-under-study to be explored and represented (Philip, 1998: 267). Furthermore, Silverman (2000:89) argued that the “methods used by qualitative researchers exemplify a common belief that they can provide a ‘deeper’ understanding of social phenomena than would be obtained from purely qualitative data.” In this regard, the researcher preferred a qualitative method as the best to use in the study.

This study rests upon the assumption that one can obtain extensive in-depth data from ordinary conversations with people. The aim of this research was to gain a deeper understanding of the meaning that individuals have ascribed to their life-world and get a holistic understanding of how decisions to use grant money is arrived at in the household and the effects of such decisions on those who are partially or not included in the decision making processes. Furthermore, the role of the beneficiaries in the decision making process will also be comprehensively understood.

More so, qualitative research made it easier for the researcher to explore the field with the aim of assessing specific information to come up with accurate and correct results. Qualitative inquiry employs different knowledge claims, strategies of inquiry, and methods of data collection and analysis (Walliman, 2006). This methodology allowed participants to present how the ultimate decision to use the Child Support and Foster Care Grants are arrived at and the implications for such decisions to those who do not participate in the decision making process. In addition, the rationale behind selecting the qualitative method for this study was that the topic needed to be explored flexibly with the main aim of accessing specific information rather than mere generalising the findings.

3.4 Research paradigm

Research paradigm is the underlying assumptions and intellectual structure upon which research and development in a field of inquiry is based (Neuman, 2006). According to Parahoo (2006), a research paradigm is a worldview from a general point or a way of breaking down the complexities of the real world to make concepts simpler. In addition, Wellington (2008) strongly agrees that a research paradigm is a basic set of beliefs that guides action, specifically in terms of disciplined inquiry in a wider sense there by making concepts on how a particular phenomenon should be studied and understood. The following are the paradigms mainly used in research, the positivist, the interpretive and the critical paradigm.

The positivist paradigm is distinct concepts that produce constructive results, that is, it involves experiments and testing in order to gather data (Wellington, 2008). The interpretive research paradigm seeks understanding and places emphasis on the human capacity as it seeks to understand others through sympathetic introspection and reflection based on detailed narrative gathered through direct observation, in-depth, open-ended interviewing, and case studies (Cooper & Schindler, 2003). Last but not least the critical paradigm focuses on oppression whereby it aims to promote democracy by making changes in different social, political, cultural, economic, ethical as well as other society oriented beliefs and systems. The main functions of a paradigm are that it defines how the world works, how knowledge is extracted from this world, and how one is to think, write, and talk about this knowledge (Neuman, 2006). In that respect, the study was based upon the interpretive research paradigm in the form of a Qualitative research to understand the intra household decision making processes and

dynamics based on detailed narrative gathered through direct observation, in-depth, open-ended interviewing, and focus group discussions (FGD)

3.5 Selection of the Qualitative design

According to Leedy and Ormrod (2001), a research design is the complete strategy for an attack on the central research problem. Research design provides the overall structure of the procedures that the researcher follow, the data that the researcher collects and the data analysis that the researcher conducts. Simply put, a research design is the planning of how the data are collected and analysed (Welman et al, 2006). On the other hand, Grinnell and Williams (1990: 138) define research design as “the total plan a researcher utilizes in answering research questions. As a part of the plan, the researcher decided what the research questions should be, what data will be required to answer them, from whom the data should be obtained, and what exactly the best criterion to gather the data. On the other hand, Kumar (1996: 74) defines research design as “a plan, structure, and strategy of investigation so conceived as to obtain answers to research questions and problems” This plan is the complete scheme or the program of the research. A research design is a procedural plan that is adopted by the researcher to answer questions objectively and accurately. It is the arrangement of conditions for the collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose. For the purpose of this study, the researcher used the exploratory, descriptive, and contextual design, because of the interest in the experiences of the people on the use of Child Support and Foster Care grants in households.

Neuman (1997) refereed exploratory studies as a mode of inquiry used to explore a new topic or to learn more about issues where little is known. Exploratory study is conducted to gain insight into a situation, phenomenon, community, or individual. Descriptive design attempts will be used in the analysis section to describe systematically a situation, problem, phenomenon, and the living conditions of the community as well as describing attitudes towards an issue (Kumar, 1996:9). In contrast to exploratory research, the descriptive research presents a picture of the specific details of situation, social setting, or relationship, and focuses on the how and why questions (Kumar, 1996). In this study, a descriptive design was used as the researcher interviewed thirty participants covering the sample in order to describe their experiences with regard to decision making in the household pertaining to the usage of Child Support and Foster Care Grant.

3.6 Preparation of Participants and Sampling Procedure

Participants in this study comprised of heads of households and beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care Grants. The research proposal, which had been approved by the University of Fort Hare higher degrees committee, was submitted to Buffalo City Municipality to obtain permission to undertake the study. A letter of introduction was shown to potential and prospective participants where data were to be collected after the permission granted by the municipal manager, politicians and authorities. Furthermore, an introductory meeting was arranged with the participants to discuss any queries as well as to inform the participants of their rights to participate in the study. A non-probability sampling procedure, namely purposive sampling was used

to recruit a sample consisting of 15 heads of household and 15 beneficiaries of Child Support and Foster Care Grants aged between 13- 18 years.

3.7 Pilot Study

De Vos et al. (2002:337) argued that it is important to conduct a pilot study, whether it is a quantitative or qualitative study. For this purpose, the participants were to possess similar characteristics as those of the main investigation. The pilot study in qualitative research allowed the researcher to test the questions, which guided the data collection process. The testing of the questions in the interview schedule enabled the researcher to make some modifications with a view to undertake quality interviewing during the main investigation. Regarding the reasons stated above, the researcher conducted a pilot study with the head of households and the beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care Grants in order to fine-tune the questions that needed rephrasing.

3.8 Population

Polit and Hungler (1999:37) defined population as “an aggregate or totality of all the objects, subjects, or members that conform to a set of specifications. More so, De Vos et al (2005) defined it as a phrase that sets parameters of the study units and it refers to individuals who possess specific characteristics under study.” In this study, the population was made up of 40 households who include heads of households and beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care Grants. In other words, a population only comprised of all those people with the characteristics a researcher wanted to study. A population is too large and inaccessible to collect information on all members, and for this reason, a sample is often drawn.

3.9.1 Sampling and Sample size

Kerlinger cited in De Vos et al (2004:198) defines sampling as “taking any portion of a population or universe as representative of that population or universe.” Therefore, to determine the sample size, the researcher adopted a non-probability sampling technique, namely (purposive sampling). Purposive sampling was first employed to determine the characteristics that suit the study. Non-probability sampling according to LoBiondo-Wood and Haber (1998:249),” is less vigorous and tends to produce less accurate and less representative samples than a probability or random samples.” In addition, non-probability sampling implies that not every element of the population has an opportunity for being included in the sample, such as convenience (accidental), quota, purposive and network sampling procedures (Burns & Grove, 2001). Therefore, De Vos et al. (2004) insisted that purposive sampling is entirely based on the judgement of the researcher, in that the sample is composed of elements that contain the most characteristic, representative, or typical attributes of the population.

The researcher determined the sample according to the nature of the research problem. The advantage of purposive sampling was that it increased the likelihood of variability common in any social phenomena to be presented in the data (Creswell, 2009). As such, a minimum sample size of 30 was the targeted unit of analysis for this study and the researcher expected data saturation from this number of participants. In this way, the adequacy of the research data was attained when sufficient data has been collected so that saturation and variation were both understood and accounted for. Saturation means that the themes and categories in the data become repetitive and redundant, to

the extent that no new information can be gathered by further data collection (Denzin and Lincoln, 1994).

3.9.2 Gaining entry

Research entry was sought through contact by written and informed consent (see appendix 1) to access the participants. The informed consent letter contained the following information in order to gain access and participation from the participants, namely:

- Their participation in the research (voluntary and anonymity)
- The purpose of the study
- The participant's right to stop the research at any time
- The protection of confidentiality

3.9.3 The researcher used the following criteria to select participants:

- Willing participation: In this way, the researcher sought to ensure that the participants would be interviewed willingly and with the understanding of what the study entails.
- Informed consent: The researcher convinced the participants to be fully aware of the purpose and objectives of the research.

3.9.4 Research instrument

Qualitative research involves the process of forming questions and asking them, and this can be achieved through interviews (Bernard and Ryan, 2010). This study utilised

semi-structured in-depth interviews ideally led to narrative descriptions. In-depth interviews sought to understand the world from the participants' point of view, to unfold the meaning of people's experiences and to uncover their lived world prior to scientific explanations (Flick, 2007). Prior to going to the field, the researcher prepared an interview guide to guide the interviews and this is known as an interview schedule.

Greeff (in De Vos et al., 2002:302) posited, "The interview schedule provides the researcher with a set of predetermined questions that can be used as an appropriate instrument to designate the narrative terrain." In this regard, the researcher prepared a set of questions to cover before engaging with the participants in the field. More so, difficulties as well as sensitive areas of the project were anticipated before going into the main data gathering exercise. Interviews were conducted with focus groups made up of heads of households as well as the beneficiaries of Child Support and Foster Care Grants.

3.9.5 Preparing for Data Collection

Preparation for data collection involves the drawing boundaries or parameters for the study. Miles and Huberman (in De Vos 1998:46) improvised four aspects that the researcher needs to be cognizant of when ready for data collection. These are namely, the setting, the actors, the events, and the process.

The Setting: this is mainly linked to answering the question such as, where will the research take place? During the time of the study, the researcher was residing in King Williams Town (Buffalo City Municipality) where the data were collected. This provided some convenience and feasibility for the researcher as Tyutyu village was nearby to the

researcher. Because of this, the participants were interviewed in pre-arranged places, for example, in their homes and other places, which did not violate the participants' ethical, rights for example, the right to privacy and anonymity.

The Actors: refer to the people who were interviewed or observed according to the sampling procedure and sampling criteria. Kerlinger (in De Vos et al., 2004:198), defines sampling as, "taking any portion of a population or universe as representative of that population or universe." Mason (1998:83) on the other hand, defines sampling and sampling selection procedures as, 'the process used to identify, choose, and gain access to relevant units which will be used for data generation by any method'. In this study the actors were the heads of households as well as the beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care Grant, who were made up of children between the ages 13 and 18 years.

The events: The participants were expected to relate their personal experiences with the intra household decision-making process in terms of the usage of the Child Support and Foster Care Grants.

The process: This refers to the process of collecting data and it included the procedures that the researcher took to access and engage with the potential participants who took part in the study.

3.9.6 Data collection

Semi-structured in-depth qualitative interviews with 15 beneficiaries of Child Support and Foster Care Grants aged between 13 to 18 years were one of the key tools for data

collection in this study. By using semi-structured interviews, each informant was asked a set of questions. Semi-structured interviews are based on an interview guide that provides a list of questions and topics that have to be covered (Flick, 2007). As such, the interviewer covered each topic by making use of open-ended questions and probes. Topics were derived from the research objectives and questions. The advantage of making use of semi-structured interviews is that they are flexible, the interviewer can modify the order, and details of how topics are covered (Bernard and Ryan, 2010). More so, in-depth semi-structured interviews allowed for the collection of more extensive and detailed data from the participants through enabling them to air their views and experiences in an expended manner. This means that some control can be ceded to the informant on how the interview proceeds. Since respondents were asked similar questions, it made possible for the researcher to make comparisons across interviews.

3.9.7 In-depth Interviews

According to Dillon et-al (1994), in-depth interviews are one-to-one encounters in which the interviewer makes use of an unstructured or semi-structured set of issues or topics to guide the discussion. In addition, the main objective of the exercises is to explore and uncover deep-seated emotions, motivations, and attitudes. They are most often employed when dealing with sensitive matters and respondents are likely to give evasive or even misleading answers when directly questioned (Dillon et-al, 1994:124-125). The study chose to pursue in-depth rather than breadth information on the intra household decision-making dynamics. The researcher desired to get hold of information on its entire contextual relevance that is inclusive of the emotions, experiences, and

feelings that go together with it. More so, the researcher sought to get in touch with the major players in the field who can provide private, confidential, and restricted information. The depth of information offered by interviews in this regard can produce top value if the informants are prepared and are capable of providing information that others could not, or the researcher could not know or retrieve without getting connected with them (Denscombe, 2003). The in-depth interviews comprise asking questions, listening, expressing interest, and noting down what has been articulated.

3.9.8 Focus Groups

Kruegar (1994: 6) defines a focus group as “a carefully planned discussion designed to obtain perceptions on a defined area of interest in a permissive, non-threatening environment.” More so, Kitzinger (1994) argued that it is a form of group interview, with the distinguishing feature of group interaction and it is used to encourage in-depth discussion. Although this method is used to reflect the views of individual, group members, it upholds the view that attitudes and perceptions do not develop in isolation (Morse and Field, 1996). The aim of a focus group is not to develop consensus, but to produce qualitative data that provides insight into the attitudes, perceptions, motivations, concerns, and opinions by generating a collective consciousness (McElroy, 1997:145-49). Focus groups employ an interviewing technique with discussion taking place under the guidance of a moderator. The moderator facilitates discussion in a non-directive and unbiased way, using pre-determined questions (Kingry et al, 1990).

In this study, focus groups were utilised as a research technique that collects data through group interaction on a topic determined by the researcher. In this respect two focus groups were used thus one made up of heads of households only and the other

one made up of a mixture of heads of households and beneficiaries of the grants under study aged between 13-18 years. The first focus group made up of heads of households focused on soliciting information about the ultimate decision maker in terms of the usage of these grants. The second focus group focused on the role played by the beneficiaries as well as the significant others in determining the use of the Child Support and Foster Care grants in households. As such, focus groups enabled the researcher to understand the phenomenon under study from a group perspective rather than from individuals only. One of the main advantages of this technique is that participant interaction assists weed out false or extreme views, thus providing a quality control mechanism (Kingry et al, 1990). Finally yet importantly, the interviewer acted as a facilitator in introducing the themes, guiding the discussions, and encouraging all members to express their perceptions. To obtain clarity and understanding, probing questions were asked and sometimes the researcher had to repeat what the research participant had said to ensure the same understanding.

3.9.9 Observations

The researcher also carried out some observations to have a more depth understanding of the participants as well as the context in which they live. Further, mere Observations facilitated the establishment of rapport with the heads of households as well as beneficiaries of the grants under this study. Observation was a continuous method until the end of data collection. The observation was in the form of participant observation whereby the researcher tried to gain a close intimacy and familiarity with the participants. Participant observation (PO) is a labour-intensive and time-consuming ethnographic technique involving immersing with the community to understand the

context of their everyday lives and experiences. Taking into account that what constitutes participant observation varies, this research adopted overt roles as a 'partial' participant and observer (Cook, 1997).

Participant Observation allowed a broader understanding of the community in which the heads of households and the beneficiaries lived and their relationships within it (Valentine, 2001). This approach involved making notes about events, activities and the interaction of the study participants. Like any field data collection method, Observation required considerable thought and planning that ranged from negotiating access and establishing rapport with the study informants to becoming immersed in the community. The researcher recorded all accounts and observations as field notes in a field notebook. Informal conversation and interaction with members of the study population were used which are important components of the method and were recorded in the field notes, in as much detail as possible.

3.10 Transcription of interviews

The interviews conducted in this study were transcribed soon after they took place, though some of them were transcribed after some time since the interviews were many. Preparing a transcript from an audiotaped interview was especially important, since the interviews were the main source of data for a qualitative study. According to Measor (1995), transcribing is usually recommended soon after the interview has occurred, while it is still fresh in the researcher's mind. Words are the data of qualitative research and it is important to carefully and accurately transcribe the entire audiotaped interview. Preparing one's own transcript provided an important opportunity to relive the interview; the researcher thus became more familiar with the data (Norman, 2000).

The interviews were at most 15 to 30 minutes in duration with an individual depending on the participant's accounts of his or her experiences. Interviewing provided an appropriate opportunity of inquiry bearing in mind the aforementioned nature of the study, which has to elicit the meanings the middle class people attached to their experiences induced the decision making process in their households in the usage of the grants. Among the many, the following questions formed the interview guide:

- 1) Who mostly decides on the usage of Foster Care and Child Support grants and why?
- 2) Do you have any say in the decision making process in terms of the usage of Foster Care and Child Support grants?
- 3) As the head of household, do you consult anyone when making decisions on the usage of Foster Care and Child Support grants?
- 4) Are you happy with the decisions made by your parents or guardians in terms of the use of the Child Support and Foster Care grants?

The questions were open-ended as evidenced above. They allowed the researcher to probe relevant areas with a view to facilitate a process whereby participants were free to relate their personal experiences. Minor changes to the questions were made after pilot study.

The following interviewing techniques in De Vos et al. (2002:293-296) were adopted to ensure effective interviewing. The participant did most of the talking, questions were clear and brief, open-ended, sensitive, and leading questions were avoided. More so, the following communication techniques were utilized.

- **Minimal verbal response:** that which relates to nodding and other facial expressions.
- **Paraphrasing:** it involves a verbal response in which the researcher, enhanced meaning by changing the participant's words in another form with the same meaning
- **Clarification:** this included the way in which the researcher used to get clarity on vague statements.
- **Reflection:** revisiting something important that the person has just said in order to get him to expand on that idea.
- **Encouragement:** encourage the participant to pursue his/her a line of thought and argument.
- **Comments:** adding own ideas or feelings so as to stimulate the participant into saying more.
- **Spur:** say something to spur or challenge the participant into saying more
- **Listening:** having a good listening skill
- **Probing:** the purpose is to deepen the response to a question, to increase the richness of the data being obtained and to give cues to the participant about the level of response that is desired. It is a technique to persuade the participant to give more information about the issue under discussion. According to Greeff as cited in De Vos et al (2002). The following are probing methods used in probing:

Contradicting: a way of deliberately giving an opinion opposite to that of the participant, in an attempt to arouse his/her further comments.

Challenging: demanding more information to prove the validity of the participant's claims.

Showing understanding and allowing time for elaboration: letting the participant know that his/her comments were understood and treasured and allowing him time for further comments.

Direct questions: Further questioning the participants to get more information.

Procuring details: asking questions to see if more information could be obtained. For the purpose of this research study, interviews were recorded on tape and the field notebook and sometimes the participants could request to write their answers on their own.

3.11 Data Analysis

According to Mouton (2001:108-109), "data analysis involves breaking up the data into manageable themes, patterns, trends and relationships." The aim of analysis was to understand the various constitutive elements of one's data and to see whether there are patterns or trends that can be identified or isolated, or to establish themes in interpretation. In this way, the researcher categorized, ordered, manipulated, and summarized the data in order to obtain answers to research questions. The qualitative data that the researcher gained from the respondents was be transcribed and analysed thematically. This means that the gathered data was grouped into themes, which comprised of broad and specific categories. Broad categories were determined by the

objectives of the research whilst specific categories were developed from a detailed examination of data after the identification of frequent or significant themes. Headings were also be assigned categories in order to identify their content and meaning. Therefore, the data was analysed in terms of themes derived from the changes in consumption patterns of middle class households, effects on class identity and coping strategies. The themes, sub-themes, and categories, which emerged, are reported in the next chapter as the research findings. The following are the ways in which the researcher analysed the data.

- Familiarisation with the data through review, reading, and listening
- Transcription of tape-recorded material
- Anonymising of sensitive data
- Coding or indexing
- Identification of themes
- Re-coding
- Developing categories
- Exploration of relationships between categories
- Refinement of themes and categories
- Development of theory and incorporation of pre-existing knowledge
- Testing of theory against the data

Omery (1983) argues that data must be reported in the natural language of the event, as the information was obtained from a natural setting.

3.12 Trustworthiness

According to Lietz & Zayas (2010), qualitative studies should strive for trustworthiness, a scenario in which the findings represent as close as possible the perspectives of the research participants. Consequently, there is a need to ensure authenticity and accuracy of the findings. In a bid to meet this requirement, Lietz&Zayas (2010) identified four concepts that are crucial in achieving trustworthiness namely: credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability.

Credibility

Credibility refers to the degree to which the findings of a study represent the meanings of the research participants. Lietz & Zayas (2010) pointed out that in order to achieve credibility; qualitative study must manage the risk of research reactivity, which refers to the potential for researchers, or research procedure to exert influence on the participants thereby changing the findings of the study. The researcher was conscious of how the research procedures may exert influence on the credibility of the data. The researcher adhered to research ethics and embraced a non-judgmental attitude during interaction with the research participants. Furthermore, the researcher took careful consideration not to include leading questions in the interview guide; hence, ensuring that the data collected was credible and represented the views of the participants.

3.13 Data Verification Method

The researcher used Guba's model of trustworthiness. The model is used to verify data for ensuring credibility of the research findings (Krefting 1991:2). The following are four components proposed by Guba (1981) as cited in Krefing (1991) for assessing the trustworthiness of qualitative data; truth-value, applicability, consistency, and neutrality. The components are essential in designing methods of improving the rigour as well as assessing the value of the findings of qualitative studies. They are discussed below as they were employed in this study.

Truth-value: Guba's model of trustworthiness as cited in Krefting (1991:215-221), true value, asks whether the researcher has established confidence in the truth of the findings for the participants, and the study context.

Peer-examination: is the dialogue that the researcher engages with colleagues regarding the findings and challenges encountered in a qualitative research (Krefting 1991:220).

Applicability: is the extent to which the findings of the study can be generalized to other contexts, settings, or with other groups." In some way, this is the possibility to generalize the research findings to larger populations. Consistency is the strategy used to attain applicability.

Consistency: refers to whether the same findings would yield again if the study were to be repeated with the same participants or in a similar context (Krefting, 1991:216). The

strategy to measure consistency is that of dependability. The following were used to achieve dependability.

Peer examination: was employed with peers to enhance and emphasize the trustworthiness of the research findings.

Code and record procedure: the researcher coded the data obtained from the conducted interviews and then allowed some time to pass in order to have a fresh look at the coding again. The process was repeated over again in order to assess the applicability of the initial coding process as well as to make the necessary changes (Krefting 1991:221).

Neutrality: Guba as cited in (Krefting 1991:215) defined neutrality as, “the degree to which the findings are a function solely of the informants and conditions of the research, and not of other biases, motivations, and perspectives.” The next section explored the ethical issues that the researcher took into cognizance in this study.

3.14 Ethical issues

Informed consent

Informed consent was obtained from the individuals participating in the study. The subjects were notified about the reasons and the contents of the study prior to their participation. The process of informed consent was done to ensure that participating individuals were interviewed willingly and with adequate understanding of what the study entails.

The researcher obtained consent with regard to anonymity and confidentiality in order to participate in the study, before the actual information was collected. The participants were assured that their participation was voluntary and they were at liberty to withdraw from the research process at any time. Vernacular language was also used to accommodate informants who were not able narrate the situations in English.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality according to Jamison (2007: 1), is "... an explicit or implied guarantee by a researcher to a respondent in a social research whereby the respondent is confident that any information provided to the researcher cannot be attributed back to that respondent." In one's view, this means that the information revealed by an individual during data collection will not be disclosed to others without the permission of the informant. During the transcription and data analysis, anonymity was assured through the allocation of pseudonyms. Informants were given a detailed explanation of how information would be handled, such as the coding system, so that the information would not be traced back to identify the informants, except by the researcher.

3.15 Limitations of the Study

The researcher encountered a number of constraints and challenges in the execution of data collection. The constraints were related to inter alia;

- a) The time taken to carry out the study which was so limited that rush judgements were inevitably possible. The field research was executed in a short space of time but it would require several more months, if not years, to accomplish this task and get to the core of the matter.

- b) Resources like money were limited because the research assistant needed to be bought meals, refreshments and transported. Likewise, some participants demanded money or refreshments to continue sharing their information.
- c) The study was limited since only the qualitative research method was utilized as already indicated. It could have been better if triangulation was utilized for the study. Some studies of this nature utilized various methodologies and models such as document studies, surveys and cross sectional studies based on secondary literature.
- d) Some participants were not fluent in English; hence the assistant researchers (of Xhosa origin) who had been hired by the main researcher had to go vernacular.

3.15 Conclusion

The purpose of this chapter was to provide an in-depth discussion of the following aspects: research design, data collection methods, sampling techniques and analysis methods. In this study, the researcher made use of qualitative research because one cannot understand human behaviour without understanding the framework within which subjects interpret their thoughts, feelings, and actions. Qualitative research is a broad approach that seeks to study social phenomena and gain a deep understanding of the activities and perceptions of people. The chapter also highlights the validity and reliability of using qualitative methodology. The methods of data collection used were in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. For the analysis of the outcomes, the researcher used content analysis to gain a deeper understanding of the themes emerging from the research. This chapter was the basis of the data gathering and the ways in which the researcher undertook. The next chapter is the data analysis of conceptions provided by the respondents using narrative descriptions.

CHAPTER 4: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

The methodology described in chapter three provides a baseline for data analysis. This chapter investigates the inherent meaning of the research data obtained from the empirical study by describing the analysis of data followed by a discussion of the research findings. According to De vos et al (2002), data analysis entails that the researcher breaks down data into constituent parts to obtain answers to research questions. The analysis of research data alone does not provide answers to research questions rather, the purpose of interpretation of data is to reduce it to an intelligible and interpretable form so that the relations of research problem can be studied and tested hence the drawing of conclusions.

The study's findings are presented in thematic forms. The main themes that were derived from the study include the decision making process and the ultimate decision makers in the use of the Child Support and Foster Care Grants. The role of the beneficiaries in the use of the grants as well as the challenges confronted with making decisions on the use of the grants as well as the resolution strategies. The identification of main themes provided an understanding of the decision-making dynamics in the household in terms of the usage of the Child Support and Foster Care grants in Tyutyu village in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. The findings are discussed within the context of one theoretical framework that is the unitary model of the household. According to this theory, a household acts as a single unit in making a decision even

though it consists of different individuals. The findings are discussed in line with literature review, statement of the problem, research questions and objectives. The discussions below are the views of participants from fieldwork.

4.2 Biographical information

The researcher managed to interview 30 participants. The researcher used in-depth interviews for 15 participants who are beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care grants in the age range 13 years to 18 years. There were 8 boys and 7 girls of the 15 beneficiaries of the child grants.

4.3 The role played by beneficiaries of Child Support and Foster Care grants in determining their use

Decision making in the household is in most cases dominated by the household head that is a mother, father, or a guardian or rather the spouses. Doss (2011) posited that although households, especially in rural areas in developing countries often countries often include multiple adults involving several generations, intra household decision making is normally limited to two people who mostly are a husband and wife and in some instances may involve two people who are not necessarily a couple. Although bargaining and intra household decision-making power is in the hands of the husband and wife, they are also some controlling factors and variables for a number of the household characteristics including household size and ages of children. However, Doss (2011) further went on to clarify that adult children living with their parents are rarely included as decision makers. It must be noted that adult children have very different preferences compared to their elderly parents and definitely, when the

parent(s) makes the decision without consulting the child the outcomes will be very different from the children's expectations. Thus, this had been seen to be causing many problems, especially in instances where the household head is an irresponsible individual whose priorities in terms of the decision-making are misplaced. The beneficiaries are excluded in the decision-making or are partially included in terms of the use of Child Support and Foster Care grants. In line with this, the researcher explored the views of the beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care Grants (between the ages of 13-18 years) in Tyutyu Village pertaining to their roles in terms of the decision-making in the usage of these grants. The participants had this to say in the following excerpts:

One of the interviewed participants expressed that:

"I don't get consulted when decisions are being made pertaining to the use of the grant money, although I am the one entitled to benefit from it. In fact, I do not remember getting consulted on any single occasion ever since I started receiving the grant money when I was 13 years and now I am 17 years old."

The other beneficiary who was interviewed by the researcher also divulged that:

"My mother sometimes asks me what I want her to do with the grant money for me, but however she has the ultimate say in deciding as whether what I want is the best for me or not. So in other words, there is no independent decision making for me there and in fact decision making is my mom's province and consulting me is just a formality"

Of the many participants interviewed by the researcher one also said:

“I am just 14 years old and my guardian is strongly convinced that I’m too young and immature and young to make an informed and objective decision in the usage of the Foster Care grant thus she just makes the decision unilaterally and buys me food, clothes and pay for other services for instance health care”

Not including the children in the intra household decision making may result in outcomes that may not be to the satisfaction of the beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care grants because they have their own preferences. Nevertheless, Doss (2011) argues that although it is possible to include households that had two decision makers who are not a couple for instance an adult child and a parent or two siblings bargaining over the decision making power, although some implicit assumptions in empirical analyses make this difficult.

The majority of the beneficiaries who participated in the study in the Tyutyu Village just like the above participants pointed out that their guardians in the household from where they come from make decisions on behalf of them in terms of the usage of the Foster Care and Child Support grants. Mothers and other female guardians were reported in this study to be the decision makers in the use of the Child Support and/or Foster grants and there were very few cases of men making decisions on behalf of the beneficiaries. This is mainly because of the incidence of single mothers who end up living without their husbands due to divorce and in some cases unplanned pregnancies. The high prevalence of HIV and AIDS has seen orphans being put in foster homes where in most cases the caregiver is a female figure.

Jensen (2004) contends that if resources are in the hands of women and are responsible for making decisions in the household, there is a huge likelihood of having outcomes that benefits the entire household in comparison to a situation when men are in control and are the sole decision makers. Thus, there is a policy thrust for policy makers to empower women so that they have more say and power in participating in the intra household decision making dynamics. There is, however, a dearth of information on the outcomes that women would choose if given the opportunity to be the sole decision makers in the household. The beneficiaries pointed out that their guardians make decisions on behalf of them because they felt that they were young to make decisions that could put the money to good use.

Participants in the age group 16 years to 18 years, highlighted that although their guardians felt they were young and immature to make decisions on their own in terms of the usage of the grant money they were not happy with the fact that the money that was entitled for them was being used without them being consulted. Some went to the extremes and posited that the money was even being used without their consent.

One of the participants argued that:

“My guardian does not consult me in the decision making process in the usage of the grant money and I feel this is a mere pretext on the part of the guardian to abuse the grant money.”

Another participant who shared the same sentiments pointed out that:

“I am generally not happy with the fact that my guardian makes decisions in using the grant money without also involving me the intended beneficiary in the decision making

process. How can my guardian claim that she knows what is best for me when all she does is to blow up the money in nightclubs. Alcohol is not what is best for me definitely”

These participants thus highlighted that there is a need for them to be consulted when decisions are being made so that they can fully benefit from these grants, which are entitled to them. Based on the utterances of these participants it is of uttermost importance to understand the decision-making dynamics in the usage of these grants. If the South African government just provides grant money and no follow up mechanisms and programs it is as good as throwing the money down the drain because the money ends up being used for the unintended purposes for instances as highlighted by the participants that some guardians end up using the money to sponsor their drinking sprees. Thus, it is difficult to achieve the intended and long-term objectives of these grants, which are to improve the lives of the vulnerable and marginalized children, thus neglected children, as well as children whose guardians lack the means to support them. Thus, according to De Villiers and Giesse (2008) there are chances that the rights of the children in accessing either the Child Support or Foster Care grant may be downtrodden yet the grants are meant for them. The institution for instance SASSA does not have control over the use of the child support money, hence they do not know the extent children are denied the benefit of funds intended for them. The payment of these grants can either promote the child's interest, but there is also a huge possibility that the money will be abused, particularly in cases where the money is paid as a lump sum. The chances of abuse are made worse as most of the participants told the researcher that their guardians were not their biological parents hence decisions made by were not fully benefitting them. In support of this, De Villiers and Giesse (2008)

postulated that clearly the majority of the grant beneficiaries both orphaned and non-orphaned children are not residing with either of their biological parents and many are brought up in households in which they are separate from their siblings. Thus, in this scenario, there is a likelihood that the caregiver in the family that the child is staying may use the social grants for whatever needs that may be viewed as pressing more especially in cases where the family is poor. Hence, the grant money will be used for other purposes other than the support of the child who is the intended recipient.

With the majority of the participants in the age range between 15 and 18 years expressing dissatisfaction over their guardians making decisions on their behalf on the usage of the social grants, the researcher went on to further explore their views on the decision making dynamics in the usage of the grants (Child Support and Foster Care grants).

The following were the further responses obtained from the participants:

“I think to let guardians make decisions on behalf of the beneficiaries, especially in the range 16 years to 18 years are wrong because these are grown up people who can make independent objective decisions on what to use the money for. So guardians should make decisions for children who are 15 years and below because they are still young”

Another participant who was interviewed as highlighted that:

“To leave the whole decision making completely in the hands of the children, whatever their age is not very appropriate because the children themselves will always need advice from their guardians as they are sustainable to a lot of influence for example

peer pressure which may compromise their independent decision making capacity. Hence, I feel it has to be a consultative process involving both guardians and children if maximum outcomes are to be obtained.”

Thus the decision making process according to the participants should not be dominated by any single person, but rather involve beneficiaries and guardians in the household. This is in line with the unitary model, which postulates that the household acts as a single decision making unit despite the fact that it is composed of different individuals (Nepal et al, 2005). The point of convergence of the different individuals in the household is utility maximization thus; decisions are arrived at on the premises of fixed household preferences that could be achieved under resource constraints. Under the theoretical framework the household is the primary decision making unit and the decision to participate in the decision-making process is the result of the negotiation of role, task, and time allocation. These decisions are derived from the pursuit of activities to satisfy the household needs.

4.4 Decision making

There are many existing debates on the issue of decision making in the use of social welfare grants. Some empirical studies yield that the recipients themselves do the decisions on the use of grants while other studies yield that the elders in the household, determine the use since the recipients may be immature or unable to decide on their own. In this study, the researcher was also interested in knowing the role players in the intra-household decision-making. To this end, the researcher asked the participants the following questions. As the head of the household, who makes decisions about the use

of Foster Care and Child Support Grants? Below are the responses from the participants

“I make the decision because my daughter is immature,” Another participant said,

“As a mother, I make decisions on how to use the money” (FGD)

According to the literature, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) 2010 carried out a study on intra-household decision making on the use of social security grants. The study was mainly focusing on the grant use, improvements in the accessibility of grants and the misuse of grants. The study was qualitative in nature. The results of the study found out that decision-making concerning the use of grants, especially the Child Support and Foster Care Grants mainly relies on the primary caregiver (usually a woman) decided alone, or took the controlling decision on use. Many primary caregivers justified responses on their sole control of the use based on their superior knowledge of the child’s and household needs. In support of this, Doss (2011) posited that the increased role of women in decision making is expected by development practitioners to impact positively on the development outcomes of households for example on the health and education of children and the general wellbeing of the entire household. In the backdrop of the increased gains from the increased women’s bargaining power in the household policy, makers and development practitioners find it critical to formulate and implement measures that foster women’s bargaining power.

In a related case, Mabsout et al (2010) carried out a study in Ethiopia, where he asked women about who decides over four domains: own health, daily household needs, large

household purchases, and visits to family and relatives. Women were asked whether someone else makes the decision, the decision-making is shared, or they make the decision alone. However, one of the informants said,

“The father makes the decisions” (FGD)

This was supported by Doss (2011) who argued that despite the fact that women are empowered and play critical roles in decision making, in some instances the decision making process involves other stakeholders especially husbands. In addition, Carlson (2012) also argued that the decision-making power of men exceeds those of females, thus joint decisions were closer to the individual preferences of men, but women get the decision-making upper hand in the process and end up making and implementing ultimate decisions. However, one of the participants said,

“We jointly make decisions as a family”

Carlsson (2012) who coins that both wives and husbands have a significant influence on joint decisions supports this. Although household decisions are often made jointly, they depend on a number of factors, which include the preferences of the individual household members making the decision and the bargaining position of each member. Furthermore, the unitary model coins that a household adapts to sufficiently large stimuli by changing activity patterns and consequently, travels within time and money constraints. The household is viewed as an institution that controls everything that happens within it as a single unit, for example daily time and task allocations to household members (Samuelson, 1956). The household exercises this social control by means of some informal household rules and control strategies. Intra-household

resource allocation makes available important information on household dynamics that influence daily time allocation and, therefore, should prove a valuable contribution to efforts to model activity time allocation behaviour and its impact.

4.4.1 The implications of being excluded (beneficiaries) in the decision making process

The implications of excluding beneficiaries from the decision-making dynamics in the use of the Child Support and/or Foster Care grants can be either positive or negative. Some prior studies, for example by Doss (2011) on the intra household and resource allocation in developing countries concluded that excluding the adult children may have outcomes that may not satisfy them. Children are excluded from the decision making dynamics in the household because the decision makers are of the opinion that children neither have the capacity nor the power to influence the decision making process in the household. This is because adult children have wildly different preferences compared to their parents. One of the participants when asked about the effects of being excluded from the intra household decision-making dynamics in the usage of the grant money articulated that:

“Being excluded means that I will be forced to settle for things that I don’t want and I feel very disappointed”

Children are excluded from decision making despite the benefits that come with encompassing them in the decision making process. Some of the benefits of involving children in decision making include that it becomes part of their growing up to the extent that they are able to identify problems in their lives and come up with appropriate

decisions to address such problems which boosts their self-esteem and confidence. Children's participation in the decision-making will not only be good for them and their households, but also rather cultivate the culture of participation, which is crucial for development in their communities. According to UNICEF (2010) households and communities can be labelled progressive and developed when they ensure that all their members, no matter their age are involved in decision making and are involved in trying to shape lives of dignity for all.

Being excluded from the intra household decision-making dynamics means that children are deterred from experiencing at a tender age, which is critical for personal and community development.

One participant in this study revealed that one of the effects of being excluded from the decision-making processes in terms of the usage of the grant money is that:

“I feel excluded, voiceless and it erodes my self-esteem and confidence”

The inevitable implication is that children will end up feeling that there are being discriminated against and that they are unequal and are of lower social status than adults. This therefore restrains the children from grabbing available opportunities to partake in the decision-making processes particularly in the household. It also emerged in the study that in the majority of the cases girls are completely denied the opportunity to participate in the intra household decision making compared to boys who participate here and there. The exclusion of girls from the decision-making is two pronged. Firstly, it is because they are young and secondly, it is because of their gender. According to Mabsout et al (2010), there is a wide array of barriers, which include culture, attitudes,

and expectations, which inhibits the enhanced participation of girls and young women in intra household decision making.

The other participant interviewed in this study divulged that:

“Upon being excluded from the decision making process in the use of the grant money I feel there is lack of mutual respect and trust between my guardian and me”

Excluding children from the decision, making process in the household has a negative impact on the relationship between the children and the decision maker who in most cases in this study turned out to be the mother or female guardian. This results in lack of understanding and trust, lack of cooperation, misconceptions, and prejudices and ignorance of each other's interests and way of doing things. Negative, preconceived ideas about the abilities of children and young people to make informed and objective decisions deter many adults from consulting with them. According to SASSA and UNICEF (2010), many parents and guardians have out-dated notions, or media misinformation, that portrays young people as transient, chaotic and unreliable.

“They feel overpowered if someone decides for them though some of them can misuse the money because they lack responsibilities” (FGD)

A review by De Villiers and Giese (2008) revealed risks to the rights of children in accessing benefits intended to support them. The review presented that funding institutions have no control over the use of child support money and it is not known as to what extent children are denied the benefit of funds intended for their support. De Villiers and Giese (2008) note that the manner of payment can either promote the child's interest, but at the same time it can invite abuse with the temptation of abuse

being greater in cases where money is paid as a lump sum. The study also yields that the age of the child determines whether he or she can be consulted or not. The study conclusively yields that the inter-generational dynamics around decision-making are very interesting and require further investigation. Spending and decision making regarding the Child Support Grant appear to depend largely on the demography of the household. If children are young, then caregivers take decisions (SASSA and UNICEF, 2010). Furthermore, the researcher sought to interrogate the challenges faced by the social welfare grants' beneficiaries.

4.4.2 Consultation in decision-making

Consultation entails seeking advices from people. In the context of decision making on the use of social grants, the beneficiaries sometimes consult their elders for good decisions. In this regard, the researcher asked the informants if they consult other people before they take decisions to use the money. Some of the informants said,

“I consult my mother, though I am also a mother” (FGD)

“I consult elders”

The above statements are supported by the study that was conducted by SASSA and UNICEF (2010). The study yields that there is some evidence that teenagers at times negotiate with their mothers over grant use. A few women also indicate that they consult with their mothers regarding use. The study also found that if the mother is a teenager and still lives with her mother who has control over the total household income and therefore has seniority. However, one of the informants said,

“I consult nobody” (FGD)

This shows that some beneficiaries do not consult someone when making decisions regarding the use of social welfare grants. In the same way, some beneficiaries do not also seek advice from other people

4.4.3 Advise in making decisions on the use of the social grants

Advices are very important in the use of money. The beneficiaries or recipients of social grants are sometimes advised to use the money by some people and this helps them a lot because some of them misuse the money. In this regard, the researcher asked the informants about the people that the recipients or the beneficiaries consult when making decisions. Below are the responses from the informants:

“We do not seek advice from outsiders, but we rather make our decisions as a family”

This shows that the families are self-reliant in terms of governing their social welfare grants. The theoretical framework that guides the study (Unitary model) supports the participant's words. The unitary model treats the household as a single agent taking a decision. More so, Nepal et al, (2005) argued that the unitary model assumes that a household, even if it consists of different individuals, acts as a single decision making unit. The unitary model advances that the household is the primary decision making unit. Household members carry out household decisions by engaging in various activities. Decisions to participate in different activities as well as who participates are the results of negotiation of role, task and time allocation within the households. These decisions are derived from the pursuit of activities to satisfy household needs (Nepal et al, 2005). However, the researcher asked the participants if there are some external factors that influence the use of the social grants

4.4.4 External influences when deciding on the use of the social grants

Outside the household or the family, many factors influence the decisions on the use of the social grants. Among them are the lifestyle and the prices of the goods among others. One of the respondents said,

“I think the only influence is the way in which other people spend the money.” Another one said,

“There is nothing from outside that can influence our decisions when spending the money” (FGD)

The participants have shown that besides the way that other beneficiaries influence them to spend the money, there are no other factors that influence their decisions. The researcher went on to interview the participants about the exclusion of the beneficiaries in decision-making.

4.5 Challenges faced when deciding on the use of grants and how they are resolved

Deciding on the use of the grants in this case Child Support and Foster Care is not an easy endeavour given that the money is just entitled to an individual, but due to poverty in some households, it ends up being stretched to meet the needs of all family members. Participants in this study highlighted that problems sometimes erupt in the households in which they come from and causing family tensions.

One of the interviewed participants pointed that:

“Every month when the grant money comes through there is stress and tension in the household as family members hope that they can get a share of the money so that they can use it for their own needs” (FGD)

Another interviewed participant expressed that:

“When it comes to make decisions on the use of the grant money there is always conflict between my guardian and I as my guardian rushes to make decisions without asking me what I need as the rightful person who is entitled to the money. This tension has led to a strained relationship between me and my guardian”

In the process of interviewing the participants about this subject, another participant said that:

“At the end of each month when the grant money comes home, I find myself embroiled in a conflict with my garden as I feel she is making inappropriate decisions with the money for instance by spending the money on beer, when the money is primarily meant to be for my nourishment is the primary beneficiary.” (FGD)

This information harvested from the participants by the researcher point to the effect that there are difficulties and challenges in deciding on the use of Child Support and Foster Care grants. From the perceptions of the participants it seems that conflicts, mainly emanates from the households who make decisions to use the grant money in a way the beneficiaries feel is inappropriate and unsatisfactory. Such decisions include, for instance guardians deciding to use the money for alcohol and so on. Beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care grants are then affected by such decision, which

leads to conflicts and tension in the family and households particularly between the guardians and the beneficiaries.

The fact that the grant money is little since it is meant for the wellbeing and nourishment of one child beneficiary is a source of challenge when it comes to deciding on their use. This becomes a problem because most households where beneficiaries of either the Child Support and or the Foster Care grant reside are in most cases riddled with poverty hence, there is partial and in most cases rely on the social grant as a source of livelihood and survival for the entire household or family. Most of the members of families in this situation, according to the beneficiary of the grant money in this study look forward to the grant money to have their own personal and individual needs met. This becomes a source of challenges because the grant money despite being meant for the nourishment and the welfare betterment of an individual child it is also a little amount. That is guardians become torn on making decisions to satisfy the individual needs of each member of the household and the entirety of the household. This therefore culminates in challenges and tension in the household as some members may feel that their needs are not met. It is worth putting on record the fact that although the government of South Africa through SASSA dispatches grant money targeting narrowly the beneficiary it is not only the beneficiary who ultimately benefits from this money as the entire household also benefits especially those that are affected by poverty. Gutura and Tanga (2014) have corroborated this in a study in which their findings reported that social grants were playing a critical role in poverty alleviation in households. They advanced that the grant money was being used to buy food in poor households that is averting hunger, as food was made more accessible and available.

This reduces the impact of the intended purposes of such grant money because the beneficiaries are getting a smaller share of the money, which is intended for them. Thus, some participants expressed dissatisfaction at the fact that the grant money has to be used to bail out the entire family out of poverty yet it means for them because spreading the meagre amount to cover all the problems of the household reduced its impact on the intended beneficiary. Hence deciding on the use of the grant money becomes a source of potential intractable challenges.

A few of the beneficiary participants pointed out that there were no challenges or problems of any nature in making decisions in using grant money. The participants pointed to various factors as to why there was peaceful decision making in terms of the usage of the grant money in their households.

One of these participants who were interviewed by the researcher shed light to the effect that he was happy with the decisions made on the usage of the grant money in his household. He said:

“There are no challenges because my mum just buys for me what I want and I am happy with that. In the household, it is just my mother and me. Maybe that is why we do not have any challenges” (FGD).

Some participants posited that inadequacy of money is also one of the challenges that they encounter in the use of social welfare grants.

4.5.1 Adequacy of the money

The money received for social assistance grants plays a significant role in eradicating poverty among the recipients. However, in some instances the money might not be

enough to meet the needs of the beneficiaries. In this regard, the researcher asked the following question to the participants. Is the money sufficient to meet your needs together with the decision makers as a family? One of the participants said,

“Yes, it is enough for basics” (FGD)

This shows that the money for support grants is not enough, but at the same time, it is important in reducing poverty. Whiteford (personal communication) in the Lund Committee Report (Department of Welfare, 1996) noted that the objectives of support were to contribute to the costs of raising children. To redistribute income over the life cycle, influence the birth rate, provide a degree of equity in taxation, relieve child poverty, and enable parents to care for children independently of the labour market were among the many. To boost low earnings, reduce demands for a minimum wage, increase incentives to work and relieve unemployment or low income traps cannot go unmentioned.

4.6 Resolution strategies faced when deciding on the usage of grant money in the households.

Participants in this study revealed that when confronted with challenges in deciding on the use of the grant money in their households they will always resolve the challenges that is in accordance with the unitary model that the household acts as a single unit whether in making decisions or resolving conflicts. That is besides the existence of different individuals with different preferences in the household. The household members converge around the interest of the household as an entity which facilitates the resolution of conflicts and tension which may emanate from the decision making

processes in the usage of the Child Support and/Foster Care grants. Furthermore, the researcher went on to ask the participants about the causes of the difficulties encountered in making decisions on social welfare grants.

4.7 Causes of the difficulties in the use of social welfare grants

Various factors pose problems on the use of social grants. Therefore, the researcher asked the participants about the causes of difficulties in the use of social welfare grants. They responded in the following ways:

“The problem of who to be in charge of the money is the one that has engulfed many beneficiaries.” (FGD)

This shows that power in decision-making is a serious problem in the spending the social assistance grants. Furthermore, the researcher was also interested in the way in which the beneficiaries solve problems resulting from the decisions on social grants' use. The researcher asked the following question. How do you resolve these challenges? The informants said,

“We just bargain as a family and resolve our conflicts.”

The above participant's statement is supported by the unitary model, which advances that, it is not always the case that each individual inside the household have the same preferences. Differences in preferences do exist among members of the household across members but they do have a certain degree of collective decision-making process. Therefore, this means that they will be able to resolve themselves. Moreover, the researcher asked the participants if the money is sufficient to meet their needs.

4.8 Conclusion

The study has shown that intra-household decision-making is of paramount importance in the use of social welfare grants. It involves collective decision making as well as distinguishing the roles played by couples and families in different households. This is validated by the findings of the study which shows the theoretical perspectives concerning the intra-house hold decision making. These were basing on the ultimate decision makers in the use of Child Support and Foster Care social grants, the role played by beneficiaries in determining the use of the Child Support and Foster Care grants and the challenges faced in deciding on the use of social grants and how they are resolved. To this end, the chapter that follows discusses the conclusions arrived at by the study as well as recommendations for future inquiry in the field.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The previous chapter dealt with analysis and interpretation of data obtained using semi - structured in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. This chapter presents a brief summary of the research findings from where conclusions and recommendations are derived. The findings obtained from both literature review and empirical investigation on the intra household decision-making dynamics in the usage of Child Support and Foster Care grants in the Tyutyu Village are presented. In particular, the following details are discussed: the decision making processes and the ultimate decision makers in the use of the grants, the role played by the beneficiaries in such decisions, the challenges confronted in making the decisions and how they are resolved.

5.2 Summary of findings

The purpose of this study was to investigate intra household decision-making dynamics in the use of social grants particularly the Child Support and Foster Care grants. Specificity was placed on the examination of decision-making process in the use of social welfare grants, to establish key decision makers in the use of social welfare grants and to the role played by beneficiaries in determining the use of social grants. In the context of this study intra household decision making was defined as decisions that are made within the context of the household which “provides an important entry point

for analysing poverty and inequality since an individual's life chances are critically affected both by the material resources at the disposal of the household as well as the decisions made within the household concerning how those resources should be distributed" (Burns and Keswell, 2006:1).

The rationale behind this study is the fact that besides the government dishing out social assistance to an increased number of beneficiaries there are increased allegations and concerns that the money is not fully benefitting the intended beneficiaries after all due to bad decision-making, abuse of the money by the guardians and other misuses of the money. This therefore compromises the long-term agenda of the government to eradicate poverty and improve the life of the beneficiaries hence the need to understand comprehensively the intra household decision-making dynamics in the usage of the social welfare grants which specifically are the Child Support and Foster Care grants.

The empirical evidence focused on the community of Tyutyu where the research sample and participants were drawn from various locations. The data was collected using semi structured in-depth interviews and focus group discussions.

5.2.1 The role played by the beneficiaries in determining the usage of the grants

This study find out that the parents or guardians who in the majority of the cases are women are involved in decision-making process in the usage of Child Support and Foster Care grants in Tyutyu Village.. Most of the beneficiaries of these two grants who were interviewed highlighted that they are not consulted at all either when decisions are being made or are just consulted as a formality as the ultimate decision rests with the

guardians. The explanation why the beneficiaries are either totally excluded or partially included in the decision-making dynamics is because the guardians felt that they are young to make any meaningful and objective decisions in terms of the usage of the grant money. Nevertheless, this is causing many problems, especially in the situations where the guardians end up abusing the money and making inappropriate decisions that do not serve the intended beneficiary of the grant money in any way. As a result, the government money will end up not serving its purpose, which is to nourish and improve the lives of the beneficiaries. Some of the children who are below 15 years are young to make any meaningful decisions and are susceptible to peer pressure, hence there is no way that such children may be included in the decision making processes. There is however general dissatisfaction among the beneficiaries of these grants in the Tyutyu village. They feel that only children below the age of 15 must be the ones to have guardians making decisions for them whilst those who are 15 years and older must be either influential contributors in the decision making process or must be left to make the decisions unilaterally because they are old enough to do so. However, children as long as they are still below the age of consent (21 years) they are legally not allowed to make any profound decisions, thus children will always need guidance and support from their parents and/or guardians in order to make well informed decisions particularly on the usage of the social grants. Thus in line with this it is pertinent to point out that the household should act as a single unit in making decisions on the usage of the Child Support and Foster Care grant in accordance with the unitary model of the household. Thus, each household member has a share in terms of making decisions, which are in the best interest of the household. Although the household members have

different preferences, however, their decision-making should converge around the best interest of the household.

5.2.2 Consultation on making decisions

Consultation is very important in making decisions in the household. The guardians and young parents whose children are the beneficiaries of the Child Support and/or Foster Care grants seek advice from other people when making the decisions. Young mothers who are the principal decision makers pointed out that when making decisions they consult other people, especially their mothers so that they could make appropriate use of the money. Others, however expressed that they knew very well what the money was meant for and knew what to do with it hence consulted nobody in the decision making process. In some household, the consultation processes are restricted within the family and no outside are consulted. The beneficiaries have pointed out that the only external factor that can relatively affect the way they spend the money is the way other beneficiaries spend their own grant money hence they are subjected to peer pressure.

This highlights the fact that households and/or families are independent entities, which are capable of effectively making use of the social welfare grants without interference or advice from external individuals or forces. Thus, the household is a primary single decision making unit. Decisions to participate in different activities as well as who participates are the results of negotiation of role, task and time allocation within the households. These decisions are derived from the pursuit of activities to satisfy household needs.

5.2.3 Advise in making decisions on the use of the social grants

In the wake of some guardians who are making inappropriate decisions in using the grant money and some young people who are susceptible to peer pressure to make any wayward decisions, it is important that one seek advice from other people. In this study, it emerged that some beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care grant and their guardians seek advice from other people and this has been reported to be helpful in terms of making productive and wise use of the money. However, in the majority of the cases it was reported that advice was sought from within the nuclear and in some rare moments from members of the extended family. Thus the household emerges as an independent entity with the capacity to make its own decisions and it exists and acts as a single unit as in accordance with the unitary model of intra household decision making and resource allocation. The household is the primary decision making unit. Household members carry out household decisions by engaging in various activities. Decisions to participate in different activities as well as who participates are the results of negotiation of role, task and time allocation within the households. These decisions are derived from the pursuit of activities to satisfy household needs.

5.2.4 External influences when deciding on the use of the social grants

It emerged in this research study that although the household makes decisions independently in some very rare members of the household seek advice from the members of the extended family, there is also some outside influence that shapes how the household arrives to its decision. Such influences include some money spending trends by other households, especially those having beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care and other households in general. Fashion and lifestyle trends as well

as prices of goods and services are some of the immediate influences outside of the household (external). Such influences affect how the family/household decides on how to spend the money

5.2.5 The implications of being excluded in the decision-making dynamics in the usage of the grant money

The implications of excluding children (beneficiaries) in the decision-making processes in the usage of the Child Support and Foster Care grants can have negative or positive effects on the beneficiaries and the negatives are outweighing the positives. Excluding the children from decision-making may be good for the children, especially for children who are 15 years and below since, they are still young and immature to make an informed and objective decision. Guardians and parents are assumed under these circumstances to know exactly what is good for the children and hence exclude them from decision making.

However, children have preferences different from their parents, hence any decision made without their participation results in outcomes that dissatisfy the children, thus the beneficiaries who are excluded from the decision making process are forced to settle for something that is not their preference. Excluding children denies them from participation, which is critical for personal and community development. It also erodes trust and respect between the household head and it negatively affects the confidence and self-esteem of the child. This study finds out that children will end up feeling discriminated against and that they are of unequal and lower social status to their adult counterparts. The study also established that girls are severely restricted from decision-making compared to boys. Thus, they are excluded from decision making because they

are young and because of their gender. Generally, they are cultural barriers, attitudes, and expectations that hinder the participation of women in decision-making.

5.2.6 Challenges encountered when deciding on the use of the grants.

When making intra household decisions on the use of the Child Support and Foster Care grants problems always come up because of the fact that each and every individual in the household has expectations in as much as the resources available to the household is concerned. The main conflict mainly erupts between the primary beneficiary and the parent or guardian over priorities in terms of spending the money. In some instances, the conflicts arise between the husband and wife who may be locked in a power fight with husbands' mentality that they should be controlling everything in the household. However, it has emerged over time that in terms of household savings and investment, women tend to produce productive outcomes that benefits the entire family compared to giving such resources to the control of men. Thus the distribution of the decision making power in the household is a major cause of conflict in terms of determining the use of Child Support and Foster Care grants.

5.2.7 Causes of the difficulties in the usage of social welfare grants

The causes of the challenges in the decision-making dynamics mainly accrue from the tension of who should be in charge of the grant money and who should make the ultimate decision. Guardians feel they have the ultimate right to make the decisions on how the grant money is to be used by virtue of the fact that legally they are bound to do so and that it is common sense that the beneficiaries are still young to make informed and objective decisions. The beneficiaries on the other hand feel they are the ones entitled to benefit from the money, hence it is their money thus they should make

unilateral and independent decisions according to the way they want. Since the preferences of the beneficiaries and those of the guidance are wildly different, this becomes a source of protracted and intractable bickering. Tensions are further stoked by guardians who end up using the money for other uses that are inappropriate and unsatisfactory for instance on alcohol and drugs which does not go down well with the beneficiaries.

The other source of challenges in the decision making processes in the usage of the Child Support and Foster Care grants is the fact that this money meant for individuals, but due to unemployment and poverty whole families and households are becoming dependent on the grant money for survival. Literature has affirmed the fact that the grant money has come to be a source of livelihood for many poverty ridden and vulnerable families in South Africa and buying basic foodstuffs is the number one priority. Each family member gets an expectation in terms of having his or her needs being met thus tension will arise as the money cannot be definitely stretched to cover everything as it is originally meant for the nourishment and well-being of the individual beneficiary. Guardians become torn on making decisions to satisfy the individual needs of each member of the household and the entirety of the household. This therefore culminates in challenges and tension in the household as some members may feel that their needs are not met.

5.2.8 Resolution strategies for the challenges

Most conflicts that erupt in the family because of intra household decision-making dynamics in the usage of the grants are resolved peacefully in the household. In resolving the conflicts, the families converge around what is best for the entire

household first and individuals second. Thus, according to the theoretical framework guiding this study (the unitary model) the household acts as a single independent entity both in making crucial intra household decisions and in resolving conflicts arising from such decisions. Hence, although differences in preferences do exist among members of the household, they do have a certain degree of collective decision-making process

5.2.9 Adequacy of the money

The money that is disbursed by the government to support beneficiaries of the social welfare grants is mainly meant for an individual beneficiary. However, due to unemployment and poverty it ends up being used to meet the needs of the entire household hence, it becomes meagre. However, it remains a vital tool in fighting poverty in many households as it is used to buy some basic needs for families and households.

5.5 Conclusions

The study focused on the investigation of intra household decision-making dynamics in terms of the usage of Child Support and Foster Care grants in the Tyutyu Village. The study sought to get insights into the decision making processes, establish the key decision makers, understand the role of the beneficiaries in this as well as understand the challenges that accumulate from the decision making dynamics and how there are resolved

The family is a very important institution in society. Decisions pertaining to the allocation and distribution of resources are made within the family and/or household. Hence the intra household decision making dynamics should be understood because the effectiveness of the social grants (Child Support and Foster Care grants) depends on

how decisions are made within the household. Thus, the social assistance grants initiative by the South African government that is an intervention strategy to improve the wellbeing of poor and vulnerable members of the society cannot be effective unless there is a comprehensive understanding of the complexities of the intra household decision-making processes. To this end the motivation for the study is the fact that despite the government has continued pumping of money to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable members of society, there are allegations of the money not serving its original purpose through guardians who make inappropriate decisions leading to the abuse of the money.

It has emerged in the study that the women are the prominent decision makers even in the case of decision making in terms of the usage of the Child Support and Foster Care grants. Women are the decision makers because of the incidences of the high rates of divorce and children end up being raised by a single parent (mother). Literature has also espoused that in most cases it is the primary caregiver (usually a woman) who decided alone about how the Child Support and Foster Care grants are to be used. It has also been articulated that decisions made by woman often lead to productive outcomes compared to a situation where the male figure is solely in control of the resources.

The study has established that there is either very little or no consultation with the beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care grants when decisions are being made on spending the grant money. The major explanation offered in this scenario is that the children are still young hence are not capable of making any meaningful decisions. But however, given that children especially who are 16 years and older are

now reasoning, there should be included in the decision making process because there are now very aware of their preferences which in most cases are very much different from their guardians. However, children who are 15 years and younger should have guardians who make decisions on their behalf because there are still very young and are susceptible to make inappropriate decisions due to pressure for instance peer pressure.

Beneficiaries in this study are playing little or no role at all in the decision-making dynamics that lead to the use of the grant money and that they were unhappy with this scenario because some of the guardians are reported to be abusing the money for instance through using the money to buy alcohol. Furthermore, excluding the children makes them feel as if they are not part of the household and voiceless. Girls are excluded more from the decision-making compared to boys because of their gender. To some extent there is a need to include the beneficiaries (both girls and boys) in the decision making dynamics, which acts as a control system so that the money is used exactly for what it is meant for. Furthermore, besides acting as a control system, there are other benefits that come with including children in the intra household decision making, for instance, it teaches them identify problems and make appropriate decisions to address such problems and this boosts their self-esteem and confidence. More so, children's participation in the decision-making exercise will not only be good for them and their households, but rather cultivates the culture of participation, which is crucial for development in their communities.

There are challenges when it comes to intra household decision making in the usage of the Child Support and Foster Care grants. The challenges emanate on who should be

the ultimate decision maker and on the fact that there are different expectations and preferences of individual members of the household for their personal needs to be met yet the amount is meagre to meet all these needs. Some guardians also spark conflicts with beneficiaries when they use the money inappropriately for instance of alcohol. However, such conflicts and tension are resolved peacefully in the household, thus the household acts as a single unit in both making decisions and resolving challenges according to the unitary model.

Families and/or households exist as independent entities as there is no consultation when decisions are being made. Rather decisions are made from within although there is some inevitable outside influence that may determine how the grant money is spend. For instance lifestyles and fashion trends and also how some families are spending their grant money as well as the prices of goods and services.

The Child Support and Foster Care grant money is very little to meet all the needs of the household since originally it is disbursed to meet the needs of individuals. The government should warm up to the realization that this is no longer an intervention effort for individuals, but for entire households and families who are blighted by poverty and unemployment.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study and a review of existing literature, the researcher made recommendations for the improvement of intra household decision making dynamics so that there will be the maximum utilisation of the Child Support and Foster

Care grant money with the view of increasing the satisfaction level of the intended beneficiaries and the household in general. The following recommendations were made:

5.3.1 Education of heads of households and guardians

The research yielded that there are cases of heads of households who are entrusted with the decision-making mandate in terms of the usage of the grant money and they end up using it for other purposes not intended for. For instance, some are reported to be abusing it through using it for alcohol and drugs. Thus, in this backdrop, there is a need for outreach programmes of the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) to teach and educate heads of households, parents and guardians who live with the beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care grants about the essence of the grant money and what are its intended purposes. This will ensure that the grant money serves its intended purpose and that government money is not just thrown into the drain. Without this education, the government will continue pumping money into the households, but the results will be more poverty statistics and further undernourishment and impoverishment of the children because the money will just be abused.

5.3.2 Empowerment of the girl child and women in general

One of the outstanding findings in this study is the fact that the girl child is more excluded from the decision-making processes compared to boys whose opinion and contributions are valued best. The researcher therefore recommends that there is the need to empower the girl child through for instance education so that they have a say in terms of decision making in their households in particular and societies in general.

The research results indicate that mothers are the ones who are in most cases bringing up their children alone because of relationship break ups and divorce. Although it is not statistically preferable for mothers to parent alone the researcher feels that there is need for empowering them so that there are able to supplement the grant money, which is now sustaining whole households and families. Such empowerment could be through giving them some entrepreneurial ideas so that they can for instance start cooperatives. This would serve as a solution for those already without a father figure in their lives. If the mothers are empowered, they are able to afford them a proper upbringing alone and are able to supplement the grant money, which is becoming overstretched to cover the needs of entire households and families. Therefore, the researchers suggest that this can be done with various strategies including occupational training and life skills so that these women are able to generate their own income and thereby be able to protect and care for their children.

5.3.4 Older children (beneficiaries) should be included in the decision making process

The research has yielded that excluding the beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care grants from the decision making processes is likely to cause some challenges in the household. This is mainly because the preferences of the children and those of the parents or guardians are wildly different, hence the conflict and tension since the outcomes do not reflect the children's' desires but rather those of the guardians. Thus, the researcher recommends that guardians or parents of the beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care grants should make it a point that they include the children in the decision-making dynamics. However, they should be an

age restriction in terms of the children beneficiaries who can be involved in the decision making since some of the children are too young and mature to make any meaningful decision. Thus the researcher recommends that children in the age group 16 years to 18 years should be included in the decision making process whilst those who are under 15 years should be having guardians in control in terms of decision making. Thus, it should be SASSA and other organizations' top priorities to ensure that guardians and parents have this knowledge and understands the significance of including children in the decision making process.

5.3.5 The government should increase the amount of the grant money.

Although the grant money is originally targeted at the wellbeing and nourishment of individuals, in this case beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care grants, entire households are becoming dependent on this money because of unemployment and poverty. Thus, the money is stretched to cover all needs of the household, which is a cause of conflict in the household. The government must understand that the grant money has become its chief instrument to fight poverty not only for individuals but also for the entire household. Thus, when this money is being disbursed it should not be based on the welfare of individuals but families and households. Thus, there is a need for government to review the amount disbursed monthly for Child Support and Foster Care.

5.3.6 Increase HIV and AIDS awareness campaigns

As a result of the increased prevalence of HIV and AIDS the number of children depending on Child Support and Foster Care grants is ballooning. This is putting a strain on state coffers and diverts money which should be put to other use for instance

subsidizing tertiary education which remains exorbitant many years after the attainment of democratic rule in South Africa. Decreasing the HIV and AIDS statistics could be an effective way of freeing state coffers.

5.3.7 Family integration

One of the explanations why there are a very huge number of children enlisted to benefit from the Child Support and Foster Care grants is because of the increased incidence of family disintegration. This is because of high rates of divorce and break ups of relationships which leave children with their mothers only who in most cases lack capacity to provide for them. The immediate family of the child is the best environment to bring him or her up if it is an intact and integrated family. Alternative care for instance, Foster Care comes into play only after it has been assessed that the immediate family is not suitable for the child. Therefore, the researcher recommends that in order to avoid stretching state coffers and bring up children in their nuclear families, the government of South Africa and other stakeholders in the social services sector should work together with the media to influence TV programmes such as soap operas, and radio dramas to foster family integration. This will be done in order to influence societal attitudes about healthy relationships between men and women and to promote engaged fatherhood in children's life. Media campaigns should be employed to educate men and boys on childcare skills. It could be used to portray men involved in childcare and to highlight positive role models to influence young men to take responsibilities in providing for their children.

Family integration can be enhanced through, among other things, the re-establishment of marriage as a valuable social institution. Divorce is cited as one of the contributing

factors to the incidence of children being raised up by a single parent (mothers) and going into foster care. The researcher advocates for family conservation and the strengthening of the family structure. It is the researcher's strong conviction that if the plight of marriages in society and family disintegration could be addressed and the importance of parenting within a team is fostered, then children could be brought up by both their parents. These would assist each other in providing for them and this could relieve state coffers and the money used elsewhere for instance to further subsidise education and the health services which are crucial in winning the fight against poverty, unemployment and vulnerability as well as marginalisation.

5.4 Suggestions for further studies

The following recommendations are suggested for further research:

- There is need for further studies on the adequacy of the grant money to cater the needs of households since they do not serve individuals only due to unemployment and poverty.
- It is also pertinent that further research also investigate how inter-generational dynamics also affects on the decision making processes. Extended family's role in decision making in the nuclear family should also be understood because all these have an impact on social policy
- Furthermore, the overall impact of the grant money should be further researched with a view to increase its poverty reduction drive.
- Further research has to focus on the need to preserve the institution of marriage in South Africa because it is of unplanned pregnancies and divorce that children end

up having no one with means to support them hence they end being supported by the state through the Child Care and Foster Care grants.

- There is also need for further research on the implications of family disintegration on the overall well-being of the children. The social assistance grants(Child Support and Foster Care grants) does much to cater and improve the physical wellbeing of the children but however it does little if nothing at all to cater for the emotional and psychological needs of the children. In other words, social assistance is a narrowly focused intervention strategy in the plight of children who are in Foster Care and those in disintegrated and dysfunctional families. Thus, there is need for studies to explore the implications of disintegrated families on the psychological, academic as well as the social functioning of the children. Such studies should also investigate particularly the impacts of father absence on the wellbeing of the children on all spectrums of their functioning.
- Further research should also investigate the current trends and dynamics of unemployment and poverty especially among the poor South African households so that appropriate and comprehensive intervention strategies can be drawn up and be implemented

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: CONSENT FORM

I hereby confirm that:

- ☐ I have understood the information provided regarding the study.
- ☐ I am aware that a tape recorder will be used to capture data during this study.
- ☐ I understand that participation in this study is voluntary.
- ☐ I have the right to withdraw from the study at any time.
- ☐ I understand that no payment will be received for participating in this study.
- ☐ I have a right to access the study results if I so wish.

I hereby confirm that I fully understand the conditions of this study and what my rights and responsibilities as a participant are.

I am therefore willing to participate in this study.

Signature:

Date:

APPENDIX 2: **APPENDIX : INDEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CHILDREN BENEFITTING FROM THE CHILD SUPPORT GRANTS (13-18 YEARS)**



Participant

INTRODUCTION

This research study seeks to investigate the decision making dynamics in the households in the use of social grants particularly the Child Support and Foster Care grants. The case study for this study is Tyutyu village in the Buffalo City Municipality. I am particularly interested in interviewing heads of households and beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care grants who are between the ages 13-18 years. Everything you tell me will only be used for this research project and will not be shared with anyone outside the research team. Also your name will not be used thus pseudo names will be used to make sure that your contributions will not be traced back to you. You have already consented to the interview with the consent form. Do you have any questions before we begin?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Gender
2. Age
3. Marital status
4. Employment
5. Education
6. Type of grant(s)

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Can you tell me about your household composition? (Number of adults and children)?
2. Who is the head of the household? (Gender)?
3. When did you start receiving the Child Support and/or Foster Care grant(s)?
4. What motivated you to apply for the grant(s)?
5. Roughly what is the monthly amount that you get from the Child Support and/or Foster Care grant(s)
6. How many children in your household are receiving Child Support and/or Foster Care grant(s)?

QUESTIONS ON THE ROLE PLAYED BY BENEFICIARIES OF CHILD SUPPORT AND FOSTER GRANTS IN DETERMINING THEIR USE

1. Do you have any say in the decision making process in terms of the usage of Foster Care and Child Support grants?

2. Do you make independent decisions when it comes to the use of these grants?
3. Who mostly decides on the use of these grants and why?
4. What makes you let someone decide for you on the use of these grants?
5. Given a chance would you want to be the ultimate decision maker in the usage of the grant money where you are also the beneficiary?
6. For the grant money to serve their intended purposes, who do you think should be the decision maker i.e. the beneficiary or the head of household?
7. In your opinion do you think it is appropriate for someone to make decisions on your behalf given that you are the primary beneficiary of the grant money?
8. Are you happy with the decisions made by parents or guardians in terms of the use of the Child Support and Foster Care grants?
9. Are there any positive and/or negative implications that come with being partially included or outright excluded from the decision making process?

QUESTIONS ON THE CHALLENGES FACED WHEN DECIDING ON THE USE OF GRANTS AND HOW THEY ARE RESOLVED

1. Are there any difficulties faced when making decisions on the use of the grants?
2. If any, what causes the problems to arise in the first place?
3. How are these problems resolved?
4. Who is instrumental in the resolution of the difficulties?
5. Are there any external people who help in the resolution of difficulties?

Appendix 3: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION SCHEDULE FOR HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS



INTRODUCTION

I would like to thank you all for coming today. My name is Nigel and my assistant is Tafadzwa. Over the past few weeks, our research team has been conducting interviews with households and beneficiaries of social welfare grants in Tyutyu village. The major aim of the research is to investigate the intra-household decision making dynamics in the use of social grants: A case study of Tyutyu village in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. Therefore, this discussion will be centred on getting more information regarding that.

Let me tell you about how we will conduct our group discussion today. As we have already told you, your participation in this group is voluntary, so if you prefer not to be part of the discussion, you are completely free to be excused. However, we value all of your opinions and hope that you will stay and share your views with us. Whatever we will discuss this day will be confidential and be used for this research project only. I would like to say that there are no wrong or right answers we are simply asking for your opinions and experiences so please feel free and comfortable to say what you really

think. We would like to hear different points of view as possible so feel free to disagree with someone else and share your own view but also respect the view of others.

During the discussion, we will be taking notes and my colleague will be reminding me if I forget to ask something. Nevertheless, so that we do not have to worry about writing every word on paper we would like to record the whole discussion. The reason for recording is so that we don't miss anything that is said. Please do not be concerned about this. Our discussion will remain confidential. The discussion will probably last about an hour or so. Are there any questions before we start?

Topics for discussion

Topic 1: Decision making

As the head of the household, who makes decisions about the use of Foster Care and Child Support Grants?

If you are the one, do you consult anyone and if so, who?

Are there any external influences when deciding on the use of the social grants?

Do you have anyone who advises you when making decisions on the use of the social grants?

Topic 2: Inclusion of the beneficiaries in decision making

Do you include the beneficiaries of the grants in the decision making process?

What are the implications for not including the beneficiaries of the grants in the decision making process?

Topic 3: Challenges faced when deciding on the use of Child Support and/or Foster Care Grant(s) and how there are resolved.

Are there any difficulties that you face when deciding on using the grants?

What causes the difficulties?

How do you resolve these challenges?

Topic 4: Adequacy of the money

Is the money sufficient enough to meet your needs as a family?

Conclusion

We are now reaching the end of the discussion. Does anyone of you have any further comments to add before we conclude this session? I would like to thank you all very much for your participation in this discussion, your experiences and opinions are very valuable to assist in improving the lives of social grants beneficiaries.

APPENDIX 4: ETHICAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

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

Certificate Reference Number: TAN031SMAKD*

Project title: Intra-household decision making dynamics on the use of social grants: A case study of Tyutyu village in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.

Nature of Project: Masters

Principal Researcher: Nigel Makosa

Supervisor: Prof P. I. Tanga

Co-supervisor:

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

Please note that the UREC must be informed immediately of

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

APPENDIX 5: ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDITING CERTIFICATE

23 Elfin Glen Road, Nahoon Valley Heights, East London, 5200



To whom it may concern:

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

Title:

**INTRA-HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING DYNAMICS IN THE USE OF
SOCIAL GRANTS: A CASE STUDY OF TYUTYU VILLAGE IN THE
EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA.**

Author:

Nigel Makosa

Date Edited:

26 January 2016

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Masha".

Rose Khanyisile Masha

082 770 8892

Bachelor of Library and Information Science, Hons (English Language Teaching), HDE,
MA (Hypermedia in Lang. Learning), PhD (Education)